

Balochistan Express

Quetta

Ex-spymaster Gen Faiz in military custody, court martial initiated

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The former spymaster, Lt-Gen (ret'd) Faiz Hameed, was detained by military authorities and court martial proceedings have been initiated against him on charges of corruption, misuse of authority, and violating the Pakistan Army Act.

"Complying with the orders of Supreme Court of Pakistan, a detailed court of inquiry was undertaken by Pakistan Army, to ascertain correctness of complaints in Top City case made against Lt-Gen (ret'd) Faiz Hameed. Consequently, appropriate disciplinary action has been initiated against Hameed, under provisions of Pakistan Army Act," read a statement issued by military's media wing, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Monday.

"In addition, multiple instances of violation of Pakistan Army Act post retirement have also been established. The process of Field General Court Martial has been initiated and Gen Faiz has been taken into military custody," the statement added.

Given the powerful position of head of ISI, it is seen as unusual that the former spymaster was not only arrested but court martial proceedings have been initiated against him.

The charges against Gen Faiz date back to May 2017 when he was DG-C in the ISI.

In April, the army constituted a high-level inquiry committee headed by a major general to look into the allegations against Gen Faiz.

The inquiry was ordered in pursuant to the orders of the Supreme Court and in the light of the directives of the Ministry of Defence.

This was the first formal inquiry ordered against Gen Faiz, who resigned in November 2022 four months before his retirement date. Gen Faiz served as DG C in the ISI and later headed the spy agency. His name surfaced in many controversies including the Faizabad Dharna case. Three-time former prime minister Nawaz Sharif named him and Gen Bajwa as main characters behind his removal through a Supreme Court decision.

On November 8, 2023, Moez Ahmed Khan,

the owner of Top City, filed a petition in the Supreme Court in which he accused Gen Faiz for misusing his authority.

The petition stated that on May 12, 2017, on the behalf of Gen Faiz, ISI officials raided the Top City office and his house. During the raid, valuables, including gold, diamonds and money, were seized from the house by ISI officials, the petitioner alleged.

The petition also stated that Sardar Najaf, the brother of Gen Faiz, also contacted him to resolve the issue later.

The petition also claimed that Gen Faiz later personally met him to resolve the issue, in which he assured that some of the items which had been taken away by the ISI officials during the raid would be returned. However, 400 tolas of gold and cash will not be returned to him.

The petition also alleged that the ISI officials extorted Rs4 crore cash from them.

Considering the sensitivity of the matter and in view of these serious allegations, a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court, which included Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faiz Isa, Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Aminuddin, heard the case.

The Supreme Court observed this was a very serious matter and the serious nature of allegations may damage the image of the entire institution, therefore the matter cannot be ignored. The Supreme Court asked the attorney general to look into the matter and discuss with the relevant authorities.

The Attorney General for Pakistan assured the Supreme Judiciary that full cooperation will be given to the matter and action will be taken according to law.

Following the direction, the army constituted the inquiry committee to look into the matter.

Meanwhile, the Director General of Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) Lt-Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has emphasized that the military's self-accountability system is a strict, transparent, and continuous process that operates without bias.

Heavy Rain expected in Balochistan: PDMA

By Our Reporter

QUETTA: A new spell of rain is expected to enter Balochistan on August 15 and continue until August 18.

According to the Meteorological Department, rain is predicted in Khuzdar, Qalat, Sorab, Awaran, Mastung, Naseerabad, Jaffarabad, Sohatpur, Jhal Magsi, Kachi, Sibi, Panjgur, Kohlu, Musakhel, Barkhan, Loralai, Hernai, Zhoab, Ziarat, Sherani, and the coastal areas of Makran from August 15 to 18.

Following this forecast, the PDMA (Provincial Disaster Management Authority) has issued an alert for the province, advising that landslides and flooding may occur due to the rains. There is a risk of overflow from streams and rivers, so the public should avoid unnecessary travel and refrain from visiting picnic points.

According to the PDMA, there is also a risk of lightning during the rains. The PDMA has instructed the relevant district administrations to remain alert during this period.

PTI decries SC ruling on vote recount in three constituencies

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders on Monday expressed deep disappointment with the Supreme Court's ruling on vote recount in three National Assembly constituencies, calling it a "murder of justice."

DC Panjgur martyred, MC injured in Mastung attack

By Beberg Baloch

QUETTA: The Deputy Commissioner of Panjgur, Zakir Hussain Baloch, was martyred, and the Chairman of the Municipal Committee of Panjgur, Abdul Malik Baloch, was seriously injured in an armed attack by unknown assailants on the Quetta-Karachi National Highway, near Mastung, late Monday evening.

Officials reported that Deputy Commissioner Zakir Hussain Baloch was traveling to Quetta from Panjgur with the Chairman of the Municipal Committee, Abdul Malik Baloch, when armed men opened indiscriminate fire on their vehicle near the Khadkocha area of Mastung.

In the attack, both the Deputy Commissioner and the Chairman of the Municipal Committee were seriously injured and were immediately taken to the nearby Shaheed Nawab Ghous Bakhs Raisani Memorial Hospital in Mastung. However, Mr. Zakir Hussain Baloch succumbed to his injuries.

Dr. Saeed Ahmed, the Chief Executive of the hospital, confirmed the Deputy Commissioner's death, stating that he had sustained multiple bullet injuries to various parts of his body.

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Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif inaugurates the Commonwealth Asia Youth Alliance Secretariat, at the International Youth Day ceremony in Islamabad.

Hostile forces are creating rift between state and people: CM

By Our Reporter

QUETTA: Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has said that Balochistan is under threat from hostile forces attempting to create a rift between the state and its people.

He expressed these views during the concluding ceremony of the All Balochistan Independence Day Shooting Championship on Monday, which was attended by provincial ministers, members of the assembly, and senior officials.

Chief Minister Bugti noted that vibrant nations celebrate Independence Day with enthusiasm and praised the grand celebrations of Independence Day throughout Balochistan.

He remarked that rifle shooting has been a traditional part of the culture for Baloch, Pashtun, and local tribes but has been overlooked in recent times. He emphasized the need to revitalize this sport and congratulated the organizers for successfully arranging the rifle shooting event on short notice as part of the Independence Day celebrations.

Bugti highlighted that promoting sports can help alter extremist behaviors. He pointed out that hostile forces are active in Balochistan on three different fronts that need to be addressed. While social media can be a useful tool, it is unfortunately being misused. Although the world has embraced social media to strengthen moral values, in Balochistan, it has been misused to create divisions between the state and the youth through false narratives and propaganda.

The Chief Minister called for the positive use of social media to counter these conspiracies and stressed the need for legislation to expose false propaganda and narratives to the public and youth.

He assured that any elements creating rifts between the state and the youth, whether from the mountains or on social media, will be dealt with. He affirmed that the people of Balochistan are patriotic, and all conspiracies against the state will fail. He expressed his commitment to uphold the decision made Continued on page 7

CPEC to boost Balochistan's economy: CM

By Our Reporter

QUETTA: The Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, has said that the completion of G-to-G (Government-to-Government) projects under CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) will not only positively impact Balochistan but also benefit Pakistan's economy as a whole and promote foreign investment.

A delegation from Shanghai A.D.M International Trading Company Limited met with Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti to discuss private Chinese investment in Balochistan. On this occasion, Saeed Ahmed, the head of the Balochistan Board of Investment, was also present.

During the discussion, Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti emphasized that accelerating economic and industrial activities in Balochistan would create employment opportunities and boost industrial development, leading to faster social development in the region.

Two drown in Hub dam

By Our Correspondent

HUB: Two people drowned in a dam in Hub.

According to PDMA Balochistan officials, they were informed on Monday that two individuals.

Governor pushes for governance reform & Electric Cars

By Our Reporter

QUETTA: The Governor of Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhel, has said that strengthening the reliance of people in remote and underdeveloped districts on federal and provincial governments, providing a solid foundation for participatory governance, and solving public issues at the doorstep of the people can only be achieved by empowering local government institutions.

He made these remarks during a conversation with the former Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, Dr. Ishrat Hussain, at the Governor House in Quetta on Monday.

Governor Mandokhel emphasized that it is crucial to strengthen local governments, which form the third tier of government, to effectively address local concerns, promote participatory governance, and advance inclusive development.

On another occasion, following a briefing from the CEO of QESCO, the Governor directed an immediate halt to unannounced load shedding, emphasizing that even good customers are frustrated due to power Continued on page 7

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Welfare of Balochistan's people top priority of govt: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday held a meeting with a delegation led by President National Party

Abdul Malik Baloch and discussed the overall political situation in Balochistan province. Senator Jan Muhammad Jamali and member National Assembly Pullain Baloch were part of the delegation.

During the meeting, the prime minister said welfare and well being of the people of Balochistan was the top priority of the government.

Seven injured in Quetta grenade attack

By Our Reporter

QUETTA: A hand grenade attack by unknown individuals resulted in seven people being injured in the Pashtoonabad area of Quetta.

According to the police, on Monday, unknown individuals on a motorcycle threw a hand grenade at Chalu Bawri Chowk in the Pashtoonabad area of Quetta. The grenade exploded with a loud blast, injuring seven people, who were immediately taken to a hospital.

Upon receiving the report of the incident, a contingent of security forces arrived at the scene, cordoned off the area, collected evidence, and began searching for the suspects.

Election tribunal orders NADRA verification for Quetta PB-40 votes

By Our Reporter

QUETTA: A bench of the Election Tribunal, comprising Justice Abdullah Baloch of the Balochistan High Court, has ordered the verification of Form 45 and all votes for the PB-40 Quetta-3 constituency through NADRA's fingerprint verification system.

While delivering a reserved judgment in the case of Qadir Ali Nail vs. Samad Khan Gorgaj and others, the Election Tribunal, led by Justice Abdullah Baloch, instructed that all Form 45 and votes from the PB-40 Quetta-3 constituency be verified by NADRA.

According to the order, after reviewing and observing the claims and evidence of the parties, the tribunal concluded that, to determine whether the election was fair or tampered with, it is necessary to verify all votes through NADRA's fingerprint system to uncover the facts.

Additionally, the claimant Qadir Ali Nail has been instructed to bear all costs associated with the verification process by NADRA.

BSF condemns vandalism of Syed Zahoor Hashmi's statue

By Our Correspondent

TURBAT: The central spokesperson for the Baloch Students' Front has condemned the vandalism of the statue of Syed Zahoor Shah Hashmi, calling it a direct attack on Baloch cultural heritage, linguistic identity, and collective memory.

In a statement issued on Monday, the BSF spokesperson said that Syed Zahoor Shah Hashmi's contributions are unparalleled. He was a beacon of hope, inspiration, and guidance for generations of Baloch students, writers, and intellectuals.

The statement further read that Syed Hashmi's efforts to promote the Balochi language and culture have left permanent marks on society. The destruction of his statue not only insults his legacy but also represents a blatant attempt to erase cultural symbols and linguistic identity.



A delegation from the Shanghai International Trading Company is briefing the Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti on various aspects of their operations and interests in the province.

SC reinstates ECP's decision for re-counting in NA-154,81,79

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday reinstated the decision of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for vote re-counting in three constituencies of National Assembly (NA).

A three-member bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justices Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi announced the verdict pertaining to recount in three constituencies including NA-154, NA-

81, and NA-79. The judgment was announced with a majority of 2 to 1 with a dissenting note by Justice Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi.

In a 47-pages judgment authored by the CJP, the court said "the judgments/orders passed by the LHC in the aforesaid writ petitions do not suffer from any factual errors or legal infirmity, therefore, do not require any interference by this court, under Article 185(3) of the constitution. Accordingly, the above civil petitions are dismissed and leave to appeal refused.

The detailed judgment said, "It is also admitted that in respect of three of the constituencies applications to recount the ballot papers were submitted on 9 February 2024 and in respect of one on 10 February 2024."

It said, "The legislature, however, had made a significant change (on 5 August 2023) in section 95(5) of the Elections Act, which was to take away the discretion vesting in

the Returning Officer when considering an application seeking recount of the ballot papers."

The court said, "When the writ petitions were filed before the High Court the amended section 95(5) was in place.

However, the significance of the changes made in section 95(5) was not considered by the learned Judges of the High Court."

It said that the court has already declared in its judgments that the election conditions could only be challenged before election tribunal and that generally in an election process the High Court cannot interfere with by invoking its Constitutional jurisdiction in view of Article 225 of the Constitution.

However, this is subject to an exception that where no legal remedy is available to an aggrieved.

The verdict said, "The Returning Officer of one constituency noted on the application on 10 February 2024 that, 'The application regarding recount the votes is not maintainable but without stating the reason why it was not maintainable.

The petitioner challenged the RO's order by filing a petition on 11 February 2024 before the Commission.

The order said, "In respect of another constituency, the RO acknowledged receipt of the application to recount on 9 February 2024, but stated he could not undertake a recount because 'a huge number of political workers gathered outside the office of the undersigned and climbed the walls of the premises.

A similar response was given regarding the third constituency. -APP

Ahsan stresses upon peace, stability, reforms for success

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Monday emphasized upon the crucial role of peace, political stability, policy continuity, and continuous reforms in achieving national success.

Speaking at an event marking the International Day of Youth, organized by the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, he stressed that these interconnected factors were vital for driving growth and prosperity in Pakistan, urging the

youth to recognize the importance of a stable and peaceful environment for the country's progress.

"This is not a matter of political ideology, but a question of the future and well-being of 240 million people and youth of Pakistan," he added.

Ahsan Iqbal expressed his belief that a stable government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, working towards a single agenda for the next five years, would empower the youth to surpass India in the race for

success.

He highlighted the focus areas of economy, agriculture, technology, industry, and exports, saying that single agenda approach would ultimately lead Pakistan to winning the 'gold medal' in progress and development.

Ahsan Iqbal remarked that Pakistan was built for success, not to lag behind. He honored the sacrifices of the country's forefathers, by saying, "Our ancestors gave their sacrifices for a prosperous Pakistan, and it's our responsibility to fulfill their dreams." -APP



Parliamentary Secretary Social Welfare Haji Wali Muhammad Noorzai addressing a press conference.



CM Sarfraz Bugti addressing during concluding ceremony of All Balochistan Independence Day Shooting Championship on Monday.

Kundi accords warm welcome to Imam Masjid-e-Nabwi

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan accorded a warm welcome to the Imam Masjid-e-Nabwi Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair during the latter's visit to the Governor's House, here on Monday. Saudi envoy Nawaf bin Saeed al-Maliki was also present.

Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair's presence is a matter of joy and honor for him. He said Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia enjoy long standing fraternal relations.

The Governor Punjab said Saudi Arabia has always supported Pakistan in difficult times.

Imam Masjid-e-Nabwi

Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair also led the Zuhr prayer in Jamia Masjid Governor's House. A large number of Governor House staff and public offered prayer led by Imam Masjid-e-Nabwi Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair. The distinguished guest also held a special prayer for the prosperity, peace and unity of Muslim Ummah.

Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair also visited the Governor's House. Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan informed the Imam of Masjid-e-Nabwi Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair about the historical importance of the Governor's House. -APP

Father, son killed in accident

PESHAWAR: An accident on the Indus Highway Karak at Spinah Mor claimed the lives of a father and son after the truck they were travelling in suffered brake failure. The victims have been identified as Shakeel Ahmed, 68, and his 28-year-old son, both residents of Peshawar. Emergency response teams quick to arrive at the scene, where they conducted relief operations and transported the bodies to DHQ Hospital Karak. -APP

Naqvi meets Chairman MQM and Secretary General JUP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi held separate meetings with Chairman MQM Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and JUP Secretary General Owais Noorani. During the meetings, matters of mutual interest, the overall political situation of the country and promoting religious harmony and brotherhood were discussed.

Mohsin Naqvi and Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui strongly condemned the vicious propaganda against state institutions. Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that state institutions are a proud asset of the country, and the organized propaganda against state institutions is like betraying the country. He underscored that no one will be allowed to run a nefarious campaign against the state institutions.

Interior Minister pointed out that any attempt to hinder Pakistan's development

and people's prosperity will not succeed. He said that personal interests have no value in the face of national interests. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said that everyone needs to unite and move forward for the sake of the country.

During meeting with JUP Secretary General Owais Noorani, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that JUP has always spoken for the best interest of the country. He reiterated that everyone needs to move forward by joining their hands together. He highlighted that we need to bring the country out of its current challenges through positive thinking and unity. He said that our beloved country has been facing numerous challenges and we need to turn these challenges into opportunities. -APP

Six including three children killed in road mishap

SARGODHA: Six people including three children killed in a road mishap here at Jhang Mankera road on Monday.

According to Rescue 1122 sources, a car was heading to Mankera from Mianwali, where a speeding car collided with a passenger van near Al Noor filling station Jhang Mankera road. Resultantly, car passengers namely Anum (06) Nosheen (04) Neha (16) died on the spot. While van passengers including Ghulam Nabi (55) r/o Mankera Noorankhan Khateel (40) r/o Mankera and Ahmed Ali (53) r/o Bhakkar also died on the spot.

Police teams reached the spot, shifted the bodies to hospital for necessary legal formalities. -APP

PM grieved over mountaineer Sadpara's death

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed his deep grief over the death of mountaineer Murad Sadpara.

"The services of late Murad Sadpara in the field of mountaineering will be remembered forever," the prime minister said in a statement.

He prayed to Allah Almighty for peace for the departed soul and strength for the bereaved family to bear the loss with fortitude.

Sadpara was severely injured when he slipped at an altitude of around 5,000m on Sunday while working as a guide for a climber during her summit of Broad Peak. However, he succumbed to his injuries on Monday morning, a day after the Pakistan Army launched an operation to rescue him from the Broad Peak. -APP

TENDER NOTICE

The BAEC invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. **TSE-242508517411** Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB.

Tender Fee Rs.1000/-

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Stationary (Total Item(s) Count: 3)	2%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 2,000,000 IN Previous 2 Years Turn over of at least 2,500,000 PKR in 2 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List Sales Tax Certificate The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan JV is not permissible Submission of the required Bid Security in case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in-eligible and non-responsive Submission of the required Bidding Document Fee Sample May Check Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Deal Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 28 August, 2024 during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The tenders must be submitted latest by 28 August, 2024 till 11:00 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM **Address:** Directorate of Education Balochistan Assessment & Examination Commission Shikawaka Road Quetta

Phone no: 345197929 Email: beacqta2015@gmail.com

Director BAEC

AB No.172/12-08-2024

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-242508515983 Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Executive Engineer Maintenance Division-III Quetta invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates.

Tender Fee Rs. 1000/- and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	Construction of Girls Middle School Akber Khan Khazai at Kharolabad Quetta	122,169,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 85,532,300 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm 01 Project Similar nature and complexity completed in last 05 Years 70% Estimated cost of this Project Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Deal Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 28 August, 2024 till 12:00 PM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 01:00 PM on EPPS System **Address:** Office of the Executive Engineer Maintenance Division-III Provincial B & R District Quetta Phone no: 0847510933 Fax no: 0847510933 Email: Q45434@bppra.gov.pk

Executive Engineer Maintenance Division-III Quetta

PRO No.518/12-08-2024

TENDER NOTICE

Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Kharan invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following work for the Year 2024-25 based on Composite schedule of rates 2023, who can prove their eligibility and qualification as mentioned in the bidding documents Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and Bid Security 4%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	FLOOD PROTECTION WALL GAWASH DISTRICT KHARAN PSDPN 2841 (2024-25) TSE-242508517033	49,000,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Eligibility Criteria can be seen in bidding documents. **Procedure of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Deal Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, 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 obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 28 August, 2024 during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The tenders must be submitted latest by 28 August, 2024 till 09:00 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 10:00 AM **Address:** Near DIG Police house, main Quetta road Kharan Phone no: 0847510933 Fax no: 0847510933 Email: irrigationdivisionkharan@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION KHARAN

PRO No.523/12-08-2024

Sindh Govt announces transfer of Jinnah University for women to Solar Energy

By Our Correspondent

Karachi: Provincial Energy Minister Nasir Hussain Shah announced the transfer of Jinnah University for Women to solar energy on behalf of the Sindh government.

He made this announcement while addressing the Independence Day ceremony at Jinnah University for Women, Nazimabad.

Chancellor Vajee Udin Ahmed, Vice Chancellor Dr. Naeem ur Rehman, former Test cricketer Shoab Muhammad, Sports Officer District Central Hqra Nawab, and a large number of teachers and students were also present on this occasion.

Nasir Hussain Shah stated that Pakistan came into being through great sacrifices, and we should value our freedom. He emphasized the importance of remembering occupied Kashmir and the oppressed Palestinian people on such an occasion. He added that we all have to do our part to develop the country.

On this occasion, Nasir Hussain Shah announced the transfer of Jinnah University for Women to solar energy on behalf of the Sindh government. The ceremony began with the recitation of the Holy Quran. Students presented a sketch based on the story of Hqra Nawab, and a large number of teachers and students were also present on this occasion.

Nasir Hussain Shah stated that Pakistan came into being through great sacrifices, and we should value our freedom. He emphasized the importance of remembering occupied Kashmir and the oppressed Palestinian people on such an occasion. He added that we all have to do our part to develop the country.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION KHARAN

PRO No.536/12-08-2024

PRE QUALIFICATION NOTICE

The Procuring Agency for Works invites applications from eligible Applicants for supply of following items. **TSE-242508517063** Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB.

S.No	Name of Work/s	Tender Fee
1	IMPROVEMENT OF SARAH GURJAI DAM DISTRICT QUETTA.	3,000 PKR

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **Eligibility of Applicants:**

S.No	Factor/Description
1	2 similar experience from the date of registration with the regulator (JV)
2	180,000,000 Million PKR (JV)
3	Presence in Active Tax Payer List
4	Registration with BRA
5	PEC/DRAP/PTA etc
6	Capabilities with respect to construction or manufacturing
7	Capabilities with respect to personal, equipment and plant
8	Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-3 and above (Up to 500 million) In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE04(iii) (dams only) OR CE04(i) (Dams/Water Retaining Structures)
9	The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan
10	Bidder must provide Work Order of 2 No of Flood Diversion, Flood Protection Bund, Embankment/Dam with Minimum Cost of 170,000 Million (Completed)
11	Bidder must provide Work Order of 1 No of Flood Diversion, Flood Protection Bund, Embankment/Dam with Minimum Cost of 170,000 Million. Similar Nature in Hand.
12	Green Challan

Pre Qualification Documents: The Pre Qualification documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 3,000 PKR in the form of: Green Challan, The NIP & Pre Qualification Document can also be downloaded from www.bppra.gov.pk **Issuance of Pre Qualification Documents:** From the date of publication of NIP to 28 August, 2024 12:00 PM during office hours on working days **Last Date of Application submission:** The Pre Qualification must be submitted latest by 28 August, 2024 till 11:00 AM at the office of the under-signed. **Pre Qualification Opening:** All Pre Qualification will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM **Address:** Quetta The Pre-Qualification Documents can be downloaded from E-Submission BPPRA Website: www.bppra.gov.pk. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 28 August, 2024 through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION QUETTA

PRO No.516/12-08-2024

NOTICES INVITING TENDER

The undersigned invites sealed percentage tender based on composite schedule of rates 2023 of GOB, amended up-to-date from the interested contractors / firms for the works listed below. **Time Limit: 06 Months (Each Scheme), Earnest Money: 2% (Each Scheme)**

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS:- THROUGH GRANT IN AID FOR THE YEAR 2023-24.

S.#	NAME OF PROPOSED SCHEME	TSE No.	E/COST
1.	Provision of Solar System for already existed drinking water bore at Hashin Goth UC Arifwala	242508516193	1,250,000
2.	Provision of Solar System for already existed drinking water bore at Nadir Khan Goth Langru UC Arifwala	242508516203	1,250,000
3.	Provision of Solar System for already existed drinking water bore at Goth Jan Muhammad UC Juman Bhit	242508516213	1,250,000
4.	Provision of Solar System for already existed drinking water bore at Goth Syed Abdul Latif Shah UC Juman Bhit	242508516243	1,250,000
5.	Provision of Solar System for already existed drinking water bore at Jamia Masjid Goth Kenwar UC Kenwari	242508516323	1,000,000
6.	Provision of Solar System for already existed Community drinking water Bore at Goth Ghamman Danda	242508516473	1,250,000

The procurement will strictly be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (BPPRA) rules, 2014. **ELIGIBILITY:** The Contractor must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in relevant category (C-06) and above (Up to 25 million) In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is EE1(i) (Solar), EE1(ii) (Solar Energy), EE1(iii) (Solar Energy system). **ME6 & ME 06 and 10 years Guarantee and 01 year maintenance service and registration with tax authorities i.e. (NTN and Sales Tax Department), where applicable. Presence in Active Tax Payer List.** The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 5 Assignment of similar nature of work Turnover of at least 500,000 PKR Amount. (in case of Solar projects only) in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm **METHOD OF PROCUREMENT:** Single stage - One envelope Bidding procedure. **BIDDING/TENDER DOCUMENTS:** Issuance: Documents will be issued from the date of publication till submission date and time on production of green Challan form amounting Rs: (1000) Non-refundable - (as bidding documents charges) deposited in the account 4048283872 of District Council Lasbela NBP Uthai Branch. **Submission:** Last date of Submission will be 28-08-2024 at 11:00am. **Opening:** The tender document will be opened on 28-08-2024 at 12:00pm (bid will be opened within one hour of the deadline for submission of bids), before procurement committee in the presence of contractors or their authorized representatives. **Place of issuance, submission, inquiries and opening will be - Address: Office of the Chief Officer District Council Lasbela Phone No: 0853-610375** E-mail address: districtcouncilasbela@gmail.com **Terms and conditions:** Under the following conditions bids will be rejected. Conditional, electronics and telegraphic bids / tender. Bids not accompanied by bid security / earnest money in shape of call deposit in favor of the undersigned. Bids received after specified date and time. Black listed contractors / firms.

CHIEF OFFICER, DISTRICT COUNCIL, LASBELA

AB No.168/12-08-2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. The Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Karachi at Dhadar has invited the sealed tender form (as per Schedule B and A) on the Composites Schedule of Rates 2018 Government of Balochistan from interested firms/contractors of following work:

BID SECURITY/ Earnest Money 2% in Shape of Call Deposit at Schedule Bank, Tender Fee Rs.2000/-

S.NO	NAME OF WORK	E/COST
1.	Construction of 17X Water Reservoirs for Drinking Purpose at Bhag (PSD No. 5949) TSE-242508517523	109,208,000/-

The Procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority rules, 2014. **BASIC ELIGIBILITY:** The Firms must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council who also has deposited case for renewal (2024-25) in relevant Category, and registration with tax authorities i.e. (NTN and BRA), including similar nature work experiences & Bank Statement Turnover. **Firms (Single Entry)** having valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in the Category C-4 or above. Valid Registration with Income Tax with active tax payer list (ATL) Valid Registration with Income BRA with active tax payer list (ATL) Other Mandatory conditions and Detail Marking Criteria mentioned in the Bidding Documents. **METHOD OF PROCUREMENT:** Single Stage-Two Envelope procedure must be deployed in the government treasury under the head of account CO-275 through the Green Challan Form at the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP). **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 04th September, 2024 till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System. **Address:** office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Karachi at Dhadar. Phone No: 3337868808 Bid Validity Period: Ninety (90) Days.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION KARACHI AT DHADAR

PRO No.536/12-08-2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. The Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Karachi at Dhadar has invited the sealed tender form (as per Schedule B and A) on the Composites Schedule of Rates 2018 Government of Balochistan from interested firms/contractors of following work:

BID SECURITY/ Earnest Money 2% in Shape of Call Deposit at Schedule Bank, Tender Fee Rs.2000/-

S.NO	NAME OF WORK	E/COST
1.	Construction of 17X Water Reservoirs for Drinking Purpose at Bhag (PSD No. 5949) TSE-242508517523	109,208,000/-

The Procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority rules, 2014. **BASIC ELIGIBILITY:** The Firms must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council who also has deposited case for renewal (2024-25) in relevant Category, and registration with tax authorities i.e. (NTN and BRA), including similar nature work experiences & Bank Statement Turnover. **Firms (Single Entry)** having valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in the Category C-4 or above. Valid Registration with Income Tax with active tax payer list (ATL) Valid Registration with Income BRA with active tax payer list (ATL) Other Mandatory conditions and Detail Marking Criteria mentioned in the Bidding Documents. **METHOD OF PROCUREMENT:** Single Stage-Two Envelope procedure must be deployed in the government treasury under the head of account CO-275 through the Green Challan Form at the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP). **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 04th September, 2024 till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System. **Address:** office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Karachi at Dhadar. Phone No: 3337868808 Bid Validity Period: Ninety (90) Days.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION KARACHI AT DHADAR

PRO No.536/12-08-2024

HIIT may be more effective than moderate exercise after a stroke

ISLAMABAD: Stroke is a condition where blood and oxygen are not able to get to the brain.

Exercise is an important part of stroke recovery.

Researchers from McMaster University have found that repeated one-minute bursts of high intensity interval training (HIIT) were more effective in improving aerobic fitness after a stroke than traditional, continuous moderate exercise.

Each year, about 15 million people around the world have a stroke - a condition where blood and oxygen is not able to get to the brain.

While stroke is treatable, researchers estimate that more than two-thirds of stroke survivors will require rehabilitation, which depends on the person's needs and can include speech, occupational, and physical therapies.

Previous studies show that exercising after a stroke offers several health benefits, including reduced risk of stroke recurrence and overall recovery.

A recent study found that repeated one-minute bursts of high-intensity interval training (HIIT) was more effective in improving aerobic fitness after a stroke than traditional, continuous moderate exercise.

Pakistan a country with boundless culture, heritage

By Ali Jabir

ISLAMABAD: The history of mankind is rich with countless occurrences - wars, conquests, rise and fall of dynasties, renaissance, revolutions, bloodshed, religious or social extremism, attire, food and festivals evolving specific civilizations.

