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RAWALPINDI (APP): The Corps Commanders' ConThe 258th CCC, pre-

PM thanks Sri Lanka for helping clinch IMF deal

Corps Commanders' Con-

ference (CCC) on Monday

noted that "the sanctuaries

and liberty of action avail-

able to the terrorists of pro-

scribed TTP (Tehreek-e-

Taliban Pakistan) and other

groups of that ilk in a

neighbouring country and

availability of the latest

weapons to the terrorists"

ISLAMABAD (Online):

Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has telephoned Sri Lankan Presi-

dent Ranil Wickremesinghe

and expressed his gratitude

to him in supporting and

helping Pakistan to reach an

agreement with IMF.

PM said "you played role of friend and well wisher of Polister and I

wisher of Pakistan and I

thank you on behalf of people of Pakistan. Paki-

stan and Sri Lanka are close

and trusted friends. We pay

tribute to the role of Sri

Lanka for regional develop-



RAWALPINDI: Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir presiding over 258th Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) held at the

#### Balochistan LG's amended draft law presented in BA; handed over to standing committee

Form committee of parliamentary leaders to resolve issues of medical teachers and law & order

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The session of Balochistan Assembly be-

gan with the Speaker Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali in the chair here on Monday. In the session, the draft of the amended law of Balochistan Local Govern-

vincial assembly. The Parliamentary Secretary Khalil George presented the draft law of the Local Government, which

ment was tabled in the pro-

was referred to the con- tabled about the incidents cerned standing committee of terrorism in Harnai and for review and approval.

Similarly, the Parliamentary Secretary Khalil George also tabled the draft law of the use of Balochistan Plastic Shopping bags in the house.

The draft law of the use of plastic shopping bags was approved by the

Meanwhile, an adjournment motion was also

Addressing the Jirga

Governor maintained that

Ajram is a backward and

barren area which lacks edu-

cation, health, clean drink-

ing water, gas and road fa-

the area are facing numer-

ous problems due to lack

of basic amenities of life.

The Governor assured that

the steps would be taken

to meet shortage of the

teaches in educational insti-

necessary to provide basic

facilities to the people so that they may take whole-

hearted part in develop-

ment and prosperity of the

He said that it is very

tutions of Airam.

province.

He said that people of

**ISLAMABAD:** Federal Minister for Narcotics

Control, Nawabzada Shahzain Bugti calls on Prime

Provision of basic facilities of

life in backward areas top

priority, states Governor

Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul

Wali Khan Kakar has cat-

egorically stated that it is

our top priority to provide

basic facilities of life to the

backward areas of province.

concrete steps would be

taken to provide all basic

amenities to the people of

Tehsil Saranan, Union

Council Ajram at their

pressed by the Governor

while speaking to an Awami

Jirga in Tehsil Saranan,

Union Council Ajram, on

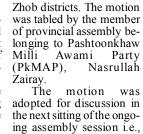
by Malik Haji Malik

Sargarh and Kalimullah

The Jirga was arranged

These views were ex-

He also assured that



on July 20. Continued on page 2

#### PM, Shazain **Bugti discuss** political situation, other issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Narcotics Nawabzada Control Shahzain Bugti on Monday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

During the meeting, they discussed the current political situation in the country at length, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release

The matters related to the relevant ministry also came under discussion.

ISLAMABAD (APP):The installations was a direct Federal Government on Monday prayed the Surity of Pakistan, and was rity of Pakistan, and was, therefore, prejudicial to se-

> It said the May events, which were neither localised nor isolated, indicated a premeditated and intentional attempt to un-

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar addressing Awami Jirga at Tehsil Saranan Union Council Ajram

#### Central Rue-e-Hilal **Committee to meet** in Ouetta today **Independent Report**

QUETTA: The central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee is scheduled to meet for sight ing of the moon of Muharramul Haram in Quetta today (Tuesday)

The chairman central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee, Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad would chair the meeting slated to be held at the DC office complex. He will lead the discus-

sions and deliberations to determine the official sight ing of the moon

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Meteorological De-partment (PMD) has released its forecast regarding the sighting of the moon for the Islamic month of Muharram 1445

According to the Climate Data Processing Center of the PMD, the moon of Muharram is expected to be sighted on Tuesday, July 18 (29th of Zilhaj). Ashura, the tenth day

of Muharram, is predicted to fall on Friday, July 28,

#### transfer and postings of judicial officers Independent Report as District and Session Judge, Khuzdar. The Dis-

the delimitation. These objections wil be reviewed and addressed on September 7, leading to final decisions being made

Following the resolu

Pakistan is our very close friend. Helping friends is friendship;. Sri Lankan president

sided over by Chief of

Army Staff (COAS) Gen-

eral Syed Asim Munir here

at the General Headquar-

ters, was given a detailed

briefing about the prevail-

ing internal security envi-

ronment, an Inter Services

Public Relations (ISPR)

Sri Lanka will soon come

out of whirlpool of the pre-

vailing economic difficul

The forum paid rich

news release said.

lauded the efforts of PM Sheba Sharif in difficult times and. congratulated in regard to IMF agree-

On the occasion of Shehbaz Sharif's meeting with Managing Director IMF Kristalina Georgieva, the Sri Lankan presiden had stressed that IMI

#### ment and peade. He hoped Pakistan and stressor should help Govt seeks dismissal of petitions challenging military court trials

preme Court to dismiss petitions seeking to challenge trials of civilians accused of various offences emanating from the events

of May 9 The government, in its concise statement, stated that violence against military and vandalism of army

# CJ BHC orders immediate

OUETTA: The Chief Justice Balochistan High Court (BHC) has ordered immediate transfers and postings of the judicial officers in view of public interest and requirements of the service.

According to a notification issued here on Monday, the District and Session Judge Loralai, Tahir Humayum has been posted

posted as District and Sesmis predecessor, Muhammad Am-Suama<sup>1:</sup> sion Judge Dera Bugti while Muhammad Anwar Suamali has been trans-Continued on page 2

trict and Session Judge

Khuzdar, Muhammad

Anwar Muhammad Shahi

has been transferred and

#### **ECP** begins delimitation for Quetta ahead of LG polls OUETTA (INP): The Elec-

tion Commission of Pakistan (ECP) commenced the delimitation process for constituencies in Quetta, marking the beginning of preparations for the local body elections on Monday.

The Election Commissioner of Balochistan announced that the delimitation process would continue until August 7, with the official list of constituencies scheduled to be issued on August 8.

August 9 to 23, individuals will have the opportunity to file objections regarding

on September 10.

tion of objections, the final list of constituencies and wards will be officially released on September 11, allowing the electoral process to progress further.

tribute to the supreme sacrifices persistently being offered by the valiant soldiers in the defence of their motherland against the threat of terrorism.

COAS presides over 258th Corps Commanders' Conference

Sanctuaries, liberty for TTP in neighbouring

country impacting Pak security: Army top brass

We must always remain prepared to guard against any threat says COAS; Commanders resolve to provide all possible support for economic revival; Forum paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices persistently being offered by the valiant soldiers in the defence of their motherland against the threat of terrorism

> preparedness and training aspects of the army. The CAOS, on the occasion, said, "Objective

training remains the hall-

mark of our professionalism and we must always remain prepared to guard against any threat to our national security. The forum was also

apprised about the It also deliberated in detail upon the operational government's economic revival plan and role of the Pakistan Army in uplifting agriculture, information technology, mining and mineral, and defence pro-

duction sectors under the ambit of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

The participants vowed to fully support the strategic initiatives planned by the Government of Pakistan for the revival of the economy by providing all possible technical and management support for the overall good of the people



QUETTA: Presidential award winner Faisal Baloch inaugurating Green bus service: Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz Uqaili, Provincial Minister for Transport Malik Naeem Bazai also present in the ceremony

#### First-class Green Bus service finally launched in Quetta

Pride of performance award holder oil tanker driver Faisal Baloch inaugurates Green Bus service

Independent Report

finally launched in the provincial metropolis on Mon-

The pride of performance award holder oil tanker driver, Sher Ahmed

alias Faisal Baloch formally QUETTA: The first-ever inaugurated the Green Bus personalities present at the first-class public transport
i.e. Green Bus Service was at the inauguration cerat the inauguration cerService were the Parliamenemony held in the premises tary Secretary for Transof Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS)

Takatu campus. Baleli

Bazari, spokesman of Chief Minister, Babar Yousafzai,

port, Malik Naeem Khan

Among the prominent

Continued on page 2

#### Marriyum Aurangzeb says **Pervez Khattak** Masses bearing brunt forms 'PTI Parliamentarians' of economic destruction

PESHAWAR (INP): Former prime minister Imran Khan's aide Pervez Khattak has formed a new party, Pa-kistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Parliamentarians, days after being thrown out of PTI.

According to media reports, former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister Mahmood Khan and ex-lawmakers Shaukat Ali and Syed Muhammad Ishtiaq Urmar are among 57 ex-assembly members who have joined the party.

#### **Terror bid** foiled in Chaman, 10kg bomb defused CHAMAN (INP): The

police foiled a terror bid and recovered 10 kilogram bomb near Chaman railway station on Monday which was defused later. According to details,

police found bomb weighing 10 kilogram bomb near Chaman railway station after which the area was

The bomb disposal squad (BDS) was called in which defused the bomb stated to be remote controlled.

Timely action of police and BDS save the area and people of massive destruc-

The PTI chief has crossed all limits in his enmity towards the country," she said while lauding the leadership and the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

brought by 'project Imran'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and

Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday said the

present government had saved the country from default

by addressing the economic challenges deliberately cre-

ated by the previous regime of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

embarrassment for even those who had brought him to

power as the masses are bearing the brunt of his 44-

month-long economic destruction," the minister said

while addressing a news conference.

Today, the project Imran has become a source of

who had not only saved the country from default, but also charted the country on the path of progress. At the outset of press conference, she said the incumbent coalition government took many important steps in 14 months to undo the devastation caused by the four-

year misrule of the inefficient and incompetent rulers. The PTI chief's 44-month reign was a period of eco-

nomic destruction, inflation, theft, loot and plunder, she

#### **Registered voters** cross 126m figure

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday issued a report that revealed the number of registered voters in the country had reached over 126 million, as of June 30, 2023.

The ECP also released the percentage of voters in terms of age, according to which, the highest number of voters remained within the age group of 26 to 35

According to the report, the ratio of male and female voters in Pakistan stood at 54.02 per cent and 45.98 per cent respectively. The total number of egistered voters in

Islamabad was over one

million while Punjab

ber of registered voters is 71.60 million, of which 38.41 million are men and 33.19 million are women. Similarly, the number of

registered voters in Sindh is 26.52 million, of which 14.38 million are male and 12.14 million are female.

topped with 71.60 million

tered voters in Balochistan

is over 5.27 million of

which 2.96 million are male

and 2.31 million are female.

tered voters in K-P is over

21.62 million of which

11.79 million are male while

province of the country

population-wise, the num-

In Punjab, the largest

9.82 million are female.

The number of regis-

The number of regis-

#### Khan addressing to a public gathering. Green bus service, a continuation of people-friendly initiatives of government: Farah

FAISALABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah

Spokesperson of the Balochistan government Farah Azeem Shah on Monday said that the establishment of the green bus service was a continuation of the people-friendly initiatives of Chief Minister (CM) Mir Abdul Quddus

Talking to APP, she said, "Starting the green bus service will make it easier for the people of all age groups especially, women, students, and senior citizens, to reach work timely with the provision of convenient travel facilities."

'Quetta's residents have welcomed the starting of a modern air-conditioned

QUETTA (APP): The bus service to reduce traffic pressure in the city, which is a sign of confidence in the policies of the people-friendly government." Farah Azeem Shah said, "A large number of people will directly benefit from the state-owned public bus transport project after the issuance of health cards with the efforts of the team of Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo and the members of

a coalition government." "In the first phase, 18 stops of Green Bus from Baleli Road to the University of Balochistan Sariab Road, have been set up, which will be gradually extended to other places,"



QUETTA: MPAAsghar Khan Achakzai, Mir Arif Jan Muhammadhassani, Malik Sikandar Advocate, Malik Naseer Ahmed Shahwani and Nasrullah Zarey expressing their views on point of order during Balochistan Assembly session chaired by Speaker Mir Jan Muhammad Khan Jamali

### Shakeel, Salman help Pakistan counter Sri Lanka's spin

**Sports Desk** 

GALLE: An unbeaten century stand between Saud Shakeel and Agha Salman rescued Pakistan from a precarious 101-5 on the second day of the rain-hit opening Test on Monday.

In response to Sri Lanka's 312, Pakistan reached 221-5 when rain stopped play with the tourists still 91 runs behind.

Sri Lanka's left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya took three wickets, including skipper Babar Azam. Sri Lanka batsman

Dhananjaya de Silva had earlier made 122 to hand the hosts a respectable total. "I know I can absorb

the pressure with my experience of having played in 50 Tests and can control

"That is why the captain and management has trusted in me and given me

the number six spot to bat.' But De Silva said they still fell "100 runs short" after they elected to bat first at the start of the two-Pakistan faltered in

their reply before Shakeel, on 69, and Salman, on 61, put on 120 runs to steady the innings and thwart the Sri Lankan spinners.

The left- and righthand batting combination of Shakeel and Salman mixed the right dose of caution and aggression, with 12 boundaries and a six be-

The pair showed maturity in tackling the spinners by using their feet to get to

the pitch of the ball, with Pakistan scoring at nearly five runs an over. Even-steven position'

'Coming into these conditions one thing Sri Lanka does really well is hold opposition to miserly run rates and they get the wickets in between as well,' Pakistan batsman Shan Masood told reporters.

"We lost wickets but the way we played allowed us to stay in the game and once we got that healthy partnership going the two teams are in an even-steven

Sri Lanka had come out roaring when pace bowler Kasun Rajitha got Imam-ul-Haq out for one and Jayasuriya sent back Abdullah Shafique for 19.

left-handed

smashed 39 off 30 balls but fell lbw to Ramesh Mendis, who was denied the wicket by the on-field umpire before Sri Lanka successfully Azam fell when he got

and the ball looped to short leg, taken by wicketkeeper Sadeera Samarawickrama. De Silva earlier moved from his overnight 94 to

an inside edge onto his pads

register his 10th Test ton in his 50th match to bolster Sri Lanka's position from a shaky 54-4 on Sunday. spearhead Pace

Shaheen Shah Afridi, fellow quick Naseem Shah and legspinner Abrar Ahmed ended on three wickets each to bowl out Sri Lanka and lunch was called



NAROWAL: Mr. Ahsan Iqbal Federal Minister for Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives unveiling the plaque to inaugurate Nisar Fatima Auditorium and Jamia Masjid UET.

#### Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan finalize inter-regional railway track

ISLAMABAD (APP): trade amongst the The route of the triparticipating counlateral railway track Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (UAP) project has been fi-nalized and its joint protocol will be signed tomorrow.

The route was finalized during a high-level meeting between the officials of Paki-stan, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan.

