Indenendent

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs the 2nd meeting of Apex Committee

PM urges OIC to put end to 'abominable practice' of desecration of holy books

Condemns Quran's desecration in Sweden; vows to campaign for decisions' reversal

ISLAMABAD (APP): name of freedom of expres- reversal of the decision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday called upon the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the civilized world to steps to put an end to the abominable practice of desecration of the holy books. violence and encourage terrorism and militancy, need to be checked," he said in a ralism.

said no civilized society would allow the desecration of holy personages, sym-

'The grant of permission to desecrate the Holy Quran, Torah & Bible is part of a sinister, vile and come forward and take steps to put an end to the sole aim could be to threaten world peace," he said.

The prime minister "The attitudes that incite said: "We should not let a religious hatred, promote handful of Satanic characters undermine our shared values of peace, and tolerance, plu-

Meanwhile Prime Min-The prime minister ister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday strongly condemned the desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden and vowed to launch a campaign to seek a

allowing the sacrilege of holy books. The prime minister, in a statement, said that from the platform of the Organisations of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the government would help create a common strategy to get rid of evil. He said, "The OIC has to play a historic role in representing the sentiments of the Muslim political and satanic agenda. Ummah and to do away

with this evil. The prime minister said that he would campaign to reverse the decision to allow the desecration of the Torah, the Bible, and the

He said the permission to desecrate the holy books, persons, and rituals was not the freedom of expression but rather a way to constantly torment the

Prime Shehbaz said that the sequence of events evidenced that this was not a freedom of expression but part of a

"The whole world of Islam and Christianity must collectively stop this conspiracy. Satan's followers are blaspheming the holy book which gave human beings dignity, rights and guidance," he remarked.

Military trials of civilians should not begin without informing SC: CJP

Right of appeal at an independent forum against the decision of a military court was a guarantee of fundamental rights, the chief justice observed; SC adjourns May 9 accused trial cases for indefinite time

The Supreme Court on Friday adjourned hearing of petitions challenging the mentioned in the law. The trial of accused involved in the May 9 riots in army courts for an indefi-

A six-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Úmar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Justice Ayesha Malik

questioned that how the peal, he added. May 9 incidents had af-

of an army officer and breaking of discipline" were AGP replied that it was mentioned in the act.

Justice Yahaya Afridi asked whether the accused, civilians or army personnel who come under the purview of the Army Act, of such trials. would not be entitled to basic human rights.

The CJP remarked that the independence of judiciary was the base of justice in the country. The prosecution would decide During the course of the case under the Army from physical or mental proceedings, CJP Bandial Act and also hear the approblems. The bench

The right of appeal at

ing a hindrance in the work military court was a guarantee of fundamental rights,

the chief justice observed. CJP Bandial said as per the Attorney General for Pakistan, the trials of the accused in military courts had not yet started and instructed the AGP to inform the bench before initiating

The trial would be conducted in open courts and evidences would be recorded, he added. The chief justice di-

rected that the arrested accused should not suffer would summon the responarmy, and whether "creat- against the decision of a of the government ended, he

point any retired judge as a focal person to meet 102 arrested persons, he said. The court wanted that

they should be given basic facilities and have permission to meet their families, the CJP added. AGP Mansoor Usman

Awan said what happened on May 9, had never happened in the country's history and that could not be allowed in future again. All the accused could be clearly seen in footage of the incidents, he added.

He said that the sections regarding the trial of then a commanding officer sible if its orders were vio- civilian accused by military conducted a complete infected the discipline of an independent forum lated even after the tenure courts were included in the Army Act through amend- of inquiry.

section-II, the civilian accused come in jurisdiction of army act if they created an hindrance in defence measures or tried to damage the discipline of the force. He said the Parliament had the authority for the legislation and that before amendments the Army Act could be applied only on military men.

He said the procedure for trying an accused in military courts was in front of the bench. Firstly a report regarding the certain incident used to be submitted to the military courts and vestigation into it in a court



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minster for Interior Rana Sana Ullah Khan in a group photo with Inspector General Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan during the inauguration of Dolphin force.

I'abad Police introduce Dolphin Unit for enhanced citizens' protection

Response Unit took place here Friday, signaling a significant stride in curbing street crime and bolstering citizen protection in the

capital city. The inaugural ceremony was graced by Minister for Interior, Rana Sanaullah Khan, who marked the occasion by officially initiating the operational activities of the Dolphin Unit of Islamabad Po-

Interim setup, polls

PM makes

5 members

negotiation

committee

ISLAMABAD (Online):

Prime Minister Shahbaz

Shareef has made five

member negotiation com-

mittee over the issue of

caretaker setup and up-

coming general elections.

to committee comprised o

Important task given

unit in a short time to ensure public safety. Addressing the per-

Force, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan emphasized the noble duty entrusted to them, stating, Your duty is the protection of the citizens, which is a form of worship." He expressed the hope that they would diligently safe-

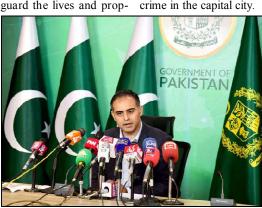
ISLAMABAD, Jul 21 The minister appreciated the Islamabad Capital ration of the Islamabad Police Dolphin Emergency (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Dolphin Force and com-Khan for establishing this mended the entire team es-

> mitment to ensuring public sonnel of the Dolphin Force and their ability to significantly reduce street

pecially, ICCPO Dr. Akbar

Nasir Khan for their com-

safety and security. He highlighted the importance of the Force in controlling street crime and bringing perpetrators to justice. Rana Sanaullah Khan expressed the confidence in the capabilities of the



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Energy and Economy, Bilal Azhar Kayani addresses to media persons during press conference,

ownership rights to flood-stricken people

LARKANA (INP): Foreign

Addressing an event, Bhutto-Zardari expressed his resolve to build two million homes in Sindh during a speech. He continued, have started for the floodstricken people"

hardships. Bhutto-Zardari continued, "That is why ary projects for the pub-

ideology of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto to have to be prepared."

PM enquires about health of President ISLAMABAD (APP):

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday telephoned President Dr Arif Alvi and enquired about his health.

The prime minister wished an early recovery to President Alvi, who had received an injury on his right leg during jogging a few days ago.

Shehbaz prayed to Allah Almighty to grant the best of health to President Alvi. The president thanked the prime minister for his kind wishes.

Petroleum dealers defer strike for two days

Monitoring Desk

Holy Quran desecration: Fazal demands to recall ambassador from Sweden

SIFC approves projects

for attracting investments

from friendly countries

PM Shehbaz chairs second apex

committee meeting of SIFC; COAS, CMs,

federal and provincial ministers attended

ISLAMABAD (APP):The Apex Committee of the Special

Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) on Friday ap-

proved the projects for attracting investments from friendly

countries in agricultural, livestock, minerals, mining, in-

meeting of the Apex Committee, directed to extend impeccable facilitation to the investors, interested in undertak-

ing and actualising the projects. The meeting, which was attended by Chief of Army

Staff General Asim Munir, chief ministers, federal and

provincial Ministers and high-level government officials,

reviewed various projects presented by ministries for

tioning of the SIFC and its strategy to outreach the poten-

tial investors through conduct of seminars and project

broaching with investors under the umbrella of SIFC. The Apex Committee expressed satisfaction on func-

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, chairing the second

formation technology, and energy sectors.

