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## India needs to become CPEC's beneficiary instead of creating hurdles: PM



## Muharram ul Haram Quetta: Ban imposed on all leave of police officials

# PM Shehbaz hopes IMF agreement will be approved on July 12

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said he was hopeful that the \$3 billion nine-month bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) would be approved by the lender's board when it meets on July 12.

"Because of Ishaq Dar and his team's efforts, on July 12, God willing in the board meeting, I am hopeful that it will be approved," the prime minister said at a ceremony commemorating 10 years since the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) began.

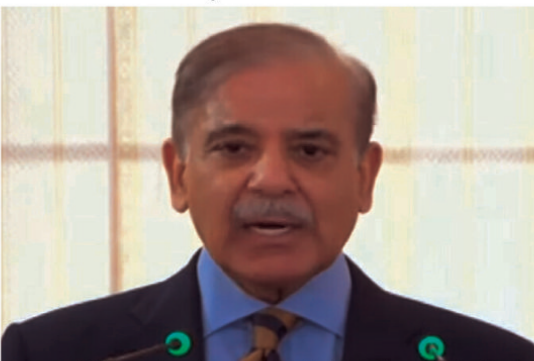
### PM Shehbaz hopes IMF board will approve \$3 billion bailout

The executive board of the IMF will meet on July 12 to review the \$3 billion Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) for Pakistan, the staff-level pact for which was finalised last week.

Pakistan was absent from an earlier schedule released in June, igniting speculation that the IMF was not going to release funds from an earlier programme that expired on June 30.

### "The agreement will go through, God willing," premier says

On June 29, the IMF and Pakistan reached a stand-by



arrangement (SBA) to ease the country's financial crisis. The nine-month SBA, if approved, will bring \$3bn, or 111pc of Pakistan's IMF quota.

The board's approvals are generally granted once a staff-level agreement (SLA) is done. The Pakistan government was expecting about \$2.5bn from the IMF, but it was given \$3bn. Pakistan had earlier cleared eight of the 11 listed programme reviews, with the ninth review pending since November last year.

The SBA, subject to the IMF board approval, offers much-needed relief to a country still grappling with a severe balance

### IMF executive board will meet on July 12 to approve loan

Meanwhile, Pakistan has submitted a letter of intent to the IMF, assuring the lender that no new tax amnesty will be introduced in the next nine months.

While addressing the ceremony, the premier stated that he was "grateful" to the IMF Managing

Director, Kristalina Georgieva, and her team, adding that this was Pakistan's opportunity to move toward progress.

The prime minister reiterated that unlike the previous government and their 'delays' concerning the conditions put forth by the IMF, the SBA was a nine-month-long program and the government planned to complete it within the stipulated timeline.

The premier said it was "unheard" of in Pakistan's economic history over the years, adding that the development saw the landscape transform into one of the most productive not just in the region but in the world as well. Web Desk.

# National Party defends Baloch coast and resources: Dr. Malik Baloch

From Our Correspondent

TURBAT: Chief of National Party (NP), Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch said his party has always defended Baloch coast and resources through political and democratic ways.

He expressed these views while addressing the Tajan Literary Festival. He said that whenever the National Party gets power, we will improve the border trade system here along with the education and health sectors.

He said that the time has come for the people of Balochistan to strengthen the National Party and the youth to become the strength of the National Party so that we can effectively defend the Baloch coastal resources.

### Maryam Zia Baloch serving in an international organization: Dr. Baloch

He said that our daughter Maryam Zia belongs to the same area and she is serving in international institutions in a good way and if the youths here say attempt to education, they can go further.



National Party General Secretary General and former MPA Jan Muhammad Buledi said that the youths should have realized their national responsibilities in this difficult time. He said that those who want to bring about social change and change in politics must study literature and history.

### Credit goes to Dr. Malik Baloch for establishing educational institutions: Jan Buledi

He said that the credit for establishing educational institutions not

only in this area but throughout Balochistan goes to Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch when he was the Minister of Education.

