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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

Minis tér 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

of the development as it ing roads, rail, sea ports and air routes, but it would also help health, education and skill development areas, besides masses' participation in the

Terming it a game changer for the whole repositive impacts on the people's living standards in vision of peace, friendship, and economic partner-

PM Shehbaz congratu-lated the leadership and the ing the four years of previpeople of Pakistan and China on 10 years comple-were created in the way of

The prime minister new chapter of the ever- ling baseless allegations vowed to double the pace green and trusted strategic cooperative partnership was not only for improv- between the two iron broth-

> He said the project was a tremendous example of great Chinese leader Xi Jinping and PML-N Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif's vision of "development for all"

"The Belt and Road inigion, the prime minister tiative is the manifestation said CPEC would have a of Chinese President Xi's and economic partner-

ship."

He regretted that durtion of CPEC, which was a the project, besides level-

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, he said, also ini-

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

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

Minister Syed Murad Ali

Shah said that he had given

three tasks to the police to

eliminate dacoits from

Katcha area, bring street

crime in the city to zero

level, and crush drug mafia

to protect our young gen-

and freedom of movement

of the people of the prov-

ince, therefore we have to

eliminate the menaces,

Chief Minister said this on

Wednesday while speaking at the 117th passing out parade ceremony at Shahid

Hayat Police Training College, Saeedabad. The In-

spector General of Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, DIG

Training Hamid Khoso,

Principal of the college

Bashir Chachar and others

eration from the menace. "It is our responsibility to protect life, property



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



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah distributes certificates among the position holders during the passing out parade ceremony held at Shahid Hayat Police Training College Saeedabad

PTI's own people exposed Panama conspiracy

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 at the helm of affairs.

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



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-



changed to Iqama." During the press con-

ference, 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



LARKANA: Peoples Party (PPP) Sindh President, Senator Nisar Ahmed Khuhro addresses to gathering during ceremony to mark the 5th July 1977 as Black Day, held in Larkana.

SHC issues notice to K-Electric over 'excessive billing' ACHI (INP): Akhtar emphasized

Sindh High Court on the urgent need for Wednesday issued notices to National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) and K-Electric seeking a response for overbilling for consumers.

After visiting K-Electric (KE) and Federal Ombudsman offices several times, a female citizen of Karachi approached the Sindh High Court (SHC) and filed a plea against overbilling.

The woman pleaded to the court that the license of the K-Electric (KE) should be canceled as the power-generating company has made the life of citizens of

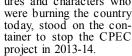
Karachi miserable. In the plea, the petitioner Shamim

corrective measures to address the issue of overbilling and demanded the return of the excess charges.

Shamim Akhtar while expressing her grievances, high-lighted a shocking instance where a bill of Rs 18,000 was issued to a small 60-yard house in Bihar Colony, Lyari.

The court has issued notices to all concerned parties, including the National Electric Power Regu-Authority latory (NEPRA) and K-Elec-

tric.
The court directed the nominated parties to submit their responses for the upcoming hearing scheduled on August



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

was done somewhere else.

FM Bilawal arrives in US on private visit NEW YORK (INP): After

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 week where he will hold 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 sources. The foreign minister is visiting USA on a special invitation from US think tank, they say.

ures and characters who

Independent Report ARACHI: There is a glimmer of hope for the residents of Karachi as Mayor overflow. Murtaza Wahab has assured them that the upcoming

monsoon season is unlikely to bring any major problems. In a statement, he said that citizens will not face any inconvenience during the monsoon rains.

Mayor Wahab said the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) has ramped up efforts to clean the city's drains in preparation for the expected arrival of

that it is impossible to pre- pate in field operations.

dict the intensity of the rainfall or whether the nullahs (drainage channels) will

dren for ransom.

Murtaza Wahab assures

Karachiites of hassle

free monsoon season

Nonetheless, the cleaning process for the nullahs is currently underway, with specific attention given to clearing choke points. Mayor Murtaza Wahab further stated that this fourmonth exercise will continue throughout the monsoon season, ensuring that the city's drainage system remains unobstructed.