ISLAMABAD (INP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazl) chairman Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Friday demanded Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif to recall Pakistan ambassador to Sweden 'in protest' against the desecration of Holy

The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) president made this demand

during a telephonic conversation with PM Shehbaz

During the conversation, Maulana Fazl noted that all Muslim nations, including Pakistan, should recall their ambassadors from Sweden. The prime minister and JUI-F chairman agreed on 'strict action' from Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC)

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Somalia to Pakistan Shirwa Abdullahi Ibrahim

addressing during lunching ceremony of Somalia Science and Technology

Cooperation Program jointly with the Embassy of the Republic of Somalia

and in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of

Science and Technology at COMSTECHAuditorium, in Federal Capital.

Pmln seniors leaders. Sources told that Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Khawaja Asif, Khawaja Saad Rafique, Ahsen Iqbal and Ishaq Dar are included

Committee will hold talks with Pakistan People Party (PPP), Jamiat Ulema Islam-Fazal (JIUF), Mutahida Qoumi Movement (MQM), and other

Prime Minister also asked allies to make negotiation committee.

Bilal accuses PTI chief for creating 'cypher drama' for political gains

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Economy and Energy Bilal Azhar Kayani on Friday accused the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan for creating the 'cypher drama' for political gains as was now confirmed by his former principal secretary, Azam Addressing a news

conference here, he said Azam Khan recorded his statement that proved the a vote of no confidence moreality of cypher in front of Pakistani people. He said, Imran Kĥan ĥimself asserted that 'Cypher can now be manipulated for creating a narrative against the establishment and the op-

Highlighting some instances, Bilal said that it was a tradition of the PTI chief and his party to violate the Constitution for political gains adding that this trend has been going on for the past 10 years

He referred to the 2013 sit-in protests, led by the PTI chief, as an example of how the party had violated the constitution in the past adding, the May 9 incidents also indicate how the constitution was trampled and violated. 'Imran Khan con-

stantly damaged diplomatic relations and pushed the country to the verge of default", he added.

Kayani explained that tion was filed on March 08, and on April 10, the PTI chief was legally removed from his position following the vote of no confidence

The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) had chosen Shehbaz Sharif as the Prime Minister of Pakistan, he added.

He expressed firm resolve that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) would continue to take the country's journey towards economic stability and growth.

LARKANA: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari distributes Land Titles among flood affectees during the ceremony of Distribution of Land Titles for Flood Affectees held in Larkana. Bilawal vows to provide

Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Friday vowed to provide ownership rights to the flood-stricken people.

general elections, we will expand the projects" took a swipe at the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief, saying, "The PTI's doctrine is to make the rich "From today, good days even richer.'

He admitted the masses were facing severe economic we are bringing revolution-

He pledged to adopt the

Atta Tarar says

Delaying tactics are being used in Tosha Khana case

Special Assistant to Prime Minister (PM) Atta Tarar said that delaying tactics are being used in Tosha Khana

Why Chairman PTI is not appearing? Allegations are leveled against judges to cover up

While holding a press conference in Islamabad on Friday he said that Imran Khan has admitted that he

ISLAMABAD (Online): has sold gifts of Tosha

every nook and cranny of the Sindh districts.

serted: "By winning the

Bhutto-Zardari com-

mended the Ministry of

in line with the MoFA's at-

tempts for change manage-

ment reforms, Bhutto-Zardari said, "In order to

Expressing his thoughts

Foreign Affairs (MoFA).

Bhutto-Zardari as

The foreign minister

Wednesday

He said that who said him to sell gifts and not to keep record? He said that Why is

the record of money received from selling gifts not being submitted? He said that absence from court is sign of cow-

Where they feel their rigging is caught they accuse

KARACHI: The Pakistan

Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA) on Friday deferred fuelstrike across country for two days. The moves comes as State Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik arrived in Karachi to convince the PPDA to call off the strike. The association would hold another round of negotiations with the government after two days, the PPDA said

Daily soice of Masse Independent

Cipher saga

There is little that can be described as revelatory in the 'confessional statement' being attributed to Azam Khan, principal secretary to former prime minister Imran Khan. It had been widely known, following the 'audio leaks' saga of last year, that he was privy to how the so-called 'Ciphergate' controversy came into being, as well as the PT leadership's actual motives for giving it air.

Leaked recordings of his conversations with Imran Khan on the matter had already established that the former PM had discussed the prospect of 'playing up' the contents of a diplomatic cable from Washington for political purposes, and it was evident that the move was aimed at building political momentum on PTI's side at a time when the party was facing defeat in the vote of no-confidence brought against its government by the combined opposition.

With elections around the corner, it seems a last-ditch attempt is being made to knock Imran Khan out of the race. The means being adopted to do so are troubling. One of the senior-most officers of the state, Azam Khan remained missing for over a month after he disappeared soon after leaving his house in Islamabad for an appointment on June 15.

Hours after reports surfaced that he had 'exposed' his former boss, he was quietly returned home. His lawyer said he was "in no condition" to comment on the firestorm his alleged confession has kicked off. No one has satisfactorily answered where Azam Khan had been while the state searched for him as a 'missing person'.

Instead, the FIA and interior ministry seem more concerned with nabbing the former PM. A statement made before a magistrate, if duly recorded, does have evidential value, but there are far too many missing pieces in this puzzle. Could this be why the interior minister has sought Imran Khan's trial in a special court under the Official Secrets Act?

In a late-night address a day after Azam Khan's supposed statement, the PTI chief said the cipher he received from Washington had alerted him to a conspiracy to take down his government. To this day, only a handful of people actually know what it said. The public only knows it was problematic enough for it to be termed 'blatant interference' in the country's affairs by the NSC on two separate occasions. Imran Khan believes that a full inquiry into the matter will uncover a conspiracy in which key political leaders and the former army chief will be found involved. Since it has once again dragged the matter into the limelight, perhaps it is time for the state to lav the facts before the public and put the matter to rest. It has already become an international embarrassment for the country.