He finally said that the people of Balochistan should get political freedom so that they can choose their representatives according to their intentions.

Interference in the politics of Balochistan should stop. Mr. Buledi demanded. On this occasion, Senator Koda Ikram Dashti, Regional Secretary Wajah Abul Hasan Baloch, Central Secretary Finance Haji Fida Hussain Dashti, Member of the Central Committee, Manzoor Gachki, Muhammad Jan Dashti, Member of the Provincial Committee Waja Mulla Barkat.

# Muharram ul Haram Quetta: Ban imposed on all leave of police officials

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: A ban has been imposed on the leave of all police personnel and officers posted in Quetta, the capital of Balochistan province. The Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Azfar Maheer issued an order banning holidays.

A notification was also issued by the police department in this regard. In the notification, it has been said that there will be a ban on the holidays of police personnel and officers posted in Quetta city, this ban has been imposed in view of Muharram ul Haram.

Instructions have been issued to



all concerned officers to ban holidays. The notification states that Muharram will start from July 19 if the moon was visible.

### Balochistan government evolves a security plan

The Balochistan government has evolved a strong security plan to make sure peace on the eve of Muharram ul Haram. Besides police, personnel from the Frontier Corps would also be deployed at all sensitive points in the provincial capital Quetta has witnessed worst kinds of sectarian terrorist incidents in the past. Terrorist acts have claimed scores of precious human lives in this provincial capital.

# Governor Balochistan Malik Wali Kakar reaches Wadh Khuzdar

From Our Correspondent

KHUZDAR: Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Kakar arrived in Wadh tehsil of Khuzdar district on Wednesday. Local leaders of the Balochistan National Party (BNP) received the Governor upon his arrival.

Ahmed Nawaz, the BNP lawmaker in the Balochistan Assembly and other leaders received the Governor. The Governor called on BNP Chief, Sardar Akhtar Mengal. The Governor discussed the prevailing political situation in Balochistan and the country with the party chief. Strict security measures were adopted by the administration on the



eve of visit of the Governor Balochistan. The Governor also met tribal notables of the area and heard their issues.

# CJP Bandial terms Greece boat tragedy a 'human rights issue'

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial said on Wednesday that the boat tragedy on Greek shores — which resulted in the deaths of nearly 300 Pakistanis — was a matter of human rights.

He passed these remarks as a two-member bench, comprising the CJP and Justice Sayeed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi, took up petitions pertaining to the trafficking of minors.

At least 600 migrants, out of possibly 750, on the fishing boat that set off from Libya towards European shores, perished when their vessel capsized in the Mediterranean Sea last month.

The passengers largely comprised Pakistanis, Egyptians, Palestinians and Syrians migrating in the overloaded boat. It was a recurring tragedy — with no end in sight as economic, political and climate crises compelled increasingly large numbers of people to flee their homes.

The tragedy of such immense proportions was believed to have taken place in



the presence of maritime authorities. It was also believed that Pakistani nationals were forced to stay below the deck by the crew, which maltreated them during the journey.



Referring to the tragedy during the hearing today, Justice Bandial noted that innocent and poor people were tricked into going aboard on the pretext of better jobs.

"Citizens are duped by human traffickers and pay millions of rupees," the top judge said, pointing out that even children and women were becoming victims of human smuggling.

Does the government have statistics on the number of children being smuggled," the CJP asked.

To the query, the director general of the human rights ministry said, "Unfortunately, accurate data is not available."

Here, Justice Bandial highlighted that there was "ambiguity" in the laws against human smuggling in 2018, adding that the primary concern was the unavailability of a 'specialist force' for the implementation of the laws.

"The responsibility of stopping human smuggling was also under the police," he said. "The Supreme Court had also asked the provincial governments to play their role against human trafficking."

