

QUETTA VOICE

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Saturday, August, 10, 2024

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Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti along with Israr Kakar speaking during a meeting

FO rejects Indian claims of Pakistani involvement in Sheikh Hasina's ouster

NEWS DESK: The Foreign Office (FO) on Friday rejected all statements emanating from India accusing Pakistan of being involved in the ouster of Bangladesh's then-prime minister Sheikh Hasina, terming it New Delhi's "disturbing obsession" with Islamabad.

The comments came after reports emerged from India blaming the Pakistan intelligence agencies for their involvement in the collapse of Bangladesh's government.

The Bangladesh military initially took over the country after a student-led protest forced the country's Hasina to flee. Later, an interim government was formed with Bangladesh's Nobel Peace Prize-winning economist Muhammad Yunus sworn in as its head.

Reacting to the Indian media reports, FO spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch, during a weekly press briefing in Islamabad today, rejected all such statements, stressing that Pakistan had no involvement in the events that took place in Bangladesh.

"The statements depict India's disturbing obsession with Pakistan," Baloch said in response to a question.

She said that Indian political leaders and their media habitually blamed Pakistan for their failures in domestic and foreign policy.

The spokesperson added that Pakistan and Bangladesh had positive relations which had only continued to grow.

"The government and people of Pakistan have expressed their support and solidarity with the people of Bangladesh and we sincerely hope for a peaceful and swift return to normalcy," Baloch said. She went on to say that Pakistan was confident that the resilient spirit and unity of the Bangladesh people would lead them towards a harmonious future. The student-led movement that ousted Hasina grew out of protests against quotas in government jobs that spiralled in July, provoking a violent crackdown that drew global criticism, although the government denied using excessive force.

Hasina, 76, who had been in power since 2009, quit on Monday as hundreds of thousands of people flooded the streets of Dhaka. Jubilant crowds later stormed and looted her palace.

Balochistan CM Warns of Social Media's Role in Sowing Hatred Among Youth

Syed Muhammad Qaseem:

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has raised concerns over the influence of social media on the province's youth, warning that a deliberate conspiracy is at play to alienate them from the state. Addressing the fifth meeting of the Balochistan Cabinet on Friday, Bugti highlighted the urgent need to implement the Balochistan Youth Policy 2024 to guide the younger generation in the right direction and provide them with opportunities for growth and development.

"Seeds Of Hatred Being Sown", Bugti "Seeds of hatred are being sown in the minds of our youth through social media, under a well-thought-out conspiracy to keep them away from the state," the Chief Minister said. He emphasized that the Balochistan Youth Policy 2024 must be enacted in its true spirit to counter these negative influences and support the province's youth in achieving their potential. During the cabinet meeting, several key administrative decisions were made, including di-

rectives from the Chief Minister for the early repayment of loans owed by the food department to private banks. Bugti pointed out that interest payments amounting to two million rupees daily and six crore rupees per month are a burden on the people of Balochistan. "This is cruel and must be stopped," he stated, urging for the practice to be discontinued immediately.

Professionalizing Police And Levies Bugti also stressed the need for professionalizing the police and levies to restore peace in the province. He called for better coordination between the forces, regardless of jurisdiction, to ensure effective law enforcement. The Chief Minister further criticized autonomous authorities for their reliance on government resources, urging them to increase their own revenues instead of depending on state funds. "If non-developmental expenses continue to rise, the government will not have the resources to provide basic facilities such as education, health,

and sanitation in the next ten years," he warned.

Israr Kakar A Beacon Of Hope

The meeting also recognized the achievements of Israrullah Khan Kakar, the president of the Oxford Students Union from Balochistan, who was recently invited as a guest of honor at Oxford University in London. Chief Minister Bugti praised Israrullah as a symbol of hope for the province, noting that he is the second Pakistani, after Shaheed Ms. Benazir Bhutto, to be elected as president of the Oxford University Students Union.

"Hard-working and talented youth like Israrullah are the capital of our country," Bugti said, pledging the government's support to encourage such young talent. As Balochistan faces challenges both within and outside its borders, the Chief Minister's focus on the harmful impact of social media on the youth underscores the government's broader strategy to foster unity and development in the province.