Quran in our lives



Saturday July 22, 2023

Nikhat Sattar

Many Muslims propagate the belief that the Quran is a practical handbook on how to live one's life. There are two ways this belief can be implemented. One is to take the Quran as an instruction manual, assembling life together according to specific steps, often using selective shortcuts. purpose of Quranic verses and extract principles, rather than rules former is the easier route and perhaps the reason for the widespread tendency to follow the form and not the substance of

religion. ciple means thinking of straight path to the Lord: the 'whys' and then a reminder, it says elsechanging our attitudes where, to the virtues inand intentions. This requires acceptance of the man nature) that we tend fact that we have a choice to ignore because of tempand are accountable for tations and desires. It is how we spend our lives and why and which decisions we take. If the Quran could be understood as a guide to enhance the purity of our soul and inculcate moral values within us, many illnesses that beset the Muslim world could be overcome. The Quran itself suggests several roles that it has been revealed for and that it can play if we let it. It is to be used as an overall guide and for assessment of right and wrong. Is a man who remarries while his wife lives because he believes the Quran allows him four wives on the right moral compass? Is a woman right when she ample. We take children

band is superior? Are frown if they want to play people who perform daily prayers and give much in charity on the right path even if they tell lies? People park their vehicles outside mosques blocking roads and consider this a righteous act. Are they entitled?

In each of these examples, has the individual been fair and just, truthful, kind and considerate to others, including to themselves? Above all. has the person avoided hypocrisy, which is much

derided in the Quran? All previous scriptures mentioned in the as something to be put Quran were sent for moral guidance, as a balance and scale to steer humans towards establish-The other is to delve into ing justice within and the context, rationale and among His creations purpose of Ouranic (57:25). Verse 3:3 mentions the Quran as a criterion (between what is by which to live. The good and bad). How many Muslims judge themselves according to this criterion recalibrate their moral scale regularly?

The Quran is a re-Following a prin- minder (73:19) to the grained in our fitrah (huthe light that shows us that path (5:15) and that dispels the darkness of evil. The Quran is an adviser and mentor (3:138) for those who are pious. It is both a mercy for humanity and asks its followers to be merciful. Many Muslims don the cloak of piety and religiosity, often without the necessary mercy and kindness. Millions of women and men obey religious instructions, pray, recite Quranic verses, fast, and all the while they oppress those they perceive to be weak: whether animals, women, children, even members of other sects or faiths.

Take a simple exaccepts domestic abuse to the mosque to perform we are likely to in the belief that the hus-

in the mosque. We make our religion seem harsh, stern and rigid, whereas the Quran is a softener of hardened hearts. Wearing religion on our sleeves, we cast disapproving eyes upon others whom we believe to have gone astray. The Quran, on the other hand, wants us to focus upon our own shortcomings.

Among the most significant roles that the Quran plays are those of "a healing, for the (diseases) in your hearts" (10:57), "a mercy to any who believe' such (12:111) and "glad tidings for those who believe' (2:97). The human soul is possessed of a wide range of ailments greed, lust, jealousy, anger etc. In every sickness of the soul, the Quran comes to its rescue. It soothes, provides balm and bids the affectee to be patient and keep faith in the Lord. The harbinger of good news, the Quran brings calm and peace to a disturbed heart, provided the latter is ready to wait.

Many Muslims take it upon themselves to demand blind obedience to rituals and belief without questioning. God only asks humans to give thought: "... that you may explain clearly to men what is sent down to them, and that they may give thought" (16:44). According to Quran scholar Dr Farhad Shafti, among all scriptures he has read, there is none except the Quran that emphasises rationality and deliberation as much. Thinking is the quality that distinguishes humans from other species, and this is required for every action we take, every word that we utter, every decision we are called upon to exercise. Do we think? The human soul yearns for beauty. This longing can be satis-

fied by the Quran. If we look for this satisfaction, we are likely to find it. --

Planet of slums



Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

In the shadows of relentless real estate advertising and other glitzy money-making shenanigans, a not-so-silent class war is being waged against the working masses of Pakistan's cities. With each passing day, unaccountable administrators plan and construct more and more roads, plazas and other supposedly urgently needed infrastructure, whilst also facilitating the land grabs and unrestrained profiteering of militarised housing devel-

The cost is borne by teeming millions who build, feed, clothe and clean the city. They are dispossessed without alternative and cast out to

In 1998, Islamabad's population was barely 800,000; 25 years later it is approximately 2.5 million. Karachi and Lahore are now megacities that compare with the world's biggest, boasting populations of 25m and 15m people respectively. Pakistan on the whole is the most urbanised country in South Asia; of a total population of 240m, about half live in towns

Like so many matters of genuine concern, the incessant rural-urban migration that is shaping the cityscape is completely ignored by the political and intellectual mainstream. The urban explosion is intensifying each day, millions of young people flocking out of their rural abodes in the hope that their futures will be as bright as the neon lights of the metropolis.

norm. If you are better educated and have some economic and cultural for good returns on a business venture, inworking masses, the options are limited to driving a taxi, street vending, and daily wage work in the construction sector

and domestic service. Even such casual labour is barely tolerated cades-old by the ruling class. The Capital Development Authority in Islamabad, for instance, is now in the poor out of business entirely. Barely a day goes

without rehri-wallahs and roadside hotels beof it happens, according to the CDA — and in the case of Empress Market Court — to ensure sanctity of the rule of law. The same law mandates bruand goths are literally swallowed up whole. The most prominent example is that of Malir in toric ecosystem and indigenous human populations are rapidly being consigned to the consigned dustbin of history by the monstrosity that is Bahria Town Karachi.

This process is also proceeding apace in CDA is now on a mission lands on the city's outskirts, which it claims were legally acquired when the federal capital late 1950s. However accurate these claims may that these lands are currently occupied by real people, the vast majority Islamabad their home. might. -- Courtesy Dawn

But there are no Some have rented their jobs. Casual labour is the shanties, others even 'purchasing' land on the

proverbial stamp paper. The CDA couldn't capital, you might hope care less. It brands these working-class homes as 'illegal', issues hollow cluding startups. For the slogans against the 'land mafia', and bulldozes them to the ground at

If newly emergent

katchi abadis on the out-

skirts are major targets in eviction drives, desquatter settlements in the city centre are also vulnerable to the violent modalities of administrathe business of putting tors. Sometimes the slogan of 'beautification' is raised, but in most cases there is no attempt to hide the fact that katchi abadis are bulldozed to ing targeted by violent facilitate profitable veneviction campaigns. All tures of the usual suspects. And what of legal injunctions against summary evictions? The Suin Karachi, the Supreme preme Court stayed such evictions in 2015 following the brutal demolition of a 25,000-strong katchi tal demolitions of work- abadi in Sector I-11 of ing people's homes. As the federal capital. the city expands into the Punjab and Sindh have rural hinterland, villages laws in operation that mandate regularisation for katchi abadis and resettlement in cases that they must be removed. Karachi, where an his- But behind slogans about the rule of law, there is a de facto law that is designed to keep the rich and powerful in

If one lived under a rock and paid attention only to the billboards advertising gated housing Islamabad, where the communities, it might feel like all homes in our cities to take possession of resemble a pristine corner plot in Bahria Town. But thankfully many of us do not live under a rock. Whatever I have written came into being in the here has been said and repeated over many vears. It is not rocket scibe, what is ignored is ence that the urban planning paradigm is completely elitist. Until it changes, those who are of them working-class able must continue to remigrants who have made sist evictions with all their

Commerce News



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting on the establishment of Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund (PSWF), at Finance Division in Islamabad.