At one point during the hearing, the CJP also recalled the Tayyaba torture case. The case of Tayyaba, a minor domestic worker

employed in former additional district and sessions judge Raja Khurram Ali Khan and his wife Maheer Zafar's household, first came to light after photos of the tortured child began circulating on social media in 2016. She was rescued from their residence with visible injuries on her December 28, 2016, and a first information report was filed against her employers the following day.

Although Raja Khurram had reached a compromise with Tayyaba's parents on January 2, 2017, the SC took suo motu notice of the matter two days later with the strict warning that "no agreements" can be reached in matters concerning fundamental human rights.

Referring to the case today, CJP Bandial said Tayyaba was now a 9th-grade student. "Tayyaba was abandoned by her parents and she is now living in an SOS village." Subsequently, the court sought reports from all the provinces regarding measures taken to curb human smuggling and data on children out of school within a month. INP

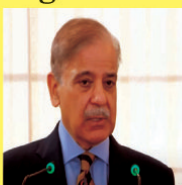
# India needs to become CPEC's beneficiary instead of creating hurdles: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday on 10-year celebrations of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) mega project asked the neighboring country, India to become beneficiary of CPEC instead of creating obstacles in its way.

"Keeping in view the widespread scope of the mega project, Iran, Afghanistan, Middle East and the whole region would also benefit from CPEC," he added.

Premier Shehbaz Sharif said that CPEC is a beautiful plan to connect not only regions and areas but also people's hearts.

The prime minister also vowed to expedite the development



progress by twofold. He said it was not only the project of improvements in road, rail, sea ports and air

routes, but also a great plan for health, education, skill development and participation in the development process.

Termining it a game changer project for the whole region, the prime minister said CPEC would help improving the life standards of the people of the region.

PM Sharif congratulated the leadership and people of Pakistan and China on 10 years completion of the mega project of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The prime minister said CPEC was a new chapter of the evergreen and trusted strategic cooperative partnership between the iron brothers China and Pakistan. Web Desk.

# Eight die, several injured in Lahore rain related incidents

LAHORE: At least at least people died and several others injured in incidents of roof collapse, electrocution after torrential rain lash the city on Wednesday.

Rescue sources said that three including a couple and a minor child died when roof of a house caved-in due to heavy rain in Misri Shah area.

A youth was electrocuted to death when high voltage power line fell into rain water due to strong wind in Chungi Amar Sidhu area.

In Rawwind, a teenager Wali Muhammad 14, drowned to death in water accumulated in vacant plot.

55-year old woman was electrocuted to death at Circular road area of the provincial capital.



In Hinjarwal area, heavy rain electrified a metallic item electrocuted 11-year child. A youth identified as Ehtisham was electrocuted to death in Baghbanpura area of

Rashidpura. Roof of a house came down due to torrential rain near Doria Pull resulting in injuries to three people INP



By Farhan Bokhari

The future is all about the Artificial Intelligence (AI). The AI has the potential to significantly impact education and transform the learning experience for students across the globe.

The provincial government needs to change its priorities when it comes to AI and climate change since the former offers opportunities and the latter poses a serious threat to human life.

For many businesses and industries across Pakistan, the writing on the wall is hardly encouraging. It is possible that in the short term the imports already piled up on Karachi port and wait-

costs for many industries, while eating further into already shrunk household budgets. And higher indirect taxes slapped in last month's annual budget have forced many businesses to lose their

series of steps that strike down their very own privileges. Ultimately such an exercise must prove that the nation stands together in sacrificing personal privileges irrespective of status in

mise on rule of law' has shattered the country's stability and knocked down prospects for vital areas including the economy. Large-scale investment initiatives include examples of those pushed

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By Farhan Bokhari

Singapore was typically a third-world country like ours but without any inherent resources that we luckily have. The turnaround came in

Consequently, every taxpayer has to bear the burden of the loss-making

prune the trees in public interest. We have a wild growth of birds of prey to cope with. Recently there was an article in this newspaper as to what prompted the increase in population of these birds. All that one witnesses are kites hovering in the

As a nation, however, we can change our alarming state of poverty and illiteracy if we single-mindedly follow the nations that have progressed within a few