Balochistan Home Minister Urges Focus on Education, Rejects Sabotage

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: Balochistan Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langove has called on the people of Balochistan to prioritize education and reject any forms of sabotage that threaten the province's progress. In a statement on Friday, the minister emphasized that education is the key to dispelling the darkness of ignorance and fostering development. "Education is the jewel with which darkness can be erased," Langove remarked, urging professionals from all walks of life—including doctors, lawyers, and teachers—to contribute their expertise toward the growth and prosperity of Balochistan.

He stressed that true success lies in the pursuit of missing persons and other issues have led to protests and clashes with security forces. Langove's call for unity and education reflects the government's broader strategy to counter these challenges and promote stability in the region.

prosperous Gwadar would pave the way for the progress of both Balochistan and the entire nation.

Langove also pointed to external threats, accusing India of attempting to keep the people of Gwadar in a state of backwardness through negative propaganda.

He alleged that India is inciting locals against their own government to hinder Balochistan's development.

"Some of our own people are being misled by the enemy, but their nefarious intentions will never succeed," Langove stated.

The minister's remarks come in the wake of ongoing unrest in

Balochistan, where demands for the recovery of missing persons and other issues have led to protests and clashes with security forces. Langove's call for unity and education reflects the government's broader strategy to counter these challenges and promote stability in the region.



Home Minister Balochistan, Mir Ziaullah Langove addressing a press conference at Quetta Press Club. Photo provided by the author

BYC Ends Sit-In After Successful Negotiations With Balochistan Government

From Our Correspondent:

GWADAR: The Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) and the government reached a resolution on Friday, concluding the 11-day sit-ins across various areas of Balochistan. As part of the agreement, a committee has been formed to ensure that all the terms are carried out effectively. With their demands being addressed, the participants of the Gwadar sit-in are expected to continue their protest in Turbat with a rally today.

The negotiations were led by Provincial Minister Zahoore Buledi, along with officials including the Commissioner of Makran Division, the Deputy Commissioner of Gwadar, and the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP). The BYC put forward their demands, which included the release of detained activists, the dropping of legal cases, and compensation for public damages.

The agreement also stipulated

that no force would be used against peaceful assemblies, and the Balochistan Home Department is set to issue an official notification to this effect. Additionally, all roads in Gwadar and Makran are to be reopened, and communication networks restored.

The Baloch Yakjehti Committee has announced plans to lead a march from Gwadar to Turbat, where they will discuss their next steps.

The protests initially began when convoys of demonstrators, advocating for the recovery of missing persons, were blocked from attending a BYC meeting in Gwadar.

Earlier reports indicated that the protests had turned violent, resulting in clashes with security forces that left three protesters dead and at least 24 injured. Dr. Mahrang Baloch, a BYC leader, stated that many supporters were detained.

Masjid-i-Nabvi imam highlights Pakistan's 'significant' position for Muslim world in COAS meeting

rawalpindi: Masjid-i-Nabvi Imam Dr Salah bin Mohammad Al-Budair on Friday highlighted Pakistan's "significant place" in the Muslim world during a meeting with Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir, the military's media affairs wing said.

The Imam had arrived in Islamabad a day ago on a seven-day goodwill visit.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia share a strong relationship, with officials from both countries conducting frequent visits. In April this year,

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud had said that his visit to Pakistan would deliver "significant benefits" in the upcoming months by realising the potential of untapped economic development.

According to a press release issued by the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), Imam Al-Budair called on COAS Munir at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi and discussed matters of mutual interest.



Masjid-i-Nabvi Imam Dr Salah bin Mohammad Al-Budair meets army chief General Syed Asim Munir at General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, Friday. — ISPR

"Pakistan has a significant place in the Muslim world and it is playing its vital role for peace and stability in the region," the ISPR quoted the imam as saying. Welcoming the dignitary, the army chief said his visit was a "matter of honour" for the nation.

The ISPR said both sides expressed satisfaction over bilateral



A file photo of Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) protest

Pakistan, China congratulate Yunus on becoming Bangladesh interim gov't leader

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Election Amendment Act 2024 challenged in Lahore high court (LHC)

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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 current administration, underscores 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, Sarrah Canton, Nawab Killi, and other vital parts of Quetta.

