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No power on earth can hamper Pakistan's progress

PM, COAS vow to put country on road to progress through Green Pakistan Initiative

Army assures govt of all-out support for economic stability; Pakistani nation has potential to rise to the top; No power on the earth can stop Pakistan from developing, says Army Chief

ISLAMABAD (APP): sources,"he added. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday said that the Green Pakistan Initiative would eventually bring about the second agriculture revolution, in addition to the creation of four mil-

on agriculture and food security, he said agriculture was the backbone of the country and the farmers worked hard to provide food to millions of people and they would be remembered in the history as builders of Pakistan.

progress of Pakistan, adding the green revolution in 1960s was due to the introduction of new varieties of seed, building of dams and canals and modern agriculture practices in the coun-

He said farmers should

He was hopeful that due to the incentives given by the government, cotton produce would also en-

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi administer-

ing the oath of office to Dr. Sved Muhammad Anwer

as the Alim Judge of the Federal Shariat Court at

JUI-F Amir Maulana Fazl

calls on PM to discuss

political situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): ful and lauded the prime minister and the government of Jammiat-e-Ulema minister and the government of the prime minister and the government of the

ment of Pakistan for a nar-

forts of the coalition gov-

ernment under the leader-

ship of the prime minister

to steer the country out of

the economic difficulties

and put it on the path of

prosperity. The prime min-

ister also appreciated the

role of the coalition part-

ners in the government and

said that without their co-

operation, taking the coun-

try out of its economic

woes and reaching an agree-

ment with the International

Monetary Fund (IMF),

ernment in taking the diffi-

rating to CCC from IDR

Rating)....Another posi-

tive news towards current

economic revival journey

AlhamdoLilah...Congratulations

to PM @CMShehbaz, the

Nation, Govt Allies &

Economic Team," the min-

ister tweeted. The rating

agency has identified key

indicators that contributed

to the positive develop-

ment rating for the country

which include improvement

in easing external financing

risks. It says the upgrade

reflects Pakistan's im-

proved external liquidity

and funding conditions fol-

lowing its Staff-Level

Agreement (SLA) with the

International Monetary Fund

(IMF) on a nine-month Stand-

He praised JUI-F amir

were not possible.

Fazlur for standing with the gov-

cult decisions

ISLAMABAD: President JUI-F Maulana Fazl-Ur-

Rehman call on Prime Minister Muhammad

Fitch upgrades Pak to

'CCC', Dar greets nation

He also lauded the ef-

rative in this regard.

Islam (JUI-F) Maulana

Fazlur Rehman on Mon-

day called on Prime Minis-

ter Muhammad Shehbaz

Sharif to hold consultations

over the current political

Minister for Communica-

tions Maulana Asad

Mahmood was also present, PM Office Media

Wing said in a press release.

appreciated the firm reac-

tion and steps of the gov-

ernment and prime minis-

ter with regard to the highly

condemnable act of des-

ecration of the Holy Quran

Rehman termed the incident

in Sweden as highly regret-

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Fitch Ratings has up-

graded Pakistan's Long-

Term Foreign-Currency

Issuer Default Rating (IDR) to 'CCC' from

CCC, indicating a posi-

tive development towards

the betterment of the

country's economy Fed-

eral Minister for Finance

and Revenue, Senator

Mohammad Ishaq Dar in

a tweet said it was another

positive development to-

wards current economic

He congratulated Prime Minister, nation,

government allies and eco-

nomic team for this

achievement. "Global

upgrades Pakistan's Long

Term Foreign-Currency

Rating Agency "Fitch"

revival journey.

in Sweden.

Maulana

Both leaders of JUI-F

During the meeting,

situation of the country.

The prime minister ment to provide standard seeds, fertilizers and pesticides to the farmers and equip them with the latest

technology. Shehbaz Sharif appreinitiative for giving real-time information about any pest

He expressed concern over the adulterated drugs given to the farmers and warned of strict action against the culprits.

He lauded the vision of get more profits than the Army Chief Syed Asim cost of production of their Munir for development of crops including wheat. The agriculture sector in the was forced to save its government did increase the support price of wheat country. "We have to implement the vision for agriculwhich led to record produce ture through collaboration among federal and provincial governments, agriculture departments and research institutes," he added.

He said the government was ready to fund the agriculture research centres, adding unfortunately there had been no worthwhile

favouritism.

Shehbaz Sharif said state-owned enterprises were losing Rs 600 billion annually. Pakistan imported \$ 4.5 billion of palm imperative to ensure ciated the new agriculture oil which was a burden on the national economy, he noted.

There was a time when Pakistan was producing more cotton than its neighbouring country but then it lost the track and was now producing less of staple crops, he said add-ing Pakistan could not afford more foreign loans but economy from default by getting loans from friendly countries, he added.

The PM said gulf countries were ready to invest in the agriculture sector and bring modern machinery to boost crops production in the country.

Pakistan needed political stability to attract investment as in an unstable day.

Sharif Monday dared Imran

Niazi to face courts for his

crimes and cases of corrup-

tion and plunder, and se-

verely criticized him for

carrying out revenge against

Nawaz Sharif, his party and

for fabricating false cases

against political opponents.

account of Imran Niazi,

Shehbaz Sharif thanked Al-

lah for making his party in-cluding his Quaid

Muhammad Nawaz Sharif

victorious against lies of

opponent political group

blinded by political revenge,

against baseless cases and

in every test of public ser-

but in the decisions of Na-

Not only in Pakistan

In a tweet tagging the

PM dares Imran Niazi

to face courts for his

crimes, corruption

ISLAMABAD (APP): satisfactory and sufficient

Prime Minister Shehbaz response to every question Sharif Monday dared Imran of merchants of lies, he

sponsibility of the govern- work due to the culture of environment, investors shied away, he added.

Pakistan could attract investment of \$ 40 to 50 billion in the years ahead and it could make food exports to the gulf countries which were presently importing food products worth \$ 40 billion.

He was of the view that Pakistan had to compete with the world and increase its exports and added the economy would get revived in the next two years.

"It is demand of our national security that the country's food security and economic security should be strengthened," he

Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir has assured Pakistan Army's full support for all the initiatives being initiated under the ambit of Special Investment Facilitation Council, including Green Pakistan Initiative launched to-

The PM said the latest

example was the verdict in

the plot allotment reference

in the Accountability Court

Lahore in which it was

clearly stated that Nawaz

Sharif was made target of

political victimization and

there was no case but it was

a fabrication The transgres-

sors who called this false-

hood a reference should

seek forgiveness from Al-

lah and the people, he said,

adding,"But only those

seek forgiveness who have

fear of Allah in their hearts

and have the capacity to ask for clemency. Those who

justify their sins with more

lies become an example for



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurates Green Pakistan Initiative, COAS General Syed Asim Munir hands over the inaugural scroll to the Prime Minister.

May 9 incidents benefit Pakistan's 'enemy', nation triumphed with foiling of conspiracy: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb Monday said the May 9 incidents had only benefitted the "enemy", but it was the nation who ultimately emerged victorious with the foiling of conspiracy against Pakistan.

Ironically, she said, the "foreign agent", who masterminded the May 9 tragedy made a tweet the other day asking who benefited from the May

9 tragedy.
"Only the enemies of the country benefitted from the acts of vandalism and arson, but the people of Pakistan are the ultimate winners as the conspiracy against the country's integrity has been foiled," she said while addressing a press conference.

