dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Islamabad

Vol. XIII No. 205 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Tuesday July 04, 2023, Zil Hajj 15, 1444 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12



Joint efforts by all institutions inevitable for country's progress: PM Shahbaz

Federal Cabinet briefed about \$ 3 billion IMF deal

billion of sovereign and

commercial banks loans,

which was unprecedented.

would have been different,

if China had not made the rollover. "The people of

Pakistan should never for-

minister also thanked Saudi

Arabia for committing \$2

billion, and the United Arab

Emirates and Islamic Devel-

opment Bank for \$1 billion

he particularly appreciated the role of Chief of the

Army Staff General Asim

Munir for his efforts to

bring in the support of to-tal \$3 billion from Saudi

Calling it a teamwork,

each for Pakistan.

get this," he remarked.

He said the situation

Similarly, the prime

ISLAMABAD (APP): thanked his all cabinet ing his further role in the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday, calling the IMF agreement a "breather" and a "moment of concern", urged all the national institutions to make concerted efforts to rid the country of loans and put it on the course to progress. The prime minister, in his remarks at the Federal Cabinet meeting chaired by him, said while remaining in their respective jurisdictions, the institutions should make a united effort for at least next 15 years to address the country's economic woes.

He said Pakistan's deliverance from loans required a vision, unity, hard work and sacrifice by the affluent people

"If we opt this course, \$1.1 billion in July. no one can stop the counfrom achieving progress," he remarked.

members, particularly Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and his team and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and the Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF) for their respective roles to

help Pakistan achieve the

nine-month stand-by agree-

ment of \$3 billion. "I pray that this is the last IMF deal. But this is easier said than done," he commented and mentioned that the state-owned enterprises like the Pakistan Steel Mills, Pakistan International Airlines and others were eating up around Rs

600 billion annually. He said under the IMF deal, Pakistan would receive the first installment of

He also thanked UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for his role in the

led ruling alliance saying, "The government is celebrating [IMF deal] as it is

further rise in inflation.

government called the IMF

agreement anti-state," the

has expressed uncertainty

over IMF's \$3 billion fund-

ing, the PTI said adding that

the government will have to

hike electricity and gas tar-

iffs under the bailout pack-

at the government over the

increase in diesel price say-

ing the rate was increased

by Rs7.5 per litre despite

buying "cheap oil" from

Russia. The communique

said electricity shortfall will

Upholding Quran's Honor

PROTEST AGAINST DESECRATION OF THE HOLY QUR

BACKED BY SWEDISH JUDICIARY

Jamaat-e-Islami Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Workers of Jamat-e-Islami holds protest outside Sweden

Embassy against burning of Holy Quran in Sweden.

also increase with the in-

crease in its prices.

The PTI also took a jibe

Moody's rating agency

statement added.

Pakistan asks Sweden to take process, if needed. The prime minister 'serious action' against spoke high of the Chinese support during last three desecration of Holy Quran months by rolling over \$5

PM demands proper investigation into the incident "without any interference"

SLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Mon day asked Sweden to take "serious action" against the desecration of the Holy Quran and demanded a proper investigation into the incident "without any interference'

Addressing the federal cabinet, PM Shehbaz said the Pakistani people and government condemned the "disgusting incident" that took place in Sweden. "Unfortunately, this is not the first incident to take

place ... such heart-wrenching incidents have taken place previouslyas well. They highlight that Muslims in Sweden, who are a minority, are facing Islamophobia and hatred.

'The Pakistani government condemns this narrative made of hatred and discrimination," he asserted and urged the Swedish government to take action. Referring to the OIC statement released on Sunday PM Shehbaz said the council also demanded that the culprit should be "heavily investigated" and such inci lents should be prevented in the future.

Acting President writes

PM to build martyrs

monuments

ISLAMABAD (APP): keep alive the martyrs in hearts of the people, particularly the youth."

The Acting President

to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif drawing attention The Acting President said the federal and provin-

towards the establishment cial governments should

of monuments of the mar-

tyrs of the nation in the fed-

eral and provincial capitals

two opinions on the estab-

lished fact that their forefa-

thers gave everlasting sac-

rifices for the creation of the

country. The sacrifices of

the martyrs for the stabil-

ity and integrity of the na-

tion were also memorable, he wrote. "The martyrs are

our heroes as the peace and

security in Pakistan is the

result of their unparalleled

adding,"As a nation it is our

obligation that we should

sacrifices,

Sanjrani

He said there were no

The Acting President

ensure the establishment of

martyrs monuments at the

federal and provincial capi-

martyrs and the Pakistani Flag should be put up at

airports, government build-

ings, schools, important

highways, railway stations

a nation we are grateful to

our martyrs," he said, add-

ing visits of the people from

different walks of life, par-

ticularly students to these

monuments would reignite

"Pakistanis and foreigners should know that as

and other places.

patriotism.

The pictures of the



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

PTI terms IMF deal positive development

ISLAMABAD (INP): The the Pakistan Muslim Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf League-Nawaz (PML-N)-(PTI) has termed the signing of a \$3 billion stand-by agreement (SBA) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) a positive development but at the same time it raised questions over the coalition government's economic planto revive the

ailing economy.

Pakistan and the IMF reached a staff-level agreement (SLA) on short-term SBA last week following a delay of nine months. which is subjected to approval by the Washingtonbased lender's executive board in mid-July.

"I am pleased to announce that the IMF team has reached a staff-level agreement with the Pakistani authorities on a ninemonth Stand-by Arrangement (SBA) in the amount of SDR2,250 million [about \$3 billion or 111 per cent of Pakistan's IMF quota]," Nathan Porter, the IMF's Mission Chief to Pakistan, said in a statement.

Reacting to the development, the PTI hit out at

good meetings with Bangladesh's President in KSA ISLAMABAD (Online):

President Arif Alvi has said that he held good meetings with the President of Bangladesh Shahabuddin in Makkah, Mina and

In a tweet on Monday, the President also shared the picture of his childhood friend Salman Rehman who is now member Parliament, Minister and Advisor Bangladesh.

72pc work on **Kurrum Tangi** dam completed

receiving 3 billion dollars in PESHAWAR (APP): A senior official of Wapda here The main opposition on Monday said that 72 party spokesperson further percent of construction said that the people will work on the multipurpose now carry the burden of Kurram Tangidam ĥas been this deal in the form of a completed and its first stage would be inaugurated "The same people [inby November next year. cumbent rulers] in the PTI

Engr Zahoor Hussain, Director Projects, Wapda (North) said that 72 percent of work on multipurpose Kurram Tangi (Stage-1) spread on lands of Bannu and North Waziristan was completed and is expected to be inaugurated in November next year. Former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif had laid the foundation stone of Kurrum Tangi dam on March 3, 2017. He said the design and feasibility studies of its stage-II was under process that would be completed with a loan assistance of

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Ms. Pang Chunxue, Charge'd Affairs of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar. Pakistan, China discuss avenues to further strengthen cooperation the Asian Development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and China here on avenues available for both countries to deepen bilateral relations in economic, trade, and financial sectors to expand the existing cooperation to unprecedented levels. According to a press statement issued by the finance ministry, the discussion was made during a call on the meeting of Charge'd Affairs, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Ms. Pang Chunxue with Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

Dar warmly greeted the Charge de Affairs and appreciated the deeprooted historical bilateral relations between Pakistan and China. He informed the

progress on the 9th review with International Mon-Monday discussed various etary Fund (IMF) stating that Pakistan has successfully reached the staff-level agreement. He also apprised the Charge de Affairs about stability in the economy and how the government is making efforts to preserve this economic stability and move the economy towards growth. Additionally, he appreciated the Chinese support to Pakistan on multiple fronts and specifically thanked for the cooperation of Chinese Financial Institutions with Pakistan during the last few months.

