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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): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday called upon the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the civilized world to come forward and take steps to put an end to the abominable practice of desecration of the holy books.

'The attitudes that incite religious hatred, promote violence and encourage terrorism and militancy, need to be checked," he said

of holy personages, symbols and divine books in the name of freedom of expres-

sion to desecrate the Holy Quran, Torah & Bible is sole aim could be to threaten lege of holy books. world peace," he said.

The prime minister a statement, said that from said: "We should not let a the platform of the

The prime minister handful of Satanic charac- Organisations of Islamic said no civilized society ters undermine our shared would allow the desecration values of peace, and tolerance, pluralism.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday strongly condemned "The grant of permisting the desecration of Holy Ouran in Sweden and vowed to launch a campaign part of a sinister, vile and despicable agenda whose cision of allowing the sacri-

The prime minister, in

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 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 Holy Quran.



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



LARKANA: Chairman PPP and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari giving away house ownership right document to flood victims under the Sindh People's Housing Scheme during a visit to a house built for them at village of Vikia Sangi.

SIFC approves projects for attracting investments from friendly countries

PM Shehbaz chairs second apex committee meeting of SIFC; COAS, CMs, federal and provincial ministers and high-level government officials

ISLAMABAD (APP):The Apex Committee of the Spewar attended by Chief of cial Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) on Friday approved the projects for attracting investments from friendly countries in agricultural, livestock, minerals, mining, information technology, and energy sectors. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, chairing the second meeting of the Apex Committee, directed to extend impeccable facilitation to the in-

Army Staff General Asim Munir, chief ministers, federal and provincial Ministers and high-level government officials, reviewed various projects presented by ministries for broaching with investors under the umbrella of SIFC. The Apex Committee expressed satisfaction on functioning of the SIFC and its strategy to outreach the potential investors vestors, interested in under- through conduct of seminars taking and actualising the and project inaugurations.

Minorities minister reviews dev. projects

Independent Report KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Minority Affairs Giyan Chand Esrani chaired a meeting here Friday to review the ongoing development projects of his de-

the meeting about the progress of schemes at Mirpurkhas, Tharparkar and Umarkot. While the concerned

sub-engineers provided detailed information about the



The meeting was attended by the Secretary Minority Affairs Department and various officers of The Secretary briefed time.

The Minister directed the officials to perform their duty with honesty so that the problems of the

DG Rangers urges scholars to promote religious harmony during Muharram

KARACHI (APP): Direc- tain law and order, said a tor General Pakistan Rangers Sindh Major General Azhar Waqas on Friday urged the scholars of all schools of thought, appealharmony and tolerance durthe month of Muharram.

During the meeting, the DG Rangers apprised the scholars about security measures put in place for the holy month, reiterating the commitment to ensure foolproof security arrangements with other law enforcement agencies to mainRangers spokesman.

It was also agreed during the meeting that in light of orders given by the provincial government, full ing to promote religious compliance with the prevailing laws and code of conduct will be ensured as much as possible, besides taking action against the violators.

The delegation of scholars appreciated the security measures taken by the law enforcement agencies and assured their full cooperation in that regard

CM grieves over loss of lives in GB van accident

Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has expressed his grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives in a van accident in Gilgit Baltistan here on Friday.

He sympathized with the bereaved family members of the people, who lost their lives in the incident.

SC dismisses curative review reference against **Justice Faez Isa**

ISLAMABAD (INP) The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed the curative reference against SC puisne judge Justice Qazi Faez Isa. Chief Justice Umar

Ata Bandial dismissed the pleas after they were with-

The apex court announced the detailed verdict on the review petition filed by Justice Isa. Court dismissed the plea with 6-4.

Petroleum dealers defer strike for two days

Monitoring Desk KARACHI: The Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA) on Friday deferred fuel strike 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.

provide ownership rights to the flood-stricken people. Addressing an event, Bhutto-Zardari expressed his resolve to build two million homes in Sindh dureven richer.' ing a speech. He continued, "From today, good days have started for the flood-

Bilawal vows to provide

ownership rights to

flood-stricken people

stricken people". He admitted the masses were facing severe economic hardships. Bhutto-Zardari continued, "That is why we are bring-

Zardari on Friday vowed to

ing revolutionary projects for the public". He pledged to adopt the ideology of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto to every nook and cranny of the Sindh dis-

tricts. Bhutto-Zardari as-

LARKANA(INP): Foreign serted: "By winning the Minister Bilawal Bhuttogeneral elections, we will expand the projects".

