

QUETTA VOICE

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Tragedy Strikes: Two Young Men Succumb to Thirst in Balochistan Desert
Riaz Baloch:
CHAGHI: In a heartbreaking incident, two young men lost their lives due to extreme heat and dehydration in the desolate Chaghi district of Balochistan.



With their vehicle's fuel depleted and no relief from the scorching heatwaves, the victims tragically succumbed to thirst and heat exhaustion.

They belonged to Dawoodabad area of Dalbandin.

Petroleum dealers call off nationwide strike

NEWS DESK: The Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA) announced the immediate end of the nationwide petrol pump strike on Friday.

Speaking at a press conference in Karachi, PPDA Chairman Abdul Sam Khan, alongside other officials, declared the decision to suspend the strike.



"We made this decision immediately due to tourists being stranded in the northern areas. Our one-day strike has been successful, but people are suffering because motorbikes can't run," he said. Khan explained that tourists in Malakand, Swat, and Hazara were among the reasons for ending the strike. "The strike wasn't easy, as the entire government was against it," he added.

Abdul Sami warned that the sale of smuggled petrol in the country is likely to increase, attributing the situation to the government's double taxation policies.

Also read: Petrol pumps partially shut down across country



Quetta: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari addressing a press conference.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Unveils Major Development Plans for Balochistan

Syed Muhammad Qasem:

QUETTA: Chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti, held a pivotal press conference highlighting key development initiatives for the province. This event marks the second press conference since the formation of the new government in Balochistan.

Addressing the province's numerous challenges, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari announced plans to establish modern healthcare facilities, including heart disease hospitals and a Karachi-style National Institute of

Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) in Quetta. He also revealed the initiation of Rescue 1122 services in ten districts, inspired by its success in Sindh. Bilawal highlighted environmental and energy initiatives, discussing the provision of solar energy to farmers and the construction of green parks.

He emphasized the importance of fighting terrorism through consensus and the necessity of rebuilding houses damaged by floods, advocating for ownership rights for flood-affected women.

Commending the Chief

Minister's scholarship program, which includes a significant number of female recipients, Bilawal viewed this as a positive sign for the future. He announced that Sindh-style health facilities and pink bus services would be introduced in Balochistan.

Focusing on economic issues, Bilawal stressed the importance of tackling inflation and improving employment opportunities for youth. He shared ambitious plans to send 30 million young people abroad for employment and empower women through interest-free loans, noting the high recovery rate of the women's loan scheme.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari praised the Chief Minister for providing a comprehensive briefing on ongoing projects in the region. He expressed satisfaction over meeting party officials and workers and reaffirmed his commitment to visit Balochistan whenever possible.

The press conference underscored a commitment to development, stability, and empowerment in Balochistan, with collaborative efforts from both provincial and federal governments.

Punjab requests deployment of Pakistan Army, Rangers to assist police for Muharram security

PUNJAB: The Punjab government on Friday requested the deployment of the Pakistan Army and Rangers to assist the provincial police in establishing "peace and order" during the month of Muharram.

A statement issued by the Punjab Home Department's spokesperson said the provincial government had sought the services of 150 contingents of the military and Rangers following the requirements of different districts.

It added that a letter was written in line with the police's request for cooperation in maintaining security and the services of 60 Army contingents and 81 Rangers contingents were sought.

"Law enforcement agencies will render their services for the peaceful observance of Muharram," the statement said.

Akin to Punjab, a secu-



smooth flow of vehicles in the cities.

Each year, law enforcement agencies develop comprehensive security plans to prevent untoward incidents during the Islamic month, especially when mourning processions are held on the 9th and 10th of Muharram

across the country.