Dar expressed gratitude to Ms Pang Chunxue for all the support and cooperation Pakistan has always been receiving from Charge de Affairs about the the leadership in Beijing.

Pakistan, Japan agree to expand bilateral relations in multiple areas FM Bilawal said the ing more avenues of coop-

sources to Japan and their

language training to be a prime area of cooperation.

We also deliberated on

investments and joint ven-

tures by Japanese enterprises in Pakistan.

act with the private sec-

tor, local media as well as

think-tanks to further broaden our engagement. I

believe that both sides need

to stay engaged at all lev-

logue and continue explor-

During his visit, he said he would also inter-

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa-kistan and Japan on Monday agreed to further deepen and enhance their mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation in multiple areas including trade, investment, human resource development and exchange, IT, tourism and agriculture

"We have also jointly agreed to explore the possibility of working together on targeted programs with higher impact in the do-mains of solarization, desalination and water purification and housing and infrastructure rebuilding in the floods affected areas in Pakistan, Foreign Minis-ter Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said in a joint press statement along with his Japanese counterpart Yoshimasa Hayashi in To-

Earlier the two ministers held a meeting in a cordial environment. Both Ministers appreciated the free bilateral relations while expressing readiness engage further.

In addition, the two sides have agreed to conduct language skill assessment tests for the Japanese language in Pakistan to facilitate the movement of the skilled workforce.

Bilawal calls on Japanese PM

ISLAMABAD (APP) Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday called on the Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in Tokyo and discussed with him matters of mutual interests.

The foreign minister conveyed greetings from the Government and people of Pakistan, according to the ministry of foreign office's spokesperson.

During the meeting, both leaders expressed the desire to further enhance bilateral engagement and cooperation in different

Toshakhana case: Chairman PTI expresses mistrust on CJ IHC

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI Chairman has expressed mistrust on Chief . Justice (CJ) Islamabad High Court (IHC). PTI Chairman has filed petition seeking shifting of petitions filed against Toshakhana case trial to other bench.

Making district election commission respondent in his petition PTI chairman took the plea chairman PTI is sure that transparent and impartial justice will not be administered by this bench.

Two security personnel martyred in Balor area

ISLAMABAD (APP): Two security personnel including one officer were martyred while one officer was injured in an exchange of fire with terrorists in the Babr area of??Babchistan.

According to ISPR, a combat patrol of security forces was initiated in general areas of Balor, after credible intelligence with respect to the move of a group of terrorists in the Hosĥab area.

The group was linked with firing incidents on security forces and civilians besides planting improvised explosive de-While the establish-

ment of blocking positions to cut the escape routes was underway, a party of terrorists tried to ambush the closing-in patrol and opened fire on security forces. As a result of the heavy exchange of fire, two brave sons of the nation Major Saqib Hussain and Naik Baqir Ali embraced martyrdom while another soldier was intwo sides also identified the import of young Paki-The foreign minister stani skilled human re-

also invited his Japanese counterpart to visit Pakistan at your convenience to further our discussions. He said Pakistan and

Japan were longstanding friends and share a special bond based on deep-rooted linkages that go far in history and time. The people of Pakistan carry a deep sentiment of

warmth and affection for Japan and the Japanese people.
We have always stood

els to further positive dia- with each other in times of need, he said



Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in

PSX witnesses historic single-day gain of around 6%, expands by 2,446 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): Rs.8.647 billion against Rs Bullish trend dominated at the 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), as it witnessed historic single-day gain of 2,446 points on Monday, a positive change of 5.90 and 36 sustained losses, per cent, closing at 43,899.01 points against 6 companies remained un-41,452.69 points the pre- changed.

vious trading day. Following the Monetary Fund (IMF), a compared

price of shares stood at Rs.3.18 per share.

7.476 billion on the last trading day. As many as 357 com-

panies transacted their shares in the stock market; 315 of them recorded gains whereas the share price of

The three top-trading ompanies were WorldCal ment with the International Telecom with 54,999,792 shares at Rs.1.23 per share; total of 381,904,794 shares K-Electric Ltd with were traded during the day 30,596,397 shares at to Rs.1.96 per share and 234,748,468 shares the Cnergyico PK with previous day, whereas the 22,447,095 shares at



ISLAMABAD: Senator Danesh Kumar called on the Acting-President, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Asad Mehmood says: Accommodation, food centers on Yarik-Hakla motorway soon

DERA ISMAIL KHAN route would have all re-(APP): Federal Minister of Communications Mufti Asad Mehmood on Monday said that service areas housing accommodation and food centers would be opened on Yarik-Hakla Motorways, soon, to facilitate motorists. He said accommodation and food centers would be established in the limits of Dera Ismail Khan, Mianwali and Rawalpindi. He said that such a center had already

been inaugurated in the limits of Dera Ismail Khan. He expressed these views while talking to the media and a delegation of party leaders before depart-

ing for Islamabad. pertaining to the land for the facility in Mianwali had been resolved by its deputy commissioner and the revenue department.

He hoped the issues relating to the establishment of food and accommodation centers within the limits of Rawalpindi would also be resolved soon and the public traveling on the start soon.

quired facilities.

Replying to a question, he said that work has been started on the plan to install an e-tolling system on the motorways and highways across the country. In the first phase, it

has been experimentally started on the Sialkot-Lahore Motorway section. In this regard, the fi-

ber optic lines were being laid on Motorways and cards and number plates would be issued for ve-

He said that the entire system would be monitored and for this purpose, the National Highway Headquarters would have a He said that the issue modern system to keep monitoring all roads.

He said that the system would be put in place with financial assistance from Korea and the amount would be paid in 40 years

in the form of a loan. The communications minister said that the Yarik-Saggu and Saggu-Zhob CPEC project was going to

Daily Soice of Masse. Independent

Tuesday July 04, 2023

Restoring faith

With Pakistani democracy in the throes of yet another existential crisis, June 30, the International Day Parliamentarianism, ought to have held special significance

On that day, parliamentary democracies are supposed to take stock of where they stand, how far they've come, and how far they still have to go as they evolve into forums that are truly representative of their people.

It is unfortunate that our lawmakers felt no need for such self-reflection. Our parliament today seems more like a glorified fighting pit for the vile and uncouth, rather than an agora for the wise to engage in reasoned debate.

It is a place where the already privileged pass slurs and mock each other, instead of proposing solutions and counter-solutions to the problems of their constituents.

Of course, it is the very essence of democracy for there to be disagreement — sometimes with vehemence, sometimes with calm grace.

However, such disagreements are supposed to be resolved with ethos, logos and pathos, not brawling, spurious allegations and abuse of power. Unfortunately, our lawmakers have historically tended towards the latter, only to rue it when the tables turn.

The security establishment's repeated interference in the political process has also been key in never letting the parliamentary system stabilise enough so that it could perpetuate a resilient socioeconomic order.

Repeated military takeovers hollowed out the institution from within, preventing an organic, representative polity Being a woman and having from taking root. Even when ci-vilian-led governments have ostensibly been in the saddle, the state continued to pull the reins from behind the scenes, never really letting any popular leader have the final say in some of the most important aspects of statecraft, especially foreign policy.

Pakistan today stands at a crossroads. One path leads to an uncertain future; the other may set us back by a few decades. With a host of social, economic and political crises trigue with each passing threatening to rip the country apart, a stable, representative shenanigans of the ruling parliament could have helped elite, watch from the edge the nation muster the courage needed to make difficult choices.

Unfortunately, at a time when all shades of opinion needed to be brought together to find a consensus for the path forward, our parliamentarians once again seem to be working with non-parliamentary forces to repeat already failed experi- stands to lose the most. ments.