The minister was responding to a question

Govt decides to

appoint trade

officer in India

ISLAMABAD (INP): The

federal government has de-

cided to appoint a trade of-ficer in India despite a halt

to commercial traffic be-

tween the two countries

since New Delhi altered the

status of Occupied Kash-

According to media reports, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has ordered

initiating the process for appointed a new trade of-

ficer in India despite sus-

pension of trading between

the two neighbours. The

prime minister also abol-

ished the grade-20 post of

trade and investment min-

ister in India. The impor-

tant decision has been taken

to appoint a trade and in-

vestment consular on grade-

19 post. The important de-

cision has been made just a

month before the constitu-

tional term of the govern-

ment end to appoint the officer at the Pakistan High

Commission in New Delhi

Non-controversial

care taker set up to

help conduct fair

elections: Kirmani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa-

kistan Muslim League-N

Senator Asif Kirmani on

Sunday said that a non-

controversial care taker set

up would help conduct

transparent elections in Pa-

vision channel, he said there

is a serious need to have

consultation with leaders of

political parties especially

Pakistan Peoples Party and

Pakistan Muslim League-N

Chief Nawaz Sharif to es-

tablish Care taker govern-

The general elections

would be held in October

under the supervision of

Care taker government, he

The election commis-

ment in August.

personalities.

Talking to a private tele-

mir in 2019.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb addressing a press conference.

posed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman on his Twitter handle asking who was benefited from the May 9 inciand private properties, desecrating memorials of ambulances, schools and

Marrivum said the PTI chairman claimed that his party was the biggest one in the country, but it exited dents of vandalising public only on Twitter as it had no credible spokesperson. In fact nobody wanted to martyrs, and burning of come forward to defend the persistent lies churned out

mosques by the PII work-by its chairman. **Digital economy vital for** sustainable development, says Ahsan Iqbal BEIJING (APP): Federal Minister for Planning Develop-

ment & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Igbal on Monday shed light on the importance of growing the digital economy, termed digital economy is vital to ensure sustainable development of the country.

The minister made these remarks while speaking at



the panel discussion titled: "Industrialization & Digital Era Connectivity," organized by the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) here.

It is noted that the Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal is on a four-day official visit to China to attend a special commemorative 12th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) to be held on July 11(tomorrow) to mark the 10- year celebrations of China Pakistan Economic Corridor

The CPEC enters a significant milestone as it celebrates a decade of remarkable achievements in fostering economic growth, infrastructure development, and regional connectivity.

Court acquits Suleman, others in money-laundering case

AHORE (APP): A spe-Shehbaz and others in a Rs 16 billion money-laundering case, registered by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

allowing acquittal applications of Suleman Shehbaz and others. Earlier, the FIA sub-

mitted replies to 27 questions, asked by the court, during the proceedings.

To a court query, the FIA prosecutor submitted that a joint investigation sion of Pakistan (ECP), is team, headed by Dr Rizwan, had conducted an responsible to hold the inquiry into the moneygeneral elections in a laundering charges.

transparent manner, he The court asked To a question about the whether the FIA recorded representative of care taker statements of any witnesses during the probe. government, he said the discussion is underway to in-The investigation officer kept silence and did not troduce Non-controversial

The court questioned cial court (central) on Mon- what action had been taken day acquitted Suleman against those who kept changing their stance during the inquiry and investigation. The investigation officer responded that no action had been taken Special Court Judge against them. The court Bakht Fakhr Behzad an- asked whether there was nounced the verdict while any evidence in seven volumes of the FIA, submitted in the court earlier, and on what basis or of evidence, a challan was submitted in the court. To a question about former FIA DG Sanaullah Abbasi's absence from the court, the FIA prosecutor replied that a letter was written to him, but he did not appear. Suleman's counsel submitted that former FIA DG

Bashir Memon had admitted that he also faced pressure for making the case. The FIA prosecutor

submitted that there was no direct evidence of money laundering against Suleman Shehbaz.

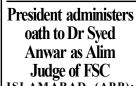
Green Pakistan Initiative to usher in agri revolution, create four mln jobs, says PM;

lion jobs in the country.
Addressing a seminar

He said the farmers had the due right to avail incentives for the agriculture sector and it was the responsibility of the government to provide them all possible assistance for overall development and progress. "Farmers work hard but it is common knowledge that they are facing lack of re-

said growth in the agriculture sector would definitely bring Pakistan at part with developed countries. He said hard work was

government did increase the of the commodity, he added.



SLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday administered oath to Dr Syed Muhammad Anwar as Alim Judge of the Federal Shariat Court at a ceremony held here at the President House.

The appointment has been made for a period of

three years. The president adline with clause (2) of the Article 203C of the Con-

KKH closed for traffic near Hassanabad due to landslide

ISLAMABAD (APP): Karakoram Highway is closed for traffic near Hassanabad due to land-

A Spokesman of the National Highway Au-thority(NHA) said on Monday that necessary machinery has been delivered, and the

road is being opened. He said that N-35 is closed for all types of traf-fic near Nasirabad due to landslides. He asked the citizens traveling on the highway to start their journey after getting the necessary information.

PM felicitates Shavkat Mirziyoyev on his re-election as Uzbek President

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has extended heartiest congratulations to Shavkat Mirziyoyev on his re-election as President of Uzbekistan.

In a tweet on Monday. Shavkat said Mirziyoyev's electoral victory is reflective of the trust that people of Uzbekistan repose in his leadership.

The Prime Minister said he looks forward to working with the Uzbek President to further build on Pakistan-Uzbekistan bilateral relations for the benefit of the two friendly

Minister of State, Chairman Prime Minister's Task Force on Gandhara Tourism Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani Monday said the promotion of religious tourism would play a key role in making a roadmap of prosperity and development of the coun-

He was flanked by a delegation of Buddhist monks from Vietnam here, the minister said the incumbent government was serious about promoting and projecting the country's tourism to highlight the soft image of the

He said that Pakistan was fully safe for tourists, and offered the rich cultural heritage of the ancient Gandhara Civilization. He said the promotion of religious tourism would lead to enhance commercial activities and attract foreign exchange. Dr. Ramesh Kumar said the symposium would also help to

A three-day international Gandhara symposium will commence in

Islamabad on July 11 to showcase the treasure in Pakistan, he added.

government for facilitating Buddhist people and fol-lowers of other faiths to explore Gandhara Civilization and sites of Buddhism in Pakistan. They said there will be more travelers in the future to visit the cultural heritage of Pakistan. They urged the media to play its due role in promoting Gandhara civilization.

The delegation also took a round of the Islamabad Museum and showed keen interest in



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly, Raja Pervez Ashraf in a meeting with Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq

tional Crime Agency and others. Their hearts are courts of Britain there was locked by Allah." Dr Ramesh says **Tourism promotion to** help in making Pak development roadmap

ISLAMABAD (APP): connectivity with the

trove Gandhara Civilization and Buddhist Heritage Speaking on the occasion, the Buddhist Monks from Vietnam lauded Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and his

and Pakistan's potential for religious tour-

Pakistan's Buddhist heri-



Dar at Parliament House.

Daily soice of Masse Independent

Food concerns

The government has put into gear a new strategy, backed by the army and financed by the food-deficit Gulf countries and China, to tackle critical issues of low agricultural productivity, food insecurity and food

The Land Information and Management System-Centre of Excellence, launched on Friday, will focus on transforming how farming is done in Pakistan with a view to optimising agricultural output for improving domestic food security and creating exportable surplus for the Gulf states and China.

