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'Baseless' allegations by PTI
chief against serving military
officer 'unacceptable': ISPR



Pakistan-IMF loan
agreement delayed
after 'new demand'

120 hours on, rescue operation
underway for recovery of miners in Dukki

Hussain Zarkoon, Syed Ali Shah

DUKKI, QUETTA: Rescue workers
have been making hectic efforts
to ensure the unhurt recovery of coal
miners inside a coal mine in
Balochistan's Dukki district.

120 hours on, the operation is still
underway. Syed Saboor Agha, the
district police officer (DPO) said. He
said scores of coal miners and rescue
workers were trying to recover the
trapped coal miners.

2 coal miners
trapped inside
the mine

At least two coal miners were
trapped when a coal mine was suddenly
filled with rainwater in the Dukki
mines area. The incident happened five
days back.

We demand the deployment of
trained rescue workers. Muhammad
Usman, one of the coal miners
engaged in the rescue operation said.
He said coal miners and the rescue
workers present on the spot were not
better equipped to recover the trapped
miners.

No rescue
workers from
PDMA so far

Hundreds of coal miners from
nearby mines gathered outside the



Dukki mines area houses hundreds
of coal mines. Such incidents inside
mines of the Dukki area have become
the order of the day. So far, the Mines
Department Balochistan has not been
able to ensure the implementation of
the mines act in mines located across
Dukki and Balochistan.

affected mine and made efforts for
the recovery of the trapped miners.
So far, no trained rescue workers
from the Provincial Disaster
Management Authority (PDMA)
reached the spot to participate in
the rescue efforts.

PDMA should at least provide
food for rescue workers and coal
miners. Nazam Muhammad,
another coal miner demanded. He
said PDMA had to dispatch trained
rescue workers to support the rescue
work in the Dukki district of

Balochistan.

Family
members of
miners
suffering through
dumb agony

Family members of the trapped coal
miners have been suffering through

dumb agony as they are extremely
concerned about the lives of their
loved ones.

Mines Department
not able to ensure
mines act in
mines located
across Dukki

Rights groups
criticize the
government and
mines owners

Hazardous working conditions
inside coal mines of Balochistan
have claimed scores of precious
human lives so far. Rights groups
and labor organizations have strongly
criticized the contractors, government
officials, and mine owners for
not improving the working conditions
for the miners.

Balochistan Government to Notify Information
Commission in next 15 Days

From Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: During the meeting of
the National Forum of Information
Commissioners (NFIC) meeting convened
by the Centre for Peace and Development
Initiatives (CPDI), the Balochistan
Information Secretary, Hamza Shafigat
assured that the Balochistan government
is committed to notifying Balochistan
Information Commission and rules of the
RTI act in next 15 days.

The meeting was held in Islamabad with
the participation of serving information
commissioners from the Federal, KP,
Punjab, and Sindh. At the meeting, the
commissioners reiterated their commit-
ment to promoting transparency and
accountability in Pakistan, with a focus on
ensuring public access to information.



Mukhtar Ahmad Ali
highlights concrete
efforts to promote RTI

Mr Mukhtar Ahmad Ali, Executive
Director of CPDI, provided an overview of
the historical and legislative landscape of
the right to information and freedom of
information in Pakistan. He highlighted
that concrete efforts to promote RTI began
in 2013 when dominant political parties in
KP and Punjab competing in the political
arena added to the RTI implementation in
their provinces. Mr. Hamza Shafigat, In-
formation Secretary, Balochistan Govern-
ment said that Public Information Officers (PIO)
have been appointed/ nominated in all pub-
lic bodies by the order of the Chief
Secretary, and rules have been drafted and
vetted by the law department. The

Ministerial committee received the draft
rules in February, and a select committee
has been established to oversee the process.
RTI to ensure transparency:
Hamza Shafigat

He further stated that the Balochistan
Commission and the rules of the
Balochistan RTI Act 2021 will be notified
within the next 15 days, marking a signifi-
cant step forward in promoting transpar-
ency and accountability in the province. Syed
Raza Ali, from Peace and Justice Network,
highlighted the significance of strengthen-
ing the enforcement mechanism of RTI and
other laws in Pakistan. He indicated the
importance of RTI under open government
partnerships and Sustainable Development
Goals (SDGs). He said that the oversight
mechanism of Information Commissions
should be strengthened as well.

34th National games after 19
years in Balochistan

Sports Desk

QUETTA: The 34th national
games are scheduled to be held in
Balochistan after a long period of
19 years. Chief Secretary
Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Ullah
chaired a high-level meeting for the
upcoming national games in Quetta.
On May 14, the Olympic torch
will be brought to Quetta, the host city
of the National Games, Secretary
Sports, Balochistan
informed the meeting.

It is a matter of honor for
Balochistan to host national
games. Mr. Ullah told the partici-
pants of the meeting.

There is no shortage of hospitali-
ty, renovation work is also going on
at a fast pace at all the venues, the



meeting was told.

Visits are being made to all ven-
ues including Football Ground,
PSB Gymnasium, Table Tennis
Hall, and Throwball Ground, Isqah
Jamali stated Balochistan is a

peaceful province, the people here
are hospitable, and they will try to
ensure that there is no shortage of
hospitality for the players of the
teams from other provinces, Abdul
Aziz Ullah remarked.

Firing on Sariab
Road Quetta
leaves one
person dead

From Our Correspondent

Unknown
accused opened
fire and killed a
person on
Quetta's Sariab
Road on Monday
morning. Police
sources said
unknown
accused opened
fire on the
Sariab Bridge
and killed one person. Police said the victim was
almost 55 years. The dead body was shifted to the civil hospital
Quetta. Police reached the spot as an investigation
into the incident went underway.