The key objective of the UAP project was to build a missing mil light ing rail link by con-necting Uzbekistan railways with Pakistan railways via Termiz-Mazar e Sharif-Logar-Kharlachi route, said

a press release.
The UAP railway project would not only facilitate the regional, transit and bilateral

Continued from page 1

Earlier, the leader of

Opposition Malik Sikandar

Advocate raised the issue

of making BDA employees

permanent and demanded

of the government to take

the issue of making em-

ployees of BDA permanent

should be included in the

cabinet meeting. He also

gave ruling about extension

in contract of the PPHI

employees. Similarly, he

also directed to form a com-

mittee of the parliamentary

leaders to resolve the issues

of medical teachers associa-

A parliamentary com-

mittee was also formed for

tion and law and order.

The Speaker ruled that

steps in this regard.

Balochistan LG's amended draft...

tries but also provide better people-topeople connections to the entire region.

The line would support both passenger and freight ser vices and would contribute in regional trade and economic growth. The parties also agreed on a roadmap for conducting technical studies financing sources and other key aspects for early implementation of the project.

The parties appreciated the professional work of the experts of the three railways in achieving consensus on the final route and its implementation modalities

holding negotiations with

those protesting outside the

order, the parliamentary

leader of Awami National

Party, Asghar Khan Achakzai raised the issue of

law and order in Harnai and

Zhob. He also urged to form

a committee to resolve the

issues of law and order.

Later, the parliamentary

leader of BNP, Malik

Naseer Shahwani also di-

verted the attention of the

House towards the tense

tion hour and call attention

notice were deferred due to

the absence of concerned

titions against the military

trial of civilians were not

maintainable before the

apex court in its original ju-

risdiction under Article

184(3) of the Constitution.

Article 184(3) of the Con-

stitution sets out the SC's

original jurisdiction and en-

ables it to assume jurisdic-

tion in matters involving a

Meanwhile, the ques-

situation in Wadh.

provincial ministers.

Earlier, on a point of

assembly including the

medical teachers.

#### volved in the transformation and verification of the cover's quality.

Making a significant an-

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The General Presidency for

the Affairs of Masjid Al-

Haram and Masjid Al-

Nabawi, in an endeavor to

uphold the sanctity and

splendor of the Holy Kaaba,

has taken significant strides

in the preparation for trans-

forming its cover with ab-

The process involves a

meticulous assessment of

the skills and experience of

all participating teams, com-

prising craftsmen, engineers,

and technicians. Moreover,

special training sessions

have been conducted to

equip the 15 employees in-

solute certainty.

He proudly expressed confidence in the complex's

General Presidency prepares for majestic transformation of Holy Kaaba's cover

nouncement, Engineer

Amjad Al-Hazmi, the Un-

der-Secretary of King Abdulaziz Complex for the

Kaaba, revealed that the com-

plex had successfully com-

pleted all essential prepara-

tions to undertake the trans-

formation of the Kaaba's

cover as the new Islamic

year, 1445 Hijri, approaches. Al-Hazmi as-

sured that the transforma-

tion would be executed in

strict accordance with

comprehensive operational

plans, ensuring it was not only completed on time but

also adhered to the highest

standards of excellence.

expertise, and precision, which would undoubtedly result in an awe-inspiring and magnificent appearance for the new Kaaba cover. Focusing on the care and

preservation of the Kaaba's Liswa (cloth covering), Fahad Al-Jabri, the Director of General Administration, shared the administration's proactive approach to organizing training sessions and garnering cooperation from all departments. These training initiatives aimed to enhance the abilities and skills of the employees, ensuring they were fully equipped to carry out their duties with utmost effectiveness and to develop ademployees, highlighting their required capabilities, added.

QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Khalil George and MPAs Mir Arif Jan Muhammadhassani, Malik Naseer Ahmed Shahwani and Babar Rahim Mengal meeting with Speaker Balochistan Assembly Mir Jan Muhammad Khan Jamali

#### Overseas **Pakistanis** organize rally to support of Pakistan Army

LONDON (INP): grand rally was organized by overseas Pakistanis to support of Pakistan Army and its martyrs in London.

A large number of overseas Pakistanis residing in London and its suburbs participated in the rally. The participants låuded the services and sacrifices rendered bv Pakistan Army.

The participants of the rally also demanded to hold accountable the people involved in 9th May incidents

### Afridi & Misbah to lead **New York Warriors**

NEW YORK (INP): The T10, cricket's fastest format, is scaling new heights every day and one of the next destinations is the USA, where some of the most loved legends of the game will battle it out for top honours. The inaugural edition of the US Masters T10 League, the first edition of the T10 for former cricketers, will take place between August 17 and August 27, 2023.

Among the teams in the US Masters T10 are the New York Warriors. Ahead of the US Masters T10, The New York Warriors put together a fantastic squad, boasting of some of the most impactful Champion cricketers such as Shahid Afridi, Misbah-ul-Haq, Murali Vijay and Munaf Patelare all part of the squad and will aim to entertain the sport-loving crowds of USA Along with the New

players in the game

York Warriors, there are five more teams involved in the tournament - Atlanta Fire. California Knights. Morrisville Unity, New Jersey Legends, and Texas Chargers. "The US Mas-ters T10 is a fantastic initiative and I am extremely happy to be a part of this tournament with the New York Warriors.



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta Shehak Baloch presiding over a meeting of Tehsildars of Quetta

#### stan-Pakistan (UAP) on Railways Project held at Ministry of Railways **Security arrangements** reviewed ahead of Muharram

QUETTA (APP): A meeting was held on Monday in the Circuit House in Zhob regarding the security arrangement of Muharram under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Azim Kakar.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Shirani Bilal Shabbir, Assistant Commissioner Zhob Hafiz Mohammad Tariq, SHO Zhob Sher Ali Mandukhel, and members of the Shia community Zhob.

DC Kakar said that in view of the current peace and security, every year in the month of Muharram keeping in mind its greatness and of the district.

sanctity, foolproof security arrangements would be made in Zhob like the rest of the

ISLAMABAD: A trilateral Working Group Meeting of Uzbekistan-Afghani-

This year also, on the occasion of Muharram, Zhob Police and other administrations are busy to implement foolproof security arrangements across the province especially in Zhob, he said.

Addressing the participants of the meeting, the DC Zhob said for the establishment of peace and order during the days of Muharram, scholars of all branches should come together on a single platform to maintain the law and order situation

#### Chairman NAB regrets to appear before NAB

ISLAMABAD (Online) Chairman PTI has once again regretted to appear before NAB and has filed written reply.

He has taken plea in his written reply he has to appear in the courts of Islamabad on July 19 and then he can appear before NAB. " I travel less from Lahore to Islamabad due to security reasons, he added.

In his written reply he further said only he only can receive inquiry report under section 18-C of NAB laws. " when my reply is received by NAB then inquiry report be given to my counsel Barrister Gohar Khan



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz Uqaili presiding over a meeting regarding development projects

nary eight buses are being

run from BUITEMS Baleli

University

buses would be included in

the existing fleet of the

buses soon, adding he an-

nounced. He said that the

best transport service would

be made available to the

people of Quetta with the

launch of Green Bus service.

retary Transport said that

our vision is to provide bet-

ter employment and facili-

ties to the masses. He said

that we can't even think of

rendering any person job-

less. He termed the inaugu-

ration of Green Bus service

as a welcoming and said that

a longstanding demand of

the people has been met. He

urged the people to take

care of the public property

as it is our collective re-

zens travelling on the Green

Buses expressed their plea-

sure and contentment over

the launch of Green Bus

Meanwhile, the citi-

sponsibility.

service in Ouetta

The Parliamentary Sec-

However, 20 more

Balochistan.

#### First-class Green Bus service...

Continued from page 1 Coordinator, Muhammad Bilal Khan Kakar, Chief Secretary, Abdul Aziz Uqaili, Secretary Transport, Muhammad Aslam Baloch, other secretaries of different provincial government departments, administrative officials, vice chancellor of BUITEMS, Professor Dr. Khalid Hafeez, senior faculty members of the BUITEMS, SSP Traffic, Behram Khan Mandokhail, DGPR, Kamran Asad, students and other citizens.

Earlier, the MoU was signed between the Provincial Sports Department and the private transport company (Faisal Moers) about the Green Bus service. The Secretary Trans-

port and representative of the transport company signed the MoU on behalf of their entities. Speaking on the occa-

sion, the Chief Secretary

noted with pleasure that the

Green Buses are being brought on the Quetta city roads from today. He said that prelimi-

#### Govt seeks.... Continued from page 1

ferred and posted as the District and Session Judge Loralai.

District and Session

Judge Abdul Haim has been transferred and posted as District and Session Judge Makran at Turbat. Similarly, the District and Session Judge Makran, Abdul Saboor Mengal has been posted as the District and Session Judge Dera Murad Jamali District and Session Judge Dera Allahyar Hayatullah Kasi has been posted as District and Session Judge Zhob and his predecessor

sion Judge Mastung. Session Judge Dera Allah Yar. District and Session Judge Kachhi, Abdul Ali

Imran Siddiq has been posted as District and Ses-

District and Session Judge Killa Abdullah, Fida Muhammad Tareen has been posted as District and Jalazai has been posted as District and Session Judge Killa Abdullah at Chaman

#### question of public imporwhile some of the first information reports (FIRs)

fault.

Continued from page 1 His government signed the agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on tough conditions, first violated it and then suspended, pushing the country to the brink of de-



QUETTA: Members of Balochistan Medical Teachers Association are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, outside Balochistan Assembly in Quetta.

#### Govt seeks dismissal of.... The federal government further argued that the pe-

Continued from page 1 dermine the country's armed forces and inhibit its

internal security The total damage incurred on the day was Rs 2,539.19 million, including a loss of Rs 1,982.95 million to military establishments, equipment and vehicles, the government

added. It further stated that registered against the suspects did not explicitly mention provisions of the Army Act, the Supreme Court had previously held that the contents of the FIR and not the mentioning of a particular statutory provision determined the nature of the offences made out.

The PTI chairman had

The petrol price was,

she said, reduced by the

tion of the IMF programme

The minister recalled

that when the present gov-

ernment came to power as

a result of the first ever

successful no-confidence

economy was completely

and unprecedented infla-

in fact, crossed all limits

tance with reference to the enforcement of any of the fundamental rights of Pakistan's citizens, it added. Article 199.

that the challenges raised in the plea could only be heard by the high courts in their original constitutional jurisdiction under

There was acute short-

When we came to

age of energy and there was

hardly any fund to pur-

chase petroleum products

and liquefied natural gas

trary when they (PTI)

were brought in the govern-

the PTI leaders used to

mock the party for produc-

ing surplus energy.

Marriyum said the PTI

rulers destroyed every

sector, including the for-

eign policy during their 44

bent government faced

Comparing first 14 months of the PTI regime

with the same period of the

present coalition govern-

ment, she said sugar was

not only expensive but

great difficulties.

of over 6.2 per cent."

(LNG), she added.

Masses bearing brunt of economic destruction.... also out of stock, and similarly flour and electricity were also not available in the market despite not be-

Elderly women used to stand in long queues to buy power, the country was a kilo of sugar during the close to default, on the con-PTI government, she recalled

ing expensive.

The minister said during Covid-19, the price of ment in 2018, it was de-LNG had fallen to as low veloping at a growth rate as \$3, but that historical The minister said opportunity to buy cheap when the Pakistan Muslim LNG was missed. The League-Nawaz (PML-N) country was left at the mercy of gas and flour government ended its tenure in 2018 with surplus mafia during the PTI reelectricity, but, ironically,

She said the current government not only saved the country from default in its14-month tenure, but also put the derailed economy back on track. Marriyum said that for months tenure and incum-

the first time the IMF programme was successfully completed in 2016 during the tenure of Nawaz Sharif

She said the PTI regime destroyed the foreign friendly countries, but the roost during the PTI's gov-

present government restored relations with the world in a confident man-

"During 14 months we

added 3,900 megawatt of electricity, but the PTI in its four years rule could not add even a single megawatt," she added. The minister said the

person who announced the construction of 350 dams in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa made the people "dam fool" She said, "Saving the

country from default, with economic stability, is the major achievement of the present government.'

Marriyum said the projects launched by Nawaz Sharif were delayed during the PTI government, that resulted into increase in their cost. Even maintenance of power production units was not carried out during the last regime, she added.

Electricity generation from furnace oil had now become nil while the fur-

ernment, she said.

The minister said the previous government had put its political opponents in death cells under the false slogan of accountability. but failed to produce even a single evidence of their "crimes" in courts.

Today, inexpensive oil was being imported from Russia, an affordable gas agreement had been signed with Azerbaijan but the PTI did politics on that issue as well, she remarked She said the PTI chief

and its leadership falsely claimed to have discussed oil import with the Russian leadership as no such thing was mentioned in the communique or the press release issued at the end of his Moscow visit.

They made the LNG contracts with foreign governments controversial and sent Miftah Ismail and Khagan Abbasi to jail on the allegations of corruption just to mislead the people and inflict policy and angered all the nace oil mafia was ruling the damage upon the country,

## France announces support to Afghan refugees in Iran, Pak

The government of France ondary level education, programmes in 2023. This has announced a financial aid worth EUR 3 million to support UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency for its critical programmes for Afghans in the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan.

The funding will enable the agency to intensify the provision of lifesaving assistance and protection for some of the most vulnerable refugees and their local host communities, said a press release issued here on Monday.

In Pakistan, EUR 2

strengthen skills and vocain host communities in 2023. A particular focus of the Government of France's support will be on supporting women and girls. This funding comes in addition to another contribution of EUR 2 million for 2022 activities, which has already delivered results in the area of increasing girls' access to education and expanding skills training for women.

In Iran, France has almillion will enable UNHCR located EUR 1 million to

contribution will help tional training, and reinforce access to public health care to provide lifesaving assisstrengthen ongoing efforts tance to Afghans and host communities, including access to essential healthcare, education, and protection services. This new funding is in addition to a similar contribution of EUR 1 million for UNHCR Iran in

> UNHCR deeply appreciated France for their unwavering support in addressing one of the world's most enduring refugee cri-

sents France's recognition of the urgent need to alleviate the suffering of millions of Afghans affected by displacement while emphasizing the importance of international solidarity and responsibility—sharing in finding solutions to their plight. French Ambassador to Iran, Nicolas Roche, noted that, "by contributing to UNHCR's work in Iran for the second year in a row, we are committed to supporting the Afghan people driven out of their country following the 2021 developments in Af-

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Benazir Income Support

Programme (BISP), held an

E-Katchehri on Monday to

programme's beneficiaries

and resolve their complaints

During the E-Katchehri, Secretary BISP,

Amer Ali Ahmad listened to

the issues being faced by

sponse from beneficiaries

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Flood Com-

mission (FFC) on Monday

said the Sutlej River was

running in low flood at

Head Suleimanki while rest

of the major rivers of the

Indus River System were

FFC report, the combined

live storage of country's

major reservoirs was very

encouraging compared to

the last year's (8.734 MAF this year Vs 4.404 MAF

Monsoon Low over North-

ern Bay of Bengal, cur-

It said."Yesterday's

According to daily

normal

last year).