Expansion Of Project Directly Responds To Public Demand: 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 Belli 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 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.

Binding Israel

By Abid Rizvi:

MORE than five months into Israel's pogrom against Palestinians, the UN Security Council finally adopted Resolution 2728/2024. The resolution, proposed by the 10 non-permanent members of the UNSC (E10), received unanimous assent with one abstention by the US — Israel's staunch ally and a permanent member of the UNSC (P5) — and comes after four prior attempts at its passage, three of which were vetoed by the US itself and one by China and Russia.

While the resolution's passage is a positive step, much remains to be done with the provisional orders issued by the International Court of Justice earlier this year, and expectations must be tempered; neither the resolution nor indeed the ICJ's provisional orders offer a panacea for the ongoing slaughter of Palestinian civilians.

The UN Charter establishes the UNSC, lays out its powers, and delineates how the UNSC exercises those powers. The most overt of these powers can be found in Chapter VII of the Charter, which relates to the maintenance of international peace and security. Under this chapter, the UNSC is empowered to take any action — including military — in order to "give effect to its decisions"; as such, UNSC resolutions issued under this chapter are generally binding in nature. In this context, it is critical to note that Resolution 2728 was not

resumption of bloodshed. Such a brief cessation of hostilities is under and guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations".

Proponents of the non-binding nature of Resolution 2728 cite prior UNSC resolutions where the text of the resolution clearly identifies the UNSC's reliance on its Chapter VII powers. At best, this is a myopic reading of such instruments, as pursuant to Article 25 of the UN Charter, "Members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the present Charter".

Thus, focusing exclusively on the UNSC's Charter VII powers misses the forest for the trees, as the Charter itself obliges UN members to comply with UNSC decisions, such as Resolution 2728. As described by the ICJ in its advisory opinion on South West Africa, "Article 25 is not confined to decisions in regard to enforcement action but applies to the decisions of the Security Council" adopted in accordance with the Charter. Moreover, that Article is placed not in Chapter VII, but immediately after Article 24 in that part of the Charter which deals with the functions and powers of the Security Council. If Article 25 had reference solely to decisions of the Security Council concerning enforcement action under Articles 41 and 42 of the Charter,

issued under Chapter VII, but instead, in exercise of the UNSC's general powers under and guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations".

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EDITORIAL

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 underdevelopment. 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 divided.

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 nations.

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

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 resource-rich province boasting the largest coastal and the longest coastline spanning 770 kilometers. 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 inhabitable environments in the coldest and hottest regions within one division.

Deng Xiaoping was impressed by the remarkable emergence of development in 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. Rich resources, including minerals, natural gas, agriculture, livestock, forests, and fisheries, offer a solid foundation for intensifying the emphasis on Special Eco-

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

SEZs The Only Option

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

This industrial growth at the grassroots level will facilitate the much-needed trickle-down effect, addressing the pressing needs of the populace. The momentum for expanding the establishment of industries is being further strengthened by the concurrent development of housing schemes announced and currently under construction by the real estate sector.

Urbanization promotion and establishment of new cities

Addressing the challenge of scattered population in Balochistan is paramount to ensure effective social and infrastruc-

ture 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 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. The development of these SEZs into fully functional urban centers with basic facilities and job opportunities will be incentivized to migrate from their current locations. 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 (Kalia), and Peshin.

Transforming SEZs into new cities not only addresses the challenge of scattered population but also provides the strategic opportunity to spur economic growth and development in 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 game-changer for Balochistan's sustainable development.

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 quickly dwindling by the appointment of heads from junior officials who lack the influence to navigate bureaucratic hurdles or garner support from higher officials. Additionally, the prevailing bureaucratic culture poses further challenges by not providing an enabling environment for these officials.

To address these issues, it is imperative to appoint heads of these authorities from the private sector.

These individuals should possess local knowledge, familiarity with public sector practices, and established connections with politicians and higher authorities within the government. This approach will ensure that the heads of these authorities have the necessary clout and influence to drive meaningful progress and overcome bureaucratic obstacles effectively.