This is not to absolve those various legal intellectuals, who have simply never given parliament or their fellow parliamentarians the respect and deference they deserved.

However, the answer lies not in once again engineering the electoral process to instal a more 'desirable' government, but in faithfully restoring parliament so that it truly represents the people of Pakistan.

How to do so, is a problem ally for hardcore terrorthat our lawmakers — present and aspiring — must solve military courts are seen as a mode of 'speedy justice'. There is little to no only diminish the legislature's argument against that. If standing and cede more power history is anything to go by, trials conducted by to external forces.

Cold peace



Maleeha Lodhi

The recent trip by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to China marked an effort to stabilise relations between the two global powers that have plunged to an all-time low. The visit seemed to go well and included a meeting between Blinken and President Xi

But, as has become a pattern in this complex relationship, any step forward is almost always followed by two steps backtime. President Jo Biden's description of Xi as a "dictator" at a fundraiser prompted a strong response from Beijing, which called the remarks irresponsible and a provocation. This again revived the friction

Then the red carpet rolled out by the Biden ad-

ministration for Indian the heavily militarised area. He writes that like the origi-Modi in Washington and the thrust of their joint statement reflected the apparent US effort to cement India more firmly in an anti-China coalition and use it as a counterweight to Beijing.

Questions are again

being raised about the future trajectory of the world's most consequential relationship. There is now a rich body of literature that deals with the US-China confrontation and examines how this is likely to play out. Recent books include The Avoidable War by Kevin Rudd, The Long Game by Rush Doshi, Avoiding the 'Thucydides Trap' edited by Dong Wang and Travis Tanner, How China Loses by Luke Patey, Kishore Mahbubani's Has China Won? and Oliver Letwin's China vs America: A Warning.

verge especially over who will prevail in the contest. As do assessments of whether their intense competition presages a new cold war and if their fraught relations can drift into conflict, even if neither side may want it. That miscalculation, especially over new cold war is insightful. ing cold war between the a cold peace would also in-

Views, of course, di-

Prime Minister Narendra around Taiwan, can lead to such an outcome is a worry for many countries in Asia and beyond. But even if conflict is avoided, their turbulent relationship will keep the global economy and the world in an unstable state.

An intelligent new book now joins the debate about the world's most critical bilateral relationship although its canvas also extends to Russia. Cold Peace: Avoiding a New Cold War by Michael Doyle, a Columbia University professor, offers a comprehensive review of the many issues that lie behind East-West tensions. The author sets out to examine whether a new cold war is likely and how different it might be from the Cold War of the He points to the dan-

gers of a looming cold war but argues that this is not inevitable. Instead, a 'cold peace' can be established if certain key compromises are made by competing powers, which can yield cooperation in critical areas. The distinction Dovle

draws between the contours and character of the old and nal Cold War, the emerging cold war is a deeply structured conflict, both internationally

transnationally. There are similarities. Both are "nonarmed conflicts" involving rivalries that go beyond contests for influence, power and prosperity. But he suggests that while Cold War I was fought primarily through proxy wars, arms races and espionage, the current confrontation entails a combination of cyber espionage, technological and industrial competition, political interference and arms contests.

He shows convincingly that the emerging Cold War II is not as extensive. extreme and polarising as its predecessor. Its reach is not yet global and "the sides are less clear-cut". with alliances not so firmly formed or ideo logically de-But the fined. weaponisation of cyber technologies is making the confrontation a deadly one.

Dovle offers three reasons why the burgeoning cold war, dangerous as it is, will not be a replay of the original one One the likely costs of an escalat-

US and China. Two, the volve a "non-subversion large global common interest in interdependent prosperity and saving the planet from environmental degradation. And three, he sees China and Russia as authoritarian but not totali-

The book's main concern is how to prevent a second cold war. Doyle identifies what he sees as four bridges towards this end The first concerns US-China cooperation on the shared challenge of climate change mitigation. The second is finding a negotiated end to the Ukraine conflict with Russia.

He sets forth a package of proposals on this, some workable, some unrealistic. The third bridge is détente between the US and China. Here too ideas for a compromise on Taiwan are presented. The fourth bridge to a 'cold peace' is to forge new rules on cyber. While acknowledging clashing interests and ambitions, he argues that compromises are possible to limit the harmful fallout of cyber hacking and

warfare. For Doyle, diplomatic accommodation to achieve Allison.

pact", resting on mutual commitments not to attack the political independence and territorial integrity of each other. That also means barring covert operations.

The book has interesting 'solutions' to many of the vexed issues pushing the world towards more turbulence and instability. But as others have also observed, it overemphasises the role of domestic factors and ideology as drivers of a new cold war.

Doyle clearly comes down on the side of greater engagement between the US and China, agreeing with other authors and experts about the danger of collision between them. Rudd made the case for "managed strategic cooperation", Mahbubani for the two powers to seek areas of convergence based on their core interests. while Letwin called for 'peaceful competition".

One of the most influential books on this subject, published in 2017, was Destined for War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides's Trap? by Harvard scholar Graham -- Courtesy

broken workforce



Dr Naazir Mahmood

On the UN's Human Development Index, Pakistan occupies a pitiful rank. It perches on one of the lowest rungs on education and health indicators. If our performance in the recent past is any guide, the country is unlikely to progress much even by the end of this decade.On the health front there is an extreme shortage of doctors, nurses and trained paramedical staff across the country. Even in a majority of private clinics and hospitals, one would hardly find properly qualified and trained health professionals and workers.

In this dire state of affairs, the role of lady health workers (LHWs) becomes fairly significant. The credit for the establishment of this workforce goes to the second government of Benazir Bhutto from 1993 to 1994. people, she knew what it meant for a woman to be in need of health assistance.

Prior to that, no civilian or military government had ever thought of creating a job category that would give employment to women as lady health workers and also cater to the needs of millions of women who had no access to health facilities. Now after nearly three decades of its establishment, this lady health workforce is playing its due role but faces tremendous

LHWs serve women in both rural and urban areas especially in maternal and child health issues. In urban areas they provide health assistance mostly to slum communities by coordinating efforts with traditional birth attendants and

LHWs try their best to ensure that all mothers and children receive adequate care. Now Public Services International (PSI) has launched Pakistan's first online interactive documentary experience that provides critical insights into the lives of LHWs.

PSI is a global union

close contact with the as an international voice for odds. The documentary public services and for workers and unions which deliver these services. There is a need in Pakistan to organize all workers in both private and public sec-

Forming an integral part of public services, LHWs stand on the frontlines of Pakistan against all infectious diseases and save thousands of lives every day. The documentary about LHWs that PSI has developed highlights that they provide basic healthcare services to underprivileged communities in rural and low-income urban areas

Their role has been so crucial in polio vaccine dispensation that they have regularly risked their own lives while being a target of militants who do not even hesitate to kill these workers and their security providers. Post-natal awareness and healthcare for rural mothers, with health education and promotion become a primary area of responsibility for these

The documentary tells the tale of a woman called Haseena who narfederation of workers in rates her story of how she public services and serves became an LHW against all

comprises a series of episodes; 'Behind the mask: Pakistan' is a key episode focusing on the struggle that healthcare workers face especially in Pakistan. The locumentary chronicles the challenges and the impact of Covid-19 on the lives of LHWs highlighting the work of Haseena and her colleagues who formed the All Sindh LHW and Employees Union (ASLHWEU) to advocate for better work-

ing conditions and wages.
With 'Behind the Mask: Pakistan', PSI is also campaigning for flood relief and the restoration of the health-risk allowance for LHWs. It calls for the provision of a service structure for them which is lacking at the moment. It is so disappointing to note that despite the critical frontline role of LHWs in the fight against diseases such as polio, cholera, and Covid-19, they continue to face harassment and have to function in terrible working conditions and low pay, especially in the face of inflation and wage stagnation. These are the issues that mainstream media rarely pays attention to.