The E-Kachehri wit-

in real-time.

the beneficiaries.

across the country.

with

the E-

**BISP** conducts

E-Katchehri to address

beneficiaries' concerns

nessed an overwhelming re- ing after three hours to

River Sutlej runs

in low flood: FFC

joining

delivery.

promptly checked and rec-

tified on the spot, showcas-

ing the programme's com-

mitment to efficient service

grievances, Secretary BISP directed the relevant au-

thorities to ensure their

resolution within a maxi-

mum timeframe of three

also held a follow up meet-

verify the resolution of the

rently prevails over West

Jharkhand (India) and ad-

erly Wave over Northern

parts of the country has

moved away Eastwards with another fresh trough of West-

erly Wave lies over North-

ern parts of Iran whereas

Seasonal Low continues to

prevail over Northern Balochistan. "As a result, light to moderate moist cur-

rents are penetrating into

upper parts of Pakistan up

to 5000 feet both from the

Arabian Sea and Bay of

Bengal (India)," the report

areas. yesterday's trough of West-

remaining complaints.

The Secretary BISP

For the remaining



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Health Abdul Qadir Patel inaugurating ground breaking ceremony of Cancer Hospital in PIMS.

ISLAMABAD: A view of the rising smoke from the decomposition Plant of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), which is causing environmental pollution at Sector G-8, which needs to be shifted to somewhere in outskirts of the Federal Capital.

#### SAPM for urgent collective action to combat climate change

Pakistan in the 'Fourth

Global Conference on

Strengthening Synergies

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) and Convener of the National Parliamentary Taskforce on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Romina Khurshid Alam on Monday called for urgent collective action to combat climate change to save the planet earth and

future generations. She said, "Pakistan is one of the worst hit countries by the climate induced catastrophes but despite resources constraint, the country remains firm in its commitment to accomplish all SDGs to save planet earth and to provide a sefor future generations.

Islamabad High Court

(IHC) has accepted protec-

tive bail plea of former

speaker National Assembly

(NA) Asad Qaiser for 10

days in corruption case reg-

istered in Swabi against him.

wrapped up petition.

The court has

The protective bail

between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development', in New York, a news In her remarks, the Convener emphasized the

importance of collective action in combating climate change. She drew attention to the Resolution passed unanimously by the National Assembly on June 23, 2023, which while appreciating the contributions of the United Nations and its agencies in supporting Pakistan's fight against cli-She made these re- of adequate resources to Youth Programme **Corruption case:** 

ISLAMABAD (INP): marks while representing combat climate induced challenges. She urged conference participants to leverage their collective experiences and expertise to establish a consortium focused on disaster risk reduction strategies for the Asia-Pacific region. Besides the conference, the Convener will also present Pakistan's

case at other prestigious forums arranged at the United Nations. She intends to reaffirm Pakistan's commitment to the SDGs at the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development by highlighting the government's policies focused on education, poverty reduction, gender equality, and incure and safe environment mate change called for cli- clusive economic growth inmate justice and provision cluding the Prime Minister's

# PIMS's emergency block project

Asad Qaiser wrapped up the petition. Later talking to media men Asad Qaisar said " I am not in contact with Perveiz Khattak since two months. He is from among my old friends. He has his own thinking. He will do what looks good to him.

of 10 days in respect of

plea came up before single bench of IHC led by Jus-Responding to a questice Tariq Mehmood tion he said Pervez Khattak Jahangiri Monday. remains no more part of Asad Qaiser appeared PTI. What decision was he in the court along with his to take he had taken. Now his return is impossible. He After hearing the arguis my old friend. Our con-

**IHC** approves protective

bail plea of Asad Qaisar

ISLAMABAD (Online): approving protective bail

ments the court ordered tacts will continue. To a question he said anti corruption not to ar-Pervez Khattak has his own rest Asad Qaiser for 10 days besides directing thinking. If he wants to esformer speaker NA to file tablish party or to join a surety bonds of Rs 50000. party then it is his own will. Justice Tarqi He has not contacted us in

#### Mehmood Jahangiri while Traffic police directed for enhanced public services and convenience to citizens

**Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad, Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer on Monday conducted inspection of various departments at the traffic headquarters in Faizabad and directed for enhanced public services and convenience to citi-

During this inspection at the traffic headquarters in Faizabad, various citizen-oriented initiatives were evaluated across different departments. The performance of the traffic staff was commended, and measures to further improve their efficiency were

Tanveer emphasized the country.

Police to serve road users with professional competence. In line with the special instructions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, a particular focus was placed on digital driving licenses, the one-window hall, driving tests, and other relevant

branches during a special checking at Traffic Headquarters, Faizabad. He stressed the importance of courteous and polite interactions between officers and personnel of Islamabad Capital Police and citizens during duty, as the force is regarded as a Dr. Syed Mustafa model force across the

ISLAMABAD (APP) The administration of the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) has decided to expand the new emergency block project of the hospital with the addition of one more floor to ensure the provision of best emergency services to citi-

to be extended

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

He said that after approval from the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination, the documents of the projects had been sent to the Planning Commission for allocation of funds.

#### SC disposes of NAB's petition against bail in 7 references of Ghani

ISLAMABAD (APP):The Supreme Court on Monday disposed of National Accountability Bureau's (NAB's) petitions against bail in seven references of Khawaja Abdul Ghani Majeed as ineffective. A two-member SC bench comprising Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial and Justice Ayesha A Malik heard the case filed by NAB seeking cancellation of bail of Abdul Ghani Majid. According to the NAB the accused was the owner of different companies of OMNI Group and he used the influence of Zardari as the President o Pakistan at that time.

U.S. backs Recharge **Pakistan Project to** enhance country's climate resilience

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United States, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, is pleased to support Recharge Pakistan, a project to enhance Pakistan's resilience to climate change by improving water systems and investing in green infra-structure. The USAID contributed \$5 million in funding to support this project, and this week the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Board approved an additional \$66 million in grant funding to support the project, a news

release said The Coca-Cola Foundation contributed \$5 million, and the World Wildlife Fund contributed \$1.8 million. Overall, this \$77.8 million partnership is the largest-ever investment in an ecosystem-based approach to building Pakistan's climate resil-

"The U.S. government considers the Recharge Pakistan Project a game changer for flood mitigation

and the creation of economic opportunities in areas faced with recurring

RAWALPINDI: A woman walk past in front of a Skeleton of Blue Whale

placed outside Pakistan museum of natural history, in the Federal Capital, As

skeleton of Blue Whale was collected from Pasni (Baluchistan) in 1967.

water insecurity. Partnering with GCF, the Coca-Cola Foundation, and World Wildlife Fund will help Pakistan tackle the negative impacts of climate change and align seamlessly with the U.S.-Pakistan Green Alliance framework," said U.S. Ambassador Donald Blome.

The Government of Pakistan's Ministry of Climate Change will collaborate with the Ministry of Water Resources' Federal Flood Commission and implementing partners to reduce flood and drought risk in the Indus Basin; reduce emissions; and promote green policies, strengthen the policy, legal, regulatory, and institutional environment promoting

green climate efforts. The project also aims to improve employment opportunities and support bankable projects for cli-

#### Cancer hospital project inaugurated at PIMS tal, where all concerned nec-

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination Abdul Qadir Patelon Monday inaugurated the 200bed cancer hospital project at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS).

Addressing the ceremony, the minister said that a large number of people living in surrounding areas and other cities will get direct benefits from this hospital with having all the necessary medical services for cancer patients.

He said that an amount of Rs one billion During the E-Katchehri, the majority of the complaints were Director Generals. has been proposed initially to utilize for the construction of this modern hospi-

Australian

HC calls on

Chairman

NA SC on FA

ISLAMABAD (Online):

Australian High Commis-

sioner Neil Hawkins called

on the Chairman of the

Standing Committee on For-

eign Affairs of the National

Assembly of Pakistan,

Mohsin Dawar, at his office

today in the Parliament

House. During the meeting,

the areas of mutual interest

between the two countries

were discussed. The two of-

ficials exchanged views on

the political, security, and

economic situation in Paki-

**Kashmiris to** 

observe

'Accession to

Pak Day' on

Wednesday

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Kashmiris on both sides of

the Line of Control (LOC)

and across the world will

observe Accession to Paki-

stan Day, on Wednesday

(19th July), with a renewed

pledge to continue the

struggle for freedom from

Indian occupation and com-

plete merger of Jammu and

Media Service, It was on

19th July 1947 that genu-

ine representatives of the

Kashmiris unanimously

passed the resolution of

Kashmir's Accession to

Pakistan during a meeting of the All Jammu and Kash-

mir Muslim Conference at

the residence of Sardar

Muhammad Ibrahim Khan

in Aabi Guzar area of

Srinagar. The historic reso-

lution called for the acces-

sion of the State of Jammu

and Kashmir to Pakistan in

view of its existing religious,

geographical, cultural and

economic proximity to Pa-

kistan and the aspirations

of millions of Kashmiri

According to Kashmir

Kashmir with Pakistan.

stan Neil apprised.

essary services will be provided He said that besides

initiating new projects in major hospitals, the government has upgraded the basic health units and rural health centres where daily several hundred patients can visit for the treatment of various diseases and added that more such modern centres will be established in the federal

He said that the aim of the government was to provide all basic health services in every place and village so that citizens have all such services at their door-

He said that the major hospitals of the federal capital have been facing a burden of patients and with the setting of new basic health centers, this burden

will gradually decrease. He said that several innovative steps have been taken to make improvements in the health sector and to ensure the provision of all basic health facilities to the country's people.

He said that the government was making efforts to improve access to quality health services, increase budget allocations for health, and invest in infrastructure to meet the health needs of the people of Pa-

#### **Islamabad Police** launches crackdown against rash PSV drivers

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police (Traffic Division) has decided to expedité efforts against neavy/PSV (Public Service Vehicle) drivers who have been operating their vehicles in a hazardous and overloaded manner while repeatedly violating traffic

The police have cancelled route permits for drivers with multiple violations crackdown aims to safeguard lives and property, and Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad, Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer, is leading the effort to ensure pub-

Citizens have been irged to report their complaints to Islamabad Capital Police Helpline 15.

"We will collectively ensure the protection of people's lives and property. Strict legal action will be taken against drivers who endanger the lives and property of citizens, and they will be arrested and their route permits cancelled after multiple violations besides impounding vehicles at police stations," said Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad, Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer.

According to the directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer, Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, further stringent legal action has been decided against PSV vehicles that violate traffic laws, especially heavy public service vehicles that are operated in an overand are urging citizens to loaded and dangerous manreport complaints to ner. Under this operation, Islamabad Capital Police those drivers who repeatedly violate traffi will have their route permits cancelled after multiple violations and they will be arrested at police stations.

In addition to this, Islamabad Capital Police has formed a special squad to further strengthen the enforcement of this legal action. The squad is tasked with carrying out operations on various roads and intersections of Islamabad and taking legal action against PSV vehicles that are violating traffic laws.

Severe legal action is also being taken against vehicles operating without fitness certificates.



ISLAMABAD: Heavy machinery being used at construction work of Expressway during development work in Federal Capital.

#### **PSF** seeks applications from Young Pak Science Students for participating in IJSO

The Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) has invited applications from young Pakistani science students to participate in the 20th International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO) to be held in December.
The IJSO, scheduled

to be held from December 1-10 in Bangkok, Thailand is a science competition for students under 16 years of age on December 31.

Talking to APP, a senior official informed, "IJSO is aimed at promoting interest in science among school students, fostering problem-solving, critical thinking, and experimentation.

About the application process, the official informed, "Interested students (boys and girls) under 16 years of age on December 31, and who have passed SSC-I level/IX class or equivalent school education, may send their applications on the prescribed Proforma available on the

ISLAMABAD (APP): website of PSF:

The applicant must be a regular science student in a public or private sector (Government recognized) institution with proficiency in written and spoken En-

glish,"he added.

The official informed, "Only shortlisted candidates based on educational credentials will be called for a test and interview for final selection. Six students will be selected for the event while the decision of the panel of Scientists/Experts will be final

in that regard."
"PSF will cover the expenses, including registration, visa fee, and air travel of selected students while the accommodation and local hospitality will be provided by the organizers," he said.

"The students appearing in tests or interviews will not be provided any TA/DA. The last date for the receipt of applications is June 22."



# Daily soice of Masse, Independent

Tuesday July 18, 2023

#### Power price hike

Pakistan's business community is dismayed over yet another increase of Rs4.94 per unit in electricity prices. The new hike pushes the base unit power tariff from Rs24.82 to Rs29.78. Businesses are worried that a time when the world is in the midst of an intensely the fresh hike will adversely hit unsettled period. their competitiveness by spiking their costs, making them a tility are contributing to lot more expensive both for domestic consumers and foreign buyers. With the economy reeling because of the balanceof-payments crisis, high energy prices and soaring inflation, several industries have shut down or slashed production to reduce costs.

The expected recovery in manufacturing after the IMFmandated tariff increase may remain elusive at least in the near term. It is a dilemma for the government. On the one hand, it has to meet the conditions of the new, short-term \$3bn IMF programme needed to avert default and improve Pakistan's debt repayment capacity over the next several months. On the other, it is under tremendous pressure to revive industrial activity for economic growth and job creation.

The Stand-by Arrangement stipulation to produce a primary budget surplus of 0.4pc this financial year has restricted fiscal space as well as the government's ability to continue financing massive power tariff price losses beyond a specific threshold to prevent power sector debt from increasing more rapidly than it already is. Indeed, Nato summit in Vilnius on the business community has a point when it holds successive in a concrete invitation for Ukraine to join the alliance. governments' failure to execute Ostensibly, the lack of such long-standing politically unpopular and tough structural reforms responsible for Pakistan's economic predicament. For example, we have increased power tariffs multiple times over the last several vears but still cannot contain the growth in circular debt. It is because no government has had the political will to fix the distribution losses, recover bills from powerful defaulters and control theft.

Businesses are spot on when they emphasise that we seem content with managing the symptoms rather than addressing the causes of the ail- Five categories were rement. The increase in power tariffs will not only hurt businesses but also every citizen as electricity becomes more ranking was an abysmal unaffordable and the hike unleashes a new round of infla-

The question is, what other options did the government have? Many. For starters, it could have designed a framework to fix the deep-rooted energy sector to cut losses, taxed undertaxed sectors — real estate, retail and agriculture — to bridge the fiscal gap, and launched a credible privatisation plan to offload lossmaking public sector businesses like PIA to reduce pressure on the budget. prerogative—from garbage But it didn't. That shows the lic transport. City inhabitweak resolve of our politicians ants have hardly any say in and policymakers to stick to reforms. No wonder the IMF Board has communicated its concerns over Pakistan's poor track record in fulfilling its commitments to the Fund, and advised the authorities to complete the new programme. As the lender has ensure that whatever they warned, this is Islamabad's last chance to improve its poor track able without interruption. So we see unabated land a state of disrepair, with record on reforms.

