

DAILY MIRROR

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Bilawal vows to provide low-cost electricity across Sindh

PPP chairman also pledges to provide free solar power to the poor across the province soon

ONLINE

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has pledged to provide free solar power to the poor across Sindh soon, aiming to supply electricity at lower costs through the provincial government.

Speaking at a ceremony for the distribution of solar home systems at the Chief Minister's House in Karachi on Thursday, Bilawal congratulated the Sindh government for implementing his manifesto.

"The whole country believes in providing solar energy to the people," he said. "The Benazir Income Support Programme is among our priorities. Solar panels have first been distributed among the people of Karachi and Larkana. We are committed to providing facilities to the poorest segments

and will also try to support working-class individuals. In the next phase, we will offer subsidies to the middle class as part of the energy transition."

Bilawal highlighted that Thar coal is already producing affordable electricity, and the Sindh government has utilised it to supply cheap power. "We are also investing in wind power," he added.

He announced plans to establish solar parks under public-private partnerships. "We want to provide our people with low-cost electricity through the Sindh government. Very soon, we will provide free solar energy to the poor across Sindh."

Bilawal expressed doubts about federal institutions' ability to manage every aspect effectively. "Our vision is to scale up solar energy. We have experienced the impact of climate change and floods.



Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a session of the Apex Committee of the National Action Plan in Quetta.

Finance minister unveils new incentives for foreign investors amid push for external financing

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb announced new policy measures on Thursday aimed at enhancing Pakistan's investment environment and attracting foreign investors, according to Radio Pakistan. The finance minister chaired a review meeting in Islamabad with representatives from joint venture investment firms, including Pak-Brunei Investment Company Limited and Saudi-Pak Industrial and Agricultural Investment Company. The discussion focused on fostering a supportive environment for private sector investment and highlighted the significant role these ventures play in driving economic growth. Aurangzeb emphasised the government's commitment to improving the investment climate in Pakistan. This comes as the South Asian nation seeks to secure a \$7 billion bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and faces ongoing security issues. During the meeting, the

CEO of Pak-Brunei Investment Company Limited presented an overview of the company's contributions to enhancing economic cooperation between Pakistan and Brunei, particularly in the industrial and agricultural sectors. The CEO of Saudi-Pak Industrial and Agricultural Investment Company also detailed the company's development initiatives, which focus on Islamic finance, food security, digital finance, and agriculture.

The discussion covered various operational aspects of these companies, including investment strategies, performance metrics, and challenges faced.

Both companies shared their successes and obstacles, seeking policy support to address growth impediments and explore future investment opportunities through government-to-government collaborations. Aurangzeb praised the strategic implementation of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 and expressed Pakistan's interest in adopting similar strategies to achieve its economic goals.

PM, army chief vow to crush attempts to destabilise Balochistan

Apex Committee decides to further strengthen intelligence sharing among security forces and law enforcement agencies

ONLINE

QUETTA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir have reiterated their commitment to preventing hostile forces from destabilising Balochistan's peace and development, pledging to crush any such attempts with full force.

The National Action Plan's Apex Committee meeting was held in Quetta on Thursday, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, the Commander of Balochistan Corps, and senior civil, police, intelligence, and military officials.

At the start of the meeting, participants offered prayers for the victims of recent terrorist attacks in

Balochistan and expressed solidarity with their families. The timely response and bravery of the security forces, which prevented further loss of innocent lives, were also commended.

Addressing the meeting, the prime minister praised the sacrifices and role of the people of Balochistan. He asserted that Pakistan's enemies are trying to spread unrest in Balochistan, but they will be defeated with full force and national support.

"The recent terrorist incidents have saddened the entire nation, and there will be no leniency for terrorists who spill the blood of innocent people," Sharif said. The prime minister emphasised that every possible measure would be taken for the development and prosperity of Balochistan. The committee strongly condemned the recent terrorist attacks and agreed to intensify ongoing efforts against terrorism in the province.

Five more rain casualties in Balochistan, death toll rises to 37

INP

QUETTA: A fresh spell of monsoon rains wreaked havoc in Balochistan, killing five more people due to rains in Panjgur and Mastung, after which the death toll due to monsoon rains in the province has exceeded 37 since June 7.

Flood lanes have damaged gardens, standing crops, and highways in the new series of monsoon rains that started Wednesday. Due to the rains, the district Awaran Jhal road is closed while the traffic is also suspended on the M8-motorway highway from Khuzdar to Jhal Magsi. A new series of rains has started in more than 20 districts of Balochistan, including Kohlu, Sibi, Zhob, Bolan, and Jhal Magsi. Even in Quetta, after only half an hour of rain, drains boiled and rain water entered many houses. The Meteorological Department has predicted more rains in 25 districts of the province including Quetta till August 31, while the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has warned that the rains may cause flooding and landslides in local rivers.

According to the Meteorological Department, heavy and light rains are expected in Kohlu, Barkhan, Dera Bugti, Zhob, Sherani, Quetta, Sibi.

Foreign Secretary meets Bangladesh Adviser Ministry of Foreign Affairs

APP

ISLAMABAD: On the sidelines of the 50th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) in Yaounde, Cameroon, Foreign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi on Thursday met with Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Md. Touhid Hossain.

The foreign secretary underscored the significance attached by Pakistan to its brotherly relations with Bangladesh, according to a press release received here.

The foreign secretary underlined the deep-rooted goodwill between the people of Pakistan and Bangladesh and expressed Pakistan's desire to advance bilateral engagement and dialogue.

Advisor Md. Touhid Hossain briefed the Foreign Secretary on the latest political developments in Bangladesh. The foreign secretary conveyed his best wishes for the continued peace, harmony, and prosperity of the people of Bangladesh.

Both sides agreed to continue engagement on matters of mutual interest.

PM Chairs High Level Meeting of Political Parties' Leaders

APP

QUETTA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday chaired a high level meeting of political parties' leaders and discussed the overall security situation in Balochistan.

The meeting was attended by Sardar Yaqoob Khan Nasir and Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran from Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Zahoer Ahmed Buledi, and Meena Baloch from Pakistan Peoples Party, Dr Abdul Malik Baloch, Rehmat Saleh Baloch and Mir Kabir Muhammad from National Party, Khalid Hussain Magsi and Sadiq Sanjrani from Balochistan Awami Party, Zamrak Khan Achakzai and Asghar from Awami National Party, Maulana Abdul Wase and

Yunus Zahri from Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam and Abdul Khaliq Hazara from Hazara Democratic Party.