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

Balochistan's Struggle Against Child Marriage Hindered by Lack of Legislation

Chandni Kakar:

A bill aiming to put an end to child marriage in Balochistan, Pakistan's largest province, has been lingering for seven months in the province still adheres to a law dating back to 1929, where the legal marriage age for boys is 18 and for girls is 16. However, the penalties for breaking this law are minimal. Nonetheless, public sentiment is shifting due to efforts to curb early marriages in other provinces like Sindh.

An incident in Balochistan highlighted the challenges in preventing child marriages. Police were alerted to a comprehensive, deploying a significant force when attempting to intervene. Upon entering a house where a wedding was underway, the women were initially alarmed by the presence of the police, but their fears subsided when activists, including Hamida

Noor, approached them.

Hamida Noor, a prominent advocate for women's rights, recounted her involvement in thwarting a child marriage attempt. Despite the risk of resistance from the household and the community, Hamida and her team pressed forward.

Hamida explained that in 2019, amidst their work on domestic violence cases, they received a call reporting a planned child marriage in the Kali Qambari area of Quetta. After confirming the information, they approached the police and decided to take action despite warnings about potential resistance in the tribal area.

Accompanied by a female lawyer and another activist, they approached the local police station and confirmed the ongoing wedding. Despite fac-

ing initial opposition, they convinced the police to raid the ceremony.

Upon entering the wedding venue, they encountered resistance from the women present.

However, they managed to speak with the young bride and her father, who was the underage, despite her initial claim of being 18. The police were instructed to take the girl to the station, but Hamida and her team insisted on detaining the groom as well. Despite legal hurdles and the groom's subsequent refusal to bail, the incident served as a deterrent against future attempts at child marriage.

Legal status of child marriage issue. The Federal Shariat Court Islamabad took suo motu notice of an incident of child marriage on 21 November 2022. On which the

court had directed the Balochistan government to submit the legislation in this regard and its draft before the next appearance.

Then on March 21, 2023, Federal Shariat Court Chief Justice Dr. Syed Muhammad Anwar and Justice Khadim Hussain Shahkhan, in the Sumoto case, in which the court took notice of the marriage of a five-year-old girl in Khuzdar district of Balochistan.

During the hearing, the government officials submitted a report in the court that Balochistan has drafted a bill to address the challenges, including resistance from traditional laws and societal norms, activists like Hamida Noor and Bahram Lahri remain committed to ending child marriage in Balochistan through legal reforms and community engagement.

Nasir Baloch, an official from the social

welfare agency of Balochistan, confirmed the submission of the bill to the court. Bahram Lahri, an advocate against child marriage, emphasized the urgency of addressing the issue, citing its detrimental impact on maternal and child health.

Bahram recounted the case of a young girl involved in drafting the bill, which sets the legal marriage age at 18 for both boys and girls and imposes stricter penalties for violations. He highlighted the inclusion of provisions empowering the police to intervene and stop child marriages.

Despite the challenges, including resistance from traditional laws and societal norms, activists like Hamida Noor and Bahram Lahri remain committed to ending child marriage in Balochistan through legal reforms and community engagement.

Materialistic metaphysics

By Gulnam Shabbir:

THIS modern civilization, pure reason edged out religion. Thus, this Enlightenment movement triggered the emergence of corrupt Revolution, whose persistent dynamic impulse brought about the Industrial Revolution — since it is itself a product of violent reaction against revelation.

Whether we agree or disagree with the intellectual foundations, norms, secular ethics and values of this modern civilization, we are destined to share its ultimate crisis just as we are sharing its fruits. When Descartes' declaration that "reason can stand on its own" became the leitmotif of European

civilization, pure reason edged out religion. Thus, this Enlightenment movement triggered the emergence of corrupt Revolution, whose persistent dynamic impulse brought about the Industrial Revolution — since it is itself a product of violent reaction against revelation.