P in the formula for success stands for pragmatism. Singapore's state policies are based on a practical approach unlike Pakistan where loss-making monsters, state-run organizations like the Pakistan Steel Mills and PIA, incur losses worth

raises doubts about their competence — and their connection with reality. But the bigger problem with selling state companies is that it's all wrong on the merits. So, for now, let's put aside ideology. Let's ask instead whether state companies are really a fiscal drag.

the outstanding performance of these companies, and their enormous profits year after year after year. So, PP's after-tax profit last year was Rs54 billion and it put Rs45 billion in the national kitty in taxes alone. In the past six years its cumulative profit was Rs200 bil-

the state, aka free-market capitalism. Now, economic historians will tell you that this has never been the case. Not one of today's Western economic powers practised free-market capitalism during its development. Take for example France. Its state

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## Student's issues must be resolved via students facilitation centre: President IIUI

ISLAMABAD: President, International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), Dr. Hafth Hamoud Alotaibi has directed that students' issues must be resolved via a top priority and it must be ensured that their issues are addressed in a timely manner. He said that the IIUI President has constituted a committee

to resolve the issues of the students at the earliest. The IIUI President has constituted a committee

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## APC on Political Harmony: Consensus developed among major parties

ISLAMABAD: All major political parties of the country in a significant step towards fostering a peaceful and violence-free electoral process have reached a consensus on organizing an All Parties Conference (APC) to address the growing problem of politically motivated extremist language that may incite hatred and violence. The consensus was reached at a dialogue titled 'Common Resolve for Political Harmony', organized by Communications Research Strategies (CRS), a pioneer in strategic communications and research-based interventions in Pakistan. Senior parliamentarians and politicians representing seven prominent political parties, including PML (N), PPP, PTI, ANP, NDM, and MQM, emphasized the need for an all-parties conference (APC) to address the growing problem of politically motivated extremist language that may incite hatred and violence. The dialogue was moderated by Advisor to the

Prime Minister, Qamar Zaman Kaira, Senator Afrasiy Khattak, Information Secretary PTI Raouf Hassan, Senator Anwar ul Haq Kakar, SAPM Romina Khurshid Alam, MNA Sabir Quaimkani, Chaudhry Manzoor Ahmad, member CEC PPP, and Information Secretary ANP (Punjab) Nadeem Sarwar represented their parties. Zafarullah Khan, former Executive Director Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Affairs and constitutional literacy advocate, welcomed the participants. CEO CRS Aniq Zafar highlighted the emerging situation in the country where political discourse was becoming increasingly harsh, with the potential for violence by non-state actors against political forces. Recognizing the gravity of the situation, the participants stressed the importance of exploring a common ground through Charter of Democracy (CoD) 2 to address key structural issues that hindered political and economic growth in the country.

On the agenda of the primary objectives discussed during the conference was to develop a well-thought-out national consensus against extremism and terrorism, leaving no room for soft corners on existing or new terrorist groups. The participants strongly advocated against using such groups for political engineering and called for the immediate de-weaponization of society to curtail the potential threat of violence during upcoming elections. Additionally, the seminar shed light on the 'economy of terrorism', which perpetuated the menace of terrorism in the country. Participants acknowledged the need to investigate and address the financial sources that fueled terrorist activities, emphasizing its impact on foreign and strategic policy choices. To strengthen the political process, participants expressed interest in establishing a 'Truth and Reconciliation Commission' (INP).

Addressing a ceremony here to mark a decade of the signing of CPEC, the minister said that unfortunately the project was scandalized by the previous regime and he was back at a position where the project would become a game-changer for regional development. He said, even the investors left Pakistan which caused huge damage to the game-changer CPEC project, the minister said adding that the incumbent government made efforts during the past one year and got the project back to rhythm.

