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India should benefit from CPEC, avoid creating hurdles: PM

Says CPEC's 10-year, transformed Pakistan's development landscape; Enemies of CPEC enemies of development, peace, prosperity in Pakistan, region

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, on the completion of 10 years of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Wednesday asked neighbouring India to take benefit of the mega project instead of creating obstacles

Highlighting the significance of project, he said Iran, Afghanistan, the Middle East and the whole region would also benefit

from it.
"CPEC is a beautiful plan to connect not only regions and areas but also people's hearts," he said in a statement issued by the PM Office.

vowed to double the pace green and trusted strategic of the development as it was not only for improv- between the two iron brothing roads, rail, sea ports ers. and air routes, but it would also help health, education and skill development areas, besides Jinping and PML-N Quaid masses' participation in the

Terming it a game ment for all". changer for the whole region, the prime minister tiative is the manifestation said CPEC would have a of Chinese President Xi's positive impacts on the vision of peace, friendship, people's living standards in and economic partner-

PM Shehbaz congratu-China on 10 years completion of CPEC, which was a the project, besides level-

RAWALPINDI: Advisor to President of Azerbaijan, Khalid Ahadov, along

with delegation in a meeting with Federal Minister for Defence Production,

President upholds penalties, enhances

fines upon sexual harassers

Sohail Afzal against the or-

man for Protection against

Harassment of Women at

Workplace (FOSPAH) im-

Muhammad Israr Tareen and officials of MoDP

ter the charges of blackmail- oneration of Sohail Abbas,

ing and sexually harassing a Deputy Director, and

ISLAMABAD (APP): Af-

penalty of "reduction to

lower post" imposed upon

Mian Sohail Afzal. Direc-

tor (Admin), for three

years and increased the fine

The prime minister new chapter of the ever- ling baseless allegations cooperative partnership

> He said the project was a tremendous example of great Chinese leader Xi Muhammad Sharif's vision of "develop-

"The Belt and Road ini-

ship."
He regretted that durlated the leadership and the ing the four years of previpeople of Pakistan and ous government, hurdles

against a great friend like

"The enemies of CPEC are against peace, development and prosperity in Pakistan and the region, as they do not want to eradicate poverty from the country," he added. CPEC, hesaid, also ini-

tiated a new era of mutual partnership between Pakistan and China, and fortified their bilateral relation-

PM Shehbaz said CPEC encompassed multiple projects ranging from provision of water to education, and technical and skilled-based train-



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Chargé d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad Ms. Pang Chunxue and Federal Ministers cutting a cake marking the 10th anniversary of the signing of the agreement for CPEC

Pakistan believes policy of peaceful co-existence: Israr RAWALPINDI (APP): A policy of peaceful co-exist-

high-level defence delegation of Azerbaijan, headed the President of Azerbaijan called on Minister for Defence Production, Muhammad Israr Tareen in his office at Rawalpindi.

The minister welcomed the delegation and appreciated the brotherly feelings of the Azerbaijan government for Pakistan on all international forums, including the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the United Nations.

He said that Pakistan was a peace-loving country, strictly believing in the tion.

He reiterated that by Khalid Ahadov, Advisor Pakistan's commitment to peace was evident through its major contribution to UN peace efforts in wartorn countries in different parts of the world.

The minister also expressed Pakistan's strong desire to broaden and strengthen its partnership with Azerbaijan in all fields.

Khalid Ahadov thanked the Pakistan government for the warm hospitality extended to the delegation at the helm of affairs. and for providing the opportunity to discuss various avenues of coopera-

Only Nawaz Shrif can resolve country's problems: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf's own people had exposed the Panama conspiracy.

Addressing a press conference here, she said that characters behind that conspiracy pushed the country towards multiple crises by imposing an incompetent and inefficient person

The minister said that the solution of Pakistan's probelms lied only with Nawaz Sharif who served thrice as Prime Minister. "During the Nawaz

Sharif era, the economy was stabilized, he gave the people a gift of China Pakistan Economic Corridor",

she said adding that great injustice was done to the person who had done great service to the country as prime minister.

Taking a jibe at Imran, she said the shadowy fig-

were burning the country today, stood on the container to stop the CPEC project in 2013-14.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said on that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Quaid Nawaz Sharif was disqualified under a conspiracy when "Panama verdict was changed to Iqama.

During the press conference, she played a video clip of senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader and legal wizard Hamid Khan who told a private TV channel that it appeared that the decision to disqualify Nawaz Sharif in Iqama case was done somewhere else.

CJP Bandial terms Greece boat tragedy a 'human rights issue'

ISLAMABAD (INP): crises compelled increassaid on Wednesday that the Pakistanis — was a matter of human rights.

He passed these remarks as a two-member bench, comprising the CJP and Justice Savved Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi, took up petitions pertaining to the trafficking of mi-

At least 600 migrants, out of possibly 750, on the fishing boat that set off from Libya towards European shores, perished when their vessel capsized in the Mediterranean Sea last month.

The passengers largely comprised Pakistanis, Afghans, Egyptians, Palestinians and Syrians migrating in the overloaded boat. It was a recurring tragedy with no end in sight as economic, political and climate asked

Three soldiers of Pakistan

'Shahadat", while three in-

nocent civilians got criti-

cally injured when a vehicle

borne suicide bomber ex-

ploded himself in general

area Miran Shah, North

Waziristan District on

Wednesday.

Mianwali),

embrac ed

Chief Justice of Pakistan
(CJP) Umar Ata Bandial
people to flee their homes. The tragedy of such

boat tragedy on Greek immense proportions was shores — which resulted in the deaths of nearly 300 believed to have taken place in the presence of maritime authorities. It was also believed that Pakistani nationals were forced to stay below the deck by the crew. which maltreated them during the journey.

Referring to the trag-edy during the hearing today, Justice Bandial noted that innocent and poor people were tricked into going abroad on the pretext of better jobs.

"Citizens are duped by human traffickers and pay millions of rupees. the top judge said, pointing out that even children and women were becoming victims of human smug-

Does the government have statistics on the number of children being smuggled," the CJP



LAHORE: Commuters are facing difficulties in transportation due to stagnant rainwater due to poor sewerage system caused by heavy downpour of monsoon season, at Queens road in Lahore.

Seven dead as record breaking rain wreaks havoc in Lahore

LAHORE (Online): At ments, saying that all posleast seven people were reported dead in Lahore as the provincial capital saw its heaviest rainfall in 30 years on Wednesday causing significant urban flooding and power outages

Taking note of the unfolding situation, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the Punjab government to take urgent measures and mobilise the rescue teams amidst heavy rains in the province.

The prime minister called for coordinated efforts by the district administration, Rescue 1122, Provincial Disaster Management Authority, and municipal and other depart-

sible measures should be taken to protect the citizens' lives, according to a PM Office statement. He instructed the Na-

tional Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and other federal departments to extend maximum support to the Punjab government if required.

PM Sheĥbaz said that the necessary steps should be taken to alert the citizens of any emergency situation, chalk out alternate traffic plans and make arrange-

ments for proper drainage. He also instructed authorities to take preventive measures in the wake of the

parts of the country, besides asking the NDMA and PDMAs to coordinate necessary arrangements.

The premier further stressed that all possible steps should be taken to relocate the people from villages to safe locations besides saving their cattle and livestock. Similarly, he said all necessary measures should be taken to prevent urban flooding. The prime minister also directed to mobilise the respective administrations of Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and other hilly areas, besides instruct-

ing to keep the PMO upmonsoon rains in other dated on all measures taken.