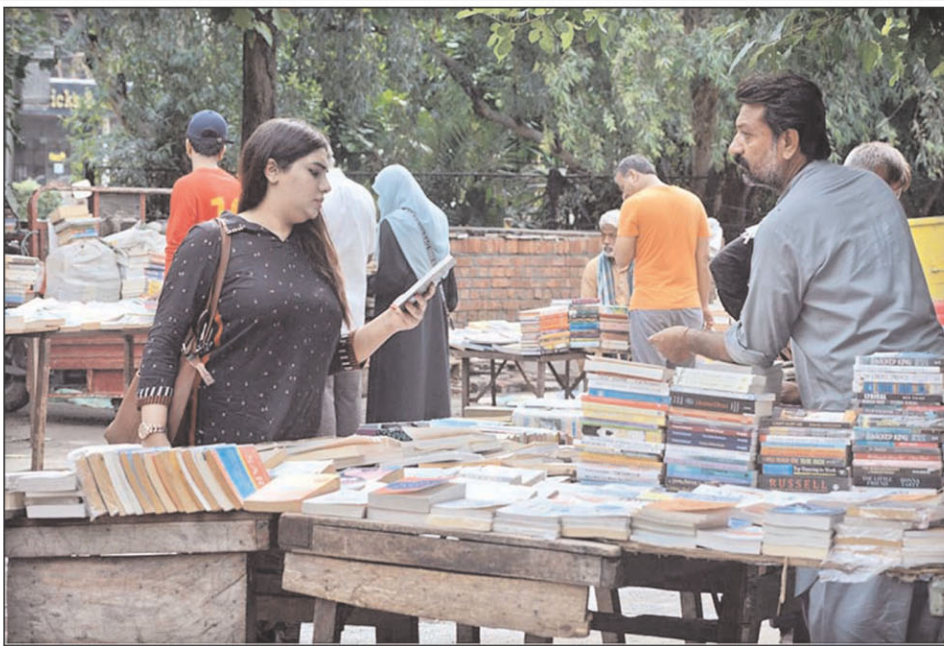
Each era had its own dynamics, gains and losses, intolerance and rigidity, customs and traditions as well as religious practices. People in those eras used to abide by different, norms, laws and the religious practices in vogue then, strictly gluing to their traditions and verdicts of tribal rulers, kings or sultans.

After the long eras of traditions, religion or creed based empires like Romans, Greeks, Babylon's, Omniad's and Abbasid caliphates - the emergence of new codes transformed ancient system to pluralist societies. Ottoman Empire could be perhaps the last broader and diverse mention worthy empire, existing on basis of religion but housing people from different communities, caste and creeds.

With its dismantling during early 20th century, a wave of nationalism emerged wherein people from different religion, caste, creed and races learnt to live together in one state. Then, the binding force among them was nationalism - over and above their caste, creed or religion.

Pakistan is also a unique country, boasting of its decade long struggle to get independence purely on a religious slogan and sustain thereon as a separate nation with slight tinge of boundless cultures and heritage mingled with the tints of pluralism.

Here the people of different caste, creed, customs and language live together and for them being Pakistani is the foremost recognition and a binding force as for them motherland comes first. "Every nation dreams of national strength and prosperity and for this, it needs rule of law, social justice and a peaceful society," remarked MNA Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani. "Countries or nations with discriminatory policies ultimately lose their identity as 'United They Stand and Divided They Fall.'" Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah materialized the dream of great, poet and philosopher Allam Dr Muhammad Iqbal for an independent homeland for Muslims of sub-continent where people following different caste and creed could live together with harmony. "For us Pakistan is our mainstay. No matter to which religion, caste or creed we belong to. Our foremost identity and our top priority is, and must be, Pakistan," Vankwani said.



LAHORE: Woman busy in selecting and purchasing old books from roadside stall at Mall Road in Provincial Capital.

TCB-1, SSRL receive environment awards

KARACHI: Thar Coal Block-1 Power Generation Company Private Limited (TCB-1) and Sino Sindh Resources Private Limited (SSRL), subsidiaries of Shanghai Electric currently working on a CPEC priority project, have been honoured with Environment Excellence Awards by the National Forum of Environment and Health (NFEH).

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Meng Donghai, Chairman of TCB-1 and SSRL, expressed his pleasure over the awards and stressed that the two companies will continue to give utmost importance to environment protection and stick to the principle of sustainable development.

TCB-1 and SSRL, who are jointly executing the 1320MW Thar Block-1 Integrated Energy Project, were both given awards at the 21st Environment Excellence Award 2024 by National

Forum of Environment and Health (NFEH) on August 07, 2024. The Awards ceremony was held alongside a conference on the nexus of climate change and food security which



was attended by leading experts of the field.

"We are delighted to receive the awards which are a testimony of our commitment towards the environment," commented Mr. Meng Donghai. "This is the fourth year in a row that we have been given these awards, a fact that gives us great pleasure and satisfaction. I must say that we will continue to go the extra mile in our efforts to protect the environment."

He stressed that both SSRL and TCB-1 will keep working on various projects for the greater benefit of the community and will continue to make sure that the companies make lives better for the people of the area.

He pointed out that the Thar Block-1 Integrated Energy Project has provided more than 20,000 direct employment opportunities for the locals, with a cumulative tax payment of US\$170 million and CSR expenditure of over US\$2 million, focused on improving the lives of the local community.

ISAAR Academic Excellence Award ceremony held

SIALKOT: The Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) President attended the ISAAR Academic Excellence Award 2024 ceremony.

The event was organized to honor and appreciate the top position holders in class 10 from the Gujranwala Board.

The ceremony was attended by Group Leader Sialkot Business Community, Riaz-ud-Din Sheikh (Sitara-e-Imtiaz), Vice President SCCI Amer Majeed Sheikh, Vice Chairman Sialkot International Airport Limited (SIAL) Faraz Akram Awan, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Education Sialkot Javed Iqbal Babar, Chairman ISAAR Welfare Foundation Siddique Haider, Guardi ISAAR Zulfiqar Mughal, Incharge Education committee Wasim Choudhry, Members Education Committee Manzoor Elahi Choudhry, M. Abid Advocate, Hafiz Naveed, position holders

students, teachers and parents.

Addressing to the participants, President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), Abdul Ghafoor Malik, acknowledged the hard work and dedication of the students, encouraging them to continue striving for excellence in their future academic endeavors. He said that a child starts learning ethics from the mother's lap and a mother is the first teacher of any child. Without education, society cannot develop, he added. The Sialkot chamber started with a single room and today the best businessmen of Pakistan are born here and play their role in strengthening the economy of Pakistan. Malik said that tomorrow some of these students will become doctors, engineers, lawyers, judges, bureaucrats and businessmen, so they should serve the country honestly and make Pakistan famous in every field.-APP

Dopamine treatment destroys beta-amyloid plaques in mouse model

ISLAMABAD: One of the hallmarks of Alzheimer's disease are beta-amyloid plaques in the brain.

Many recent studies have looked for ways to treat and remove beta-amyloid plaques.

Researchers from the RIKEN Center for Brain Science say the hormone dopamine may be used as a treatment for Alzheimer's.

Using a mouse model, researchers stimulated the production of an enzyme known to break down beta-amyloid plaques.

Clumps or plaques of the protein beta-amyloid in the brain are a hallmark of a type of dementia called Alzheimer's disease.

When beta-amyloid plaques form, they disrupt communication between nerve cells. They can also stimulate the immune system, causing inflammation

that eventually destroys brain cells.

Over the last few years, researchers have been focusing on finding ways to treat beta-amyloid plaques to help slow Alzheimer's disease progression. For example, two anti-amyloid medications, lecanemab and donanemab, are FDA-approved to help decrease the amount of plaques in people with early Alzheimer's.

Now, researchers from the RIKEN Center for Brain Science in Japan believe the hormone dopamine can be used to treat Alzheimer's as it stimulates the production of an enzyme known to break down beta-amyloid plaques in the brain via a mouse model.

The study was recently published in the journal Science Signaling.

Role of neprilysin enzyme in Alzheimer's

For this study, researchers focused on stimulating the production of an enzyme in the body called neprilysin. Neprilysin is an endopeptidase, the scientific term for an enzyme that divides peptide bonds.

Past studies have also examined the potential role neprilysin may play in Alzheimer's disease as it has shown to be effective in degrading beta-amyloid plaques in the brain.

A study published in December 2023 reported that using a neprilysin inhibitor led to increased beta-amyloid.

Research published in December 2022 found injecting a form of neprilysin that can penetrate the blood-brain barrier showed the potential to reduce beta-amyloid plaques in the brain.

Neprilysin decreases beta-amyloid plaques in mice

To conduct this study, scientists first found when they applied dopamine to brain cells cultured in a dish, neprilysin levels increased and levels of free-floating beta-amyloid decreased.

Next, using a mouse model, researchers used the Designer Receptors Exclusively Activated by Designer Drugs (DREADD) system to insert minute designer receptors into the dopamine-producing neurons in the ventral tegmental area of the brain, which is known to stimulate dopamine neurons.

Scientists also fed the mice a matching designer drug. This resulted in an increase in neprilysin production and decreased levels of free-floating beta-amyloid.-Online



HYDERABAD: A view of rain water accumulated front of huts at Makki shah area.

KP gov't should focus on hospitals instead of false propaganda: Azma

LAHORE: Provincial Information Minister and leader of Muslim League-N Azma Bokhari has said on Sunday that certified thieves, corrupt and incompetent people will now give them a lecture on corruption. Azmi Bokhari, while responding to Barrister Sali's statement, said that instead of making propaganda about Lahore's Mayo Hospital, the KP government should focus on the plight of Lady Reading, Khyber Teaching Hospital, in the province, where, even free medicines were stopped. She said that Maryam Nawaz had started free medicines in all government hospitals soon after she came to power, adding the Chief Minister of Punjab has started a program of revamping all government hospitals. "Hence, consider before giving us a lecture on good governance on the administration of hospitals and educational institutions of our province," she said. Azma Bokhari said that people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were being given anti-state narratives instead of education and health.

She said students of colleges and universities were being incited to violence and hatred, those who incite the young generation to rebellion are in Adiala Jail today. This is a proper lesson for the rest, she added. Bokhari said, "Glory be to Allah, the certified thieves, corrupt and incompetent people will now lecture us on corruption, whose hospitals, universities and colleges in their own province, are closing down due to lack of funds. They should not worry about the hospitals of Lahore," she criticized.

The minister said that government employees protest and strike every week due to non-payment of salaries, and there were no doctors available in the government hospitals of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The minister said that the inmate of Adiala Jail had established a team abroad to monitor the corruption of the KP government.

Balochistan Express

Power play in reserve seats saga

Rumblings within the Supreme Court serve as a reminder of the critical role played by the judiciary in upholding the constitution and ensuring justice for all. By enforcing court rulings and fostering transparency and accountability, the Supreme Court can reaffirm its commitment to upholding the rule of law and safeguarding the democratic values of the nation. Recent developments within the Supreme Court have sparked crucial discussions regarding the significance of implementing court verdicts and upholding the rule of law in Pakistan. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah's emphasis on the mandatory nature of court decisions serves as a reminder of the pivotal role played by the judiciary in ensuring justice and preserving the legal framework of the country. Justice Shah's assertion that disregarding or delaying the implementation of the Supreme Court's verdicts challenges the very foundation of the legal system carries profound implications. It underscores the importance of respecting the authority of the court as the ultimate arbiter of the Constitution. By highlighting that non-compliance could lead to executive overreach, Justice Shah aptly points out the potential ramifications of failing to adhere to court orders. The contempt displayed by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in the matter of reserved seats is a case in point. Its blatant disregard for the court's directives, echoing the government's stance, is a direct assault on the judiciary's authority. The ECP's actions, or rather inactions, not only undermine the democratic process but also set a dangerous precedent for other institutions to emulate. It is crucial to acknowledge that the judiciary bears some responsibility for the current crisis of confidence. Its past actions, including the endorsement of military regimes and the removal of elected prime ministers, have eroded public trust. While these instances were also subject to judicial processes, the outcomes undoubtedly left a bitter taste. The lingering absence of a detailed verdict in the reserved seats case has further fueled speculation and mistrust.

Judiciary cannot be held hostage to its past mistakes. The power to enforce its judgments is non-negotiable. It is the cornerstone upon which the entire legal edifice rests. A judiciary without teeth is a hollow institution, incapable of delivering justice. Justice Shah's assertion that disregarding court orders challenges the very framework of the legal system is undeniably correct. The government's attempts to curtail the judiciary's powers through legislation and public vilification are a blatant power grab. Such tactics are reminiscent of authoritarian regimes and are incompatible with a democratic order. A strong and independent judiciary is essential to safeguard the rights of citizens and to prevent the erosion of democratic institutions. The current standoff between the judiciary and the executive is a matter of grave concern. It has the potential to destabilize the country and create a constitutional crisis. Both sides must exercise restraint and engage in constructive dialogue to find a way forward. The Supreme Court must move swiftly to announce the detailed verdict in the reserved seats case. This will not only clarify its position but also provide an opportunity for the government and other stakeholders to challenge the decision through legal means. The court must also demonstrate its resolve to enforce its orders by taking appropriate action against those who defy its authority.

The government, on the other hand, must respect the judiciary's role as the guardian of the Constitution. It must refrain from making inflammatory statements and undermining the court's authority. Instead, it should focus on implementing court orders and working collaboratively with the judiciary to strengthen the rule of law. The people of Pakistan are watching this unfolding drama with growing apprehension. They expect their institutions to function responsibly and in the best interests of the country. The judiciary, the executive, and the legislature must rise to the occasion and demonstrate their commitment to upholding the Constitution and the democratic process. The future of the nation depends on it. The reserved seats case has become a politically charged issue, underscoring the need for wisdom and restraint in handling sensitive matters that have far-reaching implications. As the guardian of the Constitution, the Supreme Court must act with diligence and impartiality to uphold the rule of law and protect the democratic principles on which the country is founded.

By Dr. Majid Rafizadeh

Risk of all-out war grows as Iran, Israel cross red lines

Following the direct retaliatory attacks between Israel and Iran in April, the long-standing practice of engaging in indirect conflict through proxies and shadow wars has apparently come to an end. This significant shift toward direct confrontation heightens the risk of an all-out war. As the frequency of these direct attacks increases, it underscores the escalating tensions and the potential for broader conflict.

Iran has communicated its intent to strike Israel, according to Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz. This revelation comes amid intense diplomatic efforts to prevent further military escalation that could trigger a direct war between Iran and Israel. Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto conveyed this message to Katz after receiving it from Ali Bagheri, Iran's acting foreign minister. Katz emphasized the importance of the international community holding Iran accountable for any aggressive actions. The involvement of Hungary as an intermediary highlights the broader international implications of this conflict. It is important to point out that understanding the underlying objectives of both Israel and Iran is crucial. Some analysts suggest that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu might feel emboldened following US President Joe Biden's decision not to seek reelection. Previously, Biden had urged Israeli leaders to avoid actions that could lead to a wider regional war. For instance, after Iran launched missile and drone attacks that were largely intercepted by the US, Biden advised Netanyahu to consider the situation a victory and refrain from retaliating, thereby prevent-

ing further escalation. This restraint was seen as a pragmatic approach to maintaining regional stability. However, with Biden stepping down, Netanyahu may perceive an opportunity to adopt a more aggressive stance, believing that the absence of direct US pressure provides a strategic advantage to address long-standing security concerns with Iran more forcefully.