"For last one year, we tried our best to get CPEC back to rhythm and gain investors' confidence," he said. The minister said that \$29 billion projects under CPEC have been completed or are nearing completion adding that next target was to promote industrial cooperation to open up new opportunities for Pakistan. He said, CPEC was not given proper attention after 2018 and the projects that were left by the previous regime during past four years were completed or are nearing completion adding that next target was to promote industrial cooperation to open up new opportunities for Pakistan. He said, the issues related to water and power at Gwadar port were resolved during the past one year to address the grievances of people. Addressing a ceremony here to mark a decade

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Human Rights Riaz Hussain Pirzada addressing during the Independence Day of Belarus at local hotel.

## SC allows PIA to make 205 new professional appointments

ISLAMABAD: Following the government's decision to privatize PIA, Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed the airline to make 205 new professional appointments while postponing the recruitment of 43 others. According to the details, Supreme Court allowed Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) to make 205 new professional appointments while postponing the recruitment of 43 others. A two-member SC bench comprising Justice Ijazul Ahsan and Justice Ayesha A Malik heard the case made by PIA seeking permission for 250 recruitments of pilots, cabin crew, IT specialists, finance and management officials.

In its verdict today, the apex court allowed the recruitment of the 205 employees that were on the list of the airline's profit for the last six months was three billion rupees and flights were profitable routes. He said that the PIA was starting flight operations on the international and national routes. Justice Ijaz said that the flight staff of other airlines was less and questioned if the recruitment would be on a permanent or on a contractual basis. The CEO replied that the recruitment would be on a one-year renewable contract basis. The apex court allowed the recruitment of 205 employees after hearing the arguments of the CEO and additional counsel.

Justice Ijaz said that the quality of services of the PIA was not up to the mark. The recruitment would burden the organisation by PIA seeking permission for 250 recruitments of pilots, cabin crew, IT specialists, finance and management officials. In its verdict today, the apex court allowed the recruitment of the 205 employees that were on the list of the airline's profit for the last six months was three billion rupees and flights were profitable routes. He said that the PIA was starting flight operations on the international and national routes. Justice Ijaz said that the flight staff of other airlines was less and questioned if the recruitment would be on a permanent or on a contractual basis. The CEO replied that the recruitment would be on a one-year renewable contract basis. The apex court allowed the recruitment of 205 employees after hearing the arguments of the CEO and additional counsel.

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# Zhob Islamabad highway blocked against killing of policemen

## From Our Correspondent

ZHOB: All political parties blocked main Islamabad highway against the killing of three policemen in the Sherani district of Balochistan the other day.

On the call of the All Parties Action Committee, Transport Union, Anjuman Tajran, the Zhob Quetta and Zhob DI Khan national highways were blocked in protest, which caused long queues of vehicles and the passengers faced serious difficulties.

## Local tribesmen protesting against the terrorist attack

Zhob Quetta Road was blocked for all



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing a ceremony commemorating the 10th anniversary of signing of the agreement for CPEC.

## BISP disburses over Rs 51b among beneficiary women

ISLAMABAD: The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has so far disbursed over Rs 51 billion among more than 5.7 million beneficiary women under Benazir Kafalat.

The disbursement of the fourth quarterly tranche of Benazir Kafalat for the Financial Year-2022-23 is continued after Eid-ul-Azha holidays through banks' retailers.

Under Benazir Kafalat, 9 million registered beneficiary families are entitled to a quarterly installment of Rs 900 per household.

The BISP has already released over Rs 81 billion to its partner banks, that is, Bank Alfalah and Habib Bank Limited (HBL) for disbursement among the beneficiaries through their retail distribution.

Along with Benazir Kafalat, Benazir educational scholarships are also being given out to the children of registered families, however, 70 per cent attendance in the school is mandatory to receive educational scholarships.

In case of any complaint, beneficiaries can approach the nearest BISP Tehsil Offices or call on toll-free helpline number 0800264777 of Benazir Income Support Program.

The BISP messages are only sent from 1171 while messages from any other number should not be trusted INP.

