

QUETTA VOICE

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Police reluctant to arrest killers of father, son: Claim residents of Noshki

Army expresses 'serious concerns' on safe havens, liberty of action available to TTP in Afghanistan

Change of traffic police uniform a positive step: IG Police Balochistan

No doctor in 10 out of a total 12 prisons in Balochistan

News Desk

QUETTA: In Balochistan, there is no doctor for inmates in 10 out of a total of 12 prisons. No doctor and no medicines inside the jails of Balochistan have compounded the problems of the inmates languishing in prisons for years.

4 central and 8 district jails in Balochistan

There are 4 central and 8 district jails in Balochistan, where more than 3 thousand people are imprisoned, sources revealed. According to them, there are no doctors in 10 jails, including the largest jail of the province, Central Jail Mach, in these jails.

Chief Justice Balochistan High Court (BHC), Mr. Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan had expressed displeasure over the non-appointment of a doctor in the Mach jail and he had ordered an immediate appointment.

Seven posts of doctors and 2 posts of LMOs in jails vacant

The medicines budget has also been reduced from rupees 6 million to 3 million, jail sources said. They requested anonymity since they were not authorized to speak to the media. Although, this was not verified by the officials of the prison department.



Instead of doctors, dispensers perform the duties of treating prisoners. According to the government of Balochistan, there are currently seven posts of doctors and two LMOs vacant in the prisons.

Non-availability of medical staff in Balochistan prisons and the shortage of medicines have also become a serious problem. Till 2020, the prison department was receiving medicines worth 60 lakhs from the provincial government.

However, despite the increase in the number of prisoners and the increase in the prices of medicines, the provincial government has reduced the funds given to the jail department for medicines from 60 lakhs to 30 lakhs.

Around 1100 prisoners languishing in the district jail Quetta

Quetta Jail with 1100 prisoners is being supplied with medicines worth Rs. 600,000 annually. Despite the orders of the Balochistan High Court to provide medical facilities in jails, the government is yet to improve health facilities in jails. The summary of appointing doctors in 10 prisons and increasing the quota of medicines to one and a half crore has been sent to the Department of Home and Health, the sources concluded.

News Desk

QUETTA: The armed forces of Pakistan have "serious concerns" about the safe havens and liberty of action available to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in Afghanistan, the military's media affairs wing said in a statement on Friday.

Army concerned over liberty of action available to TTP in Afghanistan: ISPR

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) statement came following Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir's visit to Quetta Garrison where he was briefed on a recent attack on a military installation in Balochistan's Zhob Cantt.

A total of nine soldiers were martyred in the attack that took place on Wednesday while security forces killed five terrorists in retaliatory action.



Gen Munir briefed on recent terrorist attack in Zhob during Quetta visit

According to Zhob District Commissioner (DC) Azeem Kakar, a civilian woman was also killed in the incident after being caught in the cross-fire while five other civilians were left injured.

"Involvement of Afghan nationals in terrorism is another key concern"

Today, the ISPR said, the army chief visited the soldiers injured in the attack at Combined

Military Hospital, lauded their services and appreciated their resolve. He also paid "rich tribute[s]" to the martyrs, the statement added. In the statement, the military also expressed concern over the availability of "safe havens and liberty of action" to the TTP in Afghanistan and said, "It is expected that the interim Afghan government would not allow the use of its soil to perpetrate terror against any country, in the real sense and in line with commitments made in the Doha agreement".

Change of traffic police uniform a positive step: IG Police Balochistan

Manan Mandokhail

QUETTA: The Inspector General of Police Balochistan, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh termed the change of uniform for the traffic police a positive step towards police reforms. He expressed these views while addressing a function in connection with the change of uniform for police at the police line Quetta on Friday.

Senior police officers and jawans were also present on the occasion



"I know this move would be criticized but I consider this a first step towards improvement", Mr. Sheikh stated. He said the police force must address the grievances of the masses and come up with the expectations of

the people. "We are their servants, not masters", Mr. Sheikh mentioned.

Quetta facing the worst traffic sssssssjam issue



He said Quetta city was facing the worst traffic jam issues and he was taking all positive and effective steps to resolve the traffic issue. The police chief admitted

that there were some elements within the force involved in taking bribes. However, he said the majority of the personnel were committed to upholding the banner of the

Traffic police officers during the function

The Police chief directed the traffic policemen to double their efforts and change their behavior along with their uniforms while performing their duties.

Police reluctant to arrest killers of father, son: Claim residents of Noshki

From Our Correspondent

NOSHKI: The residents of Galangur District Nushki have said in their statement that on July 9, 2023, early in the morning a father and son were killed by robbers in the Dambhani Road area of Quetta.

In their statement, the residents said that the bandits killed the father and the son and left their house in ruins, while the rest of the government, especially the police department, has completed the task only to suspend an officer.

Abdul Kareem Sarwar, an elder of the family demanded of the

police chief of Balochistan to bring the killers to book.

No progress in the case since the removal of Khalil Bugti

What has happened since the officer was removed from his position? He said that we consider the removal of Circle Shalkot DSP Khalil Bugti as putting our case in cold storage. There is only one officer. He is the other officers accused, you people think that suspending an officer will give false comfort to the victim's



family to cover up their incompetence, but you people do nothing less than rub salt in our wounds, he lamented.

We, the victims' families, demand from the Balochistan government and the top officers of the police that no specific

IBCC session begins in Quetta to discuss examination system

Education Desk

The Inter Boards Coordination Committee (IBCC) session began here in Quetta to discuss a number of issues relating to the examination system across the country. The Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BBISE) is hosting the session to discuss ways and means to improve the examination system.