PCJCCI for Pak-China Women's Development **Employment Initiative**

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Moazzam Ghurki has said that there is a dire need to establish Pak-China Women's Development Employment Initiative to empower the women of Pakistan and China at broader level.

Yulong, Senior Vice President PCJCCI, Ghurki said, 'We should start such projects under BRI for the growth of young Pakistani businesswomen to instill a significant impact on the gender equality and women empowerment.

The experience of Chinese women will help in the social growth of Pakistani women. The PCJCCI President added that through this initiative various short courses related to technical and vocational training will be launched like; garments, food, handicrafts, languages, and I.T sector.

These courses will be In a meeting with Fang a part of China's efforts for women empowerment, offering them an excellent chance to become an integral component of the 'high-tech man force' direly needed for Gwadar free zones as well as national and internationally competitive markets

China to explore more **5G** use scenarios

ISLAMABAD (APP): China will explore more use scenarios for 5G technology in a wide range of sectors including industry, mineral mining and ports operation, with more than 3,000 enterprises expected to build 5G-wired factories in 2023, said a senior government official.

engineer of China's Ministry of Industry and Intings (IoT) devices hittings 2.12 billion, accordformation Technology ing to the MIIT.

(MIIT), said that the country will accelerate research and development (R&D) of the next-genera-

tion 6G technology.

By the end of June, a total of 2.93 million 5G base stations have been put into services in China, with the number of 5G smartphone users reaching 676 million and Zhao Zhiguo, chief the connected Internet of

Rupee sheds Rs1.67 against **US Dollar**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Friday witnessed Rs1.67 devaluation against the US Dollar in the interbank trading as it closed at Rs286.81 against the previous day's closing of Rs285.14.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market stood at Rs289.5 and Rs292.5 respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by 53 paisa to close at Rs 319.13 against the last day's closing of Rs 319.66, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

PSX witnesses bullish trend as index gains 522 points

ISLAMABAD (APP) The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Friday, gaining 522.42 points, a positive change of 1.15 percent, closing at 45,920.73 points against 45,398.31 points the previous trading day. A total of 504,550,463 shares were traded during the day as compared to 464,226,100 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 12.012 billion against Rs 10.104 billion on the last trading day.

Khawaja Saad says: PIA has a debt of Rs. 742 billion

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique has said that has debt of RS 742 billion.

PIA will stand closed in one and a half years if restructuring is not done.

Due to the careless statement of Ghulam Sarwar, there has been a loss of 70 billion rupees. PIA has expensive sta-

The flights of British Airlines will be restored

very soon.

He said that European Airlines will also restore flights in 3 to 4 months. Outsourcing of airports will be done to the

best bidder. He said that Airports

are operated through private operators in the world. Outsourcing does not mean that airports are being closed.

If someone puts pressure then it will not be tolerated. Islamabad Airport will be outsourced for 15 He expressed these years. IFC is our con-

SECP takes Actuarial Advisor on board for **Insurance Division**

Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), in line with its focus on strengthening its insurance sector regulatory responsibilities, is pleased to announce appointment of Mr. Falak Sher Soomro as Advisor to the Commission on Insurance. Mr. Soomro is an Associate of Institute of Actuaries, UK. He is a risk and insurance professional with over 15 years of experience in General & Medical insurance across

ISLAMABAD (INP): The KSA, the UAE, Oman, Lebanon, Pakistan, and Malta (EU). The newly appointed advisor will be based in Karachi and will assist the Commission on its key reforms agenda related to the insurance sector. Mr. Soomro will bring his valuable expertise in Reserving, Motor Medical & Group Life Pricing and Underwriting, Solvency Capital Modelling and Financial Reporting, Reinsurance Optimization, Investments Strategies and Risk Management.

Forex reserves reach highest position since October 2022: Dar ISLAMABAD (APP): eign reserves rose to US\$ 4,203 million to US\$

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar here on Friday said that the foreign exchange reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) were at their highest position now since October 2022.

In a tweet, the federal minister said the total liquid foreign reserves stood at \$14.6 billion.

"Total liquid foreign reserves at \$14.06 billion, SBP's reserve position highest since October 2022," he tweeted.

It is pertinent to men-

14,065.3 million while reserves held by the central bank reached \$8,727.2 million owing to inflows from Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and International Monetary Fund

The central bank in a statement issued the previous day informed that SBP received US\$ 2.0 billion from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, US\$1.2 billion from International Monetary Fund, and US\$ 1.0 billion from the United Arab Emir-

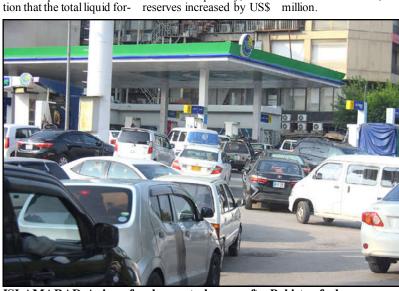
Consequently, SBP

week ended on July 14,

Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks stood at US\$ 5,338.1 million, it added.

In the previous week ending on July 07, total liquid foreign reserves held by the country was US\$

838.5 million. Among them, foreign reserves held by the central bank were US\$ 4,524 million while net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were US\$ 5,314.5



ISLAMABAD: A view of rush on petrol pump after Pakistan fuel pump operator association calls national strike for July 22.

Weekly inflation falls by 0.07 pc

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed nominal decrease of 0.07 per cent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on July 20, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. The SPI for the week under review in the abovementioned group was re-corded at 258.45 points as compared to 258.63 points during the past week, according to the PBS data.

As compared to the

bined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 29.16 per cent. 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 Rs 17.732, increased by 0.51 per cent and went up to week's 265.88 points. The SPI for consump-

tion groups from Rs 17,732-22,888, Rs 22,889-29,517 corresponding week of last and Rs 29,518-44,175;

year, the SPI for the com- however increased by 0.35 percent, 0.20 percent and 0.03 percent respectively while it declined by 0.28 percent for consumption group above Rs 44,175. During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 30 (58.82%) items increased, 09 (17.65%) items decreased and 12 (23.53%) items remained stable. The items. which recorded a decrease 267.24 points from last in their average prices on a week-on-week (WoW) included on ions (10.29%), chicken (8.57%), bananas (8.34%), wheat flour

KP CM inaugurates Phase-I of Rashakai Special Economic Zone

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Azam Khan inaugurated Phase-I of the Rashakai Special Economic Zone, marking a significant milestone in China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) here on Friday

The Rashakai Special Economic Zone, strategically located at the nexus of economic growth, stands as a testament to the strong partnership between Pakistan and China. CPEC has become a symbol of friendship between the countries and a model for cooperation between developing coun-

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister appreciated the exceptional efforts and unwavering commitment of China Road

Pakhtunkhwa Economic umbrella of CPEC. Pres-Zones Development & ently, Phase- I houses 18 Management Company zone enterprises, with 07 (KPEZDMC) for suc- under construction; mobicessfully completing lizing an estimated invest-Phase -I of the project six ment of Rs. 85 billion. months before the comple-

thanked the government of China, the companies inentities for their unflinching support to the project and all those who contributed to the completion Phase -I Rashakai ŜEZ.

