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PM Shehbaz, Chinese Premier vow to set CPEC projects at centrality in bilateral cooperation

Agree to celebrate Decade of CPEC this year to showcase success; Pakistan to expand strategic ties with China, says PM Shahbaz

PARIS (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday met Chinese Premier Li Qiang here wherein the two sides agreed to celebrate the Decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) this year to showcase its success. The meeting was held here on the sidelines of the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact.

It was the first in-person meeting between the two leaders since Premier Li assumed office in March this year. Expressing satisfaction at the steady development of CPEC projects in Pakistan, the two sides agreed on CPEC's centrality for Pakistan's socio-economic development and expressed their firm commitment to continue working together for realizing its shared objectives for the two countries.

The conversation was marked by traditional warmth and cordiality that has been the hallmark of Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

PML-N, NP express

resolve to extend

political cooperation

Muslim League-Nawaz Maryam believed that her

Maryam Nawaz and the on Balochistan and its

National Party (NP) on Fripeople. She lavished praise

day declared their intention on PML-N supremo

ML-N) chief organiser party placed a great value

During the meeting, the two leaders held an in-depth discussion on the entire gamut of bilateral relationship, including CPEC as well as economic cooperation.

Reiterating support to China on its core issues, the prime minister appreciated China's unflinching support to Pakistan's territorial integrity, sovereignty and socioeconomic development.

He noted that China's firm opposition to holding

any G20 meeting in the disputed region of Jammu and Kashmir was a vivid reflection of China's principled stance for upholding international law and the United Nations

In his remarks, Premier Li said the Pakistan-China friendship was unique and had withstood the vicissitude of time due to deep fraternal ties between the peoples of



PARIS: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Premier of the State Council of China, Li Continued on page 2 | Qiang meet on the sidelines of the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact.

Trial of civilians in military courts:

102 people in army's custody, AGP tells SC

No journalist, minor, woman and lawyer under custody of Army in connection with the incidents of May 9 and 10; Hearing adjourns till June 26

ISLAMABAD (Online): Attorney General (AG) has filed details of arrested accused in Supreme Court (SC) in the matter of trial of civilians in military

According the report, 3050 persons were identified to have been found involved in May 9 incidents. Arrest warrants of 2258 persons were issued among them under MPO. 1888 persons are arrested in 51 cases under terrorism clauses. 4119 persons are arrested in 247 cases under other clauses.

86 accused have been military courts till June 26 handed over to police on (Monday). physical remand while sent on judicial remand. As many as 81 women who

2464 persons have been headed by Chief Justice of

Continued on page 2

were involved in May 9 in-

cidents have also been ar-

rested. 42 women among them were granted bail by

the courts. 39 women are in jail on judicial remand.

tion here the report pre-

sented by Attorney does not include the details of

accused, lawyers and jour-

nalists who are under the

custody of army and the

preme Court on Friday ad-

petitions pertaining to trial

journed the hearing of the

of May 9 riots accused in

APP adds: The Su-

arrested children.

It is pertinent to men-

by world powers to root out terrorism effectively Bilawal said first of all

Bilawal for collective efforts



Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday stressed that collective efforts were needed by the world powers to root out the menace of terrorism, which had affected Pakistan the most.

Speaking in the National Assembly, he said terror. being a global issue, terror-ism should not be seen ism and extreminating terror-ism and extreminating terror-ism and extreminating terror-Those involved in attackthrough the prism of geo-

The foreign minister regretted that after the fall

of Kabul, the world powers had shifted their focus to the Ukraine conflict and

the menace of terrorism remained unaddressed. Pakistan, he added, suffered the most from terrorism as it had lost more people than the rest of the

the interest of Pakistan itself as it was the key to peace, stability and prosperity, he added.

Former president and Pa-

kistan People's Party

(PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali

Zardari has said that he is

ready to discuss and sign

sion of the All Pakistan

Textile Mills Association

(APTMA), Asif Ali Zardari

urged the industrialists to

sign an agreement – charter

of economy – with all po-

charter of economy. I will

give you a level playing

field. We are rich not poor

and those who think Paki-

stan is a poor state are

Asif Ali Zardari said that he had also invited Pa-

"I am ready to sign the

litical parties.

While addressing a ses-

the charter of economy.

Ready to sign charter of

economy, says Zardari

ISLAMABAD (INP): kistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

world in the fight against

there was the need to bring political stability in Pakistan and then the focus should be shifted to further enhancing bilateral relations and forging partnerships with other countries, including the United States. He said the Pakistan

Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) chairman himself pushed his party into a blind alley following the May 9 vandalism of military installations and martyrs' memorials due to his rigidness.

He said time and again the PTI chief was asked from the parliamentary forums to announce his disassociation from the May 9 incidents but he paid no heed and consequently his ing the military installations and the memorials of martyrs did not deserve

(PTI) chairman to sign the

turers to increase exports.

"The increased price of dol-

lar makes everything ex-

pensive. I am fully aware

of issues being faced by

traders and industrialists.

We can stabilize the

economy by enhancing ex-

claimed that they would in-

crease exports to \$100 bil-

lion. "We have to promote

trade for the betterment of

the economy. The common

people will be able to pay

taxes if their issues are ad-

dressed. We should focus on

trade opportunities instead

The PPP co-chairman

He asked the manufac-

charter of economy.

QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Zamrak Khan Achakzai, Abdul Khaliq Hazara and MPAs Mir Arif Jan Muhammadhassani and Molvi Noorullah talking during Assembly session

Gwadar's over 15 mega projects under CPEC completed in one year

GWADAR (APP): The hospital in Gwadar would Gwadar's over 15 mega projects under the game changer China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have been completed during the financial year of 2022-23 which would benefit the local masses of the

o extend their political col-

former Balochistan chief

minister Abdul Malik

Baloch called on Maryam,

during which the matters in

line with the country's po-

litical situation were high-

A NP delegation led by

The mega projects completed included a 300 MW coal power plant, 2000 boat engines, Khuzdar to Panjgur transmission line, Gwadar International Airport, Pak-China Technology Institute, Gwadr Hospital, Smart Port and certain other projects in the socio-economic domain have been completed in the outgoing fiscal year. The construction of a modern

ensure the best healthcare facilities for the local people, said an official source on Friday.

LAHORE: Chief Organizer of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Maryam Nawaz

in a group photo with a delegation of National Party led by Dr. Abdul Malik

Nawaz Sharii and Prime

Minister Shehbaz Sharif,

saying, "Nawaz Sharif and PM Shehbaz has always

worked in line with the

progress of Balochistan. The Balochistan's progress

is vital for the sake of the

overall country's develop-

Under the CPEC, multiple projects for the provision of clean water and its fair distribution in the coastal town of Gwadar have been also completed during the said period.

The Gwadar Development Authority has completed a project of installing a 158 kilometer long pipeline to supply water from nearby dams to the residents of Gwadar town.

Moreover, multiple projects including were also underway at full pace as planned in the Master Plan of Gwadar, it added.



QUETTA: A delegation led by President Social Welfare Officers Association Javed Baloch meeting with Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Imran Gichki

Govt on toes to manage power supply during peak summer

Despite the economic recession and pressure by International Monetary Fund to do away with subsidies, the government is pursuing a focused agenda of overcoming power shortage during the peak summer season through a multipronged strategy.

Since the uninterrupted power supply is considered crucial for the development

ISLAMABAD (APP): of industrial, agricultural and domestic sectors, its smooth supply to domestic consumers is equally

But it becomes difficult when one's hands are tied to certain international monetary compulsions and there is a shortfall in indigenous supply and demand. Therefore, the present

Continued on page 2

BA crucial budget session adjourned owing to issue of quorum **Independent Report**

QUETTA: The crucial budget session of Balochistan Assembly was adjourned due to lack of quorum here on Friday.

at 11:00 AM on Friday, but it couldn't be started till 12:00 Noon However it was started after some time with Deputy Speaker Sardar Babar Khan Musakhail, but was to postpone due to the quorum issue soon after it resumed.

The JUI's MPA Maulyi Noorullah pointed out towards the quorum. While the bells were rung for quite some time to call the members in the House, but to no avail.

And thus, the session was adjourned to meet at 02:00 PM on Saturday (today) again. As per the agenda, debate was scheduled on the budget in the Friday's session.

Govt. earmarked Rs 2 bn for out of school children

QUETTA (APP): The Balochistan government has earmarked Rs 2 billion for out-of-school children to devise a social security programme to provide financial assistance to the poor so that they send their children to schools.

The government has allocated the budget in the financial year 2023-24 to bring massive reforms in the education sector to educate maximum numbers of outof-school children, an official of the Balochistan gov ernment told APP on Fri-

The government would also launch a school enrollment programme to get their children enrolled in schools for reducing the huge number of out-of-school children in the province, he added

He said the provincial government had already been launched multiple enrollment campaigns across the province to create awareness among the parents try to get them enrolled in educational institutions instead of letting them do laborious jobs

Asif hits back at joint **US-India statement**

ISLAMABAD (Online): Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Friday rebuked the United States and India for issuing a joint statement calling on Pakistan to ensure that its territory is not used to launch extremist attacks

Asif took strong exception to the statement as he pointed out "the irony of this statement coming during the visit of someone who was banned entry to the US for overseeing a pogrom of Muslims when he was CM Guiarat"

Lamenting the actions of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a tweet. the minister said that "he

of state-sponsored terrorism in Kashmir, which includes routinely maiming and blinding the local popu

"Across the rest of the country, Modi's acolytes lynch Muslims, Christians, and other minorities, with impunity," he added.

The defence minister also stressed that "Pakistan has lost countless lives, and has been continuously at war with terrorism for decades now, owing to failed American interventions in the region'

"Perhaps President Biden should consider these facts the next time he fetes the Butcher of Gujarat,

Expatriates are 'pride of Pakistan': Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP):Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday said being a pre cious asset, the overseas Pakistanis were 'pride of Pakistan' as they were playing a major role in its economi

solve the issues of expatriates," the minister said in a meeting with members of Pakistani diaspora in France. She extended gratitude to the Pakistani community

Financing Pact. Marriyum said the journey of progress and develop ment would continue in Pakistan under the visionary lead-

public holidays on eve of Eid in Balochistan **Independent Report**

GoB notifies

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has notified public holidays on occasion of Eidul Azha in the province.

According to an official notification issued here by the Services and General Administration Department, there would be three public holidays i.e., on June 28, 29 and 30, 2023 (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) in the offices observing five days working in a week and there would be four days public holidays i.e., on June 28 to July 1, 2023 (Wednesday to Saturday) for the offices observing six days working in a week

Indian troops martyr four Kashmiri youth SRINAGAR (Online): In-

dian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism martyred four Kashmiri youth in Kupwara district, Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The troops martyred the youth during a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Machil area of the district. The operation was going on till last reports came in.



LAHORE: Spokesman of Chief Minister

Balochistan, Babar Yousafzai and Coordinators

talking with media men during their visit to Jinnah

Call to take steps to reduce MMR:

cologists of Pakistan (SOGP) National Scientific Conference was held with the focus on taking effective measures for prevention of the women health issues particularly reducing the maternal mortality ration in the country, here on Friday evening.
While the chief guest of

the conference was the Provincial Minister for Health, Sved Ehsan Shah, the Secretary Information, Hamza Shafqat participated as the guest of honour.

Prominent among those participated in the conference were the former Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Ms. Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani and other dignitaries. The President SOGP.

Professor Azizun Nisa Abbasi, the members of cabinet of the SOGP and senior doctors and gynecologists from all over the country also participated in the scientific conference. The senior gynecologist, Head of the gynecology department of Sandeman Provincial Headquarter

Continued on page 2

leads yet another campaign Asif said.

'Ît is the foremost priority of the government to re

for according a warm welcome to the Pakistani delegation on their arrival in Paris for a summit on New Global

ership of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid Nawaz Sharif.



QUETTA: Provincial Health Minister Syed Ehsan Shah and others addressing SOGP Conference

Citizens protest

against sale of

drugs in DAY

HAMIDABAD (INP) In

Dera Allah Yar, the citi-

zens protested against

the public sale of drugs.

A protest rally was held

under the leadership of

journalist Inayatullah Har, Leaders of All

Treaders Jamaat-e-

Jamaat-e-Islami Youth Wing MQM Pakistan

and other parties par-

ticipated in the rally in

large numbers at

Farooq Fakhr Longo,

Abrar Badini, Abdul

Hameed Hanbhi, Bashir

Muhammad Anwar

Abro and others said in

a joining statement, "Drug trade is going on in Dera Allah Yar, and

drugs are being sold as

wholesale and retail,".

The youth of our city

get addicted to drugs

and sink into the world

of crime. As no one has

taken any action, the problem of drugs and

peace should be re-

solved in Dera Allah

Yar, otherwise the pro-

test will be extended to

the provincial capital,

Quetta Press Club, they

announced.

What is being done?

While addressing

Mazdoor Chowk.

Inayatullah

Ahmad

Azizullah

Islami

Jafarabad,

protesters,

Har,

Mastoi,

Jamati,

Pakistan slams persisting campaign to portray self-determination struggle as terrorism

(APP): Pakistan has underscored the need for distinguishing terrorism from the pursuit of peoples' legitimate right for self-determination, and called for resolving prolonged conflicts, ending foreign occupation to address conditions conducive to the spread of ter-

There is a continued campaign to portray struggles for self-determination and national liberation as terrorism, in order to justify the oppression of peoples under foreign occupation," Ambassador Aamir Khan, deputy permanent repre-

UN, told the UN General Assembly.

Speaking during the 8th review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS), the Pakistani envoy said it was essential to clearly define terrorism and distinguish it from legitimate struggles for national liberation and self-determi-

Ambassador Aamir Khan said Pakistan has been at the forefront of the fight against terrorism and has rendered innumerable sacrifices of more than 80.000 lives.

"Spoilers in our neigh-

KARACHI: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi

awarding letter of Commendation to a civilian employee during Pakistan

May 9 and 10, he added.

Federal Government had a

clear stance that no journal-

ist or lawyer would be ar-

rested for May 9 riots and

no action would be taken

against any innocent person

the court would neither

take a suo-motu action nor

it would pass a judicial or-

der but it was noting every-

Ahsan observed that a ref-

erence could be sent to the

Federal Government if the

custody of a civilian was

required to the institution

as per law and then former

had declared in the 21st

Constitutional Amendment

case that army courts were

set up for certain circum-

stances like war situation

army personnel would be

suspended under the Army

Act but the civilians would

have protection under ba-

sic human rights in every

Shah said trial under the

Official Secrets Act would

be conducted only when

there was a matter of na-

tional security. When and

how the civilian accused

had violated the OSA and

under what law the arrests

Constitution did not allow

the court to view the Army

Act then how it could take

Nagvi asked that how the

commanding officer could

request the custody of a ci-

vilian accused. He noted

that the sections of OSA

were not applied as per the

crime report produced be-

fore the bench and asked

that when those sections

were added in cases after

asked on which grounds ci-

vilian accused were being

tried under the Army Act

and how it used to be de-

cided that a case would

be registered under the

Army Act or the OSA.

She asked the counsel of

the civil society Faisal

Saddiqui that what were

the extraordinary situa-

tions under which the trial

of civilian accused could

Justice Ayesha Malik

May 9.

a decision about it.

He remarked that the

Justice Mazahar Ali

had been made, he asked.