The foreign minister took a swipe at the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief, saying, "The PTI's doctrine is to make the rich

Wednesday, On Wednesday, Bhutto-Zardari commended the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).

Expressing his thoughts in line with the MoFA's attempts for change management reforms, Bhutto-Zardari said, "In order to combat any obstacle, we have to be prepared."

Bhutto-Zardari asserted: "The MoFA played a noteworthy role in establishing the COP27 loss and damage fund'

US supports fundamental democratic principles in Pakistan: State Dept

State Department spokes-person Mathew Miller while briefing the media on Thursday said that US supports fundamental democratic principles in Pakistan. Replying to a question

regarding upcoming election in Pakistan, Mathew Miller said that US support the peaceful upholding of fundamental democratic principles such as free media, free speech and freedom of assembly.

"We champion the promises.

WASHINGTON (INP): rule of law, not just in Pakistan but around the world. These principles are the foundations for democratic elections," he added. We respect the rule of law, not just in Pakistan but around the world, he said.

In respond to a question regarding a number of terrorist attacks in Pakistan which media intelligence reports said were planned in Afghanistan, he said "We will continue to urge the Taliban to fulfil their

Nasir Hussain Shah chairs introductory meeting **PFC ensures fair distribution** of funds in the province

Independent Report

KARACHI: The first meeting of the Provincial Finance Commission (PFC) was held under the chairmanship of Sindh Local Government Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah at the Finance Department, Sindh Secretariat Karachi.

The meeting was attended by Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Mayor Sukkur Arsalan Sheikh, Additional Chief Secretary Local Government Syed Najam Ahmad Shah, and Chairman of various District Councils. Meeting discussed the fair distribution of finance in the province and other related issues. On this occasion, Co-Chairman PFC Syed Nasir Shah ex-

plained the aims and objectives of forming the com-mission and highlighted its usefulness and necessity. He added that this is the first meeting of the commission, but the next meeting will be held under the chairmanship of Chairman Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah. The agenda of the board was discussed in the meeting and all the members of the

boards introduced themselves in detail. Minister said that since the selection of all the members of the boards has been done by Chairman Bilawal Bhutto purely on merit, each member has experience and expertise in his field.



KARACHI: The first meeting of the Provincial Finance Commission (PFC) held under the chairmanship of Sindh Local Government Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah at the Finance Department, Sindh Secretariat Karachi.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): heard the cases. During the view of the Army Act, The Supreme Court on Fricourse of proceedings, CJP would not be entitled to ba-The Supreme Court on Friday adjourned hearing of petitions challenging the trial of accused involved in the May 9 riots in army courts for an indefinite time.

A six-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Sayyed

how the May 9 incidents had affected the discipline dence of judiciary was the of army, and whether "creating a hindrance in the work of an army officer and breaking of discipline" were mentioned in the law. The AGP replied that it was mentioned in the act.

Justice Yahaya Afridi asked whether the accused, Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi civilians or army personnel mental rights, the chief jus-and Justice Ayesha Malik who come under the pur-

Bandial questioned that sic human rights. The CJP dence of judiciary was the base of justice in the country. The prosecution would decide the case under the Army Act and also hear the appeal, he added. The right of appeal at an independent forum against the decision of a military court was a guarantee of funda-



lence Award ceremony.

PM enquires about health of President

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday tele-phoned President Dr Arif Alvi and enquired about his

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

Shehbaz Sharif prayed to Allah Almighty to grant the best of health to President Alvi.

The thanked the prime minister for his kind wishes.

Three killed, over 20 injured in M9 motorway accident

JAMSHORO (INP): Three passengers died and over 20 got injured in an accident on M9 Motorway on Friday. According to police, a passenger bus en route to Hyderabad from Karachi met an accident with a truck on the motorway.

As a result, three passengers died on the spot while over 20 were injured. The injured and bodies were moved to nearby hospital by the rescue sources.

Earlier in Feb 2023, at least 14 members of a wedding party, including women and children, were killed and 64 people were injured after a bus fell into a ravine and overturned near Kallar Kahar.

