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No power on earth can hamper Pakistan's progress

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

Green Pakistan Initiative to usher in agri revolution, create four mln jobs, says PM; Army assures govt of all-out support for economic stability; Pakistani nation has potential to rise to the top; No power on the earth can stop Pakistan from developing, says Army Chief

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

lion jobs in the country.
Addressing a seminar on agriculture and food security, he said agriculture was the backbone of the country and the farmers worked hard to provide

and they would be remembered in the history as builders of Pakistan.

He said the farmers had the due right to avail incentives for the agriculture sector and it was the responsibility of the government to provide them all possible assistance for overall development and progress. "Farmers work hard but it

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo address-

He also lauded the ef-

ship of the prime minister

to steer the country out of

and put it on the path of

prosperity. The prime min-

ners in the government and

said that without their co-

operation, taking the coun-

try out of its economic

woes and reaching an agree-

ment with the International

Monetary Fund (IMF),

He praised JUI-F amir

were not possible.

Fazlur for standing with the gov-

ing meeting of Secretaries of provincial departments

JUI-F Amir Maulana Fazl

calls on PM to discuss

political situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): ful and lauded the prime

Amir of Jammiat-e-Ulema minister and the govern-

Islam (JUI-F) Maulana ment of Pakistan for a nar-

ter Muhammad Shehbaz forts of the coalition gov-

Sharif to hold consultations ernment under the leader-

Mahmood was also ister also appreciated the present, PM Office Media role of the coalition part-

Rehman termed the incident ernment in taking the diffi-

During the meeting, the economic difficulties

Fazlur Rehman on Mon- rative in this regard.

day called on Prime Minis-

over the current political

Minister for Communica-

tions Maulana Asad

Wing said in a press release. Both leaders of JUI-F

appreciated the firm reac-

tion and steps of the gov-

ernment and prime minis-

ter with regard to the highly

condemnable act of des-

ecration of the Holy Quran

in Sweden

Maulana

situation of the country.

The prime minister said growth in the agriculture sector would definitely bring Pakistan at part with developed countries.

He said hard work was imperative to ensure progress of Pakistan, adding the green revolution in 1960s was due to the introduction of new varieties of seed, building of dams and is common knowledge that canals and modern agriculthey are facing lack of re-ture practices in the coun-

produce would also en-He said it was the re-

get more profits than the

cost of production of their

crops including wheat. The

government did increase the

support price of wheat

which led to record produce

of the commodity, he added.

due to the incentives given

by the government, cotton

He was hopeful that

sponsibility of the govern-He said farmers should ment to provide standard seeds, fertilizers and pesticides to the farmers and equip them with the latest

technology.
Shehbaz Sharif appreciated the new agriculture initiative for giving real-time information about any pes

He expressed concern over the adulterated drugs

Continued on page 2

PM dares Imran Niazi to face courts for his crimes, corruption ISLAMABAD (APP): satisfactory and sufficient

Sharif Monday dared Imran Niazi to face courts for his added. crimes and cases of corruption and plunder, and severely criticized him for carrying out revenge against Nawaz Sharif, his party and for fabricating false cases against political opponents.

In a tweet tagging the account of Imran Niazi, Shehbaz Sharif thanked Allah for making his party inhis Quaid cluding Muhammad Nawaz Sharif victorious against lies of opponent political group blinded by political revenge, against baseless cases and in every test of public ser-

Not only in Pakistan but in the decisions of National Crime Agency and courts of Britain there was

Prime Minister Shehbaz response to every question Sharif Monday dared Imran of merchants of lies, he The PM said the latest

example was the verdict in the plot allotment reference in the Accountability Court Lahore in which it was clearly stated that Nawaz Sharif was made target of political victimization and there was no case but it was a fabrication. The transgressors who called this falsehood a reference should seek forgiveness from Allah and the people, he said, adding,"But only those seek forgiveness who have fear of Allah in their hearts and have the capacity to ask for clemency. Those who justify their sins with more lies become an example for others. Their hearts are locked by Allah."



ing the oath of office to Dr. Syed Muhammad Anwer as the Alim Judge of the Federal Shariat Court at

CJ BHC directs judges of subordinate court to dispose

QUETTA: The Chief Justice Balochistan High Court, Mr. Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan has directed the judges of subordinate courts to dispose of the pending cases imme-

The Chief Justice also directed the judges of subordinate court to follow the time and dress court while

issued by the Chief Justice High Court during his surprise visit to the district court (zila katechery) here on Monday.

Also accompanied with him was the Member Chief Minister Inspection Team.

the occasion directed to avoid unnecessary pendency of the cases in the

Establishment of University of Technology in Balochistanneed of hour, says Governor

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has underlined the need to establish University of Technology like other universities in the province. He said that if we didn't made progress in the info-technology and bio-tech, then we would remain backward in the comity of developed nations and would not compete with The Governor was speaking to the Vice Chancellor, University of Loralai,

Ehsanullah Khan Kakar and Principal Secretary to Governor, Hashim Khan Ghilzai ere at the Governor House on Monday. The Governor maintained that we have to shift our existing system at the modern

He said that University doesn't happen to be only an educational institution rather s also source of protecting the future generations. He stressed that at the moment, we also direly need modern skills along with

modern education for the role of Balochistan Public Sector Universities and Technical institutions is very important.

bring the University of Loralai at par other good universities of the country.



QUETTA: Different delegations meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik



Green Pakistan Initiative, COAS General Syed Asim Munir hands over the inaugural scroll to the Prime Minister.

World Population Day being observed today:

Bizenjo calls for controlling increasing population to achieve SDGs

Chief Minister says controlling population becomes unavoidable; exhorts masses to adopt reproductive health means so they may play important role in development of country and province

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has expressed concern over the ever-increasing population of the country and stressed the need to control it so as to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) remaining in its resources and we may not suffer from the issue of food security.

The Chief Minister stated so in a message issued here marking the World Population Day being observed today (Tuesday) in the country as elsewhere in

The Chief Minister then while Pakistan has be-

world is celebrating the lous country of the world. Population Day, which is aimed at highlighting the issues regarding increasing population and balancing the available resources and their distribution for the

He said that the population of Pakistan is increasing rapidly. He recalled that the population of the country was around 30 million in 1974, which has increased to 250 million now. He said that we can make assessment that how we are facing economic and social problems due to increase of

The Chief Minister said that we have to control the increasing population in order to achieve the goals of sustainable development remaining in our own resources.

He regretfully pointed out that children are suffering from numerous diseases since their births due to the increasing population as a result we are confronting the issue of standard growth. He said that the control

of population is taken in the country just normal 220 million people since considering it mere family

The was a "habitual

Referring to the recent

liar" and "mentally de-

ranged person" and there

was apparently no hope of

statement of Shahzad

his recovery, she added.

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

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

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

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

The minister was responding to a question posed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman on his Twitter handle asking who was benefited from the May 9 incidents of vandalising public

appoint trade

officer in India

ISLAMABAD (INP): The

federal government has de-

cided to appoint a trade of-

ficer in India despite a halt

to commercial traffic be-

tween the two countries

since New Delhi altered the

status of Occupied Kash-

ports, Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif has ordered

initiating the process for

appointed a new trade of-

ficer in India despite sus-

pension of trading between

the two neighbours. The

prime minister also abol-

ished the grade-20 post of

trade and investment min-

ister in India. The impor-

tant decision has been taken

to appoint a trade and in-

vestment consular on grade-

19 post. The important de-

cision has been made just a

month before the constitu-

tional term of the govern-

ment end to appoint the

officer at the Pakistan High

Commission in New Delhi.

According to media re-

mir in 2019.

press conference.

ISLAMABAD (APP): and private properties, desecrating memorials of martyrs, and burning of ambulances, schools and mosques by the PTI work-

> Marriyum said the PTI chairman claimed that his party was the biggest one in the country, but it exited only on Twitter as it had no credible spokesperson. In fact nobody wanted to come forward to defend the persistent lies churned out

Akbar regarding Nawaz Sharif, she said those who had previously hurled accusations of thievery at

others at the behest of PTI chief, were now testifying the innocence and integrity

Continued on page 2



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

Court acquits Suleman, others in money-laundering case

LAHORE (APP): A special court (central) on Monday acquitted Suleman Shehbaz and others in a Rs 16 billion money-laundering case, registered by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).
Special Court Judge
Bakht Fakhr Behzad an-

nounced the verdict while allowing acquittal applications of Suleman Shehbaz and others.

Earlier, the FIA submitted replies to 27 questions, asked by the court, during the proceedings.

To a court query, the FIA prosecutor submitted that a joint investigation team, headed by Dr Rizwan, had conducted an inquiry into the moneylaundering charges.

The court asked whether the FIA recorded statements of any witnesses during the probe. The investigation officer kept silence and did not reply. The court questioned

what action had been taken against those who kept changing their stance during the inquiry and investigation. The investigation officer responded that no action had been taken against them. The court asked whether there was any evidence in seven volumes of the FIA, submitted in the court earlier, and on what basis or of evidence, a challan was submitted in the court. To a question about former FIA DG Sanaullah Abbasi's absence from the court, the FIA prosecutor replied that a letter was written to him, but he did not appear. Suleman's counsel sub-

mitted that former FIA DG Bashir Memon had admitted that he also faced pressure for making the case.

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



ISLAMABAD: President JUI-F Maulana Fazl-Ur-Rehman call on Prime Minister Muhammad

BRC Zhob, Loralai students clinch top three positions in **BBISE** annual exam result

Moeezuddin of BRC Zhob stand first while BRC Loralai's Muhammad Qasim and Hafizullah secure second and third positions respectively

Independent Report

QUETTA: The student of Balochistan Residential College (BRC) Zhob, Moeezuddin clinched first position in the annual examination of secondary school (Matric) of Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BBISE) Quetta securing the highest 1046

The BRC Loralai students Muhammad Qasim and Hafizullah secured second and third positions by obtaining 1037 and 1036 marks respectively.

The annual SSC result was announced by the BBISE Additional Secretary, Shamsullah Khan while addressing a press conference at the Board office on Monday

Shamusullah Khan

mentioned that in all 140,098 candidates had appeared in the annual SSC examination, out of whom, 121,271 could pass the examination.

The overall percentage of success in the annual examination remained as 86.5 percent, he announced.

The BBISE Quetta official said that a lot of expectations of the nation are with the youth and as such they should work hard further to brighten the name

of country and nation. Shamsullah Khan said that the reason behind success of students of the BRC every time is improvement in the educational standards.

He on the occasion claimed that excellent arrangements had been made to prevent cheating in the annual examinations

Muhammad Anwar as Alim Judge of the Federal Shariat Court at a ceremony held here at the

The appointment has been made for a period of three years. The president ad-

ministered the oath in line with clause (2) of the Article 203C of the Constitution.

for traffic near Hassanabad due to landslide

ISLAMABAD (APP)

landslides. A Spokesman of the National Highway Authority (NHA) said on

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday administered oath to Dr Syed

President administers

oath to Dr Sved

Anwar as Alim

Judge of FSC

President House.

KKH closed

Karakoram Highway is closed for traffic near Hassanabad due to

Monday that necessary machinery has been delivered, and the road is being

He said that N-35 is closed for all types of traffic Nasirabad due to landslides. He asked the citizens traveling on the highway to start their journey after getting the necessary in-

of pending cases immediately Independent Report These directives were These directives were

diately

performing duty.

Nazir Ahmed Khajak. The Chief Justice on

Independent Report Govt decides to

science and technology keeping in view the requirements of the artificial intelligence.

The Governor on the occasion also called for taking revolutionary measures to

Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Mushahid lauds China Media Group for promotion of Pak-China friendship

BEIJING (APP):Chairman, Senate's Defense Committee, Mushahid Hussain Syed has paid rich tributes to the China Media Group's Urdu service for playing an important role in the promotion and development of China-Pakistan friendship.

'My first contact with China was also due to the Urdu service of Radio Peking. Today, when there is a lot of news and information everywhere, China Media Group's Urdu service is playing an important role in the development of relations between the two countries," he said in an interview with China Media Group's Urdu Service.

Mushahid Hussain Syed has recently led a highlevel parliamentary delega-

While talking about the important measures proposed by the President of China Xi Jinping, Belt and Road Initiative, Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative, he said that these initiatives will help mankind in the present era and provide sustainable solutions.

He said that the way

China under the leadership of President Xi Jinping helped and guided the world, especially in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, is admirable. The changes that the world is witnessing today are the major changes that have occurred in the hundred years. They can be countered only through collaborative thinking, mutual benefit, and win-win cooperation. Unilateralism, protectionism, and factional politics have no place in today's world.

He said that Pakistan's

great philosopher poet Allama Iqbal had predicted the leadership role of China in his poems a hundred years ago and today it is proving to be true under the leadership of President Xi

Jinping.

Mushahid Hussain Syed said that President Xi Jinping has always talked about dialogue between civilizations, mutual respect and learning from each other.

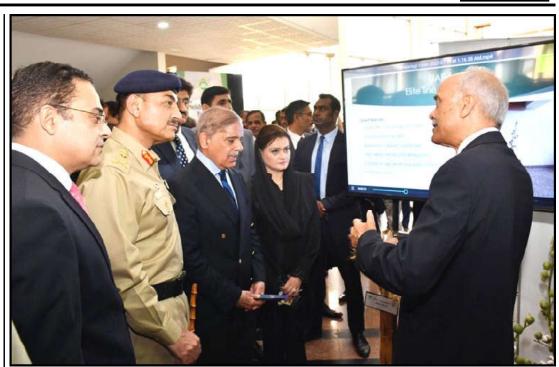
The best way to deal with the challenges facing the world today is to respect each other, respect the development path chosen by all countries and abandon the Cold War mentality. He said that the present century is the century of Asia and Asia is offering solutions to the problems faced by the world under the leadership of China.

China is promoting

peace in the world and the Chinese diplomacy under the leadership of President Xi Jinping brought great news to the world at the beginning of the current

Diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran have been restored through the mediation of China. The Arab League looks united once again. The President of Palestine has been invited to visit China and the voice of Palestine has been strengthened.