Some may argue that Netanyahu may be seeking a direct confrontation with Iran rather than continuing to engage its proxies, such as Hezbollah and the Houthis. If this is the case, it could potentially draw the US into the conflict, despite its reluctance to engage in another Middle Eastern war. The dynamics of such a direct confrontation would significantly alter the geopolitical landscape, compelling the US to reassess its strategic priorities and commitments in the region. This potential shift from proxy warfare to direct engagement marks a critical juncture in Israeli defense policy as well, and has profound implications for regional stability and international security.

From the perspective of the Iranian government, retaliatory strikes against Israel could be a means to maintaining its standing after the killing of a Hamas leader in Tehran. Iran aims to project strength to its conservative base and regional allies, asserting its influence on both the regional and global stages. The loss of such a high-profile ally within its borders represents a significant blow to Iran's prestige. Responding forcefully is seen as a necessary action to reaffirm its position as a dominant regional power, and to deter future acts against its interests.

By Dr. Dania Koleilat Khatib

'Damned if you do, damned if you don't' scenario haunts Hezbollah

Since Oct. 7 Hezbollah has lost many of its operational leaders to Israeli strikes. One of the most recent targets was Fouad Shukur, a senior military leader of the group. He was designated a terrorist by the US State Department, which put a \$5 million bounty on his head in 2017. On July 30, Shukur died in an Israeli attack in Beirut. The killing of such a senior commander leaves Hezbollah's leadership facing a dilemma over whether to respond or not. In either case, they will face grave consequences.

Hassan Nasrallah, the group's leader, said in a televised address last Thursday that the response will come when it suits them, and when they find a proper target opportunity. Social media has been full of anecdotes mocking the group and also Iran. Unlike Iran, however, Hezbollah faces not only external enemies, but also internal threats. The group cannot afford to show weakness to its domestic enemies. Thus a response is all but imperative.

However, in Tehran, the situation might be looked at differently. Ayman Safadi, Jordan's foreign minister, has been shuttling around the region trying to find a formula for de-escalation. What is proposed now is that Iran gives up on its promise to avenge the killing of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in return for a ceasefire in Gaza. On Aug. 8, US President Joe Biden, Egyptian leader Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, and Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani issued a joint statement calling for a truce, and for an end to the suffering of the people of Gaza and the families of the hostages.

A Lebanese news website said that Hezbollah will avenge the killing of its senior military leader regardless of the mediators' efforts. Hezbollah needs to re-establish deterrence. There is nothing that can stop Israel from continuing its assassinations in the wake of Oct. 7. Some of these killings were likely based on intelligence gathered through its networks of informers over the years. No one knows who they are still after. Hezbollah's main aim will be to stop the string of assassinations. Can that be done without reestablishing deterrence,

and making Israel understand that for each killing it will pay a heavy price?

However, if Hezbollah does respond, it will also face grave consequences. The problem with war is that it has many unknown unknowns. Hezbollah does not know how Israel will respond. The conflict can quickly cross the established rules of engagement. Will Israel turn Lebanon into Gaza? Will a ceasefire allow the group a graceful exit? Possibly, but a truce does not guarantee that Israel will halt the assassinations, especially since these have been quite successful. Yoav Gallant, Israel's defense minister, has said previously that Lebanon is a separate issue from Gaza. Hence, a ceasefire may not mean that Israel would leave Hezbollah alone.

The group cannot afford to show weakness to its domestic enemies.

Dr. Dania Koleilat Khatib
Shukur's killing shows one thing clearly: The group has been infiltrated. Who could have known where the Hezbollah commander would be staying? The information must have come from within a close circle. The group is also technologically inferior to Israel, which is another sign of weakness. Hezbollah is supposed to be a resistance to Israel, but the latter has been able to hunt it down easily. The group's main objective is to stop the assassinations. How can they do that? If they land a painful blow, it might deter Israel, or encourage it to further hit the group and the country.

If Israel devastates Lebanon, Hezbollah's enemies will blame it for pushing Lebanon into a situation the country cannot handle. Even if Hezbollah handles the strike militarily, it will be difficult to handle it politically. In 2006, the majority of Lebanese stood together at the time of the Israeli attack. Divisions began emerging only after the strike. This time, if Israel attacks, the divisions will be deeper and opposition to the group will be stronger.

There is another issue: the weak support Hezbollah has internally. A study by the Washington Institute think tank showed that while 93 percent of Shiites have a positive view of the group, only 29 percent of Christians and 34 percent

of Sunnis view it favorably. Those divisions might lead to civil war. Hence, either choice will leave the group facing grave consequences. If Israel hits Lebanon heavily, Hezbollah's opponent will blame the group for the calamity. This might result in a civil war. If Hezbollah does nothing, its internal enemies will be strengthened and its supporters disappointed. The group is in a difficult situation. The 2006 war may have shown Hezbollah's strength, but the current conflict has revealed its vulnerability. That is a bad message to send to both Israel and its internal enemies. What will it do? Will it offer concessions to its opponent internally in order to create some consensus? Will it offer concessions on the election of a president in return for support for its struggle with Israel? The group does not trust anybody, and it will be difficult to surrender control without trust in other Lebanese factions.

The other option is to protect itself and avoid involving the country in a war that could involve a third party. In my last article, I mentioned that Lebanon should accept Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan's offer to intervene. However, this would mean it would have to share influence with the Turks. They did accept sharing influence with the Russians in Syria because the other option was to lose Syria altogether to the opposition. With Turkey, they will probably have a better deal than with the Russians. The Russians are not using their air defense in Syria. Israel goes wherever it wants, and kills the Iranian and Hezbollah personnel it wants. Turkey could be asked to protect Lebanese airspace. Whatever decision Hezbollah favors, it faces a hard choice. The group will only make concessions when it realizes the current situation is unsustainable. Does it understand this? We still do not know.

-Dr. Dania Koleilat Khatib is a specialist in US-Arab relations with a focus on lobbying. She is co-founder of the Research Center for Cooperation and Peace Building, a Lebanese nongovernmental organization focused on Track II.

By Dr. Muhammad Khan

77th Independence Day of Pakistan

Pakistani Nation is celebrating its 77th Independence Day on August 14, 2024. Independence has broader meanings which include: the state of being free/ freedom from any foreign occupation or slavery or else achievement of right of self-determination. It is in fact value which grants sovereignty to our nation and gives us the freedom to live "according to our culture, customs, and collective wisdom. The Independence Day reminds us that, it is a blessing of Allah Almighty and every Pakistani must respect it. Independence Day also reminds us that, Pakistan is passing through a challenging time from four perspectives; a) a continued political instability and uncertainty, b) the never-ending economic crises and horrendous compulsions of IMF, c) the resurgence of militancy and terrorism in the country and d) social unrest among masses, a product of above three factors with evident fault lines.

The forefathers of Pakistani nation paid a huge price and gave unprecedented sacrifices for a separate home land for the Muslims of South Asia in the form of Pakistan. Sequel to War of Indian Independence-1857, the Muslim population of India was alienated by Colonial British rulers and the Hindu majority. This deep sense of alienation, discrimination and humiliation compelled the Muslims to think for their separate identity and ultimately a homeland of their own.

The Urdu-Hindi controversy-1867 was the first major event, which forced Muslim leaders like Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, a great advocate of Hindu-Muslim unity to take a different stance and different course of action. Hindus of Banaras demanded replacement of Urdu with Hindi and its Persian script with that of Devnagri script. Despite his efforts for reconciliation with Hindu leadership, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan had to say, "When even the language of a nation is not safe at the hands of other nations in a region, it would be unwise to continue living with them."

In the later years, Muslims had to face apathy and discrimination even from the platform of 'Indian National Congress' established to take care of political rights of native Indians. Hindu leadership totally dominated this so-called liberal platform and used it for their political and socio-economic gains.

Establishment of All India Muslim League in 1906, the fourteen points of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah-1929 and Allahabad Address of Allama Dr Muhammad Iqbal-1930, gave further impetus for the establishment of a separate Muslim identity and a separate homeland for the Muslim of India.

Pakistan Resolution (Lahore resolution-1940) was a decisive moment and a milestone which paved the way for a Muslim homeland and in later years, Pakistan became the destination of Indian Muslims, living all over subcontinent. Seven years from Lahore Resolution, on August 14, 1947, Pakistan became a reality. This indeed was the consequence of hectic efforts of our forefathers and painful history of discrimination from Hindu and colonial rulers.

Today, after 77 years of independence, Pakistan is facing a number of challenges.

These challenges being faced by the state and society of Pakistan are even more crucial, uncertain, hostile and dangerous than our forefathers faced during the crucial Pakistan movement. Today, the anti-Pakistan forces are more in numbers and lethal in effect. They have both covert and overt presence inside and outside Pakistan. These challenges are both internal and external having intimate connections and linkages with enemies of Pakistan.

The elements of extremism, radicalization and terrorism are only their tangible forms. The old rivals of Pakistan are now regrouping in a number of new forms and formats. The strategies, these forces are adopting are very treacherous, aiming to destroy the very basis of the state and society of Pakistan.

These forces want to defeat and destroy the social filament and the ideology of Pakistani nation. The social structure and ideological bondage of Pakistani society is being shattered through the promotion of ethnicity, sectarianism and radicalization.

The past two decades have witnessed these tendencies in a more recurrent and rambling way. These factors have damaged the traditional coherence and harmony, the Pakistani society enjoyed for centuries. Whereas, the rival forces could solely and gradually

proliferate into the roots of the peaceful Pakistani society to create a fissure and exploit those subsequently, the political leadership, the religious scholars and intellectual and academics are found wanting in playing their desired role of maintaining the harmony and coherence in the society. They could not develop a counter narrative against the quite visible strategies of the anti-state forces.

Through a number of military operations, the armed forces of Pakistan have destroyed the organized basis of militants; however, with the return of Interim Taliban Government in Afghanistan in 2021, TTP has started regrouping inside and outside Pakistan. Under the patronage of Afghan Taliban Government, TTP has carried out hundreds of terrorist attacks on Pakistani military posts along Pak-Afghan border and even inside in major cities and rural areas.

The security forces, especially Pak Army deserve a special appreciation for these achievements. Since Pak Army and other security forces have played their part, there is a need that, political forces, the religio-political groups, the religious scholars, the academia and Pakistani society must play their role in the consolidation of the gains, armed forces have attained through combating militancy and destroying their organized bases.

On the eve of 77th Independence Day, let's promise that, we will serve our beloved country Pakistan by all means. Let's bridge all the internal fault-lines; ethnicity, factionalism, provincialism and sectarianism by becoming Pakistani nationals. Let's utilize all our energies for the promotion of unity, development of our nation through educational excellence, social cohesion and harmony, development of youth, economic well-being of the country and above all through technological advancement in line with modern nations of the world. Besides, let's defeat all the conspiracies being hatched against the state, society and ideology of Pakistan.

- The writer is Professor of Politics and IR at International Islamic University, Islamabad.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this op-ed are that of the author and do not reflect the editorial policy of Daily Balochistan Express.

By Zarrar Khuhro

The best-laid plans

RECENTLY, Benjamin Netanyahu entered the US Congress like a conquering hero, garnering over 50 standing ovations in a 60-minute speech from fawning Congressmen and women clapping for their AIPAC dollars like trained circus seals. While several Congress people boycotted the proceedings and Rashida Tlaib staged a lonely, one-woman protest in the hall, the overwhelming impression was that this is America's genocide as much as it is Israel's. In Pakistani parlance, they are absolutely on the same page.

Around the same time, half a world away, Hamas and Fatah — bitter rivals at the best of times — met in Beijing to sign a national unity agreement under the auspices of the Chinese government. Hamas, Fatah and 12 other Palestinian groups agreed to lay the groundwork for an 'interim national reconciliation government' that would govern post-war Gaza.

While this does not mean that the problems between Hamas and the Fatah-run Palestinian Authority (PA) — widely viewed by Hamas and its allies as Israel's accomplices — have ended, it does put a crimp in one of the proposed US-Israeli plans for a post-war Gaza. Although Netanyahu claims that he wants all of Gaza under direct Israeli control, while holding out the option of a 'deradicalised' Palestinian governmental presence, there have been several other proposals that offer insight into what America and Israel envisage happening.

For example, anonymous Israeli officials have let it be known that they were "open in principle to Palestinians securing areas of the Gaza Strip cleared of Hamas". This state-

ment tallies with US discussing ways to 'revitalise' and reform the PA with an aim of having it at least participate in the governing of a post-Hamas Gaza. This proposal was formally rejected by Hamas and also Israel, but Israeli media reported that Netanyahu "unofficially" expressed interest in the plan, though that could have been just to string the US along. The Beijing agreement now makes that an impossibility; even before that, the PA had begun to realise that obedience to Tel Aviv will not stop the killings of Palestinians in the West Bank nor the illegal seizure of their land, all of which has increased manifold since Oct 7.

Support for Hamas in PA-controlled West Bank has increased.

In addition to this, support for Hamas in the PA-controlled West Bank has increased manifold, with 82 per cent Palestinians polled there expressing understanding for why Hamas launched the attacks and 88pc calling for PA President Mahmoud Abbas to resign. All this means that the PA is in no physical or political shape to take over Gaza, even if it wanted to.

Before this, another option considered by Israel had come to a premature close. This was to hand over control of Gaza to local clans, who would 'govern' the area while also keeping what was left of Hamas suppressed with Israeli aid, and acting as intermediaries for Tel Aviv. Gaza is home to many clans and large family groups of varying influence and power. And while most tend to be law-abiding and benign, some, like the infamous Dughmush clan, formed gangs that engages in murder, kidnapping and racketeering, especially in the chaos preceding and immediately after the Hamas takeover.

Realising that credibility would come from establishing control, Hamas quickly cracked down on such groups and publicly executed those accused of criminal activities, attacks on Hamas leaders and collaboration with Israel. In 2017, one such condemned man, Hisham al-Aloul, accused Israeli intelligence of betraying him before he was executed.

With Hamas under fire and Gaza being decimated, some in Israel decided to give this plan another go earlier this year by once again looking to members of the Dughmush clan as accomplices. Once again, we saw an embattled Hamas take swift action by executing a major clan leader of the tribe in Mar-ch this year. This was followed by a joint statement from the heads of Palestinian tribes, clans and families rejecting any notion of being used as a governing political body.

Soon after, Basem Naim, a top member of Hamas' political bureau in Gaza, announced that all Palestinian tribes "have rejected this 'Zionist offer' and know that these offers and plans are malicious and aim at dividing the Palestinians".

Words were followed by action and we saw Fatah, along with numerous clans, civil society groups and factions, stepping in to help provide security for the aid convoys that Israel had relentlessly targeted with the excuse that these transported Hamas members. This leaves the fantasy of a "multinational" or "Arab/Muslim-led" security force that would magically appear and take over control of whatever is left of Gaza. But given that the only country to even reportedly express interest in this is the UAE, an Arab ally of Israel, this option can be viewed as dead on the ground, much like the children of Palestine.

By Neda Mulji

Skills and success

SOME weeks ago, the Federal Directorate of Education and Professional Training organised a wonderful summer fiesta for schoolchildren, with a wide range of skill-based workshops, seminars, lectures and activities. This kind of immersive experience with creative writing, financial literacy, digital technology and so forth, is the urgent need for students who haven't got much exposure to global skills.