Over the years, many

but there has been a lack of new hiring despite increased needs. The silver lining is that despite threats as polio workers, there are girls and women ready to join the LHW workforce, but the governments both at the federal and provincial levels have failed to initiate any new hiring.

Those who are already working have been facing vaccine shortages and gender inequality in terms of wages and working conditions. LHWs also lack adequate recognition from society, and were acknowledged for the fact that they continued working during the Covid-19 pandemic and even during the lockdown periods.

In this context, the 'Behind the Mask: Pakistan' episode focuses on key issues such as access to basic health services including vaccines, and the ILO Convention 190, which seeks to protect people from harassment and violence at work. The problems in structure also get coverdocumentary.

LHWs have retired or left a major issue that LHWs Courtesy TheNews

their jobs for various causes have to deal with in their everyday work, watching the movie gives an insight into these problems. These women receive low salaries, and the health-risk allowance that the government offered during the pandemic is no more available to them despite being constantly at risk.

LHWs keep dealing with patients who suffer from infectious diseases, and that is good enough justification to pay them the health-risk allowance. Lack of funding is no good excuse for stopping that allowance that has put these LHWs in an extreme financial condition, and they can barely eke out a living with their meagre sala-

Our state priorities have been focusing elsewhere, while neglecting people and social service workers alike has placed Pakistan as one of the lowest countries on human development. Recent devastating floods hiring and the service have compounded the problems even more with age in the interactive additional health crises in the affected areas posing Since harassment is new risks for LHWs. --

Why military trials?



Syed Sheheryar Raza Zaidi

Pakistan's long-running political soap opera continues, adding layers of inday. Every day, Pakistanis of their seats as the fate of their country hangs in the balance between the Supreme Court and the mili-

Add to that the distrust that the big three political parties harbour against one another, and you have a riveting politicaldrama, fit for viewing on the OTT platform of your choice. Only this time, nothing is fictional, and it is the common man who

The Supreme Court, after repeated attempts by finally decided to take up the challenge against the trial of civilians by military courts. Whatever the fate of the petitions before it may be, one thing is clear, the crisis in Pakistan is far from over and every player in the game knows that.

The only thing left to determine now, is what, if anything, could have compelled the government of the day to fall back on an archaic legal paradigm reserved generists' and 'enemies of the state'. For starters, the

To draw parallels, the time it takes for a military court to determine the fate of an accused is similar to the time it takes for an ordinary court to serve notices and merely formalise the pre-trial stages of the case at hand.

This in no way reflects on the competence of the judges in these ordinary courts but rather illustrates the neglect with which access to justice has been handled by successive governments, and dare I add, by the top echelons of our judicial

Surprising as it may be to some, Pakistan's judicial system is much more than just the NAB courts, the high courts and the Supreme Court. The unfancied parts of our judicial system — ie, the courts at the magistrate and district levels, are the primary gateways to justice for 99 per cent of Pakistan's population. They continue to remain overutilised and under-

Perhaps the government was of the view that if it left the fate of all those who allegedly torched state property, albeit in a gesture of adulation towards their beloved leader, to the regular courts, then its shortterm ambitions of having the perpetrators brought to task would never be fulfilled. This is where the problem lies.

Instead of setting about to reform the state of the civilian judiciary in Pakistan such that it would allow the trial of these perpetrators in a speedy and effective way all the while guaranteeing the fundamental human right of fair trial, the government has decided to seek aid from the military, this time in the form of military courts

The problem with the military courts is that military courts are con- irrespective of the facts,

the general perception is resents a trial by the military, a trial which is at least in theory deemed a trial conducted in a slipshod manner with guaranteed conviction.

If so, why did the government feel the need to make use of military courts to try civilians? The answer is not so simple and is two fold: either the government feels that the perpetrators are guilty of committing the crime that has been alleged against them and should be firmly punished, or it is using the military courts to further its own

petty political agenda.

If the government is, indeed, of the view that the perpetrators of the violence that took place on May 9 deserve to be brought to swift justice, then what better way to do so than have them tried and convicted in the ordinary course of events through regular courts which are perceived to be fair and impartial? This would only further the go vernment's narrative against the former prime

On the contrary, if the government merely wishes to weaponise the military courfs to take their political opponents to task, then it would do well to remember the surrounding former prime minister Imran Kĥan's ouster as a living testament of how power is never certain. One believes that it

is time for the government to reflect on the implications of its actions on this front. It should be quite clear to those at the helm of affairs that if they bring a class of civilians within the ambit of the military courts on one pretext, it may not be long before some other pretext is used to bring another class within the same ambit.

Harnessing the sun

Zarrar Khuhro

Humanity's achievements are limited only by the scope of our imagination and our technological capability to build what we can imagine. Indeed, you could argue that the prime trait that separates us from the rest of creation is that we can imagine what does not yet exist, and then make

that imagination a reality. Sometimes going from imagination to execution takes a while; the first piece of literature that we could safely dub 'science fiction' was written in the second century AD by a satirist named Lucian of Samosata. Titled A True Story, this work saw the protagonists travel to the moon and find themselves in the midst of a war between the king of the moon and the king of the sun over who gets to

colonise Venus. Seventeen hundred vears later, mankind did set foot on the moon, though we have yet to encounter extraterrestrial life. Even the moon landing may not have been possible without Robert Goddard's development of liquid-fuelled rockets, a result of his lifelong fascination with space exploration; a fascination that was born when he read H.G Wells' War of the Worlds, about a Martian invasion of Earth. Had there been no science fiction, science itself would have suffered.

There are many lesser-known visionaries to whom we owe a debt, visionaries like 19th-century theorist Russian Konstantin Tsiolkovsky who is called 'the father of spaceflight' because of his

theoretical work on space solar panels, and energy travel and rocket propulsion. He is also credited with the concept of the space elevator, a device that often finds mention in science fiction. That's fitting because he himself was inspired by the works of Jules Verne!

Tsiolkovsky also dreamed of beaming the sun's energy directly down to Earth by deploying a series of mirrors that would beam concentrated sunlight down to Earth. Perhaps this provided inspiration to Isaac Asimov, whose 1941 story Reason featured a massive space station that would harness energy from the sun and beam it to other planets in the solar system. Just a few decades later, Nasa engineer Peter Glasser developed the first engineering design for what such a station would look like and was granted a patent for his microwavebased method for transferring the power down to

It makes sense to try; the sun is a gigantic fusion reactor and every second it blasts out a stupendous 384.6 septillion watts of energy into the void of space; every second it produces 120 times the amount of energy that the entire US consumes in a year. Of course, only a fraction about a billionth — of the total energy produced by the sun ever reaches earth, and out of this only about 48 per cent reaches the ground, with the rest being reflected back to space by clouds or bright surfaces such as ice and snow and some being absorbed in the atmosphere.

The still stupendous amount of energy that does reach the ground is what supports life here, allowing plants to spin sunbeams into sugar through the miracle of photosynthesis and thus sustaining a complex ecosystem and keeping the rest of us alive. More and more of this energy is being harnessed by

produced in this way now accounts for 4.4pc of global energy production and is set to rise. In the coming years — as theorised over a century ago — the solar panels may not be on Earth but orbiting around it.

In June this year, the first tantalising proof that this may be possible came when the US-based Space Solar Power project used its Microwave Array for Power-transfer Low-orbit Experiment (MAPLE) to successfully beam solar power to Earth for the first time in history. This portends well for the future of solar energy because spacebased solar energy harvesting could potentially yield eight times as much power as surface solar panels.