In addition, Chinese Foreign Minister visited Pakistan and started a new era of friendly neighbor diplomacy between China, Pakistan and Afghanistan and between China, Pakistan and Iran which will start a new era of development and stability in the



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif along with COAS General Syed Asim Munir, Federal Minister for Information and broadcasting, Marriyum Aurangzeb and Advisor to PM Ahad Khan Cheema receiving a briefing during their visit of exhibition at Green Pakistan Initiative inaugural ceremony.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani in a meeting with Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf along with political Leadership from Balochistan at Parliament House.

May 9 incidents benefit Pakistan's...

Continued from page 1

of Nawaz Sharif. She pointed out that a group of individuals, operating from abroad, was actively orchestrating a malicious campaign against the state institutions through social media platforms.

The "group of troublemakers" were not even hesitant to launch unwarranted attacks against several prominent figures and institutions, she added.

They were the same people who were involved in the targeted campaigns against the martyrs of the Lasbella helicopter crash and the incumbent army chief, the minister re-

"All these people are proxies of this foreign agent, liar and fraudster," she said while referring to the PII

Marriyum said the ongoing campaign against na-

پل کارپوریشن پشین

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نوٹس طلبی کوٹیشن

بروشخطی کوپٹین شہر کی صفائی میں استعمال ہونے والے اوز ارودیگر اشاء وسڑیپ لائٹس اورسٹر بیٹ لائٹس کی مرمت

کی (سامان) کیلئے رجٹر ڈ فرم اسپلائیرزے سربمہر ٹینڈ *راکوٹیش* برائے سال 24-2023مور_قہ 25جولائی

2023 کودن 1 بچ تک مطلوب ہیں جو کہ اُسی دن 2 بچے دو پیر حاضر نمائندگان کی موجود گی میں کھولے جا ئنظ کے۔

نمام فرمو*ں اس*یلائرز سےالتماس ہے کہ وہ متعلقہ سامان کی تفصیل دفتر بذا ہے حاصل کر کےالیکٹرک اورصحت وصفائی

یں استعال ہونے والےاشیاء کے ریٹس الگ الگ دیں۔ **شہر والسط:** (1) کوئی مشروط کوئیش قبول نہیں

کیاجائیگا۔(2)۔ فرم اسپلائز کا متعلقہ سرکاری اداروں کے ساتھ رجنرڈ ہونا لازمی ہوگا اُتم ٹیکس اور

تی۔الیں۔ ٹُن (GST) ودیگر تعکیسز گورنمنٹ کی طرف سے دی گئی شرح کے صاب سے اوائیکل فرم کے ذمہ ہوگی

۔(3) سامان کی کواٹنی اور مقدار کی ذمہ دار کی فرم کے ذمہ ہوگ۔ (4) فرم ؒ سپلائر 30 جون 2024 تک منظور شُد ہ

یٹس پرسامان فراہم کرنے کا پابندرہے گا۔اس دوران قیتوں میں کمی وبیشی کی فرمدواری فرم پر ہوگی ۔منظور شدہ

یُس پرعدم فراہمی کی صورت میں فرم کی سیورٹی ضبط کی جائیگی ۔ (5)میونیل کار بوریشن چشین تک سامان کی ترسیل

رم کی ذمدداری ہوگی۔(BPPRA(6 کے مرجیة واغین الا گوہو نگئے۔(7)۔ فرم اسپلائر کامیونیل کارپوریشن کے

ماتھ با قاعدہ فریم ورک معائدہ کرنالازی ہوگا۔(8)۔ریٹ دیتے وقت اشیاء کی معیار مینونیکچرنگ نمینی کانام،

وارثی وغیرہ کی تفصیل منسلک کریں تا کہ میٹی اشیاء کی معیاری ہونے کی جانچ پڑتال بہتر طور پیر سکیں مرید

تفصیلات داشیاء کی فہرست دفتر کی اوقات میں دفتر ہٰدا ہے کسی بھی وقت حاصل کی جاسکتی ہے۔ یادیئے گئے تمبروں پیا

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Registration is required. The bidder must have completed

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Cost. Green Challan of Rs 1000/-Procedure Of Procurement:

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bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee

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signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT &

Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from

www.bppra.gob.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete

Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk Last Date

of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest

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opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 01:00 PM on

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tional institutions was being spearheaded by the PTI chairman who made systematic efforts to discredit and destabilize the state institutions through the misuse of social media platforms.

She expressed surprise over the PTI chief's contradictory claims, ranging from fears of assassination to potential murderous attacks on him.

She questioned the efficacy of using a mere bucket as a protective measure, emphasizing that such makeshift shields offered a little defence against such

Furthermore, she highlighted that the Federal Investigation Agency had substantial evidence against those who were involved in social media campaigns against national institutions, which was currently undergoing further scrutiny and investigation.

The minister declared that individuals who were engaged in dangerous games under the guise of freedom of speech had been effectively tracked and traced, and made it unequivocally clear that the PTI chief

would be responsible if any

harm or damage was caused

by such actions. She recalled that at first place, the PTI chairman had stated if he were arrested then there would be consequences, and at the time of his arrest he said there would be reaction. It all showed that he had planned the May 9 incidents and now strangely, he was asking who was the benefi-

The minister also drew a comparison between the PTI and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leaderships, saying the lat-ter faced severe victimization during the PTI regime without making any hue

and crv. She accused the PTI chief of fabricating false cases against his political opponents, including Nawaz Sharif, Shehbaz Sharif Maryam Nawaz Hamza Shehbaz, Khawaja Asif. Rana Sanaullah. Farval Talpur, and others. who endured the hardships of being confined to jail

Non-controversial care taker set up to help conduct fair elections: Asif Kirmani ment in August.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-N Senator Asif Kirmani on Sunday said that a noncontroversial care taker set Care taker government, he up would help conduct said transparent elections in Pa-

Talking to a private television channel, he said there is a serious need to have consultation with leaders of political parties especially Pakistan Peoples Party and Pakistan Muslim League-N Chief Nawaz Sharif to establish Care taker govern-

The general elections would be held in October under the supervision of The election commission of Pakistan (ECP), is

responsible to hold the general elections in a transparent manner, he added.

To a question about the representative of care taker government, he said the discussion is underway to introduce Non-controversial personalities

Bizenjo calls for controlling....

Continued from page 1

planning while it actually includes reduction in the maternal and infant mortality ratio, prevention of AIDS, treatment of hepatitis, ending unemployment and provision of medical facilities.

Thus, it has become unavoidable to control the increasing population in the country as the health and education facilities are lacking due to rise in popula-He said that the prov-

ince is playing important people. role to create political, social and economic consciousness among the people about population. For the purpose, a task force has also been established at the provincial

Bizenjo stressed that we have to ponder upon that what we can do for our country and province as a nation, and where we are heading towards regarding reproductive health and population welfare. He also stressed the need to connect the programme with more

health system. He urged the masses to

adopt the reproductive health means so that they may play important role in development of the coun try and province. Secretary Population Welfare:

Meanwhile, the Secretary Population Welfare Department, Abdullah Khan has stressed that knowledge of women and their access to the reproductive health is necessary for the family planning and empowerment of the

In a message issued here on World Population Day, the Secretary said that this day reminds us that every individual has the right to make decision about one's reproductive health. This level, adding he mentioned.

Mir Abdul Quddus

day also motivates us to acknowledge the mutual coordination between the population, sustainable de-

SDGs, he added. He also said that we can do work for poverty alleviation, better health care. ensuring food security and protection of our resources by creating a balance in the developed and informative population and resources.

velopment and acquiring

Population Council marked World Population Day

Women empowerment is stepping stone in achieving elusive goal of sustainable population growth in Pak

By Hina Naseem ISLAMABAD: July 11th commemorates World

Population Day, an occasion that draws attention to the urgency and significance of population-related matters. This year's theme, 'Unleashing the Power of Gender Equality: Uplifting the Voices of Women and Girls to Unlock Our World's Infinite Possibilities," strikes a profound chord in the context of Pakistan where women empowerment has remained a significant challenge due to low literacy rates and limited female participation in the workforce.

Shockingly, 48% of women in Pakistan are illiterate, 79% are not part of the labor force, and only 10% can make independent decisions about their own

This was discussed during the Media Coalition Meeting held to mark World Population Day organized by the Population Council. Media Coalition, comprises of media persons from all provinces representing all major media outlets of Pakistan. The coalition highlights the cross sectoral impact of rapid population growth periodically to raise awareness and hold governments accountable for improving the well being of the people.

Briefing the media, Ummi Kalsoom, Senior Project Officer at the Population Council presented the data on women's education. health and labour force participation. She stressed the media to raise awareness on these issues through their news stories.

She said, "media should highlight the issues

to remove all forms of disempowerment in Pakistan, crimination against girls, in

terms of diet, education and healthcare. Girls should be treated as equal as boys and must be educated to plan their families according to their resources". She also

Fauzia Yazdani, Social & Public Policy Advisor (Gender and Women Empowerment) said "One of the most important ways to enhance women's rights is to increase their access



urged media to play its part in ensuring enrollment of all out of school girls and incentivization of their education till secondary level, as 37% girls remain out of school in the country. Media can also hold governments responsible to ensure service delivery of family planning services besides raising awareness to enhance male engagement in family plan-

Speaking to the media

to education and employment. When women are educated and employed. they are more likely to be able to make their own choices about their lives and contribute to the economic development of the country. Research indicates that lack of women empowerment contributed to the country's unsustainable population growth as educated and employed women are empowered to better plan

on challenges of women—their families

CORRIGENDUM It is to inform all the Contractors & General Public that the Tenders

called by the undersigned & published in Newspapers vide PRQ No.

4523 dated 28-06-2023 & TSE#222306341323 the date of bid

submission & opening is extended from 13-07-2023 to 18-07-2023, due to rectification made in evaluation criteria. Other terms and conditions will remain the same

PRQ No.47/10-7-2023

CW, PP&H Department, 🗷 @dpr_gob 👩 dpr.gob 🚹 @dgpr

PM, COAS vow to put country on road to....

Continued from page 1 given to the farmers and warned of strict action

against the culprits. He lauded the vision of Army Chief Syed Asim Munir for development of agriculture sector in the country. "We have to implement the vision for agriculture through collaboration among federal and provincial governments, agriculture departments and research institutes," he added.

He said the government was ready to fund the agriculture research centres. adding unfortunately there had been no worthwhile work due to the culture of favouritism.

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

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

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

Pakistan needed political stability to attract investment as in an unstable environment, investors

shied away, he added. Pakistan could attract investment of \$ 40 to 50 billion in the years ahead and it could make food exports to the gulf countries which were presently importing food products to alleviate poverty. worth \$ 40 billion. The seminar w

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

national security that the country's food security and economic security should be strengthened," he said. Chief of Army Staff

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

Addressing the National Seminar on Agriculture and Food Security at Jinnah Convention Centre in Islamabad on Monday, he said Allah Almighty has blessed Pakistan with many resources. He said we are a capable nation, which has the potential to rise to the top. He emphasized the need that everybody should contribute to its develop-

ment. General Asim Munir expressed the confidence that Pakistan will achieve progress and development and no power on the earth can stop this from happen-

He said we have gathered to make Pakistan green once again. Agriculture experts and

farmers highly appreciated the government's landmark initiative and Pakistan Army's special focus on revolutionizing the agriculture sector by promoting modern contemporary technology, collaboration of public and private sectors and trickling down divi- and livestock exhibition as dends to the local farmers

The seminar was at-

tended by federal ministers, chief ministers of Punjab and Sindh province, chief secretaries of provincial governments, agricultural experts and farmers from all

Foreign dignitaries and potential investors and experts from United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, China, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkiye and various other countries also attended the seminar.

Sequel to the inauguration of Land Information Management System - Centre of Excellence (LIMS COE), Green Pakistan initiative is being undertaken to enhance the food security of Pakistan, increase exports and reduce the agriculture related imports, thereby, contributing to the national economy.

Agriculture experts and farmers highly appreciated the government's landmark initiative and Pakistan Army's special focus on revolutionizing the agriculture sector by promoting modern contemporary technology, collaboration of public and private sectors and trickling down dividends to the local farmers to alleviate poverty.

The participants hailed the conduct of seminar and its attendance by experts, government representatives and potential investors as a success and first step towards bringing positive change in the agriculture and livestock sectors.

The participants, especially lauded the Pakistan army's efforts in boosting the national economy by focusing on this critical sector. Later the prime minister visited the agriculture

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN PAKISTAN PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tenders are hereby invited in sealed covers from the approved Government Contractors who have the relevant field of specialization in PEC and having valid enlistment for the year 2023-24, with Pakistan Engineering Council, in relevant category or above. The bidding documents can be purchased up to 31-07-2023, which should reach in the office of the undersigned up to 01-08-2023 at 12.00 Noon and will be opened on the same day at

S No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money in shape of CDR	Tender Fee Shape of Pay Order
1	REHABILITATION OF BLACK TOP ROAD FROM MAIN ROAD SAIFABAD TO BAGARI DISTRICT JHAL MAGSI (PACKAGE-I)	37,166,726	4%	2000/-
2	REHABILITATION OF BLACK TOP ROAD FROM MAIN ROAD SAIFABAD TO BAGARI DISTRICT JHAL MAGSI (PACKAGE-II)	35,597,583	4%	2000/-
3	REHABILITATION OF BLACK TOP ROAD FROM MAIN ROAD SAIFABAD TO BAGARI DISTRICT JHAL MAGSI (PACKAGE-III)	37,166,726	4%	2000/-
4	REHABILITATION OF BLACK TOP ROAD FROM MAIN ROAD SAIFABAD TO BAGARI DISTRICT JHAL MAGSI (PACKAGE-IV)	35,597,583	4%	2000/-
5	REHABILITATION OF BLACK TOP ROAD FROM MAIN ROAD SAIFABAD TO BAGARI DISTRICT JHAL MAGSI (PACKAGE-V)	37,166,726	4%	2000/-
6	REHABILITATION OF BLACK TOP ROAD FROM MAIN ROAD SAIFABAD TO BAGARI DISTRICT JHAL MAGSI (PACKAGE-VI)	35,451,488	4%	2000/-
7	CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD PROTECTION BAND AT KILLI IQBAL MARRI TEHSIL MACH DISTRICT KACHHI	3,478,752	4%	2000/-
8	CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD PROTECTION BAND FROM NIGOR TO DORA DISTRICT JHAL MAGSI	75,269,198	4%	2000/-
9	FIXING OF FIBER GLASS SHED FOR JAMIA MASJID & GRAVEYARD AT MACH DISTRICT KACHHI.	10,707,000	4%	2000/-
10	CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALL FOR SUNNI GRAVEYARD TEHSIL SUNNI DISTRICT KACHHI	8,631,450	4%	2000/-

Note: In case the tenders are not sold / opened on the date mentioned above due to some circumstances then the date may be considered as 07-08-2023 and 08-08-2023, respectively, with same terms and conditions

Other terms and condition may be seen on PPRA website www.ppra.org.pk.