In the past, militants have targeted Muharram processions several times, including a bomb blast that killed more than 40 people attending the main Ashura procession on Karachi's MA Jinnah Road in December 2009. **NEWS DESK.**

Top military brass vows to combat 'digital terrorism', uphold national security

RAWALPINDI: The top military brass of Pakistan underscored the onslaught of politically motivated 'digital terrorism', orchestrated by conspirators and their foreign cohorts, aimed at undermining state institutions. The Armed Forces, along with the nation, stand united in defeating these malicious designs.

This declaration was made during the 26th Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC), presided over by Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir at GHQ in Rawalpindi on Friday, according to a statement by the military's media wing, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

The forum paid rich tribute to the Supreme sacrifices of the heroes of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies, and citizens who have laid down their lives



for peace and stability in the country.

A comprehensive review of the internal and external security situation was conducted, with detailed discussions on "Azm-e-Istehkam," aimed at synchronising national counter-terrorism efforts to dismantle terrorism and illegal activities for endur-

ing stability and economic prosperity.

The forum expressed concern over unwarranted criticism and deliberate misrepresentation of the military's vision for vested interests.

The forum also deliberated on the regional security situation, particularly Afghanistan, reaffirming its commitment to regional peace and security.

The forum reiterated its support for ongoing efforts to uplift socioeconomic growth and assist the government in curbing illegal activities that hamper investor confidence, economic stability, and growth.

Expressing satisfaction with the Army's commitment to national security, the COAS stressed maintaining high standards of professionalism and operational preparedness. Gen Munir concluded by stating that the Pakistan Army remains fully prepared to thwart all internal and external challenges and play its role in the stability and prosperity of Pakistan, regardless of the challenges posed. **NEWS DESK.**

Blast in Mardan claims at least two lives, injures five



MARDAN: At least two people were killed and five others injured, including a police officer, a woman, and a child, in an explosion near Jalala Bridge in the Takht Bhai tehsil of Mardan city in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) province, rescue officials said on Friday.

Mardan District Police Officer (DPO) Zahoor Babar Afridi stated that the explosion happened immediately after a police vehicle passed over the bridge, suggesting an attempt to target the police. According to Rescue 1122 sources, ambulances and medical teams promptly arrived at the scene, transporting the deceased and injured to local hospitals.

The casualties were taken to the THQ Takht Bhai and MMC for further treatment and identification.

Police have begun collecting evidence from the site and have initiated an investigation into the incident. **NEWS DESK.**

Yesterday, amid a fresh spiral of terrorist violence in the K-P province, a former senator and four men travelling with him were killed in a roadside bomb attack on their vehicle in the Mamund tehsil of Bajaur district.

The outlawed TTP was quick to deny involvement in the IED attack on Hidayatullah Khan, a brother of former K-P governor Shaukatullah Khan and son of ex-MNA Haji Bismillah Khan, in the Damadola area of Mamund. Hidayatullah was also the uncle of the independent candidate for the upcoming by-poll for PK-22 Bajaur-IV, Najebullah Khan.

The bodies of the deceased and injured to the District Headquarters Hospital in Khar where MS Dr Naseeb Gul confirmed their identities as Hidayatullah Khan, Malik Ifran, Nazir Din, Yar Muhammad, and Samiullah. The bodies were later handed over to their heirs after medico-legal formalities. **NEWS DESK.**

Zardari congratulates Starmer on UK election victory

NEWS DESK: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday congratulated Labour Party leader Keir Starmer on his victory in the parliamentary election in the United Kingdom.

The president wrote on his X timeline that Pakistan looked forward to working with the new UK government to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

President Zardari expressed the hope that Keir Starmer would play his role in addressing the shared challenges faced by the world.

Earlier today, Starmer promised that his Labour government will work from day one on national renewal, in his first speech as UK prime minister from Downing



Street. Also read: Starmer promises to 'rebuild Britain' in first speech as prime minister

"The work of change begins immediately. But have no doubt, we will rebuild Britain."

he said, after Labour ended 14 years of Conservative rule in a landslide election win. Following Labour's landslide victory in the general election, Starmer met King Charles at Buckingham Palace, where he was invited to form a government.

