

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

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New Health Center Transforms Healthcare in Nokkundi

Riaz Baloch: CHAGHI: The Reko Diq Mining Company (RDMC), in partnership with the Indus Health and Hospitals Network (IHHN), has inaugurated the Community Health and MCH (Mother & Child Health) Center in Nokkundi, District Chagai. This state-of-the-art facility aims to revolutionize healthcare delivery for local residents, offering maternal, neonatal, and child health services.



The center features three consultation clinics, four wards with 13 beds, a 24/7 emergency room, gynecology section, pharmacy, laboratory, ultrasound, X-ray room, and more. It will provide free services, including antenatal and postnatal care, immunizations, and general healthcare, alongside emergency services and ambulance referrals to tertiary care hospitals.

Serving a population of around 30,000, the center is set to enhance healthcare accessibility and quality in Nokkundi and nearby areas. This initiative marks RDMC's third healthcare project in the region, underscoring its commitment to community well-being.

Blast near police vehicle injures three in DI Khan

BANNU (INP): In a tragic incident, at least three sustained injuries in a blast targeting police vehicle in Dera Ismail Khan.

As per details, a blast occurred on Dera Ismail Khan road, leaving three injured whereas the police personnel remained unharmed.

According to the police, the ages of injured who are 15 to 16 years old have been shifted to the hospital. The explosion took place as the police vehicle was passing through the road. Initial investigations suggest that the bomb was remotely controlled and contained 6-7 kilograms of explosives. Earlier, at least two were injured including police constable in a blast occurred in Tehsil Kulachi, Dera Ismail Khan.

The incident occurred as the DSP and other police personnel were on the way for potio duty. In a separate incident, at least one dead, whereas 20 others injured twin landmine blasts occurred near Thakedar Naddi in Duki district of Balochistan. The first explosion occurred when a truck hit a landmine, followed by a second blast as people gathered at the scene. The police officials stated that both landmine blasts resulted in the killing of one citizen whereas 17 others sustained injuries.

PM Shehbaz greenlights relocation of Chinese industries to Pakistan as part of JVs

NEWSDESK: Building on recent engagements between Pakistan and China, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday gave the greenlight to relocate Chinese industries to Pakistan as part of joint ventures between the two countries' companies.

Chairing a meeting to discuss matters of the Board of Investment (BoI), the prime minister said that promoting both local and foreign investment in Pakistan was among the government's priorities.



Arrested TTP Commander Unveil Details of Missing Persons in Afghanistan

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: In a significant development, Nasrullah, also known as Maulvi Mansoor, a high-ranking commander of the banned Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), has been arrested and has made startling revelations about the presence of many missing persons in Afghanistan. This information was disclosed during a press conference addressed by Balochistan Home Minister, Mir Zia Langove Quetta.

The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Chief, Aitzaz Goraya and Spokesman Government of Balochistan, Shahid Rind were also present during the press conference.

During the press conference, a video statement from the arrested commander was played before the journalists.

In the video, Nasrullah detailed how he had fled to Afghanistan during Operation Zarb-e-Azb and had been involved in sabotaging Pakistan Army posts along the Pak-Afghan border. He admitted to conducting sabotage operations in South Waziristan, North Waziristan, and Dera Ismail Khan.

Nasrullah revealed that the leadership of the TTP, including Maulvi Noor Wali Mehsud, is currently based in Afghanistan. He also mentioned that Bashir Zeb, the commander of the outlawed Balochistan Liberation

Army (BLA) Majeed Brigade, is also in Afghanistan. According to Nasrullah, the Indian intelligence agency RAW funds the TTP, and meetings between TTP and BLA leaders have taken place at the Indian embassy in Kabul.

The commander claimed that the interim Afghan government supports key figures like Noor Wali and Bashir Zeb, allowing them to move freely within the country. He also criticized Noor Wali for inciting others to carry out suicide attacks while keeping his own children safe.

Expressing regret for his past actions, Nasrullah sought forgiveness from Allah and those affected by his so-called jihad.

He emphasized that many missing persons are indeed present in Afghanistan and that anti-Pakistan terrorists have freedom of movement there.

This disclosure sheds light on the complex dynamics at play in the region, highlighting the nexus between various terrorist groups and foreign intelligence agencies.

It also underscores the ongoing challenges faced by Pakistan in its efforts to combat terrorism and ensure the safety of its citizens.

The revelations are expected to have significant implications for regional security and counterterrorism strategies.

Balochistan High Court Orders Immediate Overhaul of SSGCL Gas Billing

Syed Ali Shah:



QUETTA: In a landmark decision, the Balochistan High Court has directed the Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGCL) to implement immediate changes in its billing practices, following a constitutional petition filed by Advocate Syed Nazir Agha against the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources, Government of Pakistan.