It is being financed by Saudi assistance of \$500m. The GIS-based initiative aims at enhancing modern agro-farming, and utilising 22m acres of uncultivated state land. The government is expecting huge investments in agriculture from the Gulf and China under LIMS. It is perhaps the first multipronged strategy designed to simultaneously target urgent challenges related to agriculture: growing food insecurity, a surging food and agricultural import bill and diminishing export surplus. The success of the new scheme is projected to address these issues to a large extent. While the LIMS initiative is a step in the right direction, its scope is likely to remain confined to the foreign-funded agriculture projects under it — mostly for producing exportable surplus for investing nations. With food insecurity rising in the country—the World Food Programme has said that 37pc of Pakistanis are food-insecure and one-fifth of them are facing a severe food crisis — it is imperative for policymakers to quickly design strategies to deal with long-standing, deeper structural issues such as climate impact, soil erosion, land fragmentation, lower crop yields, etc, All these are pulling down Pakistan's important agricul-

This becomes even more critical as the population is projected to grow to 367.8m by 2050. The surging population has already put unbearable pressure on the food system, and food insecurity in the country is billed to worsen in the coming years unless remedial steps are taken now.

With the country's agriculture sector characterised mostly by smallholder farmers, the rise in the demand for food has to be met either through an increase in yield or expansion in cultivable cropland. Pakistan needs to work on both as climate change, resulting in droughts, floods, uncertain weather patterns, etc, is likely to increase the already considerable stress on the food supply system. There is no doubt that the government needs to encourage the utilisation of uncultivated state land to boost crop output. Besides investing in swathes of wasteland to make them cultivable, it must also put a stop to the encroachment of agri-

cultural lands by sprawling housing schemes. A lot is required to be done to ensure food security and create exportable agricultural surplus. The LIMS initiative is only the first step. The next one should focus on strengthening the capacity of agricultural research institutions to increase yields

The danger ahead

age fund disbursements

will not be coming anytime



Huma Yusuf

Out of control. That's how the UN described the pace of climate change last week. The days leading up to last Wednesday were the hottest on record. July was the hottest day on Earth in 125,000 years, signalling that we're now well on track for average temperatures to increase by three degrees Celsius by the end of the century. And this is iust the beginning.

Pakistan is once again suffering the consequences of a rapidly heating planet. At least 50 people, including eight children, have died since June 25 in floods and landslides triggered by heavy monsoon rains. Lahore last week received recordbreaking rainfall, and Karachi had only just finrelief at dodging Cyclone Biparjoy when it is forced to brace for rain. We talk about the 2010 and 2022 floods as freak, one-off disasters. But they are our new reality, reflecting the global 134 per cent increase in climate change-related flooding since the turn of this century

As our planet approaches climate tipping points, Pakistan will find itself in alternating cycles of flooding and drought, worsening in frequency and intensity with each passing year. For that reason, whoever becomes the next prime minister must put climate change adaptation and mitigation at the centre of all policymaking.

The hype last year funding — announced at the 2022 UN climate change conference COP27 Pakistan's experience with devastating floods

seems to have unleashed, tion, that climate change counter-intuitively, com- adaptation and mitigation placency among our are luxuries for the develpolicymakers. They now dream of foreign funds flowing into climate finance projects. But discussions in the run-up to COP28 later this year But the fallacy of should serve as a reality check that loss and dam-

Questions about such funding persist. Where will the money come from? We know that high-emitting, rich countries will be on the hook, but beyond that, details remain elusive. Will funds be generated through carbon taxes or other levies? Will states offer grants or partner with the private sector to mobilise capital? How will financing be structured and amplified? And most importantly, what counts as loss and damage? The last is a tricky question because it could encompass everything from immediate humanitarian assistance to more long-term investments into climate-adaptaished breathing a sigh of tion projects aimed at minimising loss and damage. Will we fund the prevention or the cure?

In all scenarios, loss and damage funding is likely to be conditional. There are likely to be expectations that countries receiving loss and damage funding have good disaster management plans, emissions reductions strategies, green transition pathways, and relatively stable economies and governments. Recipients will also have to evidence some rule of law, transparency and accountability, to ensure that funding is properly deployed. Pakistan is sadly struggling on all these counts.

Ironically, this struggle itself is often around loss and damage cited as a reason why Pakistan is not tackling the climate challenge more aggressively. A after gaining impetus from common refrain is that we and we're now fast runcan't afford to think ning out of time. -- Courabout the green transi- tesy Dawn

oped world. Pakistanis. we counter, have to prioritise feeding themselves and powering their homes and factories.

such thinking is increasingly being challenged. For example, there is no feeding ourselves without dealing with climate change. An article published last week in Nature Communications points to the risk that warming jet streams could lead to simultaneous harvest failures in major food-producing countries, presenting a severe threat to global food security. The article emphasises that such a phenomenon has not yet been properly modelled and so is poorly understood, but that basic global food security is certainly not guaranteed. Indeed, 'breadbasket failures' would take us back to the eras of mass famine and resulting social instability, even con-

Pakistan's lack of

planning in the face of such impending disaster is arguably its greatest political crisis. And that's saying something, given how recent events have played out. A key danger of any technocratic, stitch-up government that may emerge is that rather than find meaningful routes to climate adaptation and resilience, it is swayed by the promise of climate tech, geoengineering or fanciful carbon capture technologies. After all, it's easier to plan for a future in which a problem is miraculously solved, rather than one in which the only way to avert state failure is to find an inclusive, equitable way to share increasingly meagre resources. Today's ruling elite and their power brokers are not up to the task,

Tando China

ting the

prosecution

mainland and Tando.

Returning to how

the conduct of interna-

tional relations is chang-

ing and the ways in which

political, economic and

military power is projected,

instance: the effort to rein

in the dissenters among

the diaspora and bring

back the accused to stand

trial is no hush-hush af-

Hunt'. It could have been

a title thought up by the

US Department of Justice

to add drama to a plot al-

ready thick with intrigue

and conspiracy, but for

have been reporting

about the operation,

complete with pictures of

People's Republic wants

in China. The man whose

at the behest of the Chi-

the Chinese dailies who

take the Chinese case for



Shahzad Sharjeel

We have all read accounts of, or watched movies about fugitives brought to justice from far-off corners of the world. Historically, these happen to be persons wanted for war crimes, genocide, or both. The protagonists are usually secret agents of the wronged country/nation, determined to bring the evil doers to justice even if they happen to be octogenarians. Since these operations are beyond the pale of international law and are not governed by any extradition treaty between the countries concerned, they are undertaken in a classic cloak-and-dagger style: the mission and the 'missionaries' remain unnamed, till Hollywood decides to tell the tale, that is. How international relations are conducted is changing. We shall return to it, but a digression first.