Another blow to PTI, two more leaders quit party

Former provincial minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) president from Tank district Habibullah

chapter in the country's history as monuments of martyrs were attacked by the

protesters

that security personnel of our armed forces rendered supreme sacrifices for de-

through its agitation and he did not wish to remain in the PTI. "Today I announce to quit party district president seat besides basic membership," he said. Kundi said his family was in active politics before the partition of sub-continent and he started his po-

litical career in 1985 and came to the parliament with the support of the people. Pervaiz Khattak approached them at PTI in 2018, he added. He also clarified that there was no pressure on him to quit the party. The future course of action would be decided after consulting workers, friends and elders of his ar-



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of Qatar in Pakistan Sheikh Saoud Abdurahman Al Thanicall on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

Ahsan express satisfaction with recent IMF package

Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday expressed satisfaction with the recent IMF package, which alleviated concerns of an immediate default

However, he emphasized that the deal should be considered as a temporary relief and merely a breather, rather than a lasting solution. During the "Beyond IMF Agreement: Challenges and Opportuni- investor confidence.

ISLAMABAD (APP): ties for Pakistan" Twitter space organized by the Planning Ministry, the minister conveyed his views to a global audience, said a press release issued here.

In June, Pakistan secured a \$3 billion short-term financial package from the IMF, in recognition of the consistent efforts of the current government, which took office in April 2022.

Minister Iqbal described this as a muchneeded respite that restored

FM Bilawal Bhutto arrives in US on private visit

NEW YORK (INP): After week where he will hold concluding his maiden Japan visit, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Wednesday reached USA on a private visit, sources said on

Wednesday. Sources privy to the matter said that the foreign minister will stay in the USA for a period of one

important conferences being arranged by the US think tank.

The foreign office is also making efforts to arrange between FM Bilawal Bhutto and US diplomatic officials, say

The foreign minister is visiting USA on a special invitation from US think

He also upheld the ex- (MEPCO) had filed a complaint before FOSPAH against four employees female employee at Jamshed Ahmed Niazi, Di-MEPCO were proven, Presi-dent Dr Arif Alvi has upheld or substance was available stating that they hacked her mobile data, made sexual demands, got published the penalty of "dismissal against them to prove them false news items against her, from service" imposed upon guilty of the charge beyond and demanded Rs 500,000 Khizer Hayat, Assistant Di- any shadow of a doubt. The from her to stop the series rector and enhanced the president gave these orders of news from its further amount of the fine from Rs while rejecting two repre- publication. In his decision, He also upheld the by Khizer Hayat and Mian good message had to be sent to society that we would enders of the Federal Ombudssure the protection of women against harassment so that our women feel safe in the working environment of the country and our families were confident that if women get harassed, the law of the land would take

> strong action. PM says Pakistan deeply values its ties

> with USA ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday extended warm greetings to US President Joe Biden and the American people on their Independence Day. "Pakistan has always deeply valued its relationship with the United States," the prime minister said in a tweet.

He said over the past 75 years, the bilateral ties had continued to expand and deepen. He said the US was one of Pakistan's major trading, defence and

economic partners. 'The governments in Islamabad and Washington have demonstrated pragmatism and wisdom to keep the course of our relations steady, which speaks of the dynamism of our partnership", he added.

Bad news for electricity consumers across country

ISLAMABAD (Online): There is bad news for electricity consumers across country. Increase in the cost of electricity by RS 1.90 paisa per unit for government discos and Rs 1.44 paisa per unit for Karachi consumers has been approved. NEPRA has completed

hearing on applications of CPPA and K-electric

The detailed decision will be issued later. A separate hearing was held under the chairman NEPRA Tauseef H.Farooqui on the requests to increase in the monthly fuel price adjustment for the month of May.

RAWALPINDI (APP): Ismail Khan) and Sepoy Jehangir Khan (age 24 years, resident of Mardan) embraced shahadat. The suicide bomber intended targeting the security forces' post, however, timely in terception of the suicide bomber on suspicion by on-duty soldiers prevented a major catastrophe.

According to an Inter Security forces of Pa-Services Public Relations kistan are determined to (ISPR) press release issued eliminate the menace of terhere, Subedar Sahib Khan rorism and such sacrifices (age 41 years, resident of of our brave soldiers fur-Naik ther strengthen our re-Muhammad Ibrahim (age solve, the ISPR press release added.



Three soldiers embrace

martyrdom in suicide

blast in North Waziristan

BAKU: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resources Development, Sajid Hussain Turi meets with Chairman of Azerbaijan's State Tourism Agency, Fuad Naghiyev.

Alvi appoints Justice (Retd) Roohul Amin as FST chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP) President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday appointed Justice (Retd) Roohul Amin Khan as Chairman of the Federal Service Tribunal

The president appointed Justice (Retd) Roohul Amin as the FST chairman for a non-extendable term of three years.

Earlier, he had served as the judge of Peshawar High Court.

The president made the appointment under Section 3(IV) of the Service Tribuna Act

ISLAMABAD (INP): rable damage to the country

Kundi along with Irfan Kundi expressing strong reservations over May 9 mayhem announced to quit the party. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Wednesday, he said that May 9 was the darkest

Habibullah Kundi said

fence of the country.
He said PTI did irrepaere eas, he added.

Daily soice of Masse. Independent

Thursday July 06, 2023

Flash in the pan?

The sceptics may have their doubts about a 'miracle turnaround' in Pakistan's fortunes after the government grabbed a last-minute stand-by loan from the IMF, but the markets have been quick this week to composition of the forthcash in on the euphoria.

The dollar fell sharply once trading resumed after the holidays, collapsing like a punctured balloon; stock market activity heated up like it had not in years, with speculative investors eager to get their hands on whatever they could; gold prices registered a sharp decline; and fresh inflation readings — although unrelated to the IMF deal announcement — indicated that the pressures that had built up within the economy might finally be showing signs of easing. Had Pakistan really stumbled back onto the path to prosperity over the course of a long weekend thanks to just one loan deal? That's what the government, at least, would have us believe.

Experts and analysts, on the other hand, are still warning of the underlying risks imperilling Pakistan's economic prosperity. Global credit ratings agencies Moody's and Fitch on Monday reminded the world that Islamabad still needs to pay back \$25bn to creditors this fiscal year — a sum which is more than seven times what it officially has in its pocket at the moment and much more than the \$3bn the IMF has grudgingly agreed to lend it over the course of the next nine months (which remains subject to approval by its board as well as Islamabad meeting the stringent conditions that will likely be laid out before it as a prerequisite for loan disbursements).

The same day, data released by the Bureau of Statistics showed that exports had dropped 19pc in the month of June compared to the previous year, marking the 10th straight month of a drop in export proceeds. The trend, if it persists, will only worsen difficulties in financing the or the crisis can be grasped by glancing at some stagcurrent account.

Therefore, the question: are we celebrating too early? The smart money seems to think so. While the 'positive trigger' from the IMF deal has been ters displace an average of welcomed by the stock and foreign exchange markets, the tinues, there would be at high spirits will not last.

Both forex and stock analysts have warned that what we are seeing is a temporary bonanza, not a turnaround in their respective markets' fortunes. There is now a broad consensus that till the fundamentals are fixed — ie, till Pakistan embarks on a structured plan to reform the economy and fix its underlying imbalances — nobody can breathe easy.

And how long must we remain in this purgatory? With banyan trees as 'protected barytons' in partners his an election coming up, the most painful measures will likely be put off for another few months for the new government to inherit. It is a shame legal framework. that, with so much at stake, we are still not sure of what tered, and preserved. And comes next.