In the meeting, the political parties leaders informed the prime minister about the problems faced by the people of Balochistan.

The meeting reviewed the overall security situation of the province and the ongoing operations against terrorists.

The participants of the meeting expressed solidarity with the families of the victims of recent terrorism in Balochistan and appreciated the bravery of the security forces for their timely response to prevent the loss of more innocent lives.

The participants also condemned the cowardly terrorist attacks targeting innocent Pakistanis in clear words.

Shehbaz Sharif May Go Missing After Stepping Down If Plan B Activated: Imran Khan

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Founder and former Prime Minister Imran Khan said that if Plan B was implemented, Shehbaz Sharif would also become a missing person as soon as he stepped down from his position.

During an informal conversation with journalists at Adiala Jail, Imran Khan clarified that he has not asked any hidden PTI members to come out, firmly denying the news about it.

Imran Khan said that "they are not afraid of jails; our people are abducted. Deputy Superintendent of Jail Akram has also been abducted, and the police claim he ran away with a girl. Everyone knows who abducted Akram. If Plan B is implemented, Shehbaz

Sharif will also become a missing person as soon as he steps down."

Imran Khan criticized the previous claims that the settlement and resettlement efforts had led to a resurgence in terrorism.

He accused Mohsin Naqvi of falsely claiming cross-border terrorism, implying that the government is lying.

He stated that TTP terrorism cannot end without the Afghan government's cooperation and

condemned the ongoing terrorism that is devastating the country, questioning whose responsibility it is to stop the terrorism in Balochistan and the Katcha region.

Imran Khan asserted that the terrorism in Balochistan would only end when elected representatives from Balochistan are appointed.



Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses during the Solar Home Systems (SHS) distribution ceremony held at CM House in Karachi.

Pakistan calls for urgent UNSC actions to hold Israel accountable, protect Palestinians

India also invited to attend SCO meeting: FO

APP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday reiterated its call for the UN Security Council to take immediate measures to stop the genocide of Palestinian people, end Israel's blatant violations of international laws and the UN Charter, and hold it accountable for war crimes.

Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, at her weekly press briefing, expressed grave concerns over the recent large-scale military incursion by Israeli forces in the northern part of the Occupied West Bank. This attack is another blatant violation of international law, including the 4th Geneva Convention, which prohibits indiscriminate targeting of civilians, she added.

She said that the repeated Israeli transgressions and the use of force, including airstrikes and drone attacks on populated areas was a blatant violation of the international humanitarian laws.

The spokesperson reiterated Pakistan's strong condemnation of the bombing of the historic Grand Mosque in Khan Younis by Israeli forces, and said the assault on a place of deep cultural and religious significance was a clear violation of international laws and the Hague Convention.

Responding to a question, the spokesperson said that the

invitations had been sent to all heads of government of SCO member countries including India for the upcoming meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Shanghai Cooperation Organization being held in Islamabad on October 15-16, 2024.

She said Pakistan had also received confirmation from some of the invited countries.

The spokesperson told the media that the third death anniversary of iconic Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Geelani would be observed on September 1, and remembered him as the true voice of the Kashmir struggle for self-determination.

Paying rich tribute to Kashmir leader late Syed Ali Geelani's struggle for Kashmir's right to self-determination, the spokesperson reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to political, diplomatic, and moral support to Kashmiris for a just and peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute as per UNSC resolutions. Highlighting the diplomatic engagements during the last week, she mentioned Foreign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi's visit to Cameroon where he was leading a Pakistani delegation at the 50th session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers.

At the CFM, he will share Pakistan's perspective on genocide in Gaza, dire humanitarian situation and Israeli adventurism in the region threatening regional peace. He will also

highlight the Indian atrocities in IIOJK, the issues of Islamophobia and climate change.

Spokesperson Baloch said that 8th session of Pakistan-Oman Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) was held in Muscat earlier this week wherein two sides reviewed all aspects of bilateral cooperation including political relations, trade and investment, security and defense, culture, health, and consular matters.

Besides, she said Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq led a parliamentary delegation on an official visit to Belarus at the invitation of the Chairman of the House of Representatives of Belarus. In Minsk, he met with the President, Chairman of the House of Representatives, Chairperson of the Council of the Republic of Belarus, and Minister for Agriculture.

The two sides affirmed their commitment to expand bilateral relations and enhance parliamentary exchanges and cooperation across various sectors including agriculture, industry, education, and culture with a focus on increasing bilateral trade. To another question, Spokesperson Baloch said that the government had no plans to engage in any talks with the TTP. She said the presence of terror groups including the TTP in Afghanistan was also confirmed by multiple international reports including the United Nations.

Potential cyclone over Northeast Arabian Sea likely to emerge along Sindh coast: PMD

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: A potential cyclone developed over the Rann of Kutch in India was expected to emerge along the Sindh coast late tonight or Friday morning, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD).

The deep depression over Rann of Kutch, India has moved very slowly west-southwest during last 12 hours and now lies at around Latitude 23.7 N and Longitude 69.5 E at about 270km east/southeast of Karachi.

The system is likely to move west/southwestwards and emerge into northeast Arabian Sea along Sindh coast by late night or Friday morning.

Due to favorable environmental conditions, sea surface temperature, low/moderate vertical wind shear and upper-level divergence, the system is likely to intensify further into a Cyclonic Storm (CS) by Friday and move initially in west/southwest direction.

Under its influence, widespread rain/wind-thunderstorms with scattered heavy-very heavy to isolated extremely heavy falls likely in Tharparker, Badin, Thatta, Sujawal, Hyderabad, Tandu Muhammad Khan, Tandu Allah Yar, Matiari, Umerkot, Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, Jamshoro, Dadu and Shaheed Benazirabad districts and Karachi division till August 31 with occasional gaps. Sea conditions are likely to remain rough/very rough with squally winds 50-60 Km/hour.

The fishermen are advised not to venture into sea till August 31. PMD's cyclone warning center, Karachi is monitoring the system and will issue the update accordingly.

Pakistan, Oman discuss military-to-military cooperation

APP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Oman have acknowledged the commonality of views to expand military to military relationship and forge deeper strategic ties.