Mayor Karachi calls for ample arrangements for monsoon rains

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Friday directed elected representatives of the local government that during the monsoon rains, arrangements should be made for sanitation, drainage and disinfectant spray in all districts of Karachi. He said this while pre-

siding over a meeting with the chairman and elected representatives of Malir, Gadap and Lyari towns in his office here.

He said that mud and garbage should be cleaned from the National Highway and availability of sanitary workers and better working relationship with the town administration should be ensured. Machinery required for municipal services should be transferred without delay and staff posted in different areas to monitor roads, streets and other places and respond immediately in case of any complaint, he added.

Korea to establish IT Centre in Karachi: CG Yi Sungho

KARACHI (APP): Consul more money in education General of the Republic of and training to find some Korea Yi Sungho, on Friday, informed that the Korean Government was setting up an IT Centre in Karachi to provide young IT startups an opportunity to start working with Korea.

The Korean envoy, during a visit to the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), said that the Korean government was keen to support Pakistan in developing its IT sector and an IT center has already been completed

He urged Pakistan to come up with strong policies to train and educate young people in the IT sector and must also invest

revolution not only in IT but also in other sectors of the economy. Korean Envoy pin-

pointing the low volume of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Korea observed Trade between the two countries kept growing until 2019, but it suffered setbacks after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic which was followed by some economic difficulties in Pakistan". Efforts were being made to enhance existing trade volume, he added while expressing optimism that trade between Korea and Pakistan will rebound again in the future.

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 lay 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 as something to be put Quran were sent for moral together according to specific steps, often using selective shortcuts. 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 menpurpose of Quranic verses and extract principles, rather than rules by which to live. The good and bad). How former is the easier route and perhaps the reason for the widespread tendency to follow the form and not the substance of

religion. and intentions. This rehow 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 guidance, as a balance and scale to steer humans towards establishtions the Quran as a criterion (between what is 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 ciple means thinking of straight path to the Lord: the 'whys' and then a reminder, it says elsechanging our attitudes where, to the virtues ingrained in our fitrah (huquires 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 the 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 satisfied 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, lan-

guages, 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 Intimes (IoT) devices hitting 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

very soon.

Airlines will be restored

flights in 3 to 4 months. Outsourcing of airports will be done to the best bidder.

Airlines will also restore

He said that European

He said that Airports are operated through private operators in the world. Outsourcing does not mean that airports are be-

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-

ing closed.

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

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-

week ended on July 14, Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks stood at

US\$ 5,338.1 million, it added. The central bank in a 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 Consequently, SBP 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

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

prising Justice Aalia

Neelum heard the petition

filed by the PTI chairman

for consolidation of all cases

The single bench com-

of May-9 riots against him. the stay order.

was not nominated.

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

JUI-S chief advocates for peaceful observance of Muharram

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

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police Abdul Khabir Azad, the Punjab (IGP) Dr. Usman Chairman of the Central archy on social media will Ruet-e-Hilal Committee at be dealt with iron hands. the Central Police Office He said that police focal persons have been here on Friday. In a delegation led by Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabir

appointed for coordination among stakeholders Azad eminent scholars during Ashura Muharram. from all the schools of Control rooms have been thought visited the Central established for the moni-Police Office and met IG toring of security of Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar. 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 sory for participating in 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 ser-

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 compulthe 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

(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 flourishguesthouses, 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.

"Growing tourism is a 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 and environmental protec- vironment by their irresustainable practices for tion to ensure long-term sponsible behavior towards

"Tourism industry hind an asset for future genmakes 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 en-Unregulated camping environmental protection." sustainability and leave be-

"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

hotels,

Putin tells Poland any aggression against Belarus is attack on Russia

A junior counsel in-

formed the court that se-

nior 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

adjourned further pro-

ceedings for an indefinite

time but did not extend

However, the court

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 consid-

ered 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

Monitoring Desk 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 the Indo-Pacific.

Held every two years. the first Talisman Sabre joint military exercises were conducted in 2005.