# Foreign policy test ahead



Maleeha Lodhi

With general elections expected in autumn, the next government will have to deal with a slew of key foreign policy issues. This at

Mounting geopolitical tensions and economic volaglobal instability. The most significant strategic dvnamic is the confrontation between the US and China. which has far-reaching consequences for the world Meanwhile, power shifts continue in an increasingly fragmented international system multilateralism under growing stress

At the same time, geopolitical shifts in the Middle East are realigning relations among regional states and transforming the responses to regional and

strategic landscape there. Given this changing international environment the next government would be well advised to undertake a broad review of the country's foreign policy. It is unclear when such a wideranging review was last undertaken. Certainly, there hasn't been one for over a

A review doesn't mean a change in foreign policy objectives. It means adjusting policy to changes and reshaping the country's strategy to more effectively pursue goals.

decade — a period that has

seen fundamental regional

and global changes.

A review also enables consideration of key relationships in a wider context and not in silos, which has obvious drawbacks. This will also afford an opportunity to evolve a strategy that matches the country's goals to its diplomatic resources and international capital. Aligning ends with means is after all the most fundamental prerequisite for a viable strategy. The foreign ministry has long needed more investment.

In recent years, Pakistan's foreign policy has been a series of ad hoc

than part of a well- considered, coherent approach. It has been reactive and lacking in initiatives.

A review will help to inject clarity in policy and encourage a proactive approach. It will offer a chance to Pakistan's diplomatic missions to make policy inputs. Usually, inputs are intermittently sought on single issues, not a wider canvas. It could generate new thinking to strengthen the country's diplomatic efforts, which need to be more imaginative and go beyond worn-out talking points.

Importantly, as some critical foreign policy areas are being dealt with by the military, a review should help to initiate a substantive conversation on these issues between civilian and military officials. This could promote better coordination and perhaps enable the foreign ministry to persuade the army leadership to see it as the country's first line of defence and competent to handle issues on which they have sometimes had little say in recent years.

A major foreign policy concern for Pakistan will be marked by both coopera-

global developments rather to navigate the US-China confrontation and avoid getting into the crosshairs of big power rivalry.

Relations with China will remain Pakistan's overriding priority, as this offers the best hope for the realisation of its security and economic objectives. But relations need consistent reinforcement to keep them on a positive trajectory and close collaboration to ensure the China Pakistan Economic Corridor is fully developed in line with mutual interests.

As the pivot of China's Belt and Road Initiative — the 21st century's most ambitious geoeconomic project — CPEC's timely progress is critical to reinforce Beijing's interest in strengthening Pakistan, economically and strategically.

Ties with the US continue to be among Pakistan's most critical bilateral relationships. But relations have been at an inflection point since the US military withdrawal from Afghanistan. For almost two decades, Afghanistan was the principal basis for relations, which were largely shorn of bilateral content and

tion and mistrust. Now that this context has changed the relationship needs to be redefined and this at a time when the overwhelming US strategic priority is containment of

The challenge for the two countries is to find space between the Pakistan-China strategic relationship and the growing US-India partnership to identify areas of cooperation on which to reset and rebuild ties. Pakistan also needs to raise its diplomatic game in Washington, especially on Capitol Hill where

its presence remains weak. Stable ties with Afghanistan are Pakistan's strategic compulsion. But despite the upsurge in trade between the neighbours, the relationship has been under considerable stress. Islamabad's expectation that the return of a Taliban government would help Pakistan secure its western border has not been met.

Instead, concerns have grown over continuing cross-border attacks and the fact that the outlawed militant organisation, Tehreeki-Taliban Pakistan, is still based in Afghanistan. Several rounds of security talks

with Afghan Taliban leaders have not produced any significant outcome. The next government should therefore revisit our Afghan policy and evolve an approach, between appeasement and confrontation, that ensures Kabul responds to Pakistan's security concerns.

Managing relations with Delhi will undoubtedly be the most vexing foreign policy issue, with India continuing to pose an external challenge to the country's security. Relations plunged to a new low after Indian illegally annexed Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019, bifurcated and absorbed it into the Indian union. Formal dialogue and trade remain suspended with periodic flareup of tensions. The diplomatic impasse continues with new irritants, including disagreement over the Indus Waters Treaty dispute settlement mechanism, adding to long-standing disputes. As normalisation of ties is a remote possibility, Islamabad should consider how to put in place an agreed framework to manage tensions and prevent them from spinning out of control. -- Courtesy Dawn

# Ukraine get from



Dr Imran Khalid

Although, despite intense campaigning and pleading by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, the Vilnius summit did not give any timetable for Ukraine's path towards its membership, Nato acknowledged in paragraph 11 of its official communique that "Ukraine's future is in Nato". For obvious reasons, the absence of clearly defined timelines and conditions for Ukraine's accession was projected by the media as a personal setback for Zelesnky, who had harboured hopes that the July 11-12 would culminate an invitation reflects the 'cautious' approach taken by Nato member-states, that remain wary of 'pro-

fact is that Nato has given much more than what Zelensky had expected from the Vilnius summit: unwavering pledges for extremely generous financial and military assistance to Kyiv as well as the creation of the Nato-Ukraine Coun-

The Vilnius Summit has underscored the undeniable reality that Ukraine's position in the European arena is central at the moment. President Zelensky may not have received the invitation, but the summit vielded a series of substantial victories for Ukraine. Notably. Ukraine has secured a commitment of military and economic aid from the G7 while also embarking on F-16 fighter jet training in collaboration with 11 partner countries. Germany, too, has pledged an impressive 700 million euros in additional military assistance.

of the partnership between Ukraine and the alliance. Similarly, certain Nato voking' further tensions alternative manners, such as ship.

with Russia. However, the through the establishment of enduring security guarantees, reminiscent of the United States' longstanding alliance with Israel, which receives \$3.8 billion in annual military aid from Washington. US President Biden expressed willingness for such an arrangement, conditional upon the existence of a ceasefire and a peace accord. Moreover, reports indicate that the United Kingdom, France, and Germany are also contemplating similar assurances.

At the same time, the Vilnius summit has yielded another significant development in relation to the Ukraine conflict: the inception of the Nato-Ukraine Council. In this major move, Kyiv and the alliance's 31 members will have a dedicated platform for consultation and joint decision-making. Beyond its consultative function the council will also serve as a vital mechanism for cri-Most significantly, the sis management, enabling formal affirmation that Kyiv to summon urgent "Ukraine's future is in Meetings when necessary.
Nato" solidifies the nature
Moreover, the stated objections. tive of this council is to bolster the extent of Ukraine's collaboration members are determined to with the alliance enhancing manifest its significance in a deeper and closer partner-

However, the establishment of the Nato-Ukraine Council, apparently aimed at enhancing channels of communication and consultations with Ukraine, may inversely exacerbate tensions in the region. It is being viewed by Moscow as an indirect attempt to grant Ukraine a symbolic 'seat at the table' without conferring formal membership status. The formation of this council seems to be a calculated manoeuvre to further iso-

late Russia and expand

Nato's influence.

While the Nato-Ukraine Council may be seen as a symbolic gesture of support for Ukraine's aspirations, its implications and potential consequences for regional stability cannot be overlooked. But critics allege that, with the establishment of the Nato-Ukraine Council as the latest manifestation of its longterm strategic intent, the trans-Atlantic alliance has once again revealed the organization's expansionist agenda eastwards, which may further aggravate the tensions in Europe. The crisis meetings that Kviv can convene through this council are considered to be a

ther stoke tensions and provoke Russia.

In 2008, Nato indicated that Ukraine could potentially join the alliance at a later time, but when Ukraine requested 'fasttrack' membership in September 2022, it was declined. The reluctance to expedite Ukraine's entry into Nato is rooted in the potential implications of Article 5 in Nato's charter, which mandates that an attack on one member would trigger a collective defense response from all others. If Ukraine were to join amid the ongoing conflict with Russia, it would necessitate all Nato member countries declaring war on Russia.

During the Vilnius summit. Nato reiterated that Ukraine would be invited to join as a member when allies agree and conditions are met", indicating that the decision is contingent upon consensus and fulfillment of specific criteria. However, on this matter, Nato has again given a big concession by allowing Ukraine to bypass the war concludes but also the Membership Action Plan, a step in the entry

Zelensky also knows very thinly veiled attempt to fur- well that Ukraine cannot Courtesy The News

join Nato while engaged in a conflict with Russia, but he has strategically used this dilemma as a bargaining chip to exert pressure on Nato leadership, seeking additional concessions and favors. By leveraging the unresolved question of Nato membership, Zelensky aims to secure advantageous outcomes beyond the realm of immediate membership. The Vilnius Summit, at its core. revolved around the issue of Russia and the imperative of preventing it from posing an enduring security challenge to Europe. The gathering remained focused on strategies to curtail Russia's influence in the backvard of Europe particularly in the back-drop of the Wagner epi-

facing Nato in the foreseeable future lies in determining the circumstances under which Ukraine could potentially join the alliance – a decision that on how it concludes Determining when this war has truly ended poses a Ukrainian President considerable challenge to the Nato leadership. --

Another key dilemma

# Ranking Karachi



Dr Noman Ahmed

The Economist Intelligence Unit's rating of Karachi as one of the world's least livable cities is not surprising. viewed to arrive at this conclusion: healthcare, education, cul-

stability, ture and environment, and infrastructure. Karachi's 169<sup>th</sup> out of a total of 173

Karachi may be Pakistan's largest city, but it has an uneasy existence in this context. It comprises a third of the total population of Sindh. The bulk of monetary resources and revenues originate in Karachi. In order to benefit economically, successive rulers have worked out controversial administrative arrangements to deprive Karachi of self-governing

After the 18th Amendment in 2010, Sindh's chief minister and cabinet have acted like the mayor, deciding on almost every development and management decision-making that is pertinent to their daily lives.

Karachi's political affairs are complex. It may appear that it is political groups and parties and the military and civilian establishment that call the shots. In reality, there are many more godfathers. Formal and informal developers need to keep their businesses going is made availsupply for investment, al-

beit at the cost of farmlands, facing huge problems. orchards and dwellings as indigenous settlements are uprooted and people evicted from planned localities and katchi abadis.

investors accrue exponential profits, millions of people see their lives altered for the worse. Realtors are ably assisted by the city administration, professional engineers, architects, contractors and service providers. Utility agencies bend the rules to extend their rices to their schemes.

People in central city neighbourhoods are affected by erratic water supply while some of the remote real estate developments along the M-9 Motorway have no problem in receiving piped water supply.

In public transport, the old-fashioned transporters who ran buses and minibuses are now being replaced by trading enterprises that procure expensive buses and hardware for visibility on the city streets.

Officialdom claims that the bus rapid transit system will revolutionise city mobility, but the reality is otherwise. Even if all seven BRT lines were operational, they would cater to only nine per cent of total passenger trips at a hefty cost of over Rs170 billion. In fact, BRT benefits

large consulting firms, civil and other contractors, suppliers, service providers, etc. Ordinary citizens, especially along University Road and allied locations, are braving the inconvenience caused due to work on the BRT, which will significantly reduce active road space for all manner of ve-

Given that thousands of motorcycles and cars are registered every day and carry millions of commuters, how can one justify the exclusive right of way for BRTs ferrying a few thouvehicles and passengers

Commuters frequently display road rage, frustration and helplessness.

Karachi has an 'elected' mayor, town While a few thousand council chairmen, union committee chairmen, councillors and other elected representatives who must operate under a legal regime that empowers them. If they are lucky, some funds will be granted to them to operate. These funds are expected to foot essential expenditure.

For management, repair and rehabilitation work, the local government entities will have to approach the provincial government. A familiar tug of war will begin between various tiers of government.

It is, however, possible that elected local entities take a different approach and change the situation to their as well as the city's advantage. Using the status of their elected office, councillors and UC chairs may consider reaching out to their respective constituents, listening to their problems, and engag-

ing with them. These elected representatives can also liaise with civil society activists, public-spirited professionals, business and commerce leadership and academia to evolve a platform where core city matters can be debated To improve Karachi's

livability, the administration, political elite and business leadership would have to evolve a consensus on core matters. Defining the metro-

politan boundaries of the city, regulating the built environment, documenting and safeguarding heritage, repairing roads, engaging with communities for maintaining law and order, with the assistance of the agencies concerned, and improving water and air quality by controlling pollution can become the starting agenda for this broad-based conversation. -- Courtesy Dawn

#### Zarrar Khuhro

House tends to take its job pretty seriously, and so when a packet containing an unknown white powder was found somewhere in the White House, it was cause for serious alarm and led to a temporary evacuation. Could this be anthrax or some other biological agent? Had Putin finally had enough of the US arming Ukraine to the teeth and decided to poison Biden? After much scrambling and testing it turned out that the said white powder was in fact cocaine.

We don't know whose cocaine this was, as despite having round-the-clock surveillance and sweeping CCTV coverage (not the kind we have in our safe city projects) and DNA and fingerprint testing of the packet itself, Secret Service was unable to determine who had left the cocaine, which was reportedly found in a cubbyhole in the visitors' section which is usually frequented by tour

Naturally, former US president Donald Trump wasted no time in declaring that it was 'obvious' that the drugs belonged to Joe Biden and/or his son Hunter Biden, both of whom are the former president's favourite tar-

Even if that were to be true it really wouldn't be all that unbelievable: a few years back the bathrooms in the UK Houses of Parliament were swabbed for cocaine and it turned out that cocaine had been snorted off the basins and

toilet tops of 11 out of 12 bathrooms tested in the parliamentary estate These weren't publicly accessible bathrooms, and many of these could only be accessed if you had a designated parliamentary pass. As per Britain's Sunday Times, cocaine was also found "close to rooms used by the opposition Labour Party, as well as a sedate dining room in the House Security at the White of Lords'

One bathroom that tested positive for cocaine was also rather close to then-prime minister Boris Johnson's office, which goes a long way in explaining the former British PM's antics, policies and hair. In any case, it does show you that lawmakers are also people, and given that in 2015 London sewers were found to contain the highest concentration of cocaine in all of Europe, the possibility of the members of the Houses of Parliament being coked out of their minds only shows how deeply in touch UK's parliamentarians are with the people they govern.

Buckingham Palace has also seen some cocaine use, though this isn't really linked to the royals but to legendary British actor Stephen Fry who, while admitting to a 15-year addiction, confessed to having snorted cocaine in the palace, the House of Commons, the House of Lords, Windsor Castle, Clarence House, Sandringham House, the BBC Television Centre and just about anywhere else he had been.