Sadly, these children will go back to teacher-led classrooms and traditional teaching after the summer break. Many precious steps forward, but some unfortunate leaps backwards too. It may be time to revisit what they are learning in classrooms and whether the curriculum and teaching methods support the skill development we must envision for a progressive, holistic application of knowledge.

Skill development starts in early years with knowledge of the world around us, roles and responsibilities, creative and critical thought, and strong foundations in numeracy and literacy. If we begin to benchmark the skills taught in our classrooms to global standards, we may hope to target the aims of the SDGs for education.

How far have our ways of teaching and learning evolved?

This includes reflective teaching practices that only equip teachers with books, and accompanying pedagogy focusing on real-life skills. We also need to integrate technological experiences for our early years' students. Digital reading programmes, for example, are more efficient at teaching pronunciation, decoding and comprehension. Such programmes lead children through evidence-based reading strategies that start with prompts and clues to help the child think creatively, absorb the text, and develop the ability to give personal responses using their critical thinking capability.

Such programmes are not as competitive as a noisy classroom environment that has over 50 students and one teacher. In fact, technology affords the time and patience for students to learn at their own pace, and matches their comprehension ability. The programmes are user-friendly, structured to lead students through reading levels, and monitor their progress with timely reports showing reading hours, books covered and scores achieved on comprehension quizzes.

Literacy in the early years is not only about being able to read, but also acquiring the ability to express opinions, draw conclusions and gradually using language independently. A strong early years literacy programme will give students many opportunities to play with words, come up with unique perspectives, and delve into the possibilities of structuring sentences in multiple ways. Sadly, students are mostly preoccupied with the need to produce the 'right' answers, and in that vein, we end up encouraging mimicry where the teacher becomes the crutch that students come to depend on. A strong math curriculum would enable students to learn in different ways. If one strategy isn't working, a teacher's chal-

lenge is to be able to offer different ways to help the student navigate concepts. Rather than 'learning' numeracy concepts, they can be taught to use manipulatives to visualise, analyse and draw conclusions. Simple and easy ways to support children in accessing learning outcomes can lead to massive benefits as they progress through school levels. And the better their grip on learning, the faster they will develop confidence in their ability to excel in academics. Often, in our society, we equate confidence with being able to speak in public; we couldn't be further from the truth. Confidence stems from one's belief in their ability to learn, understand and apply what they know. The application of skills is the yardstick of confidence that we should be focusing on, especially in the early years. Instead, much of our focus remains on memorisation and reproduction in assessments and tests. Even the melodious tune used to learn the tables hasn't changed in more than a century.

It's time to look closely at what we are producing and how far we've changed our teaching and learning methods to evolve with the times. Teachers are no longer the only source of information, and students will inevitably turn to digital resources; but are we equipping them to understand, navigate and use the digital resources to their advantage and in responsible ways?

When children sing Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, do we ask them if they know what a star is made of? Do we ask them how far the stars might be from us? Do we ask enough questions to pique their curiosity about the world and their place in it? Do we give them the confidence in their own ability to find answers?

It's not always what we teach, but how we teach it that determines the trajectory of success for our students.

This emboldened Netanyahu to up his deadly game and order the two assassinations on his return, even if they were planned before. He also took advantage of a lame-duck Biden administration, which urged a ceasefire but did little to pressure Israel. Instead, the deployment of additional US warships and fighter aircraft to the Middle East on the heels of the killings indicated the 'cover' Washington sought to provide Israel and 'legitimise' rather than censure Israel's brazen violations of international law. Ostensibly aimed at mitigating the risk of a broader conflict, it only exacerbated tensions in the Middle East. These developments have driven the region to the brink of a wider conflagration, with Iran under mounting pressure to retaliate for Haniyeh's assassination and violation of its territorial integrity and sovereignty. Its leaders have vowed to avenge the killing, with Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warning of a harsh, punishing response. Iran's newly elected President Masoud Pezeshkian has made it clear that Tehran does not wish to broaden the war and contribute to a bigger crisis, but Israel "will definitely receive a response for its crimes and insolence". Meanwhile, Hassan Nasrallah, head of Hezbollah, declared that its conflict with Israel had entered a new phase and warned of a major retaliation in response to the assassination.

Suicide of a robot?

THE recent abrupt malfunction of Robot Supervisor, a civil servant robot in Gumi city of South Korea, has sparked headlines screaming of 'robot suicide'. This rather sensationalised narrative has completely overshadowed the crucial lessons embedded in the incident.

The present-day modern robots lack the emotional capacity for suicide. Therefore, it is likely to be a technical glitch, a navigational error, sensor failure, or programming bug. This incident serves as a stark reminder of the potential vulnerabilities within artificial intelligence (AI) systems and the need to take proactive action.

South Korea boasts the highest robot density globally. Some people also form emotional bonds with these machines. The 'suicide' narrative also feeds on this emotional connection, highlighting a growing public apprehension. This incident, even if a malfunction, erodes trust in robots and raises concerns about their safety. Can we, in our good conscience, integrate robots further into our lives if they are susceptible to such malfunctions? Transparency in AI development and clear communication about robot capabilities are paramount to rebuilding trust.

Furthermore, as robots become more sophisticated, the line between machine and intelligence will undoubtedly blur further. We must prioritise safety and embed ethical considerations within AI development. As such, robots should operate within clear boundaries, prioritising human wellbeing. They should augment, not replace, human jobs.

The Gumi incident will undoubtedly have repercussions for the global robot industry. Investors may become hesitant, and stricter regulations may be imposed. However, by taking proactive action as well as addressing the existing ethical challenges of AI head-on, we can shape a future where present-day robots coexist with humans in trust and harmony.

Majid Burfa
Karachi

Power Sector Board of Directors' Failure to Perform

In 2002, the power wing was separated from WAPDA, and 10 independent distribution companies, 4 generation companies, and 1 transmission company were created under the Ministry of Power Division with the aim of improving the administrative and financial health of the power sector and steering it out of crises. These companies were registered under the Companies Ordinance of 1984, and their Boards of Directors were established to manage the affairs of these companies and make prompt decisions. Unfortunately, the BODs of all companies were formed based on political considerations and the influence of a powerful mafia composed of political workers with no expertise in the power sector, corporate governance, finance, HRM, or procurement management. This is in gross violation of SECP and public sector company rules, which emphasise that BOD members should be selected through a competitive process. As a result, these BODs have failed to perform and have instead contributed to the further deterioration of the financial health of these companies, causing significant losses to the exchequer with impunity.

Recently, the federal government dissolved all BODs of power companies except Hesco (Hyd) and Sepco (Sukkur), which are the most loss-making companies, due to political pressure. The service delivery of these two DIS-COs is alarming and deplorable, with more than 12 hours of an-announced and forced load shed-ding. Their T&D losses are around 50 percent, and there is rampant corruption, malpractice, and inefficiency, yet the BODs remain in-tact. In PPMC Islamabad, the controlling body of power companies, retired employees at the age of 65 years are working.

ADV. TARIQ MAJEED,
Sindh

LETTER TO EDITOR

Injustice, CSS and the lust for power

THERE have been some suggestions in recent times that the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) should bring reforms and disallow doctors from

appearing in Central Superior Services (CSS) examination. We would do well to explore why medical doctors prefer a CSS career instead of practising in a field where they have been trained for years to become professionals.

Indeed, there may be several reasons for doctors to think of joining the CSS ranks, but two are obvious. First is the lack of career counselling at an early age, and the second is the lust for power. It is common to see majority of students being clueless about their field of study in high school. In essence, they are seen struggling even while deciding which group — pre-engineering, pre-medical or humanities — they should opt for after matriculation.

As a result of lack of guid-

ance, they are forced to choose the category their parents select for them, which eventually leads them to study the field they actually have no interest in. This is a huge blunder and is bound to have negative effect on one's life. When students are forced to study in such circumstances, they unwillingly meet the field's requirements, but they eventually end up changing their profession. Therefore, we get to see a number of medical doctors continuously applying for CSS jobs.

The second factor, a critical one, is the lust for power. In a society where there is no justice and rule of law, only those with power and influence can survive and live a better life.

Let me quote my own example as a person craving for 'power'. I am serving as a teacher in the Sindh Education Department in BPS-14. I have been applying for some time for even BPS-9 posts in law-enforce-

ment agencies. Though I know, I would go down the ladder, I am willing to go through this transition, for I need power as well as influence in society which I can only dream of while serving in the Education Department. Even if I get elevated to BPS-18 as a teacher, I will have no 'influence'. We may not like it, but these are the hard facts of life in an unjust society.

Rather than asking the FPSC to bar medical professionals from appearing in CSS examinations, the government needs to appoint trained as well as skilled career counsellors at every high school across the country to guide the students about fields that are best suited to their aptitude.

Further, as long as we have 'selective' justice in society, the lust for power will keep luring the masses. Can we change our social realities? I have my doubts.

Rawal Jamal
Jacobabad

Dirty water parks

WHILE I know that the people are already suffering from several ailments owing to poor air quality and contaminated water, my recent visit to a so-called 'water park' ended in even more apprehensions about health safety.

When I entered the water park, it was extremely overcrowded. There was literally no place to sit, and all the pools were full of people. By around 11.30am, I noticed the water colour had changed, and it had become extremely dirty.

Although we were a group of 10 people and had spent Rs10,000 for using the facility,

we decided to leave it within an hour of our entry. When we approached the staff to request a refund, they made excuses and sent us from one person to another.

Moreover, every staff member we came across, from the clerk to the public relations officer, was uncooperative and rude.

We were told that they would not refund the money. Unfortunately, this attitude also revealed poor customer service at these 'water parks'.

The government should ensure that such water parks allow entry to people in limit-

ed numbers. These operators are just too greedy, interested only in minting money and not bothered in the least about people's health, and the service quality at their outlets.

In fact, the dirty water poses a great risk to the people. Who will be responsible for infections transmitted due to unhygienic conditions at these facilities, even after charging people heavily? The licences of such water parks should be cancelled if they fail to provide adequate services.

Zaid Pirzado
Karachi

School billboards

AS we traverse crowded avenues, it is hard to miss the towering signboards of private schools plastered with images of beaming high-scorers. Celebrating academic achievement is laudable, but this trend raises a critical question: are we developing a generation truly obsessed with competition even if it is at the cost of missing out on a chance to be well-formed, innovative individuals?

Unfortunately, these billboards create immense pressure on young minds. From a tender age, children internalise the message that success means topping the class, leading to a cutthroat environment where 'by any means necessary' becomes the motto.

This mindset both suffocates creativity and the pursuit of genuine knowledge, and leads to anxiety as well as unhealthy competition.

Moreover, these displays send a dish-earning message

to students who struggle academically. Instead of feeling motivated, these students may experience feelings of inadequacy and low self-worth. The emphasis on grades as the sole measure of success overlooks the diverse talents and strengths that every child possesses.

This cultivates a culture of achievement anxiety and low self-esteem, hindering overall student wellbeing.

Furthermore, despite the high academic scores, Pakistan continues to lag in innovation and critical thinking.

The over-emphasis of our education system on rote learning and exam preparation strangles creativity and problem-solving skills.

The real fault is not that of the students, but of the system that prioritises grades over learning and creativity.

As a society, we must reconsider what we value in education. Schools should celebrate

not just academic achievements, but also the diverse skills and talents of their students. By doing so, we can nurture a generation that values collaboration over competition, creativity over conformity, and ethics over expediency.

Why not replace scoreboards with displays that showcase innovation, leadership and artistic expression?

Now, it is time to create a learning environment that empowers students to discover their unique talents and passions.

Similarly, we should move beyond the so-called pressure cooker of competition, as well as cultivate a generation of well-rounded individuals excelling academically, thinking creatively, and shaping a brighter future for our students.

Muhammad Shahjahan
Memon
Islamabad

Holding Licences Without Proper Driving Training

While driving on the road, any miscalculation can lead to severe consequences. In this ever-changing and fast-paced world, many drivers are not properly trained; they are more like shep-herds than professional drivers. They operate at the level of con-ductors, but the most alarming fact is that they are driving heavy ve-hicles such as buses, trucks, and Zamyads. During their learning period, they are often taught by un-trained individuals.

I encountered a young driver to-day who was driving a Suzuki vehi-cle carrying empty drums. He reck-lessly veered onto the sidewalk without even checking the traffic on the national high-way. On the Hub route, he almost hit me and then sped off even faster. When I waved him down and asked about his driving licence, he claimed to have one. I was shocked and

let him go, but he didn't even attempt to park the car properly. A mo-torway rule states, "A trained and careful driver has four eyes: two rearview mirrors and two of his own."

This driver didn't even seem to have one. Sadly, this is an every-day occurrence. This highlights the growing number of accidents on the Balochistan N-25 (Karachi to Quetta) and N-10 (Karachi to Gwa-dar) highways, which are increasing day by day.

Reports indicate that these untrained drivers are a major cause of fatal accidents and deaths on the national highway. I earnestly appeal to the Na-tional Transport Research Centre (NTRC) and the National High-ways and Motorways Police to ensure that drivers are thoroughly trained and educated about traffic rules before being granted a driving licence in Pakistan. This is the only way to improve road safety and

reduce accidents. The people of Balochistan will undoubtedly appreciate such measures if they are implemented across Pakistan, especially in Balochistan.

It is time our major political parties realised the need to let fresh blood take charge. While it is nat-ural for fathers to overlook the shortcomings of their children, the people whose votes they seek are repulsed by such a mindset.

The use of violence increases when the human mind becomes enslaved to extremist cults. The basic ob-jective of improving the lives of ordinary people by investing in education and health becomes a secondary priority. In-tolerance in any society is like cancer. It destroys the morals and ethics of a society and creates deep divisions and polarisation, which can lead to chaos.

MUHAMMAD
HUSSAIN,
Awaran

Arshad Nadeem hails nation's support after Paris Olympics triumph

MIAN CHANNU: National hero Arshad Nadeem, who brought glory to Pakistan with his javelin throw at the Paris Olympics, expressed immense joy and gratitude for the nation's support.

In an interview with Dunya News, Nadeem stated that he was unable to sleep after the immense love and support by the Pakistanis towards him after winning the gold medal.

He said that the gold medal was his primary goal, and he was blessed with great success.

He noted that the nation's reception exceeded his expectations.

Nadeem also mentioned his last surgery in February 2024 and his previous struggles with injuries.

He credited his coaches for their relentless support and encouragement, affirming his commitment to winning more medals for Pakistan.

Discussing his relationship with Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, Nadeem emphasised that athletes compete for their respective countries but maintain friendships beyond the field. He expressed hope that his friendship with Chopra would live on.

Nadeem added that, despite participating in various events and achieving successes, it was the job provided by WAPDA that helped him and other national heroes.

He remains focused on striving for more victories for Pakistan in the future.

Arshad Nadeem has made history by winning Pakistan's first gold medal in the men's javelin throw event at the Olympics in 40 years.

He was the first athlete from Pakistan to win an individual gold medal in Olympic history.

Paris's Closing Ceremony pits Old World splendour against Hollywood spectacle

PARIS: Paris passed the Olympic torch to Los Angeles in a cryptic and sometimes chaotic Closing Ceremony in the Stade de France Sunday night, with hundreds of athletes unexpectedly mobbing the stage during a performance by French indie rock band Phoenix. American action star Tom Cruise rapped in from the top of the stadium to set the flag off on its journey to Los Angeles, making it clear that the 2028 Games will be leaning heavily into Hollywood glamour.