Country's
development linked
with investment in
health, education
sectors: President

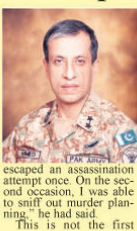
ISLAMABAD:

President Dr. Arif Alvi has
stated that country's
progress and development
is linked with investment
in health and education
sectors. Addressing
Corporate, Humanitarian
and Strategic achievement
shields distribution cere-
mony in Islamabad on
Monday, he emphasized
for imparting education to
the out of school children.
He said it is alarming
that as per latest data of
UNICEF 27 million chil-
dren are not enrolled in
schools. He underscored

the importance of impart-
ing skills to such children
to make them productive
part of society. The
President regretted that
only nine percent of the
students in Pakistan could
make it to higher education
which is twenty to
thirty percent in neighbor-
ing countries like India,
Bangladesh and Sri
Lanka. Highlighting the
problems of Differently
Abled children, he said it
is unfortunate that still in
Pakistan Differently
Abled children are neglected.
INP

'Baseless' allegations by PTI
chief against serving military
officer 'unacceptable': ISPR

The Inter-Services
Public Relations (ISPR)
said on Monday that
"irresponsible and base-
less allegations" by PTI
Chairman Imran Khan
against a serving senior
military officer without
evidence were "extreme-
ly unfortunate, deplorable
and unacceptable".
During a rally on
Saturday, the PTI chair-
man had accused a senior
intelligence official of
orchestrating plans to
murder him.
I am on the roads
despite verifiable threats
to life. I have already



Rana Sanaullah and the
senior intelligence official
as being responsible for
the bid to assassinate
him and demanded they
resign.
In a statement issued
today, the military's
media wing said:
"Chairman PTI has lev-
elled highly irresponsible
and baseless allegations
against a serving senior
military officer without
any evidence.
This fabricated and
malicious allegation is
extremely unfortunate,
deplorable and unaccept-
able." Web Desk

Pakistan-IMF loan
agreement delayed
after 'new demand'

ISLAMABAD: Despite
the assurances from friend-
ly countries about external
funds to Pakistan, the
International Monetary
Fund (IMF) still showing a
lack of confidence and ask-
ing Islamabad to 'do more'
to unlock loan programme,
source said on Monday.
According to the
sources, Pakistan has been
asked to present a repay-
ment plan for a \$3.7 billion
loan to the IMF in June as
well as need to demon-
strate stronger support
from friendly nations in
order to meet the commit-
ment.
However, the IMF has
reportedly not agreed to a



proposal to exchange
reserves equal to two
months' revenues, which
would be valued between
\$11 to \$12 billion.
Sources within Ministry
of Finance revealed that
the government has

here that the IMF issued
the schedule of board
meetings in which Pakistan
is not included in any agenda
until May 17.
Funding will also not be
available from interna-
tional financial institu-
tions as the staff-level
agreement is not reached,
moreover, the budget-
making process can be
affected if transactions
with the IMF are not con-
cluded. Last month, the
staff-level agreement
between Pakistan and the
International Monetary
Fund is again delayed as
the international lender
has put a new
demand. INP

China's economic power

Cries of coal miners in Balochistan

Editor Asim Khan

Perhaps, the cries of coal miners fall on deaf ears in Balochistan like in other parts of the country. Horrific news of coal miners buried alive, burnt to death, severely injured by methane gas blasts continue to surface from different areas of the province.

Such tragedies are yet to attract the attention of rulers and above all make no headlines in the so-called mainstream national media. Incidents in coal mines are always ignored. No follow up investigation and inquiries, when it comes to the death of hapless miners in Balochistan.

Hazardous working conditions have claimed thousands of precious human lives inside coal mines of Balochistan, which houses rich-coal reservoirs. Almost with no safety, the miners enter into mines in the morning and extract coal for a whole day. Fortunate are those who come out alive in the evening. As per the 1923 mines act, the inspector of mines is bound to inspect mine in the morning prior to the entry of miners. Similarly, children, minor boys, and women are not allowed to step inside the mine according to the act.

Coal mines incidents rampant in Balochistan
Incidents in Dukka, Makh, Chamalang, Orange, Khost, Hamai, and other parts of Balochistan are rampant in coal mines.

Six coal miners trapped when a fire erupted inside the coal mines the other day in the Chamalang area of Balochistan. Fortunately, rescue workers backed by the Frontier Corps (FC) rescued all six miners after nine hours-long operations. The technical rescue team from Quetta in a helicopter to ensure the unhurt recovery of coal miners.

The mines and mineral department government of Balochistan is reluctant to share data of incidents with the media. Although, thousands have died in the coal mines in Balochistan in the last more than a decade. Miners' lives are hardly punished for poor working conditions that cause such tragedies.

Broken families need to be provided a reasonable compensation
Broken and poverty-hit families need to be provided reasonable compensation by the government. It is time for the government to make sure the implementation of the 1923 mines act to save precious human lives. Such incidents cause a national outrage in other parts of the globe. Nonetheless, they go unmentioned in the news. It is a matter of our collective concern and responsibility to take care of the victims and their families and raising voice for a down-trodden class of society. To be precise, the implementation of the 1923 mines act can help reduce the number of such incidents in the coal mines of Balochistan.

Consumers in the mobile age have learnt to expect their online purchases to be delivered instantly, just like their coffee, noodles, or even online entertainment. The quicker their demands are met, the more appreciative they are.

This year – 2023 – is poised to be an exciting one for Q-commerce (quick-commerce), as it continues to gain momentum globally. However, there are still many people who haven't experienced the convenience of this service and may not fully understand its benefits. The ability to have your online purchases delivered within 45 minutes, compared to hours or even days, is a game-changer for many people, especially those who lead busy lives.

Quick, convenient and hassle-free service. The rise of Q-commerce is a global phenomenon, and it's important to note that this service is not without its challenges. While it may seem like a certain future, there are still many challenges that it has to overcome. For instance, the integration of this service into existing supply chains and the need for a robust regulatory framework are just a few of the challenges it faces.

model's sustainability. One of the challenges is the need for consumers to buy what products, and there have been issues with dark store operations in Europe due to their close proximity to residential areas.

In Pakistan, however, Q-commerce has been received very positively by consumers because of the convenience it brings and regulatory regimes have consequently been more business-friendly, allowing companies to operate more efficiently. What Pakistan may only be the 39th largest e-commerce market in terms of revenue, the Q-commerce to e-commerce ratio is quite high compared to the rest of the world, making it a unique and promising market for this industry.

For entrants to the Q-commerce market pushed existing players to rapidly expand their services along with the variety of products they already offer. It's no secret that this service is not without its challenges. While it may seem like a certain future, there are still many challenges that it has to overcome. For instance, the integration of this service into existing supply chains and the need for a robust regulatory framework are just a few of the challenges it faces.