A two-member bench comprising Senior Judge of the BHC Mr. Justice Kamran Khan Malakhal and Mr. Justice Muhammad Iqbal Kasi heard the petition and ordered SSGCL to adhere to the recommendations outlined in the commission's report.

"The court directs the Chief Secretary Balochistan, a member of SSGCL's Board of Directors, to ensure the implementation of this order," stated Justice Malakhal.

SSGCL was instructed to stop issuing provisional bills, hidden charges, and additional fees without regular meter readings.

"Provisional bills and extra charges such as PUG/Colometer fees have unfairly increased costs for consumers," remarked Justice Kasi.

The court also directed that gas billing should resume from April 2024 without any concealed charges, and no gas meter removals should occur without 24 hours' prior notice to the consumer.

The hearing revealed that SSGCL had proposed to the Federal Government to revise the limit for protected and unprotected consumers through the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA). This proposal included increasing the protected consumer limit for Balochistan from 90 CM to 360 CM, which would significantly affect monthly bills, especially during winter.

Former SSGCL member Nawabzada Riaz Noshirvani informed the court that the SSGCL Board of Directors approved a fixed flat rate for a natural gas in Balochistan. The new rates are Rs. 2,551 per month for summer (April to October) and Rs. 8,848 per month for winter (November to March), ensuring the annual bill does not exceed Rs. 62,097.

The court also acknowledged the pending disputed amounts, allowing consumers to pay only 10% of the disputed bills until the issue is resolved.

The final hearing is scheduled for July 31, 2024, when further compliance and progress reports will be reviewed.

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Seminar Highlights Urgent Climate Action for Balochistan on World Environment Day

Shakoor Khan:

QUETTA: The Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), in partnership with the Center for Peace Development (CPD), BRDS, and IDO, hosted a seminar themed "Our Land, Our Future" to commemorate World Environment Day. The event aimed to raise awareness about the adverse effects of climate change and the collective role in addressing this critical issue.

Governor Balochistan Sheikh Ja'far Khan Mandokhail, the chief guest, emphasized the need for public-private partnerships to combat climate change. He highlighted the severe water scarcity in Quetta, noting the city's need for 300 years to address the alarming depletion. He warned of dire consequences for Balochistan's agriculture and livestock-dependent population if immediate and consistent policies are not implemented.

Governor Mandokhail praised PPAF and CPD for their efforts in raising public awareness about climate change. He called for legislative changes and increased



sapling plantations to reduce environmental threats.

Nadir Gul Barech, CEO of PPAF, underscored the importance of World Environment Day in highlighting critical environmental issues. He stressed educating the youth and inspiring meaningful actions across communities, businesses, and governments. Barech noted the severe impacts of climate change on agriculture and health, advocating for climate-friendly policies and sustainable resource

management.

During a panel discussion, Dr. Rubaba Buledi, advisor to the Chief Minister of Balochistan, highlighted the disproportionate impact of natural disasters on women.

Ghulam Muhammad, Chief Conservator of the Forest Department, emphasized afforestation efforts to combat desertification. Dr. Zahoor Ahmed Bzai, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Balochistan, advocated for climate-smart agricultural practices. Dr. Tahir Rasheed,

CEO of BRSP, highlighted community-driven land restoration projects. Former MPA Qadir Naeel stressed the need for Pakistan to prioritize environmental issues to avoid catastrophic consequences.

The CEO of CPD introduced the PPAF's Restoration of Social Services (RSS) project, aiming to strengthen community resilience against climate change through sustainable practices and innovative solutions.

It was revealed in the meeting that the services of Chinese experts were being acquired to establish a Business Facilitation Centre in Islamabad.

Additionally, a draft of the 'Easy Business Act' was being sent to the Cabinet Committee for Legislative Cases.

significant potential to relocate China's textile, leather, footwear and other industries to Pakistan.

He noted during the meeting that steps were being taken to facilitate the relocation.

PAEC Announces 49th INSC on Physics and Contemporary Needs

News Desk:



The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) has announced the inauguration of the International Nuclear Summer College (INSC) on Physics and Contemporary Needs, scheduled for Monday, June 24, 2024, in Islamabad. Federal Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal is expected to be the chief guest at the inaugural session.

This year, following the inauguration of the INSC, a special session on the Pakistan-CERN collaboration will be held to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN). Pakistan, an associate member of CERN, has maintained a robust collaboration with the organization.

Since its inception in 1976, the INSC has been organized annually by PAEC. The idea of holding the college was conceived by the distinguished Nobel Laureate, Professor Dr. Abdus Salam, who served as the founding Director of the college. Dr. Salam emphasized the importance of communication and the transfer and sharing of

scientific knowledge within the scientific community. The INSC provides a unique opportunity for scientists, particularly from the third world, to share knowledge and learn from each other's experiences.