Politicians and heads of state doing drugs isn't anything new, but the absolute poster child for this sort of thing is none other than Toronto's former mayor Rob Ford. Rumours about his out-of-control drug habit had been doing the rounds for some time and some reporters were approached by an individual who offered to sell them a video of Ford smoking crack cocaine, with me-

dia outlet Gawker even setting up a fund they named 'crackstarter' to raise money to buy the video. While Ford, already known for his drunken antics, originally denied the claim, the video of him smoking crack while discussing politics was soon made public, along with a photo of him posing with known gang members, one of whom was later shot dead on a Toronto street. Later, it emerged that the video was recorded and put on sale by none other than his smoking buddies, which just goes to prove that you really can't trust

When confron-ted by

anyone

reporters about his lies and evasions, Ford re--plied that he had smoked crack probably in one of my drunken stupors". And that he hadn't admitted to it under questioning because reporters had not asked the 'correct questions". The usual round of apologies, promises and rehabilitation followed but Ford's antics continued, with more and more accounts and videos of his intoxicated behaviour emerging. Ford passed away at the age of 46 in 2016. Another politician who was partial to crack cocaine was former Washington, D.C. mayor Marion Barry. In 1990, Barry, who had been elected mayor thrice, was arrested for possession of crack after a sting operation by the FBI and local police; a video was recorded of him smoking the drug with a woman who had set him up in exchange for a reduction in her own previous drug-related sentence. Claiming to have overcome his 'personal adversities' after serving six months in prison, Barry re-entered politics and was elected mayor for an unprecedented fourth time, perhaps proving that voters respond well to an honest admission of human failures and also, that people love a good redemption story. -- Cour-

#### White noise

### Punjab Governor says: Govt determined to completely eradicate polio from the country

Christopher Elias, Head of Polio Oversight Board delegation called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman today at Governor House Lahore. Secretary Health Punjab Ali Jan, representatives

UNICEF and World Health Organization were also present. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the government of Pakistan under the leadership of Sharif is determined to completely eradicate polio

chief minister Punjab, taking

province are commendable. Governor Punjab said that the polio workers who are working on the front line to eradicate the polio virus, including a large number of women, have rendered commendable services for the prevention of polio. He said that he is grateful to all global partners including Foundation, Gates UNICEF, World Health Organization and Rotary International for helping to eradicate polio. Governor Prime Minister Punjab said that Muhammad Shehbaz eradication of polio is that indispensable to give a healthy and safe future to from the country. He said our new generation. He

Mohsin Naqvi and the team of health department to eradicate polio in Punjab measures for the complete elimination of polio. Governor Punjab further said that after 2018 unsatisfactory Lot Quality Assurance Sampling result was a cause of concern. He said that now the determined government is continuing the journey of improvement for the complete elimination of polio from the country with a competent team.

Speaking on the occasion, Polio Oversight Board Dr. Christopher Elias that government's determination and efforts to eradicate polio are commendable. He said that concerted efforts to prevent polio virus need to be continued till complete that the efforts of caretaker said that the government is elimination of polio virus possible from the country.



KARACHI: Mayor, Barrister Murtaza Wahab presiding first district council meeting session while Jamat-e-Islami (JI) and Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) opposition councilor protesting, held at City Council Hall Old KMC building

#### PPP provincial minister divulges his constituency development report

HYDERABAD (APP): dispensaries, construction Sindh Minister for of three basic health units, Information, Transports the establishment of one and Mass Transit Sharjeel library in Tando Jam, Inam Memon on Monday repair and maintenance of divulged the report of the 70 buildings of primary development of his school, construction of one provincial assembly's high school and three Assembly on Monday. constituency

Hyderabad. While disclosing the development report of his constituency, the minister informed that record development has been made in PS-63 because of the interest of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari as well as the cooperation and support D u r i n g of Sindh Chief Minister unprecedented heavy rains Syed Murad Ali Shah.

During the last five repair, maintenance and construction of 217 kilometers of old and new roads have so far been completed within a short span of time.

government deserving women.

middle schools establishment

government degree girls college and a river osmosis plant, construction of 48 houses under Benazir Housing Scheme and 25 water supply and 16 drainage schemes have been completed in various parts of the constituency.

and floods, he informed that rations has been years, he informed that distributed among 35,000 affected people while During COVID-19 15,000 families were facilitated with ration bags. Under completed while the remaining work will be informed that solar system was provided to 2,225 families in the area while He informed that 1,600 sewing machines development schemes of were also given to



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inquiring about the health of patient during his visit to Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology.

#### **UoP's Department of** Journalism plays key role in KP's uplift: Feroze

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ashrafand others were also Caretaker Minister of present on this occasion. Information, Auqaf, Hajj, The caretaker Religious and Minority minister said that the Affairs, Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel on Monday said that the Department of Journalism, and the country. The University of Peshawar has played key role in the development of the

He expressed these views on the occasion of his visit to the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication University of Peshawar minister was given a here. Vice Chancellor detailed briefing on the University of Peshawar, various sections, affairs Dr Muhammad Idris, Chairman Journalism Department Dr. Faizullah Jan, Assistant Professor the

PESHAWAR (APP): Journalism Syed Irfan

profession of journalism plays a huge responsibility in the uplifting of society caretaker setup is trying its best to promote peace, prosperity development in the province without

borrowing a single penny. We consider politics as worship, he added. On the at occasion, the caretaker and performance of the journalism department. He met the students of

journalism Journalism Bakht Zaman, department and also Professor visited the digital studio. critical condition.

#### Sadia Danish elected GB **LA Deputy Speaker** unopposed

GILGIT (APP): Sadia Danish of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) was elected unopposed as Deputy Speaker of the addressing an invited talk

No other assembly member has submitted nomination papers for the

Presiding over the assembly session, Speaker Nazir Ahmed Advocate announced that Sadia Danish was elected as Deputy uncontested.

Sadia Danish is the first woman Deputy Speaker in the GB's history. She also remained LA member from 2009 to 2014 and was also part of the GB cabinet.

#### Mother dies, 3 people injure in a car, m/c collision

MANAWALA (Online): A mother died and 3 people including daughter and sor were severely injured as result of collision between motorcycle and car on Mananwala Nankana

A high speed bus went out of control and collided with a truck in Nankana Motorway M3 near Colony Canal. A person died while 11 people were severely

As incident was reported, rescue teams 1122 reached the scene and shifted the injured to hospital. The deceased was identified as 22 years old woman Rafiya Bibi.

2 years old girl Asifa 4 years old son Zaigham and brother Wikran are included among the injured. The deceased in Bus accident was identified as 51 years old

Mohammad Safder. 35 years old Abuzar Ghuffari, 25 years old Ramzan, 25 years old Shehbaz, 18 years old Shahzaib, 23 years old Mohammad Asif and other are included among the injured.

The injured have been shifted to District Hospital Nankana after giving medical aid.

The dead bodies of lady Rafiya Bibi in car accident and Mohammad Safder in Bus accident

handed over to the heirs. Many people who got injured are said to be in



#### Naqvi expresses satisfaction over healthcare facilities being provided at RIC

Independent Report
RAWALPINDI: Caretaker

Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi on Monday expressed satisfaction with the medical facilities being provided at Rawalpindi Cardiology(RIC).

During his visit, the CM in detail inspected the hospital's emergency, CT scan, X-ray room, Fluoroscopic, and other departments of the institute.He directed the RIC administration to open the VIP ward for the complaints from any general public and ensure availability of medicines at the institute.

with the admitted patients inquired about and Angiography Angioplasty treatment and other facilities being

Climate change is no longer

a future issue; we are

experiencing it right now,

said Adil Najam, President

of WWF International,

who is also a globally

recognized academic and

policy expert. He was

on "Now or Never: The

Sustainable Future" at GC

University Lahore. Vice

Chancellor Prof. Dr. Asghar

Zaidi was also present.

LAHORE

The patients uttered pleasure over the treatment facilities at the RIC.

On a Twitter handle he said that state-of-the-art heart treatment facilities were provided to the patients at the RIC.

During my recent visit to the Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology, I was impressed by how effectively the management and doctors handled the large influx of patients. Despite the heavy workload, there were no patients regarding the care they received. However, it was evident that certain The CM interacted areas required

improvement. Recognizing this, the Secretary of Health had been assigned to address these gaps and enhance the overall quality of services, he tweeted. WWF President urges

and take bold, immediate

actions to protect our only

home, planet Earth. He also

emphasized that humans,

as a species, are very good

at adaptation, and we

should look at the climate

change not only as problem

but also as an opportunity.

change, we need to act

locally and see this as our

individual responsibilities.

He also raised his voice

KARACHI: View of site after a fire broken out incident as the fire brigade

officials are busy in extinguishing fire and rescue operation, at Garments

condemning the desecration

of the Holy Quran in

Addressing the meeting, the Mayor welcomed all members

of the City Council and

expressed hope that all

members will work for

the betterment of the

work in every UC and there

will be equal treatment

with all members, we will

work with everyone

including the workers of

Jamaat-e-Islami.

RAWALPINDI: View of badly damaged vehicles

struck by an out of control Dumper Truck near

Lahore High Court Bench at Swan area in the

He said that we will

Sweden was passed.

Factory building located on Maymar Industrial Area in Karachi.

Mayor Karachi chairs first

meeting of the city council

KARACHI (APP): Mayor prayers for forgiveness Karachi Barrister Murtaza were offered for the

Wahab on Monday chaired deceased.

the first meeting of the

Karachi Metropolitan

Corporation- KMC's Council in the City Council

Hall at the KMC building

Karachi Salman Abdullah

Murad was also present on

resolution were adopted in

the meeting. Condolences

were offered on the death

of Member City Council

Farida Majeed and former

Federal Minister Sher

Muhammad Baloch and

outskirts of the city.

Two condolence and

condemnation city

this occasion.

He mentioned that

action on climate change

Urgent Need to Take while we may think

Climate Action for a globally about climate

it is high time we face the of plastic in human lives.

Adil Najam stated that against the increasing use

(Online): realities of climate change

#### Two policemen injured during exchange of fire

DG KHAN (APP): Two constables and and outlaw here on Monday got injured during exchange of fire between the accused and police in the Katcha area.

in Katcha area

Other unidentified accused succeeded to escape the scene by crossing the river, the police said.

The police on tip-off condoned off the area to arrest the criminals.

The exchange of fire continued for at least an hour, the police said.

The injured policemen Constables Mushtaq and Qazi Shahbaz were immediately shifted to the hospital.

The District Police Officer (DPO) Muzzafargarh termed the incident as a 'routine

Musvi says:

AIOU autumn

semester 2023

admissions

starts

SUKKUR (APP): Regional Director Allama

Iqbal Open University

Sukkur Region Atta Muhammad Musvi

Monday said the admissions to AIOU

Autumn Semester 2023

first phase have been

he said that the admissions

first phase includes

Matriculation.

Matriculation Islamic

Courses, FA, I-Com, FA

Islamic, FA Open Courses, middle Tech, Certificate

Courses/Diploma

programmes and the the last date of admission will

programs/BS programs

(FA, FS based four years)/

MPhil /MS/ MSc/ (Hons)

Programmes and Post-

graduate Diploma Online

Campus) last date will be

admission forms and

admissions are available

online on the university

He said that the

of

While for the PhD

Matriculation

be Sept 5, 2023.

Programs,

Admission

prospectus

August 15, 2023.

Talking to APP here,

Muhammad

started

#### Punjab govt following zero tolerance policy to ensure peace during Muharram MULTAN (APP): The Punjab.He said that the be resolved easily with the

Punjab government has a zero-tolerance policy to ensure exemplary peace on the occasion of Muharramul-Harram. Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi has formed a special cabinet committee for monitoring the law and order situation.

Provincial Minister of Higher Education Mansoor Qadir said this while presiding over the review meeting of Muharram arrangements in South

Punjab government wants the cooperation of scholars of all schools of thought for administration has assigned full powers for peace. expressed satisfaction over all

arrangements made to maintain peace during Muharram in South Punjab. The minister while appreciating the mutual

assured their cooperation. cooperation of the district administration and police,

best coordination. Provincial Minister for Health, Dr Javed Akram said that Muharram teaches us tolerance, patience and brotherhood. The government has united ulema of all schools of thought on one platform by promoting inter-faith harmony and all of them

Provincial Minister for Information, Aamir Mir, said that we all have to play a key role.



GILGIT: Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Nazir Ahmad Advocate administering oath from the newly elected Deputy Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Sadia Danish at Assembly Secretariat.

#### Iran's abundant energy resources can greatly benefit Pakistan: CG

KARACHI (APP): The deep-rooted and brotherly Iran to Karachi Hassan Noorian has laid emphasis on the potential for strengthening the relationship between Pakistan and Iran through cooperation in various

He expressed these views in a recent meeting with a delegation of the Karachi Press Club (KPC) led by its President Saeed Sarbazi at the Iranian

Consulate in Karachi,

Secretary Shoaib Ahmed, and Join Secretary Aslam Khan, which had an opportunity to engage in discussion with the Iranian Consul General.

The CG Noorian expressed his belief in the Consul General.

Consul General (CG) of relations between Pakistan

He said that Iran imports basmati rice, meat, and other commodities from various countries.

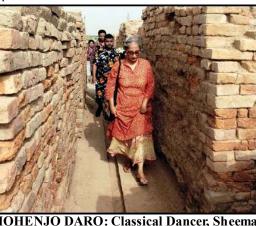
He said that she (Iran)

provided ample trade opportunities for Pakistani sinessmen. Noorian also stressed the potential for promoting

cooperation between the two nations in multiple sectors, in particular, Iran's abundant energy resources according to a communique here on Monday.

The delegation included KPC Vice-President Mushtaq Sohail,

Secretary Shoail Abmed Karchi Press Chub Sacad project.President of the Karachi Press Club Saeed Sarbazi, on the occasion, suggested organizing visits of journalistic delegations between the two countries, which received positive feedback from the Iranian



MOHENJO DARO: Classical Dancer, Sheema Kirmani along with her team are visiting and expressed keen interest in the historical ruins of the World Heritage Monuments of Mohenjo Daro

#### **KP** minister directs to introduce online financial system in TEVTA

PESHAWAR (Online): directives while presiding Khyber Pakhtunkhwa over a high-level meeting Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Muhammad Adnan Jalil has directed bringing the financial system of all subsidiary institutes of the Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) under an online system and besides control on u n n e c e s s a r y expenditures, the solarization of the

here in the headquarters of Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) on Monday. All directors and other concerned officers of the authority attended the

During the meeting, the caretaker minister was given a detailed briefing regarding the overall performance, financial and the administrative affairs, professional activities of offices to save energy. the institute and He issued these in this regard. the institute and challenges

Pakistan' trade with

Korea flourishes as exports

doubled: Sung Jae Kim

previous year.

Promotion

It was stated by

issued here on Monday.

Kim highlighted

growing trade relations

between the two countries

and emphasized the need for further bolstering

cooperation as well as technology transfer from

promising growth in trade

and investment between

Pakistan and Korea bodes

well for strengthening

bilateral relations and

fostering economic growth

Korean companies were

Korea to Pakistan. He noted

in both nations.

### Govt launches crackdown against illegal loan application: Amin

ISLAMABAD (APP): mafia groups operating FIA, providing regular Federal Minister for through social media briefings on the progress Information Technology platforms, particularly of the operation. and Telecommunication, Amin-ul-Haque Monday said in a decisive move to combat fraudulent loan applications, government initiated a crackdown against illegal

Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Major General ® Hafeezur Rehman directed immediately to take swift action on the illegal loan applications.

Under the orders issued, loan applications had already been blocked, said Aminul-Haque. The targeted companies, operating within the lending industry, were registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, he added.

Highlighting the severity of the issue, Amin-ul-Haque shed light

Facebook.

