# naenenaeni

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# PM calls on int'l community to ensure fair, judicious distribution of resources

It must be remembered that if South is in trouble the world can't move ahead. We are like one body and if one limb of the body is in trouble it is painful for the rest of the body as well

called on the international community to come up with a floods. plan for fair, equitable and judicious distribution of resources to ensure sustainable peace and harmony in the

Speaking here at the summit for a "New Global Financing Pact", he said North had made progress and they would look forward to implementing its experiences in Pakistan, for providing jobs and livelihoods and for promoting industry and agriculture by learning from its model

"It must be remembered that if South is in trouble the world can't move ahead. We are like one body and if one limb of the body is in trouble it is painful for the rest of the body as well.

The prime minister said last year, Pakistan faced devastating floods due to climate change and in those floods 33 million people were affected, millions of acres of standing crops were washed away, 1700 people including children died and half a million animals were drowned.

Two million houses were either completely demol-

PARIS (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Thursday Pakistan bravely faced the devastating impacts of the

He said his government had to spend hundreds of millions of dollars from its own scarce resources to give financial assistance to the flood affectees all over the

'We are very grateful to friendly countries across the globe for the valuable and timely contribution,"he added He said the international financial institutions agreed to give loans for help of millions of people, but it would ave burdened Pakistan, further exacerbating the already precarious financial situation.

Shehbaz Sharif said he took the United Nations Secretary General to the flood affected areas where city after ity was sunk. Thousands of women gave birth to children in the camps set up for the flood affectees, he recalled, adding in far flung areas, the government had to provide food, medicine, water and education at tempo-

He said the people of Pakistan faced crises and problems in the past courageously and they would also overished or partially damaged, he said, adding the people of come the adverse effects of the floods.



with instruments and financing to address new vulnerabilities" at Summit for New Global Financing Pact being held in France.

# TERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH RESEARCH - 2023 une 20-22, 2023

PESHAWAR: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the International Conference on Health Research organized by Rehman Medical Institute.

#### Asif urges judiciary to work within its ambit

Defence Minister Khawaja donable. Asif said on Thursday the judiciary had already interfered in the domain of parliament and must be

stopped from doing so. Addressing a session of the National Assembly chaired by Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf, the minister said the matter of the trial of civilians in military courts had been taken to the Supreme Court and during the previous regime, 24 or 25 people were sentenced by military courts.

He said the SC bench had split and the result would come in a day or two. He said those who had raised the issue had political interests adding that the petitioners had reservations with their respec-

He said the May 9 violence in which state institutions and memorials of martyrs were attacked was unprecedented. He said

ISLAMABAD (INP) - such a crime were unpar-

The comments by the minister came as the top court heard pleas against the trial of civilians allegedly involved in May 9 riots in military courts. A day earlier Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial formed a ninemember larger bench to hear petitions filed by Aitzaz Ahsan and former judge

Jawad S. Khawaja. One should not put at stake the honour and dignity of the country for political purposes, he said adding a person should leave a legacy so that people remember him in good words. Asif further said those who were sacrificing their lives for the country were well-wishers of people of Pakistan. He appealed to the house to protect their honour and the message

should go out from the

house that they would not



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan, Khazar Farhadov calls on Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif.

#### Pakistan rejects peace talks with TTP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Thursday rejected holding peace talks with Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan due to its involvement in killing civilians and security personnel in the country.

'Pakistan will not negotiate with individuals who are responsible for the killing of Pakistani civilians and law enforcement officials,' the Foreign Office spokesperson said at a weekly press briefing, referring to an earlier statement of Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch was responding to queries regarding the statement of the spokesman for Afghanistan's government, Zabihullah Mujahid who offered mediation between the Pakistan government and TTP. On the life loss of Pakistanis in the capsized boat off the coast of Greece,

she said 12 Pakistani nation-

als were among the 104 survivors, who were in good physical condition.

The spokesperson said the Greek authorities had recovered 84 bodies, however, the number and identification of Pakistani nationals among the deceased and missing was unconfirmed at the moment. Relevant authorities have started collecting DNA samples from the families of those sus-

pected to be on board. She said Pakistan's ambassador Aamar Aftab and his team at the mission in Greece were working round the clock for the recovery and identification of Pakistani nationals. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has spoken to his Greek counterpart to discuss arrangements for the recovery of the missing, identification of the bodies, and providing relief to the survivors, she added

# Pak, Saudi Arabia

agree to further

**bolster** bilateral

cooperation PARIS (INP): Prime Min ister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman have agreed to expedite the collaborative process in order to further bolster the bilateral coopera-

The understanding to this effect reached during an interaction between the two leaders on the sidelines of the New Global Financing Pact Summit being held at Paris in France. The two leaders also exchanged views on matters of bilateral interest

During the interaction. the Prime Minister expressed his best wishes for Saudi King Salman bin Abdul Aziz whereas Prince Mohammed bin Salman also expressed the sentiments of goodwill towards the government and people of Pakistan

#### Toshakhana case: NAB again summons IK

SLAMABAD (INP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has summoned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman once again on June 22 for an inquiry into the Toshakhana case. The

anti-graft watchdog has summoned PTI chief again after the latter failed to appear the bureau on June 21. The anti-graft

watchdog has summoned him in connection with an ongoing inquiry regarding misuse of authority, criminal breach of trust, and illegal gain in selling gifted state assets.

#### development: President PESHAWAR (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thurs-Pakthunkhwa should inday said the promotion of crease the number of graduhigher education was im- ates with the help of tech-

Higher education imperative

for country's sustainable

perative for sustainable nology for the country's progress and development, and stressed on universities to use technology in order to increase the number of graduates for the ultimate benefit of the

The president expressed these views during a high-level meeting here at the Governor House, which discussed problems related to the higher education sector and universities in

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. KP Governor Haji Ghulam Ali, caretaker Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan and his cabinet members, chief secretary and inspector general of police at-

President Alvi said higher education was a very ministrative affairs of the important sector and the provincial universities.

prosperity and develop-

The universities should enhance the number of online courses, besides initiating more shifts for producing quality skilled vocational and technical manpower, which was imperative for sustainable economic and industrial growth and socioeconomic development. He advised the universities to hire the services of grant specialists for addressing their financial issues.

CM Azam Khan underlined the need for early appointment of the vice chancellors in KP's universities.

On the occasion, the ing on the financial and ad-



meets Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, President of France Emmanuel Macron and President of Egypt Abdel Fattah El-Sisi during New Global Financing Pact Summit

#### Maryam vows to remove sense of deprivation in Balochistan

LAHORE (INP): Maryam Nawaz, Vice President and ChiefOrganiser of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), held productive meetings with Jam Kamal, former Balochistan Chief Minister, as well as current and former members of Par-

During the meeting, which primarily focused on deliberating the party's future political strategy, Ms Nawaz was extended an invitation to visit Balochistan.

Former Balochistan CM Jam Kamal, along with Senator Anwar Haq Kakar recognised the influential political role of Nawaz Sharifand his daughter, they emphasised that their presence and engagement could significantly contribute to bringing about a transformative change in the province of Balochistan. On the occasion, the PML-N chief organiser expressed her commitment to addressing the prevailing sense of deprivation Balochistan.

She highlighted that the party is diligently implementing comprehensive and tangible measures to uplift the province and ensure the participation of its people în its development.

She also emphasized that the development of Balochistan holds a special place in the heart of Nawaz Sharif, reflecting his dedication to the progress and prosperity of Pakistan as a



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani inaugurating the newly established broadcasting room in the Senate at Parliament House.