28.43 per cent, projecting a market volume of \$184.7 million by the year 2027. Tier-1 cities like Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad and Rawalpindi consist of 70 per cent of the nation's population, making them the perfect opportunity for Q-commerce to thrive. These four cities offer approximately 150 million tech-savvy customers that are looking for quick service and shop and receive goods, but it's important to recognize that there are challenges that come with this business model – including the right marketing strategy, efficient logistics, customer awareness, product diversification/coverage, and the need for a robust regulatory regime and the fast adoption of this service make it a game-changer for many consumers.

Nobel Prize winning economist Joseph Stiglitz observed that the most important question for the industry's revenue and growth is not which activities are worth doing internally and which it should look for

the market to supply. He further noted that the answer may change over a period of time. For Pakistan, however, Q-commerce may be the answer for now.

Consumers in the mobile age have learnt to expect their online purchases to be delivered instantly, just like their coffee, noodles, or even online entertainment. The quicker their demands are met, the more appreciative they are. This year – 2023 – is poised to be an exciting one for Q-commerce (quick-commerce), as it continues to gain momentum globally.

However, despite its potential, there are still many people who haven't experienced the convenience of this service and may not fully understand its benefits. The ability to have your online purchases delivered within 45 minutes, compared to hours or even days, is a game-changer for many consumers. The rise of Q-commerce is a global phenomenon, and it's important to note that this service is not without its challenges. While it may seem like a certain future, there are still many challenges that it has to overcome. For instance, the integration of this service into existing supply chains and the need for a robust regulatory framework are just a few of the challenges it faces.

By Ibad ur Rehman

While it may seem like a certain future globally, many experts are skeptical and question whether it can make a lot of money. Most companies have struggled and many have failed, raising questions about the model's sustainability. One of the challenges is predicting which areas will buy these products, and there have been issues with dark store operations in Europe due to their close proximity to residential areas. In Pakistan, however, Q-commerce has been received very positively by consumers because of the convenience it brings and regulatory regimes have consequently been more business-friendly, allowing companies to operate more efficiently. What Pakistan may only be the 39th largest e-commerce market in terms of revenue, the Q-commerce to e-commerce ratio is quite high compared to the rest of the world, making it a unique and promising market for this industry. For entrants to the Q-commerce market pushed existing players to rapidly expand their services along with the variety of products they already offer. It's no secret that this service is not without its challenges. While it may seem like a certain future, there are still many challenges that it has to overcome. For instance, the integration of this service into existing supply chains and the need for a robust regulatory framework are just a few of the challenges it faces.

China's economic power wanting?

By Maheen Shafeeq

QUAD countries, Japan, India and Australia to participate in the Indo-Pacific region. The Solomon Islands is a nation of six major islands located in the western Pacific Ocean. Due to their location, these islands provide immense strategic significance in the Indo-Pacific region of great powers.

In March 2023, the prime minister of the Solomon Islands signed a security pact with Beijing's Global Development Initiative, including redeveloping islands and infrastructure. It was only in 2019 that China and the Solomon Islands signed a security pact. Before this, the Solomon Islands had signed a security pact with Taiwan last year. The island signed a security pact with China, however, the influence of China, the Philippines foreign minister said. This is the first time to register Taiwan's concerns regarding the island's security pact with Beijing. The Solomon Islands seem caught in a swirl of great power 'theatercases' based on historical disputes over islands in the South China Sea. The US is using its advantage. These military exercises are part of the US Indo-Pacific strategy for confrontation with China by allowing joint responses.

The US is also enhancing its military presence with the smaller states in the region. For example,

after 30 years of absence, the US resumed its presence in the Solomon Islands. The Solomon Islands is a nation of six major islands located in the western Pacific Ocean. Due to their location, these islands provide immense strategic significance in the Indo-Pacific region of great powers. In March 2023, the prime minister of the Solomon Islands signed a security pact with Beijing's Global Development Initiative, including redeveloping islands and infrastructure. It was only in 2019 that China and the Solomon Islands signed a security pact. Before this, the Solomon Islands had signed a security pact with Taiwan last year. The island signed a security pact with China, however, the influence of China, the Philippines foreign minister said. This is the first time to register Taiwan's concerns regarding the island's security pact with Beijing. The Solomon Islands seem caught in a swirl of great power 'theatercases' based on historical disputes over islands in the South China Sea. The US is using its advantage. These military exercises are part of the US Indo-Pacific strategy for confrontation with China by allowing joint responses. The US is also enhancing its military presence with the smaller states in the region. For example,

China's economic power wanting?

Historically, Pakistan has faced several economic crises, and the most recent economic challenges are no exception, but alarming as well. At the moment, we face several economic issues including very high and volatile inflation, fiscal deficits, trade imbalances, substantial depreciation of the rupee, unemployment, poverty, and income inequality. The turbulent economic situation in the country is caused by both domestic and external factors. At the domestic front, political instability and the uncertain policy environment are damaging investment and affecting economic growth. Economic instability, frequent and significant fluctuations in economic indicators, exchange rate depreciation, increase in unemployment rates, and surge in poverty incidence are largely exacerbated by the current waves of political uncertainty. Furthermore, devastating floods in the current fiscal year, higher inflation, commodity price increases, and slowdown in global growth have also hit our economy.

China's economic power wanting?

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By Dr Muhammad Shahid

report of IMF has revealed that Pakistan will miss the fiscal and debt reduction targets of this year. The balance of payments indicated that the situation will become worse in the next fiscal year. The budget deficit reached at 8.3 per cent of GDP. Therefore, serious efforts are needed to bring the public debt level down to a sustainable level. The continuous trade deficit is causing the persistent imbalances at the external front. The continuous trade deficit is causing the persistent imbalances at the external front. The continuous trade deficit is causing the persistent imbalances at the external front. The continuous trade deficit is causing the persistent imbalances at the external front.

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The Toshkhana's mammoth accumulation of gifts

China's economic power wanting?