The acknowledgement to this effect came at a meeting between Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza and various dignitaries of Oman including Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs Sayyid Shihab bin Tariq bin Taimur Al-Said, Minister of the Royal Office General Sultan bin Mohammed Al-Namani, Chief of Staff Sultan Armed Forces Vice Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis Al-Raisi, and Chairman of Strategic and Defense Academy in Oman.

During separately-held meetings, both sides discussed military cooperation including training, security, counter-terrorism, defence industry and regional security environment.

The Omani dignitaries acknowledged the sacrifices rendered by people and Armed Forces of Pakistan in the war against terrorism.

Israel, Hamas agree 'humanitarian pauses' in Gaza to allow polio vaccinations: WHO

MONITORING DESK

GAZA: The Israeli military and Palestinian group Hamas have agreed to three separate, zoned three-day pauses in fighting in the Gaza Strip to allow for the vaccination of some 640,000 children against polio, a senior WHO official said on Thursday.

The vaccination campaign is due to start on Sunday, said Rik Peepkorn, the World Health Organisation's senior official for the region.

He said the campaign would start in central Gaza with a three-day pause in fighting, then move to southern Gaza, where there would be another three-day pause, followed by northern Gaza. Peepkorn added that there was an agreement to extend the humanitarian pause in each zone to a fourth day if needed.

Hamas welcomes a UN request for a humanitarian pause in the war in Gaza to implement a polio vaccination campaign. Hamas official Basem Naim told Reuters on Thursday, adding that the group is ready to cooperate with international organisations.

Step afoot to ensure provision of health facilities to people: Commissioner Sibi

APP

Quetta: Commissioner Sibi Division Syed Zahid Shah on Thursday said that measures were being taken to ensure provision of quality and better medical facilities to poor people in every way at the district Health Office.

He expressed these views while visiting District Health Office. The Commissioner was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Sibi Jhanzeb Shaikh and they inspected its various branch. On this occasion, District Health Officer Dr. Akbar Solangi, Deputy District Health Officer Dr. Qadir Haroon, Dr. Rafiq Chalgri from WHO and other officers were also present. They also checked the stock of medi-

cines and vaccinations in the office. District Health Officer Dr. Akbar Solangi gave a detailed briefing to Commissioner Sibi and Deputy Commissioner about various departments of the office.

Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner Sibi had a detailed discussion with the concerned officers about the provision of health facilities.

The Commissioner said that no hesitation in providing medical facilities including medicines would be tolerated.

He said that to work on awareness for immunization on daily basis, saying that doctors and medical staff should be a practical example of Christianity by developing the spirit of serving the people.



Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif distributes cheques among the families of people who were martyred in terrorist attacks in Balochistan, in Quetta

Protest for Arresting the Murderers of Shaheed Journalist Muhammad Bachal Ghunjo

By A.S Bhutto

SHIKARPUR: The Journalists and Civil Society of Mian Sahib protested for early arrest of involveds in the martyrdom of Journalist Shaheed Muhammad Bachal Ghunjo of Raonti Katcha area on Wednesday.

The protest demonstration was led by Mian Sahib Press Club General Secretary Niaz Ali Soomro.

Among others Aziz Ahmed Shaikh, Zubair Ahmed Shaikh, Illahi Bux Shaikh, Muhammad Wariyal, Zohaib Ali, Habibullah Soomro, Samihiro Kalar, Shayan Ali Shaikh, Zameer Soomro, Momin Ali Ansari and others while protesting at Mian Sahib said that the Journalist of Raonti Katcha was gunned down by some group of outlaws on the directions of one Powerful of that area and strongly condemned the shameful act for murdering the innocent Journalist aim to discontinue the voice of freedom. The angry protesters have demanded of Sindh Government to early arrest the Murderers of Shaheed Muhammad Bachal Ghunjo without further delay and also provide the due protections to the Journalists and no more blood shedding of any Journalist who is amplifying the voice of the General.

Governor Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Faisal Karim Kundi visited the residence of veteran PPP leader and eminent lawyer Aitzaz Ahsan

By Maqsood Khalid

LAHORE: On the second day of his visit to Punjab's capital, Governor Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Faisal Karim Kundi visited the residence of veteran PPP leader and eminent lawyer Aitzaz Ahsan on Thursday and presented him a bouquet. Overall political situation of the country came under discussion during the meeting, while Aitzaz Ahsan felicitated Kundi on his appointment as the KP governor.

Hailing his services for democracy and democratic values in the country, Faisal Kundi said Aitzaz Ahsan was a firm believer in democratic values and politics of principle, adding that such leadership was an asset to the country.



Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Women Wing General Secretary, Mehwish Janjua addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club

Who change narrative every week not leaders but hypocrites: Afzal Khokhar

INP

LAHORE: Central leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Member National Assembly (MNA) Malik Afzal Khokhar has said that the countrymen have seen real face of the anarchists and rioters.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, he said that the PML-N leadership was committed to overcome

politics of anarchy and hatred with the support of the people while the agenda of "Fitna Party" was to create chaos, divide the people and spread hatred in the country.

Referring to PTI, Malik Afzal Khokhar said that there was no more room for Fitna Party and its facilitators in Pakistan.

He said those who used to pray for the bankruptcy of Pakistan have turned to apologize today.

ADC Anwar chairs reviews meeting of DHC to improve health facilities

APP

Quetta: Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Muhammad Anwar Kakar on Thursday chaired a review meeting of the District Health Committee (DHC) to improve health facilities for public. The meeting was briefed by MS Mufti Mehmood Hospital, MS Benazir Hospital, DHO Quetta, Deputy DHO, DSMP PHI, District Finance Officer, Officer of Population Department and Chief Drug Inspector. In the meeting, all the problems related to Mufti Mahmood Hospital, in which the non-attendance of doctors and staff, security and sanitation problems were presented in

detail. Reports of absent MTs, dispensers, peons, nursing, orderly and continuously absent employees were also explained in various primary health centers including BHU Hanna Urak and BHU Kotwala. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) (General) Muhammad Anwar Kakar expressed his displeasure over the report about the continuously absent staff and issued strict instructions against them. He said that any staff was continuously absent from his duty and his salary for 28 days should be deducted. The ADC issued instructions to the Finance Officer to deduct the salaries of the absent staff in BHUs and various hospitals while also issued

directives to give show cause notices to the absent employees. He said that within a week all the absent staff should be present and asked for an explanation, otherwise, this committee would take steps for departmental action against the absent staff. If the attendance of the absent staff is not ensured in the next meeting, the District Health Committee has the power to dismiss the absent staff from the job, he said. A detailed report of 41 BHUs was presented in the meeting and PPHI presented the details of medicines in all BHUs. It was decided in the meeting that drug inspection team and district administration would visit medical stores twice a week.