The US congress has taken note, with one congressman saying "the technology that once made this source of energy the work of science fiction is now much cheaper, and easier to deploy than ever, putting it within reach"

The UK has announced millions of pounds of funding for such projects and Europe is also considering making serious investments. Japan, a leading global technological hub, which had in 2015 suc-cessfully managed to wirelessly beam 1.8 kilowatts of power over a short distance, is planning to conduct its own orbital test by 2025 and China, never afraid to go big, is envisioning an orbital power plant that could produce a gigawatt of power. Private companies like space start-ups Orbital composites and Virtus Solis, are also getting into the act by collaborating on building a megawatt-scale orbiting power station that will beam solar energy directly down to Earth. Truly, the seeds of the future are planted in the past and, if we're lucky and know where to look, we can see them sprouting in our present. -- Courtesy Dawn

CPI inflation slides down to 29.4pc in June: Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): added to the index by 1:00 On a year-on-year Minister for Finance and p.m on Monday whereas basis, the top few food Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar said on Monday that the Market was Consumer Price Index Rs.270/272.

2023 clocked in at 29.4 percent compared to 38 percent YoY for May'23," the federal minister said in a tweet. Ishaq Dar said the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) had also performed well "as 2,334 points were

at the exchange rate of Pak commodities Rupee vs Dollar in open Market was recorded at prices as compared to the

(CPI)-based inflation came down to 29.4 percent during the month of June 2023 as compared to 38 percent recorded during May 2023.

"As per the data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported inflation reached 29.4 per cent on a year-on-year (YoY) basis in June 2023 (46.69 percent in the previous month and 21.3 percent (27.2 percent in the previous month and 21.3 percent (27.2 percent in the previous month and 21.3 percent (27.2 percent in the previous month and 21.3 percent (27.2 percent in the previous month and 21.3 percent (27.2 percent in the previous month and 21.3 percent (27.2 percent in the previous month and 21.3 percent (27.2 percent in the previous month and 21.3 percent (27.2 percent in the previous month and 21.3 percent (27.2 percent in the previous month and 21.3 percent (27.2 percent in the previous month and 21.3 percent (27.2 percent in the previous month and 21.3 percent (27.2 percent in the previous month and 21.3 percent (27.2 percent in the previous month and 21.3 percent (27.2 percent in the previous month and 21.3 percent (27.2 percent in the previous month and 21.3 percent (27.2 percent in the previous month and 21.3 percent (27.2 percent in the previous month and 21.3 percent (27.2 percent in the previous month and 21.3 percent in the previo

to 0.3 percent in January 2023 as compared to an increase of 1.6 percent in the previous month (May 2023) and an increase of 6.3 percent in June 2022. (49.92 percent), Readymade Food (43.04 percent), Sugar (41.64 percent), Fresh Fruits (40.31 percent), Beverages

On a year-on-year (38.17 percent), Eggs s, the top few food (36.96 percent), Bakery and Confectionery (36.83 that percent), Gur (36.60 percent), Milk Fresh (31.8 percent), Condiments and corresponding month of Spices (30.04 percent), Gram Whole (28.42 percent), Pulse Gram inc lud ed percent), Tea (113.09 percent), Wheat Flour (89.89 percent), Rice (72.83 percent), Potatoes (64.69 percent), Wheat (24.14 percent), Cooking Oil (19.62 percent), Meat (18.50 percent), Fresh Vegetables (13.71 percent), Vegetable Ghee (8.90 (YoY) basis in June 2023
as compared to 38 percent in the previous month and 21.3 percent in June 2022.
On a month-onmonth basis, it decreased to 0.3 percent in January 2023 as a compared to an 47 fo percent), Readypercent) and Mustard Oil (5.97 percent), while tomatoes came down by 29.57 percent and onion 16.53 percent. The

non-food commodities witnessed an increase during the period on a YoY basis included



OMMERCE EWS

KARACHI: Pakistani brokers and traders monitor the shares at the Stock Exchange (KSE) as Pakistan Stocks Surge Most after the approval of IMF Loan to Pakistan.

LAHORE: Central Joint Secretary of Anjuman-e-Tajran (Lahore) Umer Butt addressing press conference along with others at Press Club, to condemn the burning of Quran Pak in Sweden.

Pakistan earns US \$881m from travel services' export in 10 months: PBS

ISLAMABAD (APP): The country earned US \$881.250 million by providing different travel services in various countries during the first ten months of t he fiscal

of 90.29 per cent as compared to the US \$463.100 million worth same services provided during the corresponding period of the last fiscal year 2021-22, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS)

During the period under review, personal travel services increased by 89.80 per cent, from UŠ \$460.820 million last year to US \$874.640 million

during July-April 2023. Among the personal same period of last year. services, the exports of surged by 16.23 per cent

0.32 per cent from US \$ 9.430 million to US \$9.460

Meanwhile, the PBS data revealed that the exports of business services grew by 189.91 per cent, from US\$ 2.280 This shows a growth million to US\$ 6.610 million.It is pertinent to mention here that the exports of services from the country, witnessed an increase of 1.46 per cent during the first ten months of the current financial year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of last year, it added.

The exports of services during July-April (2022-23) were recorded at US\$ 6,009.87 million against the exports of US\$ | Monday morning on 5,923.19 million during the Monday and two more

The imports of the health-related expenditure country witnessed a decline of 39.70 per cent, falling to US \$3.580 million from from US\$ 10,635.72 US \$3.080 million while million last year to US\$ the education-related 6,413.32 million during the

expenditure also rose by period under review. **SCCI** rejects imposition of new taxes Rs415billion in 2023-24 budget

PESHAWAR (Online): that SCCI along with Sarhad Chamber of traders' community will Commerce and Industry categorically rejected imposition of new taxes worth Rs415billion in 2023-24 budget on behest of the IMF, terming it as venomous for the national economy, businesses and industries.

In a statement on Monday, the SCCI acting president Ijaz Khan Afridi said the additional burden of taxes will bring a new storm of inflation in the country that could not only affect the trading community but people from different walks of life miserably.

He urged the government to revisit its decision and withdraw it in the best interest of the national economy, businesses, industries and

Ijaz Afridi warned

strongly agitate if the

withdraw additional taxes

that were imposed through

that imposition of new

taxes was tantamount to

pushing the further

crippling economy into

He stated traders

The SCCI acting chief

severe danger situations.

community has already

suffered a lot owing to anti-

business policies of the

said it was completely

present government.

He was of the view

the new budget 2023-24.

didn't

go vernment

HCCI President terms IMF agreement encouraging for country

Shipping

Activity

at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP):Four

ships namely, Lotus-A, FMT Efes, GC-Beryl and

Isabella Kosan carrying

Containers, Palm oil and

Chemicals, berthed at

Container Terminal, Multi-

Purpose Terminal, Liquid

Cargo Terminal and Engro

ships, Katsuyama and

Chemroad Hope with Palm

Oil and Chemicals also

arrived at the outer

anchorage of Port Qasim

were engaged at PQA

berths during the last 24

hours, out of them three

ships, EM Astoria, Maersk Chesapeake and

FMT Efes sailed out to sea

ships, Lotus-A and Isabella Kosan are expected to sail

of 131,621tonnes, comprising 83,783 tones

imports Cargo and 47,838

tonnes of export cargo.

The cargo throughput

A total of 08 ships

during the last 24 hours.

Meanwhile, two more

respectively.

Ínternational

Terminal

HYDERABAD (APP): President Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HCCI) Adeel Siddiqui has said that agreement International Monetary (IMF) was encouraging for the country as it could address some ec onomic confronting the country's economy. He, however, emphasized that future caretakers and the new government should have to continue with

programme. He urged Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to take the IMF programme as the last one and focus revival of the economy around the clock failing which Pakistan would be borne \$ 8 billion in losses every year and remain dependent on foreign

unjust to impose Rs415billion on inflation stricken people by following the directions of which was unacceptable so we reject it completely. He expressed serious apprehensions about a hike in electricity.