You have heard of Tando Adam, Tando Jam, and many other places named Tando. Among vernacular words where etymology stumbles, 'tando' stands out. The consensus on its closest meaning is 'outpost'. One can only resort to conjecture that when these settlements first came up, they may have been considered outposts of stronger and somewhat distant centres of power. In large metropolises

around the world, names like Little Columbia or Bangladesh Chinatown are commonplace. These names come about as the immigrants try to hang on to some part of their erstwhile identity, or the natives — usually earlier migrants —

ghettoise the new arrivals. the convictions by the A federal court in New York court is on that New York has convicted list on charges of embezzlement that carry sethree men, one a retired New York police officer vere sentences, including and two men of Chinese the death penalty. According to a US descent from the Big Apple on charges of abet-

government release, the Chinese also had an in-Chinese government's efforts to ternational red notice isrein in the diaspora. The sued against the man believes through Interpol in 2015. China is maintaining The two countries, howaround 100 outposts, sort ever, do not have an exof overseas police statradition treaty. A federal tions, across the US, UK, US court will determine Belgium, France, etc. True the punishment, ranging or not, one wonders: here from 10 to 25 years' imwe are unable to maintain prisonment, for the three police stations on our men convicted for conmainland', while pop-up spiracy, interstate stalk-Tando China' has suping, surveillance, harassposedly become a global ment, and working as agents of a foreign government without intimat-Not a day passes without someone reminding the attorney general. ing us that the Chinese The former New York poare taking over the entire lice officer pleaded that he globe. Looking at our inundertook the assigncreasing dependence and ment as a private investithe ignominious liability gator, not knowing the we have become for our Chinese government's friends, many amongst us connection to the case. desire a Hong Kong-type The prosecution claims arrangement; only this that Chinese officials time, the leaseholder and have been flown in to suthe lessee share a land pervise the day-to-day border. No 'hostile enemy proceedings of these purported Chinese police corridor' between the

> outposts. We also have 'persons of interest' living in exile, and, from time to time, hear noises about bringing them back to stand trial in

courts of law. However, despite having an extensive network of extradition treaties, we have mismanaged our affairs at home so badly that governing our very fair. It has a name. It is own Tando towns has becalled 'Operation Fox come taxing. In the race for global projection between China and the US, the former has a lead of a couple of thousand years while the latter is at best a

We, too, have a heritage dating back some 7,000 years; the question is whether we own it to join hundreds of persons the a marathon of eons to survive and thrive, or mark brought back to and tried 712AD as our year of birth, or even a much later date harassment purportedly and descend even further from vassal status to serfbestow these names to nese government led to dom? -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Dar chairs Cabinet Committee on Privatization (CCoP)

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting of Cabinet Committee on Privatization (CCoP) to-

Federal Minister for Power Mr. Khurram Dastgir Khan, Federal Minister Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, Federal Minister for Privatization / Chairman Privatization Commission Mr. Abid Hussain Bhayo, SAPM on Finance Mr. Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Mr. Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Chairman RRMC Ashfaq Yousuf Tola, Federal secretaries and senior officials attended the meeting.

The Privatization Commission submitted a summary regarding privatization of Services In-

ternational Hotel (SIH) and its privatization process. The CCoP after detailed discussion allowed Privatization Commission to proceed towards successful conclusion of SIH transaction with completion of transfer/mutation process in the name of the purchaser. The Privatization Commission also presented a summary on privatization of with one single (pre-qualified) bidder. After detailed deliberations, CCoP decided to allow Privatization Commission to proceed

The Privatisation updated the Committee on Commission tabled a summary related to Budget Estimates of the Privatization Commission for Fiscal Year 2023-24 to the tune of Rs. 1248.8 million. The CCoP after detailed deliberation approved the summary. The Privatisation Com-

mission also presented summaries on privatisation of Pakistan Engineering Com-(PECO) pany House Building Finance privatization of Sindh engineering Limited (SEL) and neering Limited (SEL) and briefed the meeting on their status. The CCoP after discussion deferred both the summaries with directions that Secretary Privatization with single source/negoti-Commission, Secretary ated transaction for Law & Justice and Secre-Privatization of HBFCL tary Industries & Produc-Law & Justice and Secrewith sole pre-qualified intion may hold mutual convestor namely Pakistan sultations and come up with future course of action in both cases

Mortgage Refinance Company Ltd (PMRCL).

The price of the Euro increased by Rs 4.34 to

the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 52 paisa and 51 paisa to close at Rs76.17 and



(PWC) called on Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, today and presented him latest publication titled "Navigating the future of Opportunities and Challenges" on country's banking sector.

Pak has vast investment opportunities in various sectors including IT: Amin

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Syed Amin-ul-Haque has emphasized the abundant investment opportunities available in the country across multiple sectors, particularly in Information Technology (IT).

a statement, he said that the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MOITT) is committed to extending comprehensive support and facilities to businesses and investors in various domains, including Incubation Centers, Software Technology Parks, Mobile Manufacturing.

ne minister's remarks highlight government's recognition of the potential for growth and development in Pakistan's IT industry. With a skilled workforce, a growing digital infrastructure. and a conducive environment for technological innovation. Pakistan has become an at-

and the Telecom sector.

tractive destination for investment in IT-related

ventures. The MOITT, under Syed Amin Ul Haque's leadership, aimed to foster a favourable ecosystem for businesses and investors by providing necessary resources, infrastructure, and assistance.

This includes establishing Incubation Centers that o ffer mentoring, and resources to startups, facilitating the growth of emerging technology companies.

dditionally, Software Technology Parks will be established to create specialized zones equipped with state-ofthe-art facilities, encouraging the growth of software development and IT-enabled ser-

vices. Furthermore, the government is keen on promoting mobile manufacturing in Pakistan, aiming to attract investment in this sector. By providing incentives and facilities, the MOITT aims to estab-

lish a robust mobile manufacturing industry that contributes to lo cal employment, reduces imports, and strengthens country's self-suffi ciency in technology. The Telecom sector, a vital

component of Pakistan's digital transformation. also receives significant attention from the MOITT. The government aims to support and facilitate telecom companies, ensuring an enabling environment for their operations and promoting further investment in expanding and improving the country's telecom infrastructure.

yed Amin Ul Haque's announcement reinforces the government's commitment to promoting investment and fostering growth across multiple sectors, particularly in the realm of IT. offering comprehensive support and facilities, the

MOITT aims to attract local and international in vestors, paving the way for technological advancement and economic progress in Pakistan.

Standing body declares performance of Engineering Dev. Board unsatisfactory

ISLAMABAD (Online): Mohammad Ishaq Khan in Standing Committee on Industry and Production has been told that increase in interest rate is obstacle in development of small busi-

The interest rate reached 22 percent. First live stock farm is

going to be built in Sheikhupura under name Royal Group in the name of Royal group.

This live stock farm will be made on collaboration with Chinese company and Royal Group.
Committee directed

Secretary Finance to issue SME funds immediately. The meeting of Committee was held under

Members of Committee said that institution has completed 25 years.

Parliament House.

What goals have been achieved so far? Industries of the coun-

try are in decline. If we import tissue papers then what are we

Secretary for Industry and Production told that you have highlighted an important issue and it has several reasons.

We have not made policies to develop industries. CEO EDB told that funds of SME are stuck in Ministry of Finance.

Sahiwal has great potential for rice, livestock.