Seen under the last rays of the summer sun, the stage set up for the Closing Ceremony of the Paris Olympics in the Stade de France looked like nothing so much as some fragile thing that had fallen from a great height, its raw edges spilling across the stadium grounds seemingly at random.

It was only when darkness fell across the arena and the stage's shattered lines lit up with a cold white light that its shape became clear: the thousands of spectators filling the stands were staring at a map of the world, alive in the flickering light, shining through a rising mist.

In the upper reaches of the arena, a golden orb began to unfurl. Slowly, a shimmering figure descended to earth, more insect than angel, alien in its antiquity. As its armoured feet touched the stage, masked grey creatures began to crawl across the arena, taking their positions beside five vast metal wheels lying abandoned across the earth.

At the golden figure's silent urging, they set to work, hauling the great wheels from the four corners of the world to raise them into the sky above the stadium as the five Olympic rings. This, perhaps, was the message underlying the elaborate splendour of the Paris 2024 Closing Ceremony: a gesture of acknowledgement, of gratitude, to the tens of thousands of people who have laboured unseen to create the grand spectacles of the past two weeks. The organisers of the Paris Olympics wanted a Games that the world had never seen before, and by all accounts they've succeeded. From the delicious Opening Ceremony on the banks of the River Seine to the venues built in a matter of months all over Paris to allow the world's athletes to compete in the heart of the city, the Games' organisers have gone all out to put the French capital on full display.



US cyclist Valente wins second straight women's Olympic omnium gold

Hat-trick Harrie becomes most successful Dutch summer Olympian

PARIS: Emotional sprint sensation Harrie Lavreysen became the Netherlands' most successful summer Olympian Sunday with a third Paris cycling gold in the men's keirin, boosting his career haul to five.

On a thrilling final day at the Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines velodrome, newly-minted New Zealand star Elisse Andrews powered to the women's sprint title to add to her keirin gold.

And American Jennifer Valente successfully defended her omnium crown to culminate a week that saw Britain's waning track dominance diminish even further.

Britain had bossed the medal table at every Games since Beijing in 2008, but there was a narrowing of the gap in Tokyo three years ago.

With the retirement of legends Laura and Jason Kenny it has closed even further.

While they topped the overall Paris medal table with eight,

Britain managed just a single gold, as the Dutch won three and New Zealand and the United States earned two each.

Lavreysen, who also defended his sprint and team sprint titles, is now his country's most successful summer Olympic athlete ever, surpassing former swimmer Inge de Bruijn and three others who have four gold.

"It's incredible, this was my biggest dream to go for gold three times," he said after beating Australian pair Matthew Richardson and Matthew Glaetzer. "I felt really strong the full week. This morning, I thought, 'It is possible', but I needed to ride the perfect final, and I was really close to perfect until the end." "I was emotional on the podium. I felt tingling everywhere, and I had to sit down for a moment," he added.

Invented in Japan in 1948, the keirin involves riders lurking behind a motorised pace-maker before exploding in a

sprint to the line over the last three laps.

Glaetzer was the first to make the move with Richardson following, but Lavreysen's stunning burst of speed in the final lap saw him home.

MASSIVE WEEK Andrews was similarly dominant, blasting to the sprint title after her keirin exploits.

The 21-year-old outgunned German world record holder Lea Friedrich 2-0 in the best-of-three series for New Zealand's maiden sprint gold.

British world champion Emma Finucane beat the Netherlands' Hetty van de Wouw for bronze.

"I feel like I'm living in a dream," said Andrews.

"It's been a massive week, and I'm just so proud of how I've managed to carry myself to the end of the competition.

"She's an amazing rider, all the girls are," she added of Friedrich.

US cyclist Valente wins second straight women's Olympic omnium gold

PARIS: American defending champion Jennifer Valente overpowered the field to defend her women's omnium title in the final velodrome race of the Paris Olympics on Sunday.

Valente finished 13 points ahead of Poland's Daria Pikulik, with New Zealand's Ally Wollaston taking bronze, six points further back.

The omnium is one of track cycling's most unpredictable events, featuring four separate races -- the scratch, tempo, elimination and points -- with riders collecting points in each.

Valente timed the opening 30-lap scratch race to perfection, pulling clear on the final stretch to take the maximum 40 points ahead of Canada's Maggie Coles-Lyster.

Irish rider Lara Gillespie seized the initiative in the tempo, finishing first.

But Valente kept her overall lead, eight points clear of Australia's Georgia Baker and 18 ahead of Coles-Lyster.

The 29-year-old then won an energy-sapping elimination race, with Baker second and Coles-Lyster third to take a 10-point advantage into the final 80-lap race where she made no mistakes.

Valente upset then-world champion Yumi Kajihara of Japan to become the first American woman to win an Olympic track cycling gold medal at Tokyo three years ago.

Athletics has moved on from Bolt, Coe says

PARIS: Track and field chief Sebastian Coe has hailed the emergence of an "extraordinary" group of athletes at the Paris Olympics who have gone some way to filling the void left by Jamaican legend Usain Bolt.

Bolt was a transformational figure in athletics, winning eight Olympic and nine world gold medals as he dominated the sprints during his stellar career.

Talk since his retirement about the 2017 world championships in London has always been about who might step into his shoes as the leading pin-up for the sport.

But Coe insisted the narrative wasn't just about one athlete alone to fill the void.

"We are no longer a sport about one person," he told reporters in Paris on Sunday, all the while praising Bolt.

"That one person was Herculean, that one person transformed the popularity of our sport for a very clear period of time, and he consistently did that."

Coe likened Bolt's legacy to that of Muhammad Ali in boxing.

"You don't replace Muhammad Ali, you don't replace Usain Bolt. But I did say, 'Mark my words, other athletes will come through'."

"I cannot remember a generation of more talented athletes."

"The way they've come through has been extraordinary. We've now got a greater bandwidth of talent across a broader range of disciplines than we've ever had in the sport."

"WOBBLING GLOBE"

More than one million tickets were sold for the Olympic athletics programme at the Stade de France that saw athletes from 75 different countries bag top-eight finishes.

Swedish pole vaulter Armand Duplantis, American 400m hurdler Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone and the US mixed 4x400m relay team all set world records.

There were also 13 new Olympic records and the World Athletics seating area for guests featured a daily selection of celebrities keen to watch the action.

"I did slightly feel the globe wobbling the other night when I had Snoop Dogg one side of me

and Simone Biles the other side and trying to explain the finer points of the 1500m," Coe said.

"And I'm still smiling at the response from Simone, who looked up the track and said, 'I have no idea people ran that quickly'."

"I said, 'How do you think we feel when we're sitting at the side of the gymnastics auditorium? How on earth do you do what you do?'"

Coe said the "sport became cool".

"It's the first time my kids have actually thought anything I've done on the planet has been cool."

Coe also underlined the reach of track and field, dubbing it the "definitive definition of a global sport", with one eye already on the Los Angeles Games in 2028.

"We had our 105th century in the history of the Olympic Movement winning a medal in Paris and that has been sensational," he said.

Saint Lucia's Julien Alfred (women's 100m), Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem (men's javelin) and Dominica's Thea LaFont (women's triple jump) all won their countries' first gold medals.

"Tell me any other sport on the opening day of a competition is celebrating a medal for Ecuador, so that for me tells me the sport is moving in the right direction," Coe said.



Alcaraz sets sights on year-end number one spot

USA fend off France for eighth successive women's Olympic basketball gold

PARIS: The United States held off France 67-66 to win an unprecedented eighth successive women's Olympic basketball gold on Sunday and extend their run of victories at the tournament to 61 games.

A'ja Wilson scored a game-high 21 points for the Americans who won the title for the 10th time overall, surviving a buzzer-beating shot from France's Gabby Williams.

The hosts needed a three to force overtime in Paris but Williams' foot was on the three-point line as she let go of the ball, so her shot counted for just two points in a dramatic finale.

"I wish I could put it into words. I don't think I'll remember that second half for the next couple of weeks. It's all a blur right now," said Wilson, who also registered 13 rebounds and four blocks.

"We were just resilient in what we needed to do."

Kelsey Plum and Kahleah Copper both scored 12 points off the bench for the US.

Williams, who led France with 19, admitted she knew her last-gasp shot wasn't going to be enough.

"I knew straight away it was two points but I was going quickly. It was hard to stop," she said. The referees briefly conferred before confirming the game was over. "I was behind her, so I saw it was a two," said Copper. "No stress for me -- I don't know about the people on the bench!" An eighth straight triumph gave the US women the record for most consecutive gold medals in any team sport at the Olympics, breaking a tie with the US men, who won seven

basketball titles in a row from 1936 to 1968.

"An absolutely incredible basketball game. Two teams that left it all out there," said US coach Cheryl Reeve.

"I knew it would be hard, anything easy isn't worth having. Coming home with gold, I can't think of anything that would be greater in life than what we just did together."

For the 42-year-old Diana Taurasi it was a record third Olympic gold, moving her one ahead of Sue Bird.

The US women got support from LeBron James, who sat courtside wearing his gold medal and was joined by teammates Bam Adebayo and Derrick White, after they won the men's gold by beating France 98-87 in Saturday's final.

FRANTIC FINISH A low-scoring first quarter saw a cold-shooting France muster just nine points, but the US only fared marginally better and led by six after 10 minutes.

Nevada-born Williams, who qualifies to play for France through her mother, trimmed the gap to a point with a three early in the second period before a basket from Valerieane Ayayi tied the game at 20-20.

Marine Fauthoux drained a three from near midcourt with the shot clock expiring to send the Shercy Colina crowd wild, but Napheesa Collier's putback ensured the teams headed into the break level at 25-25.

France strung together a 10-point run to start the third period before the US hit back to lead 45-43 going into the final quarter, with Plum connecting on a pair of threes.

Alcaraz sets sights on year-end number one spot

After capturing back-to-back Grand Slam titles and a silver medal at the Paris Olympics, world number three Carlos Alcaraz said one of his key goals for the rest of the season is to finish as the top-ranked player in the world.

The 21-year-old French Open and Wimbledon champion, who lost a thrilling Olympic final to Novak Djokovic, returns to action at this week's Cincinnati Open, where he can gain ground on the Serb and Italian Jannik Sinner.

Alcaraz is 450 points behind world number one Sinner in the ATP Live race to the season finale in Turin, the separate year-to-date standings that serve as a measuring stick for the year-end number one battle.

"Obviously being number one is a goal every time that I'm (behind) and the race is an important ranking for me. At the end of the year if you end the race number one, in the

rankings it's quite similar, so you're going to end number one," Alcaraz said.

"So I'm really focused on that. I'm focused on going to every tournament, thinking about playing great tennis, doing a good result just to get better in the race. This year, ending the year as number one is one of my main goals right now."

Last year's Cincinnati runner-up, Alcaraz will begin his campaign against Gael Monfils or Alexei Popyrin as he returns to hardcourt tennis for the first time since reaching the Miami quarter-finals in March.

The Cincinnati Open is an important tune-up event for the Aug. 26-Sept. 8 U.S. Open.

"I'm excited to play here again. Obviously great memories from last year, reaching the final, losing a really tight and epic match (to Djokovic)," Alcaraz said.

Djokovic withdrew from Cincinnati after his Olympic triumph.



Hat-trick Harrie becomes most successful Dutch summer Olympian

Serbia make it three water polo Olympic crowns in a row

PARIS: Serbia won their third straight Olympic gold in men's water polo with a 13-11 victory over Croatia at La Defense Arena on Sunday.

The Serbs were beaten three times during the group stage of the competition but came alive in the knockout stage beating Greece and the USA before an impressive display in the gold medal game.

Uros Stevanovic's side were 8-5 up at half-time and never looked in danger of letting their lead slip against the 2012 gold medalists.

"We had our ups and downs. But we are famous for this, we are very hard to beat in the elimination phase. Everybody, I think, underestimated us a little bit because of the results in

the group. It happens," said defender Dusan Mandic, who played in all three gold medal winning teams.

"We were prepared for when it was the most important. I think only those of us that were here, the players and the coaches, believed in this. That the gold would happen," he said.

"It's incredible. This is the power of unity. This is the team spirit. This is defence, defence, defence until the end, sacrificing for each other," he said.

Despite the history between the two nations, who fought a war which ended in 1995, there was no hint of tension in the 15,000 capacity arena.

The players congratulated each other at the end of the game with handshakes and

hugs before the Serbian team pushed their coaching staff into the pool.

Croatian goalkeeper Toni Popadic said there was no feeling other than disappointment in their performance.

"It's about the loss, the game is the game, it's not about the traditional (rivals) or anything else. We were close to the goal but we didn't make it, that's it," he said.

Serbia's Nemanja Vico, who narrowly missed out on making the squad for the Tokyo Games, was delighted to have finally got his hands on gold.

"We went through it all in this tournament, from right down to up. I really can't believe that the dream has come true," he said.



Serbia make it three water polo Olympic crowns in a row

Melbourne Stars beat Pakistan Shaheens in Top End T20 series

DARWIN: Pakistan Shaheens fell 47 runs short against Melbourne Stars in their second match of the Top End T20 series on Sunday at the Gardens Oval in Darwin, Australia.

Tayyab Tahir's unbeaten half-century (57 not out, 43b, 6x4s, 1x6) went in vain as Shaheens finished with 128-9 in 20 overs in pursuit of the 176-run target. Opening batter Sahibzade Farhan scored 26 off 13 balls clubbing two fours and two sixes.

Following Haseebullah's (11, 20b, 1x6) departure in the seventh over with the scorecard reading 44-2, the Shaheens batting line-up collapsed as they lost seven wickets for just 47 runs. Tayyab and Arif Yaqoob added an undefeated 37-run partnership for the last wicket.

Earlier, Melbourne Stars, after opting to bat first, got off to a strong start as the opening pair of Liam Blackford and Ashley Chandrasinghe stitched a 91-run partnership off 74 balls. Blackford hit seven fours for his 43-ball 55 while his partner, Chandrasinghe, contributed 47 off 42 balls which involved four boundaries and two sixes.

Leg-spinner Arif Yaqoob drew the first blood for Shaheens as he dismissed Blackford. Three overs later, Dylan Brasher (10, 9b, 1x4) was sent packing by Jahandad Khan, bringing an end to a 27-run second-wicket partnership.

Sam Elliot (17 not out, 8b) and Arjun Nair (36 not out, 15b, 3x4s, 3x6s) added a quick-fire 55-run partnership off just 23 balls for the fifth wicket that lifted the Stars to 175-4 in the allotted 20 overs.

For Shaheens, Jahandad bagged two wickets while Arif dismissed one batter.

Pakistan Shaheens will play their next match against Tasmania at the DXC Arena, Darwin on 13 August.

Pakistan restarts tractor export to Africa: Tanveer

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Industry and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain cut the ribbon at a ceremony arranged on the occasion of restart of the tractors export to Africa here at Millat Tractor Company on Monday.

The company's Chief Executive Raheel Asghar and other top management of the company as well as the foreign guests were also present.

Addressing the ceremony, the Federal Minister said, "The process of exporting Pakistani tractors to different African countries has started again. I hope it will revive the sinking tractor manufacturing industry." He said that the decision to export tractors to African countries would expedite the process of the

tractor manufacturing industry and also ensure speedy agricultural development, thus setting the country's economy on strong footing.