Over the years, more than 1,000 eminent scientists and speakers, including eight Nobel Laureates from advanced countries, have delivered lectures at the INSC, sharing their knowledge with over a thousand foreign scientists from more than 75 developing countries, as well as over eleven thousand scientists from Pakistani R&D institutes and universities.

The scientific activities of the INSC aim to cover a broad range of topics at the forefront of knowledge in Physics and allied sciences.

During the 49th INSC-2024, emerging technologies such as Quantum Technologies, Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Machine Learning, and Semiconductor Technologies & Coatings will be discussed in detail. The 49th INSC will continue until July 6, 2024, in Nathiagali.

EDITORIAL

Editor: Asim Khan

Balochistan Needs Action, Not Another Failed Polio Campaign

Editorial:

The news of a children in Chaman and Dera Bugti contracting polio, in Balochistan after three years, is a damning indictment of the provincial health department and donor agencies entrusted with this critical public health mission. While a targeted vaccination campaign is a welcome response, it's a mere bandage on a gaping wound.

Imported Solutions Don't Work
For far too long, a top-down approach relying on imported solutions has dominated our fight against polio. We, the people of Balochistan, have the indigenous knowledge and cultural understanding necessary to effectively combat this disease. Yet, our voices and workable solutions are consistently sidelined.

The presence of poliovirus in environmental samples since last August is a glaring failure of our health department. This isn't just a recent oversight; it exposes a systemic weakness in surveillance and outreach programs.

Where are the educational campaigns that educate our communities in the local languages? Where are the efforts to address vaccine hesitancy through dialogue and trust-building with local leaders? We need an overhaul of the health department's approach, one that leverages the strengths of our communities and fosters public health initiatives.

Donor agencies must also shoulder some of the blame. Have they critically evaluated the effectiveness of their funding, or have they simply perpetuated a cycle of dependence on external solutions? We urge them to invest in building the capacity of our local healthcare system and empower Balochistanis to take charge of their health outcomes.

The upcoming vaccination campaign is crucial, but it cannot be a one-off effort. We need a sustained, multi-pronged approach that integrates local knowledge, strengthens healthcare infrastructure, and prioritizes community engagement. Only then can we truly eradicate polio from Balochistan and safeguard the health of future generations.

This is a wake-up call. Let Balochistan not be known for this resurgence of a preventable disease. Let's work together, with our own solutions at the forefront, to banish polio for good.

Clashing realities

BY Tariq Khosa:

HOW to restrain a powerful, overweening and tyrannical state is the key challenge we face today. The institutions of restraint on executive excesses are the rule of law and democratic accountability.

The mood of discontent is writ large as we witness the politics of hubris and humiliation. The powerful have rigged the system to perpetuate their privileges. The toxic brew of hubris reflects a dystopian saga.

However, to govern a democratic society requires contending with disagreement, said Michael Sandel in *The Tyranny of Merit: Politics, for some of us, in the words of Ben Ansell, "signals the distant example of the 1936 victory of politicians," but fundamentally, politics "is about how we make collective decisions". It is important to manage "inevitable disagreements". This is why "we can't avoid politics or wish it away", Ansell writes in *Why Politics Fails*.*

Elections have winners and losers, but their legitimacy through a fair process is crucial. We have the police and armed forces to protect us, but who will protect us from them? We need to answer this question, Frank Bruni. "We live in an era defined and overwhelmed by grievances, by too many peoples' obsession with how they've been wronged and their insistence on allowing in ire." He

correctly avers that "the ascent of identity politics and the influence of social media... were better at inflaming us rather than uniting us," and promoting "a self-obsession at odds with community, civility, comity and compromise". Bruni calls it "a problem of humility," in his forthcoming book *The Age of Grievance*. He talks about character and how a society holds itself together. "It does that with concern for the common good, with respect for the institutions" and says that "governing, as opposed to demagoguery, is about earning others' trust and cooperation." Tolerance shares its DNA with respect as it "recognises that other people have rights and inherent values even when we disagree vehemently with them", Bruni concludes.

In Pakistan's context, institutions like courts, law enforcement and intelligence agencies have lost the trust of citizens. This is simply a failure of governance because of institutional hubris. The institutions of restraint, that promote the rule of law and enforce accountability, stand exposed. The police, in my mind, is the worst culprit, or a toothless victim, which has acted as an instrument of persecution wielded by an overbearing, cruel, shadowy and unaccountable government. The excesses of the deep state. When exposing a crime is treated as committing a crime, it is nothing other than tyranny.