Erdogan says Putin talks could lead to restoring Black Sea grain deal -media

Monitoring Desk 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.

tries and northern Cyprus. '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

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 opposition 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-

of-living crisis before a national 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-



Members of the Assam Pradesh Mahila Congress (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 statement, 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.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): coming generations. 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 towards 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 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 as the leading economy of the world. The Ambassador briefed the audience about the newly launched initiative, the Special Investment Facilitation Council, which has been created to facilitate the investors

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Elizabeth Horst, high lighted the momentum that has been generated recently with high level engagements and cooperation in critical areas including climate change, renewable energy health, counter-terrorism,



LARKANA: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari offering Fatcha for the departed soul of Prof. Dr. Bilqis Malik during condolence meeting with family members, in Larkana.

Naveed Khan Kolachi says **Procession routes being** made motorable with removing encroachments

Independent Report KARACHI: Tauqeer Abbas, the focal person appointed by Transition Of-ficer Naveed Khan Kolachi, is playing his role in pro-

viding municipal services in all the five towns of District East regarding Muharram ul Haram.

and Mahmoodabad and in his supervision the installation and repair work of roads and street lights car-

On this occasion, Transition Officer Naveed Khan Kolachi said that municipal services are being equipped at Nishtar Park



Naveed Khan Kolachi along with Focal Person Taugeer Abbas and other officers inspected the processions routes, imambargahs and in and around Nishtar Park and surrounding areas, Mehfil Murtaza PECHS

Transition Officer and other places where processions and gatherings are to be held in Muharram ul Haram. encroachments and other problems are being removed from the routes of processions and making the procession routes motorable.



HYDERABAD: Activists of Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of police, at Hyderabad press club.

Thundershower forecast for Sindh including Karachi KARACHI (APP): Paki- Dadu, Jamshoro, Jacobabad,

stan Meteorological De- Khairpur, Thatta and Badin. partment on Friday predicted thundershower for most parts of the Sindh province including Karachi during the next 24 hours.

The rain wind or thundershower is forecast for Hvderabad. Karachi. Tharparkar, Umerkot, Sanghar, Mirpurkhas, Mithi, Padidan, Sukkur, Larkana, Shaheed Benazirbabad,

The Minimum and maximum temperatures were recorded in Karachi 35-37 degrees Centigrade, Hyderabad 35-37 degrees Centigrade, Sukkur 38-40 degrees Centigrade, Thatta 34-36 degrees Centigrade, Mohenjodaro 35-37 degrees Centigrade, Dadu 39-41 degrees Centigrade, Mithi 36-38 degrees Centigrade.

Governor attends funeral prayer of Nawab of Junagarh

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Friday attended the funeral prayer of Nawab of Junagarh State Nawab Mohammed Jehangir Khanii.

He also prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in peace and grant courage to the bereaved family members to bear this irreparable loss.

The Governor said that the late Nawab was a great man. He said we lost a good friend today.

Sindh reserve police merged into rapid response force

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Reserve Police has been merged into the rapid response force (RRF), SSP (RRF) Ali Raza told this in a briefing during the meet-ing chaired by IGP Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon

He said seven platoons of RRF in Kashmore, three platoons in Ghotki, and one platoon in Shikarpur Katcha Area were engaged in intelligencebased operations against crimes, according to a spokesman for Sindh Police on Thursday.

Two killed, five injured in rival groups clash

SUKKUR (INP): Two people were killed and five others injured in armed clash between members of two rival groups here on Friday, police said.

Police said that armed men of Mehr community stormed houses of Kalhoro community located in village Narch in tehsil Pano Aqil of Sukkur which led to exchange of fire.

In cross firing, two members of Kalhoro community including Abdul Ghaffar and Ghulam Murtaza were killed while five others sustained inju-

Heavy contingent of police reached the scene and brought situation under

The bodies and injured shifted to hospital and police after registering a case into the incident started an investigation.

Tree Plantation Week to launch from first week of August: Atta Hussain Musavi

SUKKUR (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Regional Campus Sukkur has chalked out Tree Plantation Week, from the first week of August at the Regional Campus Sukkur located at National Highway Rohri opposite BNB

Women University Arore.
Talking to APP here on Friday, Regional Director, AIOU, Sukkur Campus, Atta Hussain Musavi said that we proudly champion a greener, sustainable future. With potted plants in abundance, our commitment to the environment brighter, he added.