Whether we agree or disagree with the intellectual foundations, norms, secular ethics and values of this modern civilization, we are destined to share its ultimate crisis just as we are sharing its fruits. When Descartes' declaration that "reason can stand on its own" became the leitmotif of European

earth. His self-destructive genius puts the survival of the world and life in it at stake. Life on earth has witnessed destruction five times, the fifth time about 60 million years ago. Now we must consider what consequence terribly excessive carbon emissions and destructive nuclear arsenals are entailing. What havoc they are about to wreak on our planet. Noam Chomsky says: "Nuclear arsenals and climate change are an ample testimony to the fact that man is an evolutionary error." His remark echoes a striking similarity with the divine judgement at the time of creation. "Indeed, we offered the Trust to the

heavens and the earth and the mountains, and they declined to bear it and feared it; but man (undertook to bear it). Indeed, he was unjust and ignorant" (33:72). Shorn of morality, man could be the most dangerous species. This "Trust" is bestowal of faculty of reason and volition on man to establish a just moral social world order. The Quran invites people of the world to share this responsibility. Hence, today we are "reaping" what was sown in the intellectual foundations of the European Renaissance, Christian Reformation Movement and Peace of

Westphalia, which alienated religion from the socioeconomic and political spheres. The ethical hollowiness of modern man has rendered his vision myopic and priorities so warped and distorted that rudderless in the sea of unquenchable desires, he is probing in the dark. Man is zeroing in on Mars while the affairs of the earth are becoming ever more complicated and dangerously intractable. Pure intellect has successfully defeated the moral purpose of life, turning man into a Frankenstein's monster. So, be it the rapid deterioration and decompo-

sition of man's social life and/or ecological disasters, both are the outcome of the corrupt socioeconomic structures based on materialistic metaphysics.

The Quran offers man a complete programme for self-reformation which is sufficient to save our civilization. The light of the Quran at the advent of Islam, as portrayed in vivid imagery in the Quran, was the enlightenment of intellect to man that played equality which all people share in the eyes of God should reflect in the socioeconomic and political affairs of the globe. At the time of creation, God set a challenge for man to play equality which all people share in the eyes of God should reflect in the socioeconomic and political affairs of the globe. Failure to live up to the challenge is not only of Muslims; it is, in fact, the failure of entire mankind.

Pakistan, China congratulate Yunus on becoming Bangladesh interim gov't leader

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan and China have welcomed the formation of a new interim government in Bangladesh and congratulated Professor Muhammad Yunus on becoming the interim head...

Bangladesh, Sheikh Sharif Tweed. In a post uploaded on X platform, Sheikh Sharif said "Wishing him great success in guiding Bangladesh towards a harmonious and prosperous future. I look forward to working with him to deepen cooperation between Pakistan and Bangladesh in the days ahead."



QUETTA: Member of Provincial Assembly Engineer Zmarak Khan Achakzai is talking to Provincial Minister Mir Sadiq Umrani.

UNITED NATIONS (UN) approves its first treaty targeting cybercrime

UNITED NATIONS (INP): UN member states on Thursday approved a treaty targeting cybercrime, the body's first such text, despite fierce opposition from human rights activists who have warned of potential surveillance dangers.

more efficiently and effectively," notably regarding child sexual abuse imagery and money laundering. Having a "landmark convention," South Africa's delegate said "the provisions of technical assistance and capacity building offer much needed support to countries with less developed cyber infrastructures."

Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) rallies with index rising 693 points

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Stock Exchange closed on Friday with a sharp bearish trend was seen during the last trading day with the benchmark KSE-100 index gaining 693 points today (Friday).

after an increase of 798 points or 1.02 percent. A sharp bearish trend was seen during the last trading day with the benchmark KSE-100 index falling by over 1,900 points at one point, however, the index lost 1,721 points to close at 80,117. On July 13, after the staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was reached, the stock market was bullish and increased by 533 points in the early trading on August 7.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers, Parliamentary Secretary, Member of Assembly, Senator and others are meeting Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti.

Stray dogs posing great threat to lives of Federal Capital's residents

ISLAMABAD (INP): Stray dogs roaming the streets, parks, green belts and playgrounds of different sectors of Federal Capital Islamabad have become a significant concern for residents, posing serious threats to their safety.

administration, the issue persists due to the administration's failure to effectively eliminate the stray dogs. Instead, the number of stray dogs continues to rise rapidly due to inadequate planning by the relevant departments of the CDA.

Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) arrests mastermind of Abdul Qayyum Sufi murder case

KARACHI (INP): The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) has arrested the mastermind behind the murder of Abdul Qayyum Sufi, who was killed in a targeted killing incident in Gulistan-e-Johar.

the murder. The investigation into the case was transferred to the case in the orders of the Inspector General of Police, Sindh. The CTD has said that the accused will be charged with murder and terrorism charges. The investigation into the case is underway it is pertinent to mention here that the religious scholar Maulana Abdul Qayyum Sufi was gunned down.

Grid of public notices and tender notices from various departments and agencies, including notices for land acquisition, public works, and tenders for construction and services.

Election Amendment Act 2024 challenged in Lahore high Court (LHC)

LAHORE (INP): Election Amendment Act 2024 has been challenged in the Lahore High Court (LHC).

Citizen Mashkoor Hussain has filed the petition through Nadeem Sarwar against the Election Amendment Act, making Election Commission, president and PM respondents.

Petitioner contended that four amendments were made in the Election Act to the Supreme Court reserved seats verdict.

The amendment act was passed without approval of the relevant committee and consultation.

Petitioner pleaded the court to annul the Election Amendment Act and halt its

enforcement until final verdict on the petition.

It is pertinent to note that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has also challenged the petition in the Supreme Court on August 7, labelled it violation of constitution and law and aimed to thwart PTI.

President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday signed the 'controversial' Election Act Amendment Bill 2024 which became a law.

The Senate passed the Election Act Amendment Bill by a majority vote despite protest by the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Aug 6.

As the session started with Yousuf Raza Gilani in the

chair, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Talal Chaudhry presented the Election Act Amendment Bill. The opposition members stood on their seats and started to protest.

The amendment provides that "a candidate who does not submit the party certificate before obtaining the election symbol will be considered an independent candidate."

If the list of candidates for reserved seats is not submitted within the specified period, no political party will be entitled to those seats.

It also provides that any candidate's declaration of affiliation to a political party will be irrevocable.



ISLAMABAD: Masjid-i-Nabvi Imam Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.

JJ's sit-in achieved its targets, claims Amir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman

ISLAMABAD (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman said that they have achieved the targets through its historical sit-in staged in Rawalpindi against the exorbitant electricity bills.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Friday, he said that the JJ gave some time to the government to reconsider its policies pertaining to the Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

"We have not called off our sit-in. We just put it on hold for some days and gave time to the government."

Ji emir said. He urged the government to cut down the electricity prices to postpone its sit-in in order to avoid the JJ's sit-in in future.

Hafiz Naeem added that the JJ gave awareness to the people

over the issues of exorbitant electricity bills and IPPs. "The joint committee of JJ and government will review the electricity bills within a month," he said.

Earlier, the government and JJ had reached an agreement pertaining to relief for the masses in electricity bills, reduction in taxes for the salaried class and reviewing the IPPs contracts.

The JJ had staged a sit-in for its demands. Several rounds of talks between the government and the JJ took place on Thursday. Their negotiations concluded with the formation of a taskforce to resolve issues and announce the sit-in. Also Read: JJ, govt reach agreement as taskforce formed to resolve issues

Both sides reached an agree-

ment with respect to reducing power tariff, reviewing IPPs contracts, and cutting taxes imposed on salaried class.

Talking to journalists, JJ Naib emir Liaquat Baloch said, "An empowered taskforce has been set up which will complete its work in a month and submit its report to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif."

The sit-in staged by JJ on July 26 has created a history as the government set up a taskforce to meet the JJ's demands," he said.

The government has also agreed on the ToRs of the taskforce, which include selecting experts from the public-private sector, involving the Wapda chairman and auditor general, and hiring a private firm and chartered accountants to examine the IPPs matters. Baloch said.

WB study urges energy Balochistan to harness renewable energy potential for electricity

ISLAMABAD (INP): The World Bank study on Balochistan's Renewable Energy Development has highlighted the province's vast potential to harness variable renewable energy (VRE) sources and create a surplus of electricity.