Chairman Municipal Committee visits rain affected areas of Duki

APP

Quetta: Chairman Municipal Committee Malik Kaleemullah Khan Tareen visited the areas affected by the recent rains, Gharibabad, Kashif Petrol Pump and Eastern Bypass area of Duki district.

Chief Officer Municipal Committee Samandar Khan Nasir, Attah Muhammad Tareen and others were also

present on the occasion. He also took notice of the blockage of the drainage channel due to rain and assured the residents that the drainage channel would be opened with the help of an excavator.

He said that the drainage channel has been blocked by the nearby shopkeepers who were being warned for the last time not to encroach and block the drainage channels, otherwise legal action would be taken.



QUETTA: Daily wages labors sit with their work tool at Bacha Khan chowk while waiting for some work.



Pakistan announces 12-man squad for second Test against Bangladesh

SPORTS DESK

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Thursday announced a 12-man squad for the Green Team's second Test match against Bangladesh at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

Pakistan cricket's night-marish slide continued on Sunday, when Bangladesh recorded their first-ever Test triumph over the hosts, taking the opening fixture of the two-match series with a clinical 10-wicket win.

A brilliant 191 by veteran batter Mushfiqur Rahim on a flat Rawalpindi pitch helped the visitors rack up their highest-ever total against Pakistan of 565 to take a crucial 117-run first-innings lead.

The defeat marked Pakistan's second upset loss this year after the T20

international shock against the USA, raising questions over their standing as a red-ball side — which has now lost four of their six fixtures of the ongoing World Test Championship (WTC) cycle — as well.

Pakistan went into the match — at the back of a head-to-head record of 12 wins out of 13 matches — pumped with the ambition of making next year's WTC final, intending to dismantle Bangladesh with an all-pace bowling attack, only to find themselves clueless against the visitors' spinners on the fifth day.

The side recalled leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed on Wednesday for the second Test against Bangladesh after their decision to play an all-pace attack on a slow track backedfire in the series opener.

Spinners Mehidy Hasan

Miraz (4-21) and Shakib Al Hasan (3-44) rocked the hosts and made them rue not playing a frontline spinner.

Abrar, who has 38 wickets from six tests, was subsequently added to the squad.

In a post on X today, PCB announced its 12-man squad for the second Test.

Shaheen Shah Afridi, who was released from the squad after the conclusion of the first Test, was rested whereas pacer Mir Hamza and Abrar returned to the side for the second match.

Pakistan's head coach Jason Gillespie said Afridi would be rested to allow him to spend time with his newborn son and family.

"Obviously Shaheen will miss out on this game. We had a good conversation with him and he fully understands and appreciates the thinking behind it.

We are just looking at what our best combination is for this game," Gillespie said. Gillespie admitted it will be a challenge to square the series.

"We want to go out there and play positive," said Gillespie, who is in his first series with Pakistan.

"It's about scoring lots of singles and with our bowling, we want to be ruthless and challenge the opposition batters."

But he backed under-pressure skipper Shan Masood who failed with the bat with six and 14 in the first match and has lost all four of his Tests as captain.

"Shan is a very positive captain," said Gillespie.

"He wants to play and win games [...] we showed that with our intent in the first game but it didn't quite work out and that's credit to our opposition.

"That game is gone, but what we can do is focus on the game starting tomorrow."

"Morale very good" Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusinghe was confident his side could recreate their heroics from the first Test.

"The morale of the players is very, very good," said former Sri Lankan batsman Hathurusinghe.

"Obviously beating Pakistan in Pakistan is not an easy task," adding that the second game would be a big challenge.

"They are a very strong team and we expect a very good fight in the second Test as well but we will not be different from the first game and know our strength as well as that of Pakistan's." Since gaining Test status in 2000, Bangladesh have only won two of their 32 overseas series with wins in the West Indies (2009) and Zimbabwe (2021), drawing three and losing 27.



President, Asif Ali Zardari exchanging views with Arshad Nadeem, Olympic Gold Medalist during meeting held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

TSE-242508532783 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 Chief Minister Development Package for Dera Bugti 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 Works	E/Cost
1	Construction of Dams Under Livelihood Promotion Program (Pkg-I)	1,961,063,450

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 Turnover of at least 600,000,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-1 and above (Up to 2500 million) In Relevant Category and Specialized Code is CE04(i) (Dams/Water Retaining Structures), CE10(i) (General Civil Engineering Works). Bid Security of 2% of estimated cost Tender processing fee of amount Rs. 1000 in account No. C02716 having head, PD, CMDPDB In case of Joint Venture of two firms, the bidder must attach JV Agreement Duly Signed and Stamped 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 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 16 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: House No. 81-A Chaman Housing Scheme Airport Road Quetta Phone no: 0812864466 Email: dpguetactia@gmail.com

PROJECT DIRECTOR
Chief Minister Development Package for Dera Bugti

AB No.230/29-08-2024
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TENDER NOTICE

TSE-242508531483 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 Roads Provincial B & R Lasbela 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	BT ROAD FROM RCD ROAD TO DIL MURAD GOTH DHAMNARI VIA MAGSI COLONY JANAR UTHAL 1ST PHASE LASBELA PSDP/1259/22023.0565	19,809,268

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 2 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 6,933,275 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-6 and above (Upto 25 million) In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE01(i) (Road and Pavements Drainage & Retaining Structure). 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 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 17 September, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The tenders must be submitted latest by 17 September, 2024 till 12:00 PM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 01:00 PM Address: OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (ROADS) COMMUNICATION WORKS PP&H DISTRICT LASBELA Main RCD Road Hub District Lasbela Phone no: 0853363462 Fax no: 0853363122 Email: xenroadlasbela@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (Roads),
CW, PP&H Department, District
Lasbela

PRQ No.755/29-08-2024
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TENDER NOTICE

The Public Model High Schools Initiative for all Districts of Balochistan invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-242508530661 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.