Justice Mansoor Ali

condition he added

The basic rights of

He said the top court

The CJP remarked that

Earlier, Justice Ijaz ul

Mansoor Awan said the

Navy Investiture Ceremony held in Karachi.

Continued from page 1

Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial

and comprising Justice Ijaz

ul Ahsan, Justice Mansoor

Ali Shah, Justice Munib

Akhter, Justice Yahya

Afridi, Justice Mazahar Ali

Naqvi and Justice Ayesha

Malik heard the petitions.

ing, the chief justice re-

marked that it was a wrong

perception that a civilian

could never be tried in army

court. A civilian could be

tried in army courts if he

was accused of instigating

army personnel against in-

procedure adopted to bring

the accused of May 9 inci-

be viewed. It would also be

viewed that on which

grounds the anti-terrorism

courts allowed to shift the

served that it was under-

stood that the institution

would identify the crimes

under the Official Secret

Act and it could file the re-

quest to the ATCs for the

custody of civilian accused.

rassing the legal fraternity

was not legal and also asked

the Attorney General for

Pakistan that what was the

policy of government about

journalists. He asked the

AGP to contact the acting

provincial governments and

took their stance about the

journalists was essential for

the self-confidence of the

Awan said that no any ac-

cused was in the custody

of Islamabad Police regard-

ing the May 9 incidents,

while four persons were in

the custody of Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa Police.

About 41 persons were ar-

rested in Punjab under

MPO and 141 were taken

in custody under the Anti-

were arrested in Punjab, out

of which 42 had been re-

cused were in the judicial

custody in Sindh, and 70 of

them got bails. Some 117

persons were arrested in

Sindh under 3-MPO and

102 were in army's cus-

tody. No woman, child,

lawyer or journalist was in

A total of 81 women

The AGP said 172 ac-

Terrorism Act (ATA).

leased, he added.

The role of lawyers and

AGP Mansoor Usman

lawyers and journalists.

society, he added.

CJP Bandial said ha-

The chief justice ob-

trials, he added.

He, however, said the

army courts would have to matter.

stitution for sedition

At the outset of hear-

102 people in army's....

dents in the jurisdiction of would take a decision in the

sentative of Pakistan to the borhood continue to target racist, fascist, and extrem- established through a conus, including through support for attacks planned and orchestrated by the TTP, Da'esh as well as Baloch militant groups," the Pakistani envoy said. Pakistan, he added, possessed the capability and will utilize all means to defeat this externally-sponsored terror-

The United Nations, particularly the Security Council, must address situations of prolonged, unresolved conflicts and foreign occupation. Pakistan, along with OIC, made various proposals, including the condemnation of the acts by

PTA conducts

successful raid

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa-

kistan Telecommunication

laboration with Federal In-

vestigation Agency (FIA)

successfully conducted a raid in Tehsil/City Gambat,

District Khairpur Mirs against an illegal Internet

During the raid, opera-

tional internet infrastruc-

ture and related equipment

were confiscated. Addition-

ally, one individual was ap-

tion said a news release.

to curb this illicit activity.

evasion and revenue

ing the loss to the national

to exercise caution and only

avail telecom services from

PTA-licensed operators to

avoid sudden discontinua-

PM Shehbaz,

Chinese Premier...

Continued from page 1

neighbour and iron-brother

Pakistan occupied a special

position in China's

neighbourhood diplomacy

and that China would con-

tinue its efforts for safe

guarding Pakistan's core in-

terests and for the economic

development and prosper-

Shehbaz and Premier Li

exchanges between Paki-

their meeting in Paris agreed

to continue strengthening

and expanding All-Weather

Strategic Cooperative Part-

nership between Pakistan

media platform Twitter, he

said, "My first in-person

meeting with H.E. Li Qiang,

Premier of the State Coun-

cil of China, was true to the

In a tweet on social

Meanwhile

Minister

ity of its people.

Prime

stan and China.

He added that as a close

PTA urges the public

exchequer.

tion of service

Such actions play a vi-

Service Provider (ISP).

Authority (PTA), in col-

incite violence and terrorism against Muslims through the deliberate desecration of mosques and the burning of the Holy Quran, he said, adding that these were not included in the GCTS text.

'Failure to condemn acts of incitement and hatred sends a clear message that terrorism against Muslims will be tolerated," Aamir Khan added. Pakistan is also deeply disappointed over the failure to Islamophobia, which was flawed perspective.

ist right-wing elements to sensus General Assembly resolution.

"Denying inclusion of this reference - another OIC proposal - while accommodating individual member states to reflect events the content of which was neither agreed upon by all member states nor supported, is a classic example of this discriminatory and biased approach. "This signifies the perpetuation of a perception that stigmatizes Muslims," he added. "We firmly reject this stigmatirecognize the International zation and will continue its Combat efforts to challenge this

PM urges international community to deliver commitments made at COP27

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday urged the international community to deliver the commitments made at COP 27 in Sharm al-Sheikh and also operationalize Loss and Damage Fund on the principle of equity.

'The international community should deliver on the commitments they made at COP 27 in Sharm al-Sheikh, including the operationalization of Loss and Damage Fund on the principle of equity; provision of grants that don't increase the indebtedness of developing countries; enabling climate-vulnerable countries to access the Fund on the basis of a climate vulnerability index," he said in a tweet.

He said that as part of his interactions during the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact, he drew world leaders' attention to the exogenous shocks that created the poly-crisis for and aligned with SDGs and created the poly-crisis for developing countries like climate justice goals.

These shocks, he said resulted in stalling growth, supply chain disruptions caused commodity prices to soar, leading to backbreaking inflation and then extreme weather events precipitated unprec-edented floods that cost Pakistan \$30 billion in

"The inability to bridge the financing gaps to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) coupled with the cost of realizing climate goals is inflicting a heavy cost on the world, running into trillions of dollars annually,' he added.

The prime minister said the world should use present economic and climate turbulence as an opportunity for course correction. The starting point could be rethinking the global financial architecture where IFIs design their

SOGP National Scientific...

Continued from page 1

Hospital and Director Colprehended at the scene and taken into custody by the lege of Physician and Sur-FIA for further investigageons Balochistan, Professor Dr. Ayesha Siddiqa and This latest achievement other senior gynecologists in efforts against illegal from Balochistan were also internet service providers is among the participants of a testament to PTA's comthe conference. Speaking on the occamitment, vigilant monitor-

ing, and persistent efforts sion, the Provincial Health Minister appreciated the organizers for organizing tal role in preventing tax the SOGP National Conference on such an important theme in Quetta. misreporting, thus curtail-

He said that it is a good opportunity for the local gynecologists to learn from the experiences of the senior doctors while attending the conference.

He highlighted the provincial government's initiatives and endeavours being made for uplift of the health sector in Balochistan.

He said that it is our earnest desire to provide best health facilities to the patients remaining in the limited resources.

While speaking at the conference, Professor Dr. Azizun Nisa Abbasi and other senior doctors stressed the need to upgrade the basic health services for the women in the province.

They expressed concern over the increased maternal mortality rate (MMR) in the province and adding underlined the need to create much needed awareness among the women about their health issues so as to detect them early and thus treat them well.

They said that the MMR can be reduced by providing necessary health facilities in remote areas of the province. The government should pay attention towards the issue so as to reduce the MMR, they maintained. Later, the chief guest

gave away the commemorative shields and souvenirs among the organizers and key participants of the conference.

Bilawal for collective efforts... Continued from page 1

any leniency, he added.

Bilawal said on May 9. the PTI protesters attacked the Jinnah House, military installations, the General Headquarters, and the monuments of martyrs.

Qiang agreed to continue the momentum of high level Had such attacks been carried out in the US, the United Kingdom or any other country, their perpe-Minister Shehbaz Sharif trators would not have Friday said he and Chinese spared in the name of de-Premier Li Qiang during mocracy, he remarked.

He said there was no politics, rather the May 9 incidents were acts terrorism. "The Pakistan Peoples Party will never defend those who had attacked the military installations, sensitive places and memorials of martyrs," he added.

The minister said there were provisions in the law that those involved in such heinous acts could be tried in the military courts, and it was also the responsibility of the parliament, government and judiciary to establish the writ of the state at every cost.

Bilawal said all the social media accounts of the former US president [Donald Trump] were closed after his supporters attacked the Congress, the legislature of the federal government of the United

He regretted that the socalled popular politician [PTI chief] also adopted the same strategy, violated the Constitution and attempted to defeat the noconfidence motion moved by the joint opposition in the National Assembly against him in March 2022. On May 25, 2022, he

attack on the Federal Capital, after its chief's ouster from the Prime Minister House through a democratic and constitutional way of no-confidence motion, in the name of long march and set Islamabad on fire; besides hatching a conspiracy against the ongoing programme of International

Monetary Fund (IMF). At that time, he recalled, that the finance ministers of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were also involved in the conspiracy that was also proven by their leaked telephonic conversation.

He said in order to bring political stability to the country, the incoming government and the opposition [after the next general elections] would have to play a responsible role while sticking to the Charter of Democracy, signed by the top leadership of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in 2006.

The minister stressed the need for devising a comprehensive road map for achieving political and economic stabilityby engaging the reconcilable opposition members.

He thanked Prime Min-

ister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar for allocating funds in the budget for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the flood-affected areas; and mobilizing the available resources for instant rescue and relief of the people facing the brunt of the widespread destruction caused by the heavy rains said, the PTI launched an and floods in 2022.

Faiza, Naheen win Gold medals in Badminton Doubles

KARACHI (APP): Lahore said that both Pakistan's Faiza Nasir players have been preparand Naheen Khan won the gold medal in the Badminton Women's Doubles Unified event of the ongoing 16th Special Olympic, being played in Berlin, (Germany).

PARIS: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets German Chancellor

Olaf Scholz on the sidelines of the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact.

In the badminton event played at Messe Berlin, Pakistani players won the gold medal by defeating Uzbekistan by 21-5 and 21-17 points, Malaysia by 21-14 and 21-6 and Kyrgyz Republic by 21-12 and 21-13, said a communication here on

Ali Mona of Faiza Nasir and Naheen Khan from and 18-21.

for the past two years. They stayed busy in this regard, they also participated fully in the training camps organized by Special Olympics Pakistan in Karachi and Islamabad. Meanwhile, in the men's unified doubles

players have been preparing for the World Games

event of Badminton, Pakistan's Noshiwan Arif Raja and Talha Asif won the silver medal after defeating Paraguay 21-18 and 21-12 and Macau by 21-12 and 21-16. However, Head coach Mutahir Sohail and coach Qamar Feat against Hong Kong

Ejaz Sanjrani greets Khan Panel on success

Independent Report DALBANDIN: Central leader of Balochistan Awami Party and Chief Minister of Balochistan Coordinator Mir Ejaz Khan Sanjrani has congratulated the leaders, workers and allies of Khan Panel on the success of Chagai district

council seats. He said, "Today the grace of Allah and With the support of allies of the Khan Sanjrani panel, Khan panel has won seven out of eleven

reserved seats," I am deeply grateful to the central leader of the Pakistan People's Party,

Sardar Muhammad Umar

Gurij, Haji Ali Muhammad Natozai and other allies, who worked day and night for the success of Khan Panel in the local body elections and strategy, he apprised. Today's success is the

success of the people, the manifesto of the Khan Panel is the service of the people and they will never back down from this goal. People of Chagai expressed their confidence by voting for the Khan panel in the local body election. Going forward, the Khan panel will win the district chairmanship election with the strength of the allies and the people, he expressed.



party leader Sardar Yaqoob Nassar holding a meeting

Govt on toes to.....

Continued from page 1

government is vigorously pursuing arrangements to provide respite to industry and common consumers during the ongoing hot spell.

Rising fuel prices and new energy situation after Ukraine war also necessitated Pakistan to utilize its indigenous resources like hydel, solar, wind and Thar coal as it has already announced not to build any new power projects depending on imported coal and ensure 60 percent of its power through local sources by 2030.

"We are taking pragmatic steps to overpower load-shedding by focusing on generation, transmission and energy conservation to provide maximum relief to people," stated Minister for Power Division Khurram The present govern-

ment has added cheap 3800 megawatts (MW) indigenous electricity to the national grid in just one year which would gradually help reduce power

He said over 2000 MW alone electricity was added to the system from local Thar coal during the said period.

Moreover, 1320 MW Electric, Shanghai ThalNova, Karot hydropower project and K-3 Karachi Nuclear Power Plant project have started generating electricity since the present coalition government took over led by Prime Minister Shehbaz

Khurram Dastgir said Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) government had successfully added over shifted to Advanced Me-10,000 MW electricity to the national grid through China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects from 2013 to 2018.

"Efforts of the then PML-N government, had not only controlled loadshedding but there was also surplus power available in the system," he remarked. "But, criminal negligence of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf government had delayed a number of projects dragging the country back to dark-

He informed that total power generation from Thar coal stood at 2640 MW with formal commissioning of 1320 MW Shanghai Electric Thar Coal Project under the CPEC.

'Another 330 MW Thal Nova Thar coal project has also been synchronized in February that would help reduce loadshedding and cut the power

Khurram said there were 175 billion tons coal reserves at Thar that were sufficient to generate 100,000 MW electricity. Moreover, Bolan-Gawadar Transmission Line has also been completed for importing 100 MW electricity from Iran.

Regarding 6,000 MW PM's solar energy project, he said the request for proposals to set up first 600 MW solar project at Muzzaffargarh has been sought. "We are confident that these projects would help address power availability and tariff issues in

near future." He said over 150,000 industrial and commercial consumers were being tering Infrastructure (AMI) System to control power pilferage by ensuring round-the-clock monitoring of meters.

The minister informed that bidding process for installing 1-4MW Solar Micro-Grid stations in rural areas is also on cards as the government has already waived sales tax and duties on the purchase of solar panels. "Easy loans were being disbursed among the people for installing solar panels on minimum interest rate.'

As the Prime Minister has already inaugurated 1,100 MW K-3 nuclear power plant in Karachi (KANUP) completed with assistance from China, the government has also embarked on a number of initiatives like cutting short the business time, replacement of inefficient electricity equipment, solarization, reduce energy consumption at the government buildings, awareness campaigns and approval of Conservation

Policy. An overview of the measures reveals that solarization of the government entities would save 300 to 500 MW per month, massively slashing the fuel import bill.

Energy Conservation Plan, judicious utilization of energy would be ensured and early closure of restaurants, hotels, and markets and production of incandescent light bulbs and inefficient electricity fans would help the government save around Rs 62 billion annually.

Under the National



Senate body on

Maritime Affairs

discusses vital matters

APITAL EWS

Edited with the trial version of

Strengthen progress on climate change

Govt keen to support resilient economic development: Romina

ISLAMABAD (APP): fronted with climate disas-Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM), Romina Khurshid Alam said the government was keen to support a resilient economic development agenda and strengthen progress on climate change, energy efficiency, transition, and gender equality.

She was addressing a policy dialogue on Pakistan's Post-Budget Economic Outlook", organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute in collaboration with Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs and Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) here, a news release said.

SAPM Romina Khurshid Alam urged for strengthening partnerships in South Asia through consortiums as populations in the region are among the biggest victims of climate change. She stressed, "Our economy must undergo reform so that it can be resilient in the face of recent and future climate disasters wreaking havoc in the coun-

The developing coun-

ters do not need aid but trade and added that regional connectivity and cooperation are the answer to development challenges in the region, she added.