Imran Khan announces participation in APC on Operation Azm-e-Istehkam



NEWS DESK: Former Prime Minister and founding chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Imran Khan, announced his participation in the government's All Parties Conference (APC) on Operation Azm-e-Istehkam.

During a media interaction at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail on Friday, the former premier stated that PTI members would attend the conference only as "observers", emphasising that the decision to participate was made solely for the benefit of Pakistan.

During his talk, the incarcerated PTI chief expressed distrust in the chief justice and announced plans

for a hunger strike in jail. "I will announce the final date for the hunger strike after consulting with my lawyers," he said.

The government decided to call the APC to address concerns from coalition and opposition parties regarding Operation Azm-e-Istehkam. The conference aims to build political consensus and ensure all parties are on board with the operator's objectives.

On June 22, the Apex Committee of National Action Plan, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, approved "Operation Azm-e-Istehkam" to eliminate terrorism and extremism across the country.

QUETTA

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 commuters?

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, Mariarbad, Samungri Road, Sarisab Custom, Nawab 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 Belfit 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

Recommendations 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, transformative actions.

Is this it for humans?

By Rafia Zakaria:

IT has been estimated that 99.9 per cent of all species on our planet died out. One of the things that Charles Darwin said about human beings or Homo sapiens is that we are very much part of the natural world. This means that like all other species on the planet, Homo sapiens will one day also die out. At some point, our population will reach its peak and from there onwards, it will begin to fall. It just so happens that all those reading this article happen to be alive at a moment when humans may be about to reach their maximum numbers.

According to UN population estimates, humans will reach their maximum population in 2086 at 10.4 billion humans. This number, large as it is, is still lower than what scientists had predicted earlier. Talk of the human population maxing out, in fact, is a planet maxing out, has led to questions about whether human beings have reached their peak as a species as well. In 2017, a group of researchers looking at data collected over 120 years, said that in many areas, human beings have become as good as they ever will be. According to these scientists, certain records, such as those for the fastest human being, may not increase.

This does not mean that humans will no longer be able to evolve. In fact, many more may equal the record, but the limits will not be surpassed in any meaningful way.

Another example is that of height. In certain parts of Africa, the height of individuals is reported to have been declining over the years. This indicates that certain societies may already have reached the point where they cannot access enough nutrition to be able to attain the levels of height that they used to have. Since climatic and other concerns have become more and more pressing, it is likely that many more societies in different parts of the planet will experience

similar deficiencies, with consequences for the kind of human flourishing (or the lack thereof) that can take place.

A parallel question that is at least as relevant to whether humanity has reached its peak is a larger one about whether human beings are still evolving. Evolution refers to the capacity of humans to adapt to changing conditions in the environment and culture at a genetic level. Natural selection occurs when people's genetic make-up can adapt to a new situation, say a hotter climate, and they are able to pass down their genes, meaning that the new members of the species that are born will possess these traits.

There has been much debate about whether a gene tends to be passed on to successive generations, if it is not "in use". Take for instance the genetic ability to produce vitamin D. This is something the human body needs. Unlike many other mammals that have the ability to produce this vitamin internally, human beings must rely on external sources, including those of diet, to access this vital vitamin. Primates, including humans, are thought to have once had the ability to synthesise this vitamin, but can no longer do so because of evolutionary reasons.

Another case is that of the enzyme lactase which allows us to continue to digest lactose, which is present in milk and other dairy products, after we have weaned. This does not mean that all human interventions are bad but just that we may have come to a point where we are as good as we will ever get.

Reaching peak humanity may not be the worst thing in the world, as anyone in the older generation is likely to advise; it is always good to know one's limits. Homo sapiens have walked the earth for hundreds of thousands of years; it is truly mindboggling to contemplate the fact that we may have reached our maximum capabilities in this particular moment in time.

the same way it once did. One example is the common procedure known as the C-section which allows a doctor to deliver a baby when the mother cannot, for some reason — the limitations of anatomy among them — have a natural childbirth.