## FGEHA to hand over possession of plots to 800 allottees soon

ISLAMABAD: Director General of Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) Faraz Rasheed said on Wednesday that 800 plots of Green Enclave-I, Bara Kahle would be handed over to the allottees soon.

Talking to media persons here, he said that the development work of Green Enclave-I was going on at a rapid pace.

The DG said the construction of the connecting bridge between the project from Angoori Road would also be completed shortly.

"The promise of possession of the allottees will be fulfilled soon. The contractor has been instructed to complete the work of electricity, gas pipeline and sewerage at the earliest," he added.

The development work of the Green Enclave-I project, which had been pending since April 2022, was resumed last month INP.

## 'UN must implement its resolutions on Kashmir to restore its lost credibility'

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter held a reception at its office in Islamabad in the honour of the members of the Kashmir Movement in UK, Europe, Spain and Scotland, in which the speakers demanded UN to implement its resolutions on Kashmir to restore its lost credibility.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the speakers said the Kashmiris living abroad are playing their full role in highlighting the Kashmir cause. They said India is using every brutal tactic in illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir to suppress the Kashmiris' freedom movement. They urged the international community to take cognizance of the grave human rights violations perpetrated by Indian troops in the occupied territory, Tehreek-e-Kashmir (UK) President Raja Faheem Khan, Tehreek-e-Kashmir (Scotland)

## PTI's own people exposed Panama conspiracy, only Nawaz Sharif can resolve country's problems: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's own people had exposed the Panama conspiracy. Addressing a press conference here, she said that characters behind that conspiracy pushed the country towards multiple crises by imposing an incompetent and inefficient person at the helm of affairs. The minister said the solution of Pakistan's problems lies only with Nawaz Sharif who served three times as Prime Minister. "During the Nawaz Sharif era, the economy was stabilized, he gave the people a gift of China - Pakistan Economic Corridor," she said, adding that great injustice was done to the person who had done great service to the country as prime minister. Taking a jibe at Imran, she said the shadowy figures and characters who were burning the country today, stood on the contrary to stop the CPEC project in 2013-14. Marriyum Aurangzeb said on that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Quaid Nawaz Sharif was disqualified under a conspiracy.

## Eight die, several injured in Lahore rain related incidents

LAHORE: At least at least people died and several others injured in incidents of roof collapse, electrocution after torrential rain lash the city on Wednesday.

Rescue sources said that three including a couple and a minor child died when roof of a house caved-in due to heavy rain in Misri Shah area.

A youth was electrocuted to death when high voltage power line fell into rain water due to strong wind in Chungi Amar Sidhu area. In Raiwind, a teenager Wali Muhammad 14, drowned to death in water accumulated in vacant plot.

A 55-year old woman was electrocuted to death at Circular road area of the provincial capital. In Hinjarwalla area, heavy rain electrified a metallic item electrocuted 11-year child.

## Torrential Rains: PM directs Punjab govt to take immediate measures

ISLAMABAD: Amid torrential rains, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed the Punjab government to take immediate measures and mobilise the rescue teams across the province.

Coordinated efforts by a district administration, Rescue 1122, Provincial Disaster Management Authority, municipal and other departments should be ensured, he said adding that all possible measures should be taken to protect the citizens' lives, according to a PM Office statement.

Premier Shehbaz Sharif instructed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and other federal departments to extend maximum support to the Punjab government, if required.

All necessary steps must be taken to aware the citizens of any emergency situation, chalk out alternate traffic plans and make arrangements for proper drainage, he maintained.

The prime minister also instructed to take preventive measures in wake of the monsoon rains in other parts of the country, besides asking the NDMA and PDMA to coordinate the rescue teams and arrangements. He said the all possible steps should be taken to relocate the people from villages to safe locations besides saving the cattle similarly, he said all necessary measures should be taken to prevent the urban flooding.

PM Shehbaz also directed to mobilise the respective administrative departments of Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and other hilly areas, besides instructing to keep the PM Office updated on all the measures taken INP.