Amidst the current devastating scenario in the province, Balochistan's political and intellectual spheres remain sharply divided. Balochistan's Political and Intellectual Spheres Divided

Learning from global case studies, the potential of Balochistan as a resource-rich province with vast ecological and topographic diversity, coupled with its strategic location, warrants a paradigm shift towards infrastructure development and economic growth. It is evident that uplifting the economic status of the population will pave the way for the

Evolution of Pashtun Wedding Traditions: A Balochistan Love Story

CHANDNI KAKAR:

In Pakistan's Pashtun areas, where traditions run deep and family ties are paramount, weddings are not just celebrations of love but also complex negotiations of social and financial arrangements. Among the many customs observed, one of the most significant is the practice of *Walwar*, akin to the bride price seen in Pakistan's Pashtun areas as well as in neighboring Afghanistan.

In the Balochistan province, nestled amidst the craggy mountains and arid plains, lies a small Pashtun village named Gulzarabad. Here, the rhythm of life is dictated by age-old customs and traditions, and weddings are the pinnacle of societal events.

Dr. Faiz Kakar:

Balochistan, even as a resource-rich province, grapples with alarming rates of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, and infant and maternal mortality, indicative of severe underdevelopment. The unmatched policies and irrelevant development strategies, along with poor governance, have resulted in extreme underdevelopment of the province. Through the bleak picture of the province is noticeable to all decision-makers, as highlighted by maps depicting critical poverty levels in the province. Political and intellectual spheres remain sharply divided.

Potentials of the Province Ensure Success of SEZ

Balochistan, often referred to as the "fruit basket" of Pakistan, stands out as a resource-rich province boasting the largest landscape and the longest coastline spanning 770 kilometers. Despite its untapped wealth in various minerals, Balochistan remains underdeveloped. Its geographical and topographic zones allow for the experience of different seasons simultaneously, with inhabitants enjoying both the coldest and hottest regions in the province without leaving the province.

Deng Xiaoping was impressed by the unbelievable emergence of a development success in Singapore quoted that when visited Lee Kuan and asked how I can make China as Singapore and his response was to establish the SEZs in various nations.

Learning from global case studies, the potential of Balochistan as a resource-rich province with vast ecological and topographic diversity, coupled with its strategic location, warrants a paradigm shift towards infrastructure development and economic growth. It is evident that uplifting the economic status of the population will pave the way for the

Amidst the preparations for the wedding of Zainab, the daughter of a respected Pashtun leader, Malik Abdul Rahman Zainab, a vision of grace and modesty, had caught the eye of Shahid, a young man from a neighboring village, whose family has long-standing ties with the Rahmans.

The negotiations for Zainab's wedding began in earnest as Shahid's family sends a formal proposal to Malik Abdul Rahman. Gathering around the courtyard of the Rahman household, the intricate dance of negotiation and delicate balancing act between tradition and practicality.

The bride's price, known as *Walwar*, hangs heavy in the air as both

families deliberate over its amount. Malik Abdul Rahman, a man of principle, is keenly aware of the pitfalls of exorbitant bride prices. He understands the burden it places on young grooms and their families, often leading to financial strain and debt.

Drawing inspiration from the winds of change sweeping through the region, Malik Abdul Rahman proposes a modest bride price, one that reflects the true essence of the tradition without succumbing to its extravagance. His stance is met with nods of approval from both families, signaling a departure from the ostentatious displays of wealth that have become all too common.

SEZs The Only Option

Ensuring the full operationalization of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) already identified commenced in Balochistan stands out as the foremost priority area for intervention. The establishment of small and medium-scale industries within these zones will not only create employment opportunities but also incentivize rural-to-urban migration, thus fostering urbanization.

This industrial growth at the grassroots level will facilitate the much-needed trickle-down effect, addressing the pressing needs of the population. The momentum for expediting the establishment of industries is being further strengthened by the concurrent development of private housing schemes announced and currently under construction by the real estate dealers. These initiatives will compel the working class to seek improved living standards, thereby enhancing the overall quality of life in Balochistan.

Urbanization and establishment of new cities

Addressing the challenge of scattered population in Balochistan, the establishment of new urban hubs can be a game-changer in promoting economic and social development. The province's strategic location grants it access to two international borders with Iran and Afghanistan. Its rich resources, including minerals, natural gas, agriculture, livestock, forests, and fisheries, offer a solid foundation for industrial growth. They may have decided to ride on the

mutual respect and understanding. Both families recognize the importance of preserving their heritage while adapting to the realities of the modern world. It is a testament to the resilience of Pashtun culture, where tradition evolves without losing its essence.

As the auspicious day dawns, Gulzarabad comes alive with the sounds of joyous celebration. The village elders gather beneath the ancient banyan tree to witness the solemnization of vows, a sacred bond forged amidst the timeless backdrop of rugged mountains and vast expanses.