Now that the Toshkhana's record, but for the purposes of calculation of net monetary worth from gifts abroad has been set at Rs40 million, on the basis that Asif Zardari received gifts from the same Lexus model in 2009, which has been valued at Rs50 million. As per the former president Zardari, he received gifts worth Rs143.4 million from his wife, children and children's spouses, received a staggering sum of Rs244.2 million which he paid Rs48.7 million (20 per cent of the value) for the cars and one armored Lexus SUV. None of the items were given to the former president Gen Pervez Musharraf received gifts worth Rs7 million and Asif Zardari received only Rs5.5 million (7.1 Yousaf Raza Gilani received Rs6.1 million in gifts from his wife and his relatives' guests paid his Rs5 million (13 per cent of the value). The crassness of taking 'guests' along on a foreign trip where he himself was a guest was obviously lost on him. He kept all items, except for a model of the Kaaba which was displayed at the Prime Minister's residence. Former prime minister Shaikat Aziz received gifts valued at Rs2.7 million (4.0 per cent of total value), but only a truck or auctioned Rs5.1 million worth of gifts, leaving him with a net benefit of Rs59.3 million. However, it should be noted that both former prime minister received a high-end Lexus SUV each in 2006 which they decided to sell hand over to the state. The vehicle's value has not been assessed.

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Upgradation, expansion of 167km Skardu-Jaglot road underway: NHA

ISLAMABAD: The National Highway Authority (NHA) has said that the improvement, upgradation and expansion of the 167 km strategic road Skardu-Jaglot road (S-1) project is underway at a good pace and more than 83 per cent progress has been achieved till now.

An official of the NHA informed on Monday that the upgradation of Skardu-Jaglot road project would enhance the comfortable road ride for locals as well as tourists by increasing the width of the road from 3.6 to 7.3

meters and reducing the width of a major link between Karakoram Highway and Skardu has 2.6 metre width of blacktop.

The difficult terrain has intense snowfall and makes road sliding, NHA official concluded.

An official of the NHA informed on Monday that upgradation of Skardu-Jaglot road project would enhance the comfortable road ride for locals as well as tourists by increasing the width of the road from 3.6 to 7.3 meters and reducing the sharp turns INP.



LAHORE: A doctor is administering blood to Thalassemia patients at Pakistan Thalassemia Center at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, on the World Thalassemia Day

Indian FM lacks diplomatic skills, acted like BJP enthusiast: Shahid Rasheed

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt has said the Indian Foreign Minister Jaishankar lacks diplomatic norms and follows the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting in India, he acted like a councillor of the extremist BJP rather than a foreign minister of the world's fifth-largest economy.

In a statement issued here on Monday, he said that the attitude of the Indian foreign minister has eliminated the possibility of any kind of political and economic cooperation with Pakistan.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari tackled the situation with utmost courage and used his diplomatic skills to embarrass the Indians. He said that Indian Foreign Minister Jaishankar avoided shaking hands with Pakistani Foreign Minister, he called Pakistan a supporter of terrorists, occupied Kashmir as India's integral part, and rejected the possibility of resuming talks with Pakistan.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari remained calm and said that regional countries are working together to deal with global problems, especially climate change, terrorism and terrorism under the SCO. He said that Pakistan fully adheres to the

principles of mutual trust, equality, respect for cultural diversity and the pursuit of common development.

Bilawal said that Afghanistan continues to be a battleground for the big powers, we should not repeat the mistakes of the past regarding Afghanistan and urged the international community to adopt universally accepted principles for Afghanistan. The emphasis should be placed on respecting the rights of all Afghans, including the right to education, while the international community should also help build counter-terrorism capacity for the security of Afghanistan, the foreign minister demanded.

Youth held over killing step-mother

FAISALABAD: The police on Monday (8) arrested two youths who killed his step-mother and recovered murder weapons from his possession.

According to details, accused gunned down his step mother some 10 days earlier and the incident occurred as a result of resistance during robbery.

However, the police over suspicion conducted investigations into the incident and it was revealed that the step-son had killed the lady over personal grudge.

The police also recovered the murder weapon from possession of the accused and started through investigations against him INP.

ANF arrests 10 'drug peddlers', recover over 120kg narcotics

KARACHI: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) on Monday claimed to have arrested 10 drug peddlers besides recovery of huge quantity of narcotics during various operations conducted in different cities.

An ANF official said that 190,000 pills and more than 2.5 kg of ice was recovered during operations. In one such operation, 115 kg of hashish and four capsules filled with heroin were recovered.

He added, raids were conducted in cities including Islamabad, Lahore, Kala Shah Kaku, Bajaur and Qilla Saifullah. Legal actions have been initiated against the suspects under the Anti-Narcotics Act INP.

Strawberry cultivation in Pakistan goes popular: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: "Strawberry cultivation in Pakistan has become popular due to its high demand in the domestic markets and attractive returns," ex-chief scientist and director of Horticulture Research Institute, National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) Dr. Hafeez ur Rehman told WealthPK.

Natural wild strawberries have existed in the northern region of Pakistan since the country was founded. "But the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) imported about 40 to 50 superior strawberry varieties from Italy and experimented with them at various NARCs in the 1980s to help commercialise its farming in the country," he said.

Tests were conducted at various research centres situated in the Northern Areas, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces to indigenise the fruit. The varieties conducted to the local climate were selected and handed over to the farmers in the form of seedling bags such as Swat, Murree, Rawalpindi, Islamabad for commercial farming.

Previously, a lot of

individuals who travelled to different European countries brought their seedlings back to Pakistan to use exclusively for kitchen gardening. It went unnoticed until strawberry plants in the aforementioned areas began to produce commercial quantities.

Mitchell's Fruit Farms, commonly known as Mitchell's, has played a role in the promotion of this fruit in Pakistan by introducing strawberry jam. Since strawberry is a highly perishable fruit, Mitchell's supplied the plants to the farmers in Swat for cultivation. The buy-back guarantee the farmers at that time did not know how to store and market the fruit, so they needed such guarantees.

In recent years, there has been a growing demand for strawberries in Pakistan due to their health benefits and increasing use in more food products such as ice cream, candies, marmalades, cakes, jellies, pastries, desserts, etc.

The business leader said that during the time of PML-N, CPEC was being worked on at a fast pace, but during the time of PTI, this project has been slow and there was little warmth left in mutual relations.

The current government has established INP

programmes in Pakistan. The World Bank representative and German Ambassador also attended the conference via video-link.