QUETTA: Chairman Tokhi Foundation Haji Sharif Khan Khalji is addressing the ceremony organized on the occasion of the Annual Foundation Day.

kind of traffic and Zhob DI Khan Road at Selwaza Bridge. Moreover, the sit-in in front of the Commissioner's office continued for the fourth day today.

All Parties Action Committee Anjuman Tajran Transport Union Tribal have been protesting against the incident. Elders and leaders of social organizations while addressing the participants of the sit-in said that people of the area will not allow anyone to spread fear in the area.

All political and social organizations and the people of Zhob Shriani are united, they announced. The sit-in speakers said that our demands are legitimate and the protest will continue until their legitimate demands are accepted.

In addition to the hardships of the people, especially the passengers. In view of the wheel jam strike, the Zhob Quetta DI Khan road was opened for traffic.

## The highway was reopened after successful negotiations with administration

Four security personnel including three policemen and a frontier corps personnel were martyred in a terrorist attack in the Dana Sar area of Sherani district. The outlawed Tehrik-e Talibani Pakistan (TTP) had claimed the responsibility for the attack.

## China regrets hasty IAEA's releasing report on disposal of Nuclear-contaminated Water

BEIJING: China on Wednesday regretted hasty IAEA's releasing of a report on the disposal of nuclear-contaminated water at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station.

When asked to comment on issuance of the report, a spokesperson of Chinese Foreign Ministry said, "China noted a Comprehensive Report on the disposal of nuclear-contaminated water at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station released by the IAEA."

It is learned that the report failed to fully reflect views from experts that participated in the review. The conclusion was not shared by all experts. The Chinese side regrets the hasty release of the report.

We believe that the IAEA report should not be the "shield" or "greenlight" for Japan's discharge of nuclear-contaminated water into the ocean.

Due to its limited mandate, the IAEA failed to review the justification and legitimacy of Japan's ocean discharge plan, assess the long-term effectiveness of Japan's purification facility and corroborate the authenticity and accuracy of Japan's nuclear-contaminated water data. Therefore the conclusion is largely limited and incomplete. We noted that Director General

Rafael Mariano Grossi stated that the IAEA conducted the review at the request of the Japanese government and the report is neither a recommendation nor an endorsement of Japan's ocean discharge policy.

Simply for saving cost, Japan has insisted on discharging the nuclear-contaminated water into the sea in disregard of the concerns and opposition from the international community and taken the Pacific Ocean as the "sewer."

No matter what the report says, it will not change the fact that Japan will release millions of tonnes of Fukushima nuclear-contaminated water into the Pacific Ocean in the next three decades.

Will Japan's purification facility be effective in the long-term? Can the international community be truly informed when the discharged water exceeds the discharge limit? What impact will the long term accumulation and concentration of radionuclides bring to the marine environment, food safety and people's health? These are the questions that the IAEA report failed to answer. Twelve years ago, Japan received supports from all over the world in the wake of the Fukushima nuclear accident INP.

## 3-day training of Lead Trainers for training of DROs, ROs initiated

ISLAMABAD: A three-day Training of Lead Trainers for the training of District Returning Officers (DROs) and Returning Officers (ROs) for upcoming general elections commenced at Pakistan's Electoral Academy for Democratic Practices, Research and Management (PADRM) in Islamabad on Wednesday.

The training session will conclude on July 7th, 2023 and 33 officers from ECP will be trained during this 3-day session.

These Lead Trainers will further impart training to 142 DROs and 859 ROs from all four provinces INP.

## Directs flights needed to commence at once for economic revival: Ahsan Zafar

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that Pakistan is lagging far behind the world in the race of development, which is mainly due to the lack of connectivity at the regional and international level.

In a statement on Wednesday, he said, "Pakistan needs to be connected to the region through rail, road and direct air links. PIA has failed to connect Pakistan to the world. The government should announce a fast-track privatization program without wasting more money and capital. Despite its effective presence in various regional and international blocs, Pakistan has not yet been able to benefit at the commercial level. Work is required on an emergency basis to start direct flights."