QUETTA: Regional Business Head UBL Balochistan Syed Shakir Agha meeting with Balochistan Governor Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Jazz launches Garaj Partner League to Transform Local IT, Technology Landscape

Garaj, Pakistan's fastestgrowing local cloud service provider, recently launched the Garaj Partner League, which is the country's firstever partnership program focused on building a vertical forward partner ecosystem. The event garnered the presence of Garaj's new and prospective cloud partners, officials from the IT ministry, as well as professionals from the broader tech industry.
The Garaj cloud plat-

form is built to provide a true cloud experience across industries and is hosted in Pakistan's largest rated 3 Datacenter where customer security and accessibility are

(INP): prioritized, and solutions are tailored for customers' On-Demand and PAYG model. With its own selfservice portal, Garaj enables customers to easily subscribe, auto-provision, and modify their subscriptions without the need for human interaction. The company currently operates two compliant and certified data centers in Lahore and Islamabad, and they are set to inaugurate another data center in Karachi by the end of this year.

Speaking at the occasion, Asif Aziz, Chief Business Officer at Jazz, said, "Cloud computing has the potential to unlock significant economic growth.

GILGIT: Farmers busy in collecting wheat for thrashing and making bundles.

FAO delegation receives briefing about **BISP's initiatives** ISLAMABAD (INP): A high-level Mission from the

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), led by Benjamin Davis, Director of the Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division at FAO HQ Rome, called on Secretary Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Amer Ali Ahmed, to discuss various initiatives of

the programme. During the meeting, Secretary BISP provided an overview of the BISP and its initiatives undertaken by it

The FAO delegation also included Mark Johnson, Social Protection Expert at FAO HQ Rome, Bhalla Economist, also from FAO HQ Rome, Garima, Economist at FAO HQ Rome, and Aamer. The meeting is part of their 5-day visit to Pakistan aimed at identifying technical support from FAO on poverty graduation. Secretary BISP underscored the crucial role of the Benazir Income Support Programme in providing cash support to the vulnerable and

marginalized segments of Pa-

kistani society

Rupee sheds Rs1.91against **US Dollar**

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistani Rupee on Monday witnessed Rs1.91 devaluation against the US Dollar (USD) in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 279.80 against the previous working day's value of Rs 277.89. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market stood at Rs 281 and Rs 284 respectively.

close at Rs 306.58 against the last day's closing of Rs 302.24, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen gained 03 paisa to close at Rs1.96, whereas an increase of Rs 4.59 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 358.51 as compared to its last day's closing of Rs 353.92.

The exchange rates of Rs74.58, respectively.

CM approves free treatment for people in emergencies at social security hospitals

taker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presided over a meeting at his office which approved free treatment for the general public in emergencies at social security hospitals, demgovernment's commitment

to providing accessible The meeting, in principle, endorsed the provision of free treatment to

domestic workers in social

security hospitals as a fun-

damental principle. To ensure the implementation of these decisions, the Punjab government will bear the expenses for the free treatment of treatment facilities through health cards.

In cases where the expenses exceed the specified limit of the health card, the Punjab government will cover the additional costs, ensuring comprehensive healthcare coverage for the

vices, digital cards will be issued to patients receiving treatment at social security

In order to support the certainty of treatment

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker ChiefMinister Punjab security hospitals. Moretaker ChiefMinister Punjab security hospitals. have the option to avail the Employees Social Security Institution (PESSI) during the meeting.

Provincial Ministers Dr Javed Akram, Amir Mir, and Mansoor Qadir, health, finance, labor & information departments' secretaries, commissioner PESSI, and others attended the meeting, while Minis-As part of the efforts ter for Primary & Secondto streamline healthcare ser- ary Health Dr Jamal Nasir participated through video

Meanwhile, Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi chaired a the implementation of meeting at his office to disthese measures and ensure cuss the progress of development projects in the



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presides over the meeting to review matter of Social Security Hospitals.

PSCA provides more than 20,000 video, audio evidences for investigation

LAHORE (APP): A delega- ates were briefed on public tion of DGPR research associates from the Chief Minister Internship program paid a study visit to Punjab Safe Cities Authority Headquarters, here on

The delegation, led by Director Film and Pub-lication Hamid Javed Awan, was received and the implementation of the briefed by the Director Intelligent Traffic Manage-Public Relations Tauseef

The research associ- dents by 43 percent.

awareness campaigns, media management, and women safety application

The Director Public Relations said that the Integrated 15 system of Safe Cities Authority has sig-nificantly improved the police response time while ment System has reduced the number of fatal acci-

House gutted, girl injured

FAISALABAD (APP): A

minor girl received burn injuries duringhouse-ablaze incident in the area of Sargodha Road police station. Rescue 1122 spokesman said here on Monday that a house situated at Mohallah Shah Abad near Crescent Mills Sargodha Road caught fire due to short-circuiting. The fire engulfed the entire surroundings and burnt precious house luggage present on the spot. Receiving information, fire fighters of Rescue 1122 rushed to the

spot and brought the fire un-

der control after hectic efforts

of many hours.



to PM Attaullah Tarar meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji GhulamAli.

Meeting held to create awareness against dengue in KP

retary Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mehood Aslam Wazir on Monday held a meeting with the Dengue Volunteer Task Force to discuss the current situation of virus throughout the province.

The meeting focused on raising awareness, strengthening surveillance efforts, and implementing preventive measures against dengue in different districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Dengue Volunteer Task Force led by Deputy Chief Atiq Ahmed and Di-

PESHAWAR (APP): Sec- visional Warden Sartai Khan, actively participated in the discussion.

Recognizing the urgency to control the spread of dengue in the province, the Secretary Health appealed to the Dengue Volunteer Task Force to collaborate with the Health Department in order to effectively combat dengue across the province.

During the meeting the Task Force officials assured the Secretary Health of their unwavering support at both the district and pro-

KP witnesses significant fall in anti-polio drops refusal cases

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has recorded a significant decrease in anti-polio refusal cases as according to Emergency Operation Center, KP, a reduction of 35 percent was recorded among families refusing anti-polio drops to their children during the vaccination carried out in the month of June.

drop of 25 percent was recorded among children left deprived of the anti-polio drops in the province. Last year, all the 20 polio attack cases were reported from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa however this year the number of these cases significantly dropped to only one. The Center further said that in 2016 for the first time the

Two children die as landslide hits Swat houses

SWAT (INP): Two children were killed and two others injured when a landslide hit their houses in Gulabad. Swat district on Monday.

According to Rescue 1122, there were reports of people including children buried under the debris when the landslide hit their houses.

On receiving the information, Rescue 1122 medical and disaster rescue teams reached the spot and started the search opera tion. The rescue team managed to pull out two children but two children died due to injuries and suffocation. The injured have been shifted to the Saidu Sharif Hospital.

6 acres state land retrieved

FAISALABAD (APP): As sistant Commissioner (AC) Chak Jhumra Sultan Zafar has retrieved state land of 6 acres from 'Qabza Mafia' and handed it over to Revenue department for its safety. According to a spokesman of local administration, the AC Chak Jhumra along with team reached in Chak No.18-GB where the land grabbers had occupied 6 acres of state land. The AC retrieved the land which has an approxith of June. anti-polio campaign re-The Center said that a ceived the strong support. land which has an approarmate market value of millions of rupees.

FBR, Custom hailed for transforming public schools of GB into smart schools

GILGIT (APP): The Gov- ceremony was held today ernment of Gilgit-Baltistan extended its heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to Chairman FBR, Member Custom Operations, Chief Collector Customs (North), and Collector Customs GB Syed Fawad Ali Shah for their generous sponsorship and support in transforming three government edge technology and reschools in Gilgit-Baltistan sources. into Smart schools.

Chief Secretary Baltistan Muhiudeen Wani in an official statement to the media said in recognition of this significant contribution, a Letter of Under-

at the office of the Chief Secretary, Gilgit-Baltistan.