According to a BBC report published some years ago, C-sections might be impacting our evolution. The report, quoting estimates by researchers, says that "the global rate of cases where the baby could not fit through the maternal birth canal was 3pc, or 30 in 1,000 births. Over the past 50 or 60 years, this rate has increased to about 3.3-3.6pc, so up to 36 in 1,000 births. That is about a 10-20pc increase of the original rate, due to the evolutionary effect". The report quotes a biologist as saying, "Women with a very narrow pelvis would not have survived birth 100 years ago. They do now and pass on their genes encoding for a narrow pelvis to their daughters."

Perhaps even a few human interventions could have genetic consequences that we are unaware of and that would have consequences that we cannot predict. Think of the many interventions we make in terms of medicine, medical procedures, or conversely, the use of harmful chemicals, burning fossil fuels in our environment, etc. and we may have a situation where we have really rattled the processes that would otherwise keep us adaptable. This does not mean that all human interventions are bad but just that we may have come to a point where we are as good as we will ever get.

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By Faisal Bari:

All of us must have seen at some point or the other, a man in police uniform driving his motorcycle the wrong way on a one-way street and not wearing a helmet. We have also seen cars with green number plates parked in 'no parking' areas, and police and army vehicles ignoring traffic signals.

We have seen police officers misbehave with protesters or people in custody. Whether it is a chief justice being dragged by the hair, a former foreign minister being handled roughly, or ordinary citizens being slapped and pushed around, there are plenty of examples. It does not matter which party is in power at the time. What is happening to those who are out of power is what was happening to others when the former held the reins.

We have even witnessed deputy commissioners (DCs) misusing Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) provisions across Pakistan. Police and other law enforcers have been capitalising on the registration of cases to arrest those whose the state does not want to see free.

We see many FIRs being registered against one person. We see names recorded in FIRs even of those known not

to have violated the law. Sometimes, FIRs are sealed and their contents not disclosed. Another practice is to register multiple FIRs regarding the same incident in different jurisdictions, and even register FIRs in different provinces to allow remand for a few days in order to move people from one province to another.

These tactics have been used before and are still being used by law-enforcement agencies. This is not in the service of justice alone. There are plenty of judicial objections regarding which show the abuse of the powers of the police and other LEAs have.

The abuse of power is hard to stop or rectify. A journalist was abducted and went missing for months. Even after his return, LEAs and the judicial system haven't really bothered to find out where he was, who abducted him and what happened to him.

Even if missing for years have not been produced before the courts. Their loved ones have been protesting in the streets for years. In some cases, it is not even clear where the 'missing' are. We see many FIRs being registered against one person. We see names recorded in FIRs even of those known not

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By Asim Sajjad Akhtar:

ELECTION season is when the bourgeois political class makes all sorts of promises and at the same time says nothing at all. Take, for example, the complete neglect by mainstream politicians of Baloch protest in Islamabad. They are sitting in front of the National Press Club in the federal capital.

Even if the bigwigs can't make time to visit, there's no obvious reason they cannot release a statement of support. Maryam Nawaz had no problem doing photo shoots with missing persons' loved ones a couple of years ago, but being anti-establishment was in fashion back then.

The ethnic peripheries — Baloch, Gilgit-Baltistan, Kashmir — have been treated this way for as long as one can remember. The establishment and most mainstream politicians evince much interest in the lands, scenic highlands, mineral resources, and freshwaters of the peripheries, but couldn't care less for the teeming millions

that live there. In fact, the more politically conscious you are and demand access to your own resources, you are considered a threat to the government, and the state itself.

What about the Punjab heartland? It is here that continue to sustain in knee-jerk fashion only when necessary.

The PTI's rise and fall suggests that this content has fractured to some extent at least. But our bourgeois political class, or at least those who are now the incumbents, are not going out of their way to build on this.