Coordinator to Prime Minster of Pakistan on Commerce and Industry Rana Ihsan Afzal said that the government had to present a realistic not an election budget that could be carried further.

It focuses on the agriculture, IT and SME sectors with a realistic growth of 3.5% after stakeholder consultation and considering growth drivers. In the last 16 months,

the government has not taken populist decisions but rather focused on reforms like bringing retail businesses into the tax net, rebasing the electricity and gas tariffs, and the fiscal deficit has been reduced compared to last year.

He said that the Charter of Economy is the right plan, and PDM parties are already discussing it. He urged for collective wisdom and kickstarting reforms including privatization,

need to look inside, increase revenues, cut expenditures, and manage the macro-factors that are halting the much-needed reforms.

Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI said that the current budget surprisingly is not a populist one and shows the commitment to bringing the IMF program back on

He hoped that some budget numbers will be revised as coalition partners and provinces have expressed some reservations He further said that

though faced with many challenges, the financing of the budget deficit will be made possible through both domestic and external sources, for example, from friendly countries like rollovers of 2 billion dollars from Saudi Arabia, 1 billion from UAE, new financing of 2.4 billion from IMF, 1.3 million from other financings, and commercial banks tripling their lending to the government.

However, he stressed that these inflows depend on political stability in the



ral (r) Mohan Wijewickrama, paid a farewell call on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Heavy pre-monsoon falls NDMA advises provincial authorities to take preventive steps

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Friday advised all the relevant federal and provincial authorities to ensure preventive measures in the wake of forecast for pre-monsoon wind-thundershower with heavy falls causing risk of urban flooding and land-slides in the north of coun-

The NDMA, in ts advisory, said the pre-monsoon rains with dust-thunderstorms were predicted from June 25-30 as an intruding weather system was bringing moist currents thundershowers with iso-

ISLAMABAD (INP): As

the world is observing International Widows Day,

today, Kashmiri women

continue to suffer at the

hands of Indian troops,

police and dreaded agencies

in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir

According to a report released by the Research

Section of Kashmir Media

Service, the unabated Indian

state terrorism rendered

22,960 women widowed

since January 1989 till date

as their husbands were

martyred by Indian troops

and police personnel in fake

encounters and in custody.

(IIOJK)

22,960 women widowed

in IIOJK since 1989

from the Arabian Sea which was penetrating upper and central parts of the country along with a westerly wave which was likely to enter upper parts on June 25. "Under the influence of this weather system", it said, "the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has predicted rain and wind-thundershowers with few heavy falls in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Punjab, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) and Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) from June 24 (night) to 30, and rain and wind-

It said around 2,500

women have been forced to live as half-widows during

the past 35 years. The women whose husbands

were subjected to custodial

disappearance after arrest

by the Indian army and

police are referred to as

them died due to mental

According to the Association of Parents of Dis-

appeared Persons and other

human rights groups in IIOJK, around 8,000 civil-

ians have disappeared in the

custody of Indian troops

and police personnel since 1989, it said.

tension.

half-widows and several of

KP, Balochistan, and ICT from June 26 to 29. However, from June 27 to 28 rain and wind-thundershowers with isolated heavy falls are expected in Sindh.

The NDMA said in light of the above weather system forecast, "following impacts are expected in aforesaid parts of Pakistan: prevailing heatwave conditions are likely to subside, while heavy rainfall may cause urban flooding in low lying areas of Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Gujranwala and Lahore from June 26-27, and trigger landslides in the vulnerable areas

British Council announces IELTS **prize 2023**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Applications for the British Council IELTS Prize 2023 in Pakistan are now

According to the British Council, the annual competition supports IELTS test-takers with up to £5,000 towards university tuition fees in Englishspeaking universities.

This year, the IELTS Prize is open to test takers living in Pakistan, China, Japan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, Thailand, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri

It will be open to students who have applied for undergraduate or postgraduate studies locally or overseas through IELTS and will start their course between January 2023 and March 2024

The deadline for submitting completed applications is September 15, 2023.

World Day against Drug abuse, Illicit **Trafficking on** June 26

ISLAMABAD (APP): International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking will be marked on Monday to raise awareness of the major problem that illicit drugs represent to

This day is supported by individuals, communities and various organizations all over the world.

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has, over the years, been actively involved in launching campaigns to mobilize support for drug control. The UNODC often teams up with other organizations and encourages people in society to actively take part in these campaigns.

IESCO observes 2 hours power load-management

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) is observing two-hour power load-shedding across its region due to gap in demand and supply. According to IESCO spokesperson, the company was getting 2700 MW against total demand of 2,832 MW. As per the available quota, power load management of two hours

was being carried out in

Independent Report working papers and the lack ISLAMABAD: The Senate of preparation related to the agenda items. This lack of Standing Committee on readiness led the commit-Maritime Affairs met under the Chair of Senator Rubina tee to defer several agenda items for future consider-The Committee disation. The deferred items cussed Public Petition No.PP-5278. The Secreincluded report on procurement tenders issued by the tary, Ministry of Maritime KPT in the last ten years; Affairs directed the KPT detailed of all machinery authorities to recruit Mr. and equipment which was Shahnawaz Baloch on daily used or is being used by KPT on rental charges bawage basis without further

delay. Another significant issue discussed during the meeting was about advertising the vacant posts in Gwadar Port Authority. Senator Rubina Khalid directed the Secretary Maritime Affairs to gather relevant information regarding the recruitment at the Gwadar port.

The committee expressed its displeasure over the non-timely provision of

sis since 2013 with complete detail of rent charges paid or being paid by the KPT on monthly basis; outstanding rental charges payable to the Gwadar Port Authority by the KPT, as well as the return of a tug boat to the GPA; provision of details by the KPT and Port Qasim Authority (PQA) regarding dredged volume expenditure on maintenance dredging, along with average costs



Delegation of residents of Islamabad visiting Senate Museum at Parliament House, Islamabad

Shahida says: Govt must implement approved Plantation

Day across Pakistan ISLAMABAD (APP): Se- ered as the cheaper and nior Environmentalist, somost effective measure for cial worker and Chief Ediovercoming the devastating tor Subh-e-Nau magazine effects of climate change, Shahida Kauser Farooq on environmental degradation, Friday urged the governand rising temperatures. ment to implement National She added that plan-Plantation Day which is aptation was being carried out

by Forest Departments of proved on 18 August to federating units and some create a sense of harmony and unity in nationwide private entities as part of plantation and ecosystem their corporate social rerestoration initiatives. sponsibility but there needs to be national cohe-With Subh-e-Nau's initiatives and Shahida sion in this endeavour. Farooq's efforts, the Na-The senior environtional Plantation Day was approved by the then Prime Minister Yusuf Raza

mentalist was of the view that the country was on the front line of countries fac-Gilani, and has the potening the adverse impact of tial and scale to engage climate change and natural swathes of masses in a single day to plant maxi-She said plantations mum plants to not only in-

would be the best source to beautify mega urban centers that have turned into concrete jungles and resulted in increased pollution and plantation has been consid- temperature.

CPO law and order visit to Kohsar police station

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Following the special order of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan the Capital Police Officer (CPO) Law and Order Shakir Hussain Dawar paid a visit to Kohsar police station, a police public relation

crease green cover rather

help ensure eco-friendly

employment opportunities.

Ms. Farooq said the

tion and received a briefing on all administrative mat-

CPO Law and Order also checked the lock up and records and visited the different rooms and mess and issued directions to senior officers, stating that more steps should be taken to improve the quality of the



officer said.

He said that, during the visit CPO Law and Order reviewed the steps taken for the facilities of police personnel and public. SDPO Kohsar Abdullah Shehryar and Officer Incharge police station Kohsar Shafqat Faiz were visit he also met with the structed for correct complestaff of Kohsar police sta-tion.

"The quality of food at the mess should be improved in accordance with prescribed hygienic standards, and residential facilities for police officials should also be ensured."He also checked attendance records on the front desk, also present. During the biometric system and in-

PIMS new emergency block to be expanded

ecutive Director Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Dr Imran Sikandar has decided to expand the new emergency block project of the hospital with the addition of one more floor to ensure the provision of the best emergency services to citizens.

According to ED PIMS spokesperson Dr Mubashir Mushtaq Daha, the decision was made on the direction of the Planning Commission of Pakistan as with this new plan further 75 beds will be added to the project.

He said that after approval from the Ministry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ex- of National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination, the documents of the projects have been sent to the Planning Commission for allocation of funds.

He said that with the addition of 75 beds, the total number of beds will be 239 in the new emergency block of the hospital with state-of-the-art facilities including a laboratory, operation theatre, and x-ray.

He said that the new emergency block project will from surrounding areas.

be completed next year. He added the project will be helpful in providing quality emergency services to patients of not only Islamabad but also



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan, Khazar Farhadov called on Fed eral Minister for Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique.

Zong 4G, PAGE join forces to empower girls' education in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecommunications access, career training iniprovider, is proud to an- tiatives, rehabilitation of nounce a strategic partner- flood-affected schools, and ship with PAGE (Pakistan workshops in women's votion), an esteemed organization dedicated to creating an enabling environment for gender equity in education, employment, rights, and leadership

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony took place, solidifying the commitment of both organizations to collaborate and empower

girls' education in Pakistan. The ceremony was attended by representatives from both Zong 4G and PAGE said a news release.

Under this MoU, Zong 4G and PAGE will work together to achieve their shared goal of transforming the environment of girls' education in Pakistan.

The cooperation will encompass a range of activities, including workshops conducted by trainers, the

provision of internet devices in areas with limited

Zong 4G is committed to supporting PAGE in its mission to bridge the gender gap in education.

The official spokesperson for Zong 4G expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership, stating, "At Zong 4G, we firmly believe that education is the cornerstone of progress. By collaborating with PAGE we are committed to empowering girls and ensuring equal access to quality edu-

Zong 4G and PAGE have previously partnered for several initiatives such as the formation of an independent Digital Lab in Pir Chinasi, Azad Jammu & Kashmir. The Lab is primarily established in an allgirls school but it also serves as a vocational center for the women of the area



istration motorcycles at Faizabad police check post in the Federal Capital.

Feast arranged to honor sacrifices of policemen

ISLAMABAD (APP): A special dinner was organized to honor the sacrifices (Ghazis) and their families. Upon the directive of

Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ÎCCPO), the Islamabad Capital Police arranged a special dinner at a local restaurant to pay tribute and show solidarity with the martyrs, veterans, and their families.

All families of the martyrs and veterans were cordially invited to the dinner. The event witnessed the presence of esteemed senior police officers, including ICCPO, CPO Safe City, CPO Security Division, CPO Law and Order, AIG Operations, SSP Security Division, SSP Logistics, SSP Safe City, and other

Personally, Islamabad

Capital City Police Officer Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan met with the families of the martyrs and veterans, conveying his sincere condolences for the sacrifices of their

He emphasized that the purpose of this dinner was to foster unity and strengthen the relationship with the families of martyrs and survivors, who made immense sacrifices for the protection and safety of the

He commended the bravery of the martyrs and veterans, assuring them that their sacrifices would always be remembered.

Additionally, he expressed the determination of the Islamabad Capital Police to utilize all available resources for the welfare, education, and the promising future of the families of martyrs and veterans.

IRSA releases 295,300 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP) Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 295,300 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 403,800 cusecs.

According to the data level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1467.03 feet and was 69.03 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 207,300 cusecs and 149,800 cusecs respec-

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1158.70 feet which was 108.70 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 61,000 cusecs and

0,000 cusecs respectively The release of water a Kalabagh, Taunsa , Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 164,500, 128,500, 79,900 and 30,000 cusecs respectively.

11 healthcare establishments sealed in capital

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority (IHRA) has sealed 1 Healthcare Establishments (HCEs) in different areas of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) on malpractices.

The IHRA's inspection teams carried out in spections of 82 HCEs in different areas of ICT dur ing the past two weeks. Huma Clinic, Ismail

Dental Clinic, Rehman Clinic, Al Eman Fatima Hospital, Grow Hair Transplant and Aesthetic Clinic, National Hospital, Fauji Dental Clinic, Al Shifa Clinic, Ali Clinic, Oxford Medical Centre, and Wada Clinic were sealed due to malpractices like the absence of qualified medical staff, unhygienic conditions, not getting registration with IHRA and functioning during the suspension. The Authority also suspended the services of two HCEs over different medical noncompliance including Abid

Association (POA), in Federal Capital. 157,000 Pakistani pilgrims arrive in Saudi Arabia for Hajj

ISLAMABAD: Players and kids poses for group

photo along with Olympian Sadaf Siddiqui to cel-

ebrate International Olympic Day 2023 at Rawal

Lake under the umbrella of the Pakistan Olympic

ISLAMABAD (INP): A clude different departments total of 157,000 Pakistani pilgrims have arrived in Saudi Arabia for Hajj, including 81,000 participants under the government scheme and 76,000 through the private scheme, as confirmed by the spokesper-son from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony.

Muhammad Umer Butt, Spokesman Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony told APP that Saudi Makatib had completed the preparations to make the tents in Mina and Arafat functional

Hajj pilgrims will be transported to the Mina tent village on the night between Sunday and Monday via buses.

The guiding posts of Pakistani Muavineen had already been established in Mina and Jamarat, he added.

In Mina, he said two camp offices had been set up by the Pakistan Hajj Mission to provide continuous assistance to prospective pilgrims. These offices will in-

like lost and found, guidance, complaints, and a monitoring desk, ensuring 24/7 support for the pil-

Quoting Director General Hajj Abdul Wahab Soomro, he said a shuttle train service would be available to 63 percent of the Hujjaj during the Hajj days, while the remaining 37 percent would be transported to Mina, Arafat, and Muzdalifah via buses.

Meanwhile, the transport service to Haram Sharif was closed early in the morning in order to control the severe rush of pilgrims at the Grand Mosque due to the last Friday before Haji rituals.

Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Senator Talha Mehmood, will join ordinary prospective pilgrims in performing Hajj. During his visit to vari-

ous buildings housing Pakistani Hajj pilgrims, the minister personally addressed their concerns and gave instructions to resolve



vokes religious and nation-

alistic values ("... espouses

the cultural and moral val-

ues as laid down by our reli-

gion", "... concepts embed-

ded in our own culture, val-

ues and traditions, thus pre-

serving the nation's ideol-

ogy", and "... a complete

disconnect from our socio-

cultural values and an ero-

sion of the country's Islamic

identity"). She writes that

those who celebrated the

were not aware of "... self-

serving vested interests who

use them for their own

ends.

.. Hindu festival of Holi"

Daily Soice of Masse. Independent

Saturday June 24, 2023

Hearings begin

Amidst a prolonged lull after months of political storms, a blockbuster Supreme Court It seems that Islam as well case promises respite to those weary of the daily drudgery. Hearings commenced yester-day on a set of four petitions ther, in fact both, it is al-ways appeals to religion, nationalism and tradition challenging the trial of ordinary civilians in military courts.

As has become custom, however, the court found it difficult to even begin without running into controversy. Shortly after the nine SC justices originally nominated by subsequently 'withdrawn' Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial to hear the petitions convened on Thursday afternoon, senior puisne judge Justice Qazi Faez Isa excused himself, saying he could not consider the bench to have been 'legally' formed due to the pendency of a petition concerning the Supreme Court (Practices and Procedures) Act, which limits the chief justice's powers to constitute benches.