CS GB said the initiative to upgrade these government schools into Smart schools aligns with the government's commitment to modernize the education system and provide students with access to cutting-

He said by embracing digital tools and interactive learning environments, the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan aims to empower the youth, enhance their educational experiences, and foster a brighter future standing (LoU) signing for the region



LAHORE: A view of the large number of the people at Railway Station as the population of the country is increasing day by day along with problems, for which 11 every year world observed World Population Day to raise awareness of global population issues.

ANF recovers over 36 kg drugs in nine operation; arrests seven accused

RAWALPINDI (APP): (ANF) Pakistan while conducting nine operations across the country managed to recover over 36 kg drugs and arrested seven accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that in an operation near Khana Road, Rawalpindi, an accused were arrested with 1000 grams charras.

In second operation conducted in a deserted area of Turbat, 18 kg Ice drug concealed in bushes was recovered. In third operation near Bilawal recovered 101 heroin.

Chowrangi, Clifton Karachi, from a rickshaw while an accused resident of Karachi was also rounded up.

In fourth operation near Godap Town Karachi, 1.7 kg Ice drug and two kg heroin were recovered from a vehicle while an accused resident of Quetta was also netted. In fifth operation near Shakarpur road Sukkur, two kg charras was recovered from the possession of a drug smuggler, resident of Khairpur. In sixth operation at Bacha Khan International Airport, ANF

International News

Biden meets King Charles and PM Sunak, hails 'rock solid' UK ties

Monitoring Desk LONDON: U.S. President Joe Biden made a whistlestop trip to Britain on Monday, hailing the "rock-solid" friendship with Washington's close ally before meeting King Charles for a discussion with the monarch and finance chiefs

on tackling climate change. Biden's visit to Britain kicked off a three-nation trip that will include the NATO summit in Lithuania, at which allies aim to show solidarity with Ukraine against Russia's invasion while not yet accepting Kyiv as an alliance

fifth in as many months, lasted less than an hour. with the focus on Ukraine.

'We've got a lot to talk about," said Biden as they sat in the garden of Sunak's Downing Street office "Our relationship is rocksolid. Couldn't be meeting with a closer friend and a greater ally." Sunak and the NATO summit which kicks off on Tuesday. NATO, whose mutual de- kill indiscriminately. fence pact obliges all mem-

Minister Rishi Sunak, their with the U.S. and our allies on the pathway for Ukraine to join," Sunak's spokes-person told reporters, saying it would not be appro-

priate for Ukraine to join while the war was ongoing. The leaders also discussed the U.S. decision to send Ukraine cluster munitions, which are banned by more than 100 countries. Biden shared notes before including Britain, which view them as a potential threat to civilian popula-Ahead of the trip, Biden tions because they typiurged caution for now on Ukraine's campaign to join cally release large numbers of smaller bomblets that can

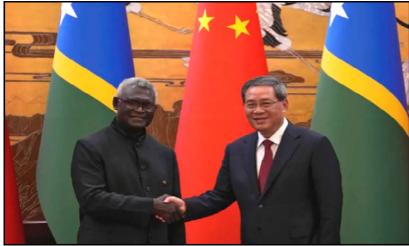
Britain's King Charles bers to come to the aid of and The President of the The president's meet- any member that is at- United States, Joe Biden on ing with British Prime tacked. "We want to work stage in the Quadrangle at

Windsor Castle on July 10, 2023 in Windsor, England. Chris Jackson/Pool via REUTERS Russia, Ukraine and the United States have not signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which bans their production, stockpiling, use and transfer. "We stand by our obligations under the convention, which include discouraging their use. There is no change from us on that, obviously it is for each country to make a decision, Sunak's spokesperson said. After the meeting,

Biden, 80, headed to Windsor Castle to meet the king, where he was greeted with traditional pomp and ceremony in the castle



since he was officially crowned.



Visiting Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare, left, shakes hands with his Chinese counterpart Li Qiang after they witnessed signing on agreement for both countries at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Solomon Islands leader visits Beijing, highlighting US-China rivalry in South Pacific

Monitoring Desk

BEIJING: Leaders of the Solomon Islands and China promised Monday to expand relations that have fueled unease in Washington and Australia about Beijing's influence in the South Pacific. Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare met Chinese leader Xi Jinping and the country's No. 2 leader, Premier Li Qiang. Sogavare and Li presided over the signing of agreements on police, economic and technical cooperation. "We are here to further boost relations," Sogavare told Li following a ceremony at which a Chinese military band played the Solomon Islands national anthem.

The Solomon Islands, 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles) northeast of Australia, has been China's biggest success in a campaign to expand its presence in the South Pacific. Sogavare's government switched official recognition in 2019 to Beijing from Taiwan, the self-governed island democracy claimed by the mainland's ruling Communist Party as part of its territory. "Solomon Islands, sir, has a lot to learn from China's development experience," Sogavare told Li. He welcomed an opportunity for dialogue to enhance "bilateral interaction and cooperation." The two governments "have decided to establish a comprehensive strategic partnership of mutual respect and common development," Li said. "The relationship between China and the Solomon

Islands has developed rapidly, and we can now say that it is very fruitful.

Erdogan links Sweden's Nato bid with Turkey's EU membership

Monitoring Desk ISTANBUL: Nato's efforts to present a united front at a summit focused on helping Ukraine defeat Russia and Kyiv's push to join the alliance were undermined on Monday by a shock Turk-

ish ultimatum on Sweden's

membership bid. As Ukraine's forces claimed more advances against Russian positions, Nato's 31 members agreed to simplify Kyiv's eventual accession bid by dropping a requirement that it completes a formal road map of negotiations to join the EU.

reforms. Alliance leaders gathering in Vilnius on the eve of Tuesday's summit were hoping a meeting between Erdogan and Sweden's Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson would see the Turkish leader lift his veto on Sweden's membership. But President Recep Tayyip Erdogan appeared in no mood to compromise, declaring that he would only back Sweden's Nato candidacy if European Union members — most of whom are also Nato allies - agree to revive Turkey's

Shavkat Mirziyoyev re-elected as Uzbekistan's President

Monitoring Desk

Shavkat Mirziyoyev has secured a landslide victory in the presidential election held on July 9, being re-elected as the President of Uzbekistan with an overwhelming 87.1% of the vote.

The Central Election Commission of Uzbekistan announced Mirziyoyev.

the preliminary results, TASHKENT: President revealing the extent of the president's popular support. A significant number of voters participated in the election, with 15.6 million citizens, accounting for 79.8% of registered voters, casting their votes. Among them 87.05% voted in the favour of Shavkat

Kremlin talks with Wagner mercenary group founder Yevgeny Prigozhin and his commanders to discuss the armed mutiny Wagner attempted to mount against the army's top

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: President

Vladimir Putin has held

brass, Putin's spokesman said on Monday. The meeting was first reported by French newspaper Liberation, which said Prigozhin had met Putin and the head of the National Guard, Viktor Zolotov, and SVR Foreign Intelligence boss Sergei Naryshkin.

The meeting, according to Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, was held on June 29, five days after the aborted mutiny, which is widely regarded to have posed the most serious challenge to Putin since he came to power on the last day of

Peskov told reporters that Putin had invited 35 people to the meeting,

Wagner unit commandhad lasted three hours.