This surplus electricity could be exported to other provinces within Pakistan or to international markets, reducing Balochistan's reliance on power imports. The study has suggested that the existing import connection lines can be used to stabilize the grid, allowing for the exchange of electricity with other countries at competitive prices and optimizing the annual supply mix.

In the short term (by 2028), the study has noted that while a consistent surplus of VRE supply may not be available for continuous export, there could be seasonal opportunities for reverse power flow through the soon-to-be available CASA1000 high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line to Central Asia (Uzbekistan, Kyrgyz Republic, and potentially Kazakhstan).

The Central Asia Regional Electricity Market (CAREM) in this region has experienced an electricity deficit during the winter, with growing demand. The

study indicates that the GW-scale opportunity presented by Balochistan's VRE surplus could be of interest to the countries in Central Asia to help meet their seasonal electricity demand deficit.

Balochistan has an immense, largely untapped potential for cost-effective solar and wind power generation. The province's photovoltaic (PV) power potential ranges from 2,000 to 2,500 kWh/m², placing it among the world's most resource-rich regions for solar energy. Remarkably, PV power in Balochistan can achieve up to 35% grid utilization, and its energy supply profile aligns well with the local demand profile.

Furthermore, Balochistan has the highest excellent Direct Normal Irradiation (DNI) levels of up to 2,500 kWh/m² per year in certain areas, which presents the best opportunities for Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) development. The remote regions of Chagai and Panjgur within the province also have the most favorable wind power sites in Pakistan, with a staggering 15 GW of potential generation capacity at high competitive costs from these clean energy sources.

The study has identified a

significant short-term (by 2028) opportunity of approximately 5 GW of renewable energy capacity across 28 priority sites. This represents a "low-hanging fruit" opportunity that can be quickly unlocked by leveraging the province's current grid infrastructure. The study's detailed analysis of grid slots, land availability, and optimization of the most competitive VRE generation has pinpointed this substantial potential capacity for rapid development.

Implementing the identified Variable Renewable Energy (VRE) potential by 2028 would not only help Balochistan fully transition towards clean energy—as the VRE capacity would exceed the province's demand by that year—but also create an opportunity for other provinces to access this competitively priced renewable energy. Furthermore, the study has identified a potential for 1.7 GW of Distributed PV (DPV) systems to be installed on around 28,000 grid-connected tube wells operated by farmers. Solarizing these tube wells would not only free up additional grid capacity for further VRE deployment, but also—when combined with investments in efficient motors, fittings, and pumps—dramatically reduce electricity losses in this segment.



KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses business delegation from the People's Republic of China.

President, PM praises Arshad Nadeem for securing gold medal for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday congratulated javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem as he secured a gold medal for Pakistan at the 2024 Paris Olympics, ending the country's 32-year wait for an Olympic medal.

Arshad Nadeem won the gold medal in the men's javelin throwing event, defeating champion Neeraj Chopra of India to clinch Pakistan's first Olympic Athletic medal in Paris Olympics 2024, besides breaking the previous Olympic record with a 92.97-metre massive throw.

"You are a pride of the whole nation," both the president and prime minister said in their separately issued statements.

Arshad Nadeem's victory is the victory of whole nation. Setting a fabulous Olympic world record is a great achievement. You

have made us proud by winning the gold medal in a great contest of Olympics and bringing fame to Pakistan," President Zardari stated.

Both the president and prime minister also prayed to Allah Almighty for more successes of Arshad Nadeem in his future endeavors.

"Bravo Arshad! History made! Pakistan's first Olympic men's javelin champion Arshad Nadeem brings home a historic gold medal at Paris 2024! You've made the whole nation proud young man," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline.

In a statement, he greeted the whole nation on this great achievement of Arshad Nadeem for not only winning the gold medal but also setting the world record in Olympics.

He said that two over 90

meters throws without any foul manifested his great performance and also a "very beautiful gift" of Arshad Nadeem for the nation.

"You have made a history in Pakistan as well as the Olympics by setting a new record. The whole nation feels proud of you," he remarked.

The prime minister lauded Arshad Nadeem's hard work and that of his family to win the title and bringing laurels to Pakistan after decades.

He recalled that in his previous meeting with him, he found Arshad Nadeem overwhelmed with the passion to bring fame to his country.