Zainab, radiant in her bridal attire, steps into the adorned car, a symbol of her journey into a new chapter of life. The winds of change blow softly across the rugged landscape, the customs of old and the dreams of tomorrow converge in harmony, weaving a tapestry of resilience and renewal.

agenda.

Appointment of heads of authorities from private sectors

The Government of Balochistan has indeed taken steps to establish authorities focusing on thematic areas such as Economic Zones and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP). However, the effectiveness of these authorities is quietly dwindling by the appointment of heads from higher officials. Additionally, the prevailing bureaucratic hurdles or garner support from higher officials. Additionally, the prevailing bureaucratic hurdles or

posses further challenges by not providing an enabling environment for these officials. To address these issues, it is imperative to appoint heads of these authorities from the private sector. These individuals should possess local knowledge, familiarity with public sector practices, and established connections with politicians and higher authorities within the government. This approach will ensure that the heads of these authorities have the necessary clout and influence to drive meaningful progress and overcome bureaucratic obstacles effectively.

Based on the aforementioned discussion, it is strongly believed that the effective operation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) could play a crucial role in the mainstreaming of Balochistan at the national level.

alone to get into government. My guess is that, given that any such fundamental change isn't likely in the foreseeable future, hybrids of one sort or another — i.e., with one permanent player and a revolving door policy to choose the junior partner — will continue, regardless of the consequences. So expect a lot more of meaningful, often combative rhetoric that leads to nowhere. For the love of my beloved land, where some 40pc of the population lives below the poverty line, where a staggering 26 million children are out of school and where basic health facilities and potable water are like gold dust, I earnestly hope that even this deeply flawed system is able to deliver some basics to the people.

Hybrid pitfalls for PML-N

BY Abbas Nasir:

HYBRID setups have internal power struggle built into them. Like me, if you find some of the statements confusing — signalling differences of opinion within the top tiers of the major political parties — you must determine whether this is a precursor to something dramatic or merely a struggle to create some elbow room in the straitjacket these parties find themselves in.

Apologies for the mouthful above. Before you give up on this column and move on to the next, let me explain what I am trying to say. Just as the PML-N is contributing to the establishment's ever-expanding footprint (as did the PTI before it), it is also clear the party isn't exactly content with the status quo.

Don't you consider it bizarre that

while Shehbaz Sharif is the prime minister and party supremo Nawaz Sharif's daughter Maryam Nawaz holds the reins to Pakistan's biggest province, with over 50 per cent of the country's population and order, and control of all federal law-enforcement investigation/intelligence agencies, surely he can't be happy governing with these and other constraints.

The PML-N isn't alone in this struggle for space as similar mixed signals come almost daily from the PTI as well. For instance, the party's favourite candidate for finance minister could make it only to the foreign minister, while a rank outsider, who was elected senator from Punjab by the PML-N but didn't bother to reciprocate by joining it, is the interior czar.

The prime minister's niece and Punjab chief executive appeared reluctant to allow the transfer of a police officer serving as Lahore's top cop to Islamabad Police as its chief, merely because it was so willed by the interior minister. Everyone knows where he draws his power from and, therefore, he prevailed. His denial of any friction with the prime minister didn't change the reality. Both Shehbaz Sharif and

Maryam Nawaz appeared helpless and couldn't stop this policeman's transfer. Such slights might be an integral part of hybrid regimes, which politicians willingly accept as they feel their political careers and longevity in office hinges on them. Still, it must be hurtful.

So how do they air their disappointment while, at the same time, keeping outside their establishment beneficiaries? Well, they let Rana Sanaullah and Javed Latif hold forth about who is who in the country's power structure and point out this is done in the hope of exerting some pressure on the powers that be for a few concessions, so a little space is secured in decision-making.

They may have decided to ride on the coat-tails of the establishment to power, but they also understand that in the ultimate analysis whatever political capital is at stake it is theirs alone to lose. Ergo, the quest for a little more elbow room. As it is, any momentum in the economy will be credited to the military-steered SIFC and any fallout from the IMF-imposed belt-tightening, inflation and unemployment will fall squarely on the PML-N's shoulders, further eroding its electoral prospects whenever the next elections are held.

The PML-N isn't alone in this struggle for space as similar mixed signals come almost daily from the PTI as well, with one top leader talking of political reconciliation one day and being shot down by others in the party the next. One

moment, you hear a party stalwart saying there is no point in talking to other political parties, and that dialogue can only take place with the real rulers such as

the army chief and the DG ISI, and the next moment he is contradicted by Imran Khan himself.

