QUETTA VOICE

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Establishment's 'interference' in judiciary to end soon: LHC CJ

RAWALPINDI: The Chief Justice of Lahore High Court (LHC), Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmed, stated that the establishment's interference in the judiciary will soon come to an end.



Speaking at an event in Rawalpindi on Friday, the CJ highlighted his immediate actions upon assuming office. "I convened a full court meeting and decided that the culture of strikes would not be tolerated. On May 13, a circular was issued to the Punjab judiciary, stating that we would not acknowledge any calls for strikes. Whether there is a strike call or not, we will act according to the law," he said.On April 24, IHC judges unanimously acknowledged that intelligence agencies were "interfering" in their judicial functions. NEWS

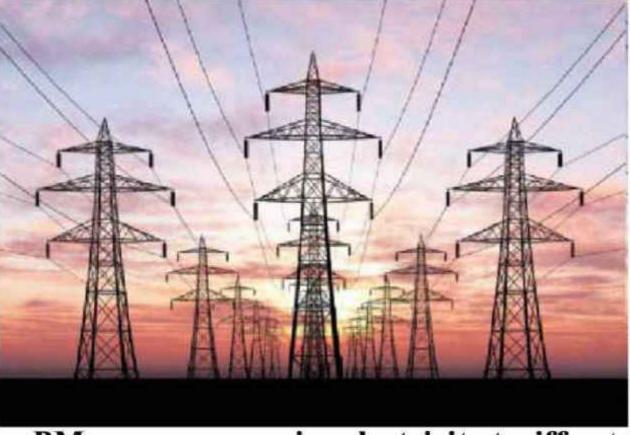
Pakistan's weak debt affordability drives 'high debt sustainability risks': Moody's

NEWS DESK: Global rating agency Moody's on Friday said that the country's weak debt affordability drives high debt sustainability risks as it noted that the government spends more than half its revenue on interest pay-

In a comment regarding the newly finance bill for the fiscal year (FY) 2025, it said, "The budget estimated debt servicing payments to have increased by about 18pc for fiscal 2025 compared with a year ago."

"The government

spends more than half its revenue on interest payments, indicating very weak debt affordability which drives high debt sustainability risks" it said, adding that "about 55pc of fiscal year 2025 revenue (Rs9.8 trillion) is carmarked for interest payments on the government's debt".



PM announces major electricity tariff cut for industrial sector

ISLAMABAD: Prime Regulatory Authority Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced a significant reduction in electricity tariffs for the industrial sector on Friday, cutting rates by Rs10.69 per unit. This move aims to boost exports and industrial production.

Due to the prime minister's special efforts, the new electricity price per unit for the industrial and export sector is set at Rs34.99.

According to a statement from the PM Office, the ties. National Electric Power

(NEPRA) recommended this reduction for industries. The PM's package is

expected to provide over Rs200 billion in relief to industries, enhancing their competitiveness in the global market. The package aims to

align the country's manufacturing costs with international markets, reducing production costs for industrial and agricultural commodi-

This is anticipated to

lead to an increase in exports. The tariff cut is also expected to accelerate indusfrial growth, create new job opportunities, and stimulate

economic activity.

It may be mentioned that NEPRA had proposed a reduction of Rs 10.69 per unit in electricity prices for indus-

Prime Minister Shehbaz's special package is set to alleviate over Rs200 billion worth of burden from industries.

this relief aims to make the cost of goods competitive in the global market. It is also expected to reduce the production costs of industrial and agricultural products, leading to a significant increase in exports.

Experts believe that the

prime minister's announcement will accelerate industrial development and rapidly increase employment. The faster pace of industrial activity and the rise in exports will benefit the national Sources indicate that economy. NEWS DESK.

Protest Erupts In Harnai Against Killing Of A Young Man

Hanif Tareen, Staff Reporter:

HARNAL QUETTA: Tensions are high in Harnai as family members protested outside the local police station, demanding justice for the killing of a young man, Muhammad Imran, Imran was fatally shot while resisting a robbery, prompting his grieving relatives and community members to stage a demonstration with his body placed prominently in front of the police station. The protestors have vowed to continue their demonstration until the perpetrators are apprehended, highlighting the urgent need for improved security and swift action by law enforcement

"We will not move until Muhammad Imran's killers are brought to justice," declared a spokesperson for the grieving family. The protest has drawn significant attention, with community leaders calling for immediate police intervention and better protective measures for citizens.

Meanwhile, in Quetta, the discovery of a dead body



in the main city nullah has added to the province's distress.

The unidentified body was found under suspicious circumstances, raising concerns about safety and crime in the area. Authorities are investigating the incident, but the lack of immediate information has led to anxiety and speculation among residents.

These incidents underscore the pressing issue of crime in Balochistan, with citizens demanding more effective policing and justice for the victims. As the community rallies for justice in Harnai and awaits answers in Quetta, the need for enhanced security measures and rapid legal responses remains paramount.

Protests Lead to Closure of Hana Lake and Hana Urak Road Quetta

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: The angry loresidents have closed the popular recreational spots, Hana Lake and Hana Orak Quetta, to tourists. This decisive action was taken as a protest against the rising incidents of dangerous motorcycling by visitors, which have resulted in numerous injuries among local children. "We will not allow motorcyclists to play with their lives here", Shah Zaman Kakar, one of the protesters said. The protests saw residents burning their diaries and candles at the entry points of these entertainment areas, effectively blocking The pressed their frustration and anguish over the reckless behavior of youths from Quetta city who engage in speeding and onewheeling on motorcycles. This perilous activity has led to several accidents, causing severe

injuries to local children. We cannot stand by as our chikiren become disabled for the sake of others' entertainment," one protester identified The local community has mised



surances The protestors emphasized that their drastic measures are a last resort after numerous attempts to resolve the situation through dialogue were ignored. They demand mu and effective action to ensure the safety of their children and to prevent the recreational spots from becoming hotspots for hazardous activities. As the profests continue, the future of Hana Lake and Hana Orak as accessible recreational areas remains uncertain. The local administration is under increasing pressure to address the safety concerns and restore order while balancing the interests of both

No point negotiating with 'powerless' govt: Imran Khan

NEWS DESK: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan on Friday stated that there is no point in negotiating with a government that lacks authority. During an informal tion with the media during the hearing of the £190 million reference at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail, he accused the administration of pressuring judges who rule in favour of PTI and criticised the recent budget for burdening salaried individuals. Khan alleged that a judge from Sargodha informed the Lahore High Court about pressure exerted

by intelligence agencies.



judge's household gas supply was cut off and that judges sympathetic to PTI face immense pressure. "Journalists speaking in favour of PTI are being tar-He claimed that the geted; Raoof Hassan was at- hold the rule of law amidst

tacked, and Ali Zaman was tortured," Khan asserted, implicating intelligence agencies in these actions. Khan urged the Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa to uppraised a judge from Sargodha, six judges from Islamabad High Court, and three judges from the Supreme Court for their integrity. Addressing the budget, stan needs to generate Rs13 trillion in revenue, with Rs9.8 trillion allocated to debt interest payments. He predicted a neces-

these interferences. Khan

sity to borrow Rs7.5 trillion to cover the budget deficit, warning that the country is already sinking. "Investment, which hinges on the rule of law, is the only salvation, yet this year saw the lowest investment in 50 as Muhammad Khan stated. years," he stated.

locals and tourists. Empowering Youth through Skill Development in Balochistan

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: The landscape of Balochistan is set for a transformative shift as a wave of skill development initiatives takes root, spearheaded by the Prime Minister Youth Skill Development Program. With 8,873 young individuals currently enrolled in the first batch, this program is poised to equip the youth with essential skills for a brighter future. This initiative is more than just numbers, it symbolizes hope and opportunity for a region often overlooked. Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti stated, "This program is a beacon of hope for our youth. It signifies our commitment to providing them with the tools they need to shape a prosperous future for Balochistan."

Fostering Inclusion and Support through UNHCR Program

Complementing this ef-fort, the UNHCR program has also taken significant strides in fostering inclusion and support for Afghan refugees. Among its 196 trainees, 70% are Afghan refugees, and 30% hail from the host community. This blend not only enhances skill levels but also promotes social cohesion, a crucial step towards a harmonious and prosperous community. Chief Minister Bugti emphasized, "By integrating Afghan refugees and our local community, we

are not just imparting skills

but also fostering unity and mutual growth. This initiative underscores the spirit of inclusivity and cooperation that is vital for our progress."

Recognizing and Validating Existing Skills In a significant move

towards recognizing and

validating existing skills, the

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) initiative has certified 269 skilled laborers in May 2024. This certification acknowledges their expertise and opens doors to better employment opportunities, thus uplifting the skilled workforce of Balochistan.

Elevating Technological Prowess with Summer of Code

Looking ahead, the geoning tech hub. Summer of Code program is set to elevate the region's technological prowess. The National Testing

Service (NTS) will conduct a test on June 23, 2024, to select approximately 600 trainces for an International IT certification program. This initiative not only aims to enhance the digital skills of the youth but also to position Balochistan as a bur-

Empowering

Women through SheFixes Program

Additionally, SheFixes program, another remarkable initiative led by NAVTTC Chairperson Gulmina Bilal, focuses on empowering women through skill development. Scheduled for June 23, the test by

NTS will pave the way for more women to enter the technical field, breaking stereotypes and fostering gender equality.