ISLAMABAD: An elderly person busy in making duplicate key at Aabpara Market.

Pak, Syria to enhance industrial cooperation

PCJCCI urges govt to

Mozzam Ghurki said that currently, out of US\$144 record a CAGR

currently, out of US\$144 record a CAGR million foreign investment in solar PV plants in Growth Rate) of 2.5 per

Pakistan, US\$125 million cent from 2022 to 2027. was from China, One of the accounting for nearly 87 representatives of per cent of the total delegation said that until

investment. Among the soundative rate of the operational solar

the first-ever power plant opportunities to capable of generating solar tapped.

LCCI strongly condemns

Holy Quran's desecration

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Khalid Butt said in a

strongly

s trongly

(APP):A energy in Pakistan, owned

Chinese company.

and built by a renowned

were also major suppliers

to many PV projects in Pakistan such as Mini

Access to Clean Energy

Programme. He added that

Pakistan solar energy

PV plants was merely 19 per cent, far from the over

95 per cent utilisation rate

in China, representing huge

statement issued here.

They said that it was

a good omen that the

Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) immediately convened a

meeting but a unanimous

strategy by the world was

direly needed to stop such

desecration of the Holy

Quran or any other holy

book was a crime. They said

that racism and xenophobia

should not have any place

in any part of the world. The Muslims respect

bearers

The LCCI office-

said

Chinese companies

delegation by the Punjab government,

Chamber of Industry, Ghazwan al-Masry during Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Syria, Shahid Akhtar, discussed means of enhancing and developing industrial cooperation

between the two countries. SANA news agency, during the meeting held at the Chamber's building in Damascus, Al-Mas ry stressed that the chamber was ready for full cooperation with the Pakistani side.

He said the chamber communication between businessmen industrialists in both countries and provide equipment, raising economic relations equipment.

discussed the importance and need of advancement

in solar projects with

office-bearers of Pakistan-

China Joint Chamber of

Commerce and Industry

(PCJCCI) here at the joint

chamber's Secretariat on

Monday.
PCJCCI President

generation capacity in Pakistan, 400MW (75 per

cent) was generated from

Quaid-i-Azam Solar Park,

Chamber of Commerce &

Industry (LCCI) on

condemned desecration of

the Holy Quran and urged

the government to raise the

matter at international

racism, the business

condemns this tragic

incident and urges the

international community

to take a strong stand

against it as this is not the

freedom of expression but the terrorism," LCCI President Kashif Anwar,

"It is a vile act of

Mond ay

community

LAHORE

Chinese

ISLAMABAD (APP): in a way that reflects Chairman of Damascus positively in the interest of the two sides.

The chamber's Chief appreciated Pakistan's stances in support of Syria and its just issues, it added. On the occasion, Ambassador Akhter said that the meeting aimed to discuss issues related to the development of industrial and commercial According to the cooperation and the es tablis hment partnerships and joint investments between the

two countries. He pointed out the possibility of benefiting from the progress achieved by his country in the manufacture of medicines, would also facilitate medical materials and surgical tools, including and dental ones, in addition to agricultural everything necessary for machinery and sports

SCCI condemns invest in solar PV projects

investors.

Monday

SIALKOT (APP): Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) President Abdul Ghafoor Malik strongly condemned the desecration of Holy Quran outside the main mosque of Stockholm (Sweden) and said that there was a need to take collective measures Solar grids in KP and ADB international level to

prevent recurrence of such like incidents in

desecration of their religion

and the Holy Quran.

Malik said that

Muslim world should not accept government' condemnation of the incident until it takes heinous conspiracy.

MIRPUR [AJK] (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Barrister Speaking on the occasion the AJK Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry, while referring to massive investment opportunities in Azad Jammu Kashmir, has said that the government was ready to provide all kinds to foreign investors. of facilities to the

Hong Kong delegation that called on him under the leadership of the Presidential Adviser Lal Dino Baloch at Jammu Kashmir would be transformed into a model state, where foreign Kashmir House in the federal metropolis on

The delegation was comprised Madam Soo, Chaudhry Allah Ditta,

desecration of **Holy Quran**

Swedish practical steps to punish those involved in the

AJK offers massive

investment opportunities

for investors: Barrister Sultan

President said that the liberated territory, a treasure trove of natural resources, offers huge investment opportunities Azad Kashmir has investment

He expressed these opportunities in hydro, views while talking to a tourism, information tourism, information technology, minerals, mining and precious stones and other sectors ', he said. Barrister Chaudhry further said that Azad

invest their capital.

Chaudhry Zahid, Faisal Lal friend ly environment and others. friend ly provides investors with unique opportunities for

good returns.
He said that investors should not worry about of anything as the AJK Government was ready to cooperate with them besides providing other facilities He said that the government's aim to turn the region into a business hub would ultimately help to control growing unemployment among the people besides improving their quality of life.

On this occasion, the head of the delegation Lal Dino Baloch informed the President about the investors would feel secure progress in the field of information technology He said that a regarding investment in his peaceful and investment- previous meeting.

SBA with IMF crucial for economic stability; RCCI

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) with International Monetary Fund (IMF) crucial for economic stability and welcome news for Pakistan's ailing economy.

In a statement issued here on Monday, the SCCI the risk of default had also the risk of default had als President said that Muslims could not tolerate President Saqib Rafiq in a Es, Energy, E-Pakistan statement.

Ministry's engagements community and with IMF and after their stakeholders will be taken tireless efforts, Pakistan on board, he added. However, Chamber

Saqib Rafiq further remarked that the SBA of \$3 billion will not only

provide a breathing space in the recovery of Pakistan's (RCCI) has termed the creditworthiness but also enable the resumption of dollar inflow from various bilateral and multilateral

He said that the business community hopes that the industry reforms The yield will not introduced only send a positive government in the budget

The framework for the development of five environment, equity and He also applauds the PM office and Finance shared with the business

> President urged the government to improve financial management and



Fruit Market.

Saudi extends oil production cut as Russia

RIYADH (AFP/APP):Saudi Arabia said on Monday it was extending a voluntary oil production cut of one million barrels per day, and Russia said it was slashing exports by

latest attempts by major producers to stabilise markets rocked by factors including continued fallout from the Russian invasion of Ukraine and China's faltering economic recovery. The cut by Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest crude exporter, was first announced after a June meeting of oil producers and took effect at the weekend.Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman noted at the

IUB, SBP sign MoU for mutual cooperation in academia, industry

understanding (MoU) was signed between the Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB) and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The agreement was signed by the Vice Chancellor the Islamia University of Bahawalpur Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob and Chief Manager State Bank of Pakistan Abdullah Khan.

On this occasion, the Dean Faculty Management Sciences Prof. Dr. Jawad Iqbal, and Dr. Areba Khan were present as the focal persons. Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob expressed his vision regarding mutual cooperation between academia and industry and

BAHAWALPUR (APP):A appreciated the efforts of memorandum of Dr. Jawad Iqbal and Dr. Khan Areba implementing cooperation. Mujibur Rehman Assistant Chief Manager State Bank of Pakistan, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Amjad Dean Faculty of Engineering, Prof. Dr. Shazia Anjum Dean Faculty of Chemical and Biological Sciences, Dr. Owais Shafiq, Dr. Waseem Hameed, Mohsin Mateen, Dr. Muhammad Shafiq, Dr. Hasan Mujtaba, Nawaz Saleem and other faculty members from Faculty of Management Sciences and Commerce participated.
Dr. Areba Khan

informed about the mutual cooperation and collaboration between the Islamia University.