These unscrupulous need individuals, exploiting financial vulnerabilities.

awareness campaign has been launched.

to report any suspicious loan applications or loan mafia groups to the PTA, the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Cybercrime wing, or their local police stations.

The collaborative efforts of various law enforcement agencies aimed to address the increasing cybercrime wave in the country. To ensure effective

has a direct contact with on the involvement of the Director-General of unknown parties.

LARKANA: People purchasing mangoes displayed by vendors during at

The Large Scale

Manufacturing Industries

(LSMI) in the country

grew by 5.88 per cent during the month of May

2023 as compared to the

previous month of (April). The Quantum Index

Numbers of Large Scale

Manufacturing Industries

(QIM) for May 2023 estimated at 110.60 as

compared to 104.46 during April 2023.

The provisional quantum indices of LSMI for May 2023 with the base year 2015-16 have

been developed on the basis

of the latest data supplied

including National Energy

Conservation Policy, 2023,

Conservation Action Plan

2023-2030, Pakistan

Energy Conservation Building Code 2023,

Pakistan Energy Labels

Performance Standards for

Electrical Appliances and

Regulation. He said the

NEEC Policy 2023 was approved in May this year,

while the NEECA Board

Energy

2021,

Energy

Vehicles

Efficiency

Regulations

NEECA had also given its consent

Minimum

National

Domestic edible oil, ghee

output grew by 12.75%

and 10.44% in 11 months

ISLAMABAD period last year, which was (APP): Domestic up by 10.44 per cent,

production of cooking oil, according to the data of the and vegetable ghee during the 11 months of the Statistics.

vegetable ghee were locally by the source agencies

manufactured as against including Oil Companies the production of 1.286 Advisory Committee

**Proposed Energy National** 

Action Plan can help save

\$ 6.4 bln annually: MD

ISLAMABAD (APP): briefing media persons Underscoring the need for about key initiatives

financial year that ended

on June 30, 2023, increased

by 12.57 per cent and 10.44

per cent respectively as

compared to the output of

the corresponding period of

During the period from July-May, 2022-23 about 513,206 metric tons

of edible oilwere produced

locally in order to fulfil the

domestic requirements as

compared to the manufacturing of 455,884

metric tons of same period

period under review, about

energy conservation in the

Director of National

Energy Efficiency and

Conservation Authority

(NEECA) Dr Sardar

Mohazzam on Monday

said that the proposed

Energy National Action

Plan (ENAP) could help

save \$ 6.4 billion annually.

imports of \$ 80-82 billion,

the share of energy stood

at around \$ 27 billion and

the Energy National Action

Plan could reduce it by \$

6.4 billion, he added.

Out of total annual

1.421 million tons of

Meanwhile, during the

the production of 1.286 Advisory million tons in the same (OCAC).

Managing

last year.

Amin emphasized the for proactive entities have resorted to measures, rather than blackmailing innocent waiting for complaints to accumulate, against those involved in fraudulent loan schemes.

loan providers.

To raise awareness
In a statement, he said, and safeguard the public, a comprehensive public the public from financial exploitation and curbing such illegal practices within The citizens are urged the lending industry.

The condemned the tactics incidents involving the employed by loan mafia groups, including threats of violence, blackmail, and misuse of personal data. He reaffirmed that these actions were in clear

violation of the law and must be halted immediately. The citizens are

advised to exercise caution when engaging in online financial transactions and coordination, the minister refrain from sharing personal information with

**Banking** 

**Mohtasib** 

designate calls

on finance

minister

ISLAMABAD (APP)

Ombudsman (Designate).

Sirajuddin Aziz called on

Federal Minister for

Finance and Revenue

Senator Mohammad Ishaq

the guest and extended his

best wishes to him

according to a statement

issued by the finance

confidence in his experience

that would bring more

transparency in the

banking sector as well as

efficient and just

complaints and grievances

**PSX** loses

25 points ISLAMABAD (APP)

The 100-index of the

Pakistan Stock Exchange

(PSX) on Monday lost

25.37 points, a negative

change of 0.06 percent, closing at 45,042.61 points

against 45,067.98 points

the previous trading day.

A total of 314,785,498 shares were total

traded during the day as

compared to 267,514,280

shares the previous day,

whereas the price of shares

stood at Rs 6.770 billion

against Rs 6.783 billion on

companies transacted their

shares in the stock market;

138 of them recorded gains

and 171 sustained losses

whereas the share price of

33 companies remained

companies were Bank of

Punjab with 49,139,000

shares at Rs 4.27 per share

The three top-trading

unchanged.

As many as 342

the last trading day.

Senator Ishaq Dan

expressed

The minister greeted

Dar here Monday.

ministry.

further

settlement

of the customers.



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Sirajuddin Aziz, Banking Mohtasib/Ombudsman (Designate) called on Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at

## Mishal, Organic Pak sign MOU to work on agro economy, climate change

Organic Pakistan and Mishal Pakistan on Monday signed Memorandum Understanding (MOU), decided to work together to address critical issues related to agro-economy,

climate change, and food

The collaboration of organizations will involve the exchange of updated and timely data, media training, capacity-building workshops, and the creation of knowledge resources to foster public discourse and develop key opinion-makers, said a press release issued here.

Organic Pakistan, a pioneering organization dedicated to promoting organic agriculture and sustainable practices, and Mishal Pakistan, a leading

specializing in research and communication strategies, are thrilled to announce a collaborative partnership aimed at revolutionizing the agriculture landscape in Pakistan and enhancing the country's international

The MOU sets the framework for joint initiatives, including the development of key opinion-makers, advocacy campaigns, and the sharing of resources and expertise. Both organizations

are committed to creating knowledge resources through seminars, interactive workshops, and thematic reports to promote public awareness and understanding of sustainable agriculture practices and related subjects.

As the Country Partner Institute of the

Economic Forum, Mishal Pakistan plays a pivotal role in measuring and improving Pakistan's global rankings on various indicators.

The collaboration between Mishal Pakistan and Organic Pakistan will support the World Forum's Economic initiatives by providing essential data and narratives related to sustainable agriculture, urban farming, and other crucial areas.

Muhammad Nadeem Iqbal, Founding Chairman of Organic Pakistan, expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership, stating, "We are excited to join forces with Mishal Pakistan to drive sustainable agriculture practices and revolutionize the agriculture landscape in

#### **AEDB** formally Gold rates increase merged with PPIB Rs.1,600

ISLAMABAD (APP): the way to enhance Alternative Ènergy Development Board (AEDB) has formally merged with Private Power and Infrastructure Board

Úpon promulgation of the Private Power and Infrastructure Board (Amendment) Act, 2023 projects by PPIB as a one notified through the entity on behalf of the Gazette of Pakistan, Extraordinary, Part-1, as an Act No. XXVI of 2023 dated 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023, AEDB) has merged with PPIB, consequently, the excited to take fresh Alternative Energy Development Board Act. 2010 (Act XIV of 2010) stands repealed/ dissolved henceforth, said a statement issued here on

that this merger will pave and sustainable electricity.

operational efficiency and facilitation of investors by extending a true onewindow facility for smooth and seamless development and processing of power projects of all technologies including Alternative and Renewable Energy (ARE) Government of Pakistan,"

it further said. Managing Director PPIB Shah Jahan Mirza said that the whole team is responsibility as a challenge for achieving new horizons of excellence and fully poised to harness the indigenous, alternative and renewable potential of the country for powering "We are confident Pakistan with clean, green

ISLAMABAD (APP):T he per tola price of 24 karat and was sold at Rs 214,800 on Monday against its sale

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs1,371 to Rs 184,156 from Rs 182,785 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went up to Rs 168,810 from Rs 167,553. the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and 10 gram silver remained unchanged, i.e., Rs 2,650 and Rs 2,271.94 respectively. The price of gold in

the international market increased by \$2 to \$1,957 \$1955, from Association reported.

gold increased by Rs1,600 at Rs 213,200 the previous

technological advancement, class telecommunications pioneering the introduction services.

KARACHI (APP): The bilateral trade between Pakistan and Korea chemical sectors while witnessed a significant YouTubers from Korea boost with Pakistan's were showcasing the exports to Korea doubling beauty of Pakistan to the to reach \$306 million in the world He said that over 10 thousand Pakistanis were residing in Korea while

Director General of Korea Investment there were opportunities of Promotion Agency (KOTRA) in Karachi, Sung investment in Fisheries and Textile sectors in Korea available to Pakistanis. Jae Kim, during his visit to the Korangi Association of Kim acknowledged Trade and Industry (KATI), said a statement

the brotherly trade ties between the two nations and praised the talent and proficiency of Pakistani youth in speaking English. President of KATI,

Faraz-ur-Rehman, in his telephonic address, stressed the importance of telephonic exchanging delegations to promote trade between Pakistan and Korea.

He said that a committee has been formed by KATI for enhancing bilateral trade and investment while a delegation of KATI was scheduled to visit Korea Kim mentioned that shortly to explore investment opportunities.



KARACHI: Women and children selecting and purchasing old toys at a roadside stall in Empress

#### **Zong 4G celebrates** 15 years of pioneering excellence in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): of 3G and 4G networks Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading and successfully testing telecom giant, marks a momentous milestone as it celebrates 15 years of technological progress has unwavering excellence in transformed the way the country's digital Pakistan connects and

through its widest 4G network and cutting-edge 14,000 towers nationwide, technology, leaving an extending its services to indelible mark on even the remotest corners Pakistan's technological

5G. The company's commitment communicates, propelling Guided by the motto the nation's digital Let's Get Digital," Zong revolution. Investing 4G has revolutionized the significantly in expanding nation's connectivity its network infrastructure,

Zong 4G has erected over of the country. With a massive investment of over For over a decade and USD 3 billion, millions of a half, Zong 4G has been at Pakistanis now have access forefront of to affordable and best-in-

#### **NEPRA** celebrates Women Leadership

Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), the country's theme "Power with Equality" today gathered at NEPRA Headquarters at a Farooqi in his graceful ceremony and opening celebrated the remarkable reiterated Pakistan acknowledging

stereotypes, overcoming barriers, and emerging as powerful agents of change. The ceremony was attended by Chairman

NEPRA, Tauseef H. Farooqi, female employees

from various organizations challenges remain.

ISLAMABAD (Online): including NEPRA. The National Electric Power event was graced by event was graced by Syedah Huma Batool, the (NEPRA), the country's sole regulator, under the Executive Officer (CEO) of

remarks NEPRA's rise of Women Leadership commitment towards and women empowerment their and shed light on progress contributions in shattering made by his organization in providing gender inclusive environment in Pakistan's power sector under its power with equality and power with prosperity drives. He remarked that while



RAWALPINDI: A laborer cutting woods at Chakbeli Road.

#### China's economy shows further weakness in second quarter

China's economy showed further signs of weakness in the second quarter as data Monday showed growth missed expectations and consumers remained cautious, adding pressure June, faster than the stimulus disappointing figures percent predicted in an follow a string of below- AFP survey of

BEIJING (AFP/APP):

already going off the rails and highlighting the tough work authorities face reviving momentum. The National Statistics Bureau said the world's number two economy grew 6.3 percent on-vear in Aprilon leaders to unveil further previous three months but The much weaker than the 7.1 par readings in recent analysts. That came despite months indicating the post-Covid recovery was comparison with last year.

HYDERABAD: Members of Unemployed Stock Assistants are holding protest

demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Hyderabad press club.

#### MSME lending **Mobilink Bank sets new** benchmarks in women empowerment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Mobilink Bank achieved notable growth in Loan Disbursement and Gross Loan Portfolio (GLP) across two key segments, Women as well as Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), as evident in its H1 2023

underline the Bank's commitment to fostering financial inclusion and supporting the growth of small businesses, further demonstrating effectiveness of its strategies and initiatives implemented over the past vear, said a news release issued here on Monday.

These achievements

Mobilink Bank is provides connectivity and online efforts to up lift the MSME services across seven sector yielded remarkable countries. As part of its success as well

people's lives, creating opportunities for greater digital inclusion, and driving economic growth across countries that are home to more than 8% of the world's population.

During the first half of

billion to

digital operator strategy, VEON is transforming

2023, the Bank disbursed loans of over Rs. 4.32 women entrepreneurs, reflecting a growth rate of 178% compared to the same period in 2022 in which Rs. 2.42 billion were disbursed. Highlighting the bank's success in attracting and nurturing talented women, the number of women borrowers grew from 61,242 in 2022 to 68,994 part of the VEON group, a in 2023, reflecting a global digital operator that remarkable growth of converged 113%. Mobilink Bank's

#### **SMEDA to** organize webinar on July 19 ISLAMABAĎ (APP):

The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) is going to organize a webinar on "How to sell on Daraz" for profitable business growth on July 19 (Wednesday).

The session is being offered by SMEDA under National Development Programme (NBDP) for SMEs, to extend non-financial advisory services to small and medium businesses, according to a source in the authority

The programme will provide opportunities to the SMEs on high trending and most demanding ecommerce tools and platforms.

The training provides information introduction to ecommerce, introduction to daraz, signing up for daraz seller account, daraz ad creation guide and introduction to daraz live. SMEDA

specifically encouraged

# managing director was to the revision of Energy. WorldCall Telecom

LARKANA: A vendor arranging and displaying the seasonal fruit (Dates) to attract the customers during at Fruit Market.

# Xi tells ex-Philippine president Duterte to promote ties with China

BEIJING: China's President Xi Jinping told former Philippine President the U.S reaffirmed a de-Rodrigo Duterte to con-cades-old security alliance tinue to promote cooperation between the two countries, after bilateral relations cooled with Duterte's successor seeking closer ties with Washington.

Ferdinand Marco Jr was elected as president for a six-year term in 2022, taking over from Duterte who had adopted a more pro-China stance. "I hope you will continue to play an important role in the friendly cooperation (between China and the Philippines)," state media cited Xi as saying during a meeting at the Diaoyutai state guest-house in Beijing on

Under Marcos, relations between China and

ing back to its traditional the United States. The Philippines and

during a trip by Marcos to the U.S. in May, where he met with President Joe Biden, who said the U.S. commitment to defending its ally was "ironclad".

Washington pledged to defend the Philippines, which allowed the U.S. access to four additional military bases this year, angering Beijing.

Marcos also said granting U.S. access to the bases was a defensive step that would be "useful" if China attacked democratically governed Taiwan, which China claims as part of its territory.

China has always insisted on being friendly with its neighbours, which the Philippines have grown it sees as its partners, Xi

on the state of current bi-

"During your tenure as president of the Philippines, you had resolutely made the strategic choice to improve relations with China in an attitude of being responsible to the people and to history,' Xi told Duterte. Last month Duterte told domestic media that the Philippines could become a "graveyard" if it gets caught up in U.S.-China tensions.

The Philippines and the U.S reaffirmed a decades-old security alliance during a trip by Marcos to the U.S. in May, where he met with President Joe Biden, who said the U.S. commitment to defending its ally was "ironclad".