Launching High-Impact Training in Educational Institutions

Balochistan's educational institutions are also embracing this change. By August 2024, 13 colleges will launch high-impact training courses in Data Sciences, Artificial Intelligence, and Cloud Computing. These courses will ensure that students are well-versed in cutting-edge technologies, preparing them for the demands of the modern job market.

Transformative Potential Highlighted by Leadership

Gulmina Bilal, the driving force behind these initiatives, emphasized the transformative potential of these programs: "NAVTTC has opened new vistas of opportunities in Balochistan. Our focus is to empower the youth with skills that are not just relevant today but will shape the future."

Support and Recognition from the European Union

The significance of these developments was further highlighted by Chief tunities and success.

Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti during the launch of NAVTTC's new initiatives in collaboration with the European Union. He remarked, "These initiatives are a testament to our commitment to the youth of Balochistan. By imparting skill and technical education, we are building a foundation for sustainable growth and prosperity."

A Shared Vision for a Resilient Workforce

The collaboration with the European Union underscores the international support and recognition of these efforts. It reflects a shared of uplifting vision Balochistan through education and skill development, fostering a resilient and capable workforce.

A Future Brimming with Opportunities

In summary, these programs represent a beacon of hope for the youth of Balochistan. With strategic leadership and collaborative efforts, Balochistan is on a path to becoming a hub of skilled professionals, driving economic growth and social progress. The initiatives by NAVTIC, supported by local and international partners, are set to transform the region, offering its youth a future brimming with oppor-

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Quetta Green Bus Promise: Govt Urged to Turn Commitments into Action

Editorial:

In a seemingly promising move to uplift transportation standards, the Balochistan government has unfolded plans for an extensive expansion of the green bus fleet. The visionary initiative, spearheaded by Dr. Faisal Ahmed Khan, CEO of Balochistan Public Private Partnership (BPPP), aims to introduce 25 additional eco-friendly buses to the streets of Quetta. However, as the government unveils plans, the pressing question looms – will these promises translate into tangible improvements for the provincial capital's long-suffering

Green Bus Expansion Now A Long Standing Demand

Originally sanctioned by former Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan, the plan now gaining momentum under the current administration, underscoring the government's commitment to sustainable and accessible transportation. With an ambitious target of deploying 100 green buses across Quetta in the imminent months, the expansion spans beyond the city center, promising relief to residents in areas like Hazara Town, Marriabad, Samungli Road, Sariab Custom, Nawan Killi, and other vital parts of Quetta.

Expansion Of Project Directly Responds To Public Demand: Dr. Faisal Dr. Faisal Ahmed Khan asserts that this expansion directly responds to the persistent public demand for enhanced transportation facilities. The stark reality, however, reveals that currently, a meager eight buses operate from Balochistan University to Belili Airport Road, laying bare the glaring inadequacy in green bus availability.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar's recent proclamation, vowing an additional 100 green buses for Balochistan, signifies the government's purported dedication to elevating public transportation standards in the region. While commendable in words, the onus now falls on Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan to translate these verbal commitments into swift and substantive action.

CS Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan Can Play A Key Role

Commendations for the government's seemingly progressive approach must be met with an urgent plea for Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan's decisive leadership in ensuring efficient execution. Quetta's residents, long fatigued by the lack of a dependable public transportation system, now demand more than promises - they demand a concrete reality. The introduction of green buses holds the potential to alleviate the longstanding commuting challenges, creating a pathway to a more sustainable and accessible future for the people of Balochistan. The call for action is not merely a suggestion; it's a critical imperative, and the responsibility squarely rests with Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan to lead the way in turning promises into tangible, transfor-

Lionised in London

BY F.S. Aijazuddin:

HOEVER designed Istanbul airport must have been inspired by the phrase: 'Walk that extra mile'. Passengers have to walk over endless travelators until they reach the immigration counters. Turkey admits only the fittest.

The extra exercise would have been less exacting, had one not spent 10 days treading the unyielding pavements of London. Fortunately, like the food there, the weather has changed. Gone the sooty smog of childhood, the Spartan meals, the lockdown on Sundays, he after-effects even into the mid-1950s of wartime rationing. Today's London is a vast epicurean table, with cuisine from every kitchen: Greek, Ethiopian, Indonesian, even Mexican chipotles, Reverse colonialism has conquered Britain. The Vikings brought power; the Romans civics and law; the colonies brought curries. Khushwant Singh would have been delighted to learn that the final day of his KSLF 2024 ended in Cambridge. He loved Britain as only a foreigner can - with a recurring, unrequited, one-sided passion.

Ethnicity is no longer a novelty in Britain. A speaker in Cambridge (a Brit-Pak profes-

sor of English at Bristol University) introduced her unforgiving diatribe against her father. It was patricide in print. Her father had been a professor of medicine at Lahore's premier medical college. He was insensitive to a fault. Candid in another way was

Lord Simon of Salford, Master of Christ's College. He had retired after over 40 years of distinguished service in the Foreign & Commonwealth Relations Office. He spoke openly about Brexit and sub-continental politics. attendees at KSLF Cambridge was the indefati-

gable nonagenarian Sir Nicholas Barrington, the former ambassador/ high commissioner to Pakistan (1987-1994). Still active, he distributed freely his latest analysis on Afghanistan. Cambridge University, like almost all British educational institutions now, is an academic campus of Chinatown, Once, seeing a foreign face in the UK was a rarity. Now, a British profile is hard to come by. Interestingly, the Chinese tourists in Cambridge and in London were not geriatries fulfilling the dream of a lifetime but young Sinoyuppies, tramping confidently over their Britman legions did after their conquest of Britain in 55 BCE. Chinese restaurants in London are cheap, cheerful, and a chopstick's length away from every home.

Ethnicity is no longer a novelty, as the In-d-ian craft shops reeking of incense once were. It is part of British multicultural identity.

Certainly the most startling evidence of this fusion could be seen in the currently popular musical The Book of Mormon. However much one had heard of its shocking profanity, noth-One of the oldest ing prepared one for the actual performance. The theme seemed innocuous enough - the plight of white Mormon missionaries sent to convert

black natives in Uganda. The loud lyrics and the uninhibited choreography though oscillated between heresy (for Mormons), blasphemy (for monotheists), and rancid racism (for those of any colour). Judging from the cheers that greeted every solo, some in the audience had seen the show before. Obviously they craved more profanity.

The antidote to this unnerving cultural onslaught lay in the calming exhibition on Ranjit Singh: Sikh, Warrior, King, on display until October at the Wallace Collection in Manchester

Unlocking Balochistan's Potential: A Roadmap for Sustainable Development

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 underdevelop-

The unmatched policies and irrelevant development strategies, along with poor governance, have resulted in extreme underdevelopment of the province. Though the bleak picture of the province is noticeable to all decision-makers, as highlighted by maps depicting critical poverty levels in red, Balochistan's political and intellectual spheres remain sharply livided

Balochistan's Political And Intellectual Spheres Divided

Amidst the current devastating scenario in the province. Balochistan's political and intellectual spheres are sharply divided. Supporters of the latter viewpoint draw upon global examples of successful development strategies, particularly the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in various na-

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 populace

provision of social services through self-help approaches. Failure to adapt to this evolving development approach over the past 70 years serves as a stark reminder of the need for

change Potentials of the Province Ensure the Success of

SEZ

Balochistan, often referred to as the "fruit basket" of Pakistan, stands out as a resourcerich province boasting the largest landscape and the longest const-line spanning 770 kilome-

Despite its untapped wealth in various minerals, Balochistan remains underdeveloped. Its diverse ecological and topographic zones allow for the experience of different seasons simultaneously, with inhabitants enjoying both the coldest and hottest regions in the province within one division.

Deng Xiaoping was impressed by the unbelievable emergence of development Singapore quoted once that when visited Lee Kuan and asked how I can make China as Singapore and his response was to establish the SEZs and affirmed the establishment of one thousand SEZs in China.

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 intensifying the emwill pave the way for the phasis on Special Eco-

nomic Zones (SEZs). These potentials not only justify the focus on SEZs but also serve as a guarantee of their suc-

SEZs The Only Option

operationalization of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) already identified commenced 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-

fostering urbanization.

This industrial growth at

the grassroots level will facilitate the muchneeded trickle-down effect, addressing the pressing needs of the populace. The momentum for expediting the establishment of industries is being further strengthened by the concurrent development of private hous-

struction 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.

ing schemes announced

and currently under con-

Urbanization promotion and establishment of new cities

Addressing the challenge of scattered population Balochistan is paramount to ensure effective social and infrastructure development. The

dispersed nature of the population significantly increases the unit costs of development and maintenance of services. Moreover, it contributes to the prevailing law and order issues and hampers efforts to combat Ensuring the full political insurgencies

and religious terrorism. To address this challenge, the establishment of new cities and towns across the province is essential.