Mahmood Chaudhry and should resp Vice President Adnan they added. should respect Muslims. Romi demands charter of economic plan for progress, prosperity

Senior Vice President Zafar everyone and everyone

MULTAN industrial Reno wned demanded all political parties and other stakeholders to sit together and made a ten-year charter of the economic plan in order to put the country on the path to progress and prosperity.

They should also devise a comprehensive strategy for the success of the charter of the economy plan.He expressed these views while talking to media men here on Monday.

Jalaluddin Romi hailed the incumbent government over the staff-

(APP): level standby agreement International with Khawaja Jalaluddin Romi Monetary Fund (IMF).

He said that the agreement would help to accelerate business activities besides this the government has also got an opportunity to do reforms regarding the restoration of the economy on a sustainable basis.

Romi also thanked Pakistan's friend ly countries on behalf of the entire nation for their efforts related to the agreement. He said, "The current agreement with the IMF will also improve the value of the rupee against the dollar and restore.

reduces exports

500,000 bpd. The moves were the

time that "extendable". time

New sun of hope is rising after stark despair: PM

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday felicitated the business community and the nation on the unprecedented surge of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX). He said as a result of the staff-level agreement and a \$3 billion standby arrangement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the trust of investors and the business community was rapidly reviv-

After Pakistan's agreement with the IMF, the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) opened with a surge of 5.38%, or 2,231

points on Monday. The PSX benchmark rose to 43,684 points in the opening session. In a statement new sun of hope is rising issued by the PM Office, Shehbaz Sharif said the government's continued struggle and prudent policies had started bearing fruits as signs of the country's economic revival were rising.

We are resuming the journey of economic development and a decline in the inflation rate from the point where Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif had left.

he said adding that after severe disappointments, a

Praying to Allah Almighty for further successes on the economic front, the prime minister said the seeds of Pakistan's development

had started taking root as a result of the government's sincere efforts, honesty and truth. He said the government once again had embarked upon Qauid Muhammad Sharif's vision of construc-Thank God, the countion, development and try has been put on the people's welfare



ISLAMABAD: Police personnel stand guard outside Sweden Embassy during the Protest of Jamat-e-Islami against burning of Holy Quran in Sweden.

Youth future depends on economic stability of country: Ahsan Iqbal

Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said that the youth were the greatest asset of any country and a stable economy was directly linked with their bright future.

He said this while talking to a Private news channel here on Monday.

He said the youth should be given the opportunity to participate as respected partners in deci-

ISLAMABAD

Anti-Terrorism

on Monday.

(ATC) extended the bail of

the prominent Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

leader Ali Afzal Sahi, who

was booked in a case at

Golra Sharif police station

Sahi, accompanied by his

PTI leader Ali Afzal

charges brought against wards.

During the hearing, Ali

Afzal Sahi's legal team re-

quested interim bail, which

was granted by the ATC.

The court extended his bail

until July 5, giving Sahi tem-

porary relief from potential

Sahi's bail signifies that the

court is willing to grant him

The extension of

an opportunity to prepare (MPO) section 3.

ATC extends bail of

PTI leader Ali Afzal

lawyer, appeared before Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail

the Anti-Terrorism Court on Tuesday, was rear-

Court

lenges of the country," he

He said, "The political grooming of youngsters will ensure a sincere and mature political leadership in the country.

Replying to a question, he said, "Economic recovery on a fast track is the top priority of the present government."

"The country is now

The details of the case

Earlier to this, Paki-

remain undisclosed at this

of significant gravity, as evidenced by the involve-

stan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

leader Shehryar Afridi,

who was released from

of Maintenance of Public

commissioner Rawalpindi,

the PTI leader has been put

under house arrest for an-

other 15 days under Main-

tenance of Public Order

According to deputy

order (3MPO).

a robust defense.

ment of the ATC.

be utilized for addressing tional Monetary Fund current socioeconomic chal-(IMF) and this 'Stand by Arrangement' will be helpful in the economic turnaround of Pakistan.

He further mentioned, "The signing of a staff-level agreement with IMF is a great success of government policy and

The government had taken some unpopular and strict decisions, but these were necessary to save the

on the right track after its country from the risk of Marriyum

grieved over demise of mother of

Minister for Information Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of the mother of senior journalist Khaleeq

The minister, in a (ATC) today to address the rested immediately afterminister was taken into custody from Islamabad's Sector F-8 under Section 3

Terming the mother's death a great tragedy, Marriyum said she shared the grief of the bereaved

Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear the



ISLAMABAD: People fill their pots with clean drinking water from water filtration plant in I-8 Sector.

IMF agreement opportunity for long-term economic reforms: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and In- opportunity for sustainable dustry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari on Monday said that the International Monitory Fund (IMF) agreement is a positive development for Pakistan in a very difficult political, economic and international diplomatic environment.

This success is possible due to the efforts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and their team, he said. In a statement issued by ICCI here, he said this agreement will prove beneficial for the struggling Pakistani economy.

He said that now is the time for the government to formulate a long-term economic policy together with the political leadership and stakeholders so that Pakistan can stand on its

own feet permanently. He said the current enterprises

short-term agreement with the IMF gives Pakistan an

government has made the current agreement possible after a year-long discussion with the International Monetary Fund.

President ICCI said this agreement was indispensable to gain the trust of other international financial institutions and friendly

had to face political and economic situations at the local level and difficult diplomacy at the global level to reach this agreement, which was indicated by the Federal Finance Minister in his statement. He said that this is the right time to take measures like transparent and fast-track privatization of loss-mak-

economic reforms. Ahsan said that the

He added Pakistan ing government-controlled

Khaleeq Kiani ISLAMABAD (APP):

statement, expressed her heartfelt condolences to Khaleeq Kiani and his fam-

family

She prayed to Allah loss with fortitude.

Supremacy of **Parliament** PML-N's top priority:Javed

ĪSLAMABAD Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi has said that supremacy of Parliament is top priority of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) led coalition government

Taking to his twitter handle on Monday, he said that the National Assembly has achieved a milestone by completing one parliamentary year before the end of the government's tenure.

Murtaza Javed was of the view the coalition government has preferred legislation over promulgation of ordinances and has taken concrete steps for welfare of the people.

Mazari's intra court appeal's hearing adjourned till **Thursday**

ISLAMABAD (ĬNP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday adjourned hearing on an intra court appeal of former minister Shireen Mazari regarding the remarks of Defence Minister Khawaja Asif about her in 2016 at National Assembly till Thursday. The IHC sought arguments on maintainability of the ICA from the petitioner's lawyer on next hearing.



calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

HEC bars varsities from granting new affiliations to colleges, institutions

ISLAMABAD (APP): ulty, and auxiliary facilities promptly withdraw any announced a complete ban on granting new affiliations to colleges and institutions by universities, including affiliations in programmes, to ensure the quality of education. According to HEC, the decision comes as part of HEC's ongoing review of the Affiliation Policy/Criteria aimed at enhancing the standards of higher education in the country and curbing the practice, noted with concern, of certain public sector universities granting affiliations to colleges and institutions lacking ad-

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Federal Minister for Edu-

cation Rana Tanveer

Hussain Monday stressed

for timely elections within

sixty days which is need of

the hour to overcome the

chaos and instability in the

country. "The Pakistan

Muslim League-Nawaz

(PML-N) is actively pre-

paring for the elections un-

der the leadership of three-

time prime minister Nawaz

Sharif', he said while talk-

ing to a private news chan-

Nawaz Sharif will return

from London and lead the

The Higher Education despite clear directions is-Commission (HEC) has sued by HEC.