Dynastic rule and democracy



Zahid Hussain

The meeting between the chiefs and scions of the two most powerful political dynasties in Dubai last week, where a consensus was reportedly reached on the coming caretaker set-up as well as the future coalition, provides a glimpse into Pakistan's family-dominated power politics. Nawaz Sharif and Asif Zardari virtually carved out the post-election power

With the dismantling of the PTI underway, the road is now deemed to have been cleared for the elections, though there is still no understanding on the time

The Dubai rendezvous was certainly not meant for signing a new charter of democracy: the main objective seems to have been to chart

a strategy to consolidate the thrones? existing power structure dominated by the two dy-

It is a sad commentary on our so-called democratic system. There is hardly any other example of political leaders of a democracy meeting in a third country to discuss critical political issues instead of deliberating these at home and in parliament. This happens when political parties are reduced to family enterprises Elected democratic forums become irrelevant when politics becomes a family affair. It's all in the family.

What is most disturbing is the reported agreement between the two families' bigwigs on the composition of the interim administration. It is contrary to the constitutional provision which says that the caretaker administration should be neutral and be named with consultation between the leader of the house and leader of the opposition. It may be true that the

current leader of the opposition in a truncated National Assembly has hardly any credibility, but still one has to go by the book. But who cares about the Con-

also raises question about the fairness of the coming election with a handpicked interim set-up of doubtful neutrality. It is almost a repeat of the situation of the Punjab caretaker government, which is virtually being run by the PML-N-led coalition in Islamabad.

Meanwhile, the ongoing political engineering has tainted the entire election process. It is tantamount to pre-poll rigging, which we have seen many times in the past. The PTI's disintegration in the face of state oppression and the formation of a new king's party backed by the security establishment has made a mockery of the whole democratic process

Indeed, this much is not new in Pakistan's troubled political journey. But the severity of the repression is rare. Hundreds of PTI workers are languishing in iails and facing terrorism charges. Some of them will be tried by military courts.

involved in attacks on military installations must be nunished but the indiscriminate crackdown has rein- his conviction by the Sustitution in this game of forced the view that it is part preme Court, has paved the

nes? of the plan to keep the PTI out of the election process or at least weaken it so that it does not present any serious challenge to the PML-N in Punjab, which has become the major battleground

There is certainly a newfound confidence in the ruling alliance with the dismantling of the PTI, but in a fair and free election the party, with its mass support base remaining intact, could give the PML-N a run for its money

What is most interesting is former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's having taken full command of the PML. N. He may have been guiding the coalition government and his party from his home in London since the installation of the PDM set-up, but his meeting with the PPP leaders in Dubai has left no room for ambiguity about his ambition to become prime minister for the fourth time. The recent statement from senior PML-N leaders has reinforced speculations.

The passage of two Surely those who were new bills by parliament, reducing his disqualification to five years and allowing him the right to appeal against way for his return to the it looked improbable that country to lead his party's election campaign. Last week's meeting with the PPP chieftain seems to be part of the plan for him to return home in the next few

Meanwhile, Nawaz Sharif is now visiting Saudi Arabia, where he went recently. He plans to meet the top Saudi leaders. These visits have assumed greater significance for his plan to bid for the top office for a fourth term.

In a recent statement, he was quoted as saying that his first priority would be to contain the spiralling inflation at home if he returned to power. Some observers believe that it is not power but his wish to be vindicated which is the main reason for his endeavour.

He is perhaps waiting for the court to drop his conviction before returning. The return of the three-time former prime minister would give an interesting to Pakistan's twist chequered political history. He was removed each time halfway through his term. There is still a long way to go before he can get the coveted post for the fourth term Until a few weeks ago,

general elections would be held before the end of this vear, with the country facing the prospect of an eco-nomic meltdown and defaulting on its external debt repayment. But with the IMF deal coming through the country has been given some much-needed breathing space. The development has drastically changed the political landscape. It is the right moment for the ruling coalition to agree to elec-

The date for the polls would depend on whether the ruling coalition dissolves the National Assembly a few days before the end of its term on Aug 13 or wait until then. In either case. polls cannot go beyond mid-November. There seems to be no possibility of prolonging the term of the caretaker

It is certainly a good idea not to postpone the general elections. There are no two views that elections are the only way out of the present political turmoil. Any pre-poll rigging and manipulation that is attempted to change the outcome will be disastrous for national stability -- Cour-

be worried about? hat should VCs



Dr Ayesha Razzaque

Today's university vicechancellors (VCs) are facing a number of challenges. The number one challenge by far that universities are grappling with, particularly after the presentation of the 2023-24 federal budget and subsequent tweaks, is financial sustainability and

Financial sustainability of universities has always been a challenge but the cost of an education mained within the reach of many Pakistanis. However, lately the contribution of public funds per institution has been drying up. Meanwhile, parliamentarians continue to lobby for the establishment of new universities in the remotest tehsils without consideration to whether

universities. Factor in the rate of inflation over the last few years, and the funding picture for public higher education institutions (HEIs) has turned dire.

Education provided by public HEIs remains heavily subsidized. In 2022-23, public funds subsidized the cost of education at a prestigious public university in Islamabad by approximately 50 per cent. When that funding dries up, universities will have to make up the shortfall immediately, and the quickest and easiest way is by raising tuition fees. Thus, a version the higher-ed affordability crisis that has been plaguing North America for the last two decades (tuition rates

has come for us in Pakistan. While accurate figures for annual budget shortfalls of universities are hard to come by, conversations with some VCs put those numbers at around Rs1 billion for large, Rs500 million for medium, and Rs200 million for new/small universities.

doubled from 2000 to 2019)

Even against this back-

Public funds are no average per-student cost is, longer keeping up with the much less the per-student growth in the number of cost broken down by departments and programs, and with it, unaware of which programmes/departments are the greatest contributors to expenses.

Once middle-class families were able to cover the cost of public higher education from their running family budget. However, the recent ballooning cost means those same families will have to plan ahead and start saving for their children's higher education long before they graduate high school.

affordability crisis has disproportionately affected students from low-income backgrounds, thus limiting opportunities and perpetuating socio-economic inequality. Those who have the option are forced to take on substantial debt or are deterred from pursuing higher education altogether. All this makes access to higher education a pressing concern, threatening principles of equal opportunity and social mobility central to the mission of public uni-

Many universities up drop, most VCs today re- and down the country are investments that generate main unaware of what their already unable to meet their profits that can be de-

payroll and pension obligations to staff and retirees. Quaid-e-Azam University is reportedly 1-2 years behind paying visiting faculty. Its Management Sciences department alone relies on visiting faculty to deliver about 100 courses every semester. In this environment of simultaneously rising costs and shrinking public support, VCs' highest priority is (or ought to be) finding sustainable solutions ensure both affordability and educational quality, an ongoing

and complex task. So far, those efforts college have remained confined to appealing for public funds at the federal and provincial levels and raising tuition fees — but this will no longer suffice. Given that there is nothing new under the sun, let us once again look at common approaches taken by universities elsewhere in the world when faced with similar pres-

In the long term, following in the footsteps of their peers abroad, universities need to develop their own endowment funds managed by professionals — diversified portfolios of

ployed to meet operating expenses and subsidize education for those who have a need in the form of scholarships and financial

For example, according to 2021 figures, at \$53 billion, Harvard University maintains the largest endowment of all US universities, followed by Yale (\$43 billion), Stanford (\$38 billion), and Princeton (\$37 billion). The average of the 10 largest endowment funds is \$28 billion. My own alma mater, a public university, maintains an endowment of \$4 billion, the 12th largest of public universities in North America, and publishes its performance (https://givingto.msu.edu endowments/ performance.cfm) for all to see. The earned returns allow universities to ride out rough periods in the economy. Unfortunately, very few universities in

tablishing one. University endowments are fueled in large part by alumni donations in addition to reinvested re-

Pakistan today have en-

dowments (IBA went as

far as sharing the size of

its endowment fund: Rs 2.2 billion) or are mov-

ing in the direction of es-

turns, grants, and philanthropic donations. The first is requisite on having an alumni network, tracking and maintaining connections, and that alumni had a positive student experience that motivates them to stay connected with their alma mater. All of that requires a dedicated student and alumni affairs office.