Addressing the opening session, Ms. Shazia Marri said the BISP is contributing towards the better health of infants and their mothers belonging to poor households. Moreover, it is also providing educational stipends to needy children, which resulted in an increase in the enrolment of children in schools. The Benazir Income Support Programme continues to be a beacon of hope for millions of underprivileged families across the country, she said.

Ms. Marri also expressed her gratitude to the World Bank, GIZ, ADB, UNICEF, and other

development partners for their financial and technical assistance. She informed that BISP is providing financial support to 9 million poor families, which is around 24% of the total population in Pakistan. She mentioned that despite these efforts there is still existing a huge gap between the number of poor households. Moreover, it is also providing educational stipends to needy children, which resulted in an increase in the enrolment of children in schools. The Benazir Income Support Programme continues to be a beacon of hope for millions of underprivileged families across the country, she said.

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BISP providing financial assistance to marginalized families: Shazia Marri

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety (PA&SS) and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Ms. Shazia Marri has said that BISP is providing financial assistance to the marginalized families of Pakistan.

She stated this while presiding over the three-day first annual National Social Protection Conference organized by the BISP in support of the German cooperation organization GIZ being held at Murree from 8-10 May, 2023.

The conference brought together social protection experts, representatives of international organizations, and other stakeholders to discuss various social protection initiatives and

programmes in Pakistan. The World Bank representative and German Ambassador also attended the conference via video-link.

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Kazakhstan keen to strengthen trade ties with Pakistan: Envoy

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Mustafa Kistafin has said that his country is keen to strengthen and deepen trade ties with Pakistan as both countries have good potential to trade with each other in multiple sectors. He said this while talking to a delegation of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) led by its President Ahsan Zafar Balochani which called on him on his home on Monday.

The envoy spoke about the opportunities existing in business in Kazakhstan and the potential of his country as a regional hub. He welcomed ICCI's plan to take a delegation to Kazakhstan and assured the delegation of the provision of all necessary INP.

PCJCC keen to boost agricultural relations between Pakistan and China

ISLAMABAD: Moazzam Ghurki, President Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) stated during a think tank session held at PCJCCI Secretariat yesterday that the China-Pakistan Agricultural Corridor (CPAC) project would bring socio-economic development for farmers in Pakistan and further pave the way for a new era of collaboration between the two all-weather strategic partners.

He said that CPAC was a project of high significance and would serve as a model for other countries in the region to emulate and reinforce the belief that cooperation and partnership could lead to significant achievements and benefits for all. China pledged to open up its markets for Pakistani agricultural products like rice, fish, facilitate Pakistan in the marketing of its halal food products, also to provide modern agricultural inputs, INP.

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Chairman NDMA terms scientific, research-driven emergency preparedness vital to tackle climatic hazards, tourism security

GILGIT: Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik has termed the scientific and research-driven emergency preparedness and response strategies to strengthen resilience against climatic hazards and tourism security during emergencies in Gilgit Baltistan.

He said while addressing the first-ever workshop of NDMA's National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) held on local needs and gaps analysis in Gilgit on Monday to assess the region's disaster management needs and find solutions to its gaps for emergency, preparedness and response. Vice-chancellors of Karakoram University (KU), University of Balistan, Sakardu (UCBS) along with their head of departments, members of faculty, DG Gilgit, and members of the Armed Forces participated in the session.

He mentioned that the region's disaster management needs and find solutions to its gaps for emergency, preparedness and response. Vice-chancellors of Karakoram University (KU), University of Balistan, Sakardu (UCBS) along with their head of departments, members of faculty, DG Gilgit, and members of the Armed Forces participated in the session.

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ISLAMABAD: Newly appointed Principal of Islamabad College for Girls F-6/2 Prof Sabah Faisal pose for group photo with staff on Monday.

to resolve their issues through dialogue and has also promised to accelerate the pace of work on CPEC and reduce the economic pressure on Pakistan. He said that Russia has expressed his determination to make Russia part of the project.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that China's One Belt One Road project is game changing for Pakistan and will support this project through political and economic stability.

The business leader said that during the time of PML-N, CPEC was being worked on at a fast pace, but during the time of PTI, this project has been slow and there was little warmth left in mutual relations.

The current government has established INP

China's advice about political stability should be taken seriously: Zahid

KARACHI: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that the advice coming from China about political stability should be taken seriously because China never interferes in the internal affairs of any country.

China's advice shows that friendly nation that respects human rights and political freedoms are incapable of solving their own political and economic problems. China's advice is to gain power at any cost, he added.

The business leader said that some politicians want power even if it has the political and economic stability of the country has to be sacrificed for it.

He further said that China and Pakistan have political and economic stability in the region which is fundamental for development. China's visionary leadership has brought Saudi Arabia and Iran closer under the same vision and is worried about Pakistan's economic growth and wants to improve it.

The Chinese Foreign Minister has also asked Pakistan and Afghanistan

to resolve their issues through dialogue and has also promised to accelerate the pace of work on CPEC and reduce the economic pressure on Pakistan. He said that Russia has expressed his determination to make Russia part of the project.

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RMB, CBDC hold key to Pakistan's economic prosperity: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Trade in Renminbi (RMB), Chinese Yuan, can reduce Pakistan's dependence on the US dollar and strengthen the rupee, experts believe.

"Pakistan has to find a way around it to take the advantage of it. One way to achieve it is to take the Chinese Yuan as a friendly country, so it should be taken seriously because China never interferes in the internal affairs of any country."

China's advice shows that friendly nation that respects human rights and political freedoms are incapable of solving their own political and economic problems. China's advice is to gain power at any cost, he added.