Washington has pledged to defend the Philippines, which allowed the U.S. access to four additional military bases this year, angering Beijing



South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol (C) visits a village, where more than a third of houses were damaged in landslides and two people remain

#### EU may update climate pledge to show faster progress on CO2 goals

Monitoring Desk BRUSSELS: European Union countries are debating whether to update their climate pledge ahead of this year's COP28 summit, to show they expect to exceed their current goal for CO2 emission cuts, a draft

mate targets among major economies - having agreed in law to cut its net greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030 compared with 1990 levels. Adraft document, seen by Reuters, said EU countries may notify the United Nations that they can reach a 57% emissions cut. The text was in brackets, indicating it is not yet agreed by all countries.

The overshoot would only happen if countries comply with recentlypassed EU policies to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions causing climate change. They include obliments last week.

Monitoring Desk

SEOUL: North Korea's

Kim Yo Jong, sister of

leader Kim Jong Un, said

on Monday that the United

States should avoid any

"foolish act" that could put

its security at risk and re-

jected offers of talks as a

ploy, state news agency

ments after White House

national security adviser

Jake Sullivan said the

United States remained

concerned that North Ko-

rea would carry out another

intercontinental ballistic

missile (ICBM) test, after

it last week fired an ICBM

stop its foolish act of

provoking the DPRK

even by imperilling its security," Kim said in a

statement carried by

KCNA. DPRK refers to

the North's official name,

the Democratic People's

"The U.S. should

off its east coast.

Kim made her com-

KCŃA reported.

North Korea's Kim Yo Jong

warns US against 'foolish

act' that risks security

**Monitoring Desk** gations to expand renewable

An updated pledge from Europe - the world's fourth-biggest emitter after China, the United States and India - could increase the pressure on other countries The 27-country EU has to improve their green goals one of the most ambitious cli-ahead of this year's United Nations climate summit in November. The United Arab Emirates, the summit's host, has asked all governments to update their targets by September, and

energy, and higher fees for

companies that pollute.

called for faster progress. We have to face facts. While I appreciate that progress has been made over the past years, the incremental steps taken so far to address the climate crisis are not meeting the urgency of the moment," COP28 incoming president Sultan al-Jaber told a meeting of govern-

She criticised U.S

plans for a nuclear-armed

ballistic missile submarine

to visit South Korea and

said that such efforts to in-

crease "extended deter-

rence" would only push

Pyongyang further from the

ing party official, also re-

jected U.S. calls for uncon-

ditional talks and said that

Washington was wrong if it

believed North Korea's dis-

the U.S. to think that it can

stop the advance of the

DPRK and, furthermore,

achieve irreversible disar-

mament through the interim

suspension of joint military

exercises, halt to the de-

ployment of strategic as-

sets and the reversible sanc-

recent days accused

American spy planes of

North Korea has in

tion relief," she said.

"It is a daydream for

armament was possible.

Kim, a powerful rul-

negotiating table.

#### Russian tourists flee Crimea after attack on landmark bridge

MOSCOW: In the run-up to Monday's attack on Russia's road and rail bridge to Crimea, state TV broadcast footage of long traffic jams in southern Russia as tourists waited in their cars for hours to cross over to start their summer holi-

After explosions tore through the road bridge, kill ing a couple who had planned to holiday in Crimea and wounding their daughter, it broadcast traffic jams going in a different direction as tourists tried to drive home through Russian-controlled southern Ukraine, territory that Kyiv is fighting to take back. State-run news agency RIA said a tailback of more than 5 km (3 miles) had formed as Russian tourists made for home - using the Chonhar bridge.

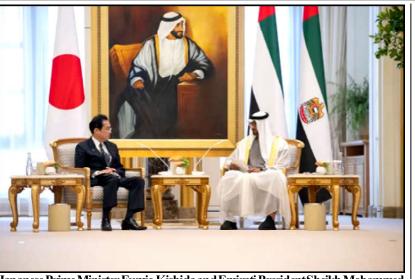
#### China's economy misses growth forecasts

**Monitoring Desk** HONG KONG: China's economic growth missed forecasts in the second quarter of the year, adding to worries over surging youth unemployment and a weak property sector and raising the likelihood the government will double down on support for the faltering post COVID-19 recovery. The world's second largest economy grew at a 6.3% annual pace in the April-June quarter, much slower than the 7% plus

cast given the anemic pace of activity the year before. Unemployment of youths aged 16 to 24 rose to a record 21.3% in June, up from 20.8% the month before. Investment in property development, a vital driver of both industrial and consumer demand, sank 7.9% in the first half of the year compared to a year earlier in a troubling sign of persisting weakness in an industry that slowed even before the pandemic as the flying over its exclusive government moved to rein in



Employees work at the government media office in Gaza City.



Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Emirati President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan meet at QasrAl Watan in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

#### **Exclusive-USAID** chief to announce over \$500 million in aid in visit to Ukraine

**Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: U.S. aid chief Samantha Power is set to announce more than \$500 million in humanitarian assistance for Ukraine on Monday during a visit to the war-torn country, where the United Nations says some 17 million people need help following Russia's invasion.

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Power in Kyiv will announce the assistance to respond to the United Nations and other needs of Ukrainians af- non-governmental organi-

**Monitoring Desk** 

President Tayyip Erdogan

said on Monday that he

believed Russian President

Vladimir Putin wants the

continuation of a deal allow-

ing the export of Ukrainian

grain through the Black Sea,

after Moscow suspended

hoped for progress on the

issue after Turkish Foreign

Minister Hakan Fidan and

his Russian counterpart

Sergei Lavrov talk on Mon-

day. The grain deal, brokered by the United

Erdogan added that he

its participation.

ISTANBUL:

fected by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, according to an announcement shared in advance with Reuters

Tens of thousands of Ukrainian civilians and soldiers on both sides have been killed and millions have fled their homes since Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022, triggering Europe's biggest land war since World War Two.

The aid, which will be provided through the Erdogan says he believes

July, aimed to alleviate a

global food crisis by allow-

by the Russia-Ukraine con-

flict to be exported safely.

participation in the deal on Monday, the Kremlin said,

agreement concerning Russia

had not been implemented.

"Despite the statement made

today, I believe Russian

President Putin wants the

continuation of this humanitarian bridge," Erdogan said,

adding that the two men

would speak on Erdogan's return from his trip to Gulf

countries on Wednesday.

Russia suspended its

**Putin wants continuation** 

of grain deal

Turkish

zation partners, will increase support for those who have been displaced or otherwise affected by the war with emergency food assistance, health care and safe drinking water, among other assistance, according to the announcement.

The U.S. will continue to stand with the people affected by Russia's devastating fullscale war and remains committed to providing life-saving assistance to those who need it most," the announcement read.

#### US special envoy Kerry holds talks in China aimed at reviving climate diplomacy

**Monitoring Desk** 

ing Ukrainian grain blocked BEIJING: US climate envoy John Kerry held four hours of talks with his Chinese counterpart in Beijing on Monday, reviving stalled diplomacy on readding that the part of the ducing planet-warming

Climate talks between the two biggest greenhouse gas emitters came to a halt last year after Nancy Pelosi, then speaker of the US House of Representatives, enraged Beijing by visiting self-ruled Taiwan, which China considers to be part of its territory.



Rescuers search through the rubble of a collapsed five-story apartment build-

#### A 5-story apartment building collapses in Cairo and kills at least 9 people

**Monitoring Desk** CAIRO: A five-story apartment building collapsed Monday in the Egyptian capital of Cairo, leaving at least nine people dead, au-

where shoddy construc-

thorities said, as rescuers searched through the Building collapses growth analysts had foreare common in Egypt,

> tion and a lack of maintenance are widespread in shantytowns, poor city neighborhoods and rural areas. The state-run MENA news agency reported that rescue teams

rubble of the building in Cairo's neighborhood of Hadaeq el-Qubbah, roughly 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) from the city's

Four survivors were also taken to a hospital and authorities evacuated a neighboring apartment building, MENA said.

Following an initial inspection, Cairo's deputy governor, Hossam Fawzi, said the collapse was caused by one of the ground floor residents who removed a number of walls during earlier maintenance work. The recovered at least nine man has been detained and bodies from under the will be investigated, he said.

#### Hamas unable to pay salaries in Gaza after Qatari aid delay

**Monitoring Desk** 

GAZA: The Gaza Strip's Hamas rulers have been unable to pay salaries for 50,000 public sector workers, with officials in part blaming a delay in a monthly payroll grant from Qatar, a crucial aid donor to the impoverished Pales-

The salary crisis has sparked an unusual amount of criticism on social media in Gaza, including by some of Hamas' own employees. A drop in tax revenue and a jump in spending has made the situation even more dif-

Most of Gaza's 2.3 million residents live in poverty, and the economy is dependent on foreign aid. Qatar has paid hundreds of millions of dollars since 2014 for construction projects. It currently pays \$30m per month in stipends for families, fuel for electricity, and to help pay public sector wages.

Hamas officials say no salary aid has been received since just over half of a \$5m grant to support the May payroll. The reason for the delay was not clear.

#### Vatican and Vietnam to take major step forward in relations Monitoring Desk

VATICAN: The Vatican and

Vietnam are due to take a major step towards improving their long strained relations by finalising a deal in which Hanoi will allow the Holy See to have a resident representative in the communistrun country, sources say. The deal will likely be announced during a visit to the Vatican later this month by Vietnamese President President Vo Van Thuong, according to a senior Vatican official and a Hanoi-based diplomat familiar with the matter.

#### New book claims to reveal identity of 'Jack the Ripper' Monitoring Desk

LONDON: The greatgreat-granddaughter of a police officer who investigated the "Jack the Ripper" murders in 19th century London believes she has uncovered the killer's true identity, the Sunday Telegraph reported.

Sarah Bax Horton has written a book on her research into local cigar-maker Hyam Hyams, who she said closely matches witness descriptions from the time of a suspect seen with the victims. The "Jack the Ripper" murders, which saw at least six women killed in the Fast End of London in 1888, remain one of Britain's most notorious unsolved cases.

#### Japan's prime minister visits the UAE as part of a Gulf trip focused on energy and commerce

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida visited the United Arab Emirates on Monday as part of a swing through the Arab Gulf states focused on energy and commerce.

He met with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, the president of the UAE, which will be hosting the COP28 U.N. climate summit later this

A joint statement said they were committed to 'enhancing cooperation on climate ambition, decarbonization, and clean energy. Kishida visited Saudi

Arabia over the weekend, massive oil exports — will where he met with Crown reach those goals.

Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The two launched a joint initiative aimed at promoting clean energy. He will visit gas-rich Qatar on Tuesday.

Japan is the fifth-largest oil consumer in the world and relies on imports to meet around 97% of its demand. It imports more than 75% of its crude oil from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Japan and the UAE have pledged to achieve netzero carbon emissions by 2050, and Saudi Arabia aims to do so by 2060. It's unclear how the two Gulf nations — which rely on

#### Ukraine wants use of Black Sea grain corridor to continue

Monitoring Desk

KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Monday everything must be done so that the Black Sea grain export corridor continues to be used after Russia halted its participation, his spokesperson said.

A deal brokered last July by the United Nations and Turkey allowed Ukrainian grain to be exported through the Black Sea after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. "Even without the

Russian Federation, everything must be done so that we can use this Black Sea corridor. We are not afraid," spokesperson Serhiy Nykyforov quoted Zelenskiy as saying.

"We were approached by companies, ship-owners. They said that they are ready, if Ukraine lets them go, and Turkey continues to let them through, then everyone is ready to con-

tinue supplying grain."
He ordered Ukraine's foreign ministry to prepare an official note to the U.N. and Turkey on whether Twitter.

they would be ready to continue with their part of the

Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, who is in New York this week to participate in a U.N. security council meeting, urged Russia to stop "playing hunger

"The immediate outcome of non-extension of the agreement will mean that prices for grain all across the globe will go up, and people in the most vulnerable regions of Asia, Africa, they will feel it, and this is the result of Russian actions," Kuleba said in an interview with CBS Morn-

"So Russia is using hunger as an instrument to blackmail the world, pursuing its own commercial interest. Stop playing hunger

Presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak said grain "cannot be a legitimate military target.'

The Black Sea is not Russia's internal waters and is not subject to its jurisdiction," he said on

#### Russia refuses to renew Black Sea grain deal and says no guarantees for ships now

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russia refused

on Monday to extend the agreement that has enabled Ukraine to export grain from its Black Sea ports for the past year, complaining that promises to free up its own shipments of food and fertilisers had not been kept.

Russia's Foreign Ministry said it had notified Ukraine, Turkey and the United Nations that "without Russia's participation, the 'Black Sea Initiative' ceases to function from

This meant the withdrawal of safety guarantees for shipping, the ending of a maritime humanitarian corridor and the disbanding of the Joint Coordination Centre at the mouth of the Black Sea in Istanbul established to monitor the implementation of the deal, it It meant the north-

western Black Sea would again be designated an area of temporary danger for shipping, the ministry said. The deal, brokered by the U.N. and Turkey last purpose, becomes meaningless," it said.

July, aimed to alleviate a global food crisis by allowing Ukrainian grain blocked by the Russia-Ukraine war to be exported safely.

To convince Russia to agree to it, a three-year memorandum of understanding was also struck with the United Nations under which U.N. officials agreed to help Russia with its food and fertiliser ex-

But the ministry statement said none of Russia's requirements - including the resumption of ammonia exports through a pipeline leading from Russia to the Ukrainian port of Odesa, and the reconnection of its state agricultural bank Rosselkhozbank to the SWIFT international payments system - had been

"Under these conditions of outright sabotage in the implementation of the Istanbul agreements, the continuation of the 'Black Sea initiative', which did not justify its humanitarian

rising cases of H5N1, par-

ticularly in animals that

have frequent contact with

humans, might lead to a

mutated version of the dis-

ease that could spread eas-

ily between people, trigger-

ing another pandemic.

Before the COVID-19

pandemic, many experts

had suspected that the next

global outbreak would be

sparked by H5N1. But

while bird flu has killed hun-

dreds of millions of birds

globally, it has sickened fewer than 900 people since

2003 and has not been able

to spread easily among hu-

#### Dozens of cats in Poland had bird flu but the risk to people is low, the UN health agency says

**Monitoring Desk** 

LONDON: The World Health Organization said more than two dozen cats have been infected with bird flu across Poland, but no people appeared to have been sickened.

In a statement on Monday, the U.N. health agency said it was the first time so many cats had been reported to have bird flu over such a wide geographical area in a single country, amid an unprecedented global outbreak of the latest version of the H5N1 version of the disease. WHO said that late

last month, Polish authorities informed agency officials of the unusual deaths of more than 45 cats in 13 geographical regions of the country. Testing last week found that 29 had H5N1.

As of June, the most recent variant of H5N1 has been reported in birds and other animal species in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas. Since 2020, WHO said a dozen human cases have been reported.

WHO said it was unclear how the domestic cats in Poland became infected with bird flu and said officials were still investigating possible sources of expo-

sure, including contact with wild birds that are known to carry H5N1. The agency said the risk of people in Poland being infected with bird flu was "low" and "low to moderate" for people exposed to cats, including cat own-Scientists worry that ers and veterinarians.