Attracting and soliciting philanthropic donations is an important and almost routine task of university presidents and heads of constituent schools and colleges. Some VCs consider it beneath their dignity to fundraise in this manner, but the fact is that the ability to fundraise is an important consideration when universities fill leadership positions.

In the medium term, universities are simultaneously trying to create new lines of revenue while meeting the demand for education outside of traditional multi-year residential degree programs. Micro-credentials and MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) are one avenue universities have been exploring since the arrival of MOOC providers like Coursera, edX, and others like them. -- Courtesv

Banyan tree's future

preservation plan.

foliage of the city and re-

placing it with concrete pav-

ers and trees that are merely

palms, which are meant to

be a part of the Dubai-

esque development that the

authorities aspire to, the

conocarpus, and aggres-

sively grown green barriers

meant to conceal informal

settlements or a non-pic-

turesque view in the vicin-

ity of a new development.

age is mostly found in old

neighbourhoods of the city,

where generations of

mohalla dari have taken

ownership through care

management, and where

self-elected neighbourhood

associations have nurtured

these large natural markers.

But it's unfortunate to see

how much neighbourhoods

like PECHS, PIB Colony,

Tariq Road, Garden East

and West, KDA Scheme

No 1 and Soldier Bazaar

have suffered at the hands

of low-grade developers

and the corrupt govern-

ment organisational man-

frastructure and constant

expansion and develop-

ment have resulted in un-

equally distributed plan-

ning powers. A very large

Karachi's fractured in-

agement.

Natural heritage foli-

The latter include date

beautifying elements.



Marvi Mazhar

Environmental displacement can hardly be quantified; however, the severity of the crisis can be grasped gering statistical figures.

For instance, according to the Ecological Threat Register, a 2020 report published by the Institute for Economics and Peace, a Sydney-based international think tank, ecological disas-24 million people per year, and if the current rate conleast 1.2 billion people displaced globally by the end of 2050

Karachi's natural heritage ranges from shorelines, backwaters, rivers and nullahs, to old gardens, parks, private lawns, migratory birds' routes, and, most importantly, the historical trees indigenous to the city, which include the neem, peepal, keekar and especially the banyan tree for its sacred memories

These trees are located mostly in old neighbourhoods, which preserve the memories of this city. In 2019, along with other activists, the Natural Heritage Association of Karachi lobbied for the designation of the centuries-old heritage' in partnership with the local government. ad ministrator Murtaza Wahab declared the Old Clifton banyan trees and others in Karachi 'heritage protected' under a

Around 30 trees out of 64 were pruned, registhe rest of the mapped ban-yan trees of Old Clifton city—40.69 billion square feet (3.8bn square metres)

tinuously during 2000-— to be part of the next 2020, recording an average project — as a complete annual growth rate of 4.7 annexure; they were declared the 'Banyan Trees of per cent — an unmanageable scale. Old Clifton' on a signboard next to Do Talwar. The non-It is critical that we protect natural heritage preserved, neglected trees are still waiting for their even while expanding the

city, as we see some of Over the years, banthese trees being cut down yan trees have witnessed in order to construct buildmoments of transformation ings, or being neglected. This is leading to the deand resilience. In recent struction of the natural entimes, the regrowth and maintenance of these trees vironment and habitat. have lessened because of These developers, following unethical architec-Karachi's worsening air quality and the lack of govtural practices, have conernance in maintaining the tributed to a humanitarian natural heritage. But the crisis, where malpractice, main reason is the real eseasy turnkey projects, and tate boom, which has been industrial material for mass invasively uprooting the

construction have altered climatic conditions, resulting in high temperatures and heated corridors of circulation. This has made walking or waiting for public transport unbearable. The city provides an opportunity for co-learning, and making a difference through the collective power of advocacy and as-

sociation. Learning matters:

the process of learning from cities and within them is a fundamental right. We know the city from historical referencing, but as cities change because of daily interventions and use, learnings transform and evolve. Learnings also have the potential to challenge and transform ways of knowing and looking at urbanism, a shift from inherited knowledge which is taken

for granted. It is absolutely critical to explore the material understanding of construction as well as include the existing natural landscape within the urban infrastructure to celebrate the inherited ecology and combat heat islands through a constant care management plan.

Today, we desperately need new methods for imagining the relationship city — 40.69 billion square between human and nature. -- Courtesy Dawn

France in flames



Mahir Ali

Almost 80 years ago, after the tide had turned against Germany in World War II, the dictator in Berlin wanted the Nazi-occupied capital of France to be destroyed before it fell to the Allies. Hitler reputedly asked his gener-

als, "Is Paris burning?" It wasn't in 1944, but Paris has frequently been seared by flames, metaphorically or otherwise, in the ensuing decades. It is an intriguing coincidence that the epicentre of the latest bout of mass rioting was also the cradle of the student revolt that, in 1968, rocked the foundations of the Fifth Republic just a decade after it had been founded by Charles de Gaulle.

Back then, de Gaulle actually fled to West Germany, driven by the fear that the uprising, in which the working class eventually joined the students, might actually succeed. Emmanuel Macron, 55 years later, cancelled a visit to Germany after last week's protests spread across France, even reaching the remaining French colonies in the Caribbean and beyond. Macron was quick to

describe last week's murder of 17-year-old Nahel Merzouk by Parisian traffic police as "inexplicable and inexcusable". Macron was only half right, though. The killing was undoubtedly inexcusable, and the police officer who pulled the trigger faces the charge of voluntary homicide". But it certainly wasn't inexplicable. Since 2017, police officers have been authorised to use lethal violence at traf-

fic stops. The death toll last

year was 13. The victims a decade. The murder of were mainly of North Afri-Macron and his aco-

lytes are keen to emphasise that Nahel's misfortune lay in being confronted by a 'bad apple', and that systemic racism in the police force is not an issue. That's similar to the authorities' response in countries like the UK and US, where instances of racial targeting often tend to be treated as individual excesses. What has occurred in cities across France over the past week has been described as the equivalent of the 'George Floyd moment' that reinvigorated the Black Lives Matter movement in America and found its ech-

oes across the West. The parallel is not absurd. The rage in both the US and France was not sudden, but cumulative. The difference, perhaps, lies in the fact that France does not officially recognise differences of race, ethnicity or religion. That sounds wonderful — and such a system would be ideal if it worked. It has long been obvious, though, that it doesn't.

One needn't go back to 1961, when a Paris police chief, eventually acknowledged as a former Nazi collaborator, supervised a massacre of peaceful Algerian demonstrators. It wasn't until 1998 that the French state admitted 40 deaths. Nobody appears to have counted the corpses dumped in the River Seine - up to 300, by some esti-

A great deal has changed since then, but much remains the same. The reprehensible Islamist terrorist attacks of 2015 are often cited as a reason for the subsequent reinforcement of racism — which is precisely what the perpetrators would have wished but the Seine-Saint-Denis electrocution of two teenagers being chased by police, and the consequent eruption of popular rage, preceded the atrocities in Bataclan and elsewhere by

Nahel was the reinforcement of a long-standing trend rather than an unusual occurrence.

The days of rage over the past week were, even in the context of this year, not so much an aberration as a return to business as usual for a segment of the public albeit to some extent a different section of the citizenry than the gilets-jaunes of vestervears and those militating more recently in response to the Macron regime's det-ermination to shift the retirement age un by two years, from 62 to

A reasonable case could possibly be made for that change, but within the neoliberal context it obviously comes across as vet another way of shafting the working class and enriching the bourgeoisie—a conflict that stretches back to the 1789 French Revolution. At the same time, the aspiration to liberty, equality, fraternity excludes all too many French citizens in the 21st century, and the concept of turning a blind eye to ethnicity, religion and skin colour has repeatedly been exposed as a farce.