Encompassing 247 designed to attract domestic and foreign investors, Phase I of the Rashakai SEZ promises to spur economic growth and job creation, further strengthening Paki-

PESHAWAR (APP): Care-taker Chief Minister (CRBC) and Khyber bilateral relations under the

Saturday July 22, 2023

As the Rashakai SEZ takes its place on the path The chief minister to becoming a catalyst for regional prosperity, creating employment opportuvolved and public sector nities for the local population, and attracting foreign direct investment, plans are already underway for the subsequent phase

These forthcoming endeavors will focus on exacres of modern facilities panding infrastructure, streamlining business processes, and attracting key industries, unlocking the SEZ's full potential, as part of the ongoing decade of



HYDERABAD: Impounded vehicles are ruining outside Hatri Bypass Police Station, showing the negligence of concerned authorities, in Hyderabad.

LHC withdraws stay order issued to Imran

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday withdrew a stay order issued to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan against coercive measures in May-9 cases, wherein he was not nominated.

The single bench comprising Justice Aalia Neelum heard the petition filed by the PTI chairman for consolidation of all cases of May-9 riots against him. the stay order.

A junior counsel informed the court that senior counsel Sardar Latif Khosa was busy before the Apex court and requested to adjourn the proceedings. He also requested the court not to withdraw the stay order issued on the last

However, the court adjourned further proceedings for an indefinite time but did not extend

KORA, KHATTAK APP): Chairman of Jamiat Ùlema-e-Islam (S) Maulana Hamidul Haq Haqqani, on Friday urged the scholars and leaders nationwide to maintain a peaceful atmophere throughout Muharram-ul-Harram.

Addressing a gathering at Jamia Darul Uloom Haqqania, he emphasized the essence of Islam as a religion of peace and harmony, advocating for moderation and tolerance.

He drew inspiration

from the historical martyrdom of Imam Hussain (RA), highlighting its profound message of standing against injustice. The events of Karbala, Maulana Haqqani stressed, offer invaluable lessons of patience and resilience. With these principles in mind, he passionately appealed to all religious scholars and leaders to ensure that congregations and processions during Muharram remain free from discussions.



inaugurating the residential flats for project of worker welfare Board at

IGP appreciates role of scholars in promoting peace, inter-faith harmony, unity among Muslims

Anwar, while appreciating the role of Ulema in promoting peace, inter-faith harmony, and unity among Muslims said that the Ulema who propagate peace are champions of character as well as

He said this while meeting the delegation of Ulema, and Scholars led by

Ruet-e-Hilal Committee at the Central Police Office here on Friday. In a delegation led by Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad eminent scholars from all the schools of thought visited the Central

Police Office and met IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar.

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police Abdul Khabir Azad, the Punjab (IGP) Dr. Usman Chairman of the Central archy on social media will be dealt with iron hands. He said that police

focal persons have been appointed for coordination among stakeholders during Ashura Muharram. Control rooms have been established for the monitoring of security of Muharram programs in all During the meeting, regions and districts in-IG Punjab said that the cluding CPO office.

Dr. Javed says: Efforts being made to ensure best medical facilities to masses

MULTAN (APP): Punjab Dr Javed Akram said on Friday that the provincial government ensuring all possible efforts to provide the best medical facilities at educational institutes. to masses across the prov-

the 13th syndicate meeting of Nishtar Medical University, the caretaker minister said that as per directives of the Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, all possible measures were being taken for bringing improvement in the performance of the health department and service delivery

He said that the offic-Caretaker Health Minister ers concerned have been directed to set up a model pharmacy in Nishtar Hospital, adding a screening of school kids would be made

He said that a health screening certificate After participating in would be made compulsory for participating in the examination of the 9th class. He said that special focus was being paid on research work in medical institutes of the province. Earlier, the committee gave approval to different initiatives including the construction of the statue of Nishtar Medical University



HYDERABAD: Security officials are standing high alert to avoid untoward incident during the shiite muslims mourning procession in connection of 2nd Muharram-ul-Haram, at Qadam Gha Mola Ali (R.A) in Hyderabad.

GB Tourism – Enjoy nature but not on others cost

"Growing tourism is a

(APP): Gilgit Baltistan, known for its stunning landscapes, snow-covered peaks and rich cultural heritage has always been an enchanting attraction for tourists with the region receiving staggering 10,000

tourists daily. This influx of visitors brings economic prosperity to local people by flourishhotels, guesthouses, and resorts business and generating employment opportunities for local people especially youth running trekking, rental equipment, handicrafts, driving, and local delicacies businesses.

venturous opportunities leave indelible imprints on the minds of tourists, yet there are challenges like environmental degradation and careless driving, resulting in the loss of precious

Popular tourist spots like Naltar, Fairy Meadows, Rama Astore, and Hunza once to be pristine, are now grappling with lit-ter and pollution. Plastic waste, in particular, has become a major environmental hazard, threatening the health of wildlife and

Although the breath- and trekking activities have taking landscapes and ad- also led to habitat disturbance that may have farreaching consequences on biodiversity.

> blessing for our hotel business. We receive marvelous responses every year. It grows our business and generates employment opportunities for local people," said Qaiser Abbas a hotel owner from Naltar Bala, Gilgit.

extra pressure on local habitats and the environment which direly needs to align business operations with Unregulated camping environmental protection." sustainability and leave be-nature.

makes us earn bread for our erations. children. But it should not be at the cost of environmental degradation," he said. "We can encourage responsible tourism by

educating our guests and local people to use ecofriendly amenities, reduce plastic waste and protect habitat to ensure the region's ecological bal-

Therefore, conserva-"However, it exerts tion efforts need to be in- ness campaigns, worktensified to protect the beauty of GB by striking a cate tourists about the balance between tourism harmful impact on the enand environmental protec- vironment by their irresustainable practices for tion to ensure long-term sponsible behavior towards

"Tourism industry hind an asset for future gen-

"Improper waste generation especially plastic waste due to rising tourists influx poses serious threats to the region's ecosystem and wildlife," said Abul Rehman Bukhari an environmental activist.

'Moreover, unregulated trekking and camping activities also cause habitat degradation in some areas.

He suggested awareshops, and seminars to edu-

International News

Putin tells Poland any aggression against Belarus is attack on Russia

Monitoring Desk Vladimir Putin on Friday accused NATO member Poland of having territorial ambitions in the former Soviet Union, and said any aggression against Russia's neighbour and close ally Belarus would be considered an attack on Russia.