#### PM issues directives for construction and repair of Dalbandin airport

Independent Report QUETTA: The Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has issued standing directives to the concerned authorities for necessary construction and repair of the Dalbandin airport.

According to the official sources, the Prime Minister has directed the concerned quarters to submit report after completing the construction and repair work on the Dalbandin airport at the earliest.

He also directed the

Civil Aviation Authority to restore the airport immediately after completing the necessary work

It may be mentioned here that the Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanirani had diverted the attention of Prime Minister towards the deteriorated condition of the Dalbandin

The Prime Minister also thanked the Chairman Senate on diverting his attention towards the condition of Dalbandin airport.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman WAPDA, Lt. Gen. (R) Sajjad Ghani calls on Prime Minister Muhammad

#### Kaira stresses electoral reforms with consultation of all political parties

nior Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) leader Qamar Zaman Kaira Monday stressed for legislate on election reforms soon after completing a comprehensive consultations with all political parties as any democratic system, without the sanctity of a ballot box could not deliver.

'It is a symbol of a vibrant democracy to move forward only after consultations and discussions", he said while talking to a Private news channel.

Replying a question, he said a politician should be appointed as caretaker prime minister, adding, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has started consultations with allied parties on the selection of interim

ISLAMABAD (APP): Se- setup. He said that the prime minister would consult with the opposition leader after deliberations with coalition partners.

To another question he replied that the government will hand over the reins to the interim rulers next month, before the completion of assembly's tenure.

To another question, he said the election reforms could be completed in a few days and that the election commission had started the process based on the old census as delay election will further disturb the matters.

He also expressed confidence that his party is fully prepared for the election campaign and win the general elections with ma-

#### **QESCO** says Around Rs. 543bln outstanding against all defaulters in province

Independent Report QUETTA: The aggregate amount of the electricity utility bills and arrears against the agriculture defaulters have crossed the figure of Rs. 411 billion till

June 2023 in the province. According to the sources of QESCO, the total dues against the provincial government and its subsidiary departments are over Rs. 32 billion while it (government) has to pay the arrears of over Rs. 45 billion on account of the

agriculture subsidy. In addition to this,

over Rs. 1.72 billion are outstanding against the federal government and its departments. While the federal government has also to pay over Rs. 21 billion on account of the agriculture sub-

Similarly, an amount of Rs. 30 billion 70 crores is outstanding against the domestic, trade, commercial and private consumers in the province.

At the outset, around 543 billion are outstanding against all defaulters in the province, the QESCO sources informed.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz Ugaili being briefed about under construction Gai Khan Chowk Flyover project

#### NAB holds seminar with traineee Police officials

QUETTA (APP): The National Accountability Bureau (Balochistan) on Monday organized a seminar at Police Training College,

Sariab Road. The main objective of the seminar titled "Eradication of Corruption is must for a prosperous Pakistan" was to spread awareness and anti-corruption principles among the partici-pants of the Police Training College.

Deputy Commandant Aurangzeb represented the Police Training College whereas NAB Balochistan was represented by Director Dr Muhammad Rashad and Deputy Director Khurram Shahzad. The participants of

the seminar provided useful information about the negative impact of corruption on society and the steps taken so far in that regard to eradicate the menace. The speakers of the seminar also highlighted the practical ways the police could play in promoting a more transparent and responsible society.

A symbolic walk was organized in which trainees of the Police Training College participated



QUETTA: A delegation led by provincial leader of Awami National Party Engr. Abdul Rasad Kakar meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## Pakistan put on road to progress again: Ahsan Iqbal

Says Shehbaz-led government saved country from default

eral Minister for Planning and Development Prof. Ahsan Igbal has said, "Today we have put Pakistan back in its place", as Pak Rupee is gaining strength, stock exchange is improving and country's economy is stabilising.

Addressing the openceremony of Nisar Fatima Auditorium, Jamia Masiid and Innovation Centre at the UET Narowal Campus on Monday, he said that on July 14, China made investment of \$3.5 billion in Chashma nuclear power plant, and billions of dollars more investment would come to the country in the coming weeks.

Jammu and Kashmir Prime

Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq on Monday said

that the resolution of the

European Parliament con-

demning the violations of

human rights and persecution of religious minorities

in India has left Modi and

his party exposed at the

to hoodwink the world

through its policy of deceit and deception", the PM

cution of minorities in In-

**Oureshi** says

Shehbaz,

Zardari sit-in

ratified Dubai

decisions

MULTAN (INP): Vice Chairman of Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf Shah

Mahmood Qureshi has said

that the meeting of Shehbaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari

in Model Town has ratified

Oureshi said that everyone

knew what was discussed

in the meeting in Lahore On

the issue of dissolution of

assemblies, caretaker setup,

two major political parties

held consultations and de-

The PTI leader said.

Now they will take other

PDM parties into confi-

dence. Decisions have been

taken, consultations have to

be made with other par-

ing alliance, said other par-ties of PDM would be in-

vited at a lavish tea party.

They would take other

PDM parties into confi-

dence over the decisions

which had been taken al-

ready. He said it was quite

clear now that new care-

The PTI vice chairman, taking a dig at the rul-

cisions were taken.

Talking to media here

the decisions of Dubai.

India has always tried

'The ruthless perse-

international level.

said in a statement.

a place for itself among the best universities of the world. Students would play a proactive role in the country's development af-

and then Pakistan would be

put on the road to develop-

UET Narowal was making

ter getting education from this university. He said that in the year 2009, he dreamed of setting up an engineering university campus, which had been fulfilled today. He said the govern-

MIRPUR (APP): Azad the world", PM emphati-

ment again

ment wanted the youth to excel in all spheres of education and that was why it He hoped that people was giving the brilliant stu-

**PM AJK** says:

**European Union resolution** 

criticizes human rights

violations in India

European Parliament for

condemning human rights

violations in India, the AJK

premier demanded the Eu-

ropean countries link trade

with India to the improve-

ment of the human rights

was an extremist state

where religious minorities

have been deprived of their

while referring to continued

bloodshed and violence in

dia was an eye-opener for the Indian-occupied terri- region of its special status.

ence, at Quetta press club.

Independent Report

QUETTA: The medical teachers of Bolan Medical

College and three other dif-

ferent colleges of the prov-

ince took out protest rally

and staged dharna outside

the provincial assembly building on Monday.

teachers commenced from

the BMC on Brewery road

and reached the provincial

assembly passing through

demonstration and then

staged sit-in to press the

provincial government for

acceptance of their de-

different city roads.

mands.

The rally of medical

They held protest

basic human rights".

He said that "India

The AJK premier,

QUETTA: Transporters and Traders Leaders,

Abdullah Kurd, Abdul Rahim Kakar, Mir Dolat

Lehri and others addressing a joint press confer-

Medical teachers stage

sit-in outside BA

mands

issues.

situation in the country.

While welcoming the

NAROWAL (APP): Fed- would make a right decision dents laptops. He said the UET Campus Narowal In-novation Centre had Rs1 in the next general election, billion, which would be spent on research and higher Ahsan Iqbal said the education of students. Meanwhile Federal

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has said that working day and night under the leadership of Prime Muhammad Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the incumbent government saved the country from default and revived the development projects, which were stopped

by the previous government. Addressing a public gathering after laying the foundation-stone of Sialkot Cantt to Jassar Cantt Road at Phalora on late Sunday

tory of Jammu and Kash-

mir, said that India had been

involved in massive human

rights violations in the re-

gion. He said that the

Kashmiri people have been

the worst victims of India's

fascism for the past several decades. He, however,

maintained that after August

5, 2019, India has turned the

occupied territory into a

military garrison, where

people live in a state of per-

petual fear and anxiety.

Terming India's 5th August

action as a violation of the

UNSC resolutions, the PM

said that after stripping the

ards inscribed with the slo-

gans in favour of their de-

mands including promo-tion of the medical teach-

ers, award of health pro-

fessional allowance, in-

crease budget of the medi-

cal colleges, besides other

regretfully pointed out that they have been lodging pro-

test for two months, but the

government is not paying

any heed towards their is-

their protest would remain

sues and demands.

The medical teachers

They asserted that

They also chanted slo-

night, he said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) had always accomplished development projects and tried its best to place the country in the list of developed countries.

The minister said some generals, who have retired, and some former judges, imposed Imran Khan on the people of Pakistan under a conspiracy. He said Pakistan had become one of the five fastest growing economies in the world under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif, but the keys to development were snatched from Nawaz Sharif and handed it to a man who had not the experience of even running a

#### Talha emphasizes collaboration for national progress

Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Har-Mahmood highlighted his mony Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood on Monday participated in the oath-taking ceremony of the recently elected Hazara Journalists Association.

The event, attended by journalists from Hazara and various parts of the country, aimed to promote welfare and prosperity among journalists based in Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

The Hazara Journalists Association's new professional panel, elected under the leadership of Syed Luqman Shah, took an oath to diligently serve the journalistic community in the region. Representatives from other media organiza-tions also attended the ceremony, further highlighting the spirit of cooperation and collaboration among various journalistic bodies.

During his address to the gathering, Senator Talha Mahmood praised journalists from all across Pakistan and emphasized equal respect for journalists in his constituency He assured the

government's cooperation with the media for the betterment of the nation. While acknowledging

that he prefers to focus on his duties as Minister for Religious Affairs rather than

frequent media appearefforts in refunding more than four billion rupees to this year's Hajj pilgrims, indicating a cost-effective

Hajj policy. He emphasized the need to improve the country's situation and provide better opportunities for the people, thus dis-

couraging emigration. Recognizing the vital role of the media in shaping the nation's future, Senator Talha Mahmood stressed the importance of collaboration between all sectors, including the media, Parliament, and other institutions, to lead the country towards progress and pros-

Expressing his gratitude for the opportunity to serve as the association's president for the past six vears, Taimoor Jadoon, Chairman of the Hazara Journalists Association, reiterated the organization's commitment to unbiased and fair journalism.

Congratulating the newly elected body, Anwar Raza, President of the National Press Club, extended his felicitations to the Hazara Journalists Association and expressed the Press Club's readiness to cooperate with the association for common goals.



QUETTA: MoU signing ceremony between Balochsitan Govt and Faisal movers, Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz akeli, Provincial Minister for transport Malik Naeem Bazai are also present in ceremony

#### PM briefed about hydro electric projects

ISLAMABĀD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday held a meeting with Chairman Water Authority (WAPDA) Lt General® Sajjad Ghani and received briefing about the ongoing hydroelectric projects and the projects for producing energy at a lower cost.

During the meeting, he also briefed the PM about the pace of progress on all mega dam projects including Dasu, Diamer Bhasha and Mohmand dams.

He also apprised him about the effect of recent rains on the water reservoirs in the country.

#### Security arrangements reviewed for Muharram in gans in favour of their de-Sibi, Zhob

Independent Report QUETTA: The security arrangements were reviewed for the upcoming month of Muharramul Haram in Sibi and Zgob districts on Monday.

While the Deputy

Commissioner Mansor Ahmed Qazi presided over a meeting to review security and other related matters pertaining to the holy month in his district, a similar meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Azeem Kakar in circuit House Zhob the same day. The administrative officers of the two districts as well as religious personalities and representatives of different departments participated in the meetings. The participants of meetings reviewed the security and other related arrangements made and being made for Muharramul

Haram in the two districts. It was stressed to ensure relig8ous harmony besides maintaining law and order there.

#### Two died after truck overturns

SHERANI (Online): Two people died and 4 were injured in a truck overturn. According to details, a truck loaded with onions overturned due to brake failure at Dhana Sar due to which 2 people died and 4 were injured. Victims were transferred to 1122 centers.

#### Land transfer to army: LHC single bench order suspended

LAHORE (APP): A Lahore initiated by the previous High Court (LHC) division elected government and not pended a single bench order that struck down a decision of the interim government to hand over 45,000 acres of land in three districts of Punjab to the army on a 20-year lease.

The division bench, headed by Justice Ali Bagar Najafi, passed the orders while hearing an intra-court appeal, filed by the Punjab government against the single bench decision. The court also issued notices to the respondents on the appeal and sought a reply.

The interim government, through the appeal, had pleaded with the court to set aside the single bench order. The government submitted that the project was farming.

As per law, the interim government was empowered to implement or finalise any pending decision and policy of the previous government, it added. The government further contended that the court was not empowered to regulate agricultural policies. It submitted that the order of the single bench was not only in violation of the law but also

had contradictions in it. On June 22, a single bench had struck down the decision of the interim government to hand over 45,267 acres in Bhakkar, Khushab and Sahiwal districts of Punjab to the Pakistan Army for corporate



OUETTA: Members of Harnai Awami Ittehad are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, outside Balochistan Assembly.

#### **Election on 2017 census** unacceptable: MQM-P

KARACHI (INP): Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) on Monday came out strongly against the decision of the coalition government to hold elections on the basis of the old census.

Addressing a press conference, MQM-P Convener Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui whose party is a stakeholder in the government said the population of Karachi is around 30 million, which was about 14.9 million in the 2017 census, and his party would not accept fig-

ures less than this.
The MQM-P leader vowed to resist the move after Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah announced that the government would not notify the recently concluded census as the results are not authentic and the Election Commission of Pakistan needs at least four months to complete the delimitation process. Under laws, the census is done af-

sial, and it was decided to conduct a fresh exercise to address reservations and carry out a fresh delimitation process. However, objections

were raised to the enumeration by the Sindh government and MQM-P. Demanding to rectify the flaws in it, they refused to accept the results. MQM-P is a key coalition partner in the ruling alliance and had joined the government on certain conditions, including a transparent census. Raising their reserva-

tions on the federal minister's statement, Siddiqui said that they had chosen the right path against injustices and tried in every situation to ensure peace in Karachi. "MQMis the representative party of the urban areas of Sindh, especially Karachi; the impression being

MQM London rally seems to be a conspiracy. Siddiqui said that the aster every 10 years, but the semblies and the governlast one becomes controver- ment would end in August.

#### taker prime minister would be affiliated to which party. They were also carrying the banners and placthe demands. Quetta's dwellers prized **Green Bus Service**

dents of Quetta prized the Balochistan government's project of state-run 'Green Bus Service' to provide a decent transportation facility which would also reduce huge traffic congestion in the city

Quetta city was in dire need of public transport facilities as most of the roads cannot sustain the pressure of traffic, leading to congestion and environmental problems, Aziz

ing to APP. the green bus service would provide decent transport facility to the locals and reduced the traffic congestion issue in Quetta which is getting worse with every coming day due to increasing population, he added. "Traffic jam is a big issue in Quetta where people waste hours due to rush in the morning, afternoon, and evening on

the roads. Aziz urged the provin

QUETTA (APP): Resi- Ullah Nasar said while talk- cial government to take maximum efforts to avoid traffic jams and other traffic problems in the city. The Balochistan Government on Monday formally launched the 'Green Bus Service' project to pro-

> fordable public transport to the commuters of Quetta. The Green Buses would be run from Baleli to Sariab in the first phase which would be expanded

vide the best and most af-

across the city



Khan Bazai, Deputy Speaker Sardar Babar Khan Musakhail and MPAMir Arif Jan Muhammadhassani talking during Balochistan

Assembly session