However, given the budgetary constraints and the heavy investment required for establishing new cities, leveraging the existing SEZs areas as new cities presents a viable solution. to-urban migration, thus The development of these SEZs into fully functional urban centers with basic facilities and job opportunities, rural populations would be incentivized to migrate from their current loca-

This migration is already occurring due to climatic disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and droughts, as witnessed in areas like Ziarat, the Green Belt, Gider (Kalat), and Pishin. Transforming SEZs

into new cities not only addresses the challenge of scattered population but also provides a strategic opportunity to spur economic growth and development Balochistan. It facilitates urbanization, enhances access to services and infrastructure, and contributes to stability and security in the region. Therefore, prioritizing the development of these SEZs into new urban hubs can be a gamechanger Balochistan's sustaindevelopment

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 junior officials who lack the influence to navigate bureaucratic hurdles or garner support from higher of-

Additionally, the prevailing bureaucratic culture poses further challenges by not providing an enabling environment for these offi-

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 Balochistan at the na-

Strategic Urban Planning in Balochistan: A Blueprint for Sustainable Development

By Manzoor Magsi:

n a bid to chart a course for the future, the provincial government of Balochistan has undertaken a transformative initiative— the "Development of Master Plans for 32 District Headquarters/Towns of Balochistan.

This comprehensive scheme aims to create a clear roadmap for the development and expansion of identified towns within short-, medium-, and long-term frameworks.

As the project progresses under the public sector development program, it becomes imperative to examine how strategic urban planning can contribute to reducing the pressures of urbanization and accommodate province's population's growth.

proach To Urban Development The key compo-

Integrated Ap-

nents of this ambitious endeavor encompass various vital sectors, ensuring an integrated approach to urban devel-

Traffic & Transportation, and from Economic issues to Disaster Risk Management, each facet is meticulously ad-

The development of Master Plans involves the creation of Inception Reports, Topographic Surveys.

Digitized Base Maps, Draft and Final Master Plan Reports, as well as rules and guidelines to manage future growth effectively.

Involvement Of Key Stakeholders Crucial

One crucial aspect of this initiative is its emphasis

on inclusivity. Authenticated data collected from the field and secondary sources play From Housing & a pivotal role in the de-Urban Development to velopment of qualitative master plans.

> In this regard, the involvement of stakeholders such as government departments, non-government organizations, academia, and the general public is deemed cru-

> Collaboration with these entities ensures that the master plans are not only comprehensive but also reflective of the diverse needs and aspirations of the communities involved.

Liaisons With District Administrations Important

The ongoing activities, including liaisons

with district administrations and the submission of Inception Reports and initial drafts of surveys and maps, showcase the commitment to a consultative and iterative approach. However, to achieve truly sustainable urban development, a continued and robust partnership with stakeholders is necessary. This collabo-rative effort will not only validate the collected data but also enhance the adaptability of the master plans to the evolving needs of the communities. Pakistan Grapples With Rapid Urbanization And Population GrowthAs the coun-

try grapples with the challenges of rapid urbanization and a growing population, alochistan's initiative stands as a model for strategie, inclusive, and sustainable urban planning. By considering all aspects of development, from infrastructure to environmental conservation, the province is not just preparing for the future-it is actively shaping it. The success of this endeavor will not only benefit Balochistan but may serve as a beacon for other regions seeking innovative solutions to the complex issue of urbanization in the 21st century. The writer is a former Press Secretary to Chief Minister Balochistan, currently working as Assistant Director of Public Relations at the Government of Balochistan

People vs the system

BY Khurram Husain:

MUCH will be written about the budget's specifics, but there is something else on my mind this year. This budget marks nearly a quarter century of back-to-back. virtually nonstop IMF programmes that Pakistan has been on. This means for 25, or a quarter of a century now, we have had a near continuous run of austerity as national economic policy, with the exception of three brief spurts of short-lived growth in between. And even those were fuelled by external, debt-creating

We could take this story further back perhaps. But the year 2000 forms a good cut-off point because it also saw the implementation of a tough IMF Stand-by Arrangement, the same as the one today, following months of a troubled youth, and deteriorating

programme. The out-lines of that programme, as well as each one that followed, were the same. So the wheel has turned full circle from that point - a short and tough stand-by, followed by a longer and more sustained Extended Fund Facility, and today, we stand in the same moment we were in the summer of 2001. A quarter of a cen-

ish domain like the Ro-

tury of back-to-back IMF programmes and their attendant austerity measures have left the country deeply scarred. Twenty-five budgets have come and gone between then and now. Yet like then, the weight of our external debt, the narrowness and rigidity of the state's revenue base, its ailing and dilapidated power system, burgeoning population of barely literate and

nourished

poorly

social indicators have all taken a toll.

Today, economic policy in Pakistan consists of scrambling to meet IMF targets to pass the next review. All else is fluff. The only thing that matters in the budget is things like the targets on the primary deficit, revenues, size of the PSDP, the external financing assumption in the resource envelope and perhaps a glance through the various items from where the expenditure restraint will be obtained. There is not now, nor has there been in the past 25 years. any budget that sought to radically change any-

thing Today, economic policy in Pakistan conmeet IMF targets to pass the next review. All else

sists of scrambling to is fluff. The results are there

to see in the Economic

Survey released earlier

this week. Take a quick glance at the social indicators. Here is what you will find. In the 1980s, there

were 1,084 people per primary school in Pakistan. Today, that figure has risen to 1,500. Likewise for secondary schools. There were 14,161 people per middle school in the 1980s, but by now, that figure has crossed 50,000. And the picture is even more dismal for high schools. In the 1980s, there were 17,833 people per high school in the 1980s, but this figure has risen to 68,413.

This is one example. and a crude measure because it is looking at just the number of schools per population. For a fuller picture, one would obviously have to look at the number of primary schools available for the number of primary school-going age chil-

dren, and then look at how these are distributed across the country to measure access, and then assess quality of education being imparted. None of those figures are available in the Economic Survey

But for now, a crude picture will do because the larger point remains the same. The number of children that need to be served with a primary and secondary education has risen, but the ability of the country's educational system to riorate, year after year, serve this need has fallen.

Half a century later, the country is not only struggling to carry its debt burden and raise the resources required to pay for its government, it is also struggling to educate its next generation and equip them with the most basic skills re-

citizens of a modernising

The situation is no different in the health sector. In the 1980s, for example, there were 147,926 people per hospital in the country. By 2023, that figure had risen to 188,000. Now consider this.

These figures should be moving in the opposite direction. We should be talking about the rate of improvement not being good enough in the social indicators. Instead, we are seeing them detedecade after decade.

This endless cycle of austerity followed by credit-induced boom followed by austerity has left a terrible legacy. The worst thing it has done is to pit the people against the system. Every time the system booms, the rich reap the benefits. Every time it

in, the people are made to bear the costs. This budget is no different. Neither is the track record of stabilisation that the government is busy congratulating itself over. It is just one more repetition of this

The system consists of the alliance of state and capital upon which our larger social order rests. It underpins stability and provides the livelihoods that sustain everyone here. But it is predatory in nature, curbs opportunities outside of a small elite group, and survives by appropriating the incomes that ought to have flowed to the poor.

The whole system is animated by a massive funnelling of wealth from the poor to the rich. This flow continues during periods of boom as well as austerity. And the quired to be productive busts, and austerity sets taxation system is de-

signed to facilitate this flow, while much of the property rights regime in the country is designed to facilitate the appropriation of wealth from the poor and funnel it to the rich.

We are now in the third or fourth such cycle since the year 2000. It is hard to be precise because the period is punctuated by three episodes of artificial, credit-induced growth spurts. whose end resulted in a sudden shock to the system, the costs of which fell almost entirely on the poor. The finance minis-

ter spoke of difficult decisions that need to be made to rectify the deficits plagning the system. For the real difficult decisions, talk to the poor and the lower middle classes and find out how they have coped with the record-high inflation of the past three years.

Over 400 Pakistani youth obtain technical training under CPEC

connection with China's endeavors to groom indigenous community with job-oriented training programs under CPEC, more than 400 local students have received modern training in Huaneng Pakistan Vocational & Technical College in Sahiwal. Punjab.

Huaneng Pakistan Vocational & Technical College is operated by Huaneng Shandong Ruyi (Pakistan) Energy (Private) Limited (HSRE), the owner of Sahiwal Power Plant.

The one-monthlong vocational training. ended on June 1. equipped local youth with practical employ-

ISLAMABAD (INP): In ment skills in areas such flagship project under as computer applications, electrical technician skills, and welding. Another stunning feature of the program is that all enrolled students receive handson professional training free of cost. This is a blessing for the cashstrapped and downtrodden sections of the society. Gao Guangxin, Director, Operation Depart-Huaneng Shandong Ruyi (Pakistan) Energy (Private)

Limited (HSRE), told Gwadar Pro that providing training to local youth will help realize localization management. He expressed his pride in witnessing Sahiwal Power Plant's journey from inception to becoming a by the trainees.