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that Pakistan has lagged far behind the world in the race of development at which the world is moving forward. In today's world, no country can develop alone, but now interests can be progressive measures should be taken to prevent the urban flooding.

PM Shehbaz also directed to mobilise the respective administrative departments of Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and other hilly areas, besides instructing to keep the PM Office updated on all the measures taken INP.



## Pakistan has been, continues to be valued partner of US: CG Makaneole

RAWALPINDI: Consul General of the American Embassy in Lahore William Makaneole has said that Pakistan has been and continues to be a valued partner of the United States.

This was stated by him during his visit to Government Post Graduate College Attock to attend an event as chief guest. Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza and Principal Government Post Graduate College Professor Majid General welcomed the distinguished guest.

Consul General William Makaneole said that the US and Pakistan governments have partnered on many issues and our people-to-people ties are strong.

The United States has a broad, deep, and long-term partnership with the people of Punjab province in the fields of education, economics, health, law, and beyond. The US Consulate Lahore is looking forward to deepening and expanding these relationships in the coming years. Speaking on the savings Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza said that we welcome William Makaneole's visit to Lahore. The Consul General will further expand the diplomatic, commercial, mutual and cultural relations between the two countries. Culture plays an important INP.



RAWALPINDI: Khalid Ahsan, Advisor to President of Azerbaijan along with delegation held a meeting with Federal Minister for Defence Production, Muhammad Israr Tareen and officials of MoDP.

## Business leader stresses need to adopt culture of savings

KARACHI: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain stressing the need to adopt culture of savings has said that lack of savings prevent investments and opened doors of loans.

In a statement issued here on Wednesday, he said that the former government's efforts to develop the economy resulted in a payment crisis and this will happen again in the future.

Our growth depends entirely on imports rather than exports, always leading to an unsustainable current account deficit, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that it is necessary to foster a culture of savings and savings in the country to ensure development without current account deficit. He said that GDP growth on a sustainable basis is impossible until the current savings rate is doubled. The savings rate in Congo is 61.4 percent, in Singapore it is 53.8 percent, in Saudi Arabia it is 52.9 percent, in the United Arab Emirates the savings rate is 47.8 percent, in China it is almost 44.9 percent and in India and Bangladesh it is between 30 and 31 percent, he informed. However, in Pakistan this rate is only twelve percent which is rapidly decreasing due to current inflation and unemployment, he said. The business leader said that in 2007-2008, the growth rate was 4.4 percent while the current account deficit was fourteen billion dollars. In 2010-2011, the current account was moved to a modest surplus by reducing imports, bringing the growth rate down to 3.2 percent. In 2012-13, too, the growth rate was reduced to 2.9 percent to bring the current account under control. The situation was somewhat better from 2013 to 2018, but in 2017-18, the growth INP.

## Meta to digitally empower 500 women entrepreneurs, other small businesses

ISLAMABAD: For launching the second phase of their flagship digital empowerment program in Pakistan, Meta has joined hands with the State bank of Pakistan (SBP), the National Institute of Banking and Finance (NIBAF) and Domo. Together, they aim to digitally empower 500 women entrepreneurs and other high value businesses through training and access to resources as well as networking opportunities.

The launching ceremony "The Digital Bridge: Advancing Financial Inclusion for Pakistan" was held this week. It was attended by officials of the Ministry of Commerce, Women Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and other government and private sector representatives. Meta's Director of Policy Programs, said "At Meta, we are committed to supporting the economic growth of Pakistan by empowering small business owners, especially women entrepreneurs, by upskilling them in the digital space and helping them develop their revenue generation streams. We thank SBP, NIBAF and Domo, for the collaboration, and look forward to working together towards our collective goal of unlocking the potential of women-owned businesses and creating a more inclusive society."

Demo will select the new participants of the program from Pakistan's export-oriented chambers as well as the pool of small business owners that participated in the first phase of the SheMeansBusiness INP.