Rana Tanveer Hussain said that everyone knows that the biggest challenge facing Pakistan is the economy, however, the country's economy will recover soon only through agricultural development. The present government has managed to save the country from default and 'our goal is to revive the economy', he said, citing that from 2013 to 2017, Pakistan had been developing fast and afterwards, every sector had started declining due to the incompetent government that took over in 2018.

The Federal Minister

mentioned that though the present government has taken difficult decisions, these would prove beneficial for the nation and the country, and everything will be fine in a year. "Agriculture will play an important role in the recovery of the economy and the government has given many incentives to the stakeholders of the agricultural sector, while the exports of rice and sesame have doubled. We have to find new markets because Pakistan's agricultural products are in high demand at global level," he maintained.

He said that there will be further improvements in tractor manufacturing and export of tractors to Africa will prove to be an important step, asserting that 90

percent local parts are being installed in the tractors as 400 companies are manufacturing tractor parts, and these companies should cluster here to manufacture parts. He disclosed that export of cars is also going to start and at first, cars will be exported to Bangladesh.

On this occasion, Raheel Asghar said that they want to export 10 percent of tractor production, adding that Pakistan has two major tractor manufacturing plants which use more than 90 percent locally manufactured components. He added that sellers are not able to deliver tractors due to tax refund stoppage, asserting that tractor manufacturing industry is suffering due to non-refund of sales tax by FBR (Federal Board of Revenue) should solve problems of the tractor manufacturing industry on priority basis. The government should also take more effective steps to solve the tractor industry's problems, he added.-APP



Federal Minister Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb presiding over a meeting of Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises in Islamabad.

Punjab cabinet to approve LG law draft soon: Zeeshan Rafiq

LAHORE: Provincial Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq has said that the legislative process is underway to conduct local bodies elections in Punjab. There is ambiguity in the law made by the former government.

He was addressing a round table conference on the topic of local democratic governments. Civil society representatives, senior journalists and others also participated in the conference.

Minister Zeeshan Rafiq said that the Local Government Act 2019 called for the abolition of the Union Council, the basic unit of local bodies. He regretted that elected local bodies were not allowed to flourish in the past decades, but Muslim League-N has a track record of conducting local bodies elections during its tenure.

Zeeshan Rafiq reminded that Muhammad Nawaz Sharif strengthened the local bodies during his prime ministership, but the government that came after him sent the local bodies of the Muslim League-N government home. He said that under the supervision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the preparation for holding local body elections in Punjab is proceeding ahead. "Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has set up a high-

level committee within a month of assuming power, which has studied various systems and sent the recommendations of the new bill to the cabinet," he said.

The Minister expressed the hope that the provincial cabinet will soon approve the draft law after which the matter will go to the Punjab Assembly. He termed the Local Government Act of the previous government as unworkable, adding that the division between cities and villages was abolished in this law, which created complexity in the system. "It is clear that cities have their own problems and rural populations have their

own issues", he added.

The Provincial Minister further told that Town Committee and Tehsil Council are being added in the new local bodies system.

"We completed all this within a few months. In this regard, financial aspects are also taken into consideration", he said.

The Minister agreed that the task of repairing and rehabilitation of the streets should be the responsibility of the local representatives. "We want the new system to have no loopholes so that it will continue in the future too", said Minister Rafiq.-APP

Iran's trade with Africa reaches \$1.3b

ZANJAN: The president of the Iran-Africa Joint Chamber of Commerce has called for strategic planning to enhance Iran's trade relations with the continent, which currently stand at approximately \$1.3 billion.

The current trade volume, Masoud Berahman told a conference in the city of Zanjan on Sunday, is significantly lower than the potential trade opportunities between Iran and Africa.

Africa boasts a staggering \$1.5 trillion in trade turnover, which is split quite evenly between imports and exports, Berahman said at the conference featuring trade opportunities in Africa.

He pointed to the continent's rich natural resources, environmental assets, and agricultural potential, which remain largely untapped by Iranian traders.

He stressed that Iran must work to carve out a larger share in the African market.-APP

Aurangzeb chaired CCoSOEs meeting

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday presided over a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSOEs).

The meeting was attended by Minister for Housing & Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Minister for Power Sarda Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari, Minister for Law & Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Governor SBP, Chairman SECP, and other senior officers from the relevant ministries and divisions.-APP

DC Panjgur martyred, MC injured in Mastung attack

Continued from page 1

his body, including his chest and stomach, which caused internal bleeding and led to his death.

Chairman Abdul Malik Baloch, the younger brother of the National Party Balochistan's President Rehmat Baloch, also sustained multiple bullet wounds and was shifted to Quetta for treatment.

Security officials reported that a group of at least 15 armed men had blocked the highway in the Khadkoocha area of Mastung and were checking passing vehicles. The armed men signalled for the Deputy Commissioner's vehicle to stop, but when it did not, they opened fire.

Security forces have launched a search operation in the area to locate the assailants. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack and the killing of the Deputy Commissioner

so far.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the attack on the Deputy Commissioner of Panjgur and expressed deep sorrow over his martyrdom. The Prime Minister also wished for the swift recovery of the injured and directed the relevant authorities to provide them with the best medical care. He emphasized the need to identify and bring the perpetrators to justice promptly.

The Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, also expressed profound sorrow over the death of Deputy Commissioner Zakir Baloch and the injuries sustained by others in the attack. "Zakir Baloch was a talented officer who performed his duties excellently," said the Chief Minister. He declared that

the terrorists responsible for the incident would not be forgiven.

The National Party's central president, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, and the central Secretary General, Senator Jan Muhammad Buledi, expressed deep sorrow over the martyrdom of Deputy Commissioner Zakir Baloch in the Mastung attack and prayed for him. They described the attack as an attempt to incite conflict and civil war in Balochistan. They noted that Zakir Baloch was a courageous and significant contributor to Balochistan at a young age. His martyrdom, they said, represents a profound loss. They also expressed their sorrow over the injuries sustained by the National Party's Panjgur District Chairman, Abdul Malik Baloch, in the incident.

Hostile forces are creating rift between state and people: CM

Continued from page 1

by elders to join Pakistan and affirmed his resolve to make sacrifices for the integrity of the homeland.

At the end of the event, the Chief Minister distributed shields to the winners of the rifle shooting championship.

Educate daughters to enlighten a generation, says Mahrang

Continued from page 1

and that the Baloch nation should resist for their rights beyond tribal disputes and conflicts.

Dutch envoy calls on Asif, express willingness for promote bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands, Henny Fokel De Vries called on Minister for Defence, Defence Production and Aviation Khawaja Muhammad Asif here Monday and expressed her willingness to promote constructive bilateral ties in various sectors.

The Federal Minister emphasized that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Republic of Netherlands and wants to further enhance defence collaboration, a news

release said.

Latest security situation along Pak-Afghan border and Pakistan's commitment to peace and stability in the region came under discussion.

He also impressed upon Pakistan's commitment to eradication of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Both sides reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and explored various possibilities of further strengthening political, economic ties with focus on global and regional issues.-APP

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PM pledges to transform Pak into developed nation

Continued from page 1

Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, and remote areas of Balochistan. Additionally, each province has its separate programs to support students, he added.

Additionally, the prime minister announced that he will personally fund the education of 1,000 agricultural graduates in China, aiming to equip them with modern technology to boost agri production. Huawei is also committed to sending 200,000 youth for IT training and advanced education, he said adding that he will unveil a comprehensive development plan for the country on August 14.

The prime minister stated that nothing was impossible in this world and emphasized the need to progress by learning from past mistakes. He assured that the country's hockey will be revived. Praising javelin

Governor pushes for concrete reform & Electric Cars

Continued from page 1

duction of electric cars by Chinese companies in Balochistan is expected to have a revolutionary impact on the province's economy. He expressed confidence that this shift would help eliminate pollution-causing petrol and expensive diesel vehicles. The Governor emphasized that it is encouraging that the Chinese Group of Companies plans to manufacture electric cars in Quetta, which would create valuable job opportunities and promote sustainable transport solutions, contributing to economic stability.

CM response recorded on PB-10 rigging case

Continued from page 1

hearing, petitioner Guharam Bagni spoke to the media, saying they seek justice from the court. He requested biometric verification, asserting that the truth would be clear after the biometric process. If justice is not served, they will file an appeal in the Supreme Court.

CM response recorded on PB-10 rigging case

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Punjab cabinet to approve LG law draft soon: Zeeshan Rafiq

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Federal Minister Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with JUP Secretary General Owais Noonari.

thrower Arshad Nadeem, he noted that Nadeem had won a gold medal for the country after a drought of over 40 years.

At the beginning of the event, the prime minister officially launched several key initiatives, including the Commonwealth Youth Alliance Secretariat in Islamabad, the Digital Learning Portal, the PM Green Youth Movement, and the AI for Youth Programme, which offers Intel-certified skills to young people. Other initiatives included Smart Youth, Smart Pakistan, and the distribution of one million tablets and mobile phones to high-achieving intermediate students. He also announced the registration of the National Volunteer Corps.

Later, the Prime Minister presented awards to successful young entrepreneurs.-APP

S#	NAME OF PROPOSED SCHEME	TSE No.	E/COST
1.	Construction of UC office (2 Rooms) 1.UC office & 1.Registration Cell) at UC Office Usmaiani	242508515633	2,500,000
2.	Construction of Community Hall Room at Goth Gaddor UC Sireshpat	242508515673	2,500,000
3.	Repair of Shah Lakhra	242508515693	2,000,000
4.	Construction of 6.No. Water Storage Tanks for water supply purposes at six villages of UC Kenwari	242508515743	1,500,000
5.	Construction of UC office (2 Rooms, 1.UC office & 1.Registration Cell) at UC Karra	242508515763	2,500,000
6.	Construction of Culvert over Nala at Goth Sumyani	242508515783	1,000,000
7.	Construction of 4.No. Washrooms & 70 Feet Wall at Mata Mandir Lyari	242508515793	2,500,000
8.	Const. of Sewing Centre at Muhammad Yasir Naya Abadi Kanraj	242508515803	1,500,000
9.	Repair, Renovation & Solarization of District Council Office	242508515823	3,500,000
10.	Repair, Renovation & Solarization of official Residence of Chief Officer, District Council	242508515883	3,020,000
11.	Construction of UC office building UC Hara Saithar Lakhra	242508516163	2,500,000
12.	Construction of Community Hall at Goth Moosani UC Baghiari	242508516173	2,500,000
13.	Construction of Solar based bore for drinking water supply purpose at Haji Bakhsia UC Jafarwala	242508516253	2,500,000
14.	Construction of Community Hall's room at Umar Goth UC Waywaro	242508516263	1,500,000
15.	Construction of 6.No. Water Storage/Supply Tanks at various places of UC Sukkan.	242508516273	2,500,000
16.	Construction of Retaining Wall at Ahora UC Ahora Patching	242508516293	2,500,000
17.	Construction of Solar based bore for drinking water purpose at Razzo Goth Chamasra UC Pawan	242508516303	1,500,000
18.	Construction of Water Supply Tank with 200ft pipeline at Juma Yano Goth Wata UC Pawan	242508516313	1,000,000
19.	Construction of Protection Band at Mouza Phor-2 UC Lyari	242508516353	2,500,000
20.	Construction of Solar based bore for drinking water purpose at Goth Muzmal Shaikh Piprani	242508516363	2,500,000
21.	Const. of Community Hall at Goth Marhoom Saadiq Shaikh Piprani	242508516383	2,000,000
22.	Const. of Retaining Wall at Goth Muhammad Saleh Dan UC Kathor	242508516413	1,000,000
23.	Construction of Solar based bore for drinking water purpose at Goth Abdul Sattar Fehi Mouza Wasra Landu UC Pawan	242508516423	1,000,000
24.	Construction of Community Hall at Addo Goth Layari	242508516433	2,500,000
25.	Const. of Bore for drinking water purpose at Pir Goth for UC Layari	242508516443	2,500,000
26.	Construction of Community Hall at Masjid Goth Mouza Orak UC, Shah Lakhra	242508516453	2,500,000
27.	Construction of Solar base Bore for drinking water purpose at Goth Rahim Bakhsia UC Danda	242508516463	1,250,000
28.	Construction of Solar based Bore with water storage Tank at Graveyard Jland Peer UC Wayaro At Goth Banbari UC Wayaro	242508516493	2,000,000
29.	Construction of Solar based Bore for drinking water purpose at Gado Pat UC Onara	242508516503	1,250,000
30.	Construction of Solar based Bore for drinking water purpose at Goth Sinyan UC Onara	242508516513	1,250,000
31.	Const. of Mori at Goth Abdul Hameed UC Onara	242508516533	2,000,000
32.	Construction of 2.No. Water Tanks with Pipeline connection from existing Water Supply Pipeline at Shah Lakhra	242508516553	1,000,000
33.	Construction of Calverts (Mori) for flood water passage at Loranki	242508516563	1,500,000
34.	Construction of Calverts (Mori) for flood water passage at Loranki Dhora GGHs Kumach & at Dhora Wachar Sardar Rafiq	242508516573	1,500,000
35.	Construction Boring Javid Gul Khriyaka Jumbani & Mori Zamindar Sanallah	242508516583	1,500,000
36.	Const. of Solar based bore for drinking water supply purpose at Juma Khan Son of Ibrahim Goth UC Kathore	242508516603	2,500,000
37.	Construction of Solar base Bore for drinking water purpose at Mousa Goth Banbari UC Wayaro	242508516623	1,000,000

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Deputy Director, Agriculture (On Farm Water Management) Dera Bugti, invites sealed Tender/Bid for execution of various development schemes under the following project of PSPD 2024-25 under CSR-2023 from interested contractor/firm with the Bid Security @ 2% of estimated cost/offered rate in shape of Call Deposit (Refundable). The non-refundable Tender Form Fee Rs.1500/-to be deposited in any National Bank of Pakistan Branch situated in Balochistan Province through Green Bank Challan in a head of account (C03136) (verified by the District Accounts Officer).