Ejaz Bafloch, the Chairman of BBISE, and chairmen from all boards are participating in the session. As per the agenda obtained by the Daily Quetta Voice,



the participants are discussing the current situation in the format of result cards of all BBISEs, uniform policy for registration of candidates

and other important issues. The session would conclude on July 14 (tomorrow).

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New loan programme will anchor Pakistan's immediate efforts to stabilise economy, says IMF

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said that Pakistan's new \$3 billion loan programme would anchor the country's immediate efforts to stabilise the economy and ensure that the current balance of payments need was fulfilled.

Earlier this week, the global lender's executive board green-lit the nine-month standby arrangement (SBA) in order "to support the authorities' economic stabilisation programme".

The board approved the bailout package for the country for an amount of \$2.25bn Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) — reserve funds that the institution credits to the accounts of its member nations, the IMF had said in a statement, adding that this amounts to about \$3bn, or 111 per cent of Pakistan's quota.

Subsequently, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said the first tranche of \$1.2 billion was deposited in the central bank, while the "balance amount" of \$1.05bn would be handed over after two thirds in November and February.

In a press briefing on Thursday, IMF spokesperson Julie Zocack said the SBA came at a "challenging juncture"



The programme, she stated, was aimed at supporting the government's economic stabilisation plan and policies, with due protection for the most vulnerable, and providing a framework for financing from multilateral and bilateral partners.

The spokesperson stressed that "steadfast policy implementation" was critical in the period ahead. "This will be critical for the success of the programme and, of course, ultimately, for aiding and supporting the people of Pakistan," she added.

Zocack went on to say that programme, although short, would ensure that Pakistan's current balance of payments need was fulfilled. While it is a relatively short programme, it provides time for Pakistan to implement policies critical to strengthening its domestic external economic situation, thereby supporting sustainability.

"Of course, resolving Pakistan's structural challenges will likely require continued reforms over the medium term to underpin the needed economic transformations, to strengthen inclusive growth prospects, and to create an environment conducive to renewed private capital inflows," she stated.

The spokesperson also assured that the IMF was always standing ready to work with the country and the government in efforts to restore sustainability and economic stability. Web Desk

A dialogue for the economy

By Dr. Abdul Ghafoor Suleri

Funds lapse in financially-starved Balochistan

Editor Asim Khan

Lapsing of funds is a common phenomenon in the financially-starved Balochistan. The provincial health minister, Syed Elshan Shah revealed a bitter reality of his department lapsing Rs 7 billion allocated for the purchase of medicines and equipment for government hospitals.

This exposed the poor political commitment coupled with bad governance and incompetent officers in Balochistan, which is already lagging behind other provinces in terms of key social indicators.

Hospitals without medicines for last three months in Balochistan
Government-run hospitals in Quetta, the provincial capital have been without medicines for the last three months. This compounds the problems of deserving and needy patients knocking the doors of government hospitals.

Since the elites can afford to go to Karachi for medical treatment. So the deserving and needy patients remained the worst sufferers of this incompetency of the government in general and the health department in particular.

Angioplasty and Angiography machines out of order for the last two and half years in BMC.
At the tertiary, the angiography and angioplasty machines are out of order at the Baluchistan's largest government-run hospital i.e. Bolan Medical Complex (BMC) hospital for the last two and half years. This daily has repeatedly reported the out of order machines. Unfortunately, the reports are falling on deaf ears.

The BMC addressing cities lack of funds as the underlying reason behind the non repair of machines.
The BMC administrator has attributed the underlying reason behind the non repair of machines.

Rs.7 billion lapsed in health department Balochistan
This is strange, on one hand Rs.7 billion are lapsed by the department, on the other hand, the same department complains about lack of funds for the repair of two machines in BMC.

Simply, this is unacceptable and an investigation conducted by this daily suggests that machines are deliberately made out of order to force the patients towards private clinics and hospitals.

Provincial government should put its own house in order prior to criticism of Islamabad
From the province's chief minister to a section officer everyone speaks about the financial crisis, currently. Blaming Islamabad for the all ills of the province has been the hallmark of all political leaders from government to opposition.

However, they are yet to put their own house in order and ensure financial discipline in this resources-starved province of the country.

The PTI government made various efforts to attract foreign investment in Pakistan during its first two years in power. It won a lot of delegations and dignitaries from Saudi Arabia, China, Turkey, Malaysia, the UAE and Qatar visited Pakistan from 2017 to 2022.

These countries signed multiple memorandums of understanding (MOUs) and agreements worth billions of dollars with Pakistan to invest in petroleum, agriculture, tourism, infrastructure development, energy, and many other sectors.

For instance, Saudi Arabia agreed to invest \$20 billion in various projects, including a \$10 billion oil refinery and petrochemicals project. Gwadar China pledged to enhance its cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Pakistan's Economic Corridor (CPEC) and support Pakistan's industrialization and economic development.

Turkey expressed its interest in investing in Pakistan's automobile and tourism sectors. Malaysia's investment in the petroleum sector was stalled by regulatory hurdles and legal disputes faced by the existing government-owned oil company operating in Pakistan. The UAE package for Pakistan, including \$3 billion in balance of payments support.

The deferred oil payments facility was suspended after eight months due to another factor that risks friends of Pakistan is the lack of policy consistency and continuity. For instance, the government asked Pakistan to repay \$1 billion from the \$3 billion loan it had given to the Sultanate of Oman.

Another example is Pakistan's trade relations from the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Successes (FATF) complied with one of the toughest action plans of the FATF and the Asia-Pacific Group. Behind this accomplishment was a commitment to a robust action mechanism: an FATF core cell at the GHQ.