Executive Engineer Central Civil Division No-II PAK PWD, Ouetta

PID(Q)12/23

48th INSC: Chairman PAEC inaugurates 'scientific spring'

(INSC) on Physics and Contemporary Needs was inaugurated at National Center for Physics (NCP) Quaid-e-Azam University on Monday. The INSC was inaugurated by the Chairman Pakistan Atomic Commission (PAEC), Raja Ali Raza Anwar. In the 48th International Nathiagali Summer College, a Pakistan have been distinguished group of 30 carefully selected to

United States, United Kingdom, China, Russia, Canada, France, Germany, Holland, Australia, Spain, Türkiye, Romania, and Chile has been invited to deliver lectures on crucial Pakistan. The scientific topics throughout the two-week event. Out of a pool of over 1,200 applicants, approximately researchers universities and research organizations across Pakistan have been

gathering promises to facilitate meaningful exchanges and foster the scientific community in activities International Nathiagali Summer College (INSC) are designed to encompass a wide range of topics at the forefront of knowledge in Physics and related

disciplines. Each year, the College

interest, emphasizing their applications and their relevance to the specific valuable connections among needs of developing the participants, enriching countries. In the 48th college, the topics being covered include 'Advances in Plasma Physics and Allied Technologies', Semiconductor Materials and Devices, Quantum Optics and Devices, Advances in Pulsed Power Technology and its application and New Trends in High Energy

organized a 3-day training

workshop for department

USAID's Higher Education

System Strengthening Activity (HESSA).

Hosted by

National University of

Sciences & Technology

(NUST) Islamabad, the

workshop was attended by

representing 16 partner

universities of HESSA,

said press release on

strengthen their capacity

of developing and delivering market-driven

education and research to

Mike Barber, University of

Utah and Dr. Sajjad Ahmad,

University of Nevada Las

Vegas, the department

developed mission and

vision statements and core

values, and developed goals

and performance indicators

to measure success of their

departments. Building on

from the earlier batch, this

training focused on the

Facilitated by Dr.

employability.

graduate

sections,

dept.

Utah University organizes

workshop for department

chairs of public universities

ISLAMABAD (APP): required skills to be a

The University of Utah successful leader with a

chairs of public in faculty and student universities on strategic success. In his opening



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

experts from developed participate focuses on three to five 48th International Nathiagali Summer College on Physics and Contemporary Needs PAKISTAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMM NATIONAL CENTRE FOR PHYSIC

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

Islamabad police implement new measures to ensure investigation adherence

Independent Report appointed law officers to transparency and uphold

the rule of law. presided over by the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPPO) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, law officers were entrusted with the meticulous task of thoroughly reviewing case files to ensure adherence to investigation standards and the pursuit of justice based

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad ongoing cases and assessing charges, emphasized the Capital Police have the performance of investigation officers. oversee investigation These appointments standards and bolster signify the first-ever transparency and uphold collaboration between law officers and police officers During a meeting in Pakistan, highlighting a concerted effort to

promote transparency and

justice in law enforcement. The meeting, which witnessed the presence of influential figures including

focused on reviewing law officers, and unit inimperative of cooperation between law officers and

> conducting investigations and judicial proceedings in strict adherence to the law.

previous gaps investigations, SSP Operations Malik ICCPPO issued a directive Jamil Zafar, AIG to all DPOs and Operations Saud Khan, all investigating officers, oursuit of justice based nerit.

District Police Officers (DPOs), Sub-District incomplete cases promptly Police Officers (SDPOs), and impartially.

investigation officers in legal matters. Dr Akbar Nasir Khan ICCPPO, underscored the paramount significance of

In a bid to rectify any

Search and combing operation conducted for enhanced security

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police, collaboration with the Terrorism Department (CTD), carried out a comprehensive search and combing operation within the jurisdiction of Secretariat police stations. This operation comes as a result of special directives from Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO), to ensure the safety and security of the citizens of Islamabad. The operation involved thorough checks of houses, suspects, vehicles, and motorcycles, emphasizing

to the directives issued by ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, search and combing operations have been initiated in various areas of Islamabad. The primary objective is to enhance the safety and security of the city's residents. The recent operation

took place in different areas within the jurisdiction of Secretariat police stations, conducted jointly by teams from the CTD and FC. During the operation, a total of 125 houses, 50 suspects, five vehicles, and 20 motorcycles were thoroughly checked. ICCPO Islamabad emphasized that the search the and combing operations commitment to heighten aim to strengthen security security measures in the measures in the federal

federal capital. In response capital. Young artists call on Chairman Gandhara **Task Force**

ISLAMABAD (APP): A said these artists are our group of young artists working on Gandhara called on Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, Chairman PM's Task Force on Gandhara Tourism here Monday at Sir Syed Memorial Museum to share their work on Gandhara and display the works during the 2-day Gandhara Symposium.

Dr. Ramesh Kumar selected their work on Gandhara featuring paintings, sculptures in diverse mediums and ideas opportunities for Gandhara

assets and we must create opportunities for them to attract young generation to the field of visual art.

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

Manzoor appointed **IFA**Chairman

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

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

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

Over Rs 58b disbursed under Benazir Kafaalat so far

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

According to an official source, the disbursement of the fourth quarterly tranche of Benazir Kafaalat for the Financial Year-2022-23 is continued successfully through

banks' retailers. Under Kafaalat, nine million registered beneficiary families are entitled to a quarterly installment of Rs

planning, as part of the remarks, Dr. Mike Barber welcomed the faculty from HESSA's 16 partner universities and elaborated the the objectives and impact of the project. Dr Osman Hasan, Pro Rector Academics NUST welcomed all the participants on campus

visionary approach to

sustainable improvement

success.In his opening

and appreciated USAID for the continuous support to advance higher education in the country and for universities have partnered engaging international with USAID's HESSA to experts in all its trainings. experts in all its trainings. This workshop is

complemented by virtual one-on-one sessions and an exposure visit to the University of Utah, U.S. Through this extended training program, HESSA seeks to develop a pool of trainers who will support the capacity building of university administration leadership prepared and facilitate transformation strategic plans for their across their respective universities and beyond.HESSA is a USAIDfunded program that aims to introduce sustainable higher education reforms

and work with Pakistani universities international best practices in teaching, research.

BRIDGING THE DIVIDE:

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Higher Education Commission Dr Mukhtar Ahmed

addressing during the event for "Ensuring access to Higher Education" as

Overnight camping

surroundings of Mastan

Dhok added a unique

cultural experience to the

The primary objective of Eco Hike 2023

was to discover the verdant

meadows and majestic

mountains of Kashmir,

which remain largely

simultaneously promoting

clean tourism and

combating environmental

pollution. The event aimed

to raise awareness about

the importance of

resources and fostering a

strengthen the cause of

Eco-friendly tourism, Bagh

Alpine Club continues to

organize such engaging

activities that connect

individuals with nature and

consciousness. The event

was made possible through

the sponsorship of

environmental

natural

tourism

adventure.

unexplored,

preserving

sustainable

industry.To

raise

Organized Raabta at Serena Hotel in Federal Capital.

Eco Hike 2023

organized to promote

Eco-friendly tourism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Overnight camping With an aim to explore the amidst the enchanting

untouched beauty of

Kashmir and promote Eco-

friendly tourism, the Bagh Alpine Club, in collaboration with MTBC successfully organized the

Eco Hike 2023, with an aim

to explore the untouched

beauty of Kashmir and

promoting Eco-friendly

held under the supervision

of Alpine Club of Pakistan

individuals from all four

provinces of Pakistan and

various districts of Azad

Kashmir, said a press

Hike took place along a challenging 40-kilometre trail in the Pir Panjal Range

Participants embarked on

an exhilarating journey

from Ganga Choti to Noor

Gala, traversing through

Bagh

The breathtaking Eco

District.

The event which was

tourism.

witnessed

participation

approximately

Anti-social elements involve in social media propaganda to be brought to justice soon: SAPM

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) Malik Ahmed Khan Monday said that the whole nation stood with the army chief and that anti-social elements involved in the social media propaganda drive would be brought to justice soon as the investigation of this matter reached its final

social media propaganda campaign need to be talking to a Private news

Imran Khan moves IHC for protective bails in six cases

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf's (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan had filed petitions to Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday seeking protective bails in eight cases registered in various cities of the country.

The IHC's bench

would likely to hear the bail cases of former prime minister on Tuesday. The petitioner had prayed the court to grant protective bails so that he could approach the concern courts for the relief.

Islamabad

Science Camp

2.0 kicks off

at AIOU

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The 5-day Hands-on

Science Camp 2.0 started

at the main campus of

Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) here.

aged 8 to 14 years from

Islamabad and neighboring areas are participating in

the camp, they will be

trained to make five

different robotic projects

during this training camp.

organized in collaboration

with Allama Iqbal Open University, Pakistan Science Club, and ECO

Science Foundation (ECOSF). The project has

been formulated to teach

fundamental principles of

science to young minds to

develop interests regarding

science to keep in view the

interests of today's

generation on the special

instruction of Prof. Dr.

Nasir Mahmood, Vice

of this camp was designed

under the supervision of

the Dean Faculty of

Sciences, Prof. Dr. Irshad

Ahmed Arshad, and the

Dean Faculty of Éducation,

Prof. Dr. Tanzila Nabeel.

Dr. Muhammad Tanveer

Afzal, Dr. Aftab, and

Arshad Mahmood Qamar

on behalf of Open

University, Ghulam Abbas

on behalf of ECOSF, and

representing the 5-member

team of Pakistan Science Club.The camp will continue till July 14 at the main campus of AIOU

Abdul

Islamabad.

Rauf are

The training material

Chancellor, AIOU.

This camp is being

Around 120 children

channel. "This negative social to restrict these hate media drive was being hatched against national insinuations to harm the

planned", he added. "Anti-state elements only active to economically,"

country and it was pre-

mentioned. stages. Replying to a "Elements behind the question, he said hate statements through social should not be confused.

speech platforms," he

He said, "His party is not believing in media regulation as free media defines the progress of any nation but such elements destabilize the country politically and exploiting the situation he through their false statements and negative propaganda drives.

'It is a clear violation of fundamental rights of media platforms and any citizen of the country exposed," he said while freedom of expression which will be protected at any cost," he added.



ISLAMABAD: Families are enjoying at Dino Valley Park on the top of the Margala Hills as due to the summers vacation in schools, children have a lot of time to enjoy well.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Executive Director delegation of Press Adnan Akram Bajwa, on Information Department, the occasion, said as it was led by its Director Raja media and that was why Amjad Hussain Minhas on the APP was paying full Monday visited the attention to them. A studio headquarters of Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) head office here with the objective to upgrade the PID Digital Media Section media channels had also

on modern lines. After meeting with APP Executive Director Adnan Akram Bajwa and Executive Director News Hanif Sabir, the delegation took a round of the Digital Media Wing to have a first hand account of the

Officer Muzaffarabad Raja present on this occasion.

Executive Director had been set up to run the APP Web TV, he added. Besides print media

established their digital media wings, which manifested the importance of the medium. He said the AJK

Information Department was doing a good work in the field. AJK Director

Information Raja Amjad District Information said on the directives of AJK prime minister, the Sohail Khan and PID was taking steps to Programmer Sardar Shamim make digital and social Anjum Aziz were also mediawing more active and



ISLAMABAD: Labourers busy construction work of protection wall along Bhara Kahu Bypass.

IWMB confiscates protected birds illegally sold at H-9 Sunday Bazaar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) successfully conducted a raid at illegal sale points of protected birds in the H-9 Sector of the federal capital and confiscated endangered

birds of different species. The IWMB team comprising of Assistant Director Wildlife, Ayesha Shehzad, Aneeb Ahmed, Field Supervisor Zaheer Khan and others during a routine visit to Sunday Bazaar, H-9 Sector and other areas inspected various shops at selling birds and pets in the federal capital, the IWMB spokesperson told APP Board. He said the IWMB operation across various team

specifically targeting bird

successfully confiscated Rose-ringed Parakeets, Alexandrine Parakeets, and Black Partridges, which are protected species under wildlife conservation laws, he added.

Furthermore, during the raid conducted by the Islamabad Management Board's team, two individuals were apprehended on the spot for their involvement in the illegal trade of protected bird species. A first information report (FIR) has been lodged against the accused, initiating legal proceedings to hold them while briefing on the accountable for their enforcement efforts of the actions. The FIR stated that the two individuals had raid team carried out the misbehaved with the raid areas of the federal capital objectionable remarks.



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

Daily soice of Masse, Independent

Tuesday July 11, 2023

Food concerns

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

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

It is being financed by Saudi assistance of \$500m. The GISbased initiative aims at enhancing modern agro-farming, and utilising 22m acres of uncultivated state land. The government is expecting huge investments in agriculture from the Gulf and China under LIMS.

It is perhaps the first multipronged strategy designed to simultaneously target urgent challenges related to agriculture: growing food insecurity, a surging food and agricultural import bill and diminishing export surplus. The success of the new scheme is projected to address these issues to a large extent.