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INVITATION FOR TENDERS

SCHEMES UNDER SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) FOR THE YEAR 2022-23

The Commissioner S&D Division S&D invites the Contractors/Construction Firms having required Technical, Financial and Managerial Capabilities for the following schemes/works under Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the year 2022-23 to be executed through Local Government Department Harnai based on Composite Schedule Rates 2018 on percentage rates:-

Sl#	Name of Scheme	Est.Cost	TSE No.
1	Construction of Black Top Road Malhalah Malakabad Shahrag District Harnai.	3,000.00	222050510743
2	Construction of Side Drains in Shahrag District Harnai	2,000.00	222050510683
3	Construction/Raising of side Drains in Babu Mullahah Harnai	4,950.00	222050510673
4	Laying of Tuff Tiles in Babu Mullahah Harnai	5,000.00	222050510643
5	Laying of Tuff Tiles in Malhalah Malakabad Harnai	4,931.00	222050510613
6	Construction of Side Drains in Malhalah Malakabad Harnai	4,780.00	222050510653
7	Laying of Tuff Tiles in Malhalah Malakabad Harnai	4,578.00	222050510933
8	Construction of Side Drain in Malhalah Malakabad Harnai	1,270.00	222050510543
9	Construction of Side Drain in Malhalah Malakabad Harnai	1,745.00	222050510513
10	Construction of Side Drain in Babu Mullahah Harnai	1,392.00	222050510432
11	Construction of Side Drain in Malhalah Malakabad Harnai	1,458.00	222050510453
12	Construction of Side Drain in Islamabad Malhalah Harnai	1,110.00	222050510463
13	Construction of Side Drain in Main Road Harnai	1,372.00	222050510403
14	Construction of Side Drain in Main City Harnai	1,567.00	222050510383
15	Installation of SOLAR Street Lights at Harnai	5,000.00	222050510913

The Interested Contractors/Construction Firms may obtain a set of Tender Documents for the above schemes/works from the office of the Commissioner S&D Division S&D from the date of publication of NIT to 19th May, 2023 during office hours. The proposals, submitted, be in accordance with the terms and conditions of Bidding documents/BPPRA Rules updated at BPPRA website. Contractors / firms who have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in category C-5 & C-6 with specialization codes in relevant discipline. Contractors/firms who have valid registration with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority, Balochistan Regulation Authority & GST-Income Tax as well as registration in Active Tax Payer list. The tender process shall be carried out in accordance with the rules of Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Rules, 2014 and Pakistan Engineering Council By-Laws. The contractors / firms having fresh valid 2022-2023 registration with PEC in aforementioned category and relevant discipline. The Contractor/firm can obtain the tender documents from the address mentioned above on production of green chalan or any other form for an amount of Rs.1000/- (one thousand/- refundable) deposited in the head of account (A/C No. C-02716) through Government Treasury / National Bank of Pakistan or can be downloaded from website of BPPRA, from the date of publication of this invitation in newspapers till one day prior to the last date of submission. The contractors/firms who obtained tender documents by downloading them from BPPRA website will also be required to produce possible green chalan form of above mentioned fee. Dead line of Submission: The tender Documents duly filled and attached with copies of supporting documents (attested from the relevant issuing authorities) must be delivered in sealed envelopes by hand one original one copy to the address mentioned below on 22nd May, 2023 at 12:00 Hrs. Place of issuance and submission will be: Address: The Office of Commissioner, S&D Division S&D Harnai, (0633-920123). Tender documents will be opened on the same date i.e. 22nd May, 2023 and same place at 1:00 Hrs. in the presence of the representatives of firms with their original CNIC, PEC Certificate / Fresh Power of Attorney. Firms/Contractors are required to submit their Call Deposits of 2% of their quoted rates. Firms/Contractors are required to furnish list of 02 similar assignments with cost undertaken over the past (2) years. Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding procedure.

OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

Under following conditions bid will be rejected: - Conditional and telegraphic bids/tenders. Bids not accompanied by bid security of required amount and form. Bids received after specified date and time. Black listed Firms/Contractors. Details of equipment, machinery and transport owned by firm/contractor. Financial statement summary Affidavit that firm has never been black listed. No pay order will be accepted/retained without firm's complete title/name which should be written on the call deposit.

PRQ No. 3738/08-05-2023
www.dpr.gov.pk | dpr@gov.pk | prq@gov.pk | gdpr@gov.pk

PM Shehbaz Sharif takes keen interest in Gwadar development

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is taking keen interest in the development of Gwadar, the hub of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Gwadar Pro reported on Monday quoting an official statement.

Soon after assuming office, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took keen interest in the development of Gwadar and personally visited the port city last year, where he announced a Rs 100 billion development package for the Balochistan province with a sizable amount fixed for the city besides inaugurating some key infrastructure projects including Eastbay Expressway." The statement added.

It elaborated that during his visit to the city in June last year, the prime minister ordered to complete all the ongoing development projects of water, electricity and infrastructure in Gwadar in the stipulated time.

He warned of zero tolerance on any further interruption in the projects of water and electricity saying that the 1.2 million gallons of desalination plant in Gwadar should be completed as soon as possible.

PM Shehbaz Sharif stressed that the network of pipelines for the provision of water in houses should be immediately improved and also ordered an inquiry to identify those responsible for delaying the projects.

He directed the relevant authorities to begin dredging at the Gwadar port besides taking practical steps for breakwater.

The PM further directed that the construction of Gwadar Hospital should be completed in September instead of December.

He also ordered to include all 16,523 poor families of Gwadar in the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP).

The prime minister broke ground for the Gwadar Seawater Desalination Plant by China Aid, Jingtai Gwadar Private Limited, Hangmei Lubricant Plant, Hangeng Agricultural Industrial Park, Gwadar Expo Centre and Gwadar Fertilizer Plant, besides distribution of 3,000 solar panels.

As the result of the Prime Minister's special directives, remarkable progress has been made so far on several projects in Gwadar, the statement mentioned.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif inaugurated a component of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the six-lane Eastbay Expressway connecting the Gwadar Port with the Makran Coastal Highway, also providing a link between the two.

The Eastbay Expressway is a major infrastructure project in the city of Gwadar. This construction of the 19-kilometer highway runs parallel to the coastline, and has four interchanges, two bridges, and a toll plaza.

The expressway is designed to speed up traffic, and is expected to reduce transportation costs and time for goods moving to and from the Gwadar port. "Soon after assuming office, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took keen interest in the development of Gwadar and personally visited the port city last year, where he announced a Rs 100 billion development package for the Balochistan province with a sizable amount fixed for the city besides inaugurating infrastructure projects including Eastbay Expressway," the statement added. It elaborated that during his visit to the city in June last year, the prime minister ordered to complete all the ongoing development projects of water, electricity and infrastructure in Gwadar in the stipulated time. He warned of zero tolerance on any further interruption in the projects of water and electricity saying that the 1.2 million gallons of desalination plant in Gwadar should be completed as soon as possible.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in a meeting with Ambassador and Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Pakistan Dr Riina Kionka, in Federal Capital.