CPEC. In August 2019, the Huaneng Pakistan Vocational & Technical College was established on site to provide free vocational technical training to local youth.

It is officially registered with Technical Education & Vocational Training Authority of Pakistan. Four training courses, including computer, secretarial, electrician, and welding, are being taught so far.

Through a combination of theoretical teaching and on-site practice, the training has improved the participants' employmentrelated skills, which has been highly recognized

Along with training programs, upward trajectory for the professional grooming of Pakistan's young generation came to the fore when two Pakistani engineers, Fahad Ahmed and Sohail Abbas, from the 2x660MW Sahiwal Plant Power 111 Qadirabad, won prizes in the "Huaneng Craftsman Cup 2024" event held in China. The competition, organized by Huaneng Group Co. Ltd, featured more than 80 participants from different parts of the world. This achievement underscores the technical abilities of Pakistani engineers and strengthens the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two nations.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Insurance Ombudsman, Mr. Mumtaz Ali Shah, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan e Sadr.

Russian nuclear submarine, navy frigate arrive in US and Cuba

HAVANA (INP): A Russian navy frigate and a nuclear-powered submarine churned into Havana harbour, a stopover the US and Cuba said posed no threat, but which was widely seen as a Russian show of force as tensions rise over the Ukraine war.

Curious enlookers, fishermen and police lined the Malecon seafront boulevard under grey skies to welcome the ships as they passed the 400-year-old Morro castle at the harbour's entrance.

Cuba a long-time ally of Russia saluted the ships' arrival with cannon fire from the harbour, while Russian diplomats waved small Russian flags and took selfies as the vessels passed the harbour's historic fortresses.

The Admiral

later the nuclear-pow- US officials. ered submarine Kazan, half submerged with its crew on deck, were accompanied by a tugboat and firel ship that had arrived earlier in the morn-

The four Russian Wednesday after conducting "high-precision missile weapons" training in the Atlantic Ocean. Russia's defence ministry said on Wednesday. The submarine and frigate carry Zircon hypersonic missiles, Kalibr cruise missiles and Onyx anti-ship missiles, the

ministry said. Cuba said last week that the visit was standard practice by naval vessels from countries friendly to Havana. The communist-run government's foreign ministry said the fleet carried no nuclear weapons,

The US has been monitoring the Russian vessels as they skirted the nearby Florida coast, but has said they pose no threat. White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan told reportvessels sailed to Cuba on ers on Wednesday such naval exercises were

"We have seen this kind of thing before and we expect to see this kind of thing again, and I'm not going to read into it any particular motives," Sullivan said. He added that there was no evidence of Russia transferring any missiles to Cuba, but the US would remain vigilant. "We do not expect anything like that to occur."

Havana is just 100 miles from Key West, Florida, home to a US Naval Air Station, The timing of the visit — as Gorshkov frigate, and something echoed by the Biden administra-

tion penders how far to go in helping defend Ukraine against Russia - suggests more than "standard practice," said William Leogrande, a professor at American University.

"The visiting Russian warships are Putin's way of reminding Biden that Moscow can challenge Washington in its own sphere of influence," Leogrande said.

The stopover coincides with Cuba's worst social and economic crisis in decades, with shortages of everything from food, medicine and fuel and growing discontent on the streets.

"This [...] has ech-oes of the Cold War, but unlike the first Cold War, the Cubans are drawn to Moscow not by ideological affinity but by economic necessity, Leogrande said.

Record 120 million people forcibly displaced globally: UNITED NATIONS (UN)

JEHLUM: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi offering prayer after the funeral of the martyrs of

UNITED NATIONS Grandi told reporters. (INP): A staggering total of 120 million people are living forcibly dis-placed by war, violence and persecution, the UN said Thursday, branding the ever-increasing number a "terrible indictment on the state of the world".

The United Nations' refugee agency UNHCR said forced displacement globally had once again smashed records, with conflicts in places like Gaza, Sudan and Myanmar forcing even more people to flee their homes.

The global displaced population is of Japan, it pointed out in a statement.

"Conflict remains a very, very big driver of mass displacement," UN

At the end of last year, 117.3 million people were displaced, UNHCR

said in a report. And by the end of April, the number had swelled further, with an estimated 120 million people around the world living in displacement.

The number is up from 110 million a year ago, and has been rising for 12 consecutive years nearly tripling since 2012 amid a combination of new and mutating crises and a failure to resolve long-standing ones, UNHCR said.

Grandi told media he had been shocked at the now equivalent to that high displacement figure is a powerful contribuwhen he took the job eight years ago.

Since then it has "more than doubled", he said, describing this as "a

Grandi pointed to a palpable increase in crises, and also highlighted how climate change is impacting population movement and driving conflicts.

UNHCR last year declared 43 emergencies across 29 countries more than four times a few years ago, he told reporters.

în particular, Grandi noted "the way conflicts are conducted ... in com-plete disregard" of interwith the specific purpose of terrorising people". "This of course tor to more displacement." Grandi acknowledged there currently seemed to be little hope of bucking the trend.

shift in international geopolitics, unfortunately, I actually see the figure continuing to go up," he

Of the 117.3 million

displaced at the end of 2023, 68.3 million people were internally displaced within their own country. Thursday's showed. The number of what was common just refugees and others in need of international protection meanwhile climbed to 43.4 million, it said. UNHCR countered the perception that all refugees and other minational law, and "often grants go to wealthy countries. The vast majority of refugees are hosted in countries neighbouring their own, with 75 percent residing in low- and middle-income countries that together produce less than 20 percent of the world's

Hezbollah fires most rockets yet in war after Israel kills a top commander GAZA (INP). Hezbollah fire since the eruption of side the senior field com- confirmed that it had

fired the most rockets it has launched at Israel in a single day since crossborder hostilities broke out eight months ago.

as part of its retaliation on Wednesday for an Israeli strike which killed a senior Hezbollah field commander.

Hezbollah and Israel have been trading the Gaza war in October, mander Taleb Abdallah, in steadily intensifying hostilities that have fuelled concern of a bigger confrontation between Lebanon said. the heavily armed adver-

the south Lebanon vil- eight months of hostililage of Jouaiyya late on ties, one of the sources the southern border Tuesday killed three said. Hezbollah fighters along-

also known as Abu He was the most se-

nior Hezbollah com-

killed him as well as

three other Taleb, Israel and three Hezbollah fighters in a security sources in strike on a command and control centre.

The sources in Lebanon said he was The Israeli strike in mander killed during Hezbollah's commander for the central region of strip. Hezbollah said it The Israeli military carried out at least 17.

"Unless there is a refugee chief Filippo terrible indictment on the income," it said Common man, business community not satisfied with budget: Shahid Rasheed ISLAMABAD, June 13 industries in FATA will tax concessions for the

(INP): Former president of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt has termed the overall budget as disappointing saying that it hasn't fulfilled the expectations of common man and busi-

ness community. In a statement issued here on Thursday, he said that there were nothing in the budget 2024-25 to improve the economy and many important reforms had been ignored.

Shahid Rasheed Butt further stated that getting tough on noneconomy while eliminating tax exemptions on

save fifty billion rupees.

current situation, a 3.6 percent growth rate and a 38% increase in revenue seems impossible.

The business leader was of the view that the budget will not be able to cure the economic problems and the country will continue to be run on

The budget has done nothing to control inflation, revive investment, or bring the underground economy into the mainstream, he observed.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that exports have not been encouraged much, filers will affect the to the dismay of export-

However, removing

erstwhile FATA and president said that the He said that in the PATA industries is a positive step in reduc-

ing smuggling.

Hundreds of factories in the rest of the country will start running, and the revenue will increase by at least fifty billion rupees, but exemptions to the tune of 3.9 trillion rupees are still intact.

The 2.25 percent advance tax on wholesalers and retailers will only affect registered manufacturers and will increase the prices the public will bear. Registered businesses will find it difficult to compete with those selling smuggled and unregistered products

The former ICCI salaries of federal employees have been increased, which was a

good step. The wages of provincial employees will also increase, and it will impact the private sector, but it will also increase inflation and business

Shahid Rasheed said that no suggestion has been made in the budget to stop intelligent people from leaving the country, and no attempt has been made to

increase investment. This time, too, the budget has tried to give all possible facilities to the elite while further squeezing the public.



ISLAMABAD: Former Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Managing Director Pakistan Sweet Homes Zamurrad Khan, Ambassador of the Philippines Maria Agnes Cervantes, Heads of Missions of the ASEAN countries cutting cake to celebrate the National Day of the Philippines at local hotel.