The bench was quickly reconstituted after excluding Justices Isa and Tariq Masood, the latter of whom had concurred with the former on the 'legality' of the bench. Fortunately, no other judge, petitioner or defendant objected to the new bench despite being though there was no room offered a chance to do so, and available due to fiscal one may now expect the hear- the famous 5Es model of ings to proceed unhindered.

The matter before the court duly approved by the Nais undoubtedly of grave national import. It concerns the fate of dozens, if not hundreds, of citizens who face court mar- and equity and empowertial over their alleged involve- | ment. ment in the vandalism of sev- Pakistan is quite optimiseral military properties during tic about the restoration of the IMF programme which riots that broke out following is supposed to be concluded PTI chairman Imran Khan's by June 30 this year. But arrest last month.

The petitioners include notable lawyers like Aitzaz Ahsan and Latif Khosa, as well as former chief justice Jawwad S. Khawaja, whose involvement is a first by any retired chief justice in Pakistan's judicial his-

They have presented more or less similar arguments: that the trial of civilians by military courts violates the constitutional rights guaranteed to the citizens of Pakistan and that, includes countries running in any case, civilians should not their governance systems be tried under the Army Act when ordinary courts are open and functioning.

It is noteworthy that the tise their religion. This arpetitioners are not seeking any by extremists does not legal relief for the suspects: justify terrorism on any simply that they be tried in or- this opinion as a cover to dinary courts instead of military ones. It will be interesting to hear the counter-arguments from the attorney general of Pakistan, who will be first used by the eighthdefending the armed forces' demand, endorsed by the government, that all suspects be court-martialled. The SC has said it intends to keep its hearings short and wrap up the case as soon as possible. The matter may well prove a water
14th-century Islamic scholar Ibn Taymiyyah shed for Pakistan's judicial history. At hand is the question justify the use of force of what jurisdiction military thoritarian rule of leaders laws and courts have within if their aim was to re-esthe Pakistani legal and judicial system. For years, the lines have been blurred, leading to drop, linking Islam with the informal decrees of some grave miscarriages of that time does not qualify justice. With the country going through a transformative period, now may be a good time form acts of terrorism toto set fixed boundaries. May day in the name of Islam don't even consider Musthe law prevail.

Religion and Pakistaniat



Faisal Bari

as 'Pakistaniat' come under threat very often in this country. And to 'defend' ei-

People are accused of being un-Islamic, they are accused of being unpatriotic and they are accused of going against tradition. Traditional power structures are defended, and strongly so, in almost all domains in Pa-

The most recent example of this is a letter by the HEC — on that Dr Shaista Sohail, executive director of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), has written to the higher education institutions in the country. In fact, it is a quintessential example.

by more than a billion people across the globe, can be 'threatened' by the song and dance of a few dozen?

The nationalism of a 240 million-strong nation is also threatened by these few. And, it appears, we are at risk of losing our sociocultural values and Muslim identity But this strange worldview is shared by

many, especially those in power. 'Pakistaniat' is under threat when the events around 1971 are discussed or when a seminar on Balochistan is announced. It is hard to have talks and dialogue across faiths

This is about students who celebrated the festival where followers of different of Holi at a local university. religions are invited to be Dr Sohail has made it sound panelists. Transgender peras if some grave event had sons are a threat just because they exist. While the Nataken place and that our retional Curriculum Council ligion and country are facing a tremendous threat has 'celebrated' the creation from those who are gullible of ethics curricula/ textand do not know that they books for many faiths, they have been and are being used dare not invite people beby vested interests who longing to the Aĥmadi faith want to harm Pakistan and to their meetings or work on a curriculum for children of Is it not amazing how that community. Because all much concern a bit of dancof these are perceived as ing and throwing of colour threatening religion and by a few young men and

Even the debate around the Single National Curricuhistory, one that is followed lum was mostly about alism and culture and tradi-

Islamiat and Pakistan Studies though there was a lot of spin on making it about equity and equal opportunity. The focus, though, remains the same: how do we effectively indoctrinate students, while talking of critical thinking and moving away from rote learning and mere reproduction?

But Islam, Pakistaniat and our culture and traditions do not get 'threatened' only when larger and deeper issues like Balochistan or 1971 are discussed, they get threatened even if a girl proposes to a boy in public view. In some cases, even if

men and women, boys and girls interact with each other, our traditions are threatened. We have, over the last few years, seen quite a few circulars from university authorities saying that men and women should not talk to each other or meet each other on campus, or if they meet, there should be a distance of 'x' metres between

There are also plenty of restrictions on what women can or cannot wear in university. Jeans is a major instrument of subversion. Women wearing jeans not only threaten our religion, nation-

tion; for some, they are also the cause of earthquakes! The lack of space for debate and especially critical debate when violations of religious and nationalistic values and traditions and culture are invoked is a serious issue. There is a strong sense of 'ours is not to reason why ours is to do or die' kind of attitude here.

Interestingly, in almost the same sentence where violations of religion or tradition are mentioned — and they are used as an excuse to suppress thought or ac-- there is also a detions mand that students be taught how to think critically and be exposed to methods of scientific inquiry.

Even Dr Sohail — I did say this was a quintessential example — says "... it is advised that the HEIs may prudently distance themselves from all such activities obviously incompatible with the country's identity and societal values, while ensuring that they rigorously engage their students and faculty in academic pursuits, intellectual debates, and cognitive learning besides identifying, creating, and fostering avenues for extracurricular activities and rational discourse." One

tion is how long this prac-

tice of rollovers will continue

in the absence of any long

term planning to retire this

debt. Pakistan has set a tar-

could not have put it better. 'Academic pursuits' and 'intellectual debates' cannot happen without the freedom to question, to push back, to engage. They cannot happen if people cannot take different, distinct and often opposing positions on issues. It is also not possible

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to have critical thinking in some areas and not in others. It is not possible to have critical thinking in physics but not in Pakistan Studies or Islamiat. If we close debate in one area, it has an impact on debate in other areas as well. Some might feel that observing Holi does not have anything to do with having intellectual debates and that the same goes for dress codes and the intermingling of men and women. But it does. It goes to the mindset, it goes to the space' that is present or not present for thinking, debate and questioning. If, as Dr Sohail says, we have to get the young people of the country ready to take over the running of the country, restrictions on thought and action, in any domain, without debate and the making of a 'deliberative' democracy, are bound to lead to failure. -- Courtesy Dawn

seems clueless with no con-

crete plans to pursue its bud-

A budget for elections



Hassan Baig

The budgetary proposals presented in the National Assembly of Pakistan by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on June 9 are quite optimistic. He has taken care of all segments of society alconstraints.Dar has covered development as enunciated by the planning ministry tional Économic Council (NEC). The 5Es are: exports, e-Pakistan, environment and climate change, energy and infrastructure,

apparently such optimism is without cogent reasons,

any confidence on the Rs14.46 trillion budget presented by the finance minister. Pakistan is in its election year, and this is the reason the finance division has taken care of the salaried class and the youth and focused on development and poorer segments of society although it did not have enough fiscal space available for these propos-

women can generate? That

a religion with a 1,400-year

The development budget has also taken care of infrastructure development as per the 5Es framework: a multi-pronged strategy to turn around Pakistan by putting it on high sustained growth trajectory. This is the reason the government is going to reduce taxes on the import of solar panels, batteries, etc along with providing incentives to IT and IT-enabled services to help boost IT

cial safety net programme Rs9.2 trillion. The budget-- the BISP - has been in- ary proposals need to be creased by around Rs43.5 billion while taxing the rich and wealthy of the country. The government has imposed the additional are fears that its meagre taxes of Rs223 billion by jacking up sales tax to 18 per cent on edible oil and

as the IMF did not show other times, but has given a free pass to those who bring up to \$100,000 in a year. Loans to farmers for agriculture and industry have been increased – the limit has gone up from Rs1,800 billion to Rs2.250 billion and all sorts of taxes on seeds have been withdrawn. The subsidy on fertilizer has also been increased to help boost agriculture and agriculture-related sectors. It is also good to note that several incentives have been extended to this vital sector of the economy which is also called the backbone of the economy – and this will definitely bring good results in the next financial year.

It is one of the best budgets in the given circumstances. It presents Rs950 billion development budget; the 30-35 per cent increase in government salaries and a 17.5 per cent in pension are laudable. The budget has The budget for the so- set the revenue target of evaluated properly, as Pakistan is facing the threat of default in the absence of the IMF programme. There amount of foreign exchange reserves will not keep the country afloat

Inflation is at the highest level touching around 40 per cent, and the Pakistani rupee has depreciated around 40 per cent in one year, trading around Rs300 per dollar in the open market. These exchange rate fluctuations are drastic and detrimental by all means. The global credit rating agencies are also predicting sovereign default in case the IMF does not restore the EFF programme concluding on June 30, 2023. Given the circumstances, it seems there are almost zero chances for the restoration of the IMF program. This will be another hurdle on the way to development.

Pakistan is vigorously pursuing in close coordination with friendly countries to re-profile and restructure loans. The finance minister is blaming the IMF for being unfair with Pakistan, as according to him the country is being trapped in the game of geopolitics, disturbing the whole concept of especially because of zero geo-economics. Pakistan is investments due to high inalready in talks with friendly countries to restructure its bilateral loans. Further, about this budget is whether these loans could be re-profiled through rollovers as we ary proposals do not have have done in the case of loans from China and Saudi the IMF programme. The tionists.

get of achieving 3.5 per cent GDP growth with the average inflation of about 21 per cent in the coming fiscal year. It is quite interesting to see how this will turn out. At present, the 21 per cent interest rate by the State Bank of Pakistan has become a big hurdle in attracting investment in the country. The outgoing fiscal year has outlined a meagre 0.29 per cent GDP growth, which is a matter of concern and depression for any financial manager of the country. As everything is topsy-turvy in Pakistan, the failing economy is the main concern as a large segment of the population is living below the poverty line. The crime rate is alarmingly high due to the rising inflation, and the rate of unemployment is steadily increasing

it is realistic as the budgetany support of revenue and

get targets and get the country out the current mess. The situation is further exacerbated by the government's plans of keeping the inflation rate as high as 21 per cent without outlining any plans to reduce it to help save the economy from total disaster. The election year is one of the compulsions for the present government whose tenure is going to last for another month or two. The government wants the budget to help win elections at a time when it faces an opposition that has high popularity. Apparently, the government has proposed various action to support its budgetary proposals including but not limited to the imposition of a super tax of about 50 per cent on extraordinary gains owing to exogenous factors. Three slabs have been added to super tax with the rate hiked to 10 per cent with rationalization applying all persons across the board earning income above Rs150 million The main question a year. The additional taxes of Rs223 billion have been proposed along with further action against smugglers, racketeers and extor-

War or peace



Rashad Bukhari

The world is divided into two spheres, ie the 'House of Peace', which according to Islamic principles, and the 'House of War', where Muslims do not enjoy peace and security or are not free to pracgrounds. Those who back commit acts of terror today are neither aware of its history nor the geopolitical context in which it

emerged.
The two terms were century imam and jurist, Abu Hanifa. He had defined the House of Peace and House of War in the context of the political divisions of that time. These concepts had not been drawn from the Quran or hadith. For example, in response to the Mongol invasions of Muslim lands, also used these terms to against the unjust and autablish a system of law based on Islamic principles. Against this backthese concepts being used in today's circumstances. Interestingly, the

people claiming to per-

lim-majority countries as

being in the House of treatment of nations in the Peace. According to them, House of Peace — includsince such countries do ing the rights to life, propnot fully implement Islamic laws, they do not fall in the category of the House of Peace. For them, the whole world is a House of War, thus they justify the killing of individuals in blatant disregard of Islamic principles. On the contrary, Islam clearly rejects the unlawful killing of civilians. The Quran says: "... If anyone kills a person — unless in retribution for murder or spreading corruption in

kills all mankind" (5:32). Muslim combatants cannot target or harm noncombatants. Caliph Abu Bakr Siddique is reported to have ordered his army in very clear terms: "Do not practise treachery or mutilation. Do not kill a young child, an old man, or a woman. Do not uproot or burn palms or cut take the responsibility to not slaughter a sheep or a and

food."

the land — it is as if he

The Islamic view of international law, as defined by many Islamic jurists, puts nations into five categories, and governs behaviour towards each. In the first category fall Muslim-majority countries with Muslim rulers, considered part of the House of Peace, whether or not Islamic laws are implemented domestically. Nations with which these Muslim-majority countries engage in its image as a peaceful a temporary peace treaty religion. In this regard, fall into the second category, the 'House of Truce'. Their status is equal to those in the House of Peace, as long as a treaty is intact.

The third category, the 'House of Promise', includes countries with which there is a permanent peace treaty. The fourth category includes extremism, ie hidden in countries that are neither allies nor enemies. They are also subject to the hour. -- Courtesy Dawn

erty, honour, and freedom for all, regardless of religion, language, or race.

The fifth and last category is the 'House of War'. It applies to states with which there is no peace treaty, which is currently at war with Muslim-majority states, and/or in which Muslims are unsafe. Some argue that this permits individual Muslims to use violence against these states or their inhabitants. Yet when it comes to nations in the House of War, there are rules of con-

In the Islamic view, no individual or group can declare war under any pretext. It is solely the prerogative of the state authority and only a last resort when all other options to restore peace fail. Islamic scholars need to down fruitful trees. Do explain religious teachings narratives cow or a camel, except for contextualising modern thinking patterns and the challenges to states and so-

more important since it

is time to make legisla-

tion in the new context

ter and spirit. In fact, a

nation to deal with this

newly emerged wave of

cieties in the form of extremism, violent extremism, and terrorism. There is still light at the end of the tunnel that the tide of extremism can be controlled. The vulnerable youth, who are more prone to extremist rhetoric, have the religious justification to stand up to those falsely claiming to speak on behalf of Islam and restore the national fabric. role of

policymakers is also and understanding are ment of fundamental pillars in promoting inter-provinand implement the Naharmony. tional Action Plan in let-Balochistan boasts a rich heritage, encomfresh wake-up call to the passing vibrant traditions, languages, and art forms. By actively engaging in cultural exthe garb of political activism, is the need of the changes and promoting

Arabia. But the main ques- government apparently TheNews **Promoting Inter-Provincial** Harmonybetween Balochistan and Other Provinces

By Mehmood Ali

Inter-provincial harmony is a crucial aspect of fostering a united and progressive nation. In the context of Pakistan, Balochistan stands as a province rich in cultural diversity and untapped potential. However, it is imperative to acknowledge that true progress lies not in isolation but in the interconnectivity and collaboration among all the provinces. Promoting inter-provincial harmony, particularly between Balochistan and other regionsis vital for fostering national unity, achieving sustainable development, and unleashing the full potential of this remarkable province.

Throughout history, divisions among provinces have hindered the realization of a united and harmonious Pakistan. Balochistan, with its unique geography and the distinct culture, has often faced challenges in bridging gaps with other provinces. It is time to break free from the immense value that Balochistan brings to

Cultural exchange the diverse cultural ex-

pressions of cation acts as a power-Balochistan, we can ful tool for building derstanding and get a down provinces.