Bilawal directs to resolve issues of Pakistanis living in KSA on priority basis

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has directed to resolve the issues of Pakistanis living in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) on priority basis.

He issued the directives while talking to Ambassador-designate to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ahmad Farooq who called on him here on Monday.

Talking to Ambassador, Bilawal Bhutto said, Pakistanis living all over the world, including those in Saudi Arabia, were the country's assets.

Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with the brotherly country, he added.

The foreign minister expressed best wishes to Ahmad Farooq for his new responsibilities. INP

Senate Body briefed regarding role, working of EOBI

ISLAMABAD: Senator Anwar ul Haq Kakar chaired that meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development was held here at Parliament House on Monday.

The Senate Committee was briefed by Chairperson Employees Old Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) regarding the role and working of the institution. Nabeed Shah Durrani, Chairperson EOBI, apprised that EOBI is a leading institution which provides social security to its citizens to enhance the quality of their lives.

She informed that EOBI has received a contribution of Rs 180 Billion during the last ten years. Moreover, during the institution year 2022-23, EOBI is expected to receive a contribution revenue of Rs 38 billion against an approved target of Rs 33 Billion, she added. However, despite the importance of EOBI, no attention has been given over strengthening the administrative structure and Board of EOBI, she stated.

Senator Shahadat Awan lamented that why the members of Board have not been change since 2013.

In reply to that, She maintained that since the devolution, both the Punjab and Sindh Province has refused to accept EOBI as a Federal subject and that is why its members have not been replaced in all these years.

While deliberating on the current status of 18 criminal cases, Senator Shahadat Awan questioned as to whether the challan against the accused or not and as to why the inquiry has not been initiated in all these years. Chairperson EOBI commented that filing challan against the accused have been filed and the process was delayed due to indifferent attitude of FIA as filing charged INP

Three-day 'Cultural Mela' kicks off at GPC Attack

ATTOCK: Organized by Punjab Arts Council (PAC), a three-day Cultural Mela' was kicked off at Government Postgraduate College Attock on Monday. Deputy Commissioner Attock Arif Ishaq was the chief guest of the opening ceremony of the Mela.

While addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Mela, Rao Arif Raza said that culture of Punjab is based on various historical, religious, cultural and traditions. This culture unites people at large and influences the feelings, philosophies and lifestyles of Punjabis. He said that the culture is the identity component associated with an individual's people through traditional practices, customs, arts, and language. It is an infinite meaning which changes according to period, geography, religion, nationality and other comments, he added.

Deputy Commissioner Attock thanked the Punjab Arts Council and Director Waqar Ahmed for organizing the festival.

Principal GPC Attock, Professor Mirza Waheed Hidayatullah, who are recognized in the world only by their culture and this creates unity and unity among people of different religions and races. A nation that forgets its cultural traditions is also forgotten by history. There is a need for us not only to be proud of our culture but also to introduce it to the world, he added. INP

Karachi LG by-polls: PPP grabs seven, JI wins four UC seats

KARACHI: The candidates of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) have won seven out of 11 union council (UC) seats in the local government (LG) by-polls in Karachi while Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) secured four seats.

According to unofficial results announced on late Sunday night, Israr Ahmed of PPP was elected chairman from UC-2 Korangi by getting 2,647 votes while JI candidate got 1,804 votes and remained second. Abdul Qadir of the PPP won the UC-2 Lyari Town seat by securing 3,243 votes.

The PPP candidate Arshad Khan emerged victorious from UC-8 District West by getting 2,664 votes while PTI candidate Sahir Hussain obtained 1,380 votes and remained second. Faisal Naseem of JI won the UC-6 North Nazimabad seat from District Central by getting 4,055 votes, Abid Shah of PPP remained second by securing 1,169 votes.

Muhammad Ayub of JI was elected chairman from UC-8 Landhi Town by obtaining 1,695 votes whereas Asim Khan of PTI remained second by getting 826 votes. As per unofficial result, JI candidate emerged victorious from UC-3 Korangi by getting 3,412 votes while PML-N candidate remained second after obtaining 2,570 votes.

Muhammad Arif of PPP won the UC-2 Keamari seat by grabbing 3,009 votes while Israr Ahmed of PTI came second by getting 1,086 votes. Noor Islam of JI emerged victorious from UC-2 District West by getting 4,778 votes while Muhammad Aileen of the PPP got 3,571 votes and remained second INP

FIA offloads passenger at Karachi airport over fake documents

KARACHI: The Federal Investigation Authority (FIA) has offloaded a passenger at Jinnah International Airport Karachi for carrying fake travel documents. As per details, the passenger named Naveed Ahmed was travelling to Greece via flight no TK-76. He was released to show his documents by the vigilance team upon doubts that he might be travelling with fake documents. INP

Elahi assures PTI chief of joining his protests ahead of SC's May 14 deadline

LAHORE: Former chief minister of Punjab Chaudhary Parvez Elahi along with his son Rasikh Elahi called on Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan at Zaman Park on Monday and discussed with him issues of bilateral relations.

PTI chief of joining him in his call for upcoming protests ahead of the Supreme Court's deadline for holding an election in Punjab on May 14.

Ongoing political situation of the country and vindictive activities against Mr Elahi and his family also came under discussion during the meeting.

Condemning the Punjab caretaker government for ruling the province after 90 days of the dissolution of the assembly, the two leaders stressed expressing solidarity with the SC and CPJ.

Earlier, Imran Khan had announced rallies across Pakistan until May 14 and had resolved to do so until elections were held.

A few days ago, Punjab police and Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) team had raided Mr Elahi's residence in Lahore, but after six-hour long operation, failed to apprehend the former chief minister.

The action drew strong criticism from the PTI which had been voicing concern against the arrest of its workers and leaders. The police action came to a halt when Punjab ACP Director General Sohail Zafar Chatha left the scene along with the police contingent INP

IRSA releases 141,200 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 141,200 cusecs of water from various rim stations with inflow of 138,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1437.99 feet and was 39.99 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 36,700 cusecs while outflow as 37,000 cusecs. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1121.90 feet, 71.90 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. INP



Pakistan benefits from China's efforts to maintain regional peace: Experts

ISLAMABAD: Chinese diplomacy is asserting itself, and it is essential for balancing the world's political order. Pakistan is a sincere partner in these efforts and believes that China's growing influence will bring peace and stability in the region.