TENDER NOTICE

TSE-232496461123 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whother Through Electronic or Manual Bird Submission, it is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOS. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER BELA IRRIGATION DIV: Invites tilds from Eligibia Biddens for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on cellar sichadula raises 201-8 on Parcentage Raises

Tender Fee Rs. 30801- and Bid Security 4%

Name of Work E/Cost CONSTRUCTION OF PACCAMORIFOR THE 14,000,000 FARMERS OF NAKAKHARRARL CHOOR. SCHAIN CAME WINDER

Procurements shall be made under the Esrochistan Public Procurament Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding first must not be blackinged by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Reserve Authority Registration is required. The tridder must have completed Resignment of smiller nature of work. Turn over of at least 9,800,000 PKR Amount in3 subsequent previous years, showing financial capacity of the fem. Registration with Fakistan Engineering council (PEC) C-6 and above (Upto 25 million) in Relevant Category And Specialized Gode is GED4(ii) (Imgation & Place Control Systems). CEBAN diregation Delys Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany flid Security in the form of Bank Guisnies Deposit at Call of 4 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents; The bidding documents can be attained from the office of the under-eighed 3,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NET to 27 June, 2024 during office hours on working days. Laid Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 27 June, 2024 IS 11:50 AM . Tender opening: All tenters will be pered on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM Address: RCDHighway Uthai, Phone no: 0853900272

Fax no: 0653020272 Email: gmbadink@gmail.com

PRQ No.2990:13-06-2024

TSE-332416461743 Note: In All Procurements of GOS Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bld Submission. It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of SIPPRA GOB. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER BELA IRRIGATION DIV Invites bits from Eligible Bridges for execution of following works for the Year 2504 based on

TENDER NOTICE

Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates. Tentier Fee Rs. 3500/- and Bid Security 4%

Name of Work 5.8p

E/Cost Flood Protection Bund Retaining Wall For Goth Mr Muhammad Jamor Bankman Uthai Dietrick

Procurements shall be made under the Balochstan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Biddens: Presence in Active Tiox Payer List. The bridging firm must not be biscislated by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Eulochistan Revienue Authority Registration is received. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 31,500,000 PKR Amount In5 subsequent previous years: showing Brancial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakiston Engineering source (PEC) C-5 and above (Lipto 65 million) in Relevant Category And Specialized Cade is CEG4(k) (Importor & Flood Contest Systems), CEO4(v) (Impation Only), Precedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Test Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Sank Gurantee. Deposit at Gall of 4 % specified above in the name of the under signed from a acheolifed bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 3.500 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NET to 28 June, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted totast by 28 June, 2024 (8) 11 (0) AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the uniter-signed at 12.50. PM Address: RCD Highway Uttal. Phone no: 0833928272

Fax no: 0853920272 Email: gmbadini@gruaE.com

PRQ No.2998-13-06-2024



ISLAMABAD: Zamurrad Khan (Hila-i-imtaiz) addressing the audience on the occasion of Blood Donor Day at PIMS Hospital.

TTP's Attempt to Establish Centers in **Balochistan Foiled: (CTD)**

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: Law enforcement agencies and the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Balochistan have successfully thwarted an attempt by the banned terrorist organization Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to establish its centers in Balochistan, the CTD Spokesman said on Thursday.

Recent intelligence revealed that the most dangerous and wanted terrorist commander, a Shura member, had reached Balochistan with the aim of setting up a terrorist network, he in-

Further investigation exposed a complex network involving both local and foreign terrorists. Acting on this critical information, the CTD and law enforcement agencies have launched a comprehensive operation against the network. This operation is expected to lead to the arrest of key



terrorists and the detention of several facilitators, he revealed.

All the gathered information has been thoroughly verified, and additional intelligence continues to be obtained. Officials are confident that, the main terrorists of the group will soon be apprehended and brought to justice.

Due to the ongoing opera- said

tion, terrorists' plans have been significantly disrupted, preventing them from achieving their malicious objectives. The law enforcement agencies are employing their full professionalism and expertise to ensure the success of this mission and maintain peace and security in the province, he

Police Constable Martyred In Quetta Attack

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: In a tragic incident, a police constable was martyred in a firing incident in Quetta's Nawan Killi area. According to police sources, the assailants opened fire on the constable and managed to escape the scene. The victim, identified as Zia ur Rehman, succumbed to his inju-

The incident has prompted an immediate investigation by the police. Zia ur Rehman was rushed to a nearby hospital, where medical staff confirmed his passing.



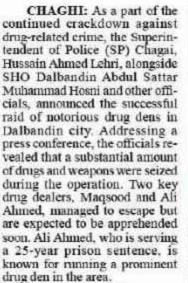
Law enforcement agencies have launched a manhunt to capture the culprits responsible for this heinous act.

The police are appealing to the public for any information that might assist in apprehending the

The martyrdom of Constable Zia ur Rehman has sparked outrage and grief within the community and the police force. Authorities are determined to bring the perpetrators to justice and ensure the safety and security of the area.

Major Drug Bust in Dalbandin: SP Chagai Vows to Eradicate Drug Dens

Riaz Baloch:



Additionally, a raid was conducted at the base of a female drug dealer named Hijani in Faisal ony leading to her arrest SP Chagai emphasized that these individuals are a blight on the community of Dalbandin and will face stringent action without exception. He stated, "The administra-



tion does not care about the protection or status of these drug dealers because they have no respect in society. They stay in their homes, self-intoxicate, and lead our youth into addiction."

The officials urged the pub- networks w enforcement to identify and target those who use houses in densely populated areas for illegal drug activities. SP Chagai reit-

"There will be no compromise community's youth.

on drug peddlers and street crime. Together with the people of the area, we will suppress these

The successful raid and continued efforts to dismantle drug reflect lic and media to collaborate with administration's commitment to restoring safety and Dalbandin. The law enforcement agencies are determined to bring all perpetrators to justice and safeguard the future of the

SECP issues ESG Disclosure Guidelines, strengthens Code of Corporate Governance

ISLAMABADn(INP): The baseline guidance to listed ernment legislation of Protec-Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has taken a major stride towards promoting responsible business practices and environmental stewardship with the issuance of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Voluntary Disclosure Guidelines for listed companies.

in Listed Companies (Code of Corporate Governance) Regulations, 2019 (Corporate Governance Regulations) have been made to strengthen oversight responsibilities of the board regarding sustainability website. priorities.

Guidelines marks the achievement of a key milestone under the SECP's ESG regulatory roadmap issued in 2022. These Guidelines, voluntary in nature and in alignment with globally recognized sustainability re-

are also encouraged to adopt the Guidelines. It has been ensured that the Guidelines encourage transparent disclosures under the E, S and G pillars such as environmental impact, social responsibility practices and effective corporate governance structures. Com-Furthermore, amendments panies are also provided the autonomy to disclose their ESG performance through a separate sustainability report, integrate the ESG information into their existing annual report, or publish it directly on their

The issuance of ESG ensure a safe and respectful work environment, the SECP has introduced significant amendments in the Corporate Governance Regulations requiring listed companies to develop comprehensive anti-harassment policies and ensuring ments in the Code of Corpoporting frameworks provide compliance with relevant Gov- rate Governance is available.

companies. Other companies tion Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010. Further, the boards of listed companies have been made accountable for setting sustainability priorities for companies, by proposing formation of sustainability committee and alignment with the SECP's ESG Disclosure Guidelines.

The SECP actively pursued a consultative approach for finalizing the ESG Guidelines and amendments in Corporate Governance Regulations to incorporate feedback of all key stakeholders.

The ESG Disclosure Additionally, in order to Guidelines and amendments in Code of Corporate Governance are now available on the SECP website at https:// www.secp.gov.pk/document/ secp-esg-disclosure-guidelines-for-listed-companies.

The Notification to amend-



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Mohamed Yahya the United Nations Resident newly designated Coordinator in Pakistan paid a courtesy called on Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal in his office.



Fiscal year 2024-25 budget adjusts income tax rates: salaried class faces changes

ISLAMABAD (INP): The increased from Rs 1,250 to Rs budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 has introduced significant adjustments to income tax rates, affecting various brackets of the salaried class.

Under the new budget, individuals earning a monthly income of Rs 50,000 or less have been exempted from income tax, providing relief to lower- 15,000 per month. income earners.

has been reduced to 5%. Similarly, the tax on monthly incomes up to Rs

at 5%, with the monthly tax 35,834 per month.

Individuals earning between Rs 1.2 million and Rs 2.2 million annually will now face a 15% income tax rate. This translates to a tax rate of 15% for those earning Rs 183,344 per month,

up from Rs 11,667 to Rs

Those with annual in-For those earning between comes ranging from Rs 2.2 Rs 600,000 and Rs 1.2 million million to Rs 3.2 million will be annually, the income tax rate taxed at a rate of 25%. For example, individuals earning Rs 267,667 per month

will now pay 25% tax, in-100,000 has also been set creased from Rs 28,770 to Rs

The highest tax bracket, applying a 30% rate, affects individuals earning between Rs 3.2 million and Rs 4.1 million annually.

This translates to a monthly tax of Rs 53,333 for those earning up to Rs 341,667 per month, increased from Rs 47,408. Furthermore, a 35% tax rate will be applied to annual salaries

exceeding Rs 4.1 million. These changes reflect the government's efforts to streamline income tax structures while ensuring equitable contributions from different income groups towards national development.

Next budget revolves around five key principles: Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD (INP): Fi- FBR is aimed at minimizing get for the next fiscal year revolves around five principles, including

widening tax base and digitizing economy.