As it is, any establishment is concerned, it appears to have one unambiguous message: it isn't interested in a dialogue or in offering any other concession to the PTI that gives Imran Khan more space than he already commands on account of his sizable public support. It is a zero-sum game with the PTI.

Therefore, the establishment is happy to lead a hybrid regime because it hopes that it is the safest bet to revive the economy, which is identified as an existen-

BJP-led gov't can't silence Indian Parliamentarians: Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI (INP): Rahul Gandhi, the India's new leader of the opposition said on Wednesday that the Indian opposition's lawmakers would not be silenced, in his first speech since formally taking up a post vacant for a decade.

"This time, the opposition represents significantly more voice of the Indian people." In the past two parliaments, Gandhi's one-mighty Congress party did not have enough seats in the legislature to qualify him for the post.



KARACHI: Activates of jamat e islami hold protract at Shar e Faisal.

India using torture as tool to stifle Kashmiris' political voice for plebiscite

ISLAMABAD (INP): India is using physical, mental and psychological torture at a large scale as a tool to prolong its illegal hold on the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Kashmir and to suppress their righteous and just demand for plebiscite and right to self-determination acknowledged by the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

forms of torture at the hands of Indian forces in the internationally recognised disputed territory. The report maintained that 684 women have been martyred by the troops and paramilitary forces since January 2001 till date. It pointed out that womenfolk constitutes the majority of the Kashmiris are suffering from multiple psychic problems and mental torture.

Legal notices from the Judge Benkeng Court Quetta District Court, Kachery Shara-e-Iqbal Quetta. Includes suits for recovery of funds and interest, and notices under Form IV Appendix B of C.P.C. 1908.



ISLAMABAD: Islamabad: Federal Minister for States & Frontier Regions and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Engr Amir Muqam and Tribal elders offer 'Dua' after the latter announced to end their sit-in protest.

Karachi heatwave: 77 relief camps set up across the city

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh government has set up 77 heatwave relief centres and camps in response to the severe heatwave affecting the port city of Karachi.

Govt to block bank accounts of non-filers under amended finance bill 2024

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistani government is set to introduce amendments to the Finance Bill 2024 that will allow for the blocking of bank accounts belonging to non-filers of tax returns.

Fire at Shikarpur's Civil Hospital destroys medicines in storeroom

SHIKARPUR (INP): A sudden fire broke out at the PPHI Center of Civil Hospital in Shikarpur, reducing the medicines stored in the storeroom, to ashes on Wednesday.

Karachi heatwave: 100 bodies brought to morgue in three days

KARACHI (INP): A social organization has stated on Wednesday that 100 bodies brought in last three days to their morgue during the hot weather.

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ies on June 24 and 19 bodies on June 25, the foundation's spokesperson stated. "Thirty-six dead in the ongoing extreme hot weather."

Multiple legal notices from the Judge Benkeng Court Quetta District Court, Kachery Shara-e-Iqbal Quetta. Includes suits for recovery of funds and interest, and notices under Form IV Appendix B of C.P.C. 1908.

Imran Khan will not be set at liberty anytime soon, says Sheikh Rashid

RAWALPINDI (INP): Awami Muslim League chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmad said on Wednesday the nation had rejected the budget presented by the government.

"People will not wait for anyone to take to the street after being fed up with inflation and a lack of relief in the budget," he said.

Speaking to media outside the Adiala Jail, the former federal minister lashed out at the government for not taking care of the poor while preparing the budget.

"This is the fight of the destitute as they are hardly making ends meet under extreme poverty and hunger. This government lacks understanding of the challenges being faced by the people," he said.

Directing his anger towards PM Shehbaz's recent acknowledgement of IMF input in the budget, Rashid said the government was leading the country to Kenya-like situation.

Expressing displeasure over prosecutor's attitude, the AML chief said no one was indicted today, adding that 650 people were made to brave oppressive heat.

"I had a bitter exchange of words with the prosecutor today as he wanted this case to be transferred to another judge but his appeal was turned down forthwith," he added.

The former minister said Imran Khan would not come out of jail anytime soon, saying those expecting the PTI leader's release were mistaken.

In addition, he said, he was acquitted on Tuesday by the Islamabad High Court (IHC). He claimed that everyone who was jailed after May 9 was asked to give statement of section 164.

Earlier, special Anti-Terrorism Court judge Malik Ijaz Asif conducted the hearing of the May 9 cases.

Sheikh Rashid, Sheikh Rashid Shafiq (Rashid's nephew), Zartaj Gul and Rashid Hafeez appeared before the ATC.

PTI founder Imran Khan's legal team represented the former premier. Attendance of the accused was marked in a makeshift court inside Adiala Jail.

Later, the hearing was adjourned till July 15 without proceedings.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif interacts with parliamentarians during a session of the National Assembly.