And then there's the broader European context of a far-right resurgence a century after Hitler, accompanied by the fear that France could go the same way under someone like Marine Le Pen or Eric Zemmour after the next election. Some years ago, stay-

ing at a hotel in La Defense towards the north of Paris. we found ourselves in proximity to Nanterre. It deserved a stroll. And although it did not offer up the architectural or culinary delights common in

many arrondisements, the place and street names were charming, from Mandela. Picasso and Neruda to Gorky, redolent of the suburb's recent history as well as the wider world's shattered dreams. -- Cour-

Pak, US discuss ways to enhance economic cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): the finance minister. Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Ambassador of the United States of America to Pakistan, Donald Blome here on Wednesday exchanged views about areas of common interest and enhancing existing bilateral relations between the two countries.

According to a statement issued by the economic policies and finance ministry the priorities discussion was made during the call on the meeting of the US Ambassador with

and trade fronts.

He updated the staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) from stability to growth.

Dar appreciated the The finance minister support and cooperation appreciated the deep- of the US and reiterated the rooted historic and durable desire of the government to bilateral relations with the further deepen bilateral United States on economic economic and trade ties with the US.

On the occasion, Ambassador about Donald Blome expressed successfully reaching the confidence in the policies and programmes of the government for bringing economic sustainability to communicated about the the country. He also extended his support to of the further promote bilateral government in order to set the economy on the path trade relations between the two countries

Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

the Food Security &

of both provinces.

at the launching event.

Independent Report KARACHI: Fly Jinnah,

Pakistan's new low-cost

carrier (LCC), has collaborated with HUM

TV to provide content for

allows passengers to

stream a wide selection of

entertainment directly to

their devices and right after

takeoff. By collaborating with HUM TV, Fly Jinnah

customers can now enjoy

a wider selection of content

that includes HUM TV

leading dramas, Telefilms, Award Shows and celebrity

Jinnah connects five major

cities of Pakistan including

Chairman of National

Business Group Pakistan,

Intellectuals Forum, and

All Karachi Industrial

Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian

Zahid Hussain stressing

the need to adopt culture

of savings has said that lack

of savings prevent investments and opened

here on Wednesday, he said

government's efforts to

develop the economy

resulted in a payment crisis

and this will happen again

entirely on imports rather

than exports, always

leading to an unsustainable

current account deficit, he

Our growth depends

In a statement is sued

Pakistan

and

President

Businessmen

doors of loans.

that the

in the future.

At present, Flv



KARACHI: GCBSO, PTCL and Ufone 4G, Zarrar Hasham Khan, Group Chief ITGand CTO of NBP, Amin Manji, GCTO PTCL and Ufone 4G Jaffar Khalid, EVP of NBP Noman Muzaffar and others senior officials in a group photo during the signing ceremony of provision of primary Data Center Colocation Service, held at PTCL's Tier-III Data Center to support NBP's digital transformation, in Karachi.

Besides,

country.

tons, whereas seed

The wheat seed

Training workshops for cotton growers organized

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of National Food Security and Research in collaboration with Central Cotton Research Institute Multan organized pesticide management workshops for cotton growers in order to avoid their harmful impact on human health and the

Meanwhile, about 25 master trainers were also trained for further disseminating training to growers on innovative crop techniques, fertilizers and pesticide management to enhance the revealed that total cotton per-acre output of cotton during the current season, said an official.

Talking to APP he said availability was registered that over 100 farmers from at 25,986 metric tons. different crop-producing areas were also trained on the latest production at 511,378 metric tons 2023 as per NEPRA's technology, which was before the processing stage, out of which companies Rs 1.45/kWh (an impact of acre cotton output to processed 462,048 metric enhance local production of



FAISALABAD: An Iron smith are busy in their work at shop at Dajkot Road in City.

LCCI invites political parties to discuss charter of economy

LAHORE (APP): Lahore transitioning towards Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) has taken a proactive step in addressing Pakistan's economic challenges by sending invitations to the heads of all political Economy, which serves as parties. The invitation, sent in the form of a letter, requesting their presence at the LCCI to participate in comprehensive discussion on the crucial topic of the Charter of

Economy (CoE), according to LCCI spokesman here on Wednesday. In the letter, the LCCI President Kashif Anwar highlighted the daunting economic challenges facing

the nation and underscored

the need for consistency in

economic policies. LCCI firmly believes that a unified approach is imperative for dealing with these challenges and

Committee at Parliament House.

sustainable economic growth, said Kashif Anwar, adding that in order to address these concerns, LCCI has formulated a draft of the Charter of a guiding framework for economic governance. The aim of this charter is to establish a minimum agenda that all political parties can include in their respective manifestos. By doing so, it ensures a level consistency and continuity in economic policies, regardless of which party forms the government, he added.

President LCCI said the Charter of Economy is designed to create a working consensus among political parties on key economic issues. provides a set of guidelines for policy formation.

Power tariff for KE's consumers likely to increase Rs 1.45 per unit

ISLAMABAD (APP): The power tariff is likely to increase by Rs 1.45 per unit to the consumers of this major cash crop of the government was also working to ensure the Karachi Electric on account availability of certified of the monthly fuel cost seeds for different crops adjustment (FCA) for including cotton, wheat, May.
The hearing was presided by the NEPRA rice, maize and other major

and minor crops to enhance crop output to Authority comprising of achieve sustainable NEPRA, Chairman Taus eef H. Farooqi, Member (Technical), Engr. agriculture growth and social development in the Rafique Ahmad Shaikh, In this regard, the Member (Licensing), Engr. Maqsood Anwar Khan, Member (Technical & track and traceability of certified seed was launched Finance), Mathar Niaz Rana and Member (Law), and the traceability data seed requirements were Ms. Amina Ahmed. estimated at 41,048 metric

KE in its petition sought an FCA of Rs 1.495/kWh on account of FCA for the said period.

However, the net availability was recorded FCA for the month of May Rs. 2.6 billion approx.).

The Authority heard the petitioner and would decide the matter after due diligence and considering the comments of all stakeholders. The hearing was also

attended by a large number of representatives and senior officials of K-Electric, business community, journalists and the general public etc.

Shipping activity at

Port Qasim KARACHI (APP): Four ships namely, Maersk Chicago, Maersk Brooklyn, Huang Shan-16, Yankul Silver and N-Orhan carrying Containers, Palm oil and LPG, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Liquid Terminal and SSGC Terminal respectively on Tues day. Meanwhile three more ships, MSC Lisbon, Southern Anoa and Milha Raslaffan carrying Containers, Palm oil and LNG also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim during the last 24 hours.PQA berths engaged by eight ships during the last 24 hours, out of them, three ships, Maersk Chicago, Maersk Brooklyn and Al-Marrouna left the port on Wednesday morning and two more ships, Aruna Berk and Chemroad Hope are expected to sail on same day. A cargo volume of 116,444 tonnes comprising 90,604 tonnes imports cargo and 25,840 tonnes export cargo including containerized cargo carried

Agriculture Centre of Excellency (FACE) in Rahim Yar Khan. opportunities. During the ceremony, female lead farmers from the pilot site villages also received 10 tablets to use Two sites: one in Rahim Yar Khan and another in Sargodha, were the agriculture-related launched after a detailed applications on which they were already trained by assessment conducted in 7 districts of Punjab and FAO.A ribbon-cutting

education,

ISLAMABAD: Donald Blome, Ambassador of the United States of America

to Pakistan called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator

FAO Launches DVI Pilot:

Bridging the Technological

Divide in Rural Pakistan

Sindh with the support of ceremony at the Hyper Localized Weather Station the provincial governments pilot site was also organized along with a $Government\ of ficials,$ community leaders, researchers, male and briefing on the digital monitoring and forecasting function of the weather female farmers, the private sector, and other key stakeholders were present station. The stations were installed on both pilot sites along with the provision of

Islamabad, Peshawar, and

Quetta. The carrier

currently operates a fleet

of three modern Airbus

A320 aircraft. In addition

passengers through "SkyCafe" onboard menu

where passengers can enjoy a wide variety of

delicacies between snacks.

sandwiches, and meals at

book their flights by visiting Fly Jinnah's w e b s i t e (www.flyjinnah.com), by

calling the call center (021-3565096) or through travel

Mian Zahid Hussain

said that it is necessary to

foster a culture of exports

and savings in the country

to ensure development

without current account

growth on a sustainable

basis is impossible until

the current savings rate is

doubled. The savings rate

in Congo is 61.4 percent,

in Singapore it is 53.8

percent, in the United Arab

Emirates the savings rate is

47.8 percent, in China it is

almost 44.9 percent and in

India and Bangladesh it is

between 30 and 31 percent,

this rate is only twelve

percent which is rapidly

decreasing due to current

unemployment, he said.