Moscow would react to any aggression against Belarus, which forms a loose "Union State" with Russia, "with all the means at our disposal", Putin told a meeting of his Security Council in televised re-

Warsaw's Security Committee decided on Wednesday to move mili- of Bakhmut, is Russia's

after members of the Russtate-run news agency PAP quoted its secretary as say- tiny four weeks ago.

video welcoming his fighters to Belarus, telling them they would take no further part for now in the war in Ukraine but ordering them Wagner's operations in Africa while they trained the Belarusian army.

Prigozhin Wagner, which led the conquest of the Ukrainian city

tary units to eastern Poland most effective fighting force. But his frequent sian Wagner mercenary clashes with the Moscow force arrived in Belarus, the defence establishment led him to stage an armed mu-

ing on Friday. The insurrection
On Wednesday, ended with an agreement
Wagner chief Yevgeny that Wagner fighters-many Prigozhin was shown in a recruited from prison could move to Belarus it they wished.

On Thursday, Minsk said Wagner mercenaries had started to train to gather strength for Belarusian special forces at a military range just a few miles from the Polish border.

Russia has in recent weeks begun stationing tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus for the first time.

UXBRIDGE: Prime Minister Rishi Sunak visits Uxbridge to congratulate

Conservative Party candidate, Steve Tuckwell, after he won the Uxbridge and South Ruislip by-election in Uxbridge, Britain.

Russia hits grain terminals in southern Ukraine - governor

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Russian missiles hit

grain terminals at an agricultural enterprise in the Odesa region in a fourth successive night of air strikes on southern Ukraine, the regional governor said on Fri-

But Russia's attacks appeared less intense than on the three previous nights, when missiles and drones struck southern cities and ports after Moscow quit a U.N.-brokered deal allowing safe shipments of Ukrainian grain through the Black Sea. Odesa's regional gov-

ernor, Oleh Kiper, said two people had been hurt in the attack on an agricultural enterprise but did not say where in the region the enterprise was located

'Unfortunately, the grain terminals of an agricultural enterprise in Odesa region were hit. The enemy destroyed 100 tons of peas and 20 tons of barley," he said on the Telegram mes-

saging app.

Kiper said Russia had attacked with Kalibr cruise missiles that were fired from the Black Sea at low altitude to bypass air defence systems.

He said two missiles hit the grain storage facilities, causing a fire. Another missile struck the same enterprise as the blaze was being extinguished, damaging agricultural and rescue equipment. Photographs from the scene showed a fire burning among crumpled metal buildings that appeared to be storehouses, and a badly damaged fire-fighting vehicle. Moscow says it has been carrying out "retaliatory strikes" this week after quitting the Black Sea grain export deal and accusing Ukraine of being behind blasts on Monday.

Largest ever **Australia-US** ioint military exercise gets underway

SYDNEY: Australia and the US began two weeks of war games involving more than 30,000 troops and participants from 11 other countries on Friday, in a show of force and unity at a time when China has emerged as an increasingly assertive power in

Held every two years.

could lead to restoring Black Sea grain deal -media Monitoring Desk tries and northern Cyprus.

Erdogan says Putin talks

ANKARA: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said his planned talks with Russian President Vladimir tion of the Black Sea grain initiative, and called on Western countries to consider Russia's demands, Turkish broadcasters reported on Friday. The termination of

the Black Sea grain deal will have a series of consequences, ranging from the increase in global food prices to scarcity in certain regions and, potentially, leading to new waves of migration," Erdogan told reporters on a flight returning from a trip to Gulf coun- markets.

'I believe that by thoroughly discussing the matter with President Putin, we can ensure the continu-Putin could lead to restora- ation of this humanitarian effort," Erdogan added.

Russia this week quit a deal - brokered by the United Nations and Turkey - that allowed the safe Black Sea export of Ukraine grain for the past year, and revoked guarantees of safe navigation. Since then, no ships have sailed from Ukrainian ports.

Moscow says it will return to the deal only if its demands are met for easier access for its own food and fertiliser exports to world



Hun Manet, son of Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen, attends the final Cambodian People's Party (CPP) election campaign for the upcoming general election in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

US plans second summit with Pacific island leaders in September

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTÕN: U.S. President Joe Biden will host a second summit with leaders of Pacific island nations in September, Joseph Yun, the U.S. official responsible to negotiations with three key Pacific island states said on Thursday. U.S. officials have said the summit is expected to take place around the time of the U.N. General Assembly meetings in New York in September.

Biden's national security adviser, Jake think tank

Sullivan, said in May Biden would arrange another summit of Pacific island leaders this year after the disappointment caused by his cancellation of a visit to Papua New Guinea due to the domestic debt ceiling crisis. Biden hosted a first summit with the leaders last year.

'He has committed (to) holding a second summit in September this year," Yun told an event hosted by the Heritage Foundation

British Prime Minister Sunak narrowly avoids wipeout in local polls of-living crisis before a na-**Monitoring Desk**

LONDON: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's governing Conservatives lost two strategically important parliamentary seats on Friday but unexpectedly retained former leader Boris Johnson's old constituency in a setback for the opposi-

tion Labour Party. The Conservatives' narrow victory in Uxbridge and South Ruislip gave Sunak some breathing space to try to narrow Labour's large lead in the polls by tackling inflation and a cost-

tional vote expected next year. Sunak said the win showed that upcoming election was not a "done deal" In a cafe in the constituency, he told reporters: "The message I take away is that we have to double down, stick to our plan and deliver for people.

But the scale of the challenge was highlighted by the loss of the once safe Conservative parliamentary seat of Selby and Ainsty in northern En-



(Assam PMC) shout slogans as they take part in a

demonstration against ongoing ethnic violence in

India's north-eastern state of Manipur, in Guwahati.

Turkiye urges Sweden to act over terrorism for NATO membership support Monitoring Desk ISTANBUL: Turkey will

act to ratify Sweden's NATO membership bid in conjunction with cooperation from Stockholm in the fight against terrorism, President Tayyip Erdogan was quoted on Friday as saying. Sweden and Finland applied for NATO membership last year in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, abandoning policies of military nonalignment that had lasted through the Cold War. Their applications must be approved by all members of

Having held up ratification of Sweden's NATO bid for more than a year, Erdogan unexpectedly agreed after the alliance's summit in Lithuania this month to forward it to Turkey's parliament when the legislature reconvenes in October. "Turkish parliament's working schedule will determine the process of Sweden's NATO membership (ratification)."

Iran denies oil on tanker seized by Indonesia belongs to Tehran Monitoring Desk

DUBAI: Iran's oil ministry said the oil cargo of an Iranian-flagged supertanker seized by Indonesia last week does not belong to Tehran, Iranian state media reported on

An oil ministry state-ment, reported by the country's state media, did not identify the owner of the cargo of MT Arman 114, an Iranian-flagged supertanker suspected of involvement in the illegal

transshipment of crude oil, which Indonesia's coast guard said on July 11 it had seized. "Published news linking the cargo of this ship Iran have no validity and this is done with the aim of creating a negative atmosphere against our country," the oil ministry statement said, without elaborating

Tensions between Tehran and Washington have been rising after Iran tried to seize the Richmond Vovager tanker.