He declared that the administration will not confine themselves to idle discussions at Cafe Piala but However, he also noted instead will actively partici-

Three soldiers embrace martyrdom in suicide blast in North Waziristan

RAWALPINDI (APP): Three soldiers of Pakistan Army embraced 'Shahadat', while three innocent civilians got critically injured when a vehicle borne suicide bomber exploded himself in general area Miran Shah, North Waziristan District on Wednesday. According to an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR)

press release issued here, Subedar Sahib Khan (age 4Í years, resident of Mianwali), Naik Muhammad Ibrahim (age 40 years, resident of Dera Ismail Khan) and Sepoy Jehangir Khan (age 24 years, resident of Mardan) embraced shahadat.



RAWALPINDI: Advisor to President of Azerbaijan, Khalid Ahadov, along with delegation in a meeting with Federal Minister for Defence Production. Muhammad Israr Tareen and officials of MoDP

Independent Report out of 787 constables would be a good addition out of 787 constables he said and added this was to eliminate drug mafia and totally unacceptable and by to the numerical strength of considering them terrorists the police force. "I have they must be crushed so strengthened the provincial that nobody again could

CM Murad assigns police to eliminate

dacoits, street criminals, drug mafia

It is our responsibility to protect life, property and freedom of movement of the people of the province, therefore we have to eliminate the menaces

police by offering them good salary packages, dare to formsuch gangs for kidnapping. shuhda compensation along with one job, and continua-The second task the chief minister mentioned in tion of their salaries till their his speech was Street crime superannuation, latest in the city. He added that equipment, and even mess one of the factors behind allowance to the underthe increase in street crime training policemen," he said and added that the morale was the 'economic situation' of the country but of the police have been enhanced and now "I have under this pretext, it could not be justified. He added entrusted you [police] three most important tasks that street crime in the city has become a challenge for

with the hope you would deliver," he added. the Karachi police. Shah said that street crime has affected the free The first task the CM movement of the families in spelled out was a clean-up operation against the dacoits who keep kidnapthe city which needed to be curbed with iron hands. "I ping people, including chil-

drug peddling in the city. "I know the targeted operation against the drug mafia is in progress but even then, the desirable results have yet to come out," he said.

Murad Shah said that synthetic drugs have reached our educational institutions and are destroying our young generation.
He directed the police to speed up operations against the drug mafia be-

cause they were also involved in street crime. Lauding the Sindh police, the chief minister praised the services and

bravery of the Sindh police and said that their 2400 iawans laid their lives in the line of duty while fighting against terrorists, target killwant the police to eliminate ers, street criminals, drug the street criminals and re- mafia, and protecting polio that in the past under train-Bashir Chachar and others were present on the occawhere present on the occawere present on the occawere present on the occawhere present on the occawere present on the occawhere present on the occathat the dac oits kidnap people of the city, "he said.

I am sure you [Sindh poquired to bear the expenses

threats – dacoits of katcha, street criminals in Karachi, he hoped.

Shah also recalled the sacrifices of the Rangers, Pak Army jawans, and other law enforcement agencies in restoring peace in Karachi and other parts of the province.

Earlier, the chief minister, as a chief guest, inspected the passing parade and distributed prizes among the position holders of the training programs.

The Inspector General Police Ghulam Nabi Memon briefed the chief minister about different categories of training programs such as commando, riot handling, thwarting dacoity attempts, and conducting raids. Speaking on the occasion, the IG police said The third task the chief lice are capable enough to of the mess facility at trainminister assigned the police eliminate these three ing centers.



KARACHI: Leaders and activists of Jamat-e-Islami (JI) are holding protest demonstration to condemning the latest incident of desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden, held outside Baitul Mukarram Mosque located on Gulshan-e-Iqbal area in Karachi

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 (FST).

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

One killed, two injured in road accident in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): A man was killed while his wife and a minor girl sustained injuries in a road accident