However, in Pakistan

he informed.

inflation

He said that GDP

Customers can now

affordable prices.

agencies.

Business leader stresses need

to adopt culture of savings

Says lack of savings prevents

investment, opens door for loans

Fly Jinnah's SkyTime

will now feature

content from HUM TV

its inflight entertainment to extra comfort provided

All Fly Jinnah aircraft are equipped with "SkyTime", a free in-flight streaming service that all Fly Jinnah aircraft pitch of any economy cabin, the carrier offers customized and affordable travel experiences to its

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with the Government of Punjab, launched a Digital Village Initiative (DVI) pilot site, in a ceremony organized at the Food 100 Digital Village Initiative and the Pacific to bridge the technological divide and empower rural communities with access the Food 100 Digital Village Initiate in Asia and training of farmers. The stations will provide customised weather advisory, forecast pest & disease. 10 kilometres range from its vicinity. Both weather station facilities are also equipped to arrange online trainings for farmers on the latest innovations in agriculture.Male and female farmers of selected pilot sites received training on different features of the weather station. Through these stations, farmers will be able to get customized and specific information to their farmland, accurate data and information which will help them in reducing costs related to inputs and taking measures for crop protection.

Sohail Barlas elected as SIAL chairman

SIALKOT (APP): A leading Sialkot based exporter Sohail Barlas was elected unopposed as chairman of Sialkot International Airport Limited (SIAL), while Mian Daud Sair was elected unopposed as vice chairman for the year

2023-24. chairman SIAL pledged to make all out sincere efforts to make the SIAL as a model airport of Pakistan, says a news release is sued here on Wednesday. He said that SIAL had been a hallmark of the sincerity, dedication, enthusiasm and unity of Sialkot exporters, international airport by setting a unique example of self help. The new leadership aims to bring fresh perspectives and drive further growth and development at the airport.

Under their guidance, the airport is expected to enhance its operations, infrastructure, passenger services, he said

Sharmila calls for introducing reforms in taxation system

Pakistan Peoples Party's Sindh MPA, Sharmila Farooqui Wednesday called for bringing big fishes into the tax net and for introducing reforms in the conomy and growth. for bringing big fishes into taxation system to achieve durable economic progress.

"Pakistan's survival s linked to tax collection as no nation that relies on loans can maintain its pride," she said while talking to PTV news channel.

She appreciated that the PDM-led government was making hectic efforts to revive the economy, adding, the signing of a staff-level agreement with IMF was a great success of government policy and

She said political stability and the end of were the need of hour,

ISLAMABAD (APP): adding, Pakistan had to take some tough economic decisions to comply with the conditions of IMF, but

Under the IMF programme, the record stock exchange, decrease rate of the dollar and down gold rates were witnessed in the market which bring further financial discipline to the economy.

Sharmila Farooqui said that the IMF programme would now open financing of multilateral financial institutions as well as from bilateral creditors.

Replying to a question, she urged that we need to work positively for the welfare of the state instead of politics and we polarization in the country need to control expenditure



QUETTA: Road side vendor puts dates on display to attract the customer.

Directs flights needed to commence at once for economic revival: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that Pakistan is lagging far behind the world in the regions have accelerated race of development, which is mainly due to the lack of connectivity at the regional and international level. In a statement on

Wednesday, he said, "Pakistan needs to be connected to the region through rail, road and direct air links. PIA has failed to connect Pakistan to the world, the government should announce a fasttrac k program without wasting more money and capital. commercial level. Work is required on an emergency basis to start direct flights.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that Pakistan has lagged far behind in the race of development at which the world is moving forward. In today's world, no country can develop alone, protected through blocs regional connectivity.

and regions and this is the main source of economic development. Regions like the European Union and ASEAN are great examples in this regard. These economic growth by improving connectivity through rail, direct air links and road. He said that Pakistan

is an important member of several regional and international groups including SAARC, D-8, ECO, SCO, and OIC. Due to the lack of railway, road and direct air links of Pakistan with all these privatization countries, despite political activity, Pakistan has not been able to benefit from Despite its effective these groups at the presence in various commercial level. He said regional and international that in order to advance the blocs, Pakistan has not yet current debt-ridden economy of Pakistan, th series of direct flights with different countries of the world should be carried forward rapidly. Recently, Ethiopia has started a series of direct flights Similarly, Kazakhstan, an important country in Central Asia, is also starting direct flights from July 8. This is important but now interests can be news for Pakistan's



shedding of Gas, Electricity and Water at Liyari, in Provincial Capital.

Gold prices up by Rs.1,000

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 1,000 and was sold at Rs.206,000 on Wednesday against its sale at Rs.205,000 the previous

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.858 to Rs.176,612 from Rs. 175,754 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went up to Rs.161,894 from Rs. 161,108, All Sindh Jewellers Sarafa

Association reported. The price of per tola silver decreased by Rs.20 to Rs.2480 whereas that of ten gram silver dipped by Rs.17.14 to Rs.2,126.20.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$1 to \$1928 from \$1929, the association reported

Services' trade deficit narrows by 88 percent

The services' trade deficit shrank by 88.26 percent during the first eleven months of the fiscal year 2022-23 as compared to the corresponding period of previous year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics has reported.

The services trade deficit was recorded at \$607.67 million during July-May (2022-23) against the deficit of \$5,175.24 million during (2021-22).

The exports of services during the period increased by 3.38 percent by going up from \$6,438.33 million in 2021-22 to \$6,655.82 million in the first eleven months of FY2022-23, according to

PBS data. On the other hand, the imports declined from 2023, PBS reported.

ISLAMABAD (APP): \$11,613.57 million to \$7,263.49 million in FY2023, showing negative growth of 37.46 percent.

Meanwhile, on yearon-year basis, the export of services increased by 19.77 percent by growing from 515.14 million in May 2022 to \$ 616.96 million in

s recorded at illion during (2022-23)
e deficit of million
July-May

May 2023.
However, services imports into the country decreased by 11.84
percent, from \$977.85
million to \$862.11 million.
On month-on-month

basis, the export of services increased by 19.78 percent in May 2023 when compared to the imports of 515.08 million in April

The imports of services also grew by 31.60 percent in May 2023 compared to imports of \$655.10 million in April



ISLAMABAD: Senator Zeeshan Khanzada, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Commerce presiding over a meeting of the

Ahsan Iqbal to attend 12th JCC to mark 10-year celebrations of CPEC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal to attend a special commemorative 12th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) to mark the 10-year celebrations of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

The minister is set to embark on a four-day official visit to China from July 8 to attend a special commemorative 12th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) to be held on July 11 to mark the 10-year celebrations of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), said a press release issued here on Wednesday. The CPEC enters a significant milestone as it celebrates a decade of remarkable achievements in fostering economic growth, and regional connectivity.