While the LIMS initiative is a step in the right direction, its scope is likely to remain confined to the foreign-funded agriculture gender. Others argue that political actors actively projects under it — mostly for producing exportable surplus for investing nations. With food insecurity rising in the country the World Food Programme has said that 37pc of Pakistanis are etal truths and trends. Sofood-insecure and one-fifth of cieties undergo demothem are facing a severe food graphic and economic shifts and change people's recrisis — it is imperative for policymakers to quickly design act. strategies to deal with longstanding, deeper structural issues such as climate impact, soil erosion, land fragmentation, lower crop yields, etc, All these are pulling down Pakistan's important agriculture sector.

This becomes even more critical as the population is projected to grow to 367.8m by 2050. The surging population has already put unbearable pressure on the food system, and food insecurity in the country is billed to Out of control. That's how worsen in the coming years un- the UN described the pace less remedial steps are taken The days leading up to last

With the country's agriculture sector characterised mostly by smallholder farmers, for average temperatures to the rise in the demand for food increase by three degrees Celsius by the end of the has to be met either through an increase in yield or expansion in cultivable cropland. Pakistan needs to work on both of a rapidly heating planet. as climate change, resulting in droughts, floods, uncertain since June 25 in floods and landslides triggered by weather patterns, etc, is likely heavy monsoon rains. to increase the already consid- Lahore last week received erable stress on the food supply system.

There is no doubt that the lief at dodging Cyclone Biparjoy when it is forced government needs to encour- to brace for rain. We talk age the utilisation of unculti- floods as freak, one-off divated state land to boost crop output. Besides investing in global 134 per cent increase swathes of wasteland to make in climate change-related flooding since the turn of them cultivable, it must also put this century. a stop to the encroachment of agricultural lands by sprawling points, Pakistan will find housing schemes.

A lot is required to be done to ensure food security and create exportable agricultural ever becomes the next surplus. The LIMS initiative is prime minister must put only the first step. The next and mitigation at the centre one should focus on strengthening the capacity of agricultural research institutions to funding—announced at the 2022 UN climate increase yields.

The economic test



Maleeha Lodhi

While the Stand-by Arran-ge-ment with the IMF helps Pakistan to avert debt default, it is a temporary reprieve that provides only limited breathing space. The shortterm arrangement will momentarily restore some confidence. But a fundamental change in policy direction is needed if the country is to address its economic crisis on a sustainable basis and establish durable economic stability. Financing requirements to meet external debt obliga-tions are an estimated \$25 necessitates mobilising additional funds. It means Pakistan will have to negotiate a longer-term funding deal with the IMF down the

In any case, an IMF programme is necessary

but not sufficient for the country to achieve economic recovery and embark on a path of growth. A comprehensive set of homegrown structural reforms are needed for Pakistan to escape from the vicious cycle of high budget and balance-of-payments deficits, slow growth, low savings and investment, excessive borrowing, rising indebtedness and soaring inflation. The cost-of-living crisis fuelled by the unprecedented level of inflation has placed an onerous burden on people. The public's greatest expectation from their government is that it competently manages the economy to alleviate their plight and provide them

son around the corner, what are political parties doing to show people they have a serious plan to deal with the country's economic challenges? So far, very little, if anything. Indeed, if news accounts are correct about a recent meeting of ruling coalition leaders in Dubai, their focus seemed to be more on who should be in the caretaker government

with a better economic fu-

With the election sea-

sharing arrangements between them than the economic problems facing the country. This suggests that the PDM parties still see governance as leveraging the spoils system rather than formulating public policy. The real test, how-

tions are announced, because parties will then have to stake out their positions on economic as well as other issues. Voters will be able to determine whether in fact any party or leader has offered anything like an economic vision and has a strategy to extricate Pakistan from the economic mess it is in. But that doesn't mean voicing the usual platitudes and clichés that figure so frequently in pronouncements by political leaders. There has been some talk about an 'economic compact' among parties, but this amounts to little more than a slogan as no one has cared to spell out what that should

Some would argue that elections in the past have hardly been fought on policy issues and, instead, have been about personalities, traditional loyalties and local, constituency factors. This, and subsequent power- of course, is true. But that

view overlooks the fact that the ongoing economic crisis has affected people like never before and therefore public expectations may be very different from the past in the intensely fraught economic environment today. Not surprisingly, in succesever, will come once elecsive public opinion surveys. people identify economy as their number one concern. In a survey

conducted by Ipsos in

March, inflation and unem-

ployment were the top pub-

lic concerns. It would fol-

low from this that many

voters will look more

closely at which political party can better handle the country's economic troubles and ease their hardship. Voters are also likely to punish incumbents for their worsening economic Apart from what political parties may have to

offer on economic policy, there is also the question of whether the nature of the election outcome will help or hinder efforts at serious economic reform. Present indications are that Pakistan's era of coalition governments is not about to end. The pattern is likely to persist of a hung parliament with no party able to win

destabilising an out-of-

an overall majority and form a government on its own. If the past is any guide, a coalition government will find it harder to secure consensus or agreement on tough economic measures, especially as the likely parties in such an arrangement (the two major parties in the present ruling coalition), are status quo parties in the first place, which have demonstrated little commitment to reform. Thus, coalition politics might inhibit the ability of the next government to take decisive actions and launch bold reforms. There are examples of coalition governments elsewhere in the developing world that managed to carry out farreaching reforms, but it needed strong commitment by key parties to such action — a crucial element missing in our case, as none of the parties can be deemed as reformist.

There is also the strong likelihood of elections producing a regionalised outcome, with different parties forming governments in the four provinces. This reflects the reality of the country being bereft of a truly national party with roots and support in all provinces. Regionalised results in re-

indicate the growing fragmentation of politics. As this trend is also likely to continue, it will magnify the challenge for the federal govemment to manage such a polity and, more importantly, build inter-provincial consensus on major issues of economic policy and reform. Of course, before the country goes to the polls, there will be a period of some months when a caretaker government will be in charge. Its main task will be to supervise and preside over the election. But at a time when an ailing economy will need to be carefully managed and delicately handled, leadership on this count will be expected from the interim government. By prior agreement with the major parties, it can also take steps to strengthen and reinforce stabilisation measures to sustain the momentum of economic recovery. There are many un-

cent general elections also

knowns going forward. What is not in doubt is that the government that will emerge from elections, whatever its complexion, will have the responsibility to take the process of economic revival forward.

Sources of instability



Umair Javed

There is an enduring debate on the degree to which politics reflects a country's societal trends. Some analysts argue that politics usually reflects deep divides or cleavages found in society, such as socioeconomic class, religion, ethnicity, or make or break identities and divisions in society, which

helps them win power. As is usually the case, the truth lies somewhere in the middle. Sometimes it takes a while for political parties to wake up to sociquirements from politics. But parties can be slow to

parties try to act contrary to society's existing divi-

sions. They attempt to create new visions of a society, ignoring inequities, imbalances, and pre-existing fault-lines

When there is a gap between people's expectations from politics and what political actors are usually doing, it leads to moments of crises. The crises can be violent upheavals. Or they can be episodic bursts of instability because of infighting among politicians, between politicians and groups of citizens, or between politicians and other state institutions. But all three are a sign that state and society will have to adapt for stability to re-

pecially in the mainstream, demonstrates gaps with society fairly frequently. Over the last decade and a half, we can see three variants at different points in time: 1) new ways of thinking about an issue become popular in society so the state and political parties belatedly try to co-opt it; 2) the state and political parties attempt to coercively centralise authority and enforce unity despite the issue refused to die out, Other times, political the existence of different the state decided to use this

Pakistani politics, es-

political parties ignore deep demographic and economic transformations in society and try to carry on with business as usual.

All three types of gaps have produced their own type of instability.

The first gap is most visible in the way the state deals with the politics around blasphemy. The rise of Barelvi fundamentalism and its deepening roots in both urban and rural settings have made blasphemy and the finality of prophethood a major and entrenched societal flashpoint. There is mobilisation around this theme, triggered by both global and local issues. The assassination of Salmaan Taseer and the celebration of his killer. Mumtaz Oadri. was a major inflection point after which there appears to have been no turning

How has the political mainstream responded to it? First, it offered open space for public protest and venting, mistakenly thinking that a single-issue politics of this type would die out in a country that is 96 per cent Muslim. When

favour government and breaking away voters. Ultimately, faced with the prospect that this new way of thinking would eventually consume everything, the political mainstream has decided to embrace it fully. Changes to school curricula and the text of a nikahnama in Puniab are recent examples of this embrace. Inches have been given, but the instability-causing crowds on the roads will frequently demand milesThe second gap was the hybrid experiment that ran from 2011 to 2022, achieving full manifestation in its last three years. This was an attempt to centralise authority through a hybrid populist alliance of the PTI and the military. The populism part mobilised public anger through Imran Khan against the rest of the political mainstream, while the military part coercively

tion politics. Ultimately this experivery familiar internal con- of its presence in media, in Dawn

dealt with opposition par-

ties, ethnonationalist move-

ments, and a non-compli-

ant civil society. The end

goal of this experiment ap-

peared to be a unified state

with no space for opposi-

tradiction: two bosses for one system. As former PM Imran Khan now admits, it diaspora. was a mistake to outsource politics to the military. When the experiment cracked, there was no safety net, no grounding in parliamentary politics that could offer a way out. Instead, we ended up with greater instability. Even to-

Finally, the third and most recent gap is the attempt by the military establishment and the current coalition government to carry on with the usual politics of jor-tor and patronage, while ignoring massive demographic, economic, and political change that

day, the denial of legitimacy

to political opponents is

one of several reasons why

instability continues.

has taken place in society. In a recent piece for another publication, Dr Adnan Rafiq pinpointed one major aspect of this political and demographic change, which is the rise of collar segment (colloquially that, despite its actual numthe private sector, in state institutions, and in the

This segment was fully mobilised by the PTI for the first hybrid experiment as it waged the clean vs corrupt battle. That battle played to their analysis of Pakistan being held back by conventional politics and the sclerotic practices of traditional, dynastic parties. Thus, deepseated frustration with dysfunctional governance and a stagnant economy found its own political out-

The khaki patrons of that experiment pulled the plug in April 2022, and have since forged a new arrangement with traditional parties in a coalition model. Yet the anger of various segments in society cannot be undone as easily as engineering a few defections or a vote of no confidence. That anger is still palpable and will remain disruptive, even if its the urban, educated, white- main outlet (PTI) is supcollar segment (colloquially called the middle class). This the political mainstream is the core electorate for the has to adapt to a society PTI, and the one segment that has changed considerably, otherwise instabilbers, has had an outsized ity will remain a perennial ment fell prey to its own, impact on politics because condition. -- Courtesy

The danger ahead



Huma Yusuf

of climate change last week. Wednesday were the hottest on record. July was the hottest day on Earth in 125,000 years, signalling that we're now well on track century. And this is just the beginning.

Pakistan is once again suffering the consequences At least 50 people, including eight children, have died record-breaking rainfall, and Karachi had only just finished breathing a sigh of reabout the 2010 and 2022 sasters. But they are our new reality, reflecting the

As our planet apitself in alternating cycles of flooding and drought, worsening in frequency and intensity with each passing year. For that reason, whoclimate change adaptation of all policymaking.

The hype last year around loss and damage change conference COP27

after gaining impetus from sition, that climate change Pakistan's experience with adaptation and mitigation devastating floods—seems are luxuries for the develto have unleashed, counterintuitively, complacency among our policymakers. They now dream of foreign funds flowing into climate finance projects. But discussions in the run-up to COP28 later this year should serve as a reality check that loss and damage fund disbursements will not be coming anytime soon. Questions about such

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

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

these counts. Ironically, struggle itself is often cited as a reason why Pakistan is not tackling the climate challenge more aggressively. A common refrain is that we can't afford to ning out of time. -- Courthink about the green tran-

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

But the fallacy of

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

planning in the face of

such impending disaster is

resources. Today's ruling

elite and their power bro-

kers are not up to the task,

and we're now fast run-

arguably its greatest political crisis. And that's saying something, given how recent events have played out. A key danger You have heard of of any technocratic, Tando Adam, Tando Jam, stitch-up government that and many other places may emerge is that rather than find meaningful routes to climate adaptation and resilience, it is swayed by the promise of climate tech, geo-engineering or fanciful carbon capture technologies. After all, it's easier to plan for a future in which a problem is miraculously solved, rather than one in which tant centres of power. the only way to avert state failure is to find an inclusive, equitable way to share increasingly meagre

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

around the world, names like Little Columbia or Bangladesh and Chinatown are commonplace. These names come about as the immigrants try to hang on to some part of their erstwhile identity, or the na-

Tando China



Shahzad Sharjeel

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

tives — usually earlier migrants — bestow these names to ghettoise the new A federal court in New York has convicted three men, one a retired New York police officer and two men

of Chinese descent from the According to a US Big Apple on charges of abetting the Chinese government's efforts to rein in the diaspora. The prosecution believes China is maintaining around 100 outposts, sort of overseas police stations, across the US, UK, Belgium, France, etc. True or not, one wonders: here we are unable to maintain police stations on our 'mainland', while popup 'Tando China' has suposedly become a global Not a day passes without someone reminding us that the Chinese are taking over the entire globe. Looking at our increasing dependence and the ignominious liability we have become for our friends, many amongst us desire a Hong Kong-type arrange-

'hostile enemy corridor' between the mainland and Returning to how the conduct of international relations is changing and the ways in which political, economic and military power is projected, take the Chinese case for instance: the effort to rein in the dissenters among the diaspora and bring back the accused to stand trial is no hushhush affair. It has a name. It is called 'Operation Fox Hunt'. It could have been a title thought up by the US Department of Justice to add drama to a plot already thick with intrigue and conspiracy, but for the Chinese dailies who have been reporting about the operation, complete with pictures of hundreds of public wants brought back man whose harassment

ment; only this time, the

leaseholder and the lessee

share a land border. No

purportedly at the behest of the Chinese government led to the convictions by the New York court is on that list on charges of embezzlement that carry severe sentences, including the death penalty.

government release, the Chinese also had an international red notice issued against the man through Interpol in 2015. The two countries, however, do not have an extradition treaty. A federal US court will determine the punishment, ranging from 10 to 25 years' imprisonment, for the three men convicted for conspiracy, interstate stalking, surveillance, harassment, and working as agents of a foreign government without intimating the attorney general. The former New York police officer pleaded that he undertook the assignment as a private investigator, not knowing the Chinese government's connection to the case. The prosecution claims that Chinese officials have been flown in to supervise the day-today proceedings of these purported Chinese police outposts.