In view of the foregoing, all public sector HEIs having the authority to grant affiliations are hereby instructed to immediately cease granting new affiliations to any college or institution as well as programmes, until the revised criteria are issued. However, the extension of affiliation for already affiliated programmes and colleges/institutions is permissible, provided that an HEC nominee is part of the Affiliation Committee for renewal. Furthermore, public equate infrastructure, fac- ector HEIs are required to

About the exact date

of the elections, he said, it

was the duty of the Elec-

tion Commission of Paki-

stan to announce a date for

general elections but we

called upon for ensuring free

and fair general elections in

the country and giving su-

premacy to the parliament,

to move the country for-

ward. Replying a question about PML-N leadership'

reshuffling, he said that

party senior leadership

would decide the matter af-

ter the arrival of former

Prime minister Nawaz

Sharif, adding, it is part of

The minister further

want early elections.

'Timely elections

need of hour ': Rana

advertisements related to granting affiliations that have been published in print and social media.

Failure to comply with these directions will result in the non-recognition and non-attestation of degrees issued by the non-compliant HEIs, and HEC will be compelled to initiate appropriate actions in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The move follows HEC's authority under Ordinance No. LIII of 2002 (Amendment Act No. XXI of 2021 and Second Amendment Act No. XXII of 2022), Section 10-1(a).

Death anniversary of folk singer Alam Lohar

observed ISLAMABAD (INP): The death anniversary of re-nowned Punjabi folk singer Alam Lohar was observed.

He was born in 1928 in the village of Achh in the district Gujarat of Punjab He developed a new style of singing with "Chimta".

Alam Lohar was famous for his rendition of "Heer Waris Shah" along with other songs such as "Saif-ul-Malook" and "Jugni". He was awarded Pride of Performance in 1979 by the government of



ISLAMABAD: Motorists are on their way at Murree Road during heavy rain fall of Pre-monsoon spell in Federal Capital.

Scenic areas of KPK attract over 3 lakh 58 thousand tourists on Eid

influx of local and foreign tourists increased in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) during the three days of Eid-ul-Azha, wherein over 3,58000 tourists visited various destinations, where tourists were attracted by the natural beauty, cultural diversity and historical heritage of

various sites. The district administration had made tremendous efforts to provide facilities to the tourists at the hill stations in Lower Dir, Swat, Kalam, Saiful Kumrat, Malook, Abbottabad, Kaghan Naran and Malam Jabba, said a report aired by a private

news channel. All hotels and restaurants besides private inns were still witnessing jampacked with tourists, said a local citizen.

The influx of tourists have made a very positive effect on the rural economy and it is very encouraging to see our efforts yield re-

ISLAMABAD (APP): The sults, said an official of the Tourism Corporation Pakhtunkhwa (TČKP).

He also urged tourists to follow the guidelines of tourism through social media channels to ensure safe travel before leaving for tourist attractions and to ensure responsible tourism. Long queues of cars,

vans, and buses were being witnessed making their way to the region's favourite tourist spot, adding a festive vibe to the town's atmosphere, said a The local people have

also vacated extra rooms in their houses for tourists to earn profits these days, said another visitor. While enjoying na-

tional and cultural songs youngsters along with their family members were seen busy in hammering and fixing tents' in KPK forests to enjoy a pleasant change in the weather during these holidays, said a district administration official.

added that ongoing summer vacations of kids were another factor which saw a rush of domestic tourists head to these scenic valleys

Upper Dir is a most beautiful district in Pakistan's North Western region in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, said a foreign tourist, adding, it is comfortably nestled in the foothills of the Himalayas.

The district mainly consists of most of the Pashtoon population that speaks the Pashto language. The people of Dir are amiable and hospitable, he mentioned.

Upper Dir enjoys a very moderate temperature throughout the year. This makes this beautiful district an attractive location for travellers, said a local tour-

Tourists also took a keen interest in the cable car to cross the Swat River, said a resident.



ISLAMABAD: Heavy machinery being used to expand lanes for smooth traffic on Islamabad Expressway.

New SOPs issued for Police Bureau of Investigation

Independent Report

Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, has issued new standard operating procedure (SOPs) for the recently established Police Bureau of Investigation, according to a police public relations officer.

The Islamabad Capital Police has undertaken a comprehensive restructuring of its investigation system to introduce innovation and improve efficiency in its operations.

ÍCCPO Dr. Akbar Police Bureau of Investigation will lead the way in implementing these transformative changes. To ensure smooth functioning of

arrests, public and judicial absconding, and crimes

against the law. The Divisional Investigation Unit (DIU) will handle crimes against minors and gender-based crimes, offenses against religion and public figures, crimes committed at holy places, financial offenses. and non-bailable crimes. An alternate resolution unit will also operate under its command.

Officers assigned to these units will possess specialized expertise in investigation matters and will Nasir Khan stated that the work directly from police stations. They will investigate and register crimes such as financial offenses and altercations with direct supervision from the SDPO the Investigation Bureau, a Circle, who will report to



standard operating procedure (SOP) has been issued.

As part of the investigation system revamp, three specialized investigation units have been established under the supervision of the SSP Operations. The Police Station Investigation Unit (PDIU) will handle local and special law the relevant DPO.

To facilitate efficient investigation processes, each police station will have a dedicated fleet of personnel and vehicles. Furthermore, legal support officers will be present in all DPO offices to assist with legal matters and maintain effective communication cases, including preventive between investigating officactions, traffic accidents, ers and the prosecution.

Ashrafi urges

World for urgent legislation to prevent rising incidents of Islamophobia

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council Allama Tahir Ashrafi Monday strongly condemned the despicable act" of the public burning of a copy of the Holy Quran in Sweden on the occasion of Eid ul Adha and urged the international

community for taking urgent measures tolegislate for the prevention of the rising incidents of

Islamophobia. Talking toa private tion of copies of the Quran". "Theact of blasphemy against the holy

said, adding, "Freedom of expression must be exercised in a responsible manner.'

"Misusing of freedom of expression for such behavior would just only incite extremism, he said, adding, there is a dire need to give an awareness among people in the world to control extremism"

He said respecting the Holy Quran is an integral part of every Muslim's faith, adding, news channel, he said such an incident is exthe world community should "take unified and the name of freedom of collective measures to expression." The Musprevent the recurrence lim world should preof incidents of desecra-vent the repetition of such anti-Islamic behavior and not let the perpetrators of hurting the book has tarnished reli- feelings of Muslims go gious tolerance," he unpunished, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Laborers are taking rest under the shadow of trees at Liagat Bagh during high temperature in City.

CDA to organises public awareness walk on environmental pollution

Capital Development Authority (CDA) is organizing a public awareness walk on Wednesday from 04 pm to 05 pm to reduce environmental pollution in the City. The Environment Wing of the Capital Development Authority, in that awareness walk to create regard, is commencing a series of plantations on the slopes of various highways, connecting roads, intersections, green belt and surrounding of Nullahs in the Islamabad city.

tails, the awareness campaign about ineffective and invasive or poisonous plants of different species will be launched in different areas of the city including Trail Five (5) Margalla Hills, National Park so that a useful, healthy and better environment could be provided to the citizens of Islamabad.

Furthermore, useful species of plants and trees would be planted for the promotion of a healthy atmosphere in order to reduce plants which are harmful to the health of human beings. In addition, a step-by-step eradication of the these trees and plants.

ISLAMABAD (APP): paper mulberry and its replacement with the local indigenous plants will be

carried on. The people from all walks of life, including people from private and public institutions, are invited to participate in this awareness among the public regarding the reduction of environmental pollution, increasing green areas and plantation of new plants and species in accordance with the safety of According to the de- human life. Also, the importance of a better environment can be highlighted in this awareness cam-

In addition to this special walk, information will be provided to the citizens regarding the utility of useful and human-friendly plants. Resultantly, valuable opinions, views and thoughts of the citizens will also be obtained. In light of these opinions, views and thoughts plants and trees more compatible with the local environment will be planted in Islamabad city so that evervone can benefit from