One example is Pakistan's response to Covid-19. The delta variant of the coronavirus created havoc in India, but Pakistan was able to contain the losses to the economy and lives. This was largely due to the mechanism of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOCC) which is jointly steered by civilian and military leadership. It monitored the situation, made decisions, and implemented the control of the spread of the virus.

The NCOCC also coordinated with provincial governments to ensure that all resources such as hospital beds, ventilators, and personal protective equipment were needed most. Moreover, it oversaw the implementation of measures that proved vital to slow down the spread of the virus, such as lockdowns.

The situation got further aggravated when the pandemic sector in Pakistan, its friends adopted a 'wait and see' approach. Their reluctance to provide assurances to Pakistan until they get clarity on the political front had in turn stalled Pakistan's IMF programme. The situation got further aggravated when the pandemic sector in Pakistan, its friends adopted a 'wait and see' approach. Their reluctance to provide assurances to Pakistan until they get clarity on the political front had in turn stalled Pakistan's IMF programme.

Linking trade to environmental sustainability

By Dr. Muhammad Zeshan

Pakistan's trade policy plays a key role in integrating the country into the global economy through global value chains (GVCs). The analysis of Pakistan's export dynamics - differentiating between direct and indirect trading - using GVC participation rates, and examining GVC lengths - provides valuable insights into the country's position in global production networks.

It is important to explore the implications of these findings and propose key trade policy measures to enhance Pakistan's exports in GVCs. Pakistan's involvement can be classified into direct and indirect trading. Direct trading refers to a firm's form of exports where solely Pakistan's value-added is exported and used by the importing country.

First, diversification of export sectors beyond textiles is essential to capture a share of total exports in emerging industries. This requires identifying sectors with growth potential and providing targeted policy support to facilitate their development.

Second, improving the ease of doing business and creating an enabling environment for investment in the manufacturing sector through direct investment (FDI) and promote technological advancements. Investment in research and development, innovation, and skills development will enhance

Pakistan's competitiveness and enable it to participate in higher value-added segments of GVCs. Third, fostering regional integration and connectivity is crucial. Pakistan should actively pursue trade agreements and regional free trade areas (SAFTA), to enhance trade flow within the region. This will facilitate greater cross-border investments, technology transfer, and knowledge-sharing, strengthening Pakistan's position in regional and global value chains.

Pakistan primarily exports simple textile products and relies on foreign processing support to produce finished goods. To move up the value chain, it is imperative to enhance the country's production capabilities. Trade policies should target the promotion of domestic value addition and encouraging investments in advanced manufacturing technologies, research and development, and skills enhancement. This will enable Pakistan to undertake more stages of the production process domestically and increase the value-added components in its exports.

In the agriculture sector, trade policies should promote manufacturing activities linked to GVCs. To effectively participate in GVCs, Pakistan must invest in skills development and human capital. Trade policies

should emphasize education and training programmes aligned with industry needs. By equipping the workforce with relevant skills, Pakistan can meet the demands of higher value-added production processes, attract quality jobs, and improve labour productivity. Collaboration between the government, private sector, and educational institutions is crucial to foster a capable workforce for GVC-related industries.

Pakistan's trade policy can reshape its involvement in GVCs and global production networks. By enhancing its production capabilities, gaining from analyzing direct and indirect trading, evaluating GVC participation rates, and understanding GVC lengths, Pakistan can enhance its integration into GVCs.

To maximize its potential in the global value chain, Pakistan should focus on diversifying export sectors, strengthening domestic processing capabilities, and enhancing regional integration, facilitating trade, investing in infrastructure, and promoting skills development. By implementing these measures, Pakistan can harness the opportunities offered by GVCs, attract investments, create jobs, and achieve sustained and inclusive economic growth.

What has your exit been worth?

By Mosharrar Zaidi

Loyalty was almost thirty years old - older than me then, and much older than the current median age of 23.

Hirschman's framing of the concept of exit, which motivates the dynamic between individual and system, is not exactly that he is doing? He is essentially trying to find enough oxygen for the state to survive until the expiry date of the current government. What happens to Pakistan the day after? Ishaq Khan, he is told, doesn't care - he is the one that keeps telling us, in his charming Shahzad Khanzada style, to get out of your exit. Concurrent to this, in Hirschman's own words, "The importance of loyalty is that it can neutralize within certain limits the centrifugal forces of quality-conscious customers or members to be better off to create consumers of the fictions that the military itself manufactures to justify the most toxic critics of the same military. Why should we have to decline in Firms, Organizations and States?"

But exit, voice and loyalty offers a powerful means of assessing, dispassionately, what has happened prior to the capsizing of that fishing trawler. The cost of Greece, the choice made by the sumers of 'dunkie', by that time, Exit, Voice and

A fiscal disaster

The National Economic Council has set an economic growth target of 3.5 per cent for the upcoming fiscal year. While also acknowledging a population growth rate of 3.6 per cent, Pakistan is the fastest growing country in the world in terms of population. In fact, with much rosier assumptions, GDP per capita may actually decline further, as population growth outpaces GDP growth.

The National Economic Council has also proposed a development budget of Rs2.2 trillion, which is fiscally profligate, while the sovereign continues to operate with constrained budgets, and keeps on running massive fiscal deficits. If the plan is to continue borrowing to bridge fiscal deficits, and allocate trillions towards development expenditure, while refusing to expand the tax net, then things may get even worse during the upcoming months.