Addressing the post budget news conference in Islamabad on Thursday, he said implementing a progressive income tax regime, eliminating non-filers, and

protecting low-income groups are other points emphasized in the budget.

The Finance Minister said below ten percent tax to GDP ratio is not sustainable. He emphasized enhancing it to thir- startups. een percent in the next three

Muhammad Aurangzeb announced that tax on retailers and wholesalers will be applicable from the 1st of July. He said the Federal Board of Revenue has so far

registered thirty one thousand retailers and the process of registration will continue.

Muhammad Aurangzeb said end to end digitization in

nance Minister Muhammad human intervention and im-Aurangzeb has stated that bud- proving transparency and client service.

He said nobody should have any objection on progressive income tax as the affluent class needs to pay more

The Finance Minister said that tax has been enhanced on business transactions of the non-filers. He said this is the first step towards doing away with non-filers in the country.

Replying to a question, the Finance Minister said record allocations have been made for the IT sector to facilitate IT exports and youth in their

Regarding the Small and banks are back to finance SME's, IT and agriculture sec-

Answering another question, Muhammad Aurangzeb said 81 percent of Public Sector Development Programme spending has been reserved for ongoing projects, while rest of the amount will go for new projects.

The Finance Minister said all the stakeholders including the allied parties are being taken on board on the privatization process. He said transactions regarding the privatization of PIA and outsourcing of Islamabad Airport will be completed by August. He said this will follow the outsourcing of Lahore and

Karachi airports. Regarding relief measures, Minister of State for Finance Ali Pervaiz Malik said significant allocations have been made in this respect under the Benazir Income Support Programme. Similarly, the largest chunk of subsidies will go for power sector to facilitate electricity consumers, includ-Medium Enterprises, he said ing the protected customers using up to 200 units.

The Minister of State further said additional amount has been reserved for the Utility Stores Corporation to provide essential kitchen items to the deserving people at subsidized rates. The Minister of State said there is no tax on the employees earning up to fifty thousand rupees.



ISLAMABAD: "Finance Minister Senator Muhamamad Aurangzeb addressed the media persons a the Post Budget 2024-25 Press Conference along with Minister of State for Finance & Revenue Mr Ali Pervaiz Malik.

Speakers discuss Gender-based violence, legislation in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, June 13 (INP): The speakers on Thursday said that the level of discrimination and marginalisation prevalent in the society was more owing to the adverse impact of culture, and the medieval mores of patriarchy that spike up gender-based violence in the contexts of sexual, psychological and physical realms with no legislation and good gover-

nance that can control it. A Roundtable Conference on Gender-Based Violence and it Legislation in Pakistan," was conducted by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) in Collaboration with Chief Commissioner Office Islamabad, on Wednesday, and was participated by Addi-

tional Commissioner and Director

Women Development Islamabad the will of the concerned adminis-Administration, Nishaa Ishtiak; Valeria Khan of ASF; DIG Operations Islamabad Syed Mustafa Tanveer; Nabeela Malick, chairperson INGAD; and Hafiz Ahsan Khokhar, lawyer, a news release said. President IPRI Dr Ambassador Raza Muhammad opened the debate by highlighting the importance that Islam has laid on gender equality, and the values that Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) preached in terms of women em-

It was underscored that there are a plethora of laws to deal with any of the eventualities in terms of violence in the gender

proximity, but either they lack

implementation mechanisms or

It was pointed out that laws

from free contextualisation, and anyone either it is a woman or a man can be a victim of abuse and violence, and the law is equally applicable.

The roundtable delegates agreed that violence exists in our society, and cannot be denied under any assumptions.

The scale of domestic violence, it was noted, is mostly under reported, and women at times shy away from standing out to be recognised fearing reprisal. This phenomenon can only be checked by educating the society and creating more awareness in strata across the board.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti

Our government is fully committed to constructing dams across Balochistan to regulate the water table and ensure a sustainable water supply. These initiatives will significantly improve the socio-economic conditions of our people, fostering growth and development in our region. By harnessing and storing rainwater, we can prevent its wastage and utilize it for agricultural and domestic purposes. The construction of these dams will create jobs and boost local economies, providing much-needed relief to our rural communities. Together, we can transform Balochistan into a region of prosperity and stability.

Construction of Gish Kaur Storage Dam, Kech (SB)

tocation	The proposed dam with it located on Glahkaur River, some \$1.5 kms, from Turbat city, which is the district Hoodquarter. The coordinates of the dam who we Congitudes 26" \$17.4" North Labitudes at 29" \$16.2" Said.
Approved Cost	11,799.59 Million (Provincial Share Rs. 254.17 Million)
Expenditure up to 30-06-2023	2050.0 Million
Affocation 2023-24	1500.0 Million
Release 2023-24	900.0 Million
Expenditure 2023-24	500.0 Million
Yotal Expenditure up to date	2950.0 Million
Overall Financial Progress	25:00 % (Advance Mobilization 15:0% paid to contractor)
Overall Physical Progress	15.0 %
Datn Type	Zoned Earth-fill
Catchment Area	5769.2 Sq.Km
Hoight	55 M
Dam Length	1200 M
Gross Storage	94500 Acre Pt
Spilway	Labyrinth Type

Construction of Gish Kaur Storage Dam, Kech (SB)

Spillway Width	260 m
Design Discharge	2981.50 m3/s or 103525 Cusec
Outlet Structure	RCC Intake Towar
Designed Discharge	83 Cusecs
terigation System	348 Km
Command Area	13800 Acres
Proxision of Orinking Water Availability	0.075 MCM will be available for Turbat City and adjacent village:
Project Duration	Q4 Years
Dom Life	S4 Years

After the completion of this project one water water that increase are underly of boring will be neduce. Also by this for drinking to Turbiet city and surroundings areas, by this the intensity of boring will be neduce. Also by this senior the life of Mazar dram will be increase because Gathlour dam is being constructed on the upper side of project the life of Mirani dam will be increase because Gishkaur dam is being constructed on the upper he mirani dam and the initial flow of flood water having maximum all first will enter in Gishkau dam eservoir after that will flow to mirani dam with minimum silt, by this the life of mirani dam will be increase

DAMS FOR PROSPERITY: TRANSFORMING BALOCHISTAN'S **WATER FUTURE**



BALOCHISTAN IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT



Irrigation Minister, Mir Sadiq Umrani

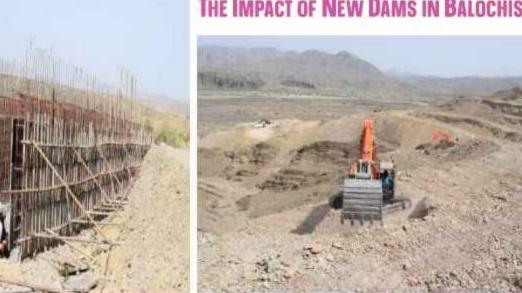
Building dams in Balochistan is a top priority for our government to address the critical issue of water scarcity. These dams will play a crucial role in managing the water table, ensuring that our agriculture sector thrives even in dry seasons. By capturing and storing rainwater, we can reduce wastage and ensure its optimal use for irrigation and other needs. This project is not just about water conservation; it is about improving the livelihoods of our people and driving socioeconomic development. Our commitment to this cause is unwavering, and we are dedicated to seeing it through.



Construction of Gish Kaur Storage Dam, Kech



SECURING WATER, BOOSTING LIVES: THE IMPACT OF NEW DAMS IN BALOCHISTAN









Secretary Irrigation, Hafiz Abdul Majid

The initiative to build dams in Balochistan is a monumental step towards securing our water resources and enhancing the quality of life for our citizens. These dams will effectively check the water table, providing a reliable water source throughout the year. By preventing the wastage of rainwater, we can ensure it is available for vital uses, such as agriculture and daily consumption. This project will stimulate socio-economic growth, creating opportunities and improving the

Benefits (primarily aimed at achieving conservation of flood water resources)

Project

- The direct benefit of this project is to tap 53,000 Acre-Ft of flood water, which was otherwise wasted.
- · Provide irrigation water to 12,500 acres of arid land for improved agricultural development through sustained and regulated irrigation.
- · Other ancillary benefits include flood mitigation, provision of drinking water for the population in the command, groundwater recharge, fisheries production, creation of recreation facility, socio-economic uplift and poverty reduction in the
- · Drinking water supply for Kharan City has been estimated @ 20 gallon /capita per day through a pipe network. This amounts to annual drinking water supply of 1,738 million gallons to local population & Kharan Town for a total projected population of 216,437 persons.
- · The provision of drinking water supply shall complement as an additional reliable source of fresh water to the existing drinking water wells tapping the already receding ground water table.
- · The fish production is estimated to be 26 tonnes per year on an average.

Tarnessing Rainwater: **BALOCHISTAN'S PATH TO** SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

· Direct employment during present stage is around 450 persons, whereas the indirect employment is expected to boost at around 8,950 persons.