For as far as the eye can see, most bourgeois politicians in Punjab try to reproduce everyday life for the vast majority — a life mediated by state institutions like the thana, katchery and patwari, and dictated by high-caste, moneyed business who own land and influence. They all claim to be better than their neighbor, while throwing in 'ideological' rhetoric about religion for good measure.

This is how elec-

tion, are fought and won, especially one that is health problems play out alongside environmental despoliation. Other than the very well-off, most Punjab youth — many who have been taken by the PTI and Imran Khan — are not aware of the cumulative economic effects of the pandemic and IMF-imposed austerity, as well as the hyper-financialised and consumption-based economic model that has taken hold in Pakistan today.

In short, that there is simply not enough gainful and dignified employment available for the number of young people seeking jobs, let alone housing, health, education and recreation. The most coveted option is to leave the country by hook or by crook, but even that is an option for a very small percentage of the population.

I believe that a growing number of young people in Punjab do understand that an establishment-centric system offers them only a life of futility, and in fact, subjects many to

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Punjab must decide

Prudent living

there is no dearth of resources on earth. Allah is the Creator and continues to create resources for humanity. The science of economics helps guide us on how resources are to be used.

Islam enjoins Muslims to practise moderation, instead of being miserly or becoming spendthrifts. Allah says: "And let not your hand be tied (like a miser) to your neck, nor stretch it forth to its utmost reach (like a spendthrift), so that you become of the losers." (17:29)

Economic stability is essential for any family to survive and prosper. Therefore, every family should try and improve its economic status while abiding by the ethical and Islamic principles. Hard work, saving, and gratitude to Allah, etc.

end up having a longer, healthier life. In other words, families have to look carefully at the economic context which is around them.

Pakistan's economy is currently going through severe uncertainty, facing numerous economic hardships including inflation, high cost of day-to-day necessities, and the impact of global economic shocks and insufficient public funds to finance development programmes. There will be no surprise if, in the coming months, we see more difficult situations causing further instability and uncertainty in many sectors. Therefore, every family must be prudent in daily spending because it is the right way to prepare for the future, reduce risk, and ensure that people are always left to fend for themselves, very few helping hands, and many struggling families should tighten their belts, strive to live within their means, contain their expenses, and enhance their income.

evaluate their lifestyle and be prudent while spending money on day-to-day commodities. For example, consuming more locally grown vegetables or locally manufactured goods, instead of costly imported items, or processed food, can help save money while being good for one's health. In frugality, one must avoid excessive spending on fast food, drinking sugary beverages, smoking, betel nuts, and other harmful things.

The condition of those families who have only one breadwinner is more precarious; therefore, they have to be extra vigilant. Similarly, the middle and working-class households should focus on their health as any health issue or processed food can make the situation more cumbersome and unbearable. Moreover, in these difficult times, the government should improve health services at public facilities as lower middle-class people.

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United Kingdom (UK's) Labour set for landslide election win

LONDON (INP): Keir Starmer on Friday said Britain was 'ready for change'...

In another boost for the centre, the smaller opposition Liberal Democrats would get 61 seats...

Chinese firm to advance Radiation Oncology Technology for Cancer treatment in Pakistan

BEIJING (INP): The University of Sargodha and leading Chinese firms signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)...



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Mir Muhammad Asim Kurd Gello meeting with Governor Balochistan Jafar Khan Mandokhail.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme, discusses issues faced by the minority community with Mr. Anthony Naveed, Deputy Speaker of the Sindh Provincial Assembly, at BISP headquarters.

Shabbir Shah eulogizes Shaheed Burhan Wani on martyrdom anniversary

SRINAGAR (INP): Illegally detained senior leader of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) and chairman of the Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party, Shabbir Ahmed Shah...

Reiterating the Kashmiris' pledge to uphold the martyrs' mission, Shabbir Shah urged the Kashmir masses to observe the martyred commander's anniversary...