The sovereign has a serious debt problem. It is estimated that more than 70 per cent of all tax collected is going towards debt servicing, leaving very little to run operations of the state and undertake development expenditure. In an environment where the economy is reeling with inflation levels exceeding 38 per cent on a year-on-year basis, and interest rates at 22 per cent, designing a serious strategy to rely on more debt is a recipe for disaster. The expected fiscal deficit for

the upcoming fiscal year is Rs6 trillion, and if history provides any guidance, we are going to shoot beyond that. Taking on additional debt at peak interest rates will effectively increase the debt to settle earlier debt, and its associated mark-up. As the sovereign continues to push out the private sector, further borrowing is only going to be designed around debt will eventually lead to trouble, as capital available for the government to borrow from gets scarcer than ever.

As the government fiscal deficits are spiralling out of control, it may either hurt fiscal stability of the system, or hyperinflation. This is a budget designed around accounting for higher interest rates. Historically high interest rates, without talking much about it. Failure of the government to expand its tax net will eventually lead to higher inflation due to fiscal deficits, making it even harder for households to survive, let alone thrive. A fiscally irresponsible sovereign will be hurting a vast

chances of prosperity or growth for the fastest growing country in the world, in terms of population. The government is working with a framework of SEs, straight out of a consultancy handbook, without realizing that all of this is being funded by debt and interest. The fiscal deficit that no one has any plan to fix. As the sovereign takes on more

What has been raised by 17 per cent?

By Amr Habib Khan

Let us try to list the rate and undertake development expenditure. In an environment where the country is reeling with inflation levels exceeding 38 per cent, and interest rates at 22 per cent, designing a serious strategy to rely on more debt is a recipe for disaster. The expected fiscal deficit for the upcoming fiscal year is Rs6 trillion, and if history provides any guidance, we are going to shoot beyond that. Taking on additional debt at peak interest rates will effectively increase the debt to settle earlier debt, and its associated mark-up. As the sovereign continues to push out the private sector, further borrowing is only going to be designed around debt will eventually lead to trouble, as capital available for the government to borrow from gets scarcer than ever.

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What has been raised by 17 per cent?

By Dr. Sania Nishtar

Government has made an admission in the budget strategy itself that they are aware of non-filers of tax returns. When they proposed a tax of 0.6 per cent on cash transactions, it was a clear attempt to identify tax evaders. PSDP expenditures have been raised by 103 per cent, Rs250 billion of which is to be financed by unapproved schemes, reportedly on the request of coalition partners in view of the upcoming elections. There is a large sum of Rs100 billion from the 'SDGs' local development budget, which is to be used for various projects.

The government could have committed to identifying tax evaders and marking revenue for welfare, which would signal to the public that the government was truly interested in structural reform that would benefit the economy and provide welfare to disadvantaged groups for sectors that were struggling with the tax burden, while letting distress to other sectors. The burden of the tax net, such as real estate, agriculture, retail, and budget for health should have at least been double the given sharp increase in the budget deficit from the people. Where could the money for this come from? The obvious answer to this is to widen the tax net and increase the tax burden on the wealthy. As opposed to this, there is no plan to identify tax evaders accessible to the government to enable this. In fact, the

government has made an admission in the budget strategy itself that they are aware of non-filers of tax returns. When they proposed a tax of 0.6 per cent on cash transactions, it was a clear attempt to identify tax evaders. PSDP expenditures have been raised by 103 per cent, Rs250 billion of which is to be financed by unapproved schemes, reportedly on the request of coalition partners in view of the upcoming elections. There is a large sum of Rs100 billion from the 'SDGs' local development budget, which is to be used for various projects.

Balochistan NAB organizes seminar, walk against corruption

ISLAMABAD: In an effort to raise awareness about corruption and instill a sense of responsibility among students, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan on Friday organized a seminar and walk in Quetta Cantonment School.

by Saima Nazir and others representing the school, along with Zahid Kassi and Khurram Shahid. Deputy Directors from NAB Balochistan. The speakers expressed their views on corruption and shed light on NAB's strategies and the role of students in combating corruption. They emphasized the negative impacts of corruption on society and highlighted the valuable initiatives taken to eradicate it. During the seminar, effective measures were also highlighted to actively contribute to the development of a transparent and ethical society. The overall objective of the seminar was to serve as an informative platform, motivating students to actively participate in actions against corruption. In a symbolic gesture, a walk was organized at the conclusion of the seminar.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi meeting with a delegation of Overseas Pakistanis, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Chinese companies keen to set up joint ventures in Pakistan: Meilin

ISLAMABAD: Led by Chairman, Xiandong Hi-Tech Electric, a Chinese delegation of Chinese companies visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI) on Friday and showed keen interest to set up joint ventures in Pakistan in various fields including machinery manufacturing, electric equipment industry, drilling, magnetic wire manufacturing, commercial concrete, equipment installation and department store sales. The delegation exchanged views with the business community to explore areas of mutual collaboration and business partnerships.

First ever Pashto-Chinese mix song attracts applause

PESHAWAR: The first ever Pashto-Chinese song on seven years old phenomenon Friendship between Pakistan and China is attracting applause from dwellers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, terming the melody as true reflector of inner emotions of peoples of both the countries. The song is prepared by 'China Window' around a year earlier and re-launched it on the occasion when both the countries are celebrating the completion of ten years of gigantic China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) agreement.

Tourism Authority (KPCTA), Archeology Department, Youth Directorate KP and Islama College Peshawar extended cooperation in preparation of the song. The five minutes and fifty two seconds long song titled as 'Two bodies one soul' is sung by famous Pashto music duo of Sitara Yusaf and Sajad Khan from Pakistan. While from China the singers who performed are Lan Yueliang and Shao Feng. The unique song starts with the wording that 'We China and Pakistan are two bodies and one soul, the friendship is selfless and whole world knows it'. The same lyric is sung in both Pashto and Chinese languages by different performers amid display of very beautiful and historic pictures depicting leadership, culture, development, landscape and historical sites of the both countries. 'Lyrics are simple and meaningful while composition and voices are awe-inspiring', said the strong friendship between Pakistan and China. Well done China Window, commented a viewer on social media.