IHC orders removal of former state minister Zartaj Gul from ECL

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court ordered the removal of the name of former state minister Zartaj Gul from the Exit Control List (ECL) on Wednesday.

Justice Tariq Mehmood Jhangir of the IHC took up the petition filed by Zartaj Gul, the parliamentary leader of the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC).

During the proceedings, the assistant attorney general appeared before the court and presented the relevant case record.

The judge questioned the state lawyer why Zartaj Gul's name was listed in two FIRs in the report.

quipping that the names of actual terrorists never make it to the ECL.

The judge wondered why the names of political leaders are put on the ECL just for holding political rallies.

Minister Naqvi urges national unity to eradicate drug menace

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Interior and Narcotics Control Minister Mohsin Naqvi has called for joint efforts to establish a drug-free and healthy society in Pakistan.

In his message on World Anti-Narcotics and Trafficking Day, Minister Naqvi emphasized the need for comprehensive measures to address the persistent dangers of drug use, which have long plagued society with crime, violence, poor health, and decreased productivity.

Recognizing the gravity of the issue, Naqvi outlined the government's commitment to combating drug use and trafficking under the National Anti-Narcotics Policy. This policy includes strategies for reducing drug demand and supply, as well as fostering international cooperation.

"The devastating effects of drug use on our society make it essential to prioritize this battle at a national level," Naqvi stated. "Our fight against drug abuse and trafficking will only succeed if we unite as a nation."

Naqvi stressed the importance of awareness, community involvement, and law enforcement in curbing drug abuse. He lauded the efforts of the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) and related agencies, acknowledging the sacrifices made by ANF officers and personnel in the mission for a drug-free Pakistan.

"We salute the martyrs of the ANF and honor their sacrifices. A drug-free society is the right of our children, and we are committed to securing this right for them," Naqvi added.



ISLAMABAD: European Union (EU) Ambassador Dr Riina Kionka called on Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan.

Punjab Govt enforces Section 144 in Khushab, bans cutting of trees

KHUSHAB (INP): The Punjab government has enacted Section 144 in Khushab, implementing a ban on the cutting of "Phulai" and "Kahu" trees to protect the region's environment and biodiversity.

The spokesperson of the Punjab Home Department said that due to the increasing demand for tobacco, "Phulai" and "Kahu" trees were being cut down rapidly. Deforestation poses serious threats to the ecosystem of the valley, and large-scale deforestation is increasing the risk of flash floods in low-lying areas.

The channel reported that the ban will be applied to the cutting of Phulai and Kahu trees in the Khushab district and transportation outside the district.

According to the notification issued by the Punjab Home Department, the ban will be applied for 15 days. The Punjab government decided to protect the natural environment, local population, and wildlife. Deputy Commissioner Khushab had recommended the implementation of Section 144. Section 144 has been implemented in Khushab until Tuesday, July 9.

Pakistani doctor saves life of Chinese Engineer

ISLAMABAD (INP): A Pakistani doctor saved the life of a Chinese engineer at Suki Kinari Hydropower Station, located on the Kunba River in Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the largest hydropower station invested in and constructed by Energy China under CPEC.

During the Eid Adha Festival in June 2024, a Chinese employee at the hydropower project fell seriously ill, requiring urgent medical attention.

Despite it being a holiday and a time for family reunions, Pakistani doctor Dr. Firdous immediately rushed to the project site.

Tragically, he was involved in a car accident en route but, despite his injuries, he still insisted on rushing to the site with his injured body and completing the treatment task, which deeply moved all the Chinese people in the SK project and made them truly feel the deep friendship from the "Pakistan Iron Brothers".

In the recognition of his meritorious services, a ceremony was held on June 25 in which Chen Jiujia, Project Director of China Energy Overseas Investment Co., Ltd SK Hydro (Private) Limited, honored Dr. Saad Firdous with a medal of gratitude, according to Gwadar Pro.

This accolade was given to Dr. Firdous' dedication to saving precious lives at the project site.

His commitment was commended as an outstanding example of medical professionalism and humanitarian spirit.

Dr. Saad Firdous is working at the Suki Kinari Hydropower Project to provide healthcare services to the project's workers.

His contributions have made him a vital part of the collaborative efforts between China and Pakistan, symbolizing the bright future created by their joint endeavors.

Suki Kinari Hydropower Station is a key priority project under CPEC.

It boasts four impulse units with a total installed capacity of 834MW. Once completed, it will provide 3.212 billion kilowatt hours of clean electricity annually, addressing one-fifth of Pakistan's electricity shortfall.

AIOU's int'l moot "Iran-Pakistan Academic-Cultural Dialogue" on July 2 & 3

ISLAMABAD (INP): Hosted by Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), in collaboration with Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, the second International Conference on "Iran-Pakistan Academic-Cultural Dialogue" on the 2nd and 3rd of July.