Tender Fee Rs.1000/-

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Manufactured Vehicles & Accessories (Total Item(s) Count: 1)	2%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 250,000,000 in Previous 3 Years Turn over of at least 300,000,000 PKR in 1 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 Local presence of 3s Dealership in Balochistan Under One Roof Authorized 3s Dealership Mobile Workshop service List of Min 02 in-hand work orders for the same/similar nature of jobs of Rs.600,000,000 or Above in Balochistan Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid 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 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 24 September, 2024 till 01:00 PM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 02:00 PM on EPPS System Address: House No. 48-B Chaman Housing Airport Road, Quetta Phone no: 0346839049 Email: publicmodelhighschools@gmail.com

PD Public Model High Schools Initiative for all Districts of Balochistan

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Delayed approval

THE waiting period seems to be getting longer. The fact that the IMF Board's calendar of engagements for the first week of September does not feature Pakistan means that the approval for the new \$7bn deal reached in July is unlikely to come before the end of next month. Many fear it could be delayed beyond September, despite Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb's recent reassurance that the Fund's approval should be obtained by next month. But, then, he had earlier also predicted that the IMF would approve the deal this month.

The delay appears to have been caused by Pakistan's failure to get debt relief from its major bilateral creditors, especially China, and to arrange \$2bn in fresh loans to cover the gross external financing gap for the present fiscal. When the staff-level agreement was signed with the IMF, the minister had called the financing gap 'manageable'. And when he went to Beijing to secure its commitment for another rollover of \$4bn debt, he was confident of returning home with the cheque. In fact, he had also expected an agreement with China on re-profiling the nation's energy debt of \$15bn.

It was only upon his return that we learnt that the IMF's approval of the new loan was tied to firm commitments from China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE that they would roll over their combined debt of \$12bn. Later, he informed us that these friendly nations had accepted Pakistan's debt relief request. However, they do not appear to have conveyed that to the Board.

The fact that the government has not arranged for new loans to fill the 'manageable' external financing gap was made public only when the loan approval was delayed, with Islamabad approaching Riyadh for an oil facility of \$1.2bn and Middle Eastern commercial banks for \$800m to cover the gap.

On Tuesday, the State Bank governor said that Pakistan plans to raise up to \$4bn from banks by the next fiscal to plug the gap. According to him, Pakistan is in the 'advanced stages' of securing \$2bn in additional external financing required for IMF approval. Pakistan will eventually get the required bilateral debt relief and IMF dollars. Moody's decision to upgrade Pakistan's long-term issuer rating, following a similar announcement by Fitch, also indicates confidence in the approval of the IMF package. Yet the delay is now causing anxiety in the markets — especially because we still do not know whether Chinese energy debt relief is one of the IMF conditions or if the government is pursuing this separately. Much of the worry over the loan stems from a lack of transparency regarding the cause of delay rather than the delay itself. A little less opaqueness would go a long way in keeping the markets calmer till things fall into place.

By Ali Tauqeer Sheikh

Path to resilience

PAKISTAN'S pursuit of climate resilience and low-carbon development is inextricably linked to its macroeconomic stability. The country needs to undertake structural reforms to accomplish climate-compatible development. Just as macroeconomic stability depends on the seriousness of reforms, access to international climate finance and investments is linked to internal systemic reforms.

Pakistan's climate finance landscape is at a critical juncture. As the country's needs for additional finances have increased, traditional sources have become inadequate. Short-term borrowing has created a mountain of internal and external debt. Policymakers are frustrated by the shrinking pipeline of humanitarian assistance, grants, concessional loans, and budgetary support. As the need for investment in climate resilience and low-carbon development has become urgent, we must adopt a multifaceted approach that addresses policy, institutional and market barriers, as a recent study by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office on Accelerating Green Climate and Resilient Financing in Pakistan has pointed out. Lethargic attitudes must be shed and equity investments, de-risking projects, leverage-blended finance, and facilitating debt-swaps for climate action focused on.

Blended finance is a promising avenue for leveraging limited public funds to mobilise private capital. Pakistan should actively seek partnerships with development finance institutions to design blended finance vehicles which are tailored to our climate priorities. They could focus on renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, water-resource management, public health, or energy and urban infrastructure projects.

In fact, the country needs expertise to structure complex financial deals, conduct robust climate impact assessments and navigate international climate funds. De-risking climate projects is crucial for attracting private capital, and the government has to play a pivotal role through partial risk guarantees, first-loss provisions, and other credit-enhancement mechanisms. These tools can transform high-

risk, high-impact climate projects into bankable investments.

A stable economy would unlock several critical options for climate action.

A dedicated climate finance unit that has just been set up at the finance ministry can focus on a single issue: spearheading climate investments. The government can catalyse private sector involvement by demonstrating its own commitment through co-financing arrangements. The Public Sector Development Programme has outlived its utility in its present functioning. There will be no shortage of finances if the PSDP is recast to support co-financing, equity investments, and de-risking climate-smart investments.

In the present political context, domestic and international climate investments would follow reforms, and not the other way round. Yet, we are caught in a vicious cycle — climate vulnerabilities erode our economic gains, while economic instability hampers our ability to invest in climate action. Potential investors and funders shy away from countries with volatile economies. A stable economy with a respectable growth rate, controlled inflation, manageable debt, and a strong fiscal position would unlock several critical options for climate action. It would, for example, enhance our creditworthiness, which is necessary to attract climate finance and investments.

Achieving macroeconomic stability in the midst of climate shocks is not easy. It requires a paradigm shift in economic planning. We have still not integrated climate risks into our policy planning, PSDP, or fiscal and monetary policies. The path forward demands that the climate, finance, and planning ministries jointly work on issues such as climate-responsive budgeting, green banking regulations, public-private partnerships, and incentives for low-carbon industries.

Macroeconomic stability and climate resilience are mutually reinforcing. A stable economy provides the resources and confidence needed for bold climate action, while climate-smart development reduces economic shocks. By pursuing macroeconomic stability through a climate lens, we can aspire to a cycle of resilience and sustainable growth in

the provinces and at the community level. The time for such integrated action is now — our economic future and our climate future are one and the same. It is important to understand that the fiscal space created by economic stability will allow the government to allocate more resources to climate adaptation and mitigation.