Students awarded Rs. 6m under Chinese Ambassador Scholarship Program

PESHAWAR: The University of Peshawar (UoP) distributed Rs. 6 million in cash assistance to deserving students under the Chinese Ambassador Scholarship Program 2023. The China Study Center (CSC) at UoP organized the scholarship distribution ceremony alongside the Prizes Distribution of Art Competition & Exhibition titled 'Decade of China-Economic Corridor' at the Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum Khan Auditorium of UoP.

Professor Dr. Kausar Takrim, Director of CSC, revealed the centre had distributed Rs. 18 million amongst deserving students to date, according to Gwadar Pro. This year, RMB 150,000 (equivalent to Rs. 6 million) was national quota for the university's deserving students. Last year, the CSC distributed Rs. 4.5 million under the same scholarship programme.

China condemns premeditated acts of desecration of Quran: Spokesperson

BEIJING: China supported the urgent debate held at the United Nations Human Rights Council over premeditated acts of desecration of the Quran and strongly condemned such acts that happened once again in the relevant country. China supports holding this urgent debate and expresses its strong condemnation over the burning of the Holy Quran that happened once again in the relevant country. Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing.

HEC asks students, parents to check recognition of institution before taking admission. ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has urged students to ensure the accreditation of professional degree programmes and the recognition of instituting university/sub-campus from HEC before taking admission. According to HEC, the professional degree programmes include Engineering, Medicine & Dentistry, Veterinary Education, Nursing, Architecture and Town Planning, Pharmacy, Law, Homeopathy, Tibb, Agriculture, Business, Computing, Teacher Education, and Technology/INP.



FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Ali Anan Qamer visits Hilar-e-Ahmer Hospital in city.

Sindh Governor for ensuring foolproof security arrangements in Muharram-ul-Haram

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori has said that foolproof security would be provided for gatherings and processions during Muharram-ul-Haram. He was talking to a delegation of Jaferia Alliance led by Shabbir Raza which called on him at Governor House here Friday. Security measures for Muharram processions, close coordination with local administration, economic steps of federal government for strengthening of economy and other matters of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf witnessing Turkite art exhibition displayed on the occasion of Turkish Democracy and National Unity Day.

AKUH launches WhatsApp channel for enhancing patient services

KARACHI: The Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) Pakistan has taken a significant step forward in patient services by officially introducing its WhatsApp channel aimed at providing easy access to a wide range of hospital services and enhance patient experience with quick and timely response. This initiative reflects AKUH's commitment to enhancing patient experience by leveraging technology and seamless communication between patients and the hospital, as they try to access care or request information. This also reinforces our commitment to excellent cus-

tommer service and continues exploration to find ways to make the patient and their family's experience as seamless as possible. The inauguration ceremony was held at the Aga Khan University Hospital Contact Centre, Dr. Farhat Abbas, the Interim CEO of AKUH Health Services in Pakistan, expressed his profound satisfaction at this initiative, highlighting its potential to revolutionize patient services and get any information they need. Dr. Abbas emphasized the significance of accessibility as one of the four fundamental principles of

Three-day 'Mango Festival' kicks off in Capital

ISLAMABAD: A three-day mango festival is being organized under the Management of the Centaurus Mall, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce Industry (CCI), and MNS Agriculture University Multan at the Centaurus Mall from July 14 to 16, 2023. The festival with a theme of 'Building business network and community outreach', will showcase stalls with different varieties including seedless mangoes. Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood, SVP Sardar group of companies Dr. Sardar Kashed Ilyas Khan, President ICICI Ahsan Zafar, Vice-Chancellor, Multan, Professor Dr. Asif Ali (Tangaha-e-Imtiaz), and a number of foreign dignitaries, senior politicians, notables of society, and researchers participated in the inauguration. The festival aims to provide an opportunity for capacity sharing knowledge of mango production, post-harvest management, value addition, supply/value chain improvement and domestic market expansion. It is attended by academia, researchers, government officials, ambassadors, high commissioners, commercial attaches, agricultural experts, INP.

Ancient Silk Road Legacy reinvigorated at Silk Road Cultural Forum

ISLAMABAD: Silk Road Cultural Forum themed 'Exhibition of CPEC achievements over the decade' was jointly organized by Pakistan-China Institute in collaboration with China Study Center, COMSATS. Those who spoke during the forum included the Vice-Chancellor of Masood Khalid, Former Ambassador to China, Mumtaz Zahra Baloosh, Spokesperson and Province, Additional Foreign Secretary, (Strategic Security, IPRI), Wang Puqing, Student Ambassador, Herobots Technologies, and Noreen, Director, China Study Centre, COMSATS University, Li Wenyu, Director of CPEC CCC (Cultural Communication Center) of Jansu