Under the 10-year celebrations, several events are being conducted by the CPEC Secretariat in colning Ministry which includes international Consions, cultural shows and others across the country.

progress over the special 12th JCC to be held on July

The meeting was attended by Secretary Min-istry of Planning and De-

velopment Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Chief Economist of Pakistan, who is also the Executive Director of the infrastructure development CPEC, Dr Nadeem Javaid and representatives from all the relevant ministries and

divisions were also present.

The upcoming visit of

the planning minister will laboration with the Plan- underscore the importance of Pakistan and China's relationship and their comferences, academic ses- mitment to further strengthening their strategic partnership. During the visit, Planning Minister the minister will hold meet-Ahsan Iqbal reviewed ings with key Chinese officials which include China's National Development and Reform Commission NDRC and others. the 10th

year celebration. It is noted that since

the government came into power in April last year, CPEC has been revived which remained halted by the previous government. Several projects of

power, infrastructure, water and others have been completed in Gwadar which are ready for the groundbreaking.
While chairing the

meeting to review progress over the special 12th JCC, the planning minister directed the relevant stakeholders to finalize the arrangements for the event.

The minister also asked the relevant ministries to share their pending issues so that they can be taken with Chinese authorities during the visit



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Human Rights Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada cutting the cake along with the Ambassador of Republic of Belarus to Pakistan Andrei Metelitsa and others on the occasion of the celebrations of the Independence Day of Republic of Belarus, at Serena Hotel on in Federal Capital.

ISLAMABAD: Mir Shai Mazar Baloch, Director General (COORD/PDU), Senate attending the meeting between Senate Parliamentary Development Unit (PDU) and the team of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), at Parliament House.

Relations with Pak span centuries: Envoy

ICCPO says:

Enquiry ordered, Incharge

of 3 police stations removed

over poor performance

moved Incharges of three were strongly reprimanded,

ISLAMABAD (Online): While expressing his views at the opening ceremony of Supreme Court Bar Room, Ambassador of Turkiye Dr Mehmat Pecaci has said that Pakistan and Turkiye relations span centuries.

Both countries stand together in every difficult

Turkish Ambassador has said that they are having relations with Pakistan even earlier than 16th cen-

In the devastating earthquake of 2005, people of Turkey stood with the people of Pakistan.

Independent Report

Islamabad Capital City Po-

lice Officer (ÎCCPO) Dr.

Akbar Nasir Khan has re-

police stations over poor

performance and ordered departmental enquiry

against them, a police pub-

ICCPO issued these or-

dered during a high level

meeting at Central Police

The meeting was attended by CPO Headquar-

ters Malik Awais Ahmed,

SSP Operations Malik

Jameel Zafar, AIG Operations Saud Khan, zonal

DPOs, SDPOs and

Incharge of all police sta-

Nasir Khan reviewed the

Office, today.

He said that the

lic relations officer said.

astating earthquake of February 6

When the earthquake occurred in Turkyie, a Turkish ship had reached Pakistan with aid to the flood victims in Karachi.

The very next day after the devastating earthquake, relief supplies arrived in Turkiye from Pa-

and Operation Agency has always been actively involved in welfare work in Pakistan

Kudos to Turkiye Coordination and Co-Operation Agency for renovat-Pakistan had also supported Turkiye in the dev-

performance of all divisions

thoroughly and emphasized

the significance of proac-

tive measures to prevent

crime. Those officers who

exhibited poor performance

ment to ensuring efficiency and effectiveness within the

senior officers will monitor

the investigation while all

investigation process will

be done under direct super-

vision of concerned Divi-

sional Police Officer adding

that law officer are posted

with all DPOs for effective

He directed that, all

police force.

Court summons Imran Khan in toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD (APP): A local court of Islamabad on Wednesday

toshakhana criminal case for hearing tomorrow and also served notice to Chairman Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) for appearance in personal capacity.

Additional District

and Session Judge Hamayun Dilawar would take up the case for hearing on Thursday. Previously, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) had directed the trial court to re-decide the maintainability of toshakhana case within

seven days after hearing

chairman PTI. Imran Khan had challenged the admissibility of the toshakhana case before the IHC which set aside the verdict of the trial court. The IHC bench had stated that the trial court had dis-missed the petition of former prime minister on weak grounds. The bench asked the lower court to

consider the petition of Imran Khan as pending. **IHC** issues written order regarding protective bail

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday issued written order regarding the 14-day protective bail of PTI's Chairman Imran Khan in a case pertaining killing of a lawyer in Quetta.

of Imran Khan

prosecution and conviction of the criminal. A division bench com-He said that targets prising Chief Justice Aamer have been set for all Farooq and Justice Miangul Incharge police stations after the establishment Hassan Aurangzeb issued The ICCPO Dr Akbar of Police Bureau of Investhe written order in the said

It said that the court had been told that there was risk of arrest of the petitioner in reaching the con-

cern court. It said that the court and accepted the protective bail of the petitioner against surety bonds worth Rs 50,000 and stopped the police from arresting him till

The court asked the ex-prime minister to aproach the relevant trial court during the given time eriod.

One person killed as speedy tractor-trolley

ISLAMABAD (APP): One person was killed while two people including a child, were injured after being hit by a trac-

According to police sources, a tragic accident occurred when a high-speed tractor-trolley hit a motorcycle at Khanpur Baga Sher on the outskirts of

As a result, one person was killed on the spot while two others sustained critical injuries. The deceased, identified as Ashiq Chandia, is said to be a resident of Khanpur Baga Sher.

The driver managed to escape from the

condemns Israeli attack on Palestinians in Jenin ISLAMABAD (Online): dark character of the Zi-

NA Speaker strongly

Speaker National Assembly (NA) Raja Pervez Ashraf has vehemently condemned the deadly airstrikes and raids carried out by Israeli occupation forces on a Palestinian refugee camp in Jenin. He also deplored that

the dispossession and displacement of Palestinians from their homes by the aggressive Israeli forces are unacceptable.

Speaker said that the recurring instances of unlawful raids and as sault on the innocent Palestinian men, women and children raises serious concerns on the international laws prohibiting such hate-fueled

The freedom of expression has also been tarnished by the Israeli violations exposed the added.

onist reign of Israel, Speaker remarked.

He stressed that the United Nations and the International Community as a whole should not only strongly condemn this blatant violation of human rights and rights of refugees, but also take all necessary actions to ensure the complete protection and provision of human rights of Palestinians.

The National Assemof Pakistan stands in complete solidarity with Palestinian brothers and sisters in these testing times and continue to extend unwavering support to them in their legitimate struggle to achieve the right to life, right to freedom, and most importantly right to forces and such blatant self-determination, he

PM pays tributes to Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed

ISLAMABAD (APP): to its martyrs and it will Prime Minister Shehbaz continue to pray for the el-Sharif on Wednesday paid tributes to Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaĥeed Nishani-Haider on his 24th martyrdom day.

He said the nation salutes to all the martyrs including Captain Kamal Sher Khan Shaheed.

The prime minister aid Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed was such a brave son of Pakistan whose courage, valour and bravery were confessed by the enemy itself.

Captain Karnal Sher Khan turned into a lion like his name and pounced on the enemy chasing it away from the borders of the motherland, he said in a statement issued by the PM office.

Captain Sher Khan paid his duty of safeguarding the country at 17000 feet height and sacrificed his life for the sake of the country.