An almost exclusive focus on macroeconomic stability has distracted our policymakers from another pillar necessary for an economic turnaround: accessing international climate finance. Investments in climate-resilient and low-carbon development can help stop the economic bleeding and create fiscal space. For this, we will need to recognise that there is no shortcut to success. We have to understand that we need to develop an institutional ecosystem that is fit for attracting international finance.

The private sector must be brought to the forefront of this transition.

The annual report on climate finance of the Climate Policy Initiative, a California-based think tank, shows that in 2021-2022 (the last year for which data is compiled), globally, international climate finance flows exceeded \$1.27 trillion and that, except for a very small percentage (\$100 billion, \$93bn, \$33bn respectively for public sector, multilaterals, and bilateral sources), most of it was private sector finance. Grants and low-cost debt constituted a minuscule share (\$69bn, \$76bn respectively) and most of the remaining finances went to project-level market rate debt, balance-sheet financing, or equity.

A stable macroeconomic environment would encourage private sector investment in renewable energy and green technologies. We have seen in recent years that potential investments in green hydrogen, carbon trading, and waste management could not get off the ground. Businesses need predictability to make long-term investments in low-carbon solutions. A fluctuating currency or high inflation rate deter such commitments. Since international climate finance and investments have become viciously competitive, each aspirant will need to jump high to clinch its share. Pakistan has the potential to be a leader in innovative climate finance.

By Khurram Husain

Power slipping away

THIS is more or less what it looks like. When power begins to slip from your hands, like sand pouring from between the fingers, the picture looks more or less like what we see happening in Pakistan today.

There is no organised force standing in the wings or spearheading the resistance to a government growing ever more desperate. But there is a rising arc of challenges to its writ, its policies, its mandate, its underlying financial viability. And in responding to these proliferating challenges, the government appears conflicted internally, cutting compromises where it knows it cannot fight, and breathing fire and brimstone where it seems the fight is already lost.

All the while its finance minister, the key interlocutor between the state and its creditors, is struggling hard to juggle too many balls at the same time. The quantum of Pakistan's external debt is less of a problem compared to the sprawling number of creditors the country has accumulated over the past decade, and the near overwhelming schedule of maturities that the state now faces on a routine basis.

I'm reminded of some conversations I've had with people in important positions over the years. One was with the late Usman Aminuddin, one-time senior oil and gas executive and Pakistan's petroleum minister in the early 2000s. He had been part of a group that met Akbar Bugti and other tribal sardars in Balochistan to defuse simmering tensions at that time.

The government appears conflicted internally, cutting compromises where it knows it cannot fight.

In 2007, I recorded an interview with him on Pakistan's gas reserves, during which he said,

"I was surprised to learn what the Baloch sardars were asking for", referring to the demands they made from the Musharraf regime in those days. "It was nothing! They were asking for pocket change compared to what we were getting from them in return!"

A few years later, he repeated this remark in a televised talk show aired by DawnNews and hosted by Asad Umar,

president of Engro at that time. He ended his remark, saying, 'we all know how that worked out' or something along those lines (I'm paraphrasing from memory). His point was that the sardars were actually asking for very little, and meeting their demands should have been easy, but Pervez Musharraf opted to meet it into an ego dispute, which escalated and led eventually to the assassination of Akbar Bugti in 2006.

More than a quarter century later, Pakistan is still grappling with the insurgency that was triggered by the mishandling of the demands from the Baloch sardars, and fuelled further by the ham-handed way in which the Gwadar projects have been carried out. Thus did a political problem turn into an insurgency, which has now morphed into a raging separatist movement.

Even today, politics can help heal the rifts that the failure to properly negotiate an economic rent-sharing arrangement in the early 2000s created. Another conversation with a friend who is knowledgeable about Balochistan and is a social scientist comes to mind.

"Maulana Hidayatur Rehman and Khushal Khan Kakar are two examples," he told me once, listing details, "that when politics is left to its own devices, local leaders can emerge, and channelise popular discontentment and challenge established political hierarchies".

"But oftentimes the security establishment perceives them as threats and tries to preempt their emergence," he continued, listing numerous such examples. Despite everything,

a vibrant civil society in Balochistan is still capable of growing a leadership for itself given the chance, he insisted. And this leadership can help heal the rifts that are gaping wider in that society with every round of fresh repression, if only an organic process of representative politics would be given the chance.

Another conversation I'm reminded of these days was with a former chairman PIA, and since he never mentioned this on record, I cannot name him. But I asked him what takes up most of his time, and he

replied: "Managing the creditors! Every other day a new loan is falling due, and all our time is consumed trying to arrange the resources with which to meet that obligation or negotiate something with the creditor. There is no time or energy left for anything after this."

Pakistan's finance minister is in a similar sort of situation these days as he struggles to secure rollover assurances from his creditors, along with getting them to agree to reschedule at least some of the payments falling due during the years when the forthcoming IMF programme will be in operation. The details of what all is being sought, and how much has been granted thus far, are not known with clarity yet. What is known is that the exercise has now become too complicated and riddled with Catch-22 type traps, where the IMF demands a financing gap first be filled before the programme can commence but creditors demand that a functioning programme first be in place before they can commit funds. A breakthrough will probably be achieved, though it is not certain how long this will take.

It is no longer rocket science to see where this is going. Every year, it is getting harder to juggle the country's external financing requirements. Every year, the calendar of maturities and repayments gets more packed than the preceding year. And every year the so-called 'dance of the billions' that Pakistan's debt management operations has become gets more intricate, more complicated and more time-consuming. There is little time left for anything after this!

Prolonged inflation is pushing more people into despondency than ever before. Egos have mobilised a separatist insurgency. Meanwhile, the sovereign is sinking in the quicksand of debt. This is what it looks like when power slips through your fingers like sand. It is not one big challenge rising up before the ruler that should have him worried. It is the proliferating number of small ones, taking on different shapes at different places and times. Every problem is not a nail. Every solution is not a hammer.

DAILY MIRROR

Expanding Pak-Japan bilateral cooperation in various domains top priority: Gilani

INP

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani has said that Pakistan highly values its relations with Japan and was keen to expand bilateral cooperation with Japan in different sectors for mutual benefits.

Speaking during a meeting with Ambassador of Japan in Pakistan Wada Mitsuhiko who called on him on Thursday, the Chairman Senate Japan is key development partner of Pakistan and both countries enjoyed cordial and friendly relations based on mutual respect and shared objectives of regional development.