This was stated by Amir Rana, Director of Pak Institute for Peace Studies, while commenting on China's critical role in promoting the resumption of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran, in a recent interview with Gwadar Pro, such events certainly inspire the nations at the odd, said Amir Rana.

He believes Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto's attending the meeting of the SCO Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in India on May 5, was a result of China's push. It was the first visit to India by a Pakistani foreign minister in more than a decade and indeed a promising development, thanks to China and Russia's facilitation of this channel.

Speaking at the SCO Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang pointed out that today's world faces multiple crises and challenges, including the resurgence of the Cold War, the surge of unilateral protectionism, and the rise of hegemonism and power politics.

Participants spoke highly of the SCO's contribution to regional security and development as an important platform for regional cooperation. They agreed to strengthen security cooperation and jointly combat terrorism, separatism, drug production and trafficking, and cyber crimes.

In a meeting with Qin on May 5 in Islamabad, President Arif Alvi stressed that Pakistan would make every effort to ensure the safety of Chinese personnel and institutions in Pakistan and is ready to work with China for peace and reconstruction in Afghanistan.

The number of terrorist attacks in Pakistan has increased statistically, with several major attacks in a row having an adverse impact. Amir noted that most of the attacks had been confined to the border areas with Afghanistan, which have been effectively dealt with by Pakistan's security services. He underlined that "as an all-weather strategic partnership, China and Pakistan have growing trust in each other. Both sides are making unremitting efforts through ongoing dialogue and cooperation such as joint anti-terrorism exercises and research by think tanks to ensure the safety of Chinese personnel in Pakistan, especially engineers working on CPEC projects." INP

Youth shot dead over property dispute

SWABI: A youth was shot dead over property dispute in Gar Bandha Maneri Bala area on Monday, police said on Monday.

According to details, Talah Muhammad halling from Maneri Bala area near Narro Bandha area of Swabi on Sunday afternoon shot dead an old man Muhammad Nasir Zia for fateha of his nephew Bilal.

Talah Muhammad returned home but Nasir Zia stayed at house of brother-in-law in Gar Bandha Mohallah Azad Kashmir where accused Zafar, 31, allegedly gunned down him over property dispute and fled the scene.

The body was shifted to hospital for postmortem and police after registering a case against the murderer started raids for his arrest. INP

Golden Jubilee of Constitution: Fazl to address parliament on May 10

ISLAMABAD: PDM and JUI Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman will address the parliament on May 10 to mark the conclusion of Golden Jubilee celebrations of Constitution of Pakistan, it has been learnt on Monday.

The concluding ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973 will be held on May 10-11 in which prominent personalities of the country will be invited.

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Chief Maulana Fazl will deliver a historic and important address to the parliament on May 10.

The concluding ceremony will be held at Parliament House, where speakers will pay tribute to the framers and defenders of the constitution.

All the major opposition have been going on since April 10, 2023, with a series of events to commemorate the founding principles of democracy, justice and equality enshrined in the Constitution.

National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf inaugurated the celebrations by laying the foundation stone of the Constitution Monument at the site approved by the Advisory Committee, opposite Parliamentary Lodges, D-Chowk, Islamabad.

The monument will serve as a permanent reminder of the importance of the Constitution in the nation's history.

This was followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at the Foundation stone of the Unsung Heroes of Democracy in the Parliament House, paying homage to the departed members of parliament and constitution in Pakistan. INP

Bid to smuggle 371 bags wheat foiled

SUKKUR: The Food Department and Excise Police foiled a bid to smuggle container carrying wheat bags and arrested the driver here on Monday. On a tip-off, the Food Department and Excise Police started snap checking of trailers on Rohri motorway. The police arrested the driver and impounded the container with recovered wheat which was later shifted to godown of food department. INP



QUETTA: A view of accumulated sewerage water on double road.

US dollar keeps Pakistani rupee in check in interbank trading

ISLAMABAD: The US dollar started the week on positive footing as it gained 26 paisas in value against the Pakistani rupee in interbank market on Monday.

According to the information received from the forex dealers, the greenback was appreciated by 26 paisas and was currently being traded at Rs283.85.

On Friday last, the Pakistani rupee had improved its position against the US dollar, settling with a marginal appreciation of 0.08%.

According to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the Pakistani rupee had closed at 283.59, an increase of 23 paisas over Rs283.36, against the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had reiterated that it is working with Pakistani authorities to bring the pending ninth review to conclusion "once the necessary financing is in place and the agreement is finalized".

"In addition, the IMF supports the authorities in the implementation of policies during the period ahead, including in the technical work to prepare the FY24 budget, which is to be passed by the National Assembly before end-June," Nathan Porter, said the IMF Mission Chief for Pakistan, said on Friday.

The development comes as Pakistan remains engaged with the Washington-based lender to resume its bailout program that has been stalled at the year review since November last year. INP

Cherat Packaging profit dips despite revenue growth in 6MFY23: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Cherat Packaging Limited announced its financial results for the six months ending March 31, 2023 (6MFY23), reporting a steady growth in revenue, WealthPK reports.

The company's revenue increased by 20% year-on-year to R7.8 billion. However, the gross profit decreased by 2% to R1.1 billion in the same period.

The company's profit-before-tax decreased by 6% to Rs284 million in 6MFY23 from Rs275 million in the same period last year. This decrease was attributed to a rise in operating expenses during the period under review.

The company's net profit also decreased by 6% to Rs204 million in 6MFY23 from Rs211 million in the same period last year.

Despite the challenges, the company continues to invest in its infrastructure, production capacity, and human resources.

Performance in 2021-22: The company reported a total revenue of Rs5.5 billion in FY21, posting a 20% increase over the previous year's revenue of Rs4.1 billion.

Cherat Packaging's gross profit for the year stood at Rs1.2 billion, up 19% from Rs1.0 billion in FY21. The company's profit-before-tax was Rs1.3 billion, showing a 20% increase over Rs1.1 billion in the previous year.

Cherat Packaging's net profit for the year stood at Rs887 million, up 4% from Rs20.12 in 2020-21. Cherat Packaging performed well during the year despite facing challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. The company's revenue growth was driven by higher demand for its packaging solutions, which were widely used in the food, pharmaceutical, and other industries. INP