PRGMEA inks MoU with LUMS, GC University for sustainable textile industry growth

LAHORE: The Pakistan Ready-made Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PRGMEA) Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) and GC University Lahore to join hands for sustainable textile industry growth through fortifying industry-academia linkages, keeping the local industry competitive in the international market by estab-

lishing missing links and identifying weaknesses and strengths. The MoU with GC University was signed for Carbon Footprint Project marking the beginning of the true industry-academia partnership aimed at fostering growth and innovation in the garment industry. Both sides stressed the need for putting in place effective measures to fill the industry-academia linkage gap. Central Chairman PRGMEA, Mubashar Naseer Butt said that the MoU signing ceremony served as a momentous occasion, bringing together esteemed representatives from both PRGMEA and GC University to solidify a mutual commitment towards advancing the industry's development and innovation through A-forestation and reforestation and other methods to plant green forest and vertical forest in Lahore and its suburbs. This partnership will open doors

for valuable knowledge exchange, research, collaboration, and the exploration of new avenues for growth. The MoU signing ceremony was attended by PRGMEA North Zone Chairman Waseem Akhtar Khan observed that the MoU signing with the LUMS marked an important milestone in fortifying industry-academia synergy between PRGMEA and LUMS, with an ultimate objective of advancing garment industry in Pakistan. Waseem Akhtar Khan stated that the MoU

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3. بعض نواحی میں زمینیں سرکاری قبضہ میں آئیں اور وزارت مال میں مقرر سائیکلز، گاڑیاں وغیرہ
4. بعض نواحی میں زمینیں سرکاری قبضہ میں آئیں اور وزارت مال میں مقرر سائیکلز، گاڑیاں وغیرہ
5. بعض نواحی میں زمینیں سرکاری قبضہ میں آئیں اور وزارت مال میں مقرر سائیکلز، گاڑیاں وغیرہ
6. بعض نواحی میں زمینیں سرکاری قبضہ میں آئیں اور وزارت مال میں مقرر سائیکلز، گاڑیاں وغیرہ
7. بعض نواحی میں زمینیں سرکاری قبضہ میں آئیں اور وزارت مال میں مقرر سائیکلز، گاڑیاں وغیرہ
8. بعض نواحی میں زمینیں سرکاری قبضہ میں آئیں اور وزارت مال میں مقرر سائیکلز، گاڑیاں وغیرہ
9. بعض نواحی میں زمینیں سرکاری قبضہ میں آئیں اور وزارت مال میں مقرر سائیکلز، گاڑیاں وغیرہ
10. بعض نواحی میں زمینیں سرکاری قبضہ میں آئیں اور وزارت مال میں مقرر سائیکلز، گاڑیاں وغیرہ

Work on ML-1 railway line project to start this year: Ahsan Iqbal

BEIJING: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal said that with China's support, work on the multi-billion ML-1, the main railway line project between Karachi and Peshawar, would be started as early as possible during this year.

"The ML-1 project was to be done in the first phase, but somehow, it got delayed in the last four years," the minister said.

"We are hopeful that this project will start this year," he said in an interview after a special meeting of the 12th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of CPEC in Beijing.

"The railway track has been badly damaged during the floods last year. This is the main railway track linking north and south Pakistan. We want to repair it and we want to upgrade it as early as possible. It will be a US\$10 billion project. We will do it in phases, and we hope to start this project as soon as possible during this year."

Ahsan Iqbal said, "The 150 years old railway line now requires major modernisation and up-gradation. We are

hoping that with China's help, we will be able to modernize this railway track from Karachi to Peshawar and it will be a very big support to our logistics."

About Karachi circular railway, he said, "It is a mass transit project for Karachi which is the biggest city in Pakistan. So, we also agreed to fast-track that project."

Ahsan Iqbal said the JCC meeting was very historic because it marked a decade of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

"About 10 years ago, both China and Pakistan started a new journey of bilateral relationship through CPEC which is a pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative."

"As a result, today, we have more than \$25 billion worth of investments in Pakistan under CPEC and the flagship project has helped Pakistan overcome its energy crisis."

Under CPEC, we installed more than 8,000 megawatts of power projects. It has helped us to construct modern highways, and motorways, which has improved connectivity in the country, linked different parts of the country, and provided essential logistic support to the economy. INP



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif unveiling a plaque to mark the ground breaking of the main campus of National University of Technology (NUTECH).

Speculations about suspension of Lillah-Jhelum project baseless: Bilal Kayani

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to PM on Economy and Energy Bilal Azhar Kayani has said that speculations about the stopping of work on Lillah-Jhelum dual carriageway were totally baseless.

Taking to his twitter handle on Friday, he said Lillah-Jhelum road was a long-standing demand of the people of the area and work on this project can only be closed after its completion.

Bilal Kayani further stated that 1.8 billion rupees have been allocated for the road in budget 2023-24. INP

Two die, two injured in Swabi incidents

SWABI: A youth drowned to death in a boat while young girl died and two others were injured in a road accident here on Friday.

According to details, 28-year-old Tauqeer s/o Sardwal hailing from Panjman area of Swabi drowned to death in Steps canal of Swabi. The rescuers pulled his body out of the body and handed it over to heirs.

An over speeding dumper hit a rickshaw in Yar Hussain area resulting in a young girl Houran died while her maternal uncle and rickshaw driver sustained injuries.

The body and injured were shifted to hospital and police after registering a case against rickshaw driver started an investigation. INP

Five-day science camp concludes at AIOU

ISLAMABAD: A five-day Islamabad Hands-on Science Camp has concluded here at the National Open University (AIOU) on the other day.

Around 120 children aged 8 to 14 years from Islamabad and neighbouring areas participated and got trained to make different robotic projects at the camp organized in collaboration with AIOU, Pakistan Science Club and ECOSF.

President ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), Prof. Syed Kamal Tayebi was the chief guest of the closing ceremony, whereas the Director of the Faculty of Sciences AIOU, Prof. Dr. Ishaq Ahmad Arshad represented the Vice-Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood.

Other speakers included the Dean of the Faculty of Education, Prof. Dr. Tanziya Nabek, Dr. Tanveer Afzal, and the founder of Pakistan Science Club, Abdul Rauf.