We also have 'persons of interest' living in exile, and, from time to time, hear noises about bringing them back to stand trial in courts of law. However, despite having an extensive network of extradition treaties, we have mismanaged our affairs at home so badly that governing our very own Tando towns has become taxing. In the race for global projection between China and the US. the former has a lead of a couple of thousand years while the latter is at best a newbie. We, too, have a heritage dating back some 7,000 years; the question is whether we own it to join a marathon of eons to survive and thrive, or mark 712AD as our year of birth, or even persons the People's Re- a much later date and descend even further from vasto and tried in China. The sal status to serfdom? --Courtesy Dawn

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

LAHORE (APP): Care-taker Chief Minister Punjab issued to patients receiving treatment at social security of-the-art cardiology block in the new building of the Mohsin Naqvi presided over a meeting at his office which approved free treatment for the general public in emergencies at social security hospitals, demonstrating government's commitment to providing accessible

healthcare. The meeting, in principle, endorsed the provision of free treatment to domestic workers in social security hospitals as a fun-

damental principle. To ensure the implementation of these decisions, the Punjab government will bear the expenses for the free treatment of domestic workers in social security hospitals. Moreover, domestic workers will have the option to avail the treatment facilities through health cards

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

to streamline healthcare ser-

hospitals. In order to support the implementation of these measures and ensure the certainty of treatment for domestic workers, a grant of Rs.200 million was allocated to the Punjab Employees Social Security Institution (PESSI) during the meeting.

Provincial Ministers Dr Javed Akram, Amir Mir, and Mansoor Qadir, health, finance, labor & information departments' secretaries, commissioner PESSI and others attended the meeting, while Minister for Primary & Secondary Health Dr Jamal Nasir participated through video

Meanwhile, Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi chaired a meeting at his office to discuss the progress of development projects in the Sahiwal division.

Several key decisions were made during the meeting to enhance the infrastructure and services in the

In line with the objec-As part of the efforts tive of providing advanced healthcare facilities, it was vices, digital cards will be decided to establish a state-



a 6.5-kilometer stretch of the dual carriageway GT Road, located within the city, will undergo restoration to ensure smooth and

The meeting included a comprehensive evaluation of Sahiwal city development project, as well as initiatives related to water recharge and waste management. The meeting emphasized the importance of completing the Sahiwal-Pakpattan Road by September, setting a clear dead line for its timely execution The project concerning the lining of small channels in Okara was also reviewed during the meeting, reflecting the government's commitment to effective water

resource management.

Swiss

Ambassador

calls on Sindh

Governor

KARACHI (APP): Gover-

nor Sindh Kamran Khan

Tessori has said that there

were ample opportunities

for Pakistan and Switzer-

land in various fields to fur

ther enhance their mutual

ing to Ambassador of Swit-

zerland Georg Steiner at

Governor House here on

need to further enhance bi-

lateral ties, investment op-

portunities in Sindh and

other matters of mutual in-

terest were discussed in

that Sindh offers ideal in-

vestment opportunities

especially for foreign inves-

tors and any investment

from Swiss investors in the

province would be welcomed. "They would be

provided every help and assistance", Governor Sindh said.

detail on the occasion.

This he said while talk-

Bilateral relations, the

Governor Sindh said

cooperation.

Monday

structure improvements

within the city. Specifically,

efficient transportation for

residents



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

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

GILGIT (APP): The Gov- ernment schools into Smart ernment of Gilgit-Baltistan schools aligns with the and Collector Customs GB Syed Fawad Ali Shah for their generous sponsorship and support in transforming three government schools in Gilgit-Baltistan

into Smart schools.
Chief Secretary Gilgit Baltistan Muhiudeen Wani in an official statement to the media said in recognition of this significant contribution, a Letter of Understanding (LoU) signing ceremony was held today at the office of the Chief

extended its heartfelt ap- government's commitment preciation and gratitude to Chairman FBR, Member to modernize the education system and provide stu-Custom Operations. Chief dents with access to cutting Collector Customs (North), edge technology and resources. He said by embracing digital tools and interactive learning environments, the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan aims to empower the youth, enhance their educational experiences, and foster a brighter future for the region. "I myself along with Secretary of School Education Department, Secretary IT and the Collector Customs GB, gathered to witness the signing of the Letter of Understanding, symbolizing a Secretary, Gilgit-Baltistan. strong partnership dedicated to the betterment of educastrong partnership dedicated

tive to upgrade these gov- tion in Gilgit-Baltistan. **PSCA** provides more than 20,000 video, audio evidences for investigation

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

Director Film and Publication Hamid Javed Awan, was received and briefed by the Director Public Relations Tauseef Sabih Gondal.

The research associates were briefed on public awareness campaigns, media management, and women safety application

The Director Public Relations said that the Integrated 15 system of Safe Cities Authority has sigdents by 43 percent.

The delegation was The delegation, led by told that public awareness campaign is conducted

police response time while the implementation of the Intelligent Traffic Management System has reduced the number of fatal acci-

through Safe City's official social media accounts and web TV. He further said that more than 20,000 audio and video evidence gulfed the entire surwere provided to the poroundings and burnt prelice and other law enforcecious house luggage ment agencies for help in the process of investigation. More than 300,000 women have installed the Women Safety app designed for the protection



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Local Government (LG) Syed Nasir Hussain Shah addressing the inauguration ceremony of renovation of Sharah-e-Faisal

at Karsaz Martyrs Memorial.



PESHAWAR: Advisor to PM Engineer Ameer Muqam and Special Assistant to PM Attaullah Tarar meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji

Nasir Shah inaugurates project for beautification of Shahrah-e-Faisal

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Local Government Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, on Monday, along with Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab inaugurated a project of beautification and improvement of Shahrah-e-Faisal.

A series of development and beautification the PPP Sindh government work would be carried out under an Rs.195.71 million project on the 18 km long major artery From Jinnah International Airport to Hotel Metropole for improving the environment, facilities for pedestrian movement, landscaping and artistic works and designs.

Syed Nasir Hussain Shah while speaking at the occasion said that the project was aimed at the beautification of Shahrah-e-Faisal so that visitors, both international and local, entering Karachi through the major artery have a better look at the metropolis.

The minister said that the Sindh government under the leadership of CM Murad Ali Shah was working day and night to materialise Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's vision of development, welfare and improvement.

He said that all the concerned departments of the Sindh government and city government as well as the cantonments and CAA were on a single page and work with coordination to complete the project and achieve desired objectives.

Nasir Shah said that was carrying out hundreds of development projects across the province and particularly in the provincial capital to ensure better facilities for the people and to resolve their problems.

Sindh government had completed record projects despite natural calamities and non-cooperation of the previous PTI federal govemment, he claimed adding that number of completed projects was higher than any other province of Pakistan. Nasir Shah said that all

the concerned departments and civic agencies exhibited remarkable performance on Eid-ul-Azha and ensured cleanliness and sanitation in Karachi during all the days

He appealed media to portray the positive developments taking place besides highlighting the issues and problems of the people so that a positive image of Karachi could be highlighted across the world. Responding to a me-

dia query, Nasir Shah said that the people of Karachi had given mandate to PPP in local government elections and now all the LG bodies across the province were empowered to carry out development works and resolve the problems of the public at the grass root level. All the civic bodies including KDA, LDA, MDA, and water board were under the supervision of Mayor Karachito ensure better service delivery to people of the metropolis, he said adding that Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has directed for empowerment of LG bodies and authority was delegated to elected represen-

Nasir Shah said that PPP has strengthened its vote bank in Sindh through record development and welfare works and in the next general elections PPP would not only sweep the entire Sindh province but it would also get success in Punjab, Balochistan and Khaibar Pakhtunkhwa



Rights led by its Chairman Muhammad Ijaz Noori in a group photo with Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman.

ferred to other courses.

that a list of roll numbers

of the aspiring candidates would be uploaded on so-

cial media platforms.

Condemning PTI
chief Imran Khan, he said

that Imran Khan merely

wanted the government and

he did not care about the

tion here that on the direc-

tives of the Sindh Gover-

nor, the Governor House

was going to conduct three

course including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Web 3.0

It is pertinent to men-

Kamran Tessori said

Governor inaugurates Sindh I.T Gate

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori inaugurated the Sindh I.T. Gate here on Monday.

House gutted, While talking to media girl injured persons after the inauguration, he said that they were FAISALABAD (APP): A minor girl received burn ingiving importance to Information Technology (I.T.) juries during house-ablaze for the promotion of innoincident in the area of

Sargodha Road police sta-He said that the Governor House had received 1 Rescue million applications for I.T. spokesman said here on course and 0.1 million can-Monday that a house situated at Mohallah didates would be selected through test in the first Shah Abad near Crescent phase whereas other candi-Mills Sargodha Road dates could also be trans- and Metaverse. caught fire due to shortcircuiting. The fire en-

present on the spot. Receiving information, fire fighters of Rescue 1122 rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control after hectic efforts of many hours.

fall in anti-polio drops refusal cases PESHAWAR (APP): The strong support of

KP witnesses significant

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

The Center said that a drop of 25 percent was recorded among children left deprived of the anti-polio drops in the province.

Last year, all the 20 polio attack cases were reported from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa however this year the number of these cases significantly dropped to only one.

The Center further

Ulema when several families were reluctant to administer anti-polio drops to their children owing to the negative propaganda against the vaccination.

It said that the Ulema support highly helped in the success of the anti-polio vaccination. It said that even in some cases the refusing parents were now administering anti-polio shots to their children. Meanwhile, Maulana

Raees Khan of Darul Uloom Hayatabad has said that earlier some people were refusing antipolio drops to their children only due to misperceptions however, he said when we persuaded said that in 2016 for the them, they were now adfirst time the anti-polio ministering anti-polio campaign received the drops to their children.

Two children die as landslide hits Swat houses

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

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

On receiving the information, Rescue 1122 medical and disaster rescue teams reached the spot and started the search opera-

The rescue team managed to pull out two children but two children died due to iniuries and suffocation. The injured have been shifted to the Saidu Sharif Hospital.

The landslide was apparently triggered by recent rains in the area.

6 acres state land retrieved

FAISALABAD (APP): Assistant Commissioner (AC) Chak Jhumra Sultan Zafar has retrieved state land of 6 acres from 'Qabza Mafia' and handed it over to Revenue department for

According to a spokesman of local administration, the AC Chak Jhumra along with team reached in Chak No.18-GB where the land grabbers had occupied 6 acres of state land. The AC retrieved the land which has an approximate market value of millions of rupees.

The illegal structures of land grabbers were demolished with the help of heavy machinery while further action against land grabbers was under progress, he

Sindh govt approves 17.5% increase in pension

until further orders to all civil pensioners of the Sindh government.

The increase in the pension as mentioned at Para-01 will also be admissible to the pensioners, who would retire on or after July 01, 2023, according to a communiqué here on Monday. The term "Net Pension" means "Pension being drawn" minus "Medical Allowance"

The increase will also be admissible to family pension granted under the Pension-cum-Gratuity Scheme 1954 Liberalized Pension Rules 1977 on pension sanctioned under the Central Civil Services (Extra Ordinary Pension)

government is shared with

Sindh government has sanctioned an increase of 17.5 down in Part-IV of Appendix percent on net pension with effect from July 01, 2023 Code, Volume-1, the amount of the increase in pension will be apportioned between the federal government and the other government concerned on

proportionate basis. The increase in pension sanctioned will not be admissible to Special Additional Pension allowed in lieu of pre-retirement Or-

derly Allowance.
The benefit of increase in pension sanctioned will also be admissible to those Civil Pensioners of the Sindh government, who are residing abroad (other than those residing in India and Bangladesh), who retired on or after 15.08.1947 and are not entitled to or are not in Rules as well as on the receipt of pension increase Compassionate Allowance under the British under CSR-353. Government's Pension (in-Government's Pension (in-If the gross pension crease) Acts. The payment sanctioned by the Sindh will be made at the applicable rate of exchange



KARACHI: Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan Georg Steiner rang the 'bell of hope' at Governor

Meeting held to create awareness against dengue in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Secretary Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mehood Aslam Wazir on Monday held a meeting with the Dengue Volunteer Task Force to discuss the current situation of virus throughout the province.

The meeting focused on raising awareness, strengthening surveillance gue prevention and the necefforts, and implementing preventive measures against iengue in different districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Dengue Volunteer Task Force led by Deputy Chief Atiq Ahmed and Divisional Warden Sartaj Khan, actively participated in the discussion.

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

During the meeting the Task Force officials assured the Secretary Health of their unwavering support at both the district and provincial levels. They pledged to en-

gage local elders, clerics, educational institutes, and the general public, aiming to raise awareness about denessary precautions to be

Secretary Mehood Aslam Wazir and Dengue Control Programme Coordinator, Dr. Qasim Arfridi, expressed their gratitude to the dengue volunteer task team for their dedication and extended their full support from the Health Department. They acknowledged the vital role played by the volunteers in this crucial campaign against dengue and emphasized the significance of a collaborative approach in mitigating the risks associated with the disease.



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

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

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

In second operation conducted in a deserted area of Turbat, 18 kg Ice drug concealed in bushes was recovered. In third operation near Bilawal Chowrangi, Clifton Karachi, 10kg charras was recovered from a rickshaw while an accused resident of Karachi was also rounded up.