Monitoring Desk the Indo-Pacific.

the first Talisman Sabre joint military exercises were conducted in 2005.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the concluding ceremony of the Global Rehabilitation Leadership Institute

Pakistan succeeds in creating a roadmap for energy conservation at national level: Agha Hassan

ISLAMABAD (APP): largely on the supply of Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Agha Hassan Baloch Friday said that Pakistan had succeeded in creating a roadmap for energy conservation at the national level that directly impacted the country's foreign exchange. He was addressing the National Stakeholders Consultation 2023 on Energy Efficiency and Conservation in Pakistan held at a local hotel.

The federal minister stated, "The country can conserve more energy through reducing dependence on imported energy and crude oil.

Agha Hassan Baloch said, "The sustainable economic and industrial development of any country in modern times depends

uninterrupted, constant quality and alternative the month of summer, ensources of energy.

representatives of the industrial sector and senior officials, the federal minister stated, "The present coalition government has approved the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Policy 2023 for which the stakeholders will serve as a regard, the government has catalyst for making this not only banned the manupolicy more viable.

said, "His ministry has suc- duty on the import of its ceeded in making energy conservation building codes raw materials." The federal minister said, "In this short conservation building codes in Pakistan in a very short period of time, as per the instructions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

ISLAMABAD: Activists of Muslim Talba Mahaz shouting slogans during

Energy efficient technologies crucial to

cope energy crises: Khuawaja Asif

The consultation was

The minister said that

fans and air-conditioners

were two main sources of

electricity consumption in

peak loads which was

around 18000 MW out of

the total demand of 30000

MW. "We are still manu-

facturing Fans of 120 W

and 100 W while Fans with

capacity 40 W and even 30

is a globally adopted tech-

organized by the National issues of peak loads by

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority technologies," he added.

Ware also available, and it presentation of content in

protest at Aabpara Chowk, against the burning of the Quran in Sweden.

(NEECA).

Minister

Defense

Khuwaja Asif on Friday

stressed the need for

adopting energy-efficient

technologies in order to

fight against energy chal-

remarks during a national-

level consultation on "En-

ergy Efficiency and Con-

servation Action Plan

2023-30, Energy Conser-

vation Building Codes

(ECBC)- 2023 and Paki-

stan Energy Labels Regu-

The minister made his

lenges in the country.

"In view of increased ergy conservation building Addressing the participants, which included codes are very important to ensure that the construction of houses and buildings is done in a way that electricity consumption is reduced and there is proper arrange-

ment of light and air."
He said, "It is very important to introduce global energy standards in the valuable opinion of all the industrial sector and, in this facturing of substandard Agha Hassan Baloch bulbs but also increased the period of time, the regulations of electrical appliances used in homes have

Pakistan, US should invest more in bringing two peoples closer: Masood

Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan says Pakistan and United States should invest more in bringing the two peoples closer.

Addressing the concluding session of a daylong 'Conference on Diplomacy for Development' at Houston, Texas, he urged the Pakistani diaspora to play its role for promotion of positive image of Pakistan in United States.

The Ambassador said American Centers in the past, and now the Lincoln Centres in Pakistan are effectively contributing to- as the leading economy.

ISLAMABAD (Online): wards creating a better understanding about the United States. Masood Khan added we need to have similar centres in the United States to promote awareness about Pak-US relations and to pass on this legacy to our coming generations.

He said Pakistan

Chairs in leading Universities of the United States would play a critical role in creating better understanding of the country, its people and the region. The Ambassador urged the Pakistani diaspora to have complete confidence in Pakistan and its ability to rise

Dar refutes rumors of imposition new taxes on agriculture, real estate sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday firmly denied media reports claiming the imposition of additional taxes on agriculture and real estate sectors to meet the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) require-

"I am categorically announcing on the floor of the house that there will be no new taxes on agriculture and real estate. We have faced numerous hardships due to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) requirements, and we have diligently met all the prior ister said while speaking at of the State Bank

the National Assembly

The minister further emphasized that the news was entirely baseless and lacked truth, clarifying that all fiscal decisions made by the government were aimed at fulfilling IMF's requirements and commitments. Senator Ishaq Dar also offered his readiness to provide detailed information on these specific issues to anyone seeking

Discussing the economic situation, the finance minister mentioned that if the government continued its present policies, the inflation rate was expected to decrease to 7 per actions," the finance min- cent, based on the working

Dr. Qibla praises China's model of religious freedom, inclusivity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) Chairman Dr. Qibla Ayaz on Friday lauded China's commitment to religious freedom and interview with APP, highthe protection of legal rights for minority communities, including Muslims, without

foreign affairs ministry to maintained.

assess the state of religious pluralism in the nation. The chairman expressed that he was impressed to witness a country where people from all segments of society enjoy equal rights and have the freedom to practice their religious rituals without hindrance.

During this trip, Dr. Qibla observed that minority communities in China joyously celebrated their religious festivals and other social and cultural events, alongside the majority population.

The Chinese government played an active role in supporting and promoting these religious and cultural activities, extending all possible assistance, he

inclusivity, dispelling any negative impressions of interfaith disharmony in the country. He, in an exclusive lighted that China ensures

any discrimination or bias. Sharing his recent personal experience, Dr. Qibla Ayaz revealed that he had visited various regions of China alongside a delegation of prominent religious scholars and leaders. They were invited by the Chinese

Court grants time to share

ISLAMABAD (APP): A mitted its report to the local court on Friday granted time to the prosecution for phone set of the accused submission of documents in a sedition case against minister

former Chaudhry Fawad Hussain. Ádditional District and Session Judge Tahir Abbas Sapra heard the case against Chaudhry Fawad Hussain who appeared before the court along with his lawyers.

Defence lawyer Faisal

Chaudhry Advocate adopted the stance that the prosecution was yet to provide the case docu-

had been sent for forensic analysis. The voice matching of the accused had also been conducted.

The court was told that forensic analysis of one mobile phone of the accused couldn't be conducted due to none availability of the code. The prosecution prayed the court to grant some time for provision of the documents to the defence side.

The court adjourned



President urges society, family role to address disability, rehabilitation issues

ISLAMABAD President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday emphasized that society and the family system would have to play their due role to facilitate the lives of disabled persons as well as those needing rehabilitative care.

The president, addressing the concluding ceremony of a course held by the Global Rehabilitation Leadership Institute, said the community welfare had been the basis for all religions including Islam, Christianity and Judaism, citing the examples of holy Prophet prophets, Muhammad and his companions

He said at a time when the world lacked morality and humanism in its affairs. it was the society that would have to play its part, particularly for the welfare of persons with disabilities and those who could benefit from rehabilitation.

Citing a research study, the president told the gathering that around 24 percent of Pakistan's population suffered mental stress including 60-70 percent of the students.