Important aspects of the Pakistan-Japan relationship with an aim to further explore opportunities for enhanced collaboration came under discussion during the meeting.

The meeting underscored Pakistan's commitment to enhancing its partnership with Japan across various domains.

Syed Yousaf Gilani gave special acknowledgment to Japan's support fol-

lowing the devastating floods in Pakistan in 2022. He recalled former Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's visit to Japan from July 1-4, 2023 and his meetings with Japanese Foreign Minister Hayashi and Prime Minister and highlighted the significance of high-level diplomatic ties and said their interactions provide further direction and momentum to deepen ties in diverse sectors.

He said that the current bilateral trade volume stands at \$1.27 billion, falling short of its potential. Both the countries are encouraged to work together to boost bilateral trade" he added.

The Chairman Senate further stated that Pakistan also highly values Japan International Cooperation Agency's (JICA) development initiatives and seeks to establish visible flagship projects. He said that Japan remained a key investment partner and Pakistan welcomed increased Japanese investment.

He called on Japan to take an active role in the international effort to address the repatriation of Afghan refugees living in Pakistan. He urged Japan, as a key international player to support and contribute to the initiatives aimed at faci-

tating safe repatriation of refugees.

Yousaf Raza Gilani said that two nations have established various bilateral mechanisms for discussion and informed the Ambassador that the Senate of Pakistan had established a

Pak-Japan Friendship Group which would provide a suitable forum and should be regularly utilized to review and advance the relationship, emphasizing that regular parliamentary exchanges are deemed crucial for strengthening bilateral relations. Such visits enhance mutual understanding and promote people-to-people connections, he added.

The Chairman Senate lauded that encouraging progress had been made in exporting Pakistani manpower to Japan through Memoranda of Cooperation on the Technical Intern Training Program (TITP) and Specified Skilled Workers (SSW) Programs signed in 2019. He said that the 25,000-strong Pakistani diaspora in Japan played a significant role, contributing to sectors such as used automobiles, carpet trade, and Halal food. This community remains a vital asset to the Japanese economy, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani in a meeting with Mitsuhiko Wada, Ambassador of State of Japan at Parliament House.

Rana Asks Balochistan Leaders To Resolve Issues Through Dialogue

APP

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaulah on Thursday asked the Balochistan leaders to come forward and resolve the issues through dialogue.

The leaders of Balochistan should bring the resolution in the provincial assembly so that all public interest matters could be addressed in a proper manner, he said while talking to a private television channel.

He warned that those involved in the recent killings of innocent people in Balochistan would be given exemplary punishment according to law.

He invited the Baloch leaders to sit together to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the province.

Replying to a question about security issues in the province, he said apex committee has been constituted to deal security matters. He said that government was committed to root out terrorism at all costs.

Senator Kamran Murtaza while talking to news channel said that there was dire need to implement Article 4, for resolving the issues of Balochistan people.

1 policeman martyred, 2 injured during anti-bandit operation in Sindh's riverine area

INP

KARACHI: One policeman was martyred while two were injured during an anti-bandit operation carried out in the riverine areas of Sindh, according to a statement from the Rangers spokesperson on Thursday.

Organised criminal gangs have been active in the riverine border areas of southern Sindh and central Punjab for decades, often making money through kidnap-for-ransom assaults. The military had launched a full-scale operation against criminal gangs in Sindh in the early 1990s but they resurfaced after successive governments failed to maintain law and order in the province.

The Sindh police and Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) had decided earlier this month to intensify ongoing joint operations against bandits in the province's riverine areas.

Govt committed to bolster energy sector, key role of PQEPC to meet energy demands: Minister

INP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb has said that the government is committed to bolster the energy sector and the Port Qasim Electric Power Company (PQEPC) has key role in meeting Pakistan's energy demands.

This was stated by him while speaking during a meeting with a delegation from PQEPC led by Mr. Yang Tianyu, President of Power China Resources which called on Thursday. Minister for Energy (Power Division), Mr. Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik, Secretary of Power Division, and senior officials from the Finance Division also attended the meeting.

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb emphasized the significance of collaborative efforts between Pakistani and Chinese companies in advancing sustainable and efficient energy solutions.

The meeting focused on various matters related to the power sector including the payments to the energy producers and possible ways to resolve the issues hindering timely payments. Matters related to the technical and financial feasibility of converting these projects to run on domestic coal, thereby reducing reliance on imported fuel were also discussed.

The Chinese side was informed that the government was taking a number of steps to facilitate this transition including the launch of a railway line to ensure smooth and effective transformation of local coal.

The Finance Minister also briefed the delegation on the structural reforms being undertaken by the government, particularly in the energy sector, and the ongoing privatization of power supply companies and state-owned enterprises (SOEs). He assured the delegation of the government's steadfast commitment to providing all necessary support and taking swift action to overcome any challenges impeding the operation of these power plants. President PQEPC Mr. Yang Tianyu appreciated the efforts of government in implementing energy sector reforms and thanked the government for its continued support in reviving the operations of the Port Qasim coal projects.

Govt to kickstart privatisation of DISCOs by April 2025

PIA to be privatised by October 1: Senate body informed

By Zahid Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: Energy Minister Awais Ahmad Leghari has announced that the privatisation of the power distribution companies is slated to begin by April 2025. This initiative aims to enhance operational efficiency, cut financial losses, and attract private investment into the energy sector.

Leghari stated that the government, in collaboration with the privatisation commission, will advance the privatisation process by April 2025.

The first round of power distribution companies will issue calls for expressions of interest in that month, with final transactions anticipated to be concluded within three to six months thereafter.

The privatisation plans include the electricity distribution companies in Islamabad, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Lahore, and Multan. The power distribu-

tion network is overseen by 10 different companies responsible for delivering electricity to consumers.

Pakistan faces a multitude of energy-related challenges, including frequent power outages, significant transmission losses, reliance on imported fuels, a limited share of renewable energy sources, and a substantial circular debt—a cycle of unpaid government subsidies that accumulates as debt for distribution companies. In response, the current administration is focusing on modernising the electrical grid and pursuing privatisation of the distribution sector as a part of broader efforts to resolve these issues. Privatising loss-making state-owned enterprises (SOEs) has been a long-standing recommendation from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). With Pakistan grappling with a severe fiscal deficit and a substantial external financing gap, a \$7 billion bailout deal was reached with the IMF in July.

Moazzam Jah Ansari assumes charge as IG Balochistan

APP

Quetta: New Inspector General (IG) of Balochistan Police Moazzam Jah Ansari took the charge of 36th IG Balochistan on Thursday at Central Police Office (CPO) Quetta on Thursday. On arrival to CPO, a smart contingent of police presented guard of honor to him.

The newly appointed IG Police Balochistan laid floral wreath on the Yadgar-e-Shuhada police at the CPO and offered dua for shuhada and integrity and solidarity of the country.

On this occasion, former IG Police Abdul Khaliq Sheikh gave the flag of Balochistan Police and handed over the command to him. The concerned officers also presented on this occasion.

'AIOU strives to reach poor strata across the country' VC

PRESS RELEASE

Islamabad: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is making significant strides in enhancing access to education nationwide. Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor of AIOU, has undertaken a series of high-profile visits to remote and underserved regions, including Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sindh, and various overlooked areas in Punjab. These efforts underscore the university's commitment to reaching every aspiring student, regardless of their location.

During these visits, Professor Dr. Mahmood, accompanied by Dr. Malik Tauqir Ahmad Khan, Director General of Regional Services, and Syed Zia-ul-Hussain, Director of Admissions, engaged with local communities and addressed gatherings of students.

The discussions focused on the university's educational offerings and the support available

to students, emphasizing the importance of education and the opportunities provided by AIOU.

This initiative reflects AIOU's dedication to expanding educational access and ensuring that no potential student is left behind.

The university aims to integrate out-of-school children into the educational system and increase overall student enrollment.

Pakistan, Iraq vow to strengthen trade relations

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan-Iraq Parliamentary Friendship Group (PIFG) here on Thursday held its inaugural meeting with Hamid Abbas Lafta, the Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to Pakistan.

Chaired by Sehar Kamran, MNA and Convener of Pakistan-Iraq PFG, the meeting was also attended by group members, Mehtab Akber Rashdi, Shehla Raza and Muhammad Moein Amer Pirzada MNAs.

While welcoming the Ambassador of Iraq, Sehar Kamran said that Pakistan and Iraq were intertwined in eternal bonds of religion, brotherhood and culture.

She said that the bonds of brotherhood could further be cemented through Parliamentary Friendship Group.

The Ambassador underscored the necessity of regular high level engagements between Pakistan and Iraq, expressing optimism that exchange of visits will contribute to the diversification and enhancement of bilateral cooperation in diverse fields.

The Ambassador of Iraq underscored

that Pakistan and Iraq had great opportunity in terms of bilateral cooperation in fields of energy, petroleum, trade and business.

He also said that Iraq valued high ties with Pakistan and was looking forward for more cooperation in term of trade and business.

The Ambassador expressed the desire to facilitate a meeting between Civil Aviation Authorities of Pakistan and Iraq, with the aim of fostering greater cooperation and collaboration in the aviation sector.

The Iraqi envoy was informed that Pakistan would soon create commercial section in Baghdad. Further, 9th session of Pakistan Iraq JMC

is scheduled to be held in September 2024; Joint working group on trade and investment is likely to be established in same session.

It was mutually agreed that in order to strengthen trade relations and identify new avenues of economic collaboration, more meetings would be arranged with the business community and chambers of commerce of Pakistan and Iraq, facilitating a dialogue between key stakeholders from both nations.



QUETTA: Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (R) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai in a meeting with Supreme Court Bar Council President Shoukat Shahzad.

PM announces policy to depute all 48th Common Group officers in Balochistan

APP

QUETTA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that the federal government had decided to depute all the police/civil officers of 48th Common Group in Balochistan without discrimination to ensure peace, stability, and development of the province.

"After discussion with the Interior Minister, the Army Chief and other relevant high authorities, we have made a policy under which all the talented and efficient officers will be deployed in various districts and divisions of the province," the prime minister said in his concluding remarks in the meeting of Provincial Apex Committee of the National Action Plan here.

Announcing the policy, he said half officers of the 48th Common Group of both police and civil side would be posted to Balochistan immediately for one year. The remaining half officers would be posted after six months from their initial deployment who would also serve for a period of one year.

Similarly, he said after one year, the first half of the officers from the 49th Common Group would be posted to Balochistan for one year. After one and a half years, the remaining half of the officers from the 49th Group would be posted to Balochistan for one year.

The prime minister announced that the officers posted under the policy would be given four air tickets for every quarter.

Harris widens lead over Trump with boost from women, Hispanics: poll

By Khawaja Farooq

WASHINGTON: Democrat Kamala Harris leads Republican Donald Trump 45% to 41% in a Reuters/Ipsos poll published on Thursday that showed the vice president sparking new enthusiasm among voters and shaking up the race ahead of the November 5 election.

The 4% point advantage among registered voters was wider than a one point lead Harris held over the former president in a late July Reuters/Ipsos poll.

The new poll, which was conducted in the eight days ended Wednesday and had a 2% point margin of error, showed Harris picking up support among women and Hispanics.

Harris led Trump by 49% to 36% — or 13% points — among both women voters and Hispanic voters. Across four Reuters/Ipsos polls conducted in July, Harris had a nine point lead among women and a six point lead among Hispanics.

Trump led among white voters and men, both by similar margins as in July, though his lead among voters without a college degree narrowed to seven points in the latest survey, down from 14 points in July.

The findings illustrate how the US presidential race has been shaken up over the summer. President Joe Biden, 81, folded his flailing campaign on July



21 after a disastrous debate performance against Trump sparked widespread calls from his fellow Democrats to abandon his re-election bid.

Since then, Harris has gained ground against Trump in national polls and those in critical swing states. While national surveys including Reuters/Ipsos' give important signals on the views

of the electorate, the state-by-state results of the Electoral College determine the winner, with a handful of battleground states likely to be decisive.

"It's obvious that running against Harris is more challenging for Trump given the shift in these numbers, but it's certainly not insurmountable," said Matt Wolkling, a Republican campaign strategist who worked on Trump's 2020 campaign.

He said Trump needs to stay as focused as possible in his campaign "so he's not scaring" away voters who were leaning his way because they didn't like Biden.



Huge number of vehicles and students are stuck in traffic jam due to VIP movement, in Quetta.