In fourth operation near Godap Town Karachi, 1.7 kg Ice drug and two kg heroin were recovered from a vehicle while an accused resident of Quetta was also

In fifth operation near ras-filled capsule.

two kg charras was recovered from the possession of a drug smuggler, resident of Khairpur. In sixth operation at Bacha Khan International Airport, ANF recovered 101 heroin and Icefilled capsules from the possession of a Bahrainbound passenger, going on flight no GF-787

In seventh operation on Gujranwala Road, 1.8 kg charras was recovered from the possession of a biker, resident of Sheikhpura. The spokesman in-

formed that in eighth operation conducted at a courier office in Kot Lakhpat Lahore area, 33 grams heroin concealed in gents suits was recovered. The parcel was booked for Greece. In ninth operation conducted at Multan International Airport, a Sharjahbound passenger, resident of Bannu, going on flight no PA-812 was rounded up on recovery of a char-

Sahiwal has great po-

He suggested that spe-

The interest rate

Members of Commit-

CEO said that we are

tential for rice, livestock.

cial banks should be formed

for promotion of small and

should be reduced to ben-

tee said that previous gov-

ernment gave a loan of 3

billion dollars at zero inter-

limited to small industries

and we are not aware of this

loan. Before initiating of

standing committee meeting

for industry and produc-

tion in National Assembly

(NA) authorities of Engi-

neering Development

Board in proceedings of in-

formal meeting told that 3

lakh 17 thousand vehicles

were made in 2021-22. 1

lakh and 37 thousand ve-

hicles were made in last

year (10 months). There

was a big drop in the pro-

duction of vehicles. Import

restrictions had also an im-

pact. Secretary for indus-

medium industries.

efit small businesses.

est rate.

OMMERCE EWS

Dar chairs Cabinet Committee on Privatization (CCoP)

ISLAMABAD (Online): Privatization Commission approved the summary. Federal Minister for Fi- to proceed towards sucnance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar transaction with complechaired a meeting of Cabinet Committee on Privatization (CCoP) to-

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

The Privatization Commission submitted a summary regarding privatization of Services International Hotel (SIH) and updated the Committee on its privatization process. The CCoP after de-

cessful conclusion of SIH tion of transfer/mutation process in the name of the purchaser.

The Privatization

a summary on privatization of House Building Finance Company Ltd (HBFCL) with one single (pre-qualified) bidder. After detailed deliberations, CCoP de-Privatization Commission to proceed with single source/negotiated transaction Privatization of HBFCL with sole pre-qualified investor namely Pakistan Mortgage Refinance Company Ltd (PMRCL).

The Privatisation Commission tabled a summary related to Budget Estimates of the Privatization Commission for Fiscal Year 2023-24 to the tune of Rs. 1248.8 million. The CCoP

The Privatisation Commission also presented summaries on privatisation of Pakistan Engineering Company (PECO) and privatization of Sindh engineering Limited (SEL) and briefed the meeting on their

The CCoP after discussion deferred both the summaries with directions that Secretary Privatization Commission, Secretary Law & Justice and Secretary Industries & Production may hold mutual consultations and come up with future course of action in both cases. The Privatization

Commission also updated the CCoP on the status of privatization process of Roosevelt Hotel. The CCoP after discussion deferred the summary with direction to submit an update on the privation of Roosevelt Hotel after consultation with Aviation



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Amer Ali Ahmed, Secretary Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Briefs a Delegation of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) about Various Initiatives of BISP.

ICCI Summit will help to promote tourism, business: Ambassadors

Ambassadors of Turkey, Malaysia and Syria in Pakistan have termed the first ICCI International Tourism Summit a great effort by the Islamabad Chamber for the promotion of tourism.

According to the ambassadors, the beauty of the cooperate with its brother northern regions of Pakistan can attract tourists from all over the world.

Attending the conference held in Skardu, one of highest peaks of the northern regions of Pakistan can become the center of adven-

Turkey's Ambassador Dr Mehmet Pacaci said that like Turkey, Pakistan has great potential for tourism. Unfortunately, in the past, the security situation in Pakistan has been a hindrance to the development of tourism, but now things have improved. He said that the Islamabad Chamber has done its best by organizing the summit to present the

ISLAMABAD (INP): northern regions to the world. I hope that its positive effects will come out soon. He said that Turkey is one of the most famous tourist destinations in the world where millions of tourists visit every year. Turkey is ready to fully country Pakistan in this regard. He said that Skardu is one of the most beautiful places in the world. Turkey is working to equip the airregard as well. He said that adventure tourism is developing in the world. There are many world highest peaks in the northern regions of Pakistan which can

> President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce Ahsan Bakhtawari said that the Islamabad Chamber has organized this first event of its kind in the northern re-

remote regions will have

access to quality healthcare.

This year, Sehat Kahani and

Zong 4G plan to increase

awareness on a diverse se-

lection of topics in the area

of health and mental well-

Oncology, water & air

borne diseases, mental well-

being, and lastly, mother

Kahani have a long-stand-

ing relationship, having pre-

viously collaborated on

various sustainability ini-

tiatives. During the

COVID-19 pandemic, the

two organizations joined

forces to provide free online

consultations, ensuring ac-

cess to healthcare during

challenging times. Further-

more, in the wake of the

devastating floods that hit

Pakistan in 2022, Sehat

Kahani, with unwavering

support from Zong 4G, es-

tablished medical relief

camps in the affected areas.

This initiative showcased

their commitment to deliv-

ering healthcare services to

Sara

Khurram expressed her en-

thusiasm by speaking about

the partnership, saying

Saeed

those in dire need.

Dr.

and child health.

Their focus will be on

Zong 4G and Sehat

Zong 4G and Sehat Kahani Join Forces to Empower

Zong 4G, Sehat Kahani

Join Forces to Empower

Pak thru Digital Health

Pakistan through Digital Health.

ISLAMABAD (INP):

Zong 4G, Pakistan's lead-

ing telecommunications

operator, is pleased to an-

nounce a new chapter in its

partnership with Sehat

Kahani, a pioneering

was launched during a con-

tract signing ceremony on

the 7th of June in

between Zong 4G and Sehat

Kahani marks an important

milestone in their partner-

ship. The ceremony was

graced by the presence of

Dr. Sara Saeed Khurram,

CEO of Sehat Kahani, and

representatives from Zong

ration, Zong 4G and Sehat

Kahani aim to extend the

reach of telemedicine ser-

vices across Pakistan.

Telemedicine has emerged

as a game-changer in

healthcare, allowing pa-

tients to consult healthcare

professionals remotely,

thereby reducing the barri-

ers of distance and time. By

harnessing Zong 4G's ro-

bust network infrastructure

and Sehat Kahani's innova-

tive telemedicine platform,

individuals in even the most

Through this collabo-

The new collaboration

The contract signing

telemedicine platform.

Islamabad

gions, which will continue. He said that tourism is not only a means of earning dollars or improving the economy, but its promotion will highlight the positive image of Pakistan around the world. He said that the large number of foreign ambassadors participating in the conference is our success. The government should learn from the experiences of brother countries like Turkey and the top tourist destinations port here with modern fa- Malaysia to frame the in the world, is a very cilities. We are trying to policy. He said that the fedpleasant experience. The start Turkish Airlines direct eral government, provincial flight to Skardu soon, Dis-government and related institutions need to work to gether for the promotion of tourism in the northern regions. Regarding the conference, Azhar bin Mazlan. the ambassador of Malay sia posted in Pakistan, said that tourism is the most become a favorite place especially for European tourimportant part of Malaysia's economy. Pakistan has many places that



twice a week LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Agriculture department has advised the cotton growers to take necessary timely measures to get rid of weeds as they put negative impact on the growth of the crop.

can attract not only Malay

sian tourists but also a large

number of tourists from

other countries of the

A spokesman of the department said on Monday that farmers must carry out anti weed sprays as per the guidelines of the department. He said that cotton crop should be given water keeping in view the fertility of land, seed variety and condition of the crop. He said, "Juice sucking insects usually attack during moist weather so growers should stay alert and carry out pest scouting twice a week.3

PSX stays bullish, gains 377 points

ISLAMABAD (INP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 377.82 points, a positive change of 0.85 percent, closing at 44,585.13 points against 44,207.31 points the pre-

vious trading day. A total of 440,221,059 shares were traded during the day as compared to 247,993,312 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.12.086 billion against Rs.8.512 billion on the last trading day. As many as 342 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 238 of them recorded gains and 82 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 22 companies remained unchanged



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Salman Hussain, Senior Partner, A.F. Ferguson & Co (PWC) called on Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, today and presented him latest publication titled "Navigating the future of Opportunities and Challenges" on country's banking sector.

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

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

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

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

vestment in IT-related ven-

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

This includes establishing Incubation Centers that offer support, mentoring, and resources to startups, facilitating the growth of emerging technology companies. Additionally, Soft-

ware Technology Parks will be established to create specialized zones equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, encouraging the growth of software development and IT-enabled services.

Furthermore, the government is keen on promoting mobile manufacturing in Pakistan, aiming to attract investment in this sector. By providing incentives and facilities, the MOITT technological innovation, aims to establish a robust mobile manufacturing in-

dustry that contributes to local employment, reduces imports, and strengthens the country's self-sufficiency in technology. The Telecom sector, a

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

Syed Amin Ul

Haque's announcement reinforces the government's commitment to promoting investment and fostering growth across multiple sectors, particularly in the realm of IT.

By offering comprehensive support and facilities, the MOITT aims to attract local and international investors, paying the way for technological advancement and economic



progress in Pakistan



QUETTA: A delegation of Anjuman-e-Tajiran led by its President Rahim Àgha meeting with Balochistan Governor Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Ghanaian HC invites Pakistani industrialists to invest in Ghana

KARACHI (INP): Ghana's High Commissioner to Pakistan and Iran, Eric Owusu, on Monday, invited Pakistani investors and industrialists to invest in Ghana for gaining access to the vast African market.

The Ghanaian envoy while addressing to Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) high-lighted the vast potential for industrialisation in his country and said that the government of Ghana was committed to providing favourable conditions for investment in the textile

Ghana was offering various incentives, including tax benefits, to encourage the establishment of industries in the country and the availability of skilled and cost-effective labour further facilitate business ventures, he said.

By setting up indus-tries in Ghana, Pakistani industrialists could gain access to the massive African market comprising 1.4 billion people, he said adding that goods manufactured in Ghana would enjoy dutyfree exports worldwide.

President Faraz-ur-Rehman speaking at the occasion affirmed that KATI would play a significant role in assisting the

business community to access African markets. He 277.89 emphasised the importance However, according to of the exchange of trade delegations and collaborations between Pakistan and Ghana to enhance bilateral

He suggested organising a dedicated exhibition between the two countries to showcase their respective industries. He also proposed exploring currency swaps and local currency trade between Ghana and Pakistan, considering the development of

Honorary Consul General of Yemen Ikhtiar Baig urged Pakistani industrialists and investors to leverage Ghana's African policy, which includes advantages such as affordable ing of Rs 353.92. land for setting up indus-

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and tries and tax concessions. Deputy Patron-in-Chief of KATI, Zubair Chhaya, highlighted the friendly relations between Ghana and Pakistan. Rs74.58, respectively.

Rupee sheds Rs1.91against

US Dollar ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistani Rupee on Monday witnessed Rs1.91 devaluation against the US Dollar (USD) in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 279.80 against the previous working day's value of Rs

the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market stood at Rs 281 and Rs 284 respec-

The price of the Euro increased by Rs 4.34 to close at Rs 306.58 against the last day's closing of Rs 302.24, according to the State Bank of Pakistan

The Japanese Yen gained 03 paisa to close at Rs1.96, whereas an increase of Rs 4.59 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 358.51 as compared to its last day's clos-

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

performance of Engineering Dev. Board unsatisfactory ISLAMABAD (Online): policies to develop indus-CEO EDB told that funds of SME are stuck in Ministry of Finance.

Standing body declares

Standing Committee on Industry and Production has been told that increase in interest rate is obstacle in development of small busi-

reached 22 percent. First live stock farm is going to be built in Sheikhupura under name

Royal Group in the name of Royal group. This live stock farm will be made on collaboration with Chinese company

and Royal Group. Committee directed Secretary Finance to issue SME funds immediately. The meeting of Com-

mittee was held under Chairman Committee Rana Mohammad Ishaq Khan in Parliament House. Members of Commit-

tee said that institution has completed 25 years. What goals have been

achieved so far? Industries of the country are in decline.

If we import tissue papers then what are we Secretary for Industry

and Production told that you have highlighted an important issue and it has sev-

try and production said that government has also in-



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

FAO delegation receives briefing about **BISP's initiatives**

nization of the United Nations (FAO), led by Benjamin Davis, Director of the ety. Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equal-Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Amer Ali Ahmed, to discuss various initiatives of the programme.

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

The FAO delegation also included Mark Johnson, Social Protection Expert at FAO HQ Rome, Bhalla Economist, also from FAO HQ Rome, Garima, Economist at FAO HQ Rome, and Aamer.

The meeting is part of their 5-day visit to Pakistan aimed at identifying technical support from FAO on poverty graduation.

Secretary BISP underscored the crucial role of the

high-level Mission from the Programme in providing Food and Agriculture Orga- cash support to the most vulnerable and marginalized segments of Pakistani soci-

He highlighted the significance of the compreity Division at FAO HQ hensive dynamic database Rome, called on Secretary maintained by BISP, which serves as the foundation for effective programme's implementation.

During the meeting, Secretary BISP informed the delegation that the Benazir Income Support Programme currently provides cash assistance to over 9 million families.

He highlighted that the programme identifies women as the principal beneficiaries of their families. Furthermore, he emphasized how this programme is transforming the social landscape of Pa-

Ahmed also shared that there are currently operational Nashonuma Ĉenters under the Benazir Nashonuma Programme.



GILGIT: Farmers busy in collecting wheat for

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

ISLAMABAD (INP): ily subscribe, auto-provi-Garaj, Pakistan's fastestgrowing local cloud service provider, recently launched the Garaj Partner League, which is the country's firstever partnership program focused on building a vertical forward partner ecosys-The event garnered

the presence of Garaj's new and prospective cloud partners, officials from the IT ministry, as well as professionals from the broader tech industry.