Putin held post-mutiny talks

with Wagner leader Prigozhin

"The only thing we can say is that the president gave his assessment of the company's (Wagner's) actions at the front during the Special Military Operation (in Ukraine) and also gave his assessment of the events of 24 June (the day of the mutiny),"

Peskov told reporters. He said Putin had listened to the commanders' own explanations of what had happened and had offered them further options for employment and combat.

The commanders outlined their version of what happened (on June 24). They emphasised that they are staunch supporters and soldiers of the head of state and the supreme com-mander-in-chief. They also said that they are ready to continue fighting for the Motherland,"

said Peskov. The brief mutiny

and his fighters - Kremlin including Prigozhin and led by Prigozhin, in which Wagner fighters ers, and that the meeting took control of the southern city of Rostovon-Don and a military headquarters building, was defused in a deal brokered by Belarusian leader

Lukashenko. Putin, who likened the events to the turmoil which engulfed Russia in the run-up to the 1917 Russian Revolution, has since thanked his army and security services for averting chaos and civil war. Prigozhin has said the mutiny was not aimed at overthrowing the government but at "bringing to justice" the army and defence chiefs for what he called their blunders and unprofessional actions in Ukraine.

Putin has so far kept Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov in place, judging by appearances by both men on state TV - rejecting Prigozhin's appeals to sack them.

PM reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to meet UN SDGs with enhanced coop.

Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that Pakistan was keen to expand its cooperation with partner countries to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)-

The prime minister virtually participated in the First High-Level Forum on Global Development Initiative (GDI). Held under the theme of Global Development Initiative: "Echo the Development Agenda and Call for Global Action", the forum was organized by the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), the PM

PM Shehbaz, in his

lience of international development cooperation to present a unified global response for socioeconomic development, mitigation of climate change threats, and galvanizing new drivers of growth for humanity's enduring progress and prosperity.

China for launching the Global Development Initiative for achieving shared goals of inclusive and sustainable global develop-

Extending Pakistan's

Office Media Wing said in firm support to the GDI the prime minister said that Pakistan would continue its remarks, stressed the sa- multifaceted cooperation with China for swift impleprojects in Pakistan.

The event was attended by Wang Yi, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China and Director of the General Office of CPC Foreign Af-Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang and Chairman CIDCA, Luo

Leading experts and executives from several countries and international organizations also partici-



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting of Cabinet Committee on Privatization (CCoP).

Islamabad police implement new measures to ensure investigation adherence

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police have appointed law officers to oversee investigation standards and bolster transparency and uphold the rule of law. During a meeting presided over by the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPPO) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, law officers were entrusted with the meticulous task of thoroughly reviewing case files to ensure adherence to investigation standards and the pursuit of justice based on merit.

The meeting also focused on reviewing ongoing cases and assessing the performance of investigation officers. These appointments signify the first-ever ICCPPO issued a directive collaboration between law to all DPOs and officers and police officers investigating officers, in Pakistan, highlighting a urging them to revisit concerted effort to incomplete cases promptly promote transparency and and impartially.

justice in law enforcement The meeting, which witnessed the presence of influential figures including SSP Operations Malik Zafar, Operations Saud Khan, all District Police Officers (DPOs), Sub-District Police Officers (SDPOs) law officers, and unit in charges, emphasized the imperative of cooperation between law officers and investigation officers in legal matters.

Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, ICCPPO, underscored the paramount significance of conducting investigations and judicial proceedings in strict adherence to the law.

In a bid to rectify any previous gaps investigations,

ANP expresses concern over unrest in Kurram on land dispute

Awami National Party (ANP) leader Aimal Wali Khan on Monday expressed concerns over unrest and armed conflict in district Kurram over land dispute. In a statement issued here, he demanded of the provincial government and district administration to establish peace in the area and settle the matter amica-

no problem could be solved through the fight.

reports that the local people were willing to establish peace but the administration was not agreeing, adding that such an impression should be dispelled. He said that ANP would not tolerate negligence in the protection of the lives and properties of the people. He appealed to all the leaders and youth of Parachinar to show patience and remain calm as

Eco Hike 2023 organized to promote **Eco-friendly tourism**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Participants embarked on With an aim to explore the untouched beauty of Kashmir and promote Ecofriendly tourism, the Bagh Alpine Club, in collaboration with MTBC successfully organized the Eco Hike 2023, with an aim to explore the untouched beauty of Kashmir and promoting Eco-friendly

The event which was held under the supervision of Alpine Club of Pakistan witnessed participation

approximately individuals from all four provinces of Pakistan and various districts of Azad Kashmir, said a press

The breathtaking Eco Hike took place along a challenging 40-kilometre trail in the Pir Panjal Range Bagh District.

an exhilarating journey from Ganga Choti to Noor Gala, traversing through picturesque villages and rugged terrain. Overnight camping

amidst the enchanting surroundings of Mastan Dhok added a unique cultural experience to the adventure.

objective of Eco Hike 2023 was to discover the verdant meadows and majestic mountains of Kashmir, which remain largely unexplored, simultaneously promoting clean tourism and combating environmental pollution. The event aimed to raise awareness about the importance of

preserving natural resources and fostering a sustainable tourism industry.

PTA clarifies false reports of Twitter blocking Pak govt's official

account in G-B ISLAMABAD (APP) The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has addressed recent claims circulating on social media and certain sections of the news media regarding Twitter's alleged blockage of access to the Government of Pakistan's official account in Gilgit-Baltistan and the platform changing the region's location to parts of India.

"PTA's thorough investigation has revealed that no such problem exists, contrary to the information being circulated" said a news release.

In response to the claims, PTA conducted extensive on-ground testing to ascertain the veracity of the

The findings indicate that any sporadic issues encountered are limited to a very small number of iOS devices, affecting only a handful of users.

Manzoor appointed IFA Chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP) Chaudhry has been Manzoor appointed as Chairman of the Islamabad Futsal Association (IFA).

The annual meeting of Islamabad Association was held here under the chairmanship of Rana Tanveer Ahmed, and was participated by IFA Chairman Malik Mehrban Ali, Secretary General Adnan Malik and Chairman of Rawalpindi Futsal Association Shaukat Ali Khan.

In the meeting, Malik Mehrban Ali suggested the name of Chaudhry Nadeem Manzoor Bega as Chairman IFA to which all members agreed. Nadeem Manzoor was also the President of Bega Welfare Foundation.

Over Rs 58b disbursed under Benazir

Kafaalat so far ISLAMABAD (APP): The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has so far disbursed over Rs. 58 billion among more than 6.5 million beneficiary women across the country under the Benazir Kafaalat initiative.

According to an official ource, the disbursement of the fourth quarterly tranche of Benazir Kafaalat for the Financial Year-2022-23 is continued successfully through banks' retailers.



ISLAMABAD: Attorney General for Pakistan, Mansoor Usman Awan called

Sherry condemns PTI chief's

self-serving campaign as

'a bonfire of vanities'

bulances, radio stations,

and monuments honoring

our war heroes as part of

your self-serving 'save-

İmran' campaign would re-

sult in any political gains

state installations, Edhiam- the country's institutions

on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Federal Minister for Cli-

mate Change and Environ-

mental Coordination Sena-

tor Sherry Rehman on

Monday condemned the

PTI chief's self-serving

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Special Assistant to

(SAPM) Malik Ahmed

Khan Monday said that

the whole nation stood

with the army chief and

that anti-social elements

involved in the social

media propaganda drive

would be brought to

justice soon as the investigation of this

matter reached its final

propaganda campaign need to be exposed," he said

'Elements behind

social media

Prime Minister

his vanities'

'This negative social media drive was being hatched against national insinuations to harm the country and it was preplanned", he added.

brought to justice soon: SAPM

"Anti-state elements are only active to destabilize the country politically economically," mentioned.