He said the situation could not be addressed at a

time when the country had just 600 psychiatrists and 1200 psychologists. In such a case, the family system could prove to be a good anchor to extend its support in the form of group therapy and stress sharing.

President Alvi said without depending on the state, the family system would have to come up to play its part as in Islamic societies where the communities always promulgated

He stressed the need for the Pakistani society to show compassion towards the persons with disabilities as generally, their attitude towards them was not welcoming He said all the de-

prived segments of society including women and 27 million out-of-school children required due attention for redressal of their He said the enrollment

of 27 million out-of-school children could take decades if left up to the state while Pakistani society could address the issue far earlier by utilising the already available infrastructure of

The president said

children with physical disabilities should be enrolled in regular schools as it would sensitise other children towards their challenges.

Besides, he said more than a state, the society would have to make efforts to ease the movement of

visually impaired people. The president thanked the World Health Organisation (WHO) for extending support to Pakistan to address the issues of disability and rehabilita-

He urged the countrymen to respect their legacy of love towards humanity, the environment and nature to bring a change just by investing the intellect, not

Earlier, WHO Representative in Pakistan Palitha Mahipala spoke hight of the "incredible" leadership and role played by President Alvi towards the issues of disabilities and rehabilitation.

Similarly, he also lauded the contribution and efforts by First Lady Samina Alvi on the issues including her traveling and interactions with the people on multiple health-related



bon along with others to inaugurates the paintings exhibition of German Artist Dagmar Rauwald entitled "Invention VS Convention" at Comsats Art Gallery in Federal Capital.

Marriyum grieved over demise of Sanaullah's brother

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of the brother of senior journalist Sanaullah Khan.

In a condolence message, the minister expressed her heartfelt condolences to Sanaullah and his bereaved

IRSA releases 448,500

cusecs water ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Au-

thority (IRSA) on Friday released 448,500 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 540,800 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1521.73 feet and was 123.73 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Waterinflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 285,300 cusecs and 251,000 cusecs respec-

SC dismisses curative review reference against Justice Qazi Faez Isa

judge Justice Qazi Faez Isa. Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial dismissed the pleas

after they were withdrawn. The apex court announced the detailed verdict on the review petition filed by Justice Isa. Court dismissed the plea with 6-4. The verdict also annulled the instructions issued by the FBR and the Supreme

Judicial Council (SJĈ). The verdict stated that the government filed a re-

ISLAMABAD (INP) – judgement on review petition. SC Registrar said, as day dismissed the curative reference against SC puisne view petition could not be filed.

The petitioner filed an appeal in chamber against the objections raised by SC Registrar. On March 31, President Arif Alvi requested to withdraw the curative review petition and the cabinet approved the withdrawal of the reference.

Earlier, a curative review reference had been filed by the PTI against Justice Isa. However, the present government did not view petition against the choose to follow the case.



under the Rawal bridge during rain.

NA body unanimously approves PEMRA Amendment Bill 2023 ISLAMABAD (APP): amended while five new

The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting on Friday unanimously approved the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) Ámendment Bill

The committee, which

met at the Radio Pakistan with Javaria Zafar Aheer in the chair, termed the Bill a historic initiative for the welfare of journalists and appreciated all the efforts of all stakeholders, including the government, in that Besides The Pakistan

Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill 2023, the committee also discussed The Press Council of Pakistan (Amendment) Bill 2023. Minister of Informa-

tion and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, briefing the committee, said amending the PEMRA law was the need of the hour as the entire scenario of the media had changed.

She said the PEMRA Ordinance, which was promulgated in 2002, was was being amended first time. Its nine clauses were ones were added. The minister said under

the amended law, for the first time media workers were being given the right to file complaints in the Council of Complaints, whereas in the past they were sacked even for demanding salaries.

Under the new bill, a three-member committee would now have the powers to close down a channel instead of the PEMRA chairman, she added. Marriyum said in the

past, an unsuccessful atempt was made to bring a black law like the Pakistan Media Development Au-

However, the incumbent government took 13 months to prepare the amended bill as extensive consultations were held with all stakeholders, including media workers organizations and owners of edia houses.

The minister said that the definitions of fake news, disinformation and misinformation had also been included in the bill. Disinformation and misinformation had been interpreted separately

She said under the new bill, the fine for deliberately spreading false news had been increased from Rs 1 million to Rs 10 million. In the past, the channels used to take the plea that the fake news by aired by them was filed by journalists in their personal capacity, but now they (channels) would also be made accountable.

The minister said nine clauses, including 2, 6, 8, 11, 13, 24, 26, 27 and 29 had been amended whereas five news ones 20, 20-A, 29A, 30B and 39A were added She said in the pre-

amble of the bill, instead of the news", words like "certified news, patience and tolerance, economic and energy development and children-related content have been added"

Under the bill, the scope of public entertainment, education and information had been expanded,

Marriyum said the electronic media would have to use authentic news, besides the content related to tolerance in the society, general development, energy and economic develop-

KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Kamran Tessori and

others are offering funeral prayer of Nawab of

as well as in the higher education sector, COMSTECH-the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation has launched a specialized 'Somalia Science and Technology Cooperation Program" in a ceremony here on Friday.

Jinnah road in Karachi.

The initiative was launched with the efforts of the Embassy of the Republic of Somalia here in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Addressing the ceremony, COMSTECH Coordinator General Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary emphasized the need for joint collaborative country-specific programs to address the specific needs of each OIC member state with tailor-made solu-

He appreciated the ef- OIC member states.

Junagadh Muhammad Jahangir Khanji, at Fatima **Program launched to help** Somalian students in science

> Pakistan, for launching this The Charge de Affairs. Embassy of the Republic of Somalia, Shirwa Abdullahi Ibrahim appreciated the vithe COMSTECH leadership to address the Science

and Technology needs of He thanked Prof. Choudhary for starting country-specific programs for OIC member states specifically in the African continent, adding the program will contribute to further mutual col-

The High Commissioner of Pakistan in Nairobi, Kenya, Saqlain Syedah addressed the launching ceremony online and appreciated the COMSTECH initiative for Somalia, and other African

AIOU announces admissions in semester autumn 2023

nology. We can address the

He said that motor

bikes constituted the ma-

jor portion of energy con-

sumption in the transport

sector and the country

badly failed to introduce

electric bikes due to the re-

NEECA team for their ef-

forts to make energy effi-

ciency a workable agenda and

an impressive manner.

He appreciated the

sistance by the big guns.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on Friday commenced the admissions for matriculation to Ph.D. programs in the autumn semester of 2023 across the

Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood Vice Chancellor of AIOU, has desired that not a single student should be deprived of higher and quality education owing to lack of financial resources.

In this regard, AIOU is providing scholarships, fee concessions, and financial assistance schemes for underprivileged marginalized strata living in far-flung areas of the coun-

Moreover, to utilize these schemes, deserving candidates are required to contact their respective regional offices of AIOU established in all four provinces of Pakistan, including Azad Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan.

documents with defence