Notice Inviting Tender

Assid galky tender on form 'F-18 B' in per schedule 7/2019 as per the approved MoU...

Table with columns: S.No, Name of Work, Qty, ECoat, Bid Security. Lists various construction and civil work items.

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A digital corridor is helping Pakistani young entrepreneurs

BEIJING (INP): The Sino-Pak digital corridor is helping Pakistani young entrepreneurs, said Fahad Raja, co-founder of Pakistan's e-commerce platform Deal Kart...

Notice Inviting Tender

The Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division, Jhal Magsi, invites sealed tenders forms (as per schedule A & B) based on composite schedule of rates 2023 Government of Balochistan from interested contractors...

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China's e-commerce giant, Pinduoduo, has not yet started operations in Pakistan. But that's not a problem, we are building a Pinduoduo for ourselves...

Nowadays, more and more Chinese companies are setting up offices in the special economic zone located in my hometown.

PROCUREMENTS shall be made under B-PPRA/RA/2014 amended up-to-date. Eligibility of Bidders: An individual bidder having valid PEC registration valid up-to-date in the relevant Category or above with specialization in Irrigation Only...

THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PHE District Mustung invites technical proposals (Single Stage-One Envelope) for above mentioned works. All interested bidders are required to submit documents as per following briefs in proposal mail to be delivered by hand or through registered mail to the address mentioned below...

Govt encouraging use of electric vehicles: Senate informed

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Senate was informed that the federal government is encouraging the use of electric vehicles in order to protect the environment and reduce dependence on imported fuel. Minister for Law Azam Nazeer Tarar told the House during Question Hour that thirty electric buses have been imported from China. These buses have been stationed at Jinnah Convention Center in Islamabad where state of the art charging facilities have been made available. He said the soft launch of these buses is taking place today. The Minister for Law told the House that NADRA centers will be established in each Union Council in the next two and a half years. He said the NADRA has prepared a comprehensive

phased wise plan in this regard and 1150 Union Councils will have NADRA centers in ten months. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar told the House that the government has not ceased the advertisement of any television channel. He said the advertisements are being given in accordance with their ratings. He said newspapers received advertisements worth nine billion rupees, and television channels of six billion rupees over the last five years.

The Minister for Information also clarified that no new tax has been imposed on newspapers in the budget 2024-25. He emphasized the need for making advertisement policy more effective after consultations with the stakeholders.

Taking the floor, Leader of

the House Ishaq Dar assured that the privatization process will be taken forward in a transparent manner and due process will be followed. He however emphasized there should not be any politics on this matter.

The Leader of the House proposed formation of a special committee to ascertain why the privatization of Pakistan Steel Mills did not occur, which resulted in the loss of hundreds of billions of rupees.

The Senate also passed the State Owned Enterprises (Governance and Operations) Amendment Bill, 2024.

It was moved by Minister for Law Azam Nazeer Tarar. The Law Minister said the bill is aimed at enhancing the efficiency of the Boards of Directors of State-Owned Enterprises.



QUETTA: Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is giving the keys of a scooter to a female student who secured a prominent position in the matriculation exams. Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti and provincial ministers are also present.

National Police Bureau organized a National Conference on leveraging IT for effective policing

ISLAMABAD (INP): National Police Bureau (NPB) is spearheading the transformation of police organizations in Pakistan through technology and digitalization. As a federal body under the Ministry of the Interior, NPB is mandated with standardizing, promoting IT-based solutions, and coordinating efforts among all police organizations.

In this connection, NPB with logistic support of UNODC organized a "National Conference on Leveraging IT for Effective Policing" in Islamabad. The conference aimed to review progress on IT-based initiatives within the Criminal Justice System, identify gaps and challenges, exchange information on existing and proposed IT developments, and enhance inter-agency connectivity, cooperation, and coordination.