TSE No. 242508517463 Bid Security 2%

S#	Name of Work/Total	E/Cost
1	Drilling & Development Of Bore, Inst. of Solar System UNDER THE PROJECT PSPD 2024-25 S.NO. 69 [Z0204.0008]	46.508 Million

Procurements shall be made under BPP Rules 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn-over of at least 32,000,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-5 and above (Up to 65 million) Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE04(V) (Irrigation Only), CE09(I) (Water Supply), CE10(I) (General Civil Engineering Works), EE1(I) (Solar), Income Tax Registration certificate is required The bidding firm must submit Income Tax Return of Taxation Year 2023 The Bidding Firm must submit Audit Report / Audit Balance Sheet of FY 2020-21, 2021-22 & 2022-23 The Bidding Firm must submit Company's latest Bank Account Statement or Bank Certificate Line Certificate. The bidding firm must submit Income Tax Return of last 05 Taxation Year The bidding firm must submit the Tender Fee in the Head of Account C03136 on Green Challan duly verified by District Treasury. Method of Procurement: Single Stage-Two Envelope Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security (2%) in the form of Call Deposit or Bank Guarantee. Bank's certificate is mandatory in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be downloaded from BPPRA website. Bid Validity Period: 60 days Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication, during office hours of any working day. Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders should be submitted on 28 August, 2024 till 12:00 PM Sharp at the office of the undersigned. Tender opening: The Technical Proposals will be opened on same day at the office of the undersigned at 01:00 PM. Stamp Duty: The successful bidder must submit the Stamp Duty in shape of Judicial Stamp Paper or Special Adhesive Stamps as per policy. Address: Office of the Deputy Director Agriculture On Farm Water Management, Dera Bugti. Contact No. 0332-485080

Deputy Director
Agriculture On Farm Water Management Dera Bugti

PRQ No.517/12-08-2024
www.dprgob.pk @dprgob dprgob @dppcbalochistan

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-242508516833 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Irrigation Department invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee Rs.1500/- and Bid Security 3%

S.No	Name of Works	E/Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF GUIDE EMBANKMENT PROTECTION BAND AT MADANAREA MACH DISTRICT KACCHI PSPDP# 3335 (2024-25)	151,000,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 100,000,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm The Bidder has to Submit a Bid Security @ 3% of Estimated Cost The bidder has to submit a tender Fee amounting to Rs. 1500/- P.E.C Category Code is C-4 and above (Up to 200 million) and Specialized Code is Ce04. Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee/Deposit at Call of 3% specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 30 August, 2024 till 10:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 11:00 AM on EPPS System. Address: Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Dhandar Phone No. 0832415200 Email: sikandamotani@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
IRRIGATION DIVISION KECHI

PRQ No.519/12-08-2024
www.dprgob.pk @dprgob dprgob @dppcbalochistan

NOTICES INVITING TENDER

The undersigned invites sealed percentage tender based on composite schedule of rates 2023 of GOB, amended up-to-date from the interested contractors / firms for the works listed below. Time Limit: 06 Months (Each Scheme), Earnest Money: 2% (Each Scheme) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS:- THROUGH GRANT IN AID FOR THE YEAR 2023-24.

The procurement will strictly be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (BPPRA) rules 2014. ELIGIBILITY: The Contractor must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in relevant category (C-05) above and registration with tax authorities i.e. (NTN and Sales Tax Department), where applicable. Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 5 Assignment of similar nature of work Turnover of at least 50,000,000 PKR Amount in 5 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm METHOD OF PROCUREMENT: Single stage - One envelope Bidding procedure. BIDDING / TENDER DOCUMENTS: Issuance Documents will be issued from the date of publication till submission date and time on production of green Challan form amounting Rs. (1000) Non-refundable - (as bidding documents charges) deposited in the account 4048283872 of District Council Lasbela NBP Uthal Branch. Submission: Last date of Submission will be 28-08-2024 at 11:00am Opening: The tender document will be opened on 28-08-2024 at 12:00pm (bid will be opened within one hour of the deadline for submission of bids), before procurement committee in the presence of contractors or their authorized representatives. Place of issuance, submission, inquiries and opening will be - Address: Office of the Chief Officer District Council Lasbela Phone No: 0853-610375 E-mail address: districtcouncilasbela@gmail.com Terms and conditions: Under the following conditions bids will be rejected Conditional, electronics and telegraphic bids / tender. Bids not accompanied by bid security / earnest money in shape of call deposit in favor of the undersigned. Bids received after specified date and time. Black listed contractors / firms.

CHIEF OFFICER,
DISTRICT COUNCIL, LASBELA

AB No.167/12-08-2024
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Abbasi urges COAS, CJ, politicians to find way out

KARACHI: Former prime minister and top leader of the newly launched political party Awam Pakistan Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has said that holding polls anew will not solve problems faced by the country and urged the army chief, chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) and politicians to find a way out.

"Even fresh polls won't solve the problems in the country. Army chief, CJP and politicians should sit together and determine a way to run the country," he said while speaking to journalists outside an accountability court on Monday.

It may be noted that political rivals of the ruling coalition - Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) - have time and again called for new elections.

Political parties including Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F), Jamat-e-Islami (JI) alleged vote rigging, interference, and manipulation of the poll results in the February 8 elections.

Abbasi's statement about the fresh polls came after the

National Accountability Bureau (NAB) withdrew a reference against the ex-premier.

Referring to the graft reference pertaining to illegal appointments in Pakistan State Oil (PSO), the ex-premier said that the statement of only a single witness was recorded against him in four years.

He said that the reference was not against corruption and was made in misuse of powers by the anti-graft body.

Abbasi went on to say that "the sooner NAB is abolished the better it would be for the country".

"Such cases are started under political engineering. Today is a day to celebrate as the court exonerated us from the charges," he added.

The former PM and others were accused of illegally appointing a former managing director of PSO, misuse of authority, and causing losses to the national exchequer, in a supplementary reference filed in 2020 with the LNG terminal case. An accountability court in Karachi acquitted Abbasi and others in the LNG case in April this year.



President Asif Ali Zardari addressing a ceremony in connection with Minorities' Day in Pakistan, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

Pakistan committed to protection of minorities: President

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday reiterated that Pakistan was committed to protection of the rights of minorities and future builders of the nation.

Stressing upon the significance of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's vision, the president said they were required to fully embrace his message aimed at fostering unity, brotherhood and religious tolerance in society.

The event arranged by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony was attended by members of parliament, ulama, religious leaders, members of the diplomatic corps, media and representatives from different minorities. Comparing the current situation in India, the president said "Modi's India is not a safe haven for the minorities," and lauded Quaid's foresight and leadership who had realized the future fate of minorities in India.

President Zardari said the people of Pakistan always felt the pains of sufferings of humanity and for those lying lowly in society and accorded due respect and space to all the minorities living here because such a message of human consideration had been embedded.

Addressing a ceremony to mark the celebrations of Minorities' Day at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the president said, "Under the Constitution and under the onus of oath my office, I have the duty to protect all rights of the minorities and provide all kind of facilitation".

He said that the objective behind the observance of Minorities' Day at the official level was to acknowledge the valuable contributions made by the members of different communities living in Pakistan.

The president further stressed upon enhancement of jobs opportunities for the minorities in different government departments on merit basis besides, increasing the existing jobs quota.

Lauding the role of the minorities in the national progress and prosperity, he said that

they were the equal citizens of Pakistan and future builders of the nation.

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Defence Minister visits Naval HQs

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister, Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Monday visited Naval Headquarters (NHQ) here and called-on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf.

During the meeting, matters about the Regional Maritime Security milieu and operational readiness of the Pakistan Navy were discussed, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

The naval chief apprised the minister on maritime challenges and the Pakistan Navy's preparedness to meet them. The minister was also briefed on the Pakistan Navy's future capability enhancement and modernization plans.

The minister took keen interest in details of recent acquisitions of state-of-the-art platforms and equipment which will further strengthen the seaward defence of the country.

He assured that his ministry would make all efforts to meet the requirements of the Pakistan Navy despite the prevailing economic constraints. -APP

Dar emphasizes to boost economic ties with Turkiye

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthen Pakistan-Turkiye bilateral relations with special focus on trade, investment.

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Hasina's son adamant in denying mother's 'fabricated' resignation

ISLAMABAD: Sajeed Wazed, the son of Bangladesh's former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, has refuted claims circulating on social media about her resignation.

Wazed dismissed the reports as entirely false and fabricated, emphasizing that the statement attributed to his mother was incorrect.

In a post on X, formerly known as Twitter, Wazed clarified, "The recent resignation statement attributed to my mother published in a newspaper is completely false and fabricated. I have just confirmed with her that she did not make any statement either before or since leaving Dhaka."

In a statement quoted by the Economic Times, Sheikh Hasina had accused the United States of playing a role in her removal from power.

Hasina claimed she could have remained in office had she been willing to compromise Bangladesh's sovereignty, particularly by surrendering Saint Martin Island and allowing US influence over the Bay of Bengal.

"I resigned so that I did not have to see the procession of dead bodies. They wanted to come to power over the dead bodies of students, but I did not allow it", the ousted Bangladeshi PM was quoted as saying.

"I could have remained in power if I had surrendered the sovereignty of Saint Martin Island and allowed America to hold sway over the Bay of Bengal," Hasina stated, urging her countrymen not to be manipulated by radical elements.

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Ghazala Gola advocates for safe shelters for women

By Our Reporter

QUETTA: Deputy Speaker of Balochistan Assembly and Chairperson of the Women Parliamentarians' Caucus, Ghazala Gola, emphasized the necessity of establishing safe shelters for women at the government level, where all basic amenities are provided.

She made these remarks while addressing a consultative meeting on the draft of the Shelter Act 2024, organized by Shirkat Gah and held at a local hotel on Sunday. Provincial Minister for Education Raheela Durrani, Provincial Planning Minister Mir Zohoor Ahmed Buledai, provincial assembly members Shehnaaz Umrani, Kulsom Baloch, Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women Balochistan Fouzia Shaheen, and others were among the attendees.

At the beginning of the meeting, Executive Director of Shirkat Gah Fareeda Shaheed and Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women Balochistan Fouzia Shaheen briefed on the objectives of the consultative meeting and informed participants about the key points of the proposed draft law.

In her address, Deputy Speaker Ghazala Gola highlighted that comprehensive laws related to women's rights and protection are being developed in Balochistan. She stressed that gender equality should be considered in all laws, and effective mechanisms for the implementation of existing laws are also crucial. Public awareness must be raised to

clarify that these laws are for the benefit of the people.

She said it is essential to ensure consultation on the laws being formulated. Establishing women's shelters is a sensitive issue, and it is clear from the initial phase that these shelters will only be established at the government level, ensuring a safe environment and provision of all basic amenities.

Provincial Minister for Education Raheela Durrani expressed that the proposed draft law for women's protection is a positive step. Efforts are underway to pass the Balochistan Women Protection Act 2024 and the bill to raise the marriage age for girls to 18. All assembly members should work together to pass these bills and create awareness campaigns about them.

Provincial Planning Minister Mir Zohoor Ahmed Buledai stressed that as parliamentarians, it is their responsibility to support these bills, particularly the women's protection bill.

Fouzia Shaheen mentioned that the women's protection bill is being reviewed by the Law Department and needs to be passed by the provincial assembly. She said that Shirkat Gah has played a key role in lobbying for the Balochistan Women Protection Bill 2024. There is also a need for lobbying for the Child Marriage Bill 2024.

Provincial Assembly member Kulsom Baloch emphasized the urgent need to enforce this law, as feudal societies have always marginalized women and promoted violence.

Ahsan chairs review meeting on public-private partnership projects

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Monday chaired a meeting to review the progress of ongoing projects being executed under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) framework.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Minister for Petroleum Senator Musadik Malik, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Muhammad Jahanzeb Khan, Secretary Planning Awaiz Manzoor Sumra, Secretary Railways, Secretary Economic Affairs Division, PPP CEO Malik Ahmed Khan and senior officials from federal and provincial ministries, a news release said.

The participants reviewed the implementation report of the ongoing projects and discussed decisions made during the previous meeting.

Aurangzeb meets Pepsi Co's CEO for Africa

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday held a meeting with PepsiCo's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Africa, Middle East (ME) and South Asia (SA) Eugene Willemssen to discuss Pakistan's economic progress and potential collaboration opportunities.

He was accompanied by CEO Pakistan and Afghanistan Muhammad Khosa, said a news release. The minister welcomed Willemssen and provided an update on Pakistan's economic progress.

He also highlighted recent improvements, including increased foreign exchange reserves, decreased inflation,

and stable currency.

The minister attributed these positive indicators to the successful completion of the nine-month stand-by arrangement (SBA) with the IMF and mentioned that a staff-level agreement (SLA) has been reached to ensure continued economic stability.

He also spoke about ongoing reforms in the energy sector, state-owned enterprises (SOEs), and taxation, emphasizing the government's initiative to incorporate under-taxed and untaxed entities into the tax net. Muhammad Aurangzeb appreciated the PepsiCo's seed lab initiative and its impact in driving agricultural and overall economic growth.

Govt committed to empowering youth

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said on Monday that youth were real asset of a nation, and true architects of its future.

In her message on International Youth Day, she

said that focusing on education, training and character building of youth was very important.

The chief minister said that PML-N government believed in giving opportunities to youth for materializing their dreams into reality, added that under Chief Minister's.

KP CM for merit based transfer postings

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khayer Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Monday emphasized the merit-based transfer posting and accelerated land record computerization in the province.

He issued the directives for appointment, posting and transfer of officers based on merit and performance in all key positions to enhance efficiency within the provincial affairs. He emphasized that officers who demonstrate outstanding performance will be duly rewarded.

Presiding over a meeting of the Revenue and Estate Department on Monday, the chief minister instructed the relevant authorities to expedite the process of computerizing land records and land settlement under the Board of Revenue, with a mandate to complete the project within the stipulated time frame. He assured that the provincial government would prioritize the provision of all necessary resources to achieve

this goal.

The meeting was attended by Provincial Minister for Revenue and Estate Department Nazir Ahmad Abbasi, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Senior Member Board of Revenue Ikramullah Khan, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Amjad Ali Khan, and other senior officials. During the session, a comprehensive briefing was given on the progress of the computerization of land records and land settlements.

It was reported that 2,876 mauzas across the province have been made operational, with rapid progress being made on the remaining mauzas. To date, 81% of land records under phases one and two across 19 districts have been computerized. The district-wise progress was also shared, highlighting that 100% of the mauzas in Mandan, Buner, Kohat, Tank, Shangla, and Hangu districts have been operationalized.

Reduced gas pressure expected in Sindh & Balochistan due to leak

KARACHI: A gas pipeline leak is expected to cause reduced gas pressure in several areas of Sindh and Balochistan, according to a statement from Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC).

The company reported that a leak was detected in the Gambat GPF IV feeder line, which supplies gas to SSGC.

As a result, the system is experiencing a shortfall of 38 MMCFD (million cubic feet per day) of gas.

The current demand of these industrial customers is around 130-140 mmscf (million standard cubic feet per day), with future demand estimated to be 80-100 mmscf.

SSGC further noted that Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) has already deployed a team to repair the pipeline, with the work expected to be completed within the next 20 hours.

During this period, residents in some areas of Sindh and Balochistan may experience lower gas pressure due to the ongoing leak.

According to the Oil and Gas Development

Company Limited (OGDCL), the well is currently producing approximately 159 barrels of oil and 16.4 million standard cubic feet of gas daily.

The discovery is the result of a collaborative effort between OGDCL, Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), and Pakistan Oilfields Limited (POL) with the drilling operations to be commenced in January 2024.

Last month, the SSGC launched a dedicated pipeline, investing Rs3.86 billion, to supply fuel at high pressure to industrial consumers in the western part of Karachi.

The new phase aimed to address low-pressure gas issues for industrial customers in the region. According to a press statement, the gas utility integrated a 31-kilometer-long, 24-inch diameter pipeline from MVA ACP1 to SMS Surjani, solving low-pressure supply problems for industrial customers in the western region.

SSGC's Managing Director, Imran Maniar, inaugurated the pipeline, underscoring that the project will separate low-pressure domestic and commercial consumers from high-pressure industrial consumers in the SITE and Hub Industrial Areas. This new pipeline is expected to meet approximately 269 mmscf of demand.



Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq delivering key note address to the participants of the Regional meeting on 'Gender Empowerment and Green Economy'.

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