

Islamabad

Vol. XIII No. 185 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Friday June 09, 2023, Zee'qad 19, 1444 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12



ISLAMABAD: State Minister of Turkmenistan and Head of Turkmengaz, Maksat Babayev and Minister of State for Metroleum of Pakistan, Dr. Musaddiq Malik signing TAPI Joint Implementation Plan meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnesses the signing.

TAPI project to strengthen energy security of Pakistan, region: PM

Pakistan, Turkmenistan sign joint implementation plan to execute TAPI gas pipeline project

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that being a critical component of his government's vision, the TAPI gas pipe-line project would ensure gion. energy security, economic growth and prosperity in Pakistan as well as the entire region.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a high rank-ing delegation from Turkmenistan, said the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas project was manifestation of the strategic cooperation between Pakistan and Turkmenistan in the energy sector.

The delegation was headed by State Minister ties. and Head of TurkmenGaz Maksat Babayev, a PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Turkmenistan Prime Minister Dr Jehanzeb enjoyed brotherly relations Khan to work as the focal underpinned by common person from the Pakistan history, culture and reli-

He said the leadership tee. on both sides had keen de- Turkmenistan delegation nomic and commercial relations

Turkmenistan's rich energy reserves.

The prime minister reearly implementation of the TAPI gas pipeline would be

In order to expedite on behalf their respective

side as the head of the Senior Coordination Commit-The visiting

sire to further promote eco- also included Deputy Minister of Energy Annageldi Saparov, CEO and Chair-He underscored that man of BOD, TPCL, Pakistan could be a gateway Muhammetmyrat Amanov for quick access to as well as the Turkmen Ambassador to Pakistan,

Atadjan Movlamov. Later, the prime minisnewed the commitment for ter witnessed the signing of "TAPI Gas Pipeline Joint project and hoped that the Implementation Plan (JIP)' by Minister of State for completed at the earliest by Petroleum Dr Musaddig optimizing all available re- Malik and Maksat sources by all relevant par- Babayev, State Minister and Head of TurkmenGaz,

work on various compo- governments. The JIP is nents of the project, the aimed at accelerating the prime minister nominated work on the TAPI Gas Special Assistant to the Pipeline project.

Unveils Pakistan Economic Survey 2022-23

Govt rescued crippling economy, averted default in face of serious inherited challenges: Dar

Says Rupee's real value is around Rs 240/\$; GDP posted a growth of 0.29% in FY23

nomic team headed by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar told Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday while presenting the Economic Survey 2022-23 that there is no quick fix, but the decline of the economy has been stopped and the risk of default has been averted.

He maintained his argument, however, that the rupee's real value is in the 240s against the dollar

We have stopped the decline of the economy and have prevented Pakistan from default. Now our ob-jective is 3.5% growth for next year," said Dar. "The baseline is core inflation, which is in the range of 16-20%. The world over the core inflation is followed and not the headline inflation," he added. Unveiling the Economic Survey, the finance minister said that the fiscal year 2022-23 was a difficult year for the economy. There are 17 chapters in the economic survey on different sectors of the economy. The report discusses in detail sectoral, socio-economic development, agriculture, manufacturing, energy, IT, capital market, health, education and transport sectors.

"Pakistan was the 24th largest economy in 2017, but debt rose from Rs 25 tril-

President Dr. Alvi says Universities must keep students away of extremism, violence

ISLAMABAD (APP): resident Dr Arif Alvi on stressed the need for pro-

ISLAMABAD (Online): 47th position," said Finance trillion in June 2022, repre-The government's eco-Minister Ishaq Dar, adding senting a significant in-Senting a significant in-Senting a significant increase of 97% that, "For the restoration of

the economy, we have made a plan, our objective is to restore macroeconomic stability, we need to bring it back to what it was in 2017." Higher international commodity prices (crude oil, edible oil, pulses etc),

global supply disruptions, damages of major and minor crops due to flood, currency depreciation, administrative price adjustment and political uncertainty are major factors responsible for high inflation, said Ishaq

Dar on Thursday. The Pakistan Stock

capitalisation in 2017 was \$100 billion "For inclusive and resilient growth, we need a resilient economy," he said. According to the finance minister, the government is working on five Es - exports, equity, empowerment, environment and

The economic downfall has stopped," said Dar, "We are working to restore economic activity now."

per annum was Rs129 billion in our previous government compared to Rs330 billion during FY2019-22, he said. The total public

has now dropped to the lion in June 2018 to Rs 49.2

Exchange's (PSX) market

energy

Circular debt increased

President

"Under the governance of the PTI (Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf) party, the total debt during their tenure surged from Rs 29.9 tril-lion in FY2018 to Rs 59.8 trillion, marking an approximate doubling of the debt (nearly 100% increase)," lamented the finance minister. He said that the final nail in the economical coffin was when commitments 2021, slowing down from 6.2% in 2021 to 2.8% in were not kept after the vote of no confidence.

Discussing the previ-2023 ous government's performance, Dar said that fiscal has seen a significant in- ages.

in FY2022, trade deficit worsened to \$39.1b from \$30.9b in FY2018, circular debt increased from debt increased from Rs1,148b to Rs2,467b, public debt increased from 63.7% to 73.9% of GDP and total public debt in-creased from Rs25 trillion in June 2018 to Rs49.2 tril-lion in June 2022 (a 97%) lion in June 2022 (a 97% increase). Global GDP growth has experienced a decline of over 50% since

crease, rising from 4.7% in 2021 to 8.7% in 2022, and is projected to decrease to 7.0% in 2023, although it remains relatively high.

Global trade has decreased by more than five times since 2021, with its growth expected to decrease from 9.4% in 2021 to 1.7% in 2023.

The economy has been severely impacted by the devastating floods. The estimated damage amounts to \$14.9 billion, with a loss of \$15.2 billion to the GDP and a required investment of \$16.3 billion for the The global inflation rate rehabilitation of the dam-



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Ishaq Dar pre-sents Economic Survey for fiscal year 2022-23 during a press conference.

Cabinet meets today to approve federal budget

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal cabinet will meet today (Friday) under the

ISLAMABAD (Online): against the federal The remarks passed in the government's formation of last two days suggest that an inquiry commission, led the Supreme Court, led by by SC's Justice Qazi Faez Alvi Prime Minister (PM) the chief justice of Paki-Isa, to investigate the au-

While the hearing of

The bench allowed

Shoaib Shaheen, the law-

yer for one of the petition-

ers, Supreme Court Bar

Association (SCBA) Presi-

dent Abid Zuberi, to

present his arguments that

the leaks were released on

social media after the SC's

February 16 order wherein

the CJP was requested to

invoke his suo motu juris-

CJP back in action to

revive 'pre-May 9 position'

year of 2023-24.

place in parliament house.

Jiffice press release said. Welcoming the delegation, the prime minister said



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the National Vice Chancellors Peace Conference.

NAB found more **PM approves 'revolutionary** program' for uplift of youth, farmers, women in budget

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday approved the inclusion of a 'revolutionary programme' in the upcoming budget 2023-24 for the uplift of youth, women and farmers.

As per the prime minister's directives, the funds have been allocated in the upcoming budget for projects on the welfare of youth and women as well as for agriculture tubewells.

According to a PM Office statement, in the next fiscal year, the youth would be provided interest-free loans and endowment youth, including in infor-mation technology. would be provided interest-

fund would be established for education and sports.

The prime minister approved the establishment of Pakistan Endowment Fund for Education on the pattern of Punjab Endowment Fund. Under the

Fund, the intelligent but poor students from across the country, would be given educational scholarships. The funds have been

allocated Prime Minister Youth Programme to extend small loans to the youth.

The government has also specified funds to impart skill training to the gation

Al-Qadir Trust case: Irfan Qadir ISLAMABAD (APP) Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Account-ability Irfan Qadir on Thursday said the National

evidence in

Accountability Bureau NAB) had found more evidence in connection with disintegration: Marriyum the Al-Qadir Trust corrup-ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting on Thursday said the Pakistan Tehreek-etion case. Addressing a press conference, the SAPM said the Insaf (PTI) disintegrated due to arrogance, ego and stubaccountability watchdog bornness of its chief who himself had destroyed his own

had traced transactions worth Rs 4.50 billion from the accounts of Farhat Shehzadi, the friend of former prime minister's wife, and efforts were un-

derway to bring her and her husband back from abroad for further investi-

The NAB Ordinance stressed for across the Two policemen among board accountability and three martyred in Swat there was no sacred cow "when it comes to accountability", he added.

where he succumbed to his injuries.

SWAT: Three persons, including two police personnel, were martyred in the firing by unknown persons in the main city of Swat, Mingora

FromArifAhmad

According to police sources, three unidentified armed men opened fire on two policemen near Mingora vegetable market, as a result of which police constables Umara Khan and Ashraf were killed on the spot. While Bank Security Guard Musa Khan was injured and shifted to Saidu Sharif Hospital

According to police sources, both policemen were posted at Mingora police station. According to SP

Farman Khan, the accused fled after the incident and a search operation has been started to arrest them. "Blockades have been

imposed on the entry and exit routes of Swat and soon the accused will be caught by the police.

This is an incident of terrorism and the terror ists will be arrested soon. he added

Thursday called upon the moting ethics, morality, universities to play an active role in preventing intolerance, extremism and violence among students and guide them towards a positive mindset.

The universities, he said, should arrange regular capacity-building training sessions for their management and faculty members to inculcate in students the ability to resolve conflicts and extremism.

Addressing the National Vice Chancellors' Peace Conference, the president said banning the students' unions in universities was not a solution and stressed that there was a need to change their mindset through proper teaching methodologies.

He said the step would ensure the reformation of students to help them contribute towards the country's better future, sustainable peace and prosperity.

politics.

and its chief.

for his arrogance and ego.

empathy, forgiveness and tolerance among the students. He said the students must not be indulged in activities which created stress among them.

tion, poverty and the rule of law

The president hoped that the challenging times would pass soon and the country would witness exponential growth within five to seven years. The country will stand on strong footings again, he said The two-day confer-

ence was jointly organised by Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan, National Counter-Terrorism Authority (NACTA) and Shaoor Foundation for Education and Awareness (SFEA)

PTI chief's arrogance

& ego cause party's

She cited a famous couplet of an Urdu poet on her

Twitter handle, referring to the current state of the PTI

"Dil Kay Phapholay Jhal Uthay Seenay Kay Dagh Sy, Is Ghar Ko Aag Lag Gai Ghar Kay Chiragh Sy," the

minister said in the tweet while calling out the PTI chief

ego and selfishness has faced a sudden collapse. The PTI

is now spiritless with the departure of those who had laid

joining or quitting of the people did not matter for the

party but he himself had now become a lesson for other.

the party's foundations," Marriyum said.

(after the departure of his party leaders).

"The house of cards based on the idols of arrogance,

She said the "arrogant man" had once stated that

Finance Minister (FM) Ishaq Dar along with his economic team will give To overcome the ondetailed briefing in the meetgoing crisis, he said, prioriing on the salient features ties should be defined in of budget. streamlining the country's The final decision economy, reducing inflaabout enhancement in pay

and pension of government employees will be taken and approval thereof will be accorded in this meeting. Multiple proposals on this count will come under discussion in the meeting. The allied parties have

given proposal for increasing the pay and pension by 30 percent. However finance ministry is in favor

of enhancing pay and pension of government employees from 15 to 20 percent. Final decision will be taken on this matter by the cabinet.

Khattak mulls forming 'new political party

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa-kistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Pervez Khattak, who recently resigned from the president of the party's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter over the May 9 violent protest, has decided to form a new political party, sources said on Thursday. Sources privy to the de-velopment said PTI deserters are expected to join the new political setup led by senior politician Pervez Khattak. Khattak has claimed that more than 50 former members of parliamentarians (MPs) are in contact with him and would join his new political setup, say sources.

Shebaz Sharif to accord ap stan (CJP), is trying to redio leaks in relation to proval to the federal budvive its position before the Judges get for the next financial May 9 violence, triggered by the arrest of the Pakithe audio leaks commis-The meeting will take

stan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) sion case was underway, chairman. CJP Bandial wondered The May 9 mayhem who had planted the audio had even pushed those leaks on social media.

judges, who had tried hard to hold the elections to the Punjab Assembly on May 14, on the defensive.

Later, they had no choice but to show restraint in matters wherein confrontation between the judiciary and other institutions especially the parliament, executive, security establishment, etc, could have worsened.

diction over the delay in Now it is being witelections to Punjab and nessed that CJP Umar Ata Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-Bandial has listed petitions P) assemblies.



LAHORE: Senior Politician Jahangir Tareen announces new political party named 'Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party' (IPP) during a press conference.

Jahangir Tareen launches Istehkam-i-Pakistan Party with PTI defectors

nior politician Jahangir Khan Tareen announced the formation of a new political party — Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party — during the party's first joint press conference in Islamabad on Thursday.

He was flanked by former PTI leaders Imran Ismail, Aleem Khan and Ali Zaidi, among others during the press conference.

A day earlier, nearly 100 former PTI members of the national and provincial assemblies joined the new party, expressing confidence in Tareen's leadership. "Today, we're an-

nouncing formation of Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party. Under one platform, we're together and will try to steer Pakistan out of current crises," Tareen said.

"Today, our nation needs hope the most so this country could achieve its

ISLAMABAD (INP): Se- true potential. No one can be allowed to attack state institutions in shape of mobs. It is not just about attacking institutions but most importantly people are losing hope.

"We have to make a Pakistan where establishment, judiciary, political forces and all stakeholders are on the same page. We all want to take Pakistan towards prosperity," he added

'Today, we need to change how politics is conducted in our country. It needs a new direction. We will make joint efforts to achieve that.

He emphasised that to take Pakistan out of economic turmoil, focus has to be shifted towards increasing exports and incentivising the IT sector. "I am not conventional

politician, but I entered the political arena with a delayed yet genuine purpose.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Health Abdul Qadir Patel and USAID Deputy Administrator Isobel Coleman with Pakistan and U.S officials Participating in Pak-U.S Health dialogue.

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Friday June 09, 2023

OPINION

Daily Independent



Qureshi returns

PTI vice chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi has been granted his freedoms back. Given how brazenly the state has targeted the party's leadership while denying them due rights and liberties, one wonders why.

On Tuesday, he simply walked out of Adiala Jail after a Lahore High Court bench set aside his detention order. There was no police escort waiting for him outside to whisk him away on an erstwhile unknown charge, as has been the norm for other PTI leaders.

Nor did he address a press conference to denounce Imran Khan, the PTI, or politics altogether — the usual price for liberty paid by those who have deserted.

Instead, Mr Qureshi used his brief appearance before the media to reiterate his commitment to stand by the PTI chief's side and to assert that he still holds "the flag of justice" in his hands and wishes to see the party succeed.

Those speculating that Mr Qureshi had only been allowed to walk because he was needed to relay an important message to Mr Khan may be on to something.

Mr Qureshi had announced a planned meeting with the PTI chairman on Wednesday, in which, he said, he would be sharing his political analysis and seeking guidance from Mr Khan on the path forward.

There was speculation that the message he was actually taking to Mr Khan was simple: excuse yourself from politics, or continue to watch your party be decimated by the state.

If true, this would be a tricky dilemma for Mr Khan. Mr Qureshi was named heir by Mr Khan himself; choice number one would see him seize the prize of the campaigning and considerable effort put in by Mr Khan into reviving his party post the 2022 vote of no-confidence. Choice number two could leave Mr Khan isolated and perhaps years away from a comeback to mainstream politics. Presenting a popular public leader with such choices is, of course, unfair; not to mention it is unlikely to dent his actual power. The 'minus-ing' of popular politicians has been tried many times before, with the usual result that it creates lasting problems and resentments instead of providing enduring solutions.

What our powerbrokers continue to not understand is that political legitimacy is not conferred by the state that it can be taken away by it too. It is drawn from public support and can only be contested through the democratic process. Taking the PTI chief out of the elections process may satisfy a few egos, but doing so will also make those who are lawfully entitled to make the decision regarding his political future resentful of the state. Why would anyone risk alienating a very youthful population for very short-term goals? One hopes there are better options on the table instead



pledge his feigned allegiance. What must Imran Khan be feeling now, when even a nonentity like Usman Buzdar, whom he disinterred from obscurity and made chief minister Punjab, resigns from the PTI? Buzdar's elevation in 2018 inevitably drew comparisons with the legendary nomination by the Roman emperor

us that Noah loaded his Caligula of his horse, Incitatus, to the Roman Ark with a pair of every Senate. Mr Z.A. Bhutto's species, especially roselection of GM. Khar as dents. He calculated that governor Punjab in 1971 if his Ark was ever in danevoked similar derision ger of sinking, rats would be the first to jump ship. amongst those who understood the pun on his The recent exodus of the senior leadership from name

F.S. Aijazuddin

Never

abandoned Hitler.

The Biblical scriptures tell

Was the elevation of the PTI is unparalleled in the history of Pakistani both Khar and Buzdar a deliberate slight to the politics. Over the seven Punjabi elite, or simply an decades of our dyslexic extreme example of democracy, every political cronyism? party, whenever it came

Imran Khan's faulty under pressure, has chalselection of his team lenged it, or withstood it, or made sacrifices despite (some of whom are padding up to play for the it. None more so than the other side) makes one ap-Pakistan Peoples Party, to preciate why the Pakistan whom prison became a home away from home. Cricket Board uses a panel to select players who will before,

play for the nation. though, have so many in the PTI owed so much to Favouritism has no place in any game, especially so few; in fact, to one sole benefactor — their leader not in one as dangerous Imran Khan. Yet, they as politics.

have deserted him with Recent machinations have made it clear that Mr unseemly alacrity. Even Jahangir Tareen — the the leadership of the Nazi Croesus kingmaker who Party in Germany waited helped make Imran Khan until it was clear that the Second World War had prime minister in 2018 – been lost before they is mobilising his resources to create another realm. Here, the PTI high For whom? For himself? Before he can enter the command when in govfray, though, he needs to ernment had postured, pretending to be leaders be rid of the ban that prohibits him and Nawaz with a lofty mission to ef-Sharif (PML-N's king fect 'true change' in the country. Then, suddenly across the waters) from

contesting elections. on a caprice, they quit par-Once these gilded liament, effectively abandoning their constituenhandcuffs have been recies, and, after the shamemoved from both of them it has to be before the ful events of May 9, within next general elections days, one by one, they beone should expect to see traved their modern mes-Nawaz Sharif reigning in siah. Gethsemane became the presidency and a rout. Disciples became Jahangir Tareen (health turncoat Judases — all permitting) ruling if not but one, that is. The only from, then certainly beone who remains by him hind the throne in – his senior vice chairman Shah Mahmood Islamabad Switching loyalties Qureshi - continues to

or changing parties is not a Pakistani phenomenon. It has happened wherever there is a functioning democracy and a choice of causes — in India, the United States, even in the United Kingdom, where, in that mother of parliaments, the father of parliament Winston Churchill began as a Conservative, crossed the floor to become a Liberal, and then returned to the Conservatives Do such changelings

cure

have a 'predictably insefuture'? As Churchill's subsequent career demonstrated, apparently not. In Pakistan, being a political turncoat is almost a qualification. Take the revolving door loyalties of Sheikh Rashid: 1988, the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad: 1990. against IJI ticket; in 1993, PML-N; then PML-Q; his own brainchild the Awami Muslim League; and, most recently, cohabitation with the PTI Or the voluble Fawad

Chaudhry? All Pakistan Muslim League; PPP, 2012; PML-Q, 2013; PTI, 2016. The list is endless, as

is the queue to quit the Now, the issue in Pakistan is not who wins the next general election but who thinks he is another Kemal Ataturk or Recep Erdogan, with a mandate strong enough to rehabilitate the economy, to modernise a hierarchical papier-mâché Caligulas.

in its politicians and all other organs of governance. They have seen it too often to take elections seriously. They can foretell from experience that when any modern Noah reaches Mount Ararat, he will find the same rats waiting for him on dry land. -- Courtesy Dawn

bate around the potential and pitfalls of artificial intelligence reached fever pitch last week, when some of the most respected leaders working in the field got together to say that AI was improving at such a rate that it could potentially lead to

an 'extinction' event. This means that AI technology is improving at a pace faster than human beings can come up with ways to govern these new frontiers of machine capability. So what is now ChatGPT and other similar language-based chatbots could soon make the need for human

endeavours redundant. Some of those to sound the alarm are industry leaders whose companies are benefiting from the progress. Together, they issued a statement released by the Centre for Artificial Intelligence Safety: "Mitigating the risk of extinction from AI should be a global priority alongside other societal-scale risks such as pandemics and nuclear war." The executives who signed on include Sam Altman, who is the chief of OpenAI, Demis Hassabis the CEO of Google DeepMind, and Amodei of Anthropic.

Besides these leaders, 350 other researchers, engineers and scientists also signed on to the statement because they too believe that the risk of AI technology progressing into realms that are no longer governable by human beings is a very real possibility and even a likelihood.

Altman has sug-

Ghost in the machine

in need of an overseer American university proagency to govern AI in fessor was questioned the same way as the In- about how she was dealternational Atomic Energy Agency monitors the use of atomic technology and prevents those it sees as bad actors from about it. Instead, she reobtaining technology that can be used to construct bombs, which could destroy the world. This parallel should particularly resonate here in the subcontinent, where the technology to build atomic bombs has defined everything for decades now. Imagine if an arms

race for AI was also underway, with errant actors threatening to use the and put it to use doing all most menacing aspects of AI to derail other countries' transportation systems, flight-operating or giving directions from systems, utilities and all kinds of other mechanisms. Just as the constant threat of terrorists getting control of the scratch' tasks, will not be atomic bomb frightens people today, so too would the prospect of AI on the march towards human beings' extinction frighten people tomorrow. Add to this the fact that atomic governance AI technology is simply was actually something that it has the potential to initiated at a moment when constitutional liberalism reigned and interna- troves of information tional cooperation was considered valuable in itself, and the picture gets

more worrisome for many. In today's times, the world cannot even agree on basic means with which to arrest the cataclysmic pace of climate change. It appears even more unlikely that a whole new frontier could be regulated and governed on the basis of common principles. A grim estimation of this state of affairs would be taking bets on whether it would be a climate catastrophe and a to technology and those too-hot-to-inhabit planet, or AI-induced extinction of the human race that would frontiers of efficiency and end the world as we know it first. Nevertheless, a word must be said here about just how tantalising AI-gener-

gested that the world is ated tools are. When one ing with students using ChatGPT, she shrugged her shoulders and said she wasn't doing anything sponded, the quality of writing taught in American high schools had become so poor and the legibility of student papers was plummeting at such a rate that she would be pleased if they used the tool and produced a readable paper.

Many in the group called GenZ, who do not remember a time when the internet did not exist, have already accepted the too the onerous non-creative sort of writing, such as producing instruction manuals one place to another. It is not difficult to envision a time when this generation, saved from all the 'from able to imagine a world without the existence of AI.

Some hope for AI can be drawn from the fact that Sam Altman and others in the industry emphasise that the reason to invest in create a better world. The ability to synthesise vast whether it is in biomedicine. education or energy — can drastically reduce waste of all sorts and vastly improve the utilisation of limited resources

No one can stop AI from being developed further, and many say that it is precisely its potential for great good that is driving so many companies into the race to build better in a machine-run world

At the same time, it is also necessary to point to just how large the gap between those with access without it is becoming. Even as AI promises new optimisation, a drastic reduction in the utilisation of labour is in sight. -- Courtesv Dawn

society, and to put khaki back in the barracks. It will require a superhuman effort in a nation that has no superheroes, only Dario The truth is that the public has lost faith

Commerce News

Rafia Zakaria The already heated de-

USAID official Pak has tremendous potential to overcome economic challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): USAID Deputy Administrator Isoble Coleman on Thursday said crisis. despite all facing difficulties on economic fronts, Pakistan had tremendous potential to overcome the all challenges.

Talking to the media, she said, "When I look at Pakistan's economy, yes I see high inflation, but I also enormous see opportunities to see IT sector exports grow and enhance food security. The US wants to see a stable and prosperous Pakistan."

Responding to another question, she said

follow robust economic situation on the ground across the nation. was not good enough. reforms agenda to come out of the current economic

stakeholders

affected areas of Sindh However, she said the province were facing the private sector and other worst situation due to during damaged infrastructure, meetings with her washed away crops and expressed hope for coming livestock. She said the USAID

on

floods

vital

crops,

out from the current had pledged an additional economic challenges. The USAID official \$16.4 million in funding to said she held meetings with bolster the recovery and the private sector working resilience of communities in various groups. She said in Pakistan devastated by the US and Pakistan the unprecedented floods enjoyed cordial relations of 2022. She said these for the last 75 years. catastrophic To a question, Isoble affected an estimated 33

Coleman said soon after her million people, wreaking arrival in Pakistan she havoc visited flood-affected areas infrastructure, that Pakistan needed to and witnessed that the livelihoods, and livestock

The newly allocated She said floodfunds, she said, would provide support to over 20

million individuals affected by the floods, facilitating their recovery, enhancing risk reduction measures, and fostering resilience. 'The assistance will tackle the

tackle the growing challenges of food insecurity, malnutrition, and disease outbreak prevention." Moreover, she said the funding would empower humanitarian partners to deliver nutritious meals to mothers and children, aid in the reconstruction of local infrastructure to mitigate future disasters and expand.



ISLAMABAD: Finance Miniter Ishaq Dar and the economic team presenting Economic Survey of Pakistan for FY-2022-23 to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Govt taking all possible measures to make country economically strong, stable

Independent Report LAHORE: A delegation of All Pakistan Business Forum led by Syed Muaz Mehmood called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur taking all possible Rehman here today at Governor House Lahore. In the meeting, measures regarding promotion of business and industries in the country were discussed.

Round Table discussion on 'African Continental Free Trade Area' held

The African Missions in Pakistan, in collaboration with the Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Ăfrica (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI), organized a Round Table Discussion on African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The Heads of African

Mohammad Karmoune, Missions in Pakistan and said that Africa had a Heads of Pakistan Missions significant role to play

LONDON Commerce Minister Naveed occasion, Governor Punjab Qamar has invited British Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the Pakistanis to invest in Pakistan to benefit from government under the profitable business leadership of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif is opportunities and business friendly environment in the country. He was addressing measures to make the a reception hosted by High country economically and Commissioner Moazzam economically strong and Ahmad khan at the Pakistan stable. He said that the High Commission London. business community is a

The event brought great source of generating together UK Parliamentarians, British Pakistani community, and businesspersons.

PQA handling

cargo of Rs

31.53m tonne

FY 2022-23

ISLAMABAD (APP)

The Port Qasim Authority

(PQA) was handling cargo

of Rs 31.53 million tonne

as compared to Rs 42.20

million tonne during the

corresponding period of

last year depicting a 25

percent decrease in handled

cargo compared to previous

fiscal year. According to

the Economic Survey on

Thursday

During his speech,

(Online): Minister Qamar called of Pakistan, as well as their upon the British Pakistanis to explore the diverse fostering strong bilateral investment opportunities ties between Pakistan and in Pakistan and highlighted the potential for lucrative Earlier, in profits. He gave an overview of the favorable business environment in Pakistan, mentioning the presence of successful British companies

Minister

Naveed invites British

Pakistanis to invest in Pak

operating in the country.

the

The

for

instrumental role in

welcome remarks, High Commissioner Moazzam Ahmad Khan underscored the deep-rooted and longstanding relationship between Pakistan and the United Kingdom

He regarded Minister expressed his appreciation Qamar's visit as a positive testament to the enduring contributions of the strength of this special Pakistani diaspora in the bond between the two progress and development nations.



ISLAMABAD (APP): percent to value addition in The agriculture sector in agriculture sector and 4.18 the country recorded about percent to GDP. Other 1.55% growth during 2022crops contributed 14.49 23 as against the growth of percent in value addition of 4.27 percent of the same agriculture sector and 3.32 period last year. According to the

percent in GDP. To lessen the miseries of flood affects Economic Survey of and revival of the agriculture Pakistan 2022-23 launched sector, the government announced Kissan Package-2022, consequent here Thursday, the contribution of important crops recorded at 18.23 upon the floods-2022

FAISALABAD (APP): Caretaker Excise and Communications Minister Bilal Afzal has said that although the property tax rate was lowest in Pakistan as compared to other countries of the South Asia, yet the people still avoided from paying taxes.

after a meeting

He was addressing a briefing arranged to review performance of Excise & Department Taxation (ETD) Faisalabad here on Thursday. He expressed concern over the collection of tax less than its target and said that ETD Faisalabad

would have to work hard to meet tax collection targets. ISLAMABAD (APP): He added that only those Over the past 5 years, a inspectors who had excellent performance should be phenomenalupward growth appointed in the areas to overcome the issue of low Information Technology tax recovery rate. In this and ITeS exports has been witnessed at compound connection, a special media awareness campaign should annual growth rate of 30 also be launched to motivate percent, the highest growth the people for paying taxes, rate in comparison to all

LAHORE: A delegation of All Pakistan Business Forum led by Syed Maaz

Mehmood photographed with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman

Property tax rate lowest

in Pakistan: Excise Minister

he suggested. other local industries in The minister assured services. According to the that he would extend all Economic Survey 2022-23 possible support to launched by Minister for Finance and Revenue Ishaq resolve the shortage of staff and other problems in Dar here on Thursday ETD Faisalabad Pakistan's IT



178 percent in

employment opportunities Speaking on the in the country.

ISLAMABAD (APP): in Africa also spoke on the occasion. Senior Officers from the Foreign Office and Ministry of Commerce. academics, area specialists and members of the business community and students participated in the event. In his keynote address, the Dean of the African Group/ Ambassador of Morocco.

Daily A oice of Masse,

Governor KP says: Despite difficulties PDM's government will provide relief in fiscal budget

Governor Khyber Haji Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali Thursday has said that despite the fact that PDM's federal government is facing difficult economic conditions but fiscal budget 2023-24 will provide relief to the public without the assistance of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He expressed these views while talking to the media at Abbottabad Press Club.

The Governor further said that the government provincial has already provided relief elections the governor said

ABBOTTABAD (APP): to the masses in the prices that the Supreme Court of of flour, petroleum Pakistan has also ordered product and pulses before to hold the election on the the budget. The federal and same day and urged the provincial governments are political parties to decide actively engaged in finding collectively, which is a solutions to the difficulties positive development. faced by the nation, adding

he said. Ghulam Alistated that the previous government PTI government has has ruined the healthcare misused public resources system and their every step during the government demanding probe, they hired people to sit at home and abuse others and maligned institutions.

Talking about assembly

Governor Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali, said that the PTI government has by forming boards, government institutions should not exceed their authority and neither they should not neglect their responsibilities.

He said that the incident of 9th May is the result of the indoctrination

of the young generation for the past 10 years which has created hatred in the minds of young people against the army and police. Haji Ghulam Ali here on Thursday. said that the nation is living in peace and progressing due to the efforts of the

Pakistani army, rangers, and police and after the May incidents the nation has proven that it stands with the Pakistani army and those who are safeguarding the constitution.

DAL

ABBOTTABAD: Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali addresses to media persons during press conference held at Abbottabad press club.

13th Sartyoon Sang Crafts **Exhibition concludes**

KARACHI (APP):Scores cutwork. The event was ar- ent skills and trades and of people including foreigners appreciated the work of port Organisation (SRSO) in an effort to provide marskilled women entrepreneurs displayed at the four-day '13th Sartyoon Sang' ket links to rural women and artisans. The festival attracted exhibition, which concluded

large numbers of women residents of Clifton, De-In an exquisite display of traditional crafts at the fence Housing Authority, Dolmen Mall in Clifton, a Bath Island and nearby arwide mixture of Sindh's eas. SRSO Chief Executive handicrafts made by rural Officer, Muhammad Dital women were exhibited, in-Kalhoro said the event's obcluding home textiles, basjective was to facilitate betkets, jewellery, rillies, ter income for women artidresses, dupattas and sans of rural Sindh. "We shawls, embellished with have trained over 110,000 traditional embroidery and men and women in differ- items for women.

ranged by Sindh Rural Sup- these over 40,000 from most underdeveloped regions including Jaccobabad, Kandhkot, Kashmore, Shikarpur, Ghotki, Kambar Shahdadkot, Khairpur and Sukkur, Larkana, Umerkot,

National News

Badin, Thatta, Benazirabad Abad, Nosheroferoz, Sanghaar and Mirpurkhas.' The exhibition com-

prised stitched and unstitched cloth, needlework with different types of embroidery, straw work, bed sheets, crochet work, machine embroidery and other

DC chairs meeting regarding removing waste of sacrificial animals

HYDERABAD (APP): found involved in dumping Deputy Commissioner animal waste in sewerage Kanwal Nizam chaired a lines, she added. meeting on removing waste of sacrificial animals and

shall immediately remove

bad odour and take mea-

Control Rooms and nomi-

contingency plan be pre-

pared at ward level in this

regard. Department of Lo-

cal Government was di-

rected to initiate strict legal

and cleanliness.

All Assistant Commissioners were instructed other garbage on Eid-ulto visit their domain areas Azha. Addressing the meetto inspect the sanitation ing the DC said the Municisituation and submit repal and Town Committees ports in this regard.

On the occasion. Ad ditional Director Local sacrificial waste to prevent Government Abdul Sattar sures to maintain sanitation Rathore, Municipal and Town Committee officials DC instructed offiinformed about steps taken cials of Municipal and for better sanitation situa-Town Committees to set up tion and removal of animal waste outside the city limnate Focal Persons while a its at a safe location.

Page 03

the Addressing meeting SSP Mehzoor Ali said the plan is being prepared to maintain law and order during the action against citizens Eidul Azha days.



PESHAWAR: Khateeb Masjid Muhabat Khan Molana Tayyab Qureshi is addressing the press conference.

SIU arrest three street criminals, recovers snatched motorcycle

KARACHI (APP): The ber of street crimes. They Special Investigation Unit also used to rob people (SIU) of Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) Karachi huge cash. The accused also Police on Thursday arrested three alleged street criminals and recovered a snatched motorcycle and arms from their possession.

According to a spokesman for SIU, the unit on a tip-off conducted a raid near Eidgah Ground, Nazimabad and arrested the accused identified as Imran, Irshad and Rehmatullah during initial investigations revealed



KARACHI: View of venue after traffic accident due to over speeding and break failure, while people busy in rescue work, located on Shahrah-e-Faisal Project. road in Karachi.

coming out of banks with confessed to having snatched two motorcycles from Karimabad and Sachal. The motorcycle snatched from Karimabad on June 3 this year was recovered from their possession. They revealed committing street crimes in Karimabad, Iqbal Market,

Mominabad, Metroville, Sachal, Korangi, Shah

Latif, SITE-A, Pakistan

PPP Policy Board decides to launch Yellow Line buses project, Oil Palm Nursery, Rani Bagh project

KARACHI (APP): The **40**th PPP Policy Board meettended by Provincial Minising Thursday was held unters, Dr. Azra Pechuho, Ismail der the chairmanship of Rahu, Sharjeel Memon, Sajid Sindh Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and de-Jokhio, Murtaza Wahab, Syed Qasim Naveed, Ghulam Qadir Chandio, Chief Secrecided to launch a number of important projects on PPP tary Sohail Rajput, Chairman P&D Hassan Naqvi, VC NED Dr. Sarosh Lodhi, Nasir Mode including supply and operations of buses for Yel-low Line BRTS, establish-Brohi, and concerned secrement of Oil palm Nursery taries. Sindh Minister for & Tissue Culture Labora-Transport Sharjeel Memon tory, financial close of on-going Ghotki-Kandhkot told the CM that with the collaboration of the Federal Bridge, construction of and Sindh Governments, a Tando Allahyar Bypass and comprehensive solution to drainage system at Tando Karachi's urban mobility problem was underway by Jam and development of Rani Bagh, Hyderabad implementing a Bus Rapid

The meeting was at-

transport department conceived a project which included the supply and operations of buses for Yel-low Line BRTS under a PPP contract with a concession period of 10 years.

According to the minister of transport, the private operators would finance, procure, supply, operate, and maintain various systems such as bus fleets. Intelligent Transport Sys-

to carry out feasibility studies and transaction advisory services in relation to the supply and operation of buses for the Yellow Line BRT Project. Provincial Minister for Environment & Climate Change Ismail Rahu told the meeting that Pakistan annually imported 4.5 million tons of edible oil worth \$5 billion, the second highest import bill after petroleum products. He added that Sindh was naturally blessed with a rich coastal belt that had tremendous potential to integrate agri-

ing the procurement process ing to Rahu the Oil palm tree starts bearing fruit after three vears of plantation, while it fully matures after seven years of plantation. It has a life span of 25 to 30 years under intensive management operations. The Sindh Coastal Development Authority (SCDA) initiated a pilot project in 2016-17 namely "Palm oil production in the coastal belt of Sindh, Ismail Rahu said and added that the project successfully undertook plantation of oi palm trees in an area of 30 acres at Kathore Forest and established an oil extraction

planned under the Karachi related services. The meet-Urban Transport Master Plan (KUTMP) of 2030. He added that in order cent of the project cost – to implement KUTMP, the

ing was told that the World Bank would provide 50 perwhich meant the development and operation of the BRT Yellow Line Corridorand the rest of the amount the private partner would

have to arrange. The private partners would also develop the marketing strategy to sensitize potential investors' participation in the bidding process and assist the SMTA during procurement.

The PPP Policy Board accorded post facto aptems, fare collection, depot proval to the concept of the cultural crops including co- mill with the capacity of two Transit System (BRTS), as equipment, etc, and provide project as well as for initiat- conut and oil palm. Accord- tons oil extraction per day.

International News

Russia says top UN court should dismiss Ukraine's case over Crimea and terrorism funding

Monitoring Desk THE HAGUE: Russia urged judges at the United Nations' highest court on Thursday to throw out a case brought by Ukraine against Moscow over the 2014 annexation of the Crimean Peninsula and the arming of rebels in eastern Ukraine before Russia's full-scale invasion in Februarv 2022. "We appear before you today in order to demonstrate that Ukraine's application must be dismissed because it is without any legal foundation. in 2017, asking the world

Nor does it have any factual evidence to back it," Ruscourt to order Moscow to pay reparations for attacks and crimes such as the shootsian Ambassador to the Netherlands Alexander ing down of Malaysia Air-Shulgin told judges at the In- lines flight MH17 by a Rusternational Court of Justice.

Lawyers for Ukraine said as hearings in the case opened Tuesday that Russia bankrolled a "campaign of intimidation and terror" by rebels in eastern Ukraine starting in 2014 and sought to replace Crimea's multiethnic community with "discriminatory Russian nationalism." Ukraine filed the case

sian missile fired from territory controlled by Moscowbacked rebels on July 17, 2014, killing all 298 passengers and crew. The Ukrainian government alleges that Russia breached two treaties: the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the International Convention on

the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

India rebukes Canada over parade float showing assassination of Indira Gandhi

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: India's foreign minister on Thursday hit out at Canada for allowing a float in a parade depicting the 1984 assassination of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her bodyguards, perceived to be glorification of violence by Sikh separatists.

"I think there is a larger underlying issue about the space which is given to separatists, to extremists, to people who advocate violence," S. Jaishankar told reporters in New Delhi

the tableau in a parade. "I think it is not good for relationships, not good

for Canada," he said. Canada's High Commissioner for India also condemned the incident at northern Afghanistan, poa parade by Sikh activists lice said. in the Canadian city of "Due to the neglect of Brampton. Video circulated

the driver, the vehicle deviin recent days on the ated from the road and fell internet showed a tableau into a ravine. Twenty-four from the parade featuring people are dead," said Den Gandhi wearing a blood-Moĥammed Nazari, a postained white saree with her lice spokesman in Sar e Pol hands up as turban-clad province. men pointed guns at her. A

were available about the

24 killed after van falls into ravine in Afghanistan

Monitoring Desk KABUL: Twenty-four people, including 12 women and eight children, died on Wednesday when the van they were travelling in fell into a ravine in

the annual report by the Human Rights Council's 'Commission of Inquiry.' The commission, led by a three-member team of human rights experts, was established in 2021 following an 11-day war between Is-

No further details

French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne and French Interior and Overseas Minister Gerald Darmanin leave the Haute Savoie prefecture in Annecy, French Alps. UN commission accuses Israel of taking

aim at Palestinian human rights groups

Monitoring Desk JERUSALEM: Investiga-

tors commissioned by the U.N.'s top human rights body on Thursday accused Israel of "delegitimizing and silencing civil society" by outlawing Palestinian human rights groups and labeling their members as

'terrorists. The findings came in

the Palestinian people." Former U.N. human

Two children and one

Witnesses said at least

BFM TV showed

4 children injured in knife attack in French town, 2 in critical condition

Monitoring Desk a statement on Twitter, calling the attack "an act of

PARIS: A Syrian national wounded four children and absolute cowardice" an adult in a knife attack in French Interior Mina French park on Thursday, ister Gerald Darmanin said police said, leaving some of on Twitter that the attacker the victims critically ill in had been arrested. hospital. The attack, which happened in the French aladult are in life-threatening pine town of Annecy, was condition, while two chilcarried out by a Syrian nadren were slightly hurt, tional with legal refugee stapolice said. tus in France, a police offi-

cial told Reuters. one child involved was in a 'Children and one stroller. adult are between life and death. The nation is in footage of several policemen overpowering an indishock." French President Emmanuel Macron said in vidual in a park.

cuses the rights council. and the commission, of being unfairly biased. The report also accused both Hamas and the rival Palestinian Authority in the Israeli-occupied

West Bank of committing rights violations. But it said most of the violations it had uncovered were committed by Israel as part of a campaign it says is aimed at "ensuring and enshrining its permanent occupation at the expense of the rights of

Monitoring Desk MEXICO CITY: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi will visit Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela next week, Iran's state news agency IRNA announced on Wednesday, adding that the upcoming tour stemmed from invites from the presidents of each of the Latin

American nations. IRNA said documents to expand bilateral cooperation will be signed between Iran and the three countries during Raisi's visit, mentioning economic, political and scientific issues

Tensions in US-Saudi ties cloud Blinken visit to Riyadh ministers were relegated to

Monitoring Desk the inside pages of Al-RIYADH: A visit by the Watan and Okaz, the two U.S. Secretary of State to major newspapers in Saudi Saudi Arabia drew little Arabia. Saudi media coverage on Their front pages were Thursday at a time of soured relations despite a devoted to unrelated topics including the arrival of U.S. push to defuse rows that have touched on oil prices, human rights and

Sullivan.

eration Council foreign

gence, support for Ukraine,

and further action to accel-

erate the clean energy tran-

fourth in as many months,

comes as Western officials

race to ascertain whether

Russia was responsible for

the destruction of the Nova

people and caused major

economic and environmen-

tal damage. Ukraine and

Russia have traded blame

for the dam's destruction.

The two leaders will

sition

star French football striker Karim Benzema in Jeddah to join the Al Ittihad club. Riyadh's opening to Iran. Blinken and the crown Antony Blinken was the second top U.S. official

prince, widely known as MbS, had "open, candid" to visit Washington's clostalks for an hour and 40 est strategic ally in the minutes, a U.S. official said, Middle East in less than a covering topics including month, following a May 7 trip by White House nathe conflict in neighbouring Yemen, the war in Sudan, tional security adviser Jake Israel, and human rights. The semi-official English-However, Blinken's language daily Arab News meetings with Crown Prince Mohammed Bin covered Blinken's comments in his talks at GCC Salman, the kingdom's de headquarters, including facto ruler, and Gulf Coop-

those touching on Yemen.

UK's Sunak, Biden to focus on deepening economic ties at White House meeting

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: U.S. field questions at a joint news conference after their President Joe Biden and meeting, an opportunity not afforded to every world UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak will focus on deepleader who visits the White House, and will also issue a ening close economic ties joint statement, officials between the United States and Britain when they meet at the White House on

Biden and Sunak last met in Hiroshima, Japan, at the Group of Seven summit last month. They also U.S. and British offimet in Belfast in April and in San Diego in March at a trilateral event marking the defense partnership of the U.S., Australia and Britain. terests, artificial intelli-

The two will discuss joint U.S.-UK leadership on critical and emerging technologies, as well as coordinated efforts to strengthen The meeting, their both countries' economic security, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said on Wednesday. The discussion will touch on artificial in-Kakhovka dam, which has telligence safety, Britain an-displaced thousands of nounced late Wednesday, saying it would host the first summit on the issue this autumn to discuss how the risks of AI can be mitigated through internationally coordinated action.



poster behind the scene

French police personnel maintain a secure cordon in Annecy, south-eastern France, following a mass stabbing in the French Alpine town.



rael and the Hamas militant rights chief Navi Pillay, who group in Gaza. Israel acleads the commission, accused Israeli and Palestinian authorities of "limiting the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful association." "We were particularly alarmed by the situation of Palestinian human rights defenders, who are routinely subject to a range of punitive measures as

part of the occupation regime," she said. In 2020 and 2021, Israel designated seven Palestinian rights groups as terrorist groups, effectively outlawing them.

Friday June 09, 2023

President for implementation of job quota for differently-abled in govt, private sectors

President Dr Arif Àlvi on Thursday emphasised the need for implementation of job quotas for persons with disabilities (PŴDs) in government and private sectors to financially empower and bring them into mainstream of society.

The president, chairing a follow-up meeting on the rights and facilitation of PWDs, said that almost 12-

as well as job placement in of persons with disabilities, public and private sectors. teacher training, curriculum

The meeting was at- development, skill developtended by representatives ment, job quotas, and job of the provincial governplacement in different ments, including Gilgitfields. It was informed that Baltistan and Azad Jammu NAVTTC had enrolled aland Kashmir, as well as the most 1700 differentlysenior officials of the minabled people (DAPs) to istries of human rights and equip them with different federal education and proskills, besides providing fessional training. them with free transporta-

The representatives tion and boarding facilities. 14% of the country's popu-lation comprised of PWDs ments apprised the meet-and steps should be taken ing about the steps taken Training (M/o FE&PT) inments apprised the meet- Education and Professional

ISLAMABAD (APP): for their skill development by them for the education formed that training modules for teachers had been developed to inculcate attitudinal sensitivities in them towards students with disabilities and enable them to cater to the special educational needs of PWDs.

It was told that the ministry would train 1000 teachers in this regard.

The representatives of provinces shared information regarding the total number of registration centres in their respective provinces



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. ArifAlvi chairing a follow-up meeting on the rights and facilitation of persons with disabilities (PWDs) at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Marri for investing more in nutritional needs of most vulnerable population In a statement, the

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety/Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Shazia Marri Thursday highlighted the need to invest more in the nutrition of the most vulnerable population of the country.

As a partner in the current unity government, Pakistan Peoples Party has been constantly pushing the adaptive social protec-Pak among tion agenda and emphasizgovernment's ing the need to focus on the economic needs of the priorities: PM people.

tremely important to invest in the development of a country's human capital from all aspects and nutrition was one of the major aspects that we all need to focus on. She further explained that through an intervention by BISP, the government looks after the nutrition of its most vulnerable population but more needs to be done. Under the

minister said that it was ex-

Benazir Nashonuma Conditional Cash Transfer Program, the assistance is linked with health and nutrition.

CM Balochistan announces boycott of federal budget session of NA Independent Report of the federal budget NA and Senate belong-

BAP not to become part of federal budget session:

session. QUETTA: In yet another

major development after boycott of the meeting of National Economic Council (NEC), the President of ruling Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) and Chief 'non-cooperative" and Minister, Mir Abdul "cold" attitude of the federal government towards the prov-Quddus Bizenjo has announced to boycott of the federal budget ince. The Chief Minister session of the Namaintained that the tional Assembly due members of National to commence today (Fri-Assembly and Senators

Ín an official statewould not be participatment issued here on ing in the federal bud-Thursday, Mir Abdul get session. Quddus Bizenjo has asserted that the BAP would not become part

Court adjourns hearing on pleas of Asad Umar, Ali Nawaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): A local court on Thursday adjourned the hearing till June 26 on a petition seeking to remove Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) clauses from a case registered against PTI leader Asad Umar, Ali Nawaz Awan and others. ATC Judge Raja Jawad Abbas Hassan hear the case filed by Asad Umar and Ali Nawaz Awan. The court also granted a onetime exemption

ing to BAP for not at-It may be mentending the budget sestioned here that Chief sion. Minister has already boycotted the NEC He warned that the MNAs and Senators of meeting held in Islamabad couple of days earlier due to

the party would be deseated on violation of the party policy by taking disciplinary action against them. The Chief Minister mentioned that the

NEC's meeting was also boycotted due to the "attitude" of the federal government. And the reason behind boycott of the budget session is also the cold attitude of the federal In this regard, clear government with Balochistan, he main-

directives have been issued to the members of tained



LONDON: Minister of State Foreign Commonwealth & Development Affairs UK, Lord, Tariq Ahmed and Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar hold a productive meeting in London to discuses the current political and economic situation in Pakistan as well as trade and investment opportunities between both countries.

Senate body on **Interior meets**

ISLAMABAD: CEO Chromatic, Shariq Khan calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. **Smoke-free**

Mushaal urges UN, world to declare Yasin prisoner of conscience

ISLAMABAD (APP): Mushaal Mullick, wife of tence in a fake and conjailed Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik Thursday said that the fascist Indian government was hell-bent to commit a "judicial murder" of her husband and demanded United Nations and the international community to declare him a prisoner of conscience and protective Yasin, who was being merely targeted for his unlawful execution.

In a press statement. she said the notorious Modi-led government wanted to eliminate Yasin as India's top anti-terrorism Occupied Jammu and Kashinvestigation agency once mir (IIOJK).

Pakistan Navy observes **World Oceans Day**

political beliefs.

KARACHI (INP): The Pa-kistan Navy celebrated highlight the challenges in-'World Oceans' Day to fovolved in preserving the cus on the maintenance and health of oceans and meadevelopment of the oceans sures to maintain an ecologicalba

ISLAMABAD (APP) again sought his death sen-Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said cocted case. Mushaal, who is also that the incumbent government was striving to prothe chairperson of Peace and Culture Organiza-

tect future generations from the unhealthy habit of tion, urged the UN Secsmoking as a smoke-free retary-General António Guterres to urgently in-Pakistan was among its pritervene and avert plot of orities The prime minister, in the judicial murder of meeting with CEO of

Chromatic Shariq Khan, lauded the services of the organisation for eliminating She said her husband's f smoking in the country. only crime was that he re-Shariq Khan apprised fused to accept the Indian dictates on Indian Illegally

the prime minister of his firm's anti-smoking campaign as well as the Tobacco Control Alliance for Pakistan

> Sanjrani terms his visit to Russia a

historic one

Russia, Chairman Senate

ISLAMABAD (Online): During his four-day visit to

nomic Survey 2022-23 released on Thursday, BISP is currently disbursing payments to around 9.0 million beneficiaries under the Kafaalat scheme. BISP has dis-

Rs128.9b disbursed under Benazir Kafaalat initiative from July-March FY 2023 ISLAMABAD (APP): fected areas to help them Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has disrecover their financial losses

bursed a total of Rs128.9 A total of Rs 400 bilbillion under the Benazir lion were provided to the Kafaalat initiative from BISP to execute the Social July-March, Fiscal Year Protection programmes in 2023. FY2023

Status of Women in Pakistan, 2023.

Atta Tarar says:

Imran will have to be

According to the Eco-BISP is also implementing a Wheat Seed Subsidy programme to eligible farmers with a disbursement of Rs 5,000/-

Till March 2023, a total of Rs 2.94 billion have bursed Rs 69 billion to 2.76 been disbursed to 122,687 farmers under this initiative. million families of flood-af-

According to the Pakistan Navy news release tance of preserving the on Thursday, oceans are very important for mankind as these are major sources of sustenance of life on earth and act as lungs to our planet as they provide more than 50% of the oxygen produced on this planet. They are also major absorbers of greenhouse gases and carbon dioxide.

World Oceans Day is observed globally on June 8 to draw focus towards the impact of human activities on the health of our oceans and sustained utilization of the ocean's resources.

This year's theme for World Oceans Day is ness about the sustainable 'Planet Oceans: Tides are use of oceans.

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: In an effort

to prioritize public con-

cerns, Senior Superinten-

dent of Police (SSP) Opera-

tions, Malik Jameel Zafar,

emphasized the Islamabad

capital police's commit-

ment to organizing open

During an open Katchehry held at Golra

police station, various

police officials, concilia-

tory committees, ulema, and community leaders

gathered to discuss griev-

ances and propose solu-

promptly issued orders to

address participants' issues

and assured them that their

suggestions would be taken

The SSP Operations

katchehries.

tions

Islamabad Police hold

open katchehry to address

public issues

public.

To signify the impor-Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani oceans. Pakistan Navy has undertaken various initiatives which include beach cleaning drives, mangroves plantation campaigns, employment of Debris Collection Barges in harbor, banning the use of destructive fishing nets, tackling oil pollution at sea, and coordinating with the industrial community to reduce waste

dumping into the sea. A number of events including harbour and beach cleaning at Karachi and Gwadar were held to highlight the spirit of the day and demonstrate serious-

into consideration. Express-

held meetings with Russian Parliamentarians and Government officials to strengthen ties between the two nations. Notably, Chairman Sanjrani met with Deputy Prime Minister Alexandar Novak, Chairman of the state, VV Volodin, and paid respects at the monument of the unknown soldiers near the Kremlin wall by laying flowers.

In addition to these engagements, Chairman Sanjrani delivered a significant address at the plenary session of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, marking a new chapter in the development of bilateral rela-

tions. **Court extends** interim bail of Sh. Rasheed

ing determination to resolve till July 8 residents' problems, SSP ISLAMABAD (APP): A local court on Thursday Operations highlighted the significance of these open extended the pre-arrest bail Katchehries in fostering diof Awam Muslim League rect relationships with the (AML) chief and former Acknowledging the

positive impact of the police's improved strategies in reducing crime, he urged citizens to cooperate in crime prevention and encouraged them to promptly report any suspicious activities

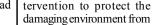
The participants extended gratitude to the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer and DIG (Operations) for organizing the productive Open raided at the houses Katchehry

in Toshakhana, Al-Qadir and other cases of corruption. "Several from Jahangir Tareen group are with us and they are part of cabinet. We will go along with them in future as well, he said this while talking to journalists outside

Islamabad High Court interior minister Sheikh (IHC) Thursday. Rasheed Ahmed till July 8 in a case registered by Aabpara Police Station.

The judicial magistrate Yasir Mehmood heard the case filed by AML's head regarding his interim bail. ISLAMABAD (APP): The court also granted one-The speakers at a seminar

time exemption from apon Thursday emphasised pearance to Sheikh Rasheed that educating young girls Ahmed on his lawyer's request during the hearing. on climate action was imperative for an effective in-Petitioner's lawyer Sardar Shahbaz said that police had



further deterioration.

The Women Welfare and Development Centre and Islamabad Crescent Lions Club and FHDP organised environmentfriendly celebrations in connection with World Environment Day 2023 here, under the theme 'Beat the plastic pollution'

The event included seven activities comprising of youth assembly, speech competition, painting competition, essay writing, award show, tree plantation and magic show.

Member Inspection, Capital Development Authority (CDA), Romana Kakar as chief guest said the

ISLAMABAD: NCSW launches the Summary of 'National Report on the **PMD** indicates chances of rain at few places ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa

6

kistan Meteorological De-partment (PMD) has forecast mainly hot and dry weather with chances of rain in a few parts of the country during the next 24 hours. According to the synoptic situation, continentalair was prevailing over most parts of the country A westerly wave was still affecting eastern and central parts of the country and was likely to persist during the next 24 hours. The PMD daily report said that mainly hot and dry weather is expected in most parts of the country.

Young girls education on climate action 'imperative': Speakers

ture," she added.

against plastics.

He went on to say l

He claimed "Ladla

pay salute to those who

have quit PTI. They are

Khan" took refuge in these

delaying tactics. Had Imran

Khan been in jail, a respect-

able lawyer would not have

Balochistan. The son of the

deceased lawyer has nomi-

nated Imran Khan in FIR.

criminal minded are think-

ing they are bigger than

He went on to say the

murdered

in

been

standing with the state.

government was spending sewers and drains in the cithuman resources and capiies. Therefore, the nation tal for the plantation but the particularly its young public was not taking its daughters must pledge to ownership. "We have an end plastics from their inbuilt passion to protect lives the mother earth and nature In his welcome re-

marks, Founder of so it's needed to end our selfishness towards na-Islamabad Crescent Lions Club, Lion Sibtain Raza Kakar said World En-Lodhi said June 5th was vironment Day demanded celebrated as environment mankind to beat plastic day across the world and pollution but it should be "this year's theme was soclarified that the public runs lutions to plastic pollution" social media campaigns There had been seminars against profiteers but not and symposiums, including walks being made to create RDF, President, Brigaawareness on the pressing dier
Muhammad Aslam issue, he added. Khan said Pakistan had a

Lodhi said the people very low tree cover as comshould stop relying on the pared to the global average government and start educating the daughters of the and it was necessary to overcome this gap and plant nation at their younger ages trees to enhance its green with a clear vision to preserve the environment

He highlighted that the He informed that fruit major cause of urban floodtrees would be planted on ing was plastics clogging the premises of the center.

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Senate Standing in such cases. Committee acknowledged the Committee on Interior was held on Thursday at Parliament House, Islamabad. The meeting was chaired by Senator Mohsin Aziz and attended by Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, Senator Rana Maqbool Ahmed, Senator Faisal Saleem Rehman, Senator Shahdat Awan, Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Senator Seemi Ezdi and Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi and senior officers from the Ministries of Interior

and Law and Justice and

other concerned depart-

menced with severe con-

demnation of 9 th May at-

tacks on military installa-

The meeting com-

ments

martyrs.

country and urged that the sacrifices of martyrs for the homeland cannot be forgotten and the desecration of their monuments was strongly condemned. The Committee considered and passed with amendments the Christian Marriage (Amendment) Bill

whereas the innocent per-

sons may not be involved

sacrifices of LEAs in

restoring peace in the

2023 introduced by Senator Kamran Michel, the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) (Amendment) Bill 2023 introduced by Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri and the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill 2023 introduced by Senator Seemi Ezdi.

tions and monuments of The Criminal Procedures (Amendment) Bill, A resolution condemning such incidents was 2023 introduced by Senapassed unanimously by the tor Zeeshan Khanzada Committee with the recomwas considered by the Committee but not recmendation that the guilty ommended by the Compersons should not be mittee. The remaining spared and they should be Bills on the agenda were punished under the law by way of summary trial deferred.



KARACHI: Administrator Karachi, Dr. Saif ur Rehman along with President of Karachi Editors Club (KEC), Mubashir Mir presents shield to newly appointed Consul General of China in Karachi, Yang Yundong in a reception hosted in his honour.

Pakistan will continue to support Kashmiris' struggle: FO

(INP): Indian illegally occupied ISLAMABAD The Foreign Office Jammu and Kashmir Spokesperson, Mumtaz (IIOJK). Zahra Baloch, has said that Pakistan will continue to Baloch said, "We are reextend its moral, political minded of the plight of the and diplomatic support to Kashmiri children, who the Kashmiris in their just continue to suffer because and peaceful struggle for of continued siege and brusettlement of the Kashmir tal oppression by the Indian forces." dispute. Addressing

She said an entire genthe weekly press briefing in eration of Kashmiri chil-Islamabad on Thursday, dren has grown up in a clishe expressed concern over mate of fear, violence and the prevailing situation in repression.

Mumtaz

Zahra

Chief Editor: Syed Farcog Shah, Editor: Syed Rizwan Shah, Printed by: Rohani Art Press, Mohammadi Town, Sohan, Islamabad and Published from H. No. 426, Street No. 20, Ghori Town Phase 4/A Islamabad Ph: 051-2158688, 2158997, 0331-8383955 Email: dailyindisb@gmail.com

cover



ISLAMABAD: Security personnel escort former Pakistan's Prime Minster Imran Khan at High Court.

accountable in Al-Qadir, **Toshakhana cases** ISLAMABAD (Online): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) Atta Tarar has said Imran Khan

will have to be accountable