Dr. Tanveer Afzal said that there is a need to encourage children to do experiments. Abdul Rauf said that these children participating in this science camp are the scientists of tomorrow. INP

Over Rs 68b disbursed among 7.5 million beneficiaries under Benazir Kafaalat

ISLAMABAD: About Rs 68 billion has been disbursed so far by the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) as the 4th quarterly tranche of its Benazir Kafaalat initiative in the financial year-2022-23 among around 7.5 million families.

Under the Benazir Kafaalat, some 9 million registered beneficiary families were entitled to a quarterly installment of Rs 9,000 per household. A BISP spokesperson said on Friday. The spokesperson said the BISP had already released over Rs 31 billion to its partner banks, including Bank Alfalah and Habib Bank Limited (HBL) for disbursement among the beneficiaries through their retail distribution network. Along with the Benazir Kafaalat, he said the Benazir Education Scholarships were also being given to the children of registered families, for which 70% attendance in the school was mandatory. INP

Pak-Lebanon first ever think tanks ISSI, IFI sign MoU to promote mutual research

ISLAMABAD: To promote mutual research and activities, Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) and Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) at the American University of Beirut on Friday signed the first-ever memorandum of understanding (MoU) between any Pakistani or Lebanese think tank.

The agreement was signed by Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) represented by its Director General, Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) represented by its Director, Dr. Joseph Bahout, said in a news release.

Director General ISSI Ambassador (R) Sahib Mahmood in his remarks on the occasion highlighted the strong fraternal relations between Pakistan and Lebanon and the desire on both sides to deepen bilateral relations across diverse fields.

He welcomed the signing of the MoU as part of the efforts to build academic and think-tank linkages and hoped that this institutional relationship would induce joint collaborative activities including research and dialogue for mutual benefit.

The UNG ISSI added that the uncertain global environment, accentuating traditional and non-traditional security threats, and issues of common concern necessitated international cooperation and such collaborative endeavours would benefit initiated between ISSI and IFI.

While speaking on the occasion, ambassador Salman Iqbal, Pakistan's Ambassador to Lebanon highlighted that this was the first-ever MoU between the think-tanks of Pakistan and Lebanon. He added that through close mutual cooperation both sides could benefit hugely and achieve a lot. INP

Mariyum, Kaira, Kundi visit NPC to condole death of mothers of Afzal Butt, Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira and Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday visited the National Press Club to offer condolences on the death of mothers of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (FUJ) President Muhammad Afzal Butt and senior journalist Khaleeq Kiani.

They expressed their deep grief and sorrow over their mothers' death.

Speaking on the occasion, Mariyum Aurangzeb said a mother was a "priceless gift" from the Almighty. She was deeply saddened over the death of the mothers of Afzal Butt and Khaleeq Kiani, and shared their grief and that of their bereaved families, she added.

Qamar Zaman Kaira said the death of one's mother was an irreparable loss as her absence lasted for lifetime.

Faisal Karim Kundi said parents were the source of happiness for families.

Mariyum Aurangzeb, Qamar Zaman Kaira and Faisal Karim Kundi prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed souls in the eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved families to bear the loss with fortitude. INP

MQM-P nominates Rana Ansar as opposition leader in Sindh Assembly

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumiy Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) has nominated Rana Ansar for the opposition leader's slot in the Sindh Assembly amid deadlock with another opposition party, Grand Opposition Alliance (GDA).

MQM-P's Rana Ansar has been nominated for the position of Sindh opposition leader. She would be the first woman opposition leader in Sindh Assembly if elected.

However, the deadlock is still persisting between MQM-P and GDA for the opposition leader's slot as the nominated Ansar would require a specific number of votes for replacing the current opposition leader Halem Adil Shekh.

The MQM-P lawmakers filed her nomination to the Sindh Assembly Secretariat after getting the signatures of the lawmakers. The application was filed in the PA Secretariat by MQM-P's Ferooz Sattar, Nasreen Jil, Rana Ansar and other lawmakers.

While talking to journalists, Ferooz Sattar said that the current opposition leader is not present in the Sindh Assembly to represent the entire opposition. He added that neither the opposition leader nor other lawmakers belonging to his political party are attending sessions at the provincial assembly.

He said that there is a need to fill the gap in the Sindh Assembly to represent the opposition benches. INP

PML-N to field candidates from all constituencies of Punjab: Sanaullah

LAHORE: Interior Minister and President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Punjab, Rana Sanaullah ruling out electoral alliance in the upcoming general elections has said that his party would field candidates from all constituencies in the national and provincial assemblies in the province.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore on Friday, he said that the PML-N was commencing its electoral and organizational meeting has been summoned in this regard.

"The meeting will discuss our resolve to take forward the election activity in Punjab with full force. The PML-N leader said, adding that the party will field candidates in all national and provincial constituencies.

Rana Sanaullah pointed out that his party had not fielded its candidates in a few constituencies in last elections. "However, this time, the party has decided to ensure that its party symbol would be present in every constituency," he added.

He also said that there was a possibility of seat adjustments with other political parties in such constituencies where the party would need help. "In this regard, PML-N's criteria would be that we would not compromise on our winning and dedicated candidates," he added.

The federal minister also recalled the PML-N's 'achievements' during its past tenures, specifically mentioning the 1999 tests that made Pakistan a nuclear power.

A conspiracy was hatched at a time [2013-2018] when all newspapers were saying that Pakistan was becoming an economic power," he claimed.

He also lambasted the previous government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), saying that it "divided the country's politics and injected poison in it, and misled the youth."