PM Shehbaz said

The nation is indebted

Interns in Islamabad capital police call on Dr. Akbar

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Interns of Youth Internship Program

meeting. During the meeting, the interns informed the Islamabad Capital Police ICCPO Islamabad about their experiences of workmet with Islamabad Capi- ing in different divisions tal City Police Officer and branches

ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan said that the purpose of Islamabad Capital Police Youth Internship Program is to provide professional training to young



The interns gave their

(ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan at Safe City Islamabad, a police public relations officer said. He said that, the interns working in Safe City Islamabad, Training and Human Resource Wings participated in the nology.

suggestions to further improve the infrastructure of Police Training College, curriculum, maintain transparency and efficiency of police by using modern techstudents from different departments and to develop their skills as per aptitude so that these young people can work in every field of life in future. Such programs will also continue in future as well, he maintained.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has so far disbursed over Rs 51

billion among more than 5.7 million beneficiary women

Under Benazir Kafaalat, 9

million registered benefi-

ciary families are entitled to

quarterly installment of Rs

released over Rs 81 billion

to its partner banks, that

is, Bank Alfalah and Habib Bank Limited

(HBL) for disbursement

among the beneficiaries

through their retail distri-

bution network.

The BISP has already

9,000 per household.

The disbursement of

under Benazir Kafaalat.

SC allows PIA to make **BISP** disburses over Rs 51bln 205 new professional among appointments beneficiary women

lines (PIA) to make 205 new professional appointments while postponing the recruitment of 45 others.

recruitment of 45 others.

A two-member SC bench comprising Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan and Justice Ayesha A Malik heard the case filed by PIA seeking permission for 250 recruitments of pilots, cabin crew, IT specialists, finance and management of ficials.

In its verdict today, the apex court allowed the recruitment of pilots, cabin

crew and IT specialists.

During the course of proceedings, the court also directed the PIA's administration to make the recruitment process clear and

Justice Ijaz said that the quality of services of the PIA was not up to the mark. The new recruitments would burden the organisation by more than Rs 90 million annually, he added.

the fourth quarterly tranche of Benazir Kafaalat CEO PIA Air Vice for the Financial Year-2022-23 is continued after Marshal Muhammad Amir Hayat said that the national Eid-ul-Azha ho lidays through banks' retailers. airline's profit for the last six months was three billion rupees and flights were operating on profitable routes.

He said that the PIA

was starting flight operations on international and national routes Justice Ijaz said that

the flight staff of other airlines was less and ques-tioned if the recruitment would be on a permanent

Case registered against 8 Pak, 5 arrested for doing job in Israel

ISLAMABAD (Online): Siddiqui. Muhammad FIA Mir Pur Khas circle has registered case against 8 Pakistanis and arrested 5 among them for doing job

According to FIA these accused reached Israel via different countries and they did jobs therein. 5 cases have been registered against 8 accused. These accused worked as helpers and car washer in Tel Aviv. The arrested accused

include Noman Siddiqui,

Kamil Anwar, Kamran

Zeeshan and Muhammad Anwar. These accused stayed in Tel-Aviv for the period ranging between 4

The accused got entry into Israel through an Israeli agent. The accused paid Rs 300000 to 400000 to Israeli agent. They all belong to Mirpur Khas. They entered into Israel through Jordan airport on European visa. They returned to Karachi via Dubai from Jordan airport.

Captain Karnal Sher Khan along with his soldiers defended the border of Pakistan despite being out-

evation of ranks of their

souls, he said.

numbered by the enemy, the prime minister added. He deplored that on May 9, black history was written by desecrating the memorials and statues of

Captain Karnal Sher Khan other martyrs. He asked the young generation to get full awareness of the martyrs' great sacrifices, bravery and un-

dying love for the mother-

The prime minister said the 9th May incidents conveyed the message, particularly to the enemy that we did not respect our mar-"The whole nation will protect the sanctity and honour of the martyr who

sacrifices his life while defending the country, and will punish the criminals.' The prime minister said Captain Karnal Sher Khan was the first Nishani-Haider who belonged to

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa He also prayed for the martyred and grant of courage to the bereaved family to bear the loss.

COP28 President to visit Pakistan on Sherry Rehman's invitation

ISLAMABAD (INP):The incumbent government will welcome the President of COP28 and UAE's Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology H.E. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, on July 6 as a distinguished state guest for a day-long official visit. This is the outcome of

an official invitation extended by Senator, Federal Minister for Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Sherry Rehman aimed to share the country's progress on climate and environmental goals ahead of the COP28 conference in UAE, and build common ground for the global stocktake ahead in the context of Pakistan's accelerated climate stress, said a press release on Wednesday. Minister Al Jaber will

Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meeting will focus on emergencies.

Pakistan's climate adaptation challenges, specifically its vulnerability to climateinduced disasters, and the need for enabling greater international cooperation at the upcoming COP28 in

Sherry Rehman will host H.E. Al Jaber and the accompanying delegation for a bilateral meeting at the Ministry for Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, and bring attention to Pakistan's programmes and initiatives to prevent environmental degradation and building resilience through policy action. Energy transition cooperation will also be on the agenda. Sherry Rehman will also share Pakistan's vulnerability to accelerated climate impacts. and the need for a global recall upon Prime Minister set that enhances support for developing countries on during the official visit. The the frontline of climat

PM files acquittal plea in money laundering reference

LAHORE (Online): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has filed acquittal plea in money laundering reference. Amjid Pervez advocate submitted acquittal plea on

behalf of PM Shehbaz Sharif and his son Hamza Shehbaz in Accountability Court (AC) Lahore in money launder-The petitioners have taken plea in the acquittal plea

NAB made false and fabricated money laundering reference. The assets are as per law which have been declared in FBR and Election Commission (EC). NAB has no evidence of any kind in this regard. It has been further said in the acquittal plea filed by

PM and Hamza Shebaz that any possibility of proving the case against them stands ruled out.

PDM-led govt striving hard to stabilize economy: Afzal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister of Commerce and Industries Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan Wednesday said that Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) led government with its fruitful policies was striving hard to stabilize the economy and leaving a responsible platform for the next government.

Talking to PTV news channel, he said that under the IMF agreement, the overall uncertainty was covered after a successful IMF agreement, adding, the popular and strict deciessary to save the country from the risk of default. He further mentioned

that it was very important for Pakistan to get the IMF programme as it would help achieve financial discipline and keep the country afloat. Replying to a question, he said the Pakistani rupee also experiencing a significant gain against the US dollar in the interbank market, adding, the first IMF installment of \$1.1



ISLAMABD: A large number of people visiting Rawal Lake View Park in a pleasant day in the city.

ISLAMABAD: Passengers are travelling on the roof top of the bus without any safety, which needs the attention of concern authority **Chairman CDA reviews**

dengue prevention

arrangements in ICT ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman, CDA / Chief Commissioner, ICT Noor ul Ameen Mangelon Wednesday reviewed the arrangements for dengue prevengue prevention activities to check on dengue larva from rural and urban area of ICT. Chairman CDA re-

viewed these arrangements

during a meeting held here, was also attended by the

Commissioner Rawalpindi

tion preparedness and denkeep vigilance and proper

Liaqat Ali Chattha. Member Environment, Member Finance, DC ICT, DC Rawalpindi DG Health Services, DG Environment, DDG Civic Management, and relevant staff of the DHO, ICT attended

Chairman, CDA Chief Commissioner, ICT directed the relevant formation heads to ensure consistent surveillance of potential dengue breeding spaces and persistent liai son with other departments. He further directed to Director Health Services, MCI to hire additional 200 personal/work force for a period of three months on daily paid labour for reinforcement of existing work force. Chairman, ČDA Chief Commissioner, ICT directed the Deputy Commissioner, ICT to engage a team for the training of existing and newly hired staff to tackle any dengue related

struck

tor-trolley Muzaffargarh Wednesday.

Muzaffargarh.

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ISLAMABAD (APP): able to pay its dues and why
The Supreme Court on
Wednesday allowed the
Pakistan International AirJustice Ijaz said that

management officials.

transparent.
Justice Ayesha Malik asked why PIA was not or on a contractual basis.