Replying question, he said hate statements through social media platforms and freedom of expression should not be confused.

speech platforms," he

enduring relentless targeting

from both Imran Khan and

the establishment, political

parties maintained their dig-

nity while facing endless po-

litical victimization. How-

ever, Khan's recent claim

that women have never been

incarcerated in Pakistan be-

fore now reflects a lack of

historical awareness. Mean-

while, figures like Faryal

Talpur and Maryam Nawaz

were imprisoned by him as

if they were terrorists.

Rather than working to-

wards democratic recovery

in the face of his own fail-

He said, "His party is not believing in media regulation as free media defines the progress of any nation but such elements are crossing limits and exploiting the situation through their false statements and negative propaganda

"It is a clear violation of fundamental rights of any citizen of the country which will be protected at any cost," he



ICCPO holds security meeting at Safe City Islamabad

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Police convened an important security meeting at Safe City Islamabad. Chaired by Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the meeting aimed to review the security arrangements for prominent personalities, including the President and the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The meeting witnessed the presence of representatives from various law enforcement agencies, as well as senior police officers, who collectively deliberated on the vital task of enhancing security protocols and measures.

The ICCPO emphasized the need to develop and implement a robust and foolproof strategy that would enhance the safety and well-being of important personalities and

ICCPODr. Akbar Nasir Khan reiterated the significance of comprehensive security arrangements. He emphasized the importance of constant assessment and evaluation of security protocols to adapt to evolving threats and challenges.

By prioritizing effective security measures, the Islamabad Capital Police aims to

PID AJK delegation visits APP, briefed on working of Digital Media Wing

delegation of Press Information Department, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, led by its Director Raja Amjad Hussain Minhas on Monday visited the

headquarters Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) head office here with the objective to upgrade the PID Digital Media Section on modern lines.

After meeting with APP Executive Director Adnan Akram Bajwa and Executive Director News Hanif Sabir, the delegation took a round of the Digital

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Media Wing to have a first hand account of the working.

District Information Officer Muzaffarabad Raja Sohail Khan and Programmer Sardar Shamim Anjum Aziz were also present on this occasion. Executive Director

Adnan Akram Bajwa, on the occasion, said as it was an age of social and digital media and that was why the APP was paying full attention to them. A studio had been set up to run the APP Web TV, he added.

provide a secure environment for all individuals under their protection. Islamabad **Science Camp** 2.0 kicks off at AIOU

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 5-day Hands-on Science Camp 2.0 started at the main campus of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) here. Around 120

children aged 8 to 14 years from Islamabad and neighboring areas are participating in the camp, they will be trained to make five different robotic projects during this training camp. This camp is being

organized collaboration with Allama Iqbal Open University, Pakistan Science Club, and ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF). The project has been formulated to teach fundamental principles of science to young minds to interests develop regarding science to keep in view the interests of today's generation on the special instruction of Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor, AIOU.

48th INSC: **Chairman PAEC** inaugurates 'scientific spring'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 48th International Nathiagali Summer College (INSC) on Physics and Contemporary Needs was inaugurated at National Center for Physics (NCP) Quaid-e-Azam University on Monday.

The INSC was Energy Commission (PAEC), Raja Ali Raza Anwar. In the 48th International Nathiagali Summer College, a distinguished group of 30 experts from developed experts from developed countries such as the United States, United Kingdom, China, Russia, Canada, France, Germany, Holland, Australia, Spain, Türkiye, Romania, and Chile has been invited to deliver lectures on crucial topics throughout the two-week event. Out of a pool of over 1.200 applicants, approx imately

researchers universities and research organizations Pakistan have been carefully selected to participate in the College.

This diverse gathering promises to facilitate meaningful exchanges and foster valuable connections among the participants, enriching the scientific

The scientific activities the International Nathiagali Summer College (INSC) are designed to encompass a wide range of topics at the forefront of knowledge in Physics and related disciplines.

inaugurated by the Chairman Pakistan Atomic Chairman Pakistan Atomic Subjects that are of current Each year, the College interest, emphasizing their applications and their relevance to the specific needs of developing countries. In the 48th college, the topics being covered include 'Advances in Plasma Physics and Allied Technologies' Semiconductor Materials and Devices, Quantum Optics and Devices, Advances in Pulsed Power Technology and its application and New Trends in High Energy Physics. In his inaugural speech, Chairman PAEC, Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar underscored the significance of science and technology in the current era of rapidly expanding frontiers of knowledge.

He emphasized that for a nation to achieve genuine progress and prosperity, it must prioritize the acquisition and effective utilization of scientific advancements.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) Raja Ali Raza Anwar addressing during inaugural ceremony of 48th International Nathiagali Summer College (INSC) on Physics and Contemporary Needs at National Center for Physics (NCP) Quaid-e-Azam

CPEC laid solid foundation for Pakistan's future development: Haque

BEIJING (APP):Pakistan ment image. By the end of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as a flagship project to jointly build the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has changed Pakistan's infrastructure layout and laid a solid foundation for Pakistan's future development.

During President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan in 2015, the two countries signed more than 50 cooperation agreements and launched a number of projects such as energy, transportation infrastructure and port construction under the CPEC framework, he told People's Daily in an

interview. He said that the power generation and distribution projects launched and completed by Pakistan and China have greatly alleviated Pakistan's power shortage and enhanced Pakistan's trade and invest-

Moin ul Haque has said that rectly created 236,000 jobs Terming Gwadar Port as the pearl of the CPEC,

which is crucial to Pakistan's economic transformation, he said that this year, many key projects, including New Gwadar International Airport, will make important progress. The new projects will accelerate the development of Gwadar Port and the Free Trade Area.

Ambassador Haque said that the second phase of the construction of the CPEC has been launched, which will strongly promote the cooperation between the two countries in industry, science and technology, agriculture and

The CPEC is of great significance to Pakistan's economic development and social progress, which is the general consensus of all sectors in Pakistan, he



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Higher Education Commission Dr Mukhtar Ahmed addressing during the event for "Ensuring access to Higher Education" as Organized Raabta at Serena Hotel in Federal Capital.

Young artists call on Chairman Gandhara Task Force

working on Gandhara called on Dr. Ramesh Vankwani, Kumar Chairman PM's Task Force on Gandhara Tourism here Monday at Sir Syed Memorial Museum to share their work on Gandhara and display the works during the 2-day Gandhara

Symposium. Dr. Ramesh Kumar selected their work on featuring Gandhara paintings, sculptures in diverse mediums and ideas exploring potential and opportunities Gandhara tourism in competitions.

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Pakistan. He said these group of young artists artists are our assets and must create opportunities for them to polish their talent and attract young generation to the field of visual art. The Chairman PM

Task Force said the works contributed by these budding and established artists will be displayed during the two-day Gandhara Symposium and after this grand event, we will hold a national level Gandhara Art Competition to involve art students and artists for promotion of Gandhara tourism at home for and abroad through such



ISLAMABAD: Senator Mohsin Aziz, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on interior presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.