He further said that the coalition government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif once again brought the country out of economic crisis and saved it from default.

The press conference came a day after Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif announced that the incumbent government will hand over power to the caretaker set-up on August 2023.

PM Shehbaz Sharif said that he assumed the prime minister's office in April 2022 and power will be handed over to the caretaker set-up on August 2023.

The premier said that the incumbent government fended off 'landmines' laid by the previous government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) besides ending Pakistan's isolation on the economic and foreign-level fronts. He termed his government the 'beginning of a new era' from economic destruction to the initiation of economic stability. He also claimed that the incumbent government culminated worst corruption and conspiracies of the previous government. INP

Firing during 'Rasm-e-Henna' claims life of teenage girl

GUJRANWALA: Aerial firing during Rasm-e-Henna in a wedding ceremony claimed life of a teenage girl here on Friday, police said.

According to details, a youth was engaged in aerial firing during Rasm-e-Henna in Sabzi Mandi police station jurisdiction in Gujranwala.

A bullet hit a teenage girl present at the balcony of the spot killing him on the spot.

The suspect fled the scene. The body was shifted to hospital for postmortem.

The police registered a case into the incident and started raids to arrest the suspect. INP

18 Pakistani prisoners released by India reach home via Wagah border

LAHORE: As many as 18 Pakistani prisoners who were imprisoned in India crossed over to their home country through the Wagah-Attari border crossing after they were released by Indian officials on Friday after completion of sentence.

Indian border authorities handed over the 18 men including six fishermen and 12 civilians to Pakistani Rangers officials at the border, sources in the paramilitary force said.

After entering into Pakistan, the returned countrymen chanted slogans of Pakistan Zindabad.

Those released from Indian prisons included Muhammad Hanif, Muhammad Waqas, Nazish, Humayun Rasool, Muhammad Ramazan, Muhammad Tariq, Muhammad Ali, Muhammad Shan, Long Muhammad Chandani, Ahmed, Roshan, Ali, Ameer, Muhammad Arif Faraed Alam, Muhammad Ramazan and Mushtaq Ahmad.

During the last four months, Pakistan released 400 Indian prisoners, mostly fishermen while 100 were released. Pakistanis in May and 18 today. On July 1st, Pakistan and India exchanged the list of prisoners as per which total number of Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails was 308 which include 266 fishermen. INP

Overseas Pakistanis playing key role in country's socio-economic development: Alvi

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday said the overseas Pakistanis were playing important role in socio-economic development of the country.

In a meeting with the delegation of Overseas Pakistanis led by Dr Nasir Shahid here at Aiwan-e-Sadr, the President said the overseas Pakistanis were working to promote the better image of their country in their respective host countries. He said the country was passing through economic challenges that needed to be resolved by collective efforts. President Alvi said besides working for their own country, the overseas Pakistanis were also playing role in development of their host countries.

He urged them to put more efforts for economic development of Pakistan.

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ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf addressing the participants of commemoration ceremony and Turkish Democracy and National Unity Day.

Islamabad court declares PTI chief-Bushra Bibi nikkah case admissible

ISLAMABAD: A district and session court in the federal capital has overturned a decision of civil judge who had rejected a petition challenging the nikkah of the PTI chairman with Bushra Bibi.

Sessions Judge Azam Khan issued the detailed verdict, reminding back the case to the civil court. He directed the court to decide on the case keeping in view legal points.

On May 13, Civil Judge Nasir Minullah declared the petition filed by Bushra Bibi against the former prime minister and Bushra Bibi's marriage to be declared illegal, inadmissible.

The petitioner's lawyer Raja Rizwan Abbasi had claimed that Bushra Bibi was in Iddat in January 2018 at the time of her nikkah as she got divorced in November. He has argued that marriage in the days of Iddat was illegal.

The civil judge at one point inquired if the PTI chief's marriage took place in Lahore, how did it fall in the jurisdiction of this court.

Lawyer Raja Rizwan Abbasi told the court that the nikkah was taken from Islamabad. The court said the case was beyond its jurisdiction and inadmissible.

Later, the petitioner challenged the verdict in the sessions court, saying his arguments were not heard by the civil judge.

His lawyer argued that according to Section 179, the case could be heard both in Lahore and Islamabad as the former premier and Bushra Bibi stayed in Islamabad after their nikkah.

After hearing the arguments, the sessions judge declared the petitioner's case admissible and remanded back the case to the civil court for hearing. INP

LG by-poll on vacant seats in KP on August 27

PESHAWAR: The provincial Election Commission said on Friday that the local government by-poll on vacant seats of various categories in Village and Neighborhood Councils in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would be held on August 27 and public notices had been issued by the Returning officers.

According to the office of the provincial Elections Commissioner, the candidates can submit their nomination papers from 17 to 19 July.

The list of candidates who submitted nomination papers would be released on July 20, while the scrutiny of nomination papers would be held from July 21 to 25.

The appeals against acceptance and rejection of papers could be filed from July 25 to July 26 and the decision on these appeals would be made by August 1.

The revised list of candidates would be made public on August 2 and candidates would be able to withdraw their nomination papers till August 3.

The final list of candidates would be issued on August 4 and election symbols would be allotted on the same day.

According to the code of conduct issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan, the promotion and transfer of government employees in these districts is banable.

The public representatives including the Prime Minister, Speakers and Deputy Speakers of National and Provincial Assemblies, Federal and provincial ministers would be prohibited from visiting these councils and announcing development projects till the elections. INP



KARACHI: Acting Turkish Consul General Ali Fuad Erkurt attends the commemoration event held within the July 15 Democracy and National Unity Day to mark sixth anniversary.