The Garaj cloud platform is built to provide a true cloud experience across industries and is hosted in Pakistan's largest rated 3 Datacenter where customer security and accessibility are prioritized, and solutions are tailored for customers' On-Demand and PAYG model. With its own self-service portal, Garaj enables customers to eas-

sion, and modify their subscriptions without the need for human interaction. The company currently operates two compliant and certified data centers in Lahore and Islamabad, and they are set to inaugurate another data center in Karachi by the end of this Speaking at the occa-

sion, Asif Aziz, Chief Business Officer at Jazz, said, "Cloud computing has the potential to unlock significant economic growth and pave the way for Pakistan's entry into the digital economy. Garaj's cloud services not only allow local data to remain within the country, boosting businesses and the economy, but also contribute to transforming Pakistan's cloud computing landscape in line with the national cloud

both nations.

LAHORE: Employees of Traffic yard Association Pakistan are shouting slogans during protest in the favor of their demands at Railway Station in Provincial Capital.

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

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

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

ing with British Prime

Minister Rishi Sunak, their with the U.S. and our allies fifth in as many months, lasted less than an hour, with the focus on Ukraine.

"We've got a lot to talk about," said Biden as they sat in the garden of Sunak's Downing Street office. 'Our relationship is rocksolid. Couldn't be meeting with a closer friend and a greater ally." Sunak and Biden shared notes before the NATO summit which kicks off on Tuesday. Ahead of the trip, Biden urged caution for now on Ukraine's campaign to join NATO, whose mutual defence pact obliges all members to come to the aid of on the pathway for Ukraine to join," Sunak's spokesperson told reporters, saying it would not be appropriate for Ukraine to join

while the war was ongoing. The leaders also discussed the U.S. decision to send Ukraine cluster munitions, which are banned by more than 100 countries, including Britain, which view them as a potential threat to civilian populations because they typically release large numbers of smaller bomblets that can kill indiscriminately.

Britain's King Charles and The President of the any member that is attacked. "We want to work stage in the Quadrangle at

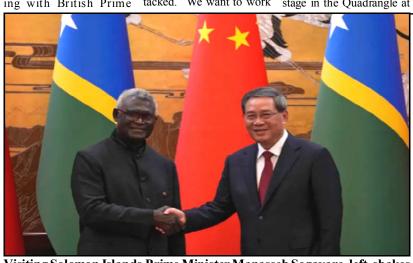
Windsor Castle on July 10, 2023 in Windsor, England. Chris Jackson/Pool via REUTERS Russia, Ukraine and the United States have not signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which bans their production, stockpiling, use and transfer. "We stand by our obligations under the convention, which include discouraging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

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

Monitoring Desk



Joe Biden was welcomed by King Charles to Windsor Castle for his first meeting with the monarch since he was officially crowned.



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

United Nations humanitarian chief says Sudan appears to be in a civil war 'of the most brutal kind'

Monitoring Desk NAIROBI: Sudan appears to be in a civil war "of the most brutal kind" and the world needs a new forum for talks in pursuit of a cease-fire, the United Nations humanitarian chief told The Associated Press on Monday.

as regional leaders met in neighboring Ethiopia following the breakdown of peace talks in Saudi Arabia in June.

ers from Sudan's neighbors on Thursday in search of peace, with few details. "We don't have a place, a forum, where the two parties are present ... where we can broker the kind of basic agreements that we need to move supplies and people," Griffiths said. He called Sudan the toughest place in the world for humanitarian workers in terms of access and warned that the crisis will

Martin Griffiths spoke only worsen as the fighting spreads to new areas Solomon Islands leader visits

Beijing, highlighting US-China rivalry in South Pacific **Monitoring Desk** BEIJING: Leaders of the

Solomon Islands and China promised Monday to expand relations that have fueled unease in Washington and Australia about Beijing's influence in the South Pacific. Prime

Minister Manasseh Sogavare met Chinese leader Xi Jinping and the country's No. 2 leader, Premier Li Qiang. Sogavare and Li presided over the signing of agreements on police, economic and technical cooperation. 'We are here to further boost relations," Sogavare told Li following a ceremony at which a Chinese military band played the Solomon Islands national anthem.

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

Shavkat Mirziyoyev re-elected as Uzbekistan's President

Monitoring Desk TASHKENT: President favour of Shavkat Shavkat Mirziyoyev has secured a landslide victory in the presidential election held on July 9, being re-elected as the

President of Uzbekistan

with an overwhelming 87.1% of the vote. The Central Election Commission of Uzbekistan announced the preliminary results, revealing the extent of the president's popular support. A significant number of voters participated in the election, with 15.6 million citizens, accounting for 79.8% of

registered voters, cast-

them 87.05% voted in the Mirziyoyev.

The preliminary results also indicate the performance of the other candidates in the election, with Ulugbek Inoyatov from the People's Democratic Party securing 4.2% of the Robakhon vote. Mahmudova from the "Adolat" Social Democratic Party receiving 4.43%, and Abdushukur

Party gaining 3.74%. The overwhelming re-election of President Mirziyoyev reflects the continued confidence placed in his leadership and vision for the country.

Hamzaev from the Eco

3 boats carrying 300 migrants go missing off Spain

MADRID: At least 300 people who were travelling on three migrant boats from Senegal to Spain's Canary Islands have disappeared, migrant aid group Walking

Two boats, one carrying about 65 people and the other with between 50 and 60 on board, have been missing for 15 days since they left Senegal to try to reach Spain, Helena Maleno of Walking Borders said.

A third boat left Senegal on June 27 with

All three boats left Kafountine in the south of Senegal, which is about 1,700 kilometres from Tenerife, one of the Canary Islands. "The families are very worried. There about 300 people from the same area of Senegal.

Israel Knesset set to vote on new Supreme **Court bill**

JERUSALEM: İsrael's parliament was scheduled on Monday to hold a first vote on a bill that limits some Supreme Court power, part of a rebooted judicial overhaul by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that has set off a deep political

the justice system by Netanyahu's ruling coalition of nationalist and religious parties has sparked unprecedented protests, stirred concern for Israel's democratic health among its Western allies and bruised the

Netanyahu's coalition ap-

curb on the Supreme Court's power to void decisions made by the government, ministers and elected officials by ruling them unreasonable

Critics argue that such a law invites corruption and abuses of power



A police cordon is placed in the aftermath of a stabbing attack at a kindergarten in Lianjiang county, Guangdong province, China.

Monitoring Desk

Borders said on Sunday.

about 200 people aboard. The families of those on board have not heard from them since they left,

Monitoring Desk

The drive to change

economy. Commanding 64 of the Knesset's 120 seats, peared on course to win the vote, the first of three required for the new bill to be written into law, with protests likely to intensify should that happen.

The new bill seeks a

STANBUL: Nato's efforts negotiations to join the EU. to present a united front at The demand, never a summit focused on helping Ukraine defeat Russia and Kyiv's push to join the alliance were undermined on Monday by a shock Turkish ultimatum on Sweden's membership bid.

Erdogan links Sweden's

Nato bid with Turkey's

EU membership

As Ukraine's forces claimed more advances against Russian positions, Nato's 31 members agreed to simplify Kyiv's eventual accession bid by dropping a requirement that it completes a formal road map of reforms. Alliance leaders gathering in Vilnius on the eve of Tuesday's summit were hoping a meeting between Erdogan and Sweden's Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson would see the Turkish leader lift his veto on Sweden's

But President Recep Tayyip Erdogan appeared in no mood to compromise, declaring that he would only back Sweden's Nato candidacy if European Union members — most of formally launched in 2005 whom are also Nato allies but has stalled.

before made in public. threatened to open a new rift between Ankara and its Western partners, even as Nato and the EU tackle Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the continent's worst security crisis since World War II. "Almost all the Nato

- agree to revive Turkey's

members are EU members. I now am addressing these countries, which are making Turkey wait for more than 50 years," Erdogan said, before boarding his flight for the Lithuanian capital. "First, open the way to Turkey's membership of the European Union, and then we will open it for Sweden, just as we had opened it for inland."

Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz, a powerful figure in both Nato and the EU, was quick to stress there was no link between Sweden's bid and Turkey's EU application, which was

North Korean leader's powerful sister says war planes repelled US spy plane

Kim Jong Un alleged on activities in coordination Monday that the country's warplanes repelled a U.S. spy plane that flew over its exclusive economic zone and warned of "shocking" consequences if the U.S. continues reconnaissance activities in the area.

The U.S. and South Korean militaries did not immediately respond to the comments by Kim Yo Jong, one of her brother's top foreign policy officials, which were published in state media Monday evening. Earlier Monday,

North Korea's Defense Ministry issued a statement accusing the U.S. of flying spy planes into its "inviolable airspace" and warning that approaching aircraft might be shot down.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff responded by denying that the Û.S. had flown spy planes into North Korean territory.

Monitoring Desk Joon said at a briefing that SEOUL: The powerful sis- the U.S. was conducting ter of North Korean leader standard reconnaissance with South Korea's military

> Apparently in response to that comment, Kim accused the Joint Chiefs of Staff of acting like a "spokesperson" for the U.S. military and said the U.S. has been intensifying its reconnaissance activities in a serious infringement of North Korea's sovereignty

and safety.
But while the North Korean Defense Ministry statement seemed to imply an intrusion into the country's territorial airspace. Kim accused the U.S of sending spy planes over the North's exclusive economic zone the area within 200 nautical miles of its territory where it controls rights to natural resources

Kim said a U.S. spy plane crossed the eastern sea boundary between the Koreas at around 5 a.m. Monday and conducted reconnaissance activities.

Spokesperson Lee Sung Syrian Kurdish fighters kill at least 5 Turkey-backed gunmen in nighttime attack, activists say

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Syrian Kurdish fighters carried out an attack early Monday in northem Syria, killing at least five members of Turkey-backed Syrian opposition forces, activists said. The attack south of

the northern town of Afrin,

which is held by the Turkey-backed forces, took place shortly after midnight on Sunday, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Meanwhile, Turkey's Defense Ministry confirmed that two Türkish soldiers were killed in an attack on Sunday by members of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, in northern Iraq. One of the soldiers died of

his wounds in hospital. The violence is the latest in a monthslong escalation between Turkey and Turkish-backed groups, and Kurdish fighters in Syria and Iraq. Ankara says the main Syrian Kurdish militia is allied to the outlawed Kurdish group. PKK has led an insurgency against Turkey since 1984 that has killed tens of thou-

sands of people. The Observatory, an opposition war monitor,

said Monday's attack was carried out by the Afrin Liberation Forces, a Kurdish faction allied with the main Kurdish militia in Syria known as the People's Protection Units or YPG. The group has claimed scores of attacks against Turkey-

backed Syrian fighters. Syria-based opposition activist Taher al-Omar said the attack took place about 20 kilometers (12 miles) south of Afrin. According to al-Omar, five members of the Turkeybacked faction Failaq al-Sham were killed. The Observatory said six died, but different tolls are not uncommon in the immediate aftermath of such attacks.

Afrin has been under the control of Turkey and its allied Syrian opposition fighters since 2018, following a Turkey-backed military operation that pushed Syrian Kurdish fighters and thou sands of Kurdish residents from the area. Since then, the town and surrounding villages have been the site of attacks on Turkish and Turkey-backed targets. Ankara considers Syrian Kurdish fighters who control a swath of Syrian territory along Turkey's border to be terrorists.

with Wagner leader Prigozhin and his fighters - Kremlin Wagner unit commanders, by Prigozhin, in which

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin has held Kremlin talks with Wagner mercenary group founder Yevgeny Prigozhin and his commanders to discuss the armed mutiny Wagner attempted to mount against the army's top brass, Putin's spokes-

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

The meeting, according to Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, was held on June 29, five days after the aborted mutiny, which is widely regarded to have posed the most serious challenge to Putin since he came to power on the last day of 1999.

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

and that the meeting had lasted three hours.

Putin held post-mutiny talks

The only thing we can say is that the presithe company's (Wagner's) actions at the front during the Special Military Operation (in Ukraine) and also gave his assessment of the events

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

of 24 June (the day of the mutiny)," Peskov told re-

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

The brief mutiny led

Wagner fighters took control of the southern city of Rostov-on-Don and a military headquardent gave his assessment of the company's in a deal brokered by Belarusian

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

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



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky speaks with Poland's President Andrzej Duda during their meeting in Lutsk.

Sri Lanka to focus on energy, port projects with **India during** presidential visit **Monitoring Desk**

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka is likely to discuss energy, power and port projects during a presidential visit to New Delhi next week, the foreign minister said on Monday, as India tries to push forward stalled initiatives with its crisis-hit neighbour. India's support was critical for Sri Lanka last year after it almost ran out of dollars and sank into a financial crisis that left it struggling to fund essential imports including fuel and

medicine India provided about \$4 billion in rapid assistance between January and July in 2022, including credit lines, a currency-swap arrangement and deferred import payments.

UK pension funds back next phase of post-Brexit City shake up **Monitoring Desk**

LONDON: Aviva, Legal & General and seven other pension firms intend to invest 50 billion pounds (\$64 billion) in unlisted companies by 2030 to help the City of London remain a competitive global finance centre after Brexit, finance minister Jeremy Hunt said.

Under a non-binding agreement, Aviva, Scottish Widows, Legal & General, Aegon, Phoenix, NEXT, Mercer, M&G and Smart Pension will allocate at least 5% of direct contribution pension funds into unlisted companies by the start of the next decade.

Ukraine, Poland leaders jointly mark **WWII** massacres

Monitoring Desk KYIV: The Ukrainian and

Polish presidents jointly marked the anniversary on Sunday of World War II-era massacres of Poles by Ukrainian nationalists, killings that have caused tension for generations between countries that are now close allies. Warsaw has positioned itself as one of Kyiv's staunchest supporters since Russia invaded the country in 2022.