The conference will be participated by vice chancellors of six universities of Iran along with delegations, said a news release issued on Wednesday.

The international conference will also be attended by vice chancellors of 20 major universities in Pakistan.

The conference will play an important role in further strengthening Pakistan-Iran academic, research and cultural relations and promoting the relations between the two brotherly countries.

The participants will express their views in different sessions of this two-day conference. A review committee meeting was also held to finalize the preparations for the conference.

China emerged as leading investor, contributing 16% of total FDI in recent month

ISLAMABAD (INP): China with \$81.9 million has emerged as the leading investor, contributing 16% of the total FDI in the recent month.

Gwadar Pro quoting the latest report from the State Bank of Pakistan, stated on Wednesday, Pakistan received a net foreign direct investment (FDI) of \$81.9 million in May of the fiscal year 2023-24, with a cumulative inflow of \$511.4 million from various countries during the same period.

China with \$81.9 million emerged as the leading investor, contributing 16% of the total FDI.

In May, Pakistan attracted \$73.7 million from Saudi Arabia, \$26.9 million from the UK, \$23.3 million from Hong Kong, China, \$22.2 million from the United States, and \$8.1 million from Canada.

The remaining investment came from other countries.

Sector-wise, petroleum refining led with \$110.6 million, followed by the power sector which received \$104.9 million (with breakdowns of \$3.8 million in thermal, \$76.9 million in hydro, and \$24.1 million in coal).

The oil and exploration sector attracted \$88.7 million, financial business \$17.9 million, and the communication sector \$10.7 million. The rest of FDI went to different other sectors.

From July to May of FY-24, Pakistan received a total of \$1,170.7 million (\$1,170.7 billion) in FDI, marking a significant increase of 142.9% compared to the \$482 million recorded during the same period in FY-23.

China remained a pivotal contributor with \$521.2 million in FDI from July to May FY-24, accounting for 44.6% of Pakistan's total FDI, the report added.

Shireen Mazari's arrest by ACE Punjab declared illegal

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court has declared the arrest of Former Human Rights minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shireen Mazari as illegal.

As per details, Justice Mohsin Akhtar of the Islamabad High Court annulled the reserved verdict and annulled the report of the commission that had ordered her arrest.

The court directed the Secretary of the Establishment Division and the Punjab Home Department to conduct an inquiry into the matter.

Former PTI leader Shireen Mazari was arrested by the Anti-Corruption Punjab on May 21, 2022.

It is pertinent to mention here that Shireen Mazari was implicated in fourteen different cases related to the May 9 vandalism. Soon after the May 9 riots, last year, the former federal minister announced to quit PTI and politics altogether.

On May 23, 2023, Shireen Mazari condemned the May 9 riots, saying that she had always opposed violence.

She reasoned her decision to quit politics with deteriorating health conditions following her 12-day detention post-May 9 riots when protesters took to the streets across the country after former Prime Minister Imran Khan was arrested from the court premises in Islamabad.

Last year, the IHC ordered the removal of her name from the ECL. The court, in its December 2 verdict, said that Mazari was not declared absconder in any case.

The IHC ordered the director general of Immigration and Passports to remove her name from the ECL, which imposes travel restrictions on individuals.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme, Senator Rubina Khalid, meets Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to discuss initiatives on skill development, health, and economic empowerment.

Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz orders making arrangements for monsoon season

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Maryam Nawaz on Wednesday ordered the concerned departments to make arrangements for immediate drainage of rainwater from all cities of the province during the upcoming monsoon season besides drawing up a plan to move people to safe locations in the event of floods.

During her visit to the Punjab Disaster Management Authority's (PDMA) head office, she also ordered the evacuation of animals from the flood-affected areas.

The chief minister ordered the cleaning of nullahs in the province. "Remove all encroachments from the banks of nullahs and streams," CM Maryam directed.

She was given a detailed briefing by the secretary irrigation, chief meteorologist and the PDMA DG, in which she was told that normal to above normal rains had been forecast for different parts of the country during the three months of the rainy season, starting from July.

She expressed surprise that while elsewhere in the world there was an early flood warning system, same was not the case here in Pakistan.

The chief minister also visited the PDMA's central control room. Senior Punjab Minister Marriyur Aurangzeb, other provincial ministers Khawaja Salman Rafique, Khawaja Imran Nazir, Kazim Pirzada, MPA Sania Ashiq, chief secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, PDMA DG Irfan Ali Kathia and other concerned officials were also present during the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of Maritime Affairs Mr Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh was chief guest for All Pakistan Chambers President Conference. Topic of discussion was Regional Trade and Export Competitiveness.