Meanwhile, Balochistan is blessed resources, including minerals, gasand oil. However, the potential for economic development and prosperity can Balochistan to compete efforts with other provinvestments and adand other provinces, we spirit of unity and crecan leverage the collective strengths and resources, leading to sustainable economic living standards for all citizens.

harmony. nectivity and trade. Instraints and recognize and ports can enhance connectivity between infrastructure developties but also create opportunities for cultural

bridge the gap of misun- bridges and breaking barriers. sense of unity among all Balochistan has made significant strides in improving access to education but more can be with abundant natural done. By prioritizing quality education and knowledge sharing programs, we can empower the youth

only be fully realized on national and interthrough collaborative national level. Exchange programs, scholarships, inces. By encouraging and collaborations between educational instivancing partnerships tutions across provbetween Balochistan inces can cultivate a ate a platform for shared learning and growth. Promoting inter-

provincial harmony and growth and improved building bridges between Balochistan and other provinces is an Moreover, connec- essential step towards tivity plays a pivotal role a more united and prosin promoting inter-pro- perous Pakistan. It requires collective efforts Balochistan's strategic from both the governlocation makes it a gate- ment and the citizens to way for regional con- enhance cultural understanding, encourage vestments in transporta- economic collaboration infrastructure, such tion, develop vital these historical con- as highways, railways infrastructureand invest in education and knowledge sharing. Balochistan and other Only through such iniprovinces, it will help in tiatives can we unlock facilitating the move- the immense potential goods, of Balochistan and enservices and public sure that its unique transport sector. These contributions are fully integrated into the fabments will not only ric of our nation. By boost economic activi- embracing diversity and strengthening the bonds of inter-provinexchange and social in- cial harmony, we pave teraction, advancing a the way for a brighter sense of togetherness. and more inclusive fu-Furthermore, edu- ture for Pakistan.

Edited with the trial version of **Foxit Advanced PDF Editor**

Operation against dacoits:

CM visits Katcha area to boost police morale

Announces to establish a school and a hospital in the areas being vacated from miscreants

Independent Report Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited the Katcha Area in Rahim Yar Khan in order to boost the morale of police officers and jawans taking part in the ongoing operation against dacoit gangs.

He visited various 'mauzas' and deep katcha areas, which are being cleared from dacoit gangs and met the police jawans deployed at the front line bunkers. He appreciated the spirit of police jawans taking part in the operation in severe hot weather, said a handout issued here.

Mohsin Naqvi, Inspector General of Police Dr Usman Anwar, Additional IGP South Punjab and other police officers took their meal

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief listened to their problems and promised solving their

Mohsin Naqvi met students getting education in schools and inquired from them about their educational activities. He also distributed prizes among students in the school, established in the Katcha area.
The CM inquired

after patients at the temporary dispensary and asked them about the treatment facilities. He announced establishment of a school and a hospital in the Katcha area and ordered establishment of a dispensary and a school after acquiring a house with the cooperation of local residents

Mohsin directed

with the police jawans, additional chief secretary South Punjab to take prompt measures for establishing a school and a hospital and stated that the people of Katcha area would be provided health and education facilities. Complete medical cover would be provided to jawans of police force and their families, he added.

Operation in the Katcha area was underway successfully and the police had got the area vacated from the miscreants, he said adding the nation was proud of brave sons of Punjab Police. Mohsin Naqvi saluted the valour and spirit of the police officers and jawans taking part in the operation and added that establishing durable peace in the kacha was a priority.



RAHIM YAR KHAN: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi and Inspector General of Police Dr. Usman Anwar taking meal with police personnel participating in the Kacha operation during their visit to Kacha area in Rahim Yar Khan.

hate. We should also reject

disgrace their monuments

rumors for their nefarious

designs and youths were

under their main target

Hence, the youths should

information first and then

Dr Javed said the

By pointing out

Punjab cabinet was

intentions for betterment

shortcomings in the

government hospitals, he

facilities for patients

could be brought about

in hospitals. He asked

superintendent (MS) to

realise the responsibility

and create facilities for

patient should not face

any problem in any

government hospital of

medical

of people.

He said that anti-state

at any cost

investigate

Minister orders maximum

facilities to patients at

govt hospitals

hospitals across the patients. He said a

Governor terms youth precious asset at **GCWUF** convocation

Independent Report Governor Muhammad Balighur-Rehman said on Friday the youth were most precious asset to the mo government was making all- the rumors as these were out efforts to utilise it for most injurious to national national development to

the maximum extent. Addressing the 3rd convocation of the Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF) here, he said that females were an integral part of society and their involvement in mainstream was imperative for national progress and

In this connection, elements were using the quality education and other social media to spread facilities were being provided to the female segment, he said and emphasised the girl students to focus on their study and equip them with latest and modern trends so react on it for greater that they could play their national interest, he added

Caretaker Punjab Health

Minister Dr. Javed Akram

has said that maximum

facilities should be

provided to patients at the

public sector hospitals as

these hospitals were being

run with citizens' tax

Gangaram Hospital on

Friday, he said emergency

conditions of hospital were

slightly better. "I am

visiting the government

province on the instructions of Punjab

Chief Minister Mohsin

During his visit to Sir

inaugurates **'2nd Bachat Expo'** KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed

Kamran Khan Tessori on dynamic role in national Friday inaugurated a threeprogress and prosperity. He said that Islam is a day 2nd Bachat Expo here at Expo Centre, which will continue till June 25. The Governor after

the inauguration reviewed the prices of essential commodities at the expo.

Governor

He said that people solidarity and integrity," he could get essential items at added. The governor this expo at concessional strongly condemned the prices. The availability of May-9 mayhem, and said sacrificial animals at the that despite political expo at concessional prices differences, national heroes was appreciated. The were respectful for the Governor said I.T. courses entire nation and the test would be conducted patriotic Pakistanis could after Eidul Adha. never dare vandalise and

ANF seizes 305 kg drugs in eight operations

RAWALPINDI (APP) Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting eight operations across the country managed to recover 305 kg charras and arrested 12 accused, said an Headquarters

spokesman here on Friday. He informed that in an operation near M-1 Toll Plaza, Islamabad, ANF recovered 72 kg opium and 61.2 kg charras from a vehicle. Two accused including a woman resident of Sheikhupura were arrested during the

operation In another operation near T-Chowk Islamabad, 2.4 kg opium was seized while two accused residents of Rawalpindi were netted.

In third operation near Indus Chowrangi Karachi, 157.2 kg charras was recovered from secret cavities of two vehicles Three accused residents of Karachi and Qilla Abdullah were rounded up.

In fourth operation near Khairpur Road Sukkur, 2.4 kg charras.



PESHAWAR: Members of Pakistan Railway Traffic Yard Staff are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Peshawar press club.

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali talking to participants of 33rd Senior Management Course during their study visit to Governor House.

Barrister Feroze says: All efforts will be made to solve problems of CPNE

Independent Report PESHAWAR: The Council of Pakistan Newspapers Editors (CPNE) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa committee meeting was held on Friday in a local hotel in Peshawar under the chairmanship of Caretaker Minister for Information and Auqaf, Hajj, Religious and Minority Affairs Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhil. In the meeting, Secretary Information and Public Relations Mukhtiar Ahmed, Director General Information and Public Relations Basir Ali Rehman Khan, President CPNE Irshad Ahmed Arif, General Secretary Ijazul Haq, Vice President Tahir Farooq, Chairman Khyber

FCPNE Rahatullah, Qaiser Rizvi, Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani, Wazirzada,

Malik, Zahir Shah Shirazi. Salman Khan, Nauman Khan, Sardar Naeem, Maqsood Khan, Mumtaz Bangash, Najeebullah, and Aitzaz Hussain Shah and others participated.

On this occasion, the participants of CPNE demanded the caretaker government and caretaker information minister to take steps to pay the arrears of the newspapers. Addressing the meeting, Caretaker Information Minister Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel said that efforts will be made to solve the problems of CPNE. He said that the journalist community is the main pillar of the state. Information department Pakhtunkhwa Committee and journalist community are two wheels of a vehicle which cannot run without each other. We have to Mumtaz Sadiq, Arshad Khan, Jamshed Baghwan, Rashid Iqbal, Amjad Aziz together. We have to work together and find solutions to all problems together.

Minister for swift progress on electric buses project

Caretaker Punjab Minister for Transport Ibrahim Hassan Murad on Friday directed that the project of electric buses should be progressed swiftly saying providing commuting facility.

Transport House, he Punjab. "Environment directed that the friendly electric buses with mechanism of vehicle fitness certificate should be made more effective.

He said fitness of government vehicles should also be monitored. The constructed 200 shelters at minister said he would request the caretaker CM about the electric-buses project.Ibrahim Murad said that the officers of the Governance Project at a

on mass transport so that they could find out the grievances of the citizens regarding public transport. During the departmental briefing,

the eco-friendly transport Would help protecting environment besides with the eco-friendly transport Transport Secretary Punjab Usman Ali Khan said that work on 11 latest development schemes of the Transport department During his visit to the was underway across cost of Rs 3400 million would be operated in Punjab", he said. The Secretary said that the various bus stops recently. Usman Ali said that work

was also underway on the

Punjab Digital Transport

(APP): should travel occasionally

According to the data, 1,048 motorbikes, 86



degrees among the successful students during the 3rd Convocation of Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF).

Mayor Karachi says: Work on Safe City project to begin soon

KARACHI (APP): Mayor so the work should be Wahab has said that the approval of the Safe City project has been obtained and soon the work on this project will start.

He said this while presiding over a meeting in his office on Friday to review the progress of the Safe City project.

Under the project, 10,000 new cameras will be installed in different areas of the city and 2,000 existing cameras will be upgraded in 4 phases.

On this occasion, Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, Municipal Commissioner Syed Afzal Zaidi and other relevant officials were also present

In the meeting, a briefing was given regarding the work being done in Karachi under the Safe City Project.

Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that Safe City project is important for Karachi,

Karachi Barrister Murtaza carried out through full coordination between al the relevant institutions.

The main objective of the Safe City project is to develop the security and surveillance system in the city on modern lines, for which 10 thousand new CCTV cameras will be installed at important places in the city and the existing monitoring system will be updated according to modern requirements.

He said that this project is based on installation of CCTV cameras, establishment of command-and-control centers, the introduction of face and vehicle recognition software and installation of biometric system which will help curb street crimes in Karachi and provide protection to the citizens.

Mayor Karachi said that similar systems for security and monitoring are running successfully in all major cities of the world and with this.

ADC chairs meeting with board

HYDERABAD (APP): The Additional Deputy Commissioner Shakeel Ahmed Abro has said the District Traffic Management Board has played an important role in

easing the problems of traffic in the city but more needed to be done in this regard. Chairing a meeting of the board in Shahbaz Building here on Friday the Additional DC emphasized the need of taking action against all forms of obstructions in the flow of

traffic on a daily basis. Abro said the soft encroachment, wrong parking and the electric poles which were wrongly placed on the roads all contributed to the traffic congestion.He added that the traffic police and the staff of the Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (HMC) should take action against such obstructions as routine work. The Additional DC asked the concerned officers to expedite the work of arranging separate parking for the vehicles outside

Oadam Gah Moula Ali.

Murad inaugurates football ground, community centre at Ibrahim Hyderi Mayor Salman Murad, Improvement Project

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali inaugurated the football ground and community center Ibrahim Hyderi constructed with the help of World Bank for Rs1.9

Ibrahim Hyderi, a historical town located along the seashore has been rejuvenated with the inauguration of a state-ofthe-art football ground, an upgraded community and center, implementation of various infrastructure developments. Those, who were

present on the occasion include Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Deputy

Six dead, **1,252** injured in Punjab road accidents LAHORE (APP): At least

six people were killed and 1,252 others were injured in 1,237 road traffic crashes (RTCs) in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

As many as 670 serious injured were shifted to different hospitals, while 582 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.

The analysis showed that 605 drivers, 38 underage drivers, 142 pedestrians, and 511 passengers were among the victims of the road crashes.

The statistics show that 282 accidents were reported in Lahore which affected 291 persons, placing provincial capital at top of the list, followed by 88 in Faisalabad, with 85 victims, and at third Multan, with 79 accidents and 69 victims.

auto-rickshaws, motorcars, 19 vans.

MPA Mehmood Alam uplifting the entire town, Jamote and others. accommodating its dense Speaking on the occasion, the Chief population. "The comprehensive Minister said that this project included the initiative was part of the government's commitment to enhance the welfare of

MNA Agha Rafiullah, (KNIP), which aimed at

reconstruction of new arterial roads such as Omar Colony Road, the the youth and prioritize enhancement of main roads the development of future and neighborhood generations, encouraging connecting streets, and the their active participation in development of open healthy activities and community spaces into fostering their better congregating contributions towards the places," the CM said progress of the country. adding that these He said that the improvements have not remarkable upgrades in only provided better Ibrahim Hyderi Village connectivity but have also were made possible created attractive spaces through the Karachi for the local community to N e i g h b o r h o o d gather and socialize.



LAHORE: Chairperson Almarah Foundation Mrs Sofia Warriach presents souvenir to the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Pakistan Henny de Vries after MOU collaboration ceremony between Almarah and SBP KJHA at National Hockey Stadium as and Dy Inspector General of police Mr.Mehboob Lilla also present.

Blistering heat wave faint Women at BISP centre Muzaffargarh

Several women in Muzaffargarh, Punjab 25 reportedly lost their consciousness as Mercury crossed 40C in funds distribution centre of Benazir Income Support Program, officials said on Friday. Station

Officers (SHO) of The advisory further Muzaffargarh told that he forecasts "pre-monsoon saw few women during his routine visit of various thunderstorm predicted in sites, who had fainted at distribution established at government elementary school. A video also showed

SHO fanning women who collapsed.
SHO told that he immediately called medical

aid.According AccuWeather.com, the temperature in the city was recorded to be 38 degrees Celsius at around 11:45am. A press release issued Programme

the Meteorological Department (PMD) a day centre and an alleged ago warns that "prevailing deduction from the funds.

ISLAMABAD (Online): heat wave conditions are likely to subside from June

> It states, "Moist currents are penetrating in upper and central parts of the country from Arabian Sea and a westerly wave is likely to enter in upper parts of the country on House June 25."

> rains with upper and central parts centre from June 25-30 with occasional gaps".

In an advisory released on June 19, the PMD forecast heatwavelike conditions in most parts of the country from June 20-24 along with a gradual increase in day temperatures.

The women, who had lined up to receive aid distributed under the Benazir Income Support Pakistan complained mismanagement at the



LAHORE: Members of Pakistan Masiha Millat Party and Human Liberation Commission Pakistan are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Lahore press club.

Rs 104.292m assistance provided to families of Lahore police officials

LAHORE (APP): More residences have been than Rs 104.292 million provided to six martyrs' were given to families of during the current year.

here on Friday, spokesman for the Lahore police highlighted department's welfareoriented initiatives and Shaheed package,

provided to six martyrs' families. Additionally, an Lahore police officials amount of Rs 10.741 through a range of million has been distributed assistance programmes among 52 families as group insurance, providing a sense In a statement, issued of financial security. Furthermore,

spokesman said over Rs 12.037 million had been disbursed as the final salary payment to 206 added that under the families, ensuring their well-being and stability.

OMMERCE EWS

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Pakistan, Germany agree to enhance cooperation in trade, investment

Pakistan also keen to benefit from Brazilian experience in agriculture sector

and Germany on Friday agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in multiple fields including trade, investment and energy.

The bilateral ties were discussed in the meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, on the sidelines of New Global Financing Pact Summit held here.

The prime minister thanked Germany for its support to the flood-hit people of Pakistan, besides providing an economic support of 163 million euros to the country.