He advised the citizens to join AIOU in nurturing a cleaner, greener Pakistan.

Pakistan has all ingredients to tap IT exports worth \$25 bln ISLAMABAD (APP): ment Facilitation Council Prime Minister Shehbaz

PM says:

Sharif on Friday said that Pakistan had all the ingredients to increase its Information Technology (IT) exports to the tune of \$25 billion in two to three years. 'Investment in the IT

sector can fetch quick rewards and dividends and go a long way in addressing our unemployment problem," he said on his tweet handle account. The PM, who a day earlier attended the national seminar on untapping the IT potential of Pakistan. said the event held under the banner of the Special Invest(SIFC) was a reflection of our collective resolve to make Pakistan an IT hub. 'The seminar, at-

tended by all stakeholders from the public & private sectors, laid the groundwork for an IT revolution that the country so desperately needs," he said.

He said, "The SIFC,

which represents the whole-of-the-government approach, will ensure the provision of policy continuity and predictability in the IT, agriculture, mines and minerals, and defense production sectors.

27 illegal water connections disconnected: Mayor

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi and Chairman Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation Barrister Murtaza Wahab said of the total 270 illegal connections, 27 were disconnected from which two million gallons of water were stolen while the rest of it will cut off soon. He said this on Friday during the inspection of the 84inch diameter line that supplies water to the city from the Hub Dam at 4K Chowrangi North Karachi here, said a spokesperson of KMC on Friday. As many as 10 million gallons daily of water is supplied to the city from the hub dam of which three million gallons of

age, which is being repaired, the Mayor Karachi said. He said that we are taking action against illegal connections and hydrants and this process of improvement

water is lost due to line leak-

sion, PPP South District General Secretary Karamullah Waqasi, Managing Director Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation Syed Salahuddin and Chief Executive Officer Asadullah Khan, town chairman, and vice chairman, other elected representatives and officers were also present.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that when he took over the management of the water board, the first thing he asked the administration regarding the issue of water theft from the lines every day. He said that he was told that 90 to 100 million gallons per day of water from the Hub Dam is released into the line, of which a large amount of water disappears along the way, and finally only 10 to 12 million gallons per day are left for supply, and this is due to illegal connections

that have been taken by will continue. No one will be various communities, sociallowed to rob the right of citi- eties, industries, and com-SUKKUR (APP): Deputy zens, he added. On this occa- mercial establishments. Commissioner (DC) Sukkur, Dr Sharjeel Noor Channa on Friday vsited the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital and inspected facilities being provided to the patients. During the visit, he checked the Dressing Room. Cardiac Care Unit (CCU) rooms, emergency wards CT scan room, laboratory

HYDERABAD: Muttahida Oaumi Movement (MQM-P) Leader, Rashid Khilji addresses to media persons during press conference, at Hyderabad

Sindh Bureau of Statistics to expand its internship program: Dr. Ansari

KARACHI (APP): Direc- cal skills and gain work-retor General Sindh Bureau of Statistics Dr. Ishaque Ahmed Ansari, on Friday, said that SBoS will further expand the facility of internship for fresh graduates while steps would be taken to provide an honorarium

to the interns. He was addressing the certificate distribution ceremony held here on the completion of SBoS's firstever Summer Internship Program for graduate students of Statistics departments from all the Universities of Sindh.

The program that started on July 03, 2023, was aimed at providing students of statistics departments an opportunity of learning new and practi-

lated experience in their

Dr. Ishaque Ansari said that the internship program would prove very beneficial for the students of statistics departments of various public universities and open up new avenues of career development in the field.

Vowing to make the internship program compatible with global standards he sought cooperation from all the educational institutions. He noted that internship programs help the young blood in professional networking and exploring career paths when they step into practical life after leaving their Alma



KARACHI: A view of accumulated rain water after rain at nagal chorangi locality.

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 prophets, Prophet Muhammad and his com-

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 per-

Important meeting of

Grand Democratic

Alliance (GDA)

convened today

KARACHI (Online): An

important meeting of Grand

Democratic Alliance has

been convened today (Sat-

urday) on matters of estab-

lishment of caretaker gov-

ernment, change of oppo-

sition leader in Sindh As-

sembly and coming general

tion Secretary GDA Sardar

Abdul Rahim, the meeting

will be chaired by Sadruddin

GDA, members of Sindh

Assembly will participate

in the meeting.
The GDA meeting

will be held in Functional

sider the worst inflation

unemployment, scarcity of

water for agriculture pur-

pose and clean drinking

Providing basic

health facilities

to everyone, top

priority: DC

and medicine stores.