But the Volhynia massacres have continued to hang over ties between the memory of the victims.

two nations, particularly ahead of the July 11 anniversary of one of the bloodiest days of a series of killings that took place from 1943 to 1945. Poland says around 100,000 Poles were killed in the massacres by Ukrainian nationalists. Thousands of Ukrainians also died in reprisal killings.

Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskiy and his Polish counterpart Andrzej Duda attended a church service together in the western Ukrainian city of Lutsk, in

Iran accuses U.S. Navy of defending fuel smuggling in Gulf incident

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: An Iranian Revo-

lutionary Guards Commander accused the U.S. Navy on Monday of defending fuel smuggling in the Gulf by trying to interfere when Iran intercepted a ship last week.

"On July 6th, Revolutionary Guards' Navy personnel were inspecting a ship with the name NADA 2 that was involved in smuggling Iranian oil and gas in the Persian Gulf, which the Americans sought to prevent through a series of unprofessional and risky actions," IRGC Commander Ramazan Zirrahi said in comments reported by

Iran's Tasnim news agency. On July 7th, Iran's Fars news agency reported that the Revolutionary Guards had seized a vessel carrying 900 tons of smuggled fuel with 12 crew members, following

"The Americans flew several aircraft, including two A-10 fighters, and tried until the last moment to prevent the seizure of the vessel, but it was eventually brought to Bushehr port for legal procedures,' he added. U.S. 5th Fleet spokes-

person Commander Tim Hawkins had said last week that the U.S. Navy had monitored the interception of the ship in international waters but had decided not to make any further response. The incident was one of several involving Iranian forces and Gulf shipping last week. In another incident, the U.S. Navy said Iranian naval personnel had fired multiple, long bursts at the Bahamasflagged Richmond Voyager managed by U.S. oil major Chevron, following Tehran's claims that the ship was involved in a collision which injured 5 crew members from an Iranian ship.

Digital economy vital for sustainable development, says Ahsan Iqbal

BEIJING (APP):Federal Planning Minister Ahsan Connectivity," the planning Minister for Planning De- Iqbal is on a four-day offi- minister said that industritives, Ahsan Iqbal on Monday shed light on the importance of growing the digital economy, termed digital economy is vital to to mark the 10- year celensure sustainable development of the country.

The minister made these remarks while speaking at the panel discussion titled: "Industrialization & Digital Era Connectivity," organized by the China International Development ment, and regional connec-Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) here.

DCA) here. the importance of "Industion and collabo It is noted that the trialization & Digital Era industrial sectors.

cial visit to China to attend alization and digital-era a special commemorative connectivity have trans-12th Joint Cooperation formed the world as both Committee (JCC) to be have brought unprecheld on July 11(tomorrow) edented opportunities for ebrations of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The CPEC enters a significant milestone as it celebrates a decade of remarkable achievements in fostering economic growth, infrastructure develop-

tivity. While highlighting

However, he emphasized the harmonization in digital policies and standards by stronger collaboration through multilateral

and global connectivity.

Ahsan Iqbal said that digital connectivity has revolutionized communication and collaboration in

forms and online marketplaces enable businesses to reach customers worldwide, expanding their customer base and opportunities for growth, explained the minister, while highprogress, economic growth, lighting E-Pakistan, an important E of the 5Es framework which was launched recently by the Planning Ministry.

Furthermore, he highlighted that digital connectivity has provided busi-nesses with the ability to access larger markets beyond their immediate geographical boundaries.



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

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif along with Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah and caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Syed Mohsin Naqvi examines a tractor during their visit of stalls in Green Pakistan Initative

Sherry condemns PTI chief's self-serving campaign as 'a bonfire of vanities'

mate Change and Environmental Coordination Senator Sherry Rehman on Monday condemned the PTI chief's self-serving campaign as "a bonfire of

"You have become a parody of yourself, as the events of May 9 turned into a bonfire of your vanities. The entire nation witnessed it, and there is ample evidence to demonstrate surd to believe that deploy-ing armed rioters against over its history, but it has never resorted to attacking

and monuments honoring our war heroes as part of your self-serving 'save-Imran' campaign would result in any political gains for yourself," tweeted Senator Sherry Rehman, Federal Minister for Climate Change & Environmental Coordination in response to Chairman PTI Imran Khan's allegations on Twitter. Senator Rehman stated that the Pakistan how you incited, master- Peoples Party had been a minded, and provoked mob violence. It is utterly ab-

wards democratic recovery in the face of his own fail-

Governor Balochistan says Role of traders, industrialists vital in strengthening economic system further

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated

that there is key role of traders and industrialists in strengthening further the economic system in the country and province.

The Governor was speaking to a delegation of traders who called on him under leadership of President, Markazi Anjuman Tajran Balochistan, Abdul Rahim Kakar, here at the Governor House on Mon-

The Governor said that we are not only well aware of the issues of the province especially of those from Quetta, but we also know their key role in promotion of economic ac-

ers and zamindars have been affected most right from drought to the world epidemic of COVID-19 and the devastating rains and floods. However, all available resources are being mobilized to provide profitable opportunities of the investment to the local traders and industrialists besides rehabilitation of the trade and business activities

in the province. Meanwhile, the members of delegation apprised the Governor about the issues being faced by the traders and industrialists of Quetta. They said that they are facing numerous problems for they sought cooperation of the Governor to resolve them. The Governor gave patient hearing to the issues and assured to play

He said that the trad-



QUETTA: Vice Chancellor University of Balochistan Prof. Dr. Shafiq-ur-Rehman and Vice Chancellor Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University Prof. Dr. Sajida Naureen signing a MoU

Quetta to get 8.1m gallon water from Mangi dam by December 2023

December 2023 to provide around 8.1 million gallon of water daily to Quetta city and surrounding areas, an official of the Balochistan government said on Mon-

The development work on Mangi Dam had been accelerated which would help overcome the shortfall of water in the area, he added.

The construction of various dams on the outskirts of Quetta city including Mangi Dam, Srah

Quetta through pipelines. With the completion of these projects water issue would be resolved in the provincial capital, he

water issue was the top priority of the government. He added that steps were being taken to achieve the target and to ensure the availability of safe drinking water to the people of the prov-

Mangi Dam being constructed with the cost of Rs 19 billion would ensure the availability of safe Khullah Dam and others drinking water to the people

ISLAMABAD (APP): state installations, Edhiam- the country's institutions Federal Minister for Cli-bulances, radio stations, like Khan did. "Despite enduring relentless targeting from both Imran Khan and the establishment, political parties maintained their dignity while facing endless political victimization. However, Khan's recent claim that women have never been incarcerated in Pakistan before now reflects a lack of historical awareness. Meanwhile, figures like Faryal Talpur and Maryam Nawaz were imprisoned by him as if they were terrorists. Rather than working to-

ANP expresses concern over Kurram on land dispute

PESHAWAR (APP): Awami National Party (ANP) leader Aimal Wali Khan on Monday expressed concerns over unrest and armed conflict in district Kurram over land dispute.

In a statement issued here, he demanded of the provincial government and district administration to establish peace in the area and settle the matter ami

He said that there were reports that the local people were willing to establish peace but the administration was not agreeing, adding that such an impression should be dispelled.

He said that ANP would not tolerate negligence in the protection of the lives and properties of the people.

He appealed to all the leaders and youth of Parachinar to show patience and remain calm as no problem could be solved through the fight.

PTA clarifies false reports of Twitter blocking Pak govt's official account in G-B

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

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

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

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

Fitch upgrades Pak to 'CCC', Dar greets nation

ISLAMABAD (APP): CCC from IDR (Issuer De The Fitch Ratings has upgraded Pakistan's Long-Term Foreign-Currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) to 'CCC' from 'CCC, indicating a positive development towards the betterment of the country's economy Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in a tweet said it was another positive development towards current economic revival journey.

He congratulated Prime Minister, nation, government allies and economic team for this achievement. "Global Rating Agency "Fitch" upgrades eign-Currency rating to Stand-by Arrangement.

fault Rating)....Another positive news towards current economic revival jour-

n e y , AlhamdoLilah. . Congatulations to PM @CMShehbaz, the Nation, Govt Allies & Economic Team," the minister tweeted. The rating agency has identified key indicators that contributed to the positive development rating for the country which include improvement in easing external financing risks. It says the upgrade reflects Pakistan's improved external liquidity and funding conditions following its Staff-Level Agreement (SLA) with the International Monetary Pakistan's Long Term For- Fund (IMF) on a nine-month

CM approves Rs. 5million for protection of "Princess of Hope" at Lasbela

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has approved Rs. 5 million for protection of the tourism point of naturally built statue of the "Princess of Hope" located at the Makran coastal highway,

According to an official hand out issued here on Monday, the approval has been given by the Chief Minister on the summary sent by the Culture, Tour-

ment, Government of Balochistan With this initiative,

the protection of historical tourism place of the province would be ensured. It may be mentioned

here that the general public and civil society representatives had raised the voice for protection of the historical place some time back. The Chief Minister has approved the immediate release of the funds for protection of the important tourism place of the prov-



BEIJING: Federal Minister for planning and Development Prof. Ahsan Iqbal addressing the Global panel for Industrialization and Digital-Era

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

Moin ul Haque has said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as a flagship project to jointly build the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has changed Pakistan's infrastructure layout and laid a solid foundation for Pakistan's future

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

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

BEIJING (APP):Pakistan ment image. By the end of Ambassador to China, 2022, the CPEC had directly created 236,000 jobs. Terming Gwadar Port

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

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

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

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

remarks, stressed the sa-

lience of international de-

velopment cooperation

to present a unified glo-

bal response for socio-economic development,

mitigation of climate

change threats, and gal-

vanizing new drivers of growth for humanity's

enduring progress and

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

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

Shaheed Skindar

Uni building

completed

with cost of

Rs, 2.84 billion

OUETTA (APP): Building

of Shaheed Skindar University Khuzdar was com-

pleted with huge amount of

Rs, 2.84 billion in three

years by efforts of former

Chief Minister Balochistan

According to press re-lease, Vice Chancellor

would be appointed soon

for the University and pro-

cesses of higher education

to be launched for interest

of students of Khuzdar and

the completion of univer-

sity building would be

brought in changing of edu-

cation in Jhalwan area of

of the University in ten-

The press release fur-ther said that the building

of the varsity was made earthquake proof which

would be resolved the

students of the remote

areas of Khuzdar while

they had moved to other

areas of country includ-

in past for getting educa-

Ababki

praises

development

work initiated

in Mastung

MASTUNG (APP):Social Activist Hafiz Abdul Wahid Ababki has praised the de-

velopment work initiated with the fund of former

chief minister Asalm Khan

Raisani to resolve civic is-

sues in Mastung and ensure basic facilities to its

masses. Speaking in a meeting with Hafiz Abdul Wahid

Ababki, former Chief Min-

ister Balochistan and Mem-

ber of the Provincial As-

sembly, Nawab Aslam Raisani said that the pro-

vincial government has ear-

marked a huge development

fund to improve the infra-structure of Mastung city by including various devel-

opment schemes in annual

development programme.

The provision of clean

drinking water to the people of Saddiqabad and Sariab

Farm area, the construction

of Saddiqabad-Shaikh Wasil

ure of regime.

Nawab Sanaullah Zehri.

prosperity.

He also appreciated China for launching the Global Development Initiative for achieving shared

goals of inclusive and sustainable global develop-Extending Pakistan's

ISLAMABAD (APP): Office Media Wing said in Prime Minister a press release. If the prime minister said that Muhammad Shehbaz PM Shehbaz, in his Pakistan would continue its the prime minister said that multifaceted cooperation with China for swift implementation of the GDI

projects in Pakistan. The event was attended by Wang Yi, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China and Director of the General Office of CPC Foreign Affairs Commission, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang and Chairman CIDCA, Luo Zhaohui.

Leading experts and executives from several countries and international organizations also participated in the forum



Mansoor Usman Awan called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Dr Ramesh says Tourism promotion to help in making Pak development roadmap

However, Ex, CM Balochistan, Chief of Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani Monday said Jhalwan Nawab Sanaullah Khan Zehri Nawab the promotion of religious tourism would play a key had laid foundation stone role in making a roadmap of prosperity and develop-ment of the country.

He was flanked by a

delegation of Buddhist monks from Vietnam here, the minister said the incumbent government was serious about promoting and projecting the country's tourism to highlight the soft ing Karachi and other areas

image of the country.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): said the symposium would Minister of State, Chairman Prime Minister's Task Force on Gandhara Tourism and provide connectivity with the world.

A three-day international Gandhara symposium will commence in Islamabad on July 11 to showcase the treasure trove Gandhara Civilization and Buddhist Heritage in Pakistan, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, the Buddhist Monks from Vietnam lauded Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and his government for facilitating Buddhist people and fol-lowers of other faiths to explore Gandhara Civilization and sites of Buddhism in Pakistan. They said there will be more travelers in the future to visit the cultural heritage of Pakistan. They urged the media to play its due role in promoting Gandhara civilization.



release of Saleem Baloch and other Baloch students organized by Baloch Yakjehti Committee.

Former PPP MNA Usman Advocate quits party; says PPP going to become BAP

Independent Report

QUETTA: The former Member National Assemoly, Muhammad Usman Advocate has announced to part ways with the party alleging that the party (PPP) has been blackmailed at hands of the non-political people in the province. The former MNA be-

longing to PPP was addressing a press conference here at the Quetta Press Club on

Muhammad Usman maintained that non-politi-cal people are making deci-sions of the People Party in Balochistan, and that is to become Balochistan Awami Party

The former MNA said that he had raised the issue with the former President and central PPP leader, Asif Ali Zardari that non-political people are joining the He said that he de-

cided to resign from the party just because of joining the party by some "non-political and criminal Muhammad Usman

Advocate also charted that death squad is being brought before the BNP chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal while the Provin-Minister Home, Ziaullah Lango and IG Police held talks with the



QUETTA: Secretary Finance Zahid Saleem presiding over a meeting regarding affairs of PFM-II