The prime minister said that the additional 27 million euros for Benazir Income Support Program were spent for the assistance to the flood victims and provision of food to them. Lauding

development model of Germany, the prime minister said the progress

PARIS (APP): Pakistan achieved by the country on Friday expressed was an inspiration for the developing countries. I am personally impressed by the development of Germany as a country and the hard work and resilience of the German nation, he added.

Prime Minister Shehbaz expressed the hope that Germany would raise the voice of developing world on the issues like climate change and financial stress.

He said that releasing the economic burden from the developing states would help uplifting their The prime minister

appreciated the services of German firms and NGOs operating in Pakistan. Expressing

pleasure to meet the prime minister, the German chancellor conveyed good wishes for the government and people of Pakistan. Meanwhile, Prime

Minister Shehbaz Sharif

Pakistan's keenness in benefiting from the Brazilian experience of using modern technology in the agriculture sector.

PM Shehbaz met Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva here on the sidelines of Summit for New Global Financing

The prime minister appreciated Brazil's cooperation in defence and other sectors.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction over the level of bilateral cooperation at multilateral forums. They also agreed to promote and expand the bilateral cooperation, besides working in close coordination to explore potentials of cooperation in all sectors

Brazilian president conveyed his best wishes to the prime minister and the people of

of mutual interests.



PARIS: Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif meets the President of Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser on the sidelines of the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact.

Pak to support Azerbaijan in mobile manufacturing, telecom sectors: Amin

ISLAMABAD (Online): was natural, said a news Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Syed Amin ul Haque has said that Pakistan had vast investment opportunities in various sectors including

IT and Telecom. "We wish the bilateral relations in the Technology sector to be strengthened and the trade volume to increase further, he said during a meeting with Ambassador of Azerbaijan Farhadov here Friday.

Syed Amin ul Haque further said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan had longstanding relations as brotherhood countries, Pakistan was the first to recognize benefit from these Azerbaijan and the love experiences of Pakistan", to recognize

release. Cooperation in Trade and Industrial sectors can further strengthen mutual relations in this regard, he

The minister said the

Ministry of IT will provide all possible facilities and supports to Azerbaijan government businessmen in all sectors including Incubation Centers, Technology Parks, Mobile Manufacturing Telecom sector.

The Ambassador said, the revolutionary steps taken in the IT sector Pakistan commendable. "We wish to Symposium on corporate

Minister for Digital Transport of Azerbaijan would visit Pakistan in the second week of July. During his visit, we are looking forward to signing different Memorandum of Understandings on bilateral cooperation in Technology The Ambassador of

Azerbaijan also extended an official invitation to the Minister of IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin ul Haque to visit Azerbaijan.

The meeting was attended by Secretary IT Navid Ahmed Shaikh, Member IT Syed Junaid Imam and Director General International Coordination Jawad Sherazi

PM Shehbaz meets IDB president in Paris

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister (PM) Shahbaz Sharif met the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) President Dr Muhammad Al Jasser on Friday on the sidelines of the summit for a New Global Financial Pact being

holding hands as the IDB president escorted PM Shehbaz out after the meeting.

They also exchanged a candid conversation where Al Jasser confessed his love for Pakistani mangoes that the PM promised to send to him as a gift. The premier also renewed the invitation to president IDB to visit . Pakistan at his earliest convenience. According to a statement released by the PM's Office, during the meeting, the two discussed long-standing the cooperation ` engagement between

He pointed out some

held in Paris.

The two were seen

Pakistan and IDB during the meeting. They also took stock of the progress of various ongoing projects and exchanged views on new avenues

PM Sharif approves establishment of **HAZECO:** Murtaza ABBOTTABAD (INP): will be circulated through

Electric Supply Company (HAZECO) by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharifis a great decision to facilitate the masses of the region.

He expressed these views in a press statement after the approval of HAZECO.

The minister further said that the approval of the HAZECO also fulfills the longstanding demand of millions of consumers in the Hazara Division, which we have successfully materialized and fulfilled our promise.Murtaza Directors of Hazara Electric Supply Company

Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Cabinet.He said that the Murtaza Javed Abbasi establishment of Friday said that the HAZECO was approved approval of the during the tenure of the establishment of Hazara previous PML-N government, however, it was unnecessarily frozen during the PTI government.

establishment of Hazara Electric Supply Company has been implemented to improve performance, enhance consumer convenience and minimize load shedding, adding the minister said.

He said that the delay in the establishment of HAZECO was due to a court stay and now all hurdles have been removed and we got the approval of Abbassi said that the approval of the Board of play its role not in the development of the region but in the country as well.



ATLANTA: Ambassador Masood Khan speaking at an event, titled "Pakistan Ambassador Briefing: Growing Trade and Investment with Georgia' jointly organized Global Atlanta, World Affairs Council Atlanta and Miller and Martin PLLC.

Weekly inflation increases by 0.33pc

ISLAMABAD (APP): increase of 34.05 per cent. The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.33 per cent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on June 22, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

The SPI for the week under review in the abovementioned group was recorded at 256.00 points as compared to 255.17 points during the past week, according to the PBS Rs 22,889-29,517, Rs

corresponding week of last increase of 0.48 per cent, year, the SPI for the 0.42 per cent and 0.20 per combined consumption cent respectively. group in the week under review witnessed an

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 is covering 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs17,732, increased by 0.52 per cent and went up to 263.03 points from last week's 261.66 points whereas it also increased by 0.53 per cent for the consumption group from Rs 17,732-22,888.

consumption groups from 29,518-44,175; and above Rs 44,175 witnessed an

During the week, out of 51 items



Ambassador of Azarbaijan Khazar Farhadov calls on Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque in Islamabad.

CDNS set target of Rs 70b in Islamic FY 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has set a target of Rs 70 billion rupees in Islamic finance year 2023-24.

The aim was to introduce new dimensions reviewed and set a target in the Islamic finance

"Islamic finance has a global financial sector at this time, and a large part of the economy of many major countries currently includes Islamic finance, the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Friday.

The senior official said, "Work on Islamic finance is still needed in Pakistan."He said, "At present, work is being done on institutional reforms in CDNS and new reforms and innovations are being introduced." He said, "At this time

Automated Teller Machine (ATM) has also been introduced in CDNS which will provide enough

The official said, "CDNS will now provide facilities to its customers as a complete bank.' Replying to another query, he said CDNS had

facilities to the users."

of Rs 60 billion in the fiscal year (2022-23) for Islamic investment to introduce the very important role in the new products in the market.In the current financial year, maintained that CDNS would hopefully achieve the investment target of Rs 70 billion.Replying to a question, he said, "The CDNS has digitized National Certificates (NSCs) for the convenience of consumers and to modernize the institutional process. He said the CDNS

and Central Depository Company of Pakistan Limited (CDCP) signed an agreement to start a pilot project to digitise and dematerialise NSCs last week.



LAHORE: Famers are busy in planting Rice Seedlings in fields near Wagah as early June to September is a suitable time for production of paddy in Pakistan.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator

Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet in Islamabad.

Atif Ikram says: Crucial role of Army in boosting economy encourages businessmen

ISLAMABAD (INP): has assured to support Office of His RoyalHighness Sheikh Federation of Pakistan gone down very well with Chambers of Commerce the business community. Almed Dalmook Al Maktoum of United Arab and Industry (FPCCI) Atif Ikram Sheikh said on Friday that Pakistan Army playing significant role in boosting the country's economy, which is very encouraging for the business community.

In a statement issued here, he said the government has announced an Economic Revival Plan to address economic issues and promote prosperity, and the business community was pinning high hope on the plan and the COAS amid the

economic downturn Special Investment Facilitation Council has been established to attract investment and the Army's contribution in it will be significant, said Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as President ICCI and Chairman PVMA.

He said the economic revival plan recognizes the importance of domestic development and foreign investment while the Army impact, he noted.

Independent Report

LAHORE: The Federation

of Pakistan Chambers of

Commerce and Industry

(FPCCI) President Irfan

Ìqbal Shiekh, Regional

Chairman Muhammad

Nadeem Qureshi and Vice

President of SAARC

The business leader said that the Army's commitment was very essential for the success of the plan and the plan require a secure and stable environment which the Army can provide.

In order to maintain stability and national security, the Army can help protects domestic and foreign assets which will be favourable for the commercial activity and encourage local and foreign investors, he added.

Atif Ikram observed that the plan emphasizes the value of cooperation between civilian and military leadership which will encourage good decision-making, optimisz use of available resources, and accelerate investment and execution.

One of the industries targeted for expansion and development was the production of defence equipment, which will have a substantial economic

Overbilling & Load shedding

is the biggest problem: FPCCI

Muhammad Noman, Chief

Executive Officer Shahid

Haider and his team to

FPCCI at FPCCI Regional

FPCCI representative

should also be included in

LESCO

They further said the

board.

Chairman

Office Lahore.

WAPDA, **UAE firm**

sign two MoU ISLAMABAD (Online): WAPDA signed two Memoranda Understanding

(MoU) with the Private Maktoum of United Arab Emirates today.

The MoU were signed by Chairman WAPDA Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd) and His RoyalHighness Sheikh Ahmed Dalmook Al Maktoum on behalf of their

organizations. The first MoU is aimed at establishing a framework for cooperation and collaboration between the Private Office of His Royal Highness Sheikh Ahmed Dalmook A Maktoum and WAPDA to explore investment

opportunities ŴÂPDA's small hydel power stations including 1MW-Renala, 22 MW-Rasul, 13.2 MW-Chichokimalian and 13.8 MW-Nandipur. The second MoU is related to exploring

investment opportunities in energy sector of Pakistan, specifically development of floating solar power project on water reservoirsand water bodies of the existing hydel

problem of Maximum demand indicator (MDI)

charges. An enterprise

resource planning (ERP)

system should be implemented in LESCO

Muhammad Noman said

immediately.

Chairman

LESĆO

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) is hosting the Symposium on Corporate Supervision and Regulatory Actions on June The first day of the

take the stage and address key challenges and Pakistan, said a press release issued here.

SECP Chairman Akif Saeed, in his welcome address, said, "We aim to

build a strong and growing corporate sector that is attractive to both domestic and foreign investors, ensuring economic stability and prosperity for our nation".He added, "In this crucial mission, we are fortunate to be assisted by our esteemed partners at the World Bank, and we express our heartfelt gratitude for their undertaken by the SECP invaluable support in including CSR reporting

corporate environment in Pakistan" Justice Shahid Karim,

supervision, regulatory

actions begins

Honorable Justice ® Hamid Ali Shah, and Barrister Iftikharuddin Riaz highlighted the developments in Company Law, the need for upgrading symposium saw notable the procedures under members of the judiciary Company Law, and discussed new concepts. IHC Advocates Sved

opportunities pertaining to Bulent Sohail and Umer the corporate sector of Ejaz Gilani presented a case study on the empirical analysis of Company Court judgments and also shared recommendations on the subject. Honorable Chief Justice of Pakistan ® Tassaduq Hussain Jillani also delivered the keynote address at the symposium and gave a presentation on corporate responsibility (CSR) and

its reforms in Pakistan. successful CSR programs in the country and also shed light on CSR Reforms



Central African country of Rwanda, meeting with exporters at SCCI.

Edible oil, ghee output

period last year.

During the period from July 2022 to April 2023, about 458,231 metric tons of cooking oil were manufactured as compared to the manufacturing of 411,710 metric tons in the same period last year, said the data of Large Scale Manufacturing Industries of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics released on

Friday.

to the output of 1.178 million metric tons of the same period last year. The tea blending in the country also witnessed about 5

decline by Rs 1,500 ISLAMABAD (APP):

previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs 1,285 to Rs 186,043 from Rs 187,328 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went down to Rs 170,539 from Rs 171,718, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers

association reported

Industry Mian Anjum Electricity prices are the that he was working on Nisar said that the highest in the region; high government should take prices are also one of the automatic system will reasons for the destruction eliminate over-billing immediate steps to prevent of industries and the problems.

power theft, reduce line losses and load shedding, load shedding and overbilling is the biggest problem. A separate office and helpline should be set up at the LESCO headquarters for industrialists and traders.

They expressed these views during the visit of Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) Board

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi further said that industrial feeders' load-shedding time and procedure should be decided in conjunction with local industrialists.

The government should also solve the

an e-billing system

FPCCI proposals will be discussed in the LESCO board. A separate office and helpline will be set up at the LESCO headquarters for the industrialists and traders and steps are being taken to reduce the line loss, he added.

He further said that there should be no load shedding for the industry.

grew 4.97pc & 16.72pc ISLAMABAD (APP): to tackle with local The production of edible requirements in the last 10

oil and vegetable in the country during 10 months of the current financial year as compared of the current financial year grew by 4.97 percent and 16.72 percent respectively as compared to the production of the same

Över 1.268 million metric tons of vegetable gee was also produced in order

percent growth during the period under review as about 108,345 metric tons of tea blended locally as compared to 124,062 metric tons in the same period last year.
Meanwhile, domestic tractors assembling during the period from July 2022 to April 2023 was recorded at 5,492 units as compared to the assembling of the corresponding period of last year. During the period under review tractors assembling in local markets.

Gold prices

The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs 1,500 and was sold at Rs 217,500 on Friday against its sale at Rs 218,500 the

Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs 2,550 and Rs 2,186.21 respectively. The price of gold in the international market declined by \$10 to \$1919 from \$1929, the

Independent

Saturday June 24, 2023

International News

Page 07

West Bank violence could spiral 'out of control': UN

Monitoring Desk outbreak of violence in the occupied West Bank could spiral out of control, the UN human rights chief warned on Friday.

This week, at least 18 people have been killed in the territory — in incursions by the Israeli military or attacks by Palestinians or Jewish settlers. "These latest killings and the violence, along with the inflammatory rhetoric, serve only to drive Israelis and Palestinians deeper into an abyss," Volker Turk said in a statement.

So far this year, more than 200 people have died in violence linked to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the vast majority of them Palestinians. Deadly violence has flared in recent days in the northern West Bank, a stronghold of Palestinian armed groups where Israel has stepped up military operations. Turk

was being fuelled by strident political rhetoric and an escalation in the use of advanced military weaponry by Israel.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said the sharp deterioration was having a terrible impact on both Palestinians and Israelis and called for an immediate end to the violence. He said international human rights law required Israeli authorities to ensure all operations are planned and implemented to prevent lethal force. Every death caused in such a context requires an effective investigation, he added.

'Israel must urgently reset its policies and actions in the occupied West Bank in line with international human rights standards, including protecting and respecting the right to life," Turk said. "As the occupying

power, Israel also has obligations under international humanitarian law to ensure public order and safety within the occupied Palestinian Territory.

Turk said the underlying dynamics leading to violence and the arbitrary loss of life needed to be ad dressed urgently and would require political will from Israel and the Palestinians as well as the international community. "For this vio-lence to end, the occupation must end," he said. "On all sides, the people with the political power know this and must instigate immediate steps to realise this." Meanwhile, Israel'

national security minister urged tougher military action against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and urged Israeli settlers to expand their presence there despite surging violence and international calls for a halt to new construction.

Premier Li

rope to "rise above differ-

ences" and find "creative

solutions" at a summit in

Paris on Friday, in order to

overcome global problems

such as climate change and

poverty alleviation.
"China will unequivo-

cally reject trade protection-

ism and all forms of

decoupling and severing of

supply chains," Li said on

the final day of the two-day

summit, adding that China

would continue to take prac-

tical steps to support its

fellow developing countries. Easing the debt burden on

some of the world's most

vulnerable countries while

finding ways to free up bil-

call for EU

budget top-up



Storms and heavy rain flood roads, block railway lines in Germany.