THE KHARAN CITY AND PERIPHERY

is not available due to the geological formation of the area, comprising clayey deposits, except some places, where salinity of the water is too high to be fit for drinking. The overall quality of the available ground water is marginal.

- · Overuse of groundwater resources for agriculture and drinking purpose have led to the depletion of the local aquifers. As a result, the water table has lowered, average of 80ft in a half decade period from 120ft to
- · The Ground water within the Kharan town is not suitable for drinking purpose, and is conveyed from 3 to 5 km, similar situation exists in the villages of Kharan.
- · The number of active tubewells of PHE Department, pumping out water from surrounding of Kharan are 38, along with a number of community and private tube wells supplying potable water to the beneficiaries of the area.
- Electricity Budget of Kharan is more than Rs. 100 Million. Almost 3500 to 4000 tube wells have been dug to draw



COMMUNICATION & WORKS DEPARTMENT

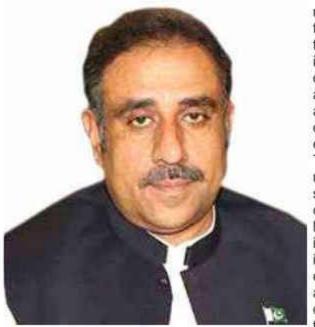
CONNECTING BALOCHISTAN: ROADS PAVING THE WAY TO PROGRESS

GOVERNMENT OF BALOCHISTAN COMMUNICATION, WORKS, PHYSICAL PLANNING & HOUSING DEPARTMENT



CONNECTING BALOCHISTAN: ROADS PAVING THE WAY TO PROGRESS

EMPOWERING CONNECTIVITY, BUILDING FUTURES



Communication and Works Minister, Saleem Khan Khoso

The construction of new roads in Balochistan is a testament to our commitment to enhance connectivity and improve the quality of life for our people. By linking remote areas with major cities, we are opening up new opportunities for trade, education, and healthcare. These roads will not only reduce isolation but also stimulate economic growth, creating jobs and boosting local economies. Improved infrastructure will attract investment and facilitate the efficient movement of goods and services. We are dedicated to building a robust transportation network that supports the sustainable development of Balochistan.



Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti

Our government is dedicated to constructing new roads that will link all the far-flung areas of Balochistan, fostering greater connectivity and accessibility. This ambitious infrastructure project is key to improving the socio-economic development of our province, enabling better access to markets, education, and healthcare. By reducing travel time and transportation costs, we will facilitate economic activities and boost local businesses. The new roads will also promote tourism showcasing the natural beauty and cultural heritage of Balochistan. Our commitment is to ensure that no region is left behind as we pave the way for a brighter, more connected future.



Secretary C&W Balochistan, Lal Jan Jaffar

Our mission to construct new roads throughout Balochistan is a crucial step towards connecting our diverse regions and promoting socio-economic development. These roads will bridge the gap between urban centers and remote areas, ensuring that all citizens have access to essential services and opportunities. By enhancing transportation infrastructure, we aim to reduce travel times, lower costs, and improve safety for all commuters. This project will also encourage economic activities, from agriculture to commerce, fostering a thriving and inclusive economy. We are fully committed to realizing this vision, ensuring a well-connected and



BRIDGING DISTANCES: TRANSFORMING LIVES WITH NEW ROADS IN BALOCHISTAN





Federal Funded Road Projects



ALMO CHOWK



Challenges

- Imposition of BAN on CFY PSDP due to General Elections Imbalance release of Allocated funds of on-going schemes
- Price hiking and inflation in recent past years on on-going schemes. No mechanism formulated in CSR / Approvals to accommodate inflation / price increases. This creates significant challenges in maintaining successful execution of
- Inadequate financial coverage of schemes within the approved timeframe. This results in non completion, delay, cost increase, court litigations, stakeholders disappointments etc.
- B Inadequate funds / with held releases for Roads Maintenance.
- Distribution of mandate of CWPP&H department as per Rules of Business 2012 to various departments without appropriate approval of the Government,
- Shortage / illegal occupation of Residential & Non-Residential Accommodations



HIGHWAYS TO PROSPERITY: BOOSTING SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROWTH IN BALOCHISTAN









DAILY QUETTA VOICE

GREENING BALOCHISTAN: SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Balochistan's Agricultural Renaissance: Government Initiatives & Research Achievements

Empowering Growers, Enhancing Lives

The present government has undertaken various initiatives to promote the agriculture sector, addressing the grievances of the grower community. With over 70% of our population relying on agriculture, we are dedicated to improving their socio-economic conditions through targeted programs and innovative research.

GREEN GROWTH: THE VITAL ROLE OF AGRICULTURE IN BALOCHISTAN'S DEVELOPMENT

Tomato & Onion Innovations Our Agriculture Research Institute has developed high-yield varieties like Shalkot and Bolan-19 for tomatoes, and Chiltan-89, Chiltan Red, Sariab Surkh, and Quetta Red for onions. These advancements promise enhanced productivity and resilience, Pioneering Vegetable Varieties We've introduced standout varieties in vegetables, including Liza Red carrots, Surkhab turnips, Bolan-90 spinach, and Sarawan eggplants. Additionally, Harboi White radish, Hazarganji okra, and Maran peas have been developed, bringing diversity and improved crop quality to our

fields. Breakthroughs in Grains & Pulses Our research has yielded exceptional wheat varieties such as Aghaz, Khosa, Umeed-e-Khas, Umeed, Raskoh, Zarlashta, Sariab, Zardana, and Makai-e-Khas. Recommended maize varieties include Noor, Shan, Armia, Hadaf, and Sarsabz. For rice, we endorse IRRI-6, IRRI-8, KS-282, DR-82, and GYN-53, ensuring robust yields in diverse



HARVESTING PROSPERITY:

recommended early-season cultivars like Anna, Modial Gala, Summer Red, Katja, Tydesman, Early Gold, and Kidds Orange, Mid-season varieties include Golden, Top Spur, Starkermsen, Bel Gold, Starking Delicious, and Red Delicious. Late-season apples such as Ped Chief, Dixi Red, New Golden Delicious, Ultra Red, Somothec, Bluish Golden, Dilbur Jubilee, and Braebern highlight our year-round productivity efforts. Oilseeds & Specialty CropsIn sunflower, Hysun, Suncross, and Baimisal lead the way, while Dunkled and Bulbul are top canola varieties. We recommend S-9, Poorbiraya, Yellow Raya, and B.M-1 for mustard. Our sesame varieties-S-17, P-19,

SOWING SUCCESS: HOW AGRICULTURE FUELS BALOCHISTAN'S FUTURE

Pipeline Projects Our ongoing research promises future breakthroughs with upcoming varieties like Dusht Pink onion, Raskoh Sweet muskmelon, Takatu tomato, and Kech-I broad bean. These innovations are set to revolutionize agriculture in Balochistan. Join us in celebrating these milestones that drive Balochistan's agricultural prosperity and sustainable growth.

















Message from Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti

As the Chief Minister of Balochistan, I am deeply committed to revitalizing our agriculture sector, recognizing it as the backbone of our economy. Our government is prioritizing investments in modern irrigation systems, high-quality seeds, and sustainable farming practices. We aim to empower our farmers with the latest technologies and resources to boost productivity. Together, we will ensure food security, create jobs, and enhance the livelihoods of our rural communities. Balochistan's agricultural renaissance is underway, and our future is bright.



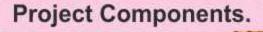
Message from Agriculture Minister Balochistan, Ali Madad Jattak

As Agriculture Minister, I am dedicated to fostering an environment where our farmers can thrive. Our primary focus is on introducing innovative agricultural techniques and expanding access to credit and financial services for farmers. We are also launching training programs to educate farmers on climate-resilient practices and crop diversification. By prioritizing these initiatives, we aim to increase agricultural output and ensure a sustainable future for Balochistan. The prosperity of our agriculture sector is essential for the overall development of our province.



Message from Secretary of Agriculture, Dawood Bazai

In my capacity as Secretary of Agriculture, I am proud to support the government's strategic vision for the agriculture sector in Balochistan, Our efforts are centered around enhancing supply chain efficiencies, improving market access for farmers, and promoting organic farming. We are also committed to addressing water scarcity through advanced irrigation techniques and infrastructure development. By aligning our policies with the needs of our farmers, we aim to achieve significant growth and stability in the agriculture sector. Together, we are building a robust agricultural foundation for the prosperity of Balochistan.



The project will achieve its objectives through execution of

1. Date Plant Panigur including date processing and grading, cold store & value addition of Dates 2. Agro-Market Development Including Cold Store and

2. Ago- natural unwropenent including Cold Store, and value addition of Dates in Panigur
3. Agro-Market Development Including Cold Store, Processing, Grading Packing of Vegetables in Hub
4. Agro-Market Development Including Cold Store, Processing, Grading Packing of Vegetables in Uthal

5.Agro-Market Development Including Cold Store, Processing, Grading Packing of Vegetables in

Kharan Agro-Market Development Including Cold Store, Processing, Grading, Packing of Dates, Value addition of Onion in Awaran

Processing, Grading, Packing of Dates, Value addition of Onion in Washuk B. Establishment of Cold Store, Processing, Grading,

Packaging of Vegetables facilities in Khuzdar blishment of Value addition of Date plant in Trubat 10. Agro-Market Development including Cold Store Facility

in Gwadar 11.Agro-Market Development Including Cold Store Facility

12. Agro-Market Development in Dalbandin

13.Agro. Market Development including Processing, Grading, Packaging, Value addition of Apples and **Cold Storage Facility in Quetta**

14. Agro. Market Dr Grading, Packaging, Value addition of Apples and Cold Storage Facility in Pishin

15.Agro. Market Development including Processing, Grading, Packaging of Apples and Cold Storage Facility in Killa-Abdullah

16. Agro. Market Development including Processing, Grading, Packaging of Apple and Cold Storage Facility in Kalat 17. Agro. Market Development including Cold Storage

Facility in Khallq-Abad 18.Agro. Market Development including Processing, Grading, Packaging and value addition of Apples in

Killa-Salfullah 19 Aero, Market Development including Processing Grading, Packaging and value addition of Apples in

20. Agro. Market Development including Processing, Grading, Packaging and value addition of Apples in Mastung

21.Agro. Market Development including Processing, Grading, Packaging and value addition of Apples in Ziarat

22. Agro. Market Development including value addition of Apples in Loralai 23.Establishment of PMU



UpToDate Progress of the Project: -

The execution of schemes of the project through remained slow at the onset however, with the advent of GPI and takeover of the projects by the Joint Cell, the pace of execution of the project increased. Currently the work on 13 sites is on-going and the progress is briefly outlined as under: -

a)Advanced Stage of Completion: 1.Date Plant Panjgur including date processing and grading, cold store & value addition of

2. Agro-Market Development Including Cold Store and value addition of Dates in

3.Agro-Market Development Including Cold Store, Processing, Grading Packing of Vegetables in Hub 4.Agro-Market Development Including Cold

Vegetables in Uthal 5.Agro-Market Development Including Cold Store, Processing, Grading Packing of

Store, Processing, Grading Packing of

Vegetables in Kharan 6.Agro. Market Development including Processing, Grading, Packaging, Value addition of Apples and Cold Storage Facility in Quetta

7.Agro. Market Development including Processing, Grading, Packaging, Value addition of Apples and Cold Storage Facility in Pishin

8.Agro. Market Development including Processing, Grading, Packaging and value addition of Apples in Mastung

b)Mid way to complete 9.Agro-Market Development Including Processing, Grading, Packing of Dates, Value addition of Onion & Cold Store in 10.Agro. Market Development including Processing, Grading, Packaging of Apples and Cold Storage

Facility in Killa-Abdullah 11.Agro. Market Development including Processing, Grading, Packaging of Apple and Cold Storage Facility

98.Initial stage of execution 12.Agro. Market Development including Processing, Grading, Packaging and value addition of Apples in

Killa-Saifullah 13.Agro. Market Development including Processing, Grading, Packaging and value addition of Apples in

Anticipated benefits of the project: Availability of 10,000 MTs of Cold Storage facilities in Southern Balochistan districts for Dates, Fruits and

Vegetables. Availability of 5,000 MTs of Cold Storage facilities in 5 apple growing districts

Facility for production of app: 150 MTs of Date Paste during each date fruiting season.

Availability of additional facilities for processing, grading of app: 3 million Kgs of dates during date fruiting season in Panjgur, Awaran and Washuk.

Availability of app: 500 MTs of Onion drying and Frying facility in Awaran and Washuk

Availability of facility for processing and grading app: 3 million Kgs of vegetable and fruits in Kharan, Khuzdar, Uthal and Hub.

Availability of apple Juice and Jam Production facility with production capacity of 2000 Kgs per day.

Availability of facilities capable of apple grading, waxing and packing at a rate of 1000 Kgs per hour in 9 apple growing districts.

Direct benefit to app: 16000 apple, dates, onion and vegetable growing farm families of the project district.

Improved access to marketing facilities and regulated sale of agriculture produces.

GARUK DAM

BALOCHISTAN IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT



Secretary Irrigation, Hafiz Abdul Majid

The initiative to build dams in Balochistan is a monumental step towards securing our water resources and enhancing the quality of life for our citizens. These dams will effectively check the water table, providing a reliable water source throughout the year. By preventing the wastage of rainwater, we can ensure it is available for vital uses, such as agriculture and daily consumption. This project will stimulate socio-economic growth, creating opportunities and improving the standard of living for many. Our focus remains steadfast on delivering these benefits to the people of Balochistan, ensuring a brighter and more sustainable future.

Project Benefits (primarily aimed at achieving conservation of flood water resources)

- The direct benefit of this project is to tap 53,000 Acre-Ft of flood water, which was otherwise wasted.
- · Provide irrigation water to 12,500 acres of arid land for improved agricultural development through sustained and regulated irrigation.
- · Other ancillary benefits include flood mitigation, provision of drinking water for the population in the command, groundwater recharge, fisheries production, creation of recreation facility, socio-economic uplift and poverty reduction in the area.
- · Drinking water supply for Kharan City has been estimated @ 20 gallon /capita per day through a pipe network. This amounts to annual drinking water supply of 1,738 million gallons to local population & Kharan Town for a total projected population of 216,437 persons.
- · The provision of drinking water supply shall complement as an additional reliable source of fresh water to the existing drinking water wells tapping the already receding ground water table.
- · The fish production is estimated to be 26 tonnes per year on an average.
- · The project development shall improve the rural economic growth by increasing the farming, livestock holding and trade sector.
- DIRECT EMPLOYMENT DURING PRESENT STAGE IS **EMPLOYMENT IS EXPECTED TO BOOST AT AROUND**
- · Ground water within the Kharan city and periphery is not available due to the geological formation of the area, comprising clayey deposits, except some places, where salinity of the water is too high to be fit for drinking. The overall quality of the available ground water is marginal.
- Overuse of groundwater resources for agriculture and drinking purpose have led to the depletion of the local aquifers. As a result, the water table has lowered, average of 80ft in a half decade period from 120ft to
- . The Ground water within the Kharan town is not suitable for drinking purpose, and is conveyed from 3 to 5 km, similar situation exists in the villages of
- The number of active tubewells of PHE Department, pumping out water from surrounding of Kharan are 38, along with a number of community and private tube wells supplying potable water to the beneficiaries of the area.
- · Average annual O&M and Electricity Budget of Kharan is more than Rs. 100 Million.
- · Almost 3500 to 4000 tube wells have been dug to draw water for both agriculture and drinking purpose







Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti

Our government is fully committed to constructing dams across Balochistan to regulate the water table and ensure a sustainable water supply. These initiatives will significantly improve the socio-economic conditions of our people, fostering growth and development in our region. By harnessing and storing rainwater, we can prevent its wastage and utilize it for agricultural and domestic purposes. The construction of these dams will create jobs and boost local economies, providing much-needed relief to our rural communities. Together, we can transform Balochistan into a region of prosperity and stability.



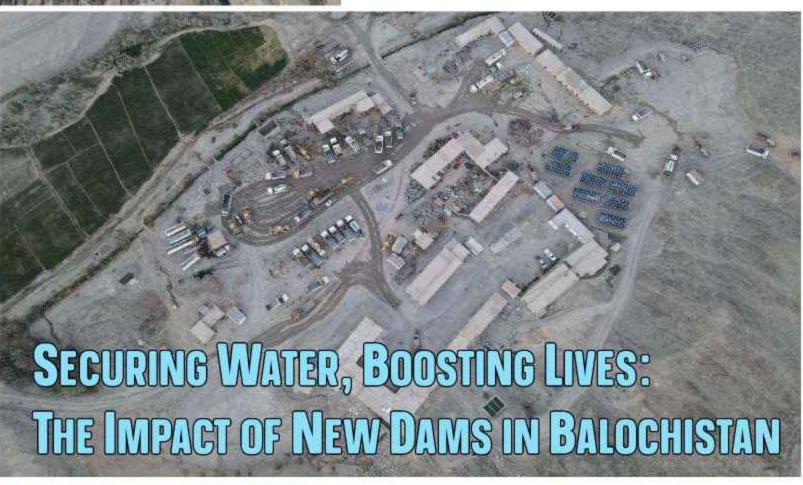


Irrigation Minister, Mir Sadiq Umrani

Building dams in Balochistan is a top priority for our government to address the critical issue of water scarcity. These dams will play a crucial role in managing the water table, ensuring that our agriculture sector thrives even in dry seasons. By capturing and storing rainwater, we can reduce wastage and ensure its optimal use for irrigation and other needs. This project is not just about water conservation; it is about improving the livelihoods of our people and driving socioeconomic development. Our commitment to this cause is unwavering, and we are dedicated to seeing it through.



DAMS FOR PROSPERITY: TRANSFORMING BALOCHISTAN'S WATER FUTURE









HARNESSING RAINWATER: BALOCHISTAN'S PATH TO SUSTAINABLE GROWTH