Dr. Ehsan Saeed, Director General, National Police Bureau, welcomed all participants in his opening remarks. He explained that police departments across the country are now utilizing various IT-based solutions to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of law enforcement. These solutions in-

clude Safe City Projects, Complaint Management System (CMS), criminal databases, digitalization of FIRs, crime mapping, and Hotel Eye. The integration of these IT-based solutions with other systems used in the Criminal Justice System will enhance overall efficiency to strengthen law enforcement. Furthermore, he emphasized

the need to devise a mechanism to evaluate the impact of these innovations on crime prevention and the creation of a safer society. Syed Arsalan, Adviser, Counter Terrorism Program, UNODC, commended the NPB's efforts for leading technological transformation within the police and criminal justice system.

Policy formulation was a key topic at the conference, with a focus on developing policies and guidelines for the ethical use of automation in law enforcement and the Criminal Justice System. This included considerations of legal, privacy, and human rights issues, ensuring that the deployment of new technologies is both effective and responsible. Building capacity was another critical aim of the conference, with efforts

to identify training opportunities that will equip law enforcement professionals and stakeholders with the skills needed to use new tools and systems effectively.

In the inaugural session, Mr. Rafiq Mukhtar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Interior, graced the conference as the chief guest. Distinguished speakers included Mr. Aetaz Ahmed Goraya, Deputy Inspector General of Police, CTID Balochistan Police; Mr. Azhar Kashed, Director General, National Academy for

Prisons Administration (NAPA); Mr. Syed Ghayas Anwar, Additional Director, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA); Mr. Zeeshan Ullah, Deputy Director, KP Prosecution; and Mr. Shahid Shahid, District and Session Judge Karachi (online). They delivered comprehensive presentations on the use of technology and best practices in the Criminal Justice System. During the panel discussion, the panelists addressed various issues and challenges, and explored the transition from data management to data analytics to improve service delivery, operational effectiveness, and accountability in Criminal Justice System.

Torrential rains may cause flash floods, urban flooding, landslides: PMD warns

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has warned that torrential rains may cause flash floods, urban flooding and landslides in the vulnerable areas during the period of July 5-7.

Torrential rains will cause flash floods in local nullahs/streams of Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Murree, Galiyat, Mansehra, Kohistan, Abbottabad, Dir, Swat, Kashmir and hill torrents of Dera Ghazi Khan from July 05-07. Heavy rains may cause urban flooding in Lahore, Sialkot, Gujranwala, Narowal, Rawalpindi,

Faisalabad and Peshawar during the period, the PMD said. Landslides may disrupt roads at the vulnerable points of hilly areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Murree, Galiyat, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.

According to the synoptic situation, strong monsoon currents from Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal were penetrating upper/central parts of the country. A westerly wave was also affecting upper parts of the country. Rain-wind/thundershower with isolated heavy falls is expected in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pothohar region,

Islamabad, Upper/Central Punjab, northeast Balochistan and Kashmir. Rain-wind/thundershower is also likely at isolated places in Gilgit-Baltistan and Punjab. During the last 24 hours, hot and very humid weather prevailed over most parts of the country. However, rain-wind/thundershower occurred in Islamabad, Pothohar region, northeast Punjab, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir, and Barkhan. Nokundi and Dalbandin remained the hottest places in the country on Thursday with temperature surging up to 49 degrees Celsius.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with the delegation of Pakistan Tax Bar Association (PTBA).



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on Digitization and Reforms of FBR.

Some individuals among us still support dictatorship, claims Bilawal Bhutto

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman and former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has asserted that some individuals among them were advocates of dictatorship.

He shared his remarks about the July 5 incident when prime minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's government was overthrown by a second military coup.

Bilawal stated, today was the day when a dictator overthrew the government of an elected PM Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto as a result, the country had paid a heavy price.

He claimed that black day led to crises like terrorism, extremism, Kalashnikov and drug

culture. "We are still facing the challenges today created by that black day," he added.