Saudi-Iran thaw improves haj services for Iranian pilgrims

Monitoring Desk

MECCA: Iranian haj pilgrims travelled to evening prayers in Mecca's Grand Mosque in a brand new bus this week, as reconciliation between Saudi Arabia and Iran led to improved services for the annual pilgrimage to Islam's holiest sites. Sayid Mahdi, who

will be in charge of around 2,800 Iranian pilgrims that will perform haj next week, said Saudi Arabia has been more cooperative in finding hotels for Iranians this year.

"We thank God that this is improving," he said. "God willing we can offer better services to the pilgrims of the holy mosque."

Saudi Arabia is preparing to host some 2.6 million pilgrims next week for the 2023 haj season after removing all COVID-19 restrictions for the first time since 2019. Iran's official media said 87,550 of those will be Iranians.

urges China and Europe to 'rise above differences' at Regional rivals Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed in Paris summit March, in a deal brokered **Monitoring Desk** by China, to end a diplo-SHANGHAI: Premier Li Qiang urged China and Eumatic rift following years of hostility that had fuelled

Iranians to perform haj and Umrah is another form of pilgrimage to Mecca which - unlike haj - can be carried out at any time of the year.

regional conflicts and made

it sometimes difficult for

repeatedly Iran criticised how Saudi Arabia runs the pilgrimage and boycotted the annual gathering in 2016 after hundreds of people, many of them Iranians. died in a crush in the previous year. The kingdom said Iran sought to politicize haj

Iranian Mohammed Hossaini landed in Mecca on Thursday, five days before the annual gathering starts.

Beijing sizzles with hot weather alert at highest level

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: Beijing on Friday upgraded its warning for hot weather to "red" – the highest in a colourcoded alert system — with many parts of the Chinese capital roasting in temperatures of up to 40 degrees

The official temperature for the capital, which is measured from its southern suburbs observatory, hit 40C just after 1:30pm (5:30am GMT) on Friday, according to the Beijing Municipal Meteorological Observatory. "This is the first time since the establishment of the observatory that there has been a high temperature of more than 40C for two consecutive days,' Zhang Yingxin, chief forecaster of the Municipal Meteorological Observatory, said at a press briefing. The observatory was founded in 1951. On Thursday, the maximum temperature in the

city of nearly 22 million people breached 41C and shattered the record for the hottest day in June.

mercury hit 40.6C.

eight to ten days.

A weather station in its southern suburbs, considered to be Beijing's main gauge, recorded 41.1C in the afternoon. The previous June high was logged on June 10, 1961 when the

The daily maximum logged on Thursday was the city's second-highest in history, just below the 41.9C recorded by Beijing on July 24, 1999. China has a fourtier weather warning system. with red being the most severe, followed by orange, vellow and blue. A red alert indicates the temperature is set to rise above 40C within 24 hours. The China Meteorological Administration said on Thursday it expected high temperatures to persist across much of the country's north for the next

lions of dollars in new funds for climate finance were key objectives of the summit Austria says no to European Commission's

Monitoring Desk VIENNA: Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer on Friday rejected a call by the European Commission for EU countries to contribute more cash to the bloc' shared coffers, arguing that extra money should instead be found by making savings

from the current budget. The bloc's executive issued the call on Tuesday, saying extra contributions should be made through a new dedicated revenue stream calculated on the profit base of companies

operating in each country. Austria's conserva tive-led coalition govern ment often argues against what it sees as profligate spending by the bloc and some member states, particularly southern nations like Italy.

'There is a financial framework that runs from 2021 to 2027 within the European Union. That is a thousand billion euros.



People shield themselves from the sun, as they walk amid a red alert for heatwave in Beijing, China.



Premier Li urges China and Europe to 'rise above differences' at Paris summit.

South Korea, Vietnam to boost work on North Korea nuclear threat

Monitoring Desk

HANOI: South Korea and Vietnam agreed on Friday to boost security cooperation, citing North Korea's nuclear threat, and committed to increasing bilateral trade and investment despite a slump this year and Vietnam's planned tax hikes on large firms.

In his first visit to Vietnam as president, South Korean leader Yoon Suk Yeol acknowledged economic woes but reiterated Vietnam's key role for Seoul's growth strategy.

He signed 17 agreements with Vietnam's President Vo Van Thuong on a number of issues, from critical minerals to Vietnamese workers in Korea, and said Seoul would step up cooperation with Vietnam against North Korea's nuclear

threat. Vietnam is one of few countries which can boast close relations with Pyongyang. Vietnam "is ready to participate in the process of denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula", Thuong said in a joint press conference. The two nations also agreed to boost defence industry relations and security cooperation in the South China Sea. South Korea is one of many countries discussing possible arms sales to Vietnam as it seeks to modernise its ar-

Korea and Vietnam over the last few decades have developed almost symbiotic industrial ties, with South Korea being the largest foreign investor in Vietnam. Seoul also enjoys the highest level of diplomatic relations with Hanoi, together with

Russia, China and India. The leaders reiterated a goal of boosting bilateral trade, despite a slump so far this year driven by lower global demand for smartphones and other electronic goods that Korean firms assemble in Vietnam with many components shipped from Korea. 'Although the busi-

ness environment is difficult in recent years, we must find new opportunities in Vietnam, which is the centre of global supply chain reorganisation and an emerging consumer mar-ket," Yoon said.

Bilateral trade has fallen by a quarter in the first five months of this year compared to the same period in 2022, with a nearly 30% drop in Vietnamese imports of South Korean products.

Obama warns India risks 'pulling apart' without minority rights officials gently spoke of the impor-tance of "religious plural-**Monitoring Desk**

WASHINGTON: Former US president Barack Obama said on Thursday that India risks "pulling apart" if the Muslim minor-

ity is not respected, calling for the issue to be raised with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. CNN interview as President Joe Biden welcomed

always "complicated." the Hindu nationalist prime

"I think it is true that Obama spoke in a if the president meets with prime minister Modi, then the protection of the Muslim minority in a majorityminister for a state visit and Hindu India.

human rights with allies was

Three killed in Russian attacks in southern **Ukraine - local**

Monitoring Desk KYIV: At least three people

ism". On a visit to Greece, were killed in Russian atwhere he is holding a tacks in southern Ukraine weeklong session for emerging global leaders, Obama said that addressing on Friday, including two who died after a trolleybus company came under fire in the city of Kherson, regional officials said Oleksandr Prokudin, the governor of the Kherson region, said two men aged 55 and 43 were killed by "targeted fire"



Palace to protest against the deaths of 37 migrants, and dozens missing in the border area between the Spanish enclave of Melilla and Morocco.

19 dead, thousands seek shelter in South Asia monsoon floods

Monitoring Desk KATHMANDU: At least

19 people are dead after floods triggered by South Asia's annual monsoon, with a week of relentless rains forcing thousands of people to seek shelter in

Floods are common and cause widespread devastation during the treacherous monsoon season, but experts say climate change is increasing their frequency, ferocity and unpredictability.

The toll from flooding and landslides last weekend in Nepal had risen to 14 by Friday, with more than two

dozen still missing, according to officials.

'Search and rescue teams are still on the ground," Dhruba Bahadur Khadka, a spokesman for the country's national disaster authority, told AFP on Friday. Four others were killed after flooding in landslides in India's remote Himalayan state of Arunachal Pradesh near the Chinese border, disaster management authorities there said Thursday. Authorities in neighbouring Assam state said one person had died in flood waters by Thursday evening, with more than 1,300 villages inundated.

UN aid enters Syrian rebel enclave from government territory in first such crossing since earthquake

Monitoring Desk

IDLIB: A convoy carrying U.N. aid entered Syria's last rebel-held enclave from government-held territory on Friday, the first such shipment to cross battle lines since February's deadly 7.8-magnitude earthquake that hit Turkey and Syria.

The convoy with humanitarian supplies crossed from a government-controlled area in the province of Aleppo, and entered Idlib, according to the U.N. office for humanitarian affairs or OCHA. The last aid shipment to cross the front lines in the conflict was in early January

earthquake that struck Tur-

key and northern Syria. causing widespread destruction, convoys have been prevented from entering the province of Idlib from government-held areas by the al-Qaida-affiliated

militant group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, which dominates the area. The group has sought to distance itself from al-Qaida in recent years. After the Feb. 6 quake, an administrative arm of the group accused the government of Syrian President Bashar Assad of trying "to benefit from the aid intended for victims of the earthquake.'

In the wake of the earthquake, aid deliveries to After the February affected areas became a political battleground

Chinese authorities focus on fire hazards after restaurant blast **Monitoring Desk**

SHANGHAI: China's State Council Security Committee and municipal and provincial governments have held emergency video conferences and issued warnings about fire hazards and safety after a blast in the northwest that killed 31

people on Wednesday.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism issued an emergency circular, urging all localities to investigate "hidden dangers" and strengthen supervision and inspection. President X Jinping ordered a safety overhaul across the country, calling on all regions to rectify safety risks.

Storms and heavy rain flood roads, block railway lines in Germany **Monitoring Desk**

BERLIN: Storms and heavy rain across a large swath of Germany flooded roads and forced the closure of some major railway routes on Friday, but there was no immediate word of any injuries. Ğermany's national

weather service had warned earlier this week of severe storms with significant amounts of rainfall, which hit on Thursday. In the western city of Duisburg, the fire service said it rescued several people from cars that got stuck on flooded streets. Shops were flooded and streets inundated in the northern city of Braunschweig.

Biden says he sees 'no real consequence' to calling Xi a 'dictator'

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden said the blowback over his calling President Xi Jinping of China a "dictator" would not undermine recent diplomatic progress between Washington and Beijing. "The answer to your

during a White House news conference on Thursday when asked if his comments were damaging to U.S.-China relations, dismissing the riff as "an incident that caused some confusion."

question is no," Biden said

"I don't think it's had any real consequence," Biden added. The president said he expects to meet with Xi "in the near term." Earlier Thursday, the Chinese Embassy said the country's

Feng, had made "strong protests" to senior White House and State Department officials. In a statement, Chi-

nese Embassy spokesperson Liu Pengyu called the remarks "erroneous, absurd and irresponsible," and warned that the Chinese government "does not accept any political provocation against China's top leader and will resolutely respond." Biden's "dictator" remarks came Tuesday during a campaign fundraiser in California, suggesting China's leader

was embarrassed because he did not know about the alleged Chinese spy balloon that had traversed the U.S. in February.

UN puts Russian forces on blacklist for killing children & attacking schools in Ukraine

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations put Russian forces on its annual blacklist of countries that violate children's rights in conflict for killing boys and girls and attacking schools and hospitals in Ukraine, according to a new report seen Thursday by The Associated Press.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in the report to the Security Council that he is "appalled" by the high number of "grave violations" against children in Ukraine in 2022, "shocked" at the number of attacks on schools and hospitals, 'concerned" by the detention of children, and "troubled" that some Ukrainian children have been transferred to Russia.

The U.N. chief did not put Israel on the blacklist for grave violations against 1,139 Palestinian children, including 54 killings last year — as supporters had

U.N. special envoy for children in armed conflict, Virginia Gamba and its "identification of practical measures including those proposed by the U.N." to protect children.

Riyad Mansour, the Palestinian U.N. ambassador, told reporters Guterres "made a big mistake" in not listing the most extreme government in Israel's his-

"It is very disappointing to the Palestinian people and to the Palestinian children," he said.

In the wide-ranging report, the secretary-general said that last year children were disproportionately affected by conflict. He said the U.N. verified grave violations against 13,469 children, including ,985 who were killed, in 24 countries and one re-

"Grave violations" include the recruitment and use of youngsters by combatants, killings and injuries, sexual violence, abduc-Instead, he welcomed tions, and attacks on Israel's engagement with the schools and hospitals.

Rich nations finalise \$100bn climate aid at Paris summit - Macron

Monitoring Desk

PARIS: Wealthy nations have finalised an overdue \$100-billion climate finance pledge to developing countries and created a fund for biodiversity and the protection of forests, France's president said on Friday.

President Emmanuel Macron was speaking at a final panel of a summit in Paris where some 40 leaders, including two dozen from Africa, China's prime minister and Brazil's president had gathered to give impetus to a new global finance agenda.

The summit's objective is to boost crisis financing for low-income states and ease their debt burdens, reform post-war financial systems and free up funds to tackle climate change by getting top-level consensus on how to promote a number of initiatives struggling in bodies like the G20, COP, IMF-World Bank and United Nations.

The \$100 billion pledge falls far short of poor nations' actual needs. but has become symbolic of wealthy countries' failure to deliver promised climate funds. This has fuelled mistrust in wider climate negotiations between countries attempting to boost

CO2-cutting measures.
The World Bank said on Thursday it would ease financing for countries hit by natural disasters and the International Monetary Fund announced it had hit its target of making \$100 billion in special drawing rights (SDRs) available for vulnerable nations.

Of the \$100 billion in SDRs to be rechannelled, Washington has yet to pass legislation to release its share, worth more than one fifth of the total. U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said that it was a priority for the Biden administration to get approval in Congress.

Oklahoma death row inmate plans to reject chance for clemency despite maintaining his innocence **Monitoring Desk** going to sit there and get

OKLAHOMA CITY: A man scheduled to be executed in September for the 1996 killing of a University of Oklahoma dance student plans to reject his chance for a clemency hearing, saying there is little hope the state's Republican governor would spare his life.

Anthony Sanchez, 44, said in a telephone inter-Thursday from Oklahoma's death row that even in the rare case when the five-member Pardon and Parole Board recommends clemency, Gov. Kevin Stitt is unlikely to grant it. "I've sat in my cell and I've watched inmate after inmate after inmate get clemency and get denied clemency," Sanchez said. Either way, it doesn't go

well for the inmates." Sanchez cited the recent cases of Bigler Stouffer and James Coddington, both of whom were executed after the board voted 3-2 for clemency that was later rejected by Stitt.

"They went out there and poured their hearts out, man," Sanchez said. "Why would I want to be a part of anything like that, if you're

these guys' hopes up? 'Why wouldn't I try to prove my innocence through the courts," he added.

Stitt granted clemency to a condemned inmate once, commuting Julius Jones death sentence in 2021 to life in prison without parole. Jones' case had drawn the attention of reality television star Kim Kardashian and professional athletes with Oklahoma ties, including NBA stars Russell Westbrook, Blake Griffin and Trae Young, and NFL quarterback Baker Mayfield. All of them urged Stitt to commute Jones' death sentence and spare his life.

Sanchez, who maintains his innocence, said he is no longer working with his court-appointed attorneys, but Mark Barrett, who represents Sanchez, said he was appointed by a federal judge.

"If we'd been hired and the client didn't want us anymore, that would be the end of it," Barrett said. 'When there is an appointment, the judge has to release you from your ap-

India deflecting attention from brutal repression of Kashmiri people: FO

dia habitually used terrorism bogey to deflect attention from its brutal repression of Kashmiri people in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and maltreatment of its minorities, said Foreign Office Spokesperson here on Fri-

Responding to media queries regarding the US-India Joint Statement of June 22, 2023, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said: "We consider the Pakistanspecific reference in the Joint Statement from the United States and India',

June 22, 2023, as unwarranted, one-sided, and misleading. The reference is contrary to diplomatic norms and has political overtones. We are surprised that it has been added decounter-terrorism cooperation with the US.