Medical Superinten-

dent DHQ Hospital Dr

Aijaz Samo briefed him

about various matters of the

Hospital. The DC said that

providing basic health facili-

ties to every citizen was the

top priority of the Sindh

Two motorcycle

lifer netted

KARACHI (APP): Two

accused involved in motor-

cycle lifting from different

areas of the megalopolis

were arrested by Eidgah

police station and recovered

a stolen motorcycle, chas-

City Arif Aziz on Friday,

the most wanted accused

Muhammad Irfan and Javed

involved in motorcycle lift

ing were arrested by Eidgah

police station in an intelli-

a stolen motorcycle, the

chassis of 15 snatched/sto-

len motorcycles, and the

engines of four motor-

cycles. All were stolen/

snatched from different ar-

Man dies in

trailer-bike

collision

SUKKUR (INP): A man

died after an over speeding

trailer hit a motorcycle near

Sukkur Bypass on Friday,

reckless driven trailer

knocked down a motor

Bakhto Jatoi died on the

spot in the accident. Local

people held the driver and

handed him over to police.

to hospital where it was

handed over to heirs after

trailer and after registering

a case against driver started

ostmortem.

an investigation

According to details, a

Bike rider identified as

The body was shifted

Police impounded the

eas of the city

police said

The police recovered

gence-based operation.

According to SSP

sis, and engines

government

water and other matters.

The meeting will con-

League House Clifton.

According to Informa

The core committee of

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 deprived segments of society including women and 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 Pakistani society could ad-

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

Éarlier, WHO Representative in Pakistan Palitha Mahipala spoke hight of the "incredible" leadership and role played by President Alvi towards if left up to the state while the issues of disabilities and



KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Kamran Tessori and others are offering funeral prayer of Nawab of Junagadh Muhammad Jahangir Khanji, at Fatima Jinnah road in Karachi.

Politicians join PPP due to friendly policies and vision of Bilawal: Nasir

Independent Report ARACHI: Provincial Mehr same time.

Nasir Shah welcome Minister for Local Gov- and congratulate all these ernment Syed Nasir dignitaries to join



that due to the peoplefriendly policies of PPP and the vision of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto, a large number of dignitaries and politicians are joining the People's Party rapidly and it is increasing day by day, while also joining included Alhaj Ghos Bakhsh Khan Mehr Mehr and Shehryar Khan policies.

He said today at Ali House Karachi on meeting with various delegations and people.

Minister said that eat joy and happiness that Alhaji Ghous Bakhsh Khan Mehr and his sons have joined the People's Party which is also a sign of belief in Chairman and his sons Arif Khan Bilawal Bhutto and his



KARACHI: President Real Estate Association Joher Iqbal addressing press conference at Press Club in Provincial Capital.

Best medical facilities to be provided to participants of Muharram processions

best medical facilities to duties. He said that durparticipants of the pro- ing Muharram, security cessions Muharram-ul-Haram. While visiting the

medical camps, Sabeel stalls established in Sukkur city, the Mayor Sukkur said that special arrangements have been teaching hospitals on 9th and 10th Muharram.

in government teach-ing hospitals during Muharram, adding that a duty roster of indoor, operation theaters and phar-macies would be is-

teaching hospitals, para- able in the hospital

SUKKUR (APP): Mayor medical staff including Sukkur Barrister Arslan medi-cal, nursing, para-Sheikh on Friday di- medical and support rected to provide the staff will perform 24-hour during staff would perform 24hour dûties gov-ernment teaching hospitals.

Medical Superintendent of Government Teaching hospital Sukkur, Dr Altaf Awan made to provide medical told the Mayor that facilities in government dur-ing Muharram, the availability of medicines, surgical and non-He said that special surgical dispos-ables beds would be allocated and blood bags have been ensured in govern-

ment teaching hospitals. He said that operation theater was remain fully operational during Muharram, adding, ambulances with trained In all government staff would also be avail-