Former foreign minister disclosed that some individuals were still in favour of dictatorship despite facing its countless repercussions.

Bilawal quoted the oppression of democrats during the Gen Zia era, democrats, liberals and patriots were oppressed and faced imprisonment, flogging, exile and executions.

The PPP chairman lauded the spirit of the nation for democracy.

stating, Pakistanis remained determined and brave despite political revenge, dictatorship and terrorism against

them. Commending the struggles of PPP political workers, Bilawal said 'jaisals' (PPP supporters) stayed consistent, determined and strived for democracy.

He attributed the prevalence of democracy across the country due to sacrifices made by PPP workers and supporters.

It's a day to acknowledge the struggles of people who faced oppression for the supremacy of democracy, Bilawal insisted.

He stressed that let's pledge for the revival of the values that Shaheed Zulfiqar Bhutto and other people struggled for.

Audio leaks case: Fed govt challenges IHC verdict in SC

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government has challenged the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) verdict in the alleged audio leak case involving Bushra Bibi and the son of former Chief Justice Saqib Nisar in the Supreme Court (SC).

As per details, the appeal has nominated the former Chief Justice's son, PTA, Ministry of Defense, and others as parties.

The government argues that the IHC's decision is contrary to facts and that the high court had granted relief that was not even requested. The plea also contends that the IHC has no authority to take suo motu notice under

Article 199, hereby the high court's decision should be declared null and void.

The federal government stated that when an alleged audio leak involving the distribution of tickets surfaced, the National Assembly Speaker took notice and

formed a committee. The former Chief Justice's son had also challenged the committee's summons in the IHC.

The government argues that the IHC's demand for reports from institutions is an overstepping of its authority and that the high court cannot conduct fact-finding.

Earlier, the IHC declared that 'any form of surveillance'

on citizens was illegal and unconstitutional, asking Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif to explain who is 'responsible for the mass surveillance.'

IHC Justice Babar Sattar issued a written order on the plea of Bushra Bibi, wife of Pakistani Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, and Najam-us-Saqib, son of former chief justice Saqib Nisar, against the audio leaks.

In the written order, Justice Sattar said that the federal government was responsible for the surveillance of four million citizens and PM Shehbaz and cabinet members are "collectively and individually" responsible for the mass surveillance.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar at Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Strategy formulated to make Federal Capital a world-class city

ISLAMABAD (INP): Significant decisions have been made to transform the federal capital, Islamabad, into a world-class city.

At a meeting chaired by Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, several key measures were decided upon to elevate Islamabad to international standards.

It was decided that to reduce environmental pollution, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) will only purchase electric bikes in the future. Eco-friendly electric buses will also be introduced for the citizens of Islamabad.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi imposed a ban on the purchase of petrol-powered motorcycles.

Mohsin Naqvi stated that international standard emer-

gency services will be provided to the citizens of Islamabad. It was decided to transfer emergency services from the Municipal Corporation Islamabad (MCI) to the CDA.

The establishment of the Capital WASA (Water and Sanitation Agency) will also be expedited, and the related matters for the formation of the Capital Waste Management Company will be finalized soon.

During the meeting, the Interior Minister directed that construction work on the Serena Chowk underpass and F-9 Park Chowk flyover projects be started promptly.

The long-pending expressway project should be rapidly completed, and development work in non-developed sectors should be finished

to allow people to take possession of their properties.

Mohsin Naqvi emphasized that the first phase of the Islamabad Model Jail should be completed within the stipulated timeframe.

Business facilitation centers are being established in Islamabad to provide investors with all necessary facilities under one roof. Land has been allocated for a Health Tower in Sector H-16.

On this occasion, the Interior Minister also congratulated the CDA Chairman and his team on record tax collection.

Mohsin Naqvi stated that an institution cannot run merely by selling plots and land; it is essential to increase the institution's assets. In this regard, an investment plan should be prepared and presented within seven days.