She said, "Pakistan has rendered unmatched sacrifices in the fight against terrorism. In laying down their lives, our law enforcement agencies and armed forces have set an example. People of Pakistan are the real heroes in

The international community has time and again recognized Pakistan's efforts and sacrifices in the fight against terrorism. It has long concluded that terrorism can be defeated through concerted and cooperative actions. Today, we fail to see how the assertions made in the Joint Statement could strengthen the international resolve to fight terrorism. The stateneeded to defeat the scourge of terrorism, has been sacrificed at the altar of geopolitical considerations," she continued.

"In addition to being a state-sponsor of terrorism, India habitually uses terrorism bogey to deflect attention from its brutal repres sion of Kashmiri people in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmi (IIOJK), and maltreatment of its minorities. It is thus completely ill-placed to cast any aspersions on Pakistan and its fight against terror-

The Spokesperson said, "Ironically, the Joint Statement fails to address the key sources of tension and instability in the region and to take cognizance of the grave human rights situ ation in the IIOJK



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi awarding letter of Commendation to an officer during PN Investiture Ceremony held a

Pakistan Navy personnel conferred military awards

KARACHI (APP): Chief conferred to Cdr Syed of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi on Friday conferred awards as the Chief Guest in an Investiture Ceremony to naval personnel held at

The recipients of Sitara-i-lmtiaz (Military) were Cdre Shahzad Iqbal, Cdre Taugeer Ahmad Khawaja, Cdre Muhammad Ahsan Raza Mallhi and Cdre Syed Talat Hussain.

Recipients of Tamghai-lmtiaz (Military) included Cdr Kabbir Yahya Khan, and Lt Cdr Abdul Rehman

Eusaf Viqar and Barkat Ali LCDT was awarded Imtiazi Sanad, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

In addition, 14 Awards Tamgha-i-Khidmat (Military)-I, 17 awards of Tamgha-i-Khidmat (Military)-II and 10 awards of Tamgha-i-Khidmat (Military)-III were conferred upon CPOs and Sailors.

Letter of Commendation by Chief of the Naval Staff was awarded to 29 Officers, CPOs/Sailors and

i ne ceremony was at tended by serving and retired officers of the Paki-



QUETTA: Secretary Law Abdul Saboor Kakar meeting with Parliamentary Secretary Law, Parliamentary Affairs, Science & IT Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi

AIOU establishes **SWIFT Centers at DMJ: Abro**

Independent Report NASEERABAD: Director Allama Iqbal Open University Regional Office Dera Murad Jamali Abdul Rahman Abro has said in his press release that to provide information to the students of the university and solve their problems immediately, the various districts of the regional offices and Establishment of SWIFT Centers in the regions has been started.

Applications are invited from aspirants having knowledge related to computer and digital systems. Establishing these SWIFT centres where students will get timely information and immediate solutions to the

dents, and employment opportunities under SDG-I poverty alleviation. These centres will be paid a reasonable fee by the University on each new admission, he added. In this way SDG-4 quality education will also be promoted. It should be noted that according to the recent Universal Times Higher Education Survey, Allama Iqbal Open University has also received the honour of being the first university in Pakistan and the 25th university among 109 countries in providing quality education, he apprised. The last date for sending application for registration of SWIFT centres is 07.07.2023 which can bedone online at the email ad-

Pak desires close ties with Afghan: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Special Representative on Afghanistan Asif Durrani called on Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari here on Friday and discussed matters of mutual respect.

They reviewed the ongoing situation in Af ghanistan.

The foreign minister reiterated Pakistan's desire to build close co-operative relations with Kabul.

Police cop injured in firing

QUETTA (APP): A police cop was injured in a firing incident that took place in the Airport Road area, here on Friday.

According to a police spokesman, a police cop was attacked by unknown armed men near Almo chowk.

Resultantly, he suf-fered bullet injuries and was rushed to the civil hospital. The assailants man-

aged to escape. The condition of the injured police cop was stated to be out of danger

The cause of the attack was yet to be ascer-

Further probe was underway.

Yousufzai flays attack on police cop

QUETTA (APP): Spokes-of Chief person of Minister(CM) Babar Balochistan Yousufzai on Friday condemned the armed attack on a police cop.

In a statement issued here, Yousufzai said, "Elements involved in the gruesome incident will be brought to justice.'

He also directed the health authorities to ensure the best healthcare facilities for the injured cop at the

Hindu Community takes out rally to show solidarity with Pak Army

dress swift.aiou.edu.pk.

Independent Report KHUZDAR: A rally was taken out by the Hindu community living in

Kanya, Lal Seth Jwari, Ramesh Kumar, Dewan Chand Prakash and others. The participants of



Jhalwan land for centuries the rally reached the press in honour of martyrs of club through different Pakistan and Pakistan routes of the city. The par-Army led by Hindu ticipants of the rally were Panchayat leader Babu shouting slogans in favour

of Pakistan and the Pakistan Army. The elements who insulted the martyrs who sacrificed their precious lives for the protection of Pakistan could not be well-wishers in any case of the country and the na-

The speakers said, Our armed forces have a big hand in making the country invincible.

The martyrs of the homeland are our heroes and thanks to their sacrifices, we are living peacefully today,'

Paying tribute to, acknowledged the pledge that we are with our Pakistan Army and civilian institutions and will remain with

President Dr Arif Alvi on He highlighted that Friday called for further Pakistan was open for busipromoting bilateral econess and investment for all nomic, trade and cultural its friends and partners, and would especially welcome cooperation with the Republic of Korea and Sri Korean investment in vari-Lanka to further cement bious sectors. He stated that Pakistan wanted to increase co-

The president exoperation with Korea, parpressed these views while talking to the outgoing Amticularly in the areas of Inbassador of the Republic of formation Technology and Korea, Suh Sangpyo, and Agriculture. The president the outgoing High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, Vice also called for further promoting cultural cooperation Admiral ® Mohan with Korea, adding that Wijewickrama, who made Pakistan offered some of separate calls on him here the most exotic mountainat Aiwan-e-Sadr. eering and religious tourism Talking to the outgosites and would welcome

ISLAMABAD (APP):

lateral ties.

ing Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, the president said that Pakistan highly valued its multidimensional relationship with Korea, which involved collaborations in various fields such as political, economic, scientific, cultural and people-to-people rela-



Buddhist sites

ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Suh

President for enhancing

economic, cultural coop.

with Korea, Sri Lanka

Sangpyo, paid a farewell call on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari's addressing Press Con-

Saboor Kakar meets Dr. Rubaba: **Meeting chaired by CM to** make final decision on local domicile issue: Dr Rubaba

Independent Report QUETTA: The Secretary Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of

Balochistan, Abdul Saboor Khan Kakar called on the Parliamentary Secretary for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Science and Information Technology, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi here on Friday. During the meeting, the matters regarding meeting of the stake holders about local and domicile certificates and other departmental matters were

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ruababa Buledi said that the final decision about consultation of the leaders of political parties and all stakeholders ahead of the new laws and regulations regarding the local and domicile certificates would be made in the meeting to be held under the

the recommendations of the two meetings held in the Law department are being finalized. The Parliamen-

presidentship of Chief Minister, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo.

She mentioned that

tary Secretary said that the ground situation of provin-By M. Ilyas cial capital. Ouetta and other districts of the border areas is quite different. Therefore. such effective legislation and rules would be formulated keeping in view all the facts and realities so that no complications may be created and no one is deprived of one's right in future. Visa or passport. The Secretary Law According to Pak Im-

and Parliamentary Affairs suggested that if single card may be introduced by computerizing all the necessary documents including local, passport and visa. domicile, driving and arms licenses, then it would facilitate the masses



QUETTA: President SOGP Prof. Azizun Nisa presenting shield to Secretary Information Hamza Shafqaat on eve of SOGP Conference

Despite space constraints in Mina Talha vows to provide optimal facilities to Pak Hajj pilgrims

(APP): Senator Talha Mehmood, the Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Friday said continuous and dedicated efforts being made to secure optimal facilities for Pakistani pilgrims during the Hajj days, despite the lim-

ited space in Mina. Following a meeting with Osama Danish, the Managing Director of Al-Bait Guests, (Duyuf Al-Bait) a prominent Hajj service provider, Senator Talha Mehmood stated that he has urged Osama to allocate the maximum available aiming for a meaningful.

space in Mina and in new Mina for Pakistani pilgrims, as well as for the Pakistan Hajj Muavineen. Osama was also urged to provide quality food in accordance with Pakistani tastes to pilgrims during hajj days. Besides deploying English or Urdu-speaking staff in his Mina office to facilitate Pakistani pilgrims. The Minister stressed sacrifice, resilience, and adherence to Islamic teachings during Hajj. Besides, the Minister urged prioritizing patience,

forgiveness, and religious

obligations over leisure,

Sri Lanka, the President said that Pakistan attached great importance to its longstanding friendship and cooperative ties with Sri Lanka, which was its second-largest trading partner in South Asia. He added that Paki-

ing High Commissioner of

stan wanted to further expand economic cooperation and trade relations with Sri Lanka under the Pak-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement. He stated that both countries should explore ways to rejuvenate SAARC and work together to fight poverty and promote peace, economic growth, tourists from Korea to visit and development for the benefit of the entire region.

He remarked that Pa-He also recalled Pakistan and Sri Lanka's supkistan was home to the port for each other at the Gandhara Civilization and some of the most sacred UN and other international relics in Buddhism, which bodies and expressed the hope that this cooperation would continue at international fora

PM, President **EUC discuss** bilateral coop in diverse areas

PARIS (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday met President of the EU Commission Ursula von der Leyen here on the sidelines of the New Global Financing Pact Summit.

The Prime Minister thanked the President of the Commission for her participation in the Resilient Pakistan Conference held in Geneva on 9 January this year. He conveyed Pakistan's commitment to continue working in close pean institutions for rehabilitation and reconstruction in the flood-affected

Visa policy for Afghan refugees relaxed on eve of Eidul Adha

PESHAWAR: On the special occasion of Eid al-Adha, the Afghan refugees who want to go Afghanistan for celebrating Eid al-Adha there at Afghanistan the Pak-Afghan border authority will allowed them through Tazkira without a

migration authority they can go to Afghanistan through Afghan Registration Card only without a According to the Pak

immigration authorities, the facility for Afghan refugees to go to Afghanistan for Eid Al-Adha.

In order not to face any kind of problem, the clearance process has been started from today and tomorrow from 7 AM to 9 PM.

Grand protest demo held at Chaman Awami Tehreek

Independent Report QUETTA: A grand protest demonstration was held under the auspices of Chaman Awami Tehreek in Chaman on Friday.

The demonstration was turned into a big public meeting at Sanatan chowk. The President of Awami Tehreek Rehmatullah Pehalwan, Jan Achakzai, Abdul Razzaq Khan, Attaullah Muslim Bashir, khan Shamsullah and others addressed the public meeting.

They demanded of the concerned authorities to abolish the Gadang check post immediately.
They said that the

poor people of the area particularly the small traders are facing immense problems and hardships, therefore, these must be addressed. They also demanded to facilitate the people for issuance of the passports instead of creating problems for them.

PM urges expatriates to expose anti-Pak propaganda, condemn May 9 arson

day urged the overseas Pakistanis to play their role to expose the anti-Pakistan propaganda in their respective countries, besides condemning the arson that took place on May 9.

The prime minister, in an interaction with the representatives of the Pakistani community in France as well as the Pakistan Business Forum, told the expatriates that the arsonists of May 9 were spreading lies to instigate the people abroad. The prime minister is visiting Paris to attend the New Global Financing Pact Summit hosted by France.

He said the overseas Pakistanis were Pakistan's ambassadors and an asset, and that their services for the country's development were laudable. Minister Prime

Shehbaz told the community members that through

PARIS (APP): Prime Min- its tough economic deciister Shehbaz Sharif on Fri-sions, the incumbent government saved the country from default.

During the last four years, the economy was pushed to the verge of collapse, and unemployment and inflation were at their peaks, he added.

The prime minister said that having inherited an isolated Pakistan on the diplomatic fronts, his government made constant efforts throughout the year to revive foreign relations.

He said the recently unveiled Economic Revival Plan would prove to be a milestone to restore Pakistan's economic position and that a Special Investment Facilitation Council had been established to remove impediments to investment. Prime Minister Shehbaz said that only economic sovereignty and stability could guarantee a safe



President of the EU Commission Ursula Von Der Leyen on the sidelines of the New Global Financing Pact Summit.

Hina hails contributions of women in diplomatic field

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for For-eign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar Friday said the significance of June 24 as the 'International Day of Women in Diplomacy' was self-evident, symbolizing global recognition and admiration for women's accomplishments in the diplomatic realm.

She made these remarks in a message delivered at a roundtable discussion to mark the 'International Day of Women Diplomacy' here on Friday by the Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI).

The minister said, eign Minister of Pakistan, this Day held great meaning and significance for her personally.

"It both brings satisfaction and strengthens our resolve to continue to do more. Nations proudly showcase their progress in appointing more women in diplomatic roles, deserving commendation for tangible advancements," she said adding Pakistan had made notable strides despite socio-economic challenges, with women achieving prominent positions, including a woman Prime Minister and a young Nobel Prize laure-

"While celebrating, we must also acknowledge remaining challenges and work together for a future of equal opportunities, ambeing the first woman For- and utilizing their expertise

in peace-making, peacebuilding, and achiev-ing Sustainable Develop-ment Goals (SDGs)."



GWADAR: Chairman COPHC meeting with Director General GDA Mujeebur Rehman Qambrani

GoB established 10 libraries in province QUETTA (APP): The braries across the province

in Quetta and other parts of the province in the out going financial year to encourage the book reading habit among the people, especially youth. The government has

allocated fund to provide books to the libraries established in which will be open to public next month, said an official of Balochistan government. "The project has also

vation and expansion of li- if they turn to reading.

Balochistan government to also help increase lithas established 10 libraries eracy," the official said. He eracy," the official said. He added that libraries are nurseries that produce leaders, writers, scholars, philosophers, and teachers who serve the nation. Highlighting the importance of books, he said, libraries will not only encourage bookreading culture among youth but will also prove beneficial in their capacity building. He said the students will be able to compete with their counterparts from been initiated for the reno- other provinces in education

Joint efforts to yield far-reaching results for HEIs: Dr. Shafiq were discussed.

Independent Report QUETTA: Vice Chancellor of Balohchistan University

Prof. Dr. Shafiqur Rehman on Friday said that joint efforts would yield far-reaching results for the higher education institutions of the province to cope with the modern demands and development

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting at the Hall of Balochistan University.

The meeting was attended by the vice-chancellors of the universities of the province, senior teachers, and relevant representatives.

In the meeting, various issues including better relations between the universities of the province, promotion of education, research, training activities, financial and other issues

Despite, this regard, academic memorandum agreements were signed between the universities. The Vice-Chancellor

said that the purpose of this was to utilize each other's educational, research experiences and knowledge, including seminars, workshops, and teacher exchanges, and ensure measures to implement future educational projects. While thanking the

heads of the universities of the province, the Vice-Chancellor of Balochistan University said that joint efforts would yield far-reaching results for the higher education institutions of the province to cope with the modern demands and develop-