"The whole nation bows before Allah Almighty for this great success. Arshad Nadeem's hard work, dedication and great achievement is a role model for the young athletes," the prime minister remarked.

Monsoon rains likely till Aug 12 in Punjab

LAHORE (INP): The monsoon rains have been predicted in Punjab from today i.e. August 9 to August 12.

According to the Meteorological Department, from August 9, monsoon winds will enter the country from the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal with intensity. Till August 12, Kashmir, Neelum Valley, Rawalkot, and Bagh are likely to experience intermittent rain with strong winds.

Weather forecasters said that between August 9 and 12, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Sindh, and Gilgit-Balistan may also experience strong winds and thunder.

Due to heavy rains, there is a risk of flooding in Murree, Gujjar, Manshra, Kohistan, Dir, Swat, Shangla, Swabi, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and East Punjab.

The Meteorological Department has also expressed the fear of inundation of the low-lying areas due to the rains between August 9 and 12.

According to the Provin-

cial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) spokesperson, there are chances of rain with wind and thunder in most districts of South Punjab on August 10 and 11. Monsoon rains are expected in Lahore, Gujranwala, Rawalpindi, Sargodha, Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan, Bahawalpur, Faisalabad, Sahiwal, and Gujjar divisions.

Director General (DG) PDMA Irfan Kathia stated that alert has been issued to the concerned administrations across the province regarding the weather situation.

The concerned departments should remain alert in view of the instructions of the Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz. In view of the fear of urban flooding, the administration should be alert and complete advance arrangements.

Irfan Kathia further said that Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners (DCs), Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA), Irrigation Department, Rescue, Civil Defense,

and other related departments have been directed to be alert. The situation is being monitored 24 hours in the control room.

Karachi

On the other hand, it is partly cloudy in the city of Karachi due to which the possibility of light rain and drizzle is being shown in the city today.

According to the Meteorological Department, the minimum temperature of the city today is 28.4 and the maximum temperature can go up to 33 degrees Celsius.

The weather forecasters stated that winds are blowing from the southwest direction in the city at a speed of 14km per hour and humidity is recorded at 78 percent.

According to the Department of Meteorology, under the influence of monsoon winds, there is a possibility of rain in interior Sindh from tonight to August 11.

Intermittent rain with strong winds and thunder is expected in Sindh.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, meeting with ILE Prof. Dr. Omer Bolat Minister of Trade of the Republic of Turkey along his delegation.

FoodAg 2024: Expertise brought by int'l chefs something new: Jam Kamal

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan has said though Pakistan offers a variety of continental food but the expertise brought by the international chefs participating in FoodAg 2024 is something new.

Addressing the soft launch of the second FoodAg 2024 at a local hotel on Friday, he said that Pakistan was quickly embracing new continental recipes. He invited the visiting chefs to explore Pakistan's street food, highlighting its unique taste.

Jam Kamal Khan mentioned that the trend of eateries and cafes was growing globally and Pakistan was growing globally and Pakistan was not an exception, with a strong love for food and an expanding food culture.

Food served as a bridge for

people to learn about each other and their cultures, he emphasized.

The minister commerce expressed the hope that food could help strengthen and further expand bilateral relations.

He assured that the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) team and others would do their utmost to provide excellent hospitality to the visiting chefs.

Speaking at the event, South African chef Shaun highlighted that FoodAg 2024 would enable chefs to learn about ingredients from different cultures and countries. He emphasized that food has always influenced the world and continues to do so.

Shaun noted that the food Pakistanis eat today was vastly different from what was con-

sidered in the 1500s.

He also pointed out some variations in ingredients used across different countries and regions.

The soft launch event of the Second International Food and Agriculture Exhibition 2024,

was attended by the TDAP Chief Executive Zubair Motiwalla, chefs from different countries including Malaysia, South Africa, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Egypt and others.

The FoodAg 2024 is being organized by TDAP EXPO Center Karachi from August 9th to 11th. With its theme of "Growing a sustainable future". The FoodAg 2024 will bring International and local communities together to generate a hope for building a common future.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue & Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with Charge D-Affairs Shi Yuanqing and other officials of the Embassy of People's Republic of China.