# SC seeks details of arrested accused of May 9 riots

Justices Isa, Tariq recuse themselves; seven-member bench hears petitions

Attorney General for Pa-

ISLAMABAD (APP): case. The Supreme Court on Thursday sought complete details of accused arrested in connection with the May 9 riots and instructed respondents to submit written comments in the petitions against trial of civilian offenders in military

A seven-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Úmar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhter, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Muzahir Naqvi and Justice Ayesha Malik heard the case.

Justice Qazi Faez Isa and Justice Sardar Tarqi Masood recused to hear the

Commander

Turkish Air

Force visits Air

Headquarters

ISLAMABAD (APP): A

delegation led by Com-

mander Turkish Air Force

General Atilla Gulan called

on Chief of the Air Staff

Pakistan Air Force (PAF)

Air Chief Marshal Zaheer

at Air Headquarters on

developments were dis-

cussed, a PAF news release

smartly turned-out contin-

gent of Pakistan Air Force

presented General Atilla

Gulan the guard of honour.

He also laid a floral wreath

on the martyrs' monu-

ment. Later, the visiting

dignitary was introduced

to the Principal Staff Of-

**IHC stops EC** 

from giving final

decision in contempt

of EC case

ISLAMABAD (Online)

Islamabad High Cour

(IHC) has restrained Elec-

tion Commission (EC) from

giving final decision with

regard to contempt of EC

notices to the respondents

has sought reply in the first

week of July.

The court while issuing

The court issued notice

secretary EC on the pe

tition filed by Fawad

Chaudhry against show

pension of contempt of EC

proceedings against Fawad

audhry was rejected.

that EC should continue its

proceedings but it should

not take any final decision.

led by Chief Justice (CJ)

Amir Farooq issued the

for Fawad Chaudhry Chief

Election Commissioner and

competent commissioner

are empowered to initiate

written order.

proceedings

A single bench of IHC

According to counsel

The court remarked

The plea seeking sus-

cause notice of EC.

During the meeting,

On his arrival, a

Thursday,

Usman Awan to produce the correct details of people who had been arrested as the bench wanted to conclude the case as soon as possible. It should be told that how many people had been arrested and

where the women pris-

oners were being kept, he

added. The CJP observed that every accused should be given an opportunity to defend himself through Earlier, a nine-member their counsel, but the lawbench was dissolved after vers were also being ar- on attack on military instal-

rested and harassed, which was intolerable.

said harassing any lawyer At the outset of the was an illegal act. hearing, CJP Bandial asked

The chief justice remarked that the court kistan (AGP) Mansoor wanted to remain limited to the facts, asking why the names of some police personnel were also included in the cases.

He observed that the bench would also view the previous decisions of the apex court on army courts.

The CJP asked as per the Official Secrets Act which crime fell in the jurisdiction of military courts.

Latif Khosa, counsel for petitioner Barrister Aitzaz Ahsan, replied that it had been mentioned that a trial in military court could be run lation but this matter was related to the Core AGP Mansoor Awan Commander's House.

#### PM, IMF MD discuss ongoing programme, bilateral coop.

ister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and Managing Director International Monetary Fund (IMF) Kristalina Georgieva met Thursday on the sidelines of New Global Financial Pact Summit here and exchanged views on the on-Ahmed Baber Sidhu here going programme and cooperation between Pakistan and the IMF.

Recalling their recent several key areas of mutual telephone conversation on interest along with regional May 27, Shehbaz Sharif apprised Georgieva of

Pakistan's economic out-

by the government for

PARIS (APP): Prime Min- economic growth and sta-

He underscored that all prior actions for the 9th review under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) had been completed and the Government of Pakistan was fully committed to fulfilling its obligations as agreed with The Prime Minister

expressed the hope that the funds allocated under the IMF's EFF would be released as soon as possible. This would help strengthen Pakistan's on-The prime minister going efforts towards ecooutlined the steps taken nomic stabilisation, and bring relief to its people.



LAHORE: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi unveiling the plaque during the inauguration ceremony of War Gaming Simulator held at Pakistan Navy War College.

#### Chairman Senate inaugurates State-of-the-Art Data Center, Digital Broadcasting System ISLAMABAD (Online): The Chairman Senate,

Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, along with Senators and officials of the Senate Secretariat, today, unveiled the technologically advanced Data Center and Digital Broadcasting System of the Senate of Pakistan. The inauguration ceremony took place today, showcasing the Senate's commitment to embracing digital transformation and enhancing its operations for the benefit of the

Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani while expressing his profound satisfaction at the successful implementation of these digital initiatives, underscored the Senate's dedication to adopt innovative technologies for the optimisation, operational efficiency and strengthening the democratic processes. The Chairman Senate commended the collaborative efforts of the IT team of the Senate and other branches/officials involved in realizing this significant milestone.

The newly established Data Center is equipped with cutting-edge digital infrastructure, providing a secure and robust platform to manage and store essential infor-

The Chairman Senate, in his vision for a more efficient and transparent legislative process, emphasized the importance of this state-of-the-art facility.

# Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

#### Pipe dreams

Our sinking economy has been assigned a new crew, but what does this new crew know about navigating a catastrophic storm? Clearly, very little. The plan it has come up with is little better than asking the ship's band to play a new tune while the storm outside rages on.

Though the new Special Investment Facilita tion Council sounds great in theory, it cannot achieve its goals by simply offering a secure bubble for foreign investors to operate in. After all, any business that wishes to operate in the country needs to be organically embedded in its larger economy in order to thrive.

The SIFC has to promise a fundamental change in the way business is done in this country. Unfortunately, as the PDM government's unimaginative budget for the next fiscal year has signalled, there seems to be little appetite for actually setting our house in order before inviting foreign investors into it. This, primarily, is what makes its plan appear outlandish rather than revolutionary.

For perspective: Pakistan received foreign direct investment inflows of only about \$1.3bn in the 11-month period from July 2022 to May 2023 This represented an almost 21pc decline in FDI compared to the previous year.

In the same period, foreign investors were prevented from receiving the profits and dividends from their investments outside the country. At least \$1bn in profits were blocked by the government from being repatriated in this period.

This limitation had to be placed because the government was running out of foreign exchange due to a sustained drop in exports and remittances received from overseas Pakistanis.

In other words, foreign investors were made to suffer over policy failures that were entirely the government's own. Now, the same decision-makers responsible for that fiasco would like to sell 'preferential access' to the Pakistani state to foreign investors. How many will take them seriously?

"The immediate task [for the SIFC] is to increase foreign direct investment to \$5bn," the prime minister said in a Tuesday tweet. That is well more than thrice the level of annual FDI expected to be recorded by the end of the outgoing fiscal year.

One would expect the country to become at least three times better for doing business if it wishes to attract three times more investment, yet Islamabad's priorities have lately seemed to be something else entirely.

Our senators this week moved legislation that will give current and former Senate chairpersons outlandish new perks in addition to the ones they

These perks will come at the expense of the nation's rapidly depleting resources. How safe would any foreign investor feel sinking their money into a country which doesn't seem to respect the limitations of its own reality? That is the key point to ponder.

# Sterile charters



Friday June 23, 2023

F.S. Aijazuddin

Life is cyclical — what goes around, comes around. The ancients believed that in a full lifetime, if you are born rich, you will suffer poverty but die rich. If you are born poor, you may see riches but die

Pakistan was born poor - Jinnah's "motheaten country" rescued at birth by the intervention of M.K. Gandhi who for-ced Nehru's government to release the Rs55 crores due to it. A lifetime later, Pakistan is still poor, with about \$4 billion to its name and external debt and liabilities of \$126bn. To whom does it owe all this money?

One US analyst has categorised its creditors into: multilateral debt, Paris Club debt, private and commercial loans, and Chinese debt.

Multilateral creditors include the World Bank (\$18bn), the Asian Development Bank (\$15bn) and the IMF (\$7.6bn). Smaller am--ounts are owed to the Islamic Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

Interest on these is concessional and the burden of repayment spread over 18 to 30 years, which explains why repayments of \$4.5bn for the year to multilateral creditors represented a fifth of the total debt repayment. A second category — Paris Club debt— is owed to 22 creditor countries — Japan, Germany, France and the US. It amounts to \$8.5bn, repayable over 40 years

To private debtors, we owe \$7.8bn in the form of Eurobonds and Sukuk bonds, and to commercial lenders — mostly Chinese financial institutions — an-

with 1pc interest rate.

other \$7bn. Commercial loans are short-term and carry biting rates of inter-

Our obligations to the Chinese are hig-h--er than the Himalayas. We owe China ab--out \$27bn. Of this, \$10bn is bilateral debt, \$6.2bn provided by the Chinese governm-ent to Pakistani public-sector enterprises, and \$7bn Chinese commercial loans.

In 2024-25, it is estimated that Pakistan's debt repayment and servicing alone will be about \$24.6bn. In 2025-26, the debt-servicing burden will be no easier to bear. It is predicted at approximately \$23bn.

Where did all this money go?' is a question many Pakistanis who are still waiting to vote can ask, with justification. There is no new Mangla or a second Tarbela. No bullet trains hurtle across our dehydrated landscape. We are nuclear but remain starved of conventional power. We have insufficient schools, too few universities, inadequate hospitals and medical facilities, and stagnant job creation.

Some remember with nostalgia the days when saner governments used the Planning Commission as a tool to regulate equitable development across the country. Five-year plans were declarations of national priorities, and each annual development programme tried to balance federal and provincial demands with available resources, foreign and local.

These plans and programmes were like the Ten Commandments only as good as those who abided by them. Some rulers were tempted to bysuch fiscal discipl-ine. In 1969, soon after martial law had been declared, Air Marshal Nur Khan (then deputy chief martial law administrator) called on Mr Qamar-ul-Islam (then the powerful secretary, Planning Commission). Nur Khan asked him for an economic plan. "Do you want a short-term one or a long-term one?"

the sage bureaucrat replied. "What is the difference?" the DCMLA retorted testily. "Depends on how long you intend to stay in power.'

Not surprisingly, later governments fo--u-nd the constraints of the Planning Com-mission irksome. In India. Prime Minister Modi (for different reasons but with the same intent) dissolved the Indian Planning Commission in 2015, replacing it with NITI Aayog (National Insti-tution for

Trans-for-m-ing India). In Islamabad, the Planning Commission exists as a ministry. It functions, but in name, miming fiscal control. The ministry crunches numbers but with all the bite of a toothless geriat-

Where is the power of the PC-1 form without which no project could be considered for inclusion in the government's budgetary system? Where is the authority of the Central Development Working Par-ty, a filter that preceded submission of justifiable projects to the Executive Com-mittee of the National Economic Coun-

In 2006, a Charter of Democracy si--g--ned by Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhut--to. It envisaged political harmony and reconciliation, yielding a strong democratic system. That charter, though not dead, is buried. The latest mantra by their successors is a 'charter of economy'. Can a coalition of 13 disparate political parties be expected to agree on a common list of economic priorities? They cannot even agree on an election date that will decide their future. Meanwhile, a beleaguered Imran Khan is made to bide his time in forced isolation. He plots revenge. He may find more productive solace in the retort of the defeated royalist to Cromwell's supporters during the English Civil War: "Now that you have done with us, go fight amongst yourselves!" --

# **Bonn climate talks**



Aisha Khan

The 58<sup>th</sup> session of the Subsidiary for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SB58) of the United Nations Framework Convention held in Bonn concluded in mid-June. Every year the Bonn meetings represent the last big milestone culminating at the yearend annual Conference of Parties. These meetings are also used to focus diplomatic attention and build champions and alliances that can rally around a shared vision of an ambitious package of outcomes.

The end of the Bonn talks, with agenda agreement on SB58 in extremis on last day, mostly on procedural decisions, reflects more than just negotiators reaching the limits of political mandates. The lack of agreement on agenda set the tone of low trust and fragmented outcomes. The delay in agenda agreement also had a negative spill-over into other negotiations and created a disconnect between negotiations and the reality of the escalating climate crisis. The lack of good faith in engagement and vacuum created by the absence of strong leadership highlights challenges that could mar negotiations at COP28. Far from shifting to high-ambition territory, the meeting was not successful in producing a package of comprehensive outcomes that is balanced across thematic areas.

In the backdrop of this uncompromising mood and core political differences, it is very important that stalling areas

parties to help shift from current positions and find common ground for unlocking upward movement at COP28.

and how it plans to de- ommendations liver. The state of play on the Global Stocktake (GST) will make it difficult to develop a coherent vision without political agreement on sticky issues. Bonn ended with a significant consensus gap that needs to narrow on vision and pathways for a satisfactory outcome in Dubai. Political-level diplomacy will be needed especially on fossil fuel transition language, finance outcomes, adaptation, loss and damage and Pro--gramme and make the overall GST package concrete progress on fito facilitate dialogue

across the diplomatic cal-

The next steps in adroadmap as well as on other components such as adaptation conversations in the New Collecnance targets and indicators in the Global Goal on Adaptation framework, and adaptation in the global finance reform agenda including Bridgetown Agenda. Finance remains central to the agenda. It was contentious in Bonn a fault line across discussions on mitigation, GST, just transition as well as loss and damage. Pledges and signals sent through upcoming moments like the summit in Paris and UNSG the GCF Replen-Bonn and annual meetings in Marrakech in October as well as in discussions taking place in Bangkok and Geneva can help in building trust and moving towards negotiated outcomes.

There was growing concern about the effectiveness of the Santiago Network on Loss and

and damage and finance Damage and its usefulare taken up by champion ness on feeding into the transitional committee to ensure an outcome at COP28. With little time remaining it will be crucial for TC members to build The UAE can play a on progress and work torole by providing greater clarity on its COP vision construction wards potential landing zones for developing rec-

With so much at stake, forward movement on mitigation was slow and negotiators fell back on emphasising familiar political statements, ins-tead of using the dialogue as a collaborative problem-solving space. In the coming months, it is important to undertake further political dia--logue to en--h-ance mutual un---der-standing of the aims and outcomes of the Mi-tigation Work nance to address the concerns of developing coun-

The present situaaptation finance will re- tion risks a lowest comquire greater clarity on the mon denominator outcome across the COP28 package. Parties will need to work intensively to find an acceptable arrangetive Quantified Goal, fi- ment on the agenda and more work to articulate comprehensive and scientifically rigorous visions of outcomes. The core task of diplomacy in the lead-up to COP28 for the parties and the presidency will be to further flesh out a clear vision of and is likely to emerge as a final package of outcomes. As the climate clock continues to tick, it is time to dial down differences and accelerate momentum on just agreements. The mood at every COP since Poland (2018) has been on a downward ishment Conference in trajectory with visible signs of growing frustration at the slow pace of progress. COP28 provides a GST moment of hope where every effort should be made to capitalise on discussions organised under the UNFCCC umbrella, IFIs and other platforms to strengthen cooperation and build resilience for all. -- Courtesy Dawn

# Commerce News

# Japan provides ¥ 315mfor Human Resource Development Scholarship

ISLAMABAD (APP): said a news release. The Government of Japan on Thursday announced grant aid worth 315 million Japanese Yen (around 2.25 million USD) for the Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) program in Pakistan.

TO Takeshi, Charge'd Affaires ad interim of January terim of Japan to Pakistan and Muhammad Humair Karim, Additional Secreprogram at the ceremony,

The grant agreement for the aforementioned program was also signed

(JICA) Pakistan Office. support the social and eco-further knowledge in their tary of Ministry of Eco- nomic development of the field while learning about nomic Affairs, signed the country by providing gov- Japanese culture and tradi-Exchange of Notes on this ernment officials with the tions. opportunity to obtain

in Japan with aims to enhance their knowledge in public administration and between Saeed Ashraf to strengthen the relation-Siddiqi, Joint Secretary of ship between Japan and Ministry of Economic Affairs and KINOSHITA of JDS program engaging in Yasumitsu, Chief Repre- the formulation and implesentative of Japan Internamentation of such policies tional Cooperation Agency will be enrolled at the partner universities in Japan JDS is designed to and are expected to acquire

Since 2018 when JDS

Master's or Doctoral degree was launched in Pakistan, 31 government officials have successfully completed their degrees while 35 are currently pursuing their academic goals in Japan. Further, 18 officials will be dispatched to Japan in the middle of the vear 2023.

> This occasion celebrates the signing of the sixth batch of the program in Pakistan. For this batch. the maximum number of slots for JDS participants in Pakistan is 17 seats for the Master's degree.



meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Inter-Governmental Commercial Transactions (CCoIGCT.

ISLAMABAD: Joint Secretary (Japan), Saeed Ashraf Siddiqi, EAD, and Mr. KINOSHITA Yasumitsu, Chief Representative JICA signs the Grant Agreement regarding the Human Resource Development Scholarship Program (JDS) for the year 2023 at Ministry of Economic Affairs.

#### **Exports** increase by 22.13pc to Rs.8.187trln

ISLAMABAD (APP): The exports from the country in the rupee term witnessed an increase of 22.13 percent during the past seven months of the current fiscal year 2022-23 as compared to the growth of 22.43 percent. On corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on

Thursday. Exports from July 2022 to May 2023 were recorded at Rs. 6,187,511 million as against Rs. 5,066,143 million during the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 22.13 percent according to provisional data released by PBS.

On year-on-year basis, exports from the country during January 2023 amounted to Rs. 628,037 million as against Rs. 512,962 million during May 2022, showing month-on-month basis, the exports increased by 3.15 percent when compared to the exports of Rs. 608,863 million in April 2023. Main commodities of exports during May 2023 were knitwear (Rs. 94,969 million), ready made garments (Rs. 76,422 million), bed wear (Rs. 57,521 million), cotton cloth (Rs. 49,865 million) rice other than basmati (Rs.32,197 million).

#### Dar chairs **CCoIGCT** meeting

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Inter-Governmental Commercial Transactions (CCoIGCT), today. Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari, Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, Minister of State for Petroleum Mr. Musadik Masood Malik, SAPM on Finance Mr. Tariq Bajwa, Attorney General of Pakistan, Secretary Finance, Secretary Maritime Affairs, Secretary Law & Justice, and other senior officers attended the meeting

#### **USF** meeting discuss connectivity expansion in Pakistan ISLAMABAD (APP): tion Authority (PTA), Universal Service Fund Hatem Bamatraf, CEO of

(USF) Board of Directors meeting held here on nectivity expansion in Pakistan. The 85th meeting was chaired by Secretary Information Technology and Chairman USF Board, Navid A. Shaikh, said a press release. The board members were joined by the newly appointed members, who bring a wealth of expertise and diverse perspectives to the organization.

Among the newly appointed board members are Major General ® Hafeez Ur Rehman, Chairman of the two distinguished female Pakistan Telecommunica- members.

PTCL (Nominee of Fixed line licensees), Wang Hua, Wednesday to discuss con- CEO of Zong (Nominee of mobile cellular licensees), and Independent Members/ Directors Sofia Saeed, Ayla Majid, and Muhammad Yousuf. Muhammad Omar Malik, Member-Telecom, MoITT, as well as other board members and USF management, were also in attendance. The USF, under the leadership and vision of the Minister of IT and Telecommunication, is proud to announce a significant achievement with the appointment of

### Sustainable agri development is govt's top priority: Minister

FAISALABAD (APP): Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Energy, Industries, Commerce, Investment and Skill Development SM Tanveer has said that sustainable agricultural development is the top priority of the government and an action plan committee will be constituted to identify causes of decrease in

citrus exports. Presiding over a meeting on citrus at the University of Agriculture

Faisalabad (UAF) here on Thursday, he said that citrus exports have decreased from 210 million dollars to 100 million dol-

Therefore, a citrus action plan committee is being constituted.

Vice Chancellor UAF Prof Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan will lead the committee that would present recommendations in 20 days to address the citrus challenges, he added

#### Murtaza assures ICCI for establishment of industrial park ISLAMABAD (APP): to bring economic stability develop by making their

Federal Minister of Industry and Production Makhdoom Syed Murtaza Mahmood Thursday said that government would cooperate for the establishment of an industrial park in Islamabad.

He expressed these views while addressing the reception ceremony organized in his honour by the Islamabad Chamber, said a press release issued here. Syed Murtaza said

despite resources, the reason for Pakistan's problems is the lack of continuity in policies.
"We need to correct

our direction, the government has taken many steps for industrial development

#### Pakistan's total foreign reserves reach \$ 8.86bln

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan stood at US\$ 8,863.8 million while reserves held by the central bank reached US\$ 3,536.9 million.

The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that foreign reserves of the central bank decreased by US\$ 482 million to US\$ 3,536.9 million due to external debt repayment in the week ended on June 16,

through an increase in ex-

the government has presented a budget in difficult circumstances, which includes measures to facilitate the business environment and speed up the industry.

The sustainable solution to Pakistan's economic problems is only in increasing exports, unless there is an increase in manufacturing at the local level, the dream of a large increase in exports cannot be fulfilled," he added.

Syed Murtaza said that "The situation we are facing today is the result of the wrong policies of the last 75 years. Countries for 25 years.

own policies, unfortuports," he added. nately, we adopted import policies and discouraged manufacturing. Our SME sector has not been able to develop as it should have. As a minister, I am trying my best to adopt policies that will benefit the economy. Our exports are 30 billion dollars while imports are 80 billion dollars annually, there is no shortage of anything in this country. Only vision is needed. the government and the opposition should leave their personal egos behind and come on the same page for the country. Economic policies should be formulated not for five years, but

### | Shahzad highlights potential to achieve food autarky, save foreign exchange"

Chairman Rice Research Punjab Shahzad Ali Malik emphasized that Pakistan has the potential to achieve food autarky by utilizing 18 million hectares of arable land and saving a significant amount of foreign

exchange. Talking to a delegation of progressive farmers led by Momin Ali, he said last year \$14.5 billion were spent on agri-

ISLAMABAD (APP): culture-related imports to avert food insecurity, said and Development Board a press release issued here on Thursday. He welcomed the

substantial allocation for the promotion of the agriculture sector in the federal and provincial budgets however expressed reservations over the lack of setting aside sufficient funds for conducting modern research by plant breeders of public and private sectors

# **Punjab cabinet meeting rejects** proposal to tax 5-acre farmers

LAHORE: The 18th provincial cabinet meeting, presided over by the caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, was held in the walled city. During the session, the proposal to impose agricultural income tax on owners of 5-acre lands was rejected. Additionally, the cabinet decided to maintain the stamp duty rate at one percent and approved amendments to the First Schedule of the Stamp Act 1899. Amendments to the Sales Tax on Services

proved, abolishing all taxes General of the Walled City were also approved. Addiand duties on IT business, education, and training in Punjab.

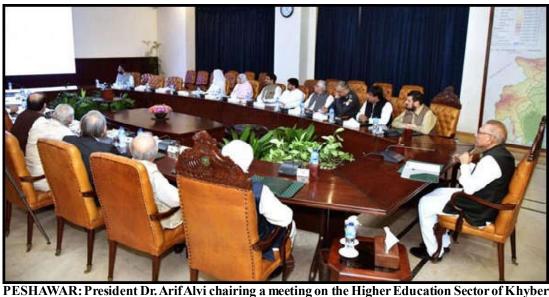
Furthermore, the cabinet approved the extension expressed gratitude to the of contracts for employees of the hepatitis and infec- net for their support, which tion control program, as well as the provincial TB control program. A significant decision was made to restore historical buildings and ancient gates across Punjab, including Lahore. The restoration of the 12 ancient gates of Lahore to

of Lahore Authority, by the CM. DG WCLA provided a briefing on the restoration of historical buildings and chief minister and the cabiwas appreciated by the

The cabinet also approved the renewal of the agreement regarding new issues and the scope of the Punjab Health Facilities Management Company. Various matters related to their original grandeur was the Universal Health Insurentrusted to the Director- ance Program in Punjab

tionally, the extension of contracts for 605 employees of the Directorate General of Literacy & Non-Formal Basic Education was approved. In terms of vehicle registration fees, a one percent reduction was approved for vehicles ranging from 1500cc to 2000cc in Punjab, aligning them with the fees in Islamabad.

Regarding mining, the cabinet approved the revision of royalty rates for limestone and argillaceous clay in large-scale mining



Pakhtunkhwa at Governor House.

5 Patwaris

dismissed, 11

suspended on

various grounds PESHAWAR (APP)

Deputy Commissioner

(DC) Peshawar has sacked

five patwaris and the ser-

vices of eleven (11) others

have been put under sus-

pension for tampering with

revenue records, non-de-

positing of taxes, corrup-

tion and causing suffering

to the public and subvert-

ing official orders. Accord

ing to a press release issued

here on Thursday, a case

against one Tehsildar, two

Naib Tehsildars and a

Gurdawar had been sent to

the provincial government.



RAWALPINDI: Senator Walid Iqbal, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights and members of the committee are being briefed during their visit at Central Jail Adiala, Rawalpindi.

#### **US Consul General** visits flood hit area of Rajanpur

RAJANPUR (APP): US Consul General, Lahore Consulate, William K. Makaneole on Thursday visited a flood-hit village of Tahsil Rojhan Mazari, district Rajanpur, where he talked to the people for some time and witnessed how they were doing life in challenging circumstances.

The US Consul General met with all the floodhit people of Balachani village and had a frank conversation with them on how they were doing life in odd circumstances. He also enquired about their socioeconomic conditions and witnessed their mud brick houses, and took a keen interest in their cattle heads. ecution there.

Balachani village, the US Consul General was received by Sardar Dost Ali Khan Mazari who presented him traditional 'Ajrak' and Sindhi cap. District government officials gave him detailed briefing on the devastation caused by floods triggered by torrential rains in south Punjab. William Earlier,

Makaneole met with Deputy Commissioner Rajanpur Dr. Mansoor Ahmad Khan Baloch at his office. The DC gave him a briefing on socio-economic aspects of life in Rajanpur, culture, heritage, law and order situation and the development projects under ex-

#### **Minister visits** WASA disposal station

FAISALABAD (APP) Provincial Minister for Housing and Urban Development Barrister Azfar Ali Nasir has visited Disposal Station of Water & Sanitation Agency (WASA) in Dawood Nagar here on Thursday and reviewed arrangements to deal with flood emergency.

He said that Rs.600 million had been spent on Dawood Chowk Disposal Station to facilitate 200,000 people of this area with trouble free sewerage disposal facilities.

He directed the staff of disposal station to make generator sound proof in addition to shifting it near gate of the station.

#### **PPP** believes in practical steps rather than promises: Kundi DERA ISMAIL KHAN of Tehsil Paroa will have

(APP): Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Central Information Secretary of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday said that his party believed in practical steps rather than just prom-

In a statement issued here, the state minister said another promise made with the people of Paroa has been fulfilled and a NADRA office in the Tehsil will start functioning from tomor-

He said the residents

Independent Report

RAWALPINDI: Caretaker

Provincial Minister for Pri-

mary and Secondary

Healthcare Punjab Dr Jamal

Nasir on Wednesday di-

rected the relevant officials

to expedite anti-dengue sur-

veillance to combat dengue.

ing along with Commis-

sioner Rawalpindi Division

Liaqat Ali Chatha to review

anti-dengue arrangements,

the minister directed the

Presiding over a meet-

the facility of NADRA at their doorstep for which they had to come to Dera Ismail Khan.

The establishment of the NADRA office in Paroa was a long-standing demand of the locals, which has been fulfilled, he said. Faisal Kundi said this

office was supposed to start working last month but due to some difficulties and hurdles, it was delayed. However, he said, with the efforts of the PPP, the problems have ended and the NADRA office is going to start working from Friday

ment anti-dengue Standard

Operating Procedures (SOPs) in letter and spirit.

evant departments to utilize all

resources to eliminate dengue

mosquitoes, as the prevailing

weatherwas suitable for breed-

ing larvae. Dr Jamal directed the

concerned to remove stagnant

water in graveyards and other

public places to stop mosqui-

toes from breeding after rain and

submerged water and warned

that no negligence would be tol-

He directed all the rel-

#### **ATC** rejects bail plea of Dr. Jamal directs to PTI Khadija in expedite anti-dengue Askari tower surveillance attack case

LAHORE (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) has rejected bail plea of PTI member Khadija Shah in

Askari Tower attack case. The bail after arrest plea of Khadija Shah came up for hearing before Judge ijaz Ahmad Buttar of ATC Thursday. The court rejected the bail plea after nearing the arguments.

Gulberg Police Lahore have registered case against Khadija Shah, daughter of former finance minister

#### **Governor Baligh says:** Islam is complete code of life which teaches us love, peace & tolerance

Independent Report

AHORE: Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman, today attended a seminar on promoting tolerance and harmony at Government Graduate College for Women, Gulberg, Lahore as a special guest.

Speaking on this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Islam is a complete code of life which teaches us love, peace and ing of the students.

He said that we should take guidance from principles of Islam. Governor

Punjab said that all of us should strive to create a society that is free from intolerance and hatred. He said that teachers

can play an important role in promoting tolerance and harmony.

He added that the teachers should pay special attention to character build-

#### Jinnah House attack: **ATC** dismisses bail petitions of 197 accused

Thursday dismissed postarrest bail petitions of 197 accused, including fashion designer Khadija Shah, a daughter of ex-advisor to chief minister Punjab Salman Shah, Sanam Javed, Aalia Hamza, Tayyaba Raja and others, in Jinnah House (corps commander's house in Lahore) attack case.

However, the court accused, Maryam Mazari, Ayesha Masood, Huma Saeed, Maria Khan, Farhat Farooq and others, intention.

LAHORE (APP): An anti- and directed them to subterrorism court (ATC) on mit surety bonds of Rs 100,000 each for availing the relief.

ATC Judge Ijaz Ahmad Buttar announced the reserved verdict on bail petitions of 230 accused. A day earlier, the court had reserved the verdict after hearing detailed arguments of the parties.

In final arguments, the defence counsel argued begranted post-arrest bail to fore the court that their clients did not have any link with the case and they were implicated with mala fide

# International News

relevant officials to imple- erated in any arrangements.

# US to ease visas for skilled Indian workers as Modi visits

**Monitoring Desk** 

WASHINGTON: The Biden administration will make it easier for Indians to live and work in the United States, using this week's state visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to help some skilled workers enter or remain in the country, according to three people familiar with the

The State Department could announce as soon as Thursday that a small number of Indians and other foreign workers on H-1B visas will be able to renew those visas in the US, without having to travel abroad, changes to things.

one of the sources said, part of a pilot program that could be expanded in com-

Indian citizens are by far the most active users of made up 73 per cent of the nearly 442,000 H-1B workers in fiscal year 2022 ers in fiscal year 2022. "We all recognize that

mobility of our people is a huge asset to us," said another US official. "And so our goal is to

approach that in a sort of multifaceted way. The State Department already has been working very hard to find creative ways to make

spokesperson declined to comment on questions about which visa types would qualify or the timing of the pilot launch. Plans

"The pilot would begin with a small number of cases with the intention to scale the initiative over the following one to two years," the spokesperson said while declining to define small. The steps could change and are not finalised until they are announced. The White House declined to comment.

**New Zealand** 

#### Restaurant explosion kills 31 in northwest China **Monitoring Desk** venues. Nine people includ-BEIJING: At least 31 people were killed when an

India Narendra Modi to the White House in Washington.

explosion caused by a gas leak ripped through a restaurant in the northwestern Chinese city of Yinchuan, state media said Thursday. The blast occurred on the eve of the three-day Dragon Boat Festival holiday, when many in China go out and

socialise with friends. Footage on state broadcaster CCTV showed more than a dozen firefighters working at the site as smoke poured out of a gaping hole in the

restaurant's facade.
Shards of glass and other debris littered the darkened street, which is also home to a number of other eateries and entertainment

**Monitoring Desk** 

DUBAI: The president of

the United Arab Emirates

met with Iran's visiting for-

eign minister on Thursday

in the latest sign of improv-

ing relations between Arab

Gulf countries and the Is-

Arabia and other Gulf coun-

tries have long harbored

suspicions about Iran be-

cause of its nuclear program

and support for militant

groups across the region,

The UAE,

lamic Republic.

ing the restaurant's "owner, shareholders and staff' were held by police following the explosion, CCTV said, adding that "their assets have been frozen". "A leak of liquefied petroleum gas... caused an explosion during the operation of a barbecue restaurant," state news agency Xinhua said of the Wednesday evening blast, citing the regional Communist Party committee.

US President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden welcome Prime Minister of

Seven more people were receiving medical treatment, the agency said, with one of them in a "critical condition". Two others suffered

severe burns, two had minor injuries and two had scratches caused by flying glass, Xinhua said.

and have cultivated close

people of the region.

**UAE leader welcomes Iranian** 

foreign minister in latest softening

of Persian Gulf tensions

High school students and retirees were among the casualties, many of whom died due to suffocation likely caused by smoke inhalation, state-backed media outlet The Paper said, citing anonymous officials involved in the rescue effort. The explosion at about 8:40pm (12:40pm GMT) on Wednesday took place at the Fuyang Barbecue Restaurant in a residential area of downtown Yinchuan, the capital of the Ningxia autonomous region.

Chinese President Xi Jinping "demanded all-out efforts in treating the wounded and the strengthening of safety supervision and management in key industries and fields to effectively protect people's lives and property".

#### Fighting surges in Sudan's capital as three-day ceasefire expires Monitoring Desk

DUBAI: Heavy clashes defense ties with the U.S. broke out between rival But in recent months they military factions in several have charted a more indeparts of Sudan's capital on pendent path, reaching out . Wednesday as a 72-hour to U.S. adversaries as Washceasefire that saw several ington increasingly focuses reports of violations exon Russia and China. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and pired, witnesses said. Shortly before the truce Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian ended at 6 a.m. (0400 GMT) fighting was reported in all three of the cit-"discussed the importance ies that make up the wider of building on positive decapital around the velopments to benefit the confluence of the Nile.

#### Macron would be inappropriate guest at **BRICS** summit, says Russia

MOSCOW: French President Emmanuel Macron would be an inappropriate guest at the BRICS summit, the RIA news agency quoted Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov as saying on Thursday, criticising countries whose policies Russia considers hostile.

The BRICS group of

emerging economies, com-prising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, is due to hold a summit in Johannesburg in August. Asked about Macron's

reported desire to attend the summit, Ryabkov said: "Clearly, leaders of states that pursue such a hostile and unacceptable policy towards us, discussing with

such emphasis and conviction that Russia should be isolated on the international stage, and share the common NATO line on inflicting a so-called strategic defeat on us - such a leader is an inappropriate BRICS guest. And we are not hiding this approach of ours, we have old our colleagues from South Africa.

We expect that our point of view will be fully accepted," Ryabkov was quoted as saying. South Africa is currently mulling its legal options if Russian President Vladimir Putin decides to attend the BRICS summit because the International Criminal Court (ICC) in March issued an arrest warrant for Putin over the Ukraine conflict.

### Yellen says it's critical to maintain U.S.-China ties after Biden's dictator remarks

Monitoring Desk PARIS: U.S. Treasury Sec-

retary Janet Yellen said Thursday that it's "critical" the U.S. and China maintain a relationship so they can "work together" on global challenges, coming just after President Joe Biden's remarks calling Chinese leader Xi Jinping a "dictator" drew condemnation from Beijing.

Speaking at a news conference in Paris, Yellen said that "with respect to the comments, I think President Biden and I both believe it's critical to maintain communication ... to clear up misperceptions, miscalculations.

We need to work together where possible. But we have disagreements, and we are also forthright in recognizing we do have disagreements,' she added. Yellen has recently advocated for improving relations between the U.S. and China, arguing cooperation is needed for the sake of maintaining global stability.

Biden's remarks at a fundraiser Tuesday, when

he also said China had "real economic difficulties, opened a new rift just after .S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken concluded a visit to Beijing. The trip sought to break the ice in a relationship that has hit a historical low.

China delivered a formal protest of Biden's remarks on Thursday, with Chinese Ambassador Xie Feng telling senior White House and State officials that Washington "should take earnest actions to undo the negative impact' of what Biden said or "bear all the consequences," a Chinese embassy spokesperson said in a statement.

"With the latest irresponsible remarks about China's political system and its top leader, people cannot help but question the sincerity of the U.S. side" in seeking to stabilize relations, the statement said. "The Chinese government and people do not accept any political provocation against China's top leader and will resolutely respond.'

#### US Coast Guard ship sailed through Taiwan Strait a day after Blinken's China visit **Monitoring Desk** ters where "high-seas free-

TAIPEI: A U.S. Coast Guard ship sailed through the Taiwan Strait a day after U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken completed a trip to Beijing during which he met with Chinese leader Xi Jinping, in a move that Chinese authorities

called "public hype."
The U.S. Coast Guard cutter Stratton conducted a "routine Taiwan Strait transit" on June 20 through wa-

doms of navigation and overflight apply in accordance with international law," the U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet said in a statement Thursday. "The ship transited through a corridor in the Strait that is beyond the territorial sea of any coastal State," it added China often maintains that the strait, which separates Taiwan and mainland China, is part of its exclusive eco-



**Monitoring Desk** SYDNEY: New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins, ahead of his official trip to China at end of this month, said on Thursday he did not agree with U.S. President Joe Biden's remark that Chinese leader Xi Jinping was a dictator. "No, and the form of government that China has is a matter for the Chinese people,' Hipkins told reporters.



Firefighters put out fire after an explosion at a restaurant in Yinchuan, China killed at least 31 people, officials said.

# PM appreciates Macron for convening New Global **Financing Pact Summit**

Pak, Egypt agree to strengthen cooperation in multiple fields; PM Emphasizes resources mobilization to address issue of climate change during meeting with John Kerry

PARIS (INP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a meeting with President Emmanuel Macron on the sidelines of the New Global Financing Pact Summit being held in Paris, France.

The Prime Minister appreciated President Macron for convening the New Global Financing Pact Summit. He also thanked the French President for inviting him to the Summit and for his warm hospital-

Speaking on this occasion, Shehbaz Sharif hailed the French President's bold step towards a system, based on financial justice with developing countries. He said the developing countries are facing prob-lems of non-availability of resources, burden of interest for debt payments and

slow development. The Prime Minister said under the new Global Financing Pact, help of the indebted developing countries is the need of the hour so that the people of these countries can get relief. He said devastating effects of climate change have added the hardship to already troubled developing countries. Shehbaz Sharif

praised the French President saying that he made a significant effort to create global consensus on an important issue.

On this occasion, the French President thanked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for attending the New Global Financing Pact Summit. During the meeting, the two leaders also agreed to remain engaged on issues of mutual interest.

PARIS: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz

Sharif in a meeting with Ms. Kristalina Georgieva.

Managing Director International Monetary Fund.

Govt earmarks Rs 25b

to educate drop-out

children: Ahsan Iqbal

ceive early childhood edu-

cation experience lower fail-

ure rates, exhibit better aca-

demic performance, and are

more likely to pursue higher

that investing in early child-

hood education was an in-

vestment in the nation's de-

velopment and future, as

the growth and prosperity

of a nation depended on the

quality of education pro-

vided during the crucial

mined solely by military

classrooms and laborato-

The minister said

Ahsan Iqbal stressed

education," he added.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Federal Minister for Plan-

ning and Development Prof

Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday

said the government had

earmarked Rs 25 billion for

imparting elementary edu-

cation to drop-out children

stan Learning Conference

2023, he expressed confi-

dence that investing in early

childhood education would

lead to a significant reduc-

tion in dropout rates and

enable children to fully

utilise their inherent poten-

scored that intellectual

growth in the early period

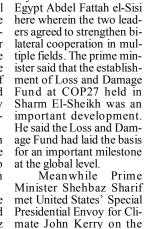
of children was an essential

requisite for their later suc-

Ahsan Iqbal under-

Addressing the Paki-

Minister



Shehbaz Sharif on Thurs

day met with President of

#### Law minister briefs Nawaz on new legislation

sidelines of New Global Financing Pact Summit in

France. During the meeting,

the Prime Minister appre-

ciated the priorities of John

Kerry and the US govern-ment on the issue of climate.

ISLAMABAD (Online): PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif has given indication to return to Pakistan soon after the law regarding life time disqualification is implemented.

Sources said Law minister Azam Nazir Tarar has held three meetings with Nawaz Sharif in London.

Law minister gave briefing to Nawaz Sharif about legal points with reference to his return to Pa-

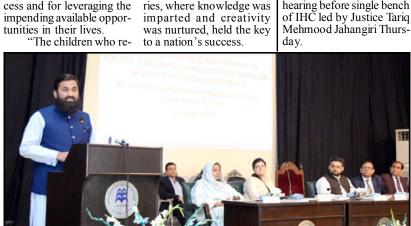
Law minister told Nawaz Sharif his life time disqualification will end after enactment of new legislation in the parliament. Senate has passed this bill and it will soon be got passed from National As-



Islamabad High Court (IHC) has summoned dephase. The survival and tails of the cases registered progress of nations in the against former federal minmodern era were not deter- ister Sheikh Rashid

The court while issumight but by the quality of ing notice to IG Islamabad their education systems, he and SHO Kohsar police sought reply till June 27. The petition filed by

Sheikh Rashid came up for hearing before single bench



LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Muhammad Balighur Rehman, today attended a seminar on promoting tolerance and harmony at Government Graduate College for Women, Gulberg, Lahore as a special guest.

# Curtain raiser event held to mark 10-year celebrations of CPEC

ISLAMABAD (Online): To mark the 10- year celebrations of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and upcoming 12th Joint Cooperation Committee JCC, a curtain raiser event was held on Thursday at the Planning

Ministry. tended by Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives. Professor Ahsan Iqbal, Secretary Planning Commission, Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Chief Economic of Pakistan, who is also Executive Director of the CPEC, Dr Nadeem Javaid, Chinese Charge d' Affairs to Pakistan, Ms. Pang Chunxue. Chinese state owned enterprises and representatives from various

ministries. The CPEC enters a

significant milestone as it celebrates a decade of remarkable achievements in fostering 10-year celebrations, sevretariat in collaboration try which include international Conference, academic sessions, cultural shows and others across the country.

Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Prof Ahsan Igbal said that this year marks the successful decade of Belt and Road Igbal.

Initiative (BRI) & its flagship CPEC project.
The Minister said

that when China launched its transcontinental entereconomic prise BRI, it chose Pakigrowth, infrastructure de-stan for its flagship project velopment, and regional named CPEC. Over the connectivity. Under the decade, the two countries have developed strong The event was at-ed by Federal Minis-ducted by the CPEC Sec-ducted by the CPEC Sec-call themselves "iron call themselves "iron brothers', " said the Planwith the Planning Minis- ning Minister who was declared Mr CPEC by the Chinese authorities in May this year when he visited China. Mega projects worth billions of rupees Speaking at the occa- have been completed in one sion, Federal Minister for year which indicates the commitment of the incumbent government under the vision of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, said Ahsan

Prof. Choudhary also

visited the labs and different departments of the university and appreciated the highly productive role being played by the University of Nizwa in the Middle East and the Muslim world by promoting quality education. COMSTECH and the University of Nizwa have agreed to promote and strengthen cooperation, provide a platform for collaborative activities in the relevant fields of mutual interest, and encourage mobility and cooperation such as sharing experiences and best practices, development of methodologies, and mobility of experts.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Speaker National Assembly Zahid Akram Durrani chairing meeting of the Special Committee on Balochistan



& UAE during the inauguration ceremony of Karachi Gateway Terminal Limited.

#### Pak-UAE joint venture Karachi Gateway Terminal inaugurated

KARACHI (APP): Limited (KGTL), a joint venture of UAE's Abu Dhabi Port Group and Karachi Port Trust to improve infrastructure and facilities at one of the major ports of Pakistan was unveiled on Thursday

Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tesori inaugurated the Karachi Gateway Terminal Limited by unveiling the plaque in a ceremony held here at Karachi Port Trust. An agreement and memorandum of understanding were also signed between Abu

Dhabi Ports Group and Karachi Port Trust at the occasion. The 50-year concession agreement would attract a much-needed investment of over \$ 2 billion to expand and modernize shipment facilities, and establish special economic zone and rail connectivity between KPT and Port Qasim. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ADPG Captain Juma Shamsi and Chairman KPT Sved Savedain Raza signed the agreement in presence of Federal Minister of Maritime Affairs Faisal Sabzwari



Development and ReformAhsan Iqbal and Chinese Ambassador for Pakistan H.E. Ms. Pang Chunxue press the button to perform Curtain-Raiser Event Celebrating 10 Years of CPEC at Auditorium Ministry PD&ŠI.

#### Ideal democracy linked with constitutional supremacy: Marri

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Shazia Marri on Thursday said that the role of all institutions was well defined in the Constitution adding that ideal democracy in the country was linked with constitutional supremacy.

Taking part in the budget debate in the National Assembly, she said that the disbursement of fund under Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) was not a charity rather, it was the right of the people. Shazia Murri said the government has to take responsibility in difficult situation due to poor economic policies of past regime.

She said that the budget of BISP had been significantly increased as now social security had become strengthening of democan important issue in the racv.

country. The children enrollment in school has jumped to 7.4 million from 3.7 million registering an increase of 210 percent due to Benazir Bhutto Shaheed education scholarship. The government has set enrollment target of 9.2 million, she added.

She went on to say

that the assembly was dis-

solved unconstitutionally and the prime minister was ousted through adopting constitutional procedure. The coalition parties united for survival and stability of the country, she said and added that it was not for the first time that many parties were on same page for the stability of the country. She said that earlier. PPP and PML-N inked

#### **COMSTECH, University of** Nizwa sign MoU to boost scientific collaboration

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary and the Chancellor of the University of Nizwa, Prof. Ahmed Al-Rawahi, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the Chancellor's office in the University of Nizwa in Oman, in order to strengthen scientific collaboration. The officials of COMSTECH, the Embassy of Pakistan in Oman, and the University of Nizwa also participated in the MoU signing ceremony. Prof. Choudhary also held a meeting with the Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor of the University of Nizwa, said a message received here. He discussed multilat-

eral cooperation, reverse linkages and exchange of faculty, researchers and stu-

charter of democracy for

#### Master Plan for reconstruction. rehabilitation of flood-affected areas by July 15: Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday announced finalizing a Master Plan for reconstruction and rehabilitation of the flood affected areas by July 15.

'It has been agreed [by the special committee formed by the PM] that the Ministry of Planning sit together after the budget [passage] and finalize the \$16.3 billion Master Plan of reconstruction and rehabilitation of the flood affected areas tentatively by July 15," he made this announcement on floor of the National Assembly.

He said the government had allocated sufficient funds in the budget to execute projects of urgent nature in flood-affected areas. The minister said immediate rescue and relief opment Programme the federal government.

throughout the country with disbursement of Rs 80 billion through

the BISP programme, adding almost Rs100 billion had already been spent in addition to the assistance extended by National Disaster Management Authorin kind.

On urgent basis, he said the relief goods had been taken from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) store, and the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet recently approved Rs12 billion to replenish its stock, keeping in view the predicted threats of the monsoon and the cyclone.

He said a comprehensive report had been prepared in collaboration with the United Nations Devel-

work had been done (UNDP), World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Union and the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, following the widespread destruction caused by the heavy

rains and floods in 2022. The report calculated that Pakistan collectively suffered over \$30 billion in

nomic and physical loss. He said funds amounting to \$16.3 billion were required to execute the physical work like repair of damaged houses and infrastructure, under the '4RF strategy i.e. resilient recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. The estimate was for the projects to be completed in 4 to 5 years, he added. Ishaq Dar clarified that 50 per cent expenses of reconstruction and rehabilitation work would be borne by

#### Through tourism, the world can be turned towards Pak: Irfan Sheikh

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh President of FPĈCI

has said that the immediate solution to Pakistan's economic improvement and increase in foreign exchange reserves is the promotion of tourism. It is an open secret that many countries of the world are now paying special attention towards the improvement of facilities to attract local and international tourists.

Tourism will show the beauare also such places beautitiful face of Pakistan to the international community and will invite them to see the land of treasures and enjoy traditional hospital-

President FPCCI stressed that the tourism sector is the only quick way to earn foreign exchange. He erating income, employexpressed these views ment, investment and exwhile addressing the Blue ports, when tourists come Economy Conference organized by the SAARC to the country, not only local people will get business sults can be achieved by Industry at the FPCCI also create employment

ful places in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, Punjab, Sindh Balochistan and Azad Kashmir which are waiting for government attention He said that the tourism sector will stimulate economic development by gen-



providing facilities in the tourism sector and the world can be turned towards Pakistan which will with natural beauty by Alpave the way for future for- lah, along with a long and

He further stated that Pakistan has been blessed eign investment in Pakistan. amazing coastal line, there tourism flights.

The Federal and Provincial governments have to pay special attention to

#### HEC's notification against Holi celebrations in varsities withdrawn

Minister for Federal Education and Professional formed the National Assem-Higher Education Commission (HEC) against organizing 'Holi' celebrations in universities had been with-

Responding to points of order raised by Ramesh als, he added.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Lal and Kesoo Mal Kheeal Das in the House, the min- India, Muslims were not Training Rana Tanveer notice of the notification, but non-Muslims in Paki-Hussain on Thursday in- which had been withdrawn stan enjoyed complete freeearly in the morning. The bly that the notification of HEC should not write such Azam's saying and the perform their religious ritu-

The minister said in ister said he took a serious allowed to offer Eid prayers

Earlier, Rameesh Lal a letter, as per the Quaid-e- and Kesoo Mal, in their points of order, had high-Constitution, the followers lighted the HEC's notifiof every religion were free cation against Holi celin Pakistan and they could ebrations in the universities and called for its withdrawal

#### Air University students delegation visits Safe City Islamabad

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: A delega-

tion of Air University students visited Safe City Islamabad. The delegation was warmly welcomed by Director Technical and Deputy Director Technical Safe City, who provided comprehensive insights into the state-of-the-art centralized system, command and control center, and technologically advanced surveillance cameras employed by Safe City Islamabad.

Under the special instructions of the Capital Police Officer (CPO) Safe City, the visit aimed to highlight the effectiveness and importance of Safe City Islamabad in ensuring public safety and se-

During the meeting, the student delegation also interacted with the CPO



able information on the wide-ranging initiatives enabled by modern technology through the Safe City Islamabad Project. CPO Safe City em-

phasized the pivotal role played by the project in various sectors including the Police Operations and Monitoring Center, Emergency Control Center, Dispatch Control Center, e-Challan System. and the "Pukar-15" Helpline.

The cutting-edge surveillance cameras installed throughout the city have proven instrumental in enhancing security measures, preventing crime, and safeguarding the lives and property of the citizens, he

He said that safe city Islamabad's modern technology-enabled cameras are playing a crucial role in the city's security, crime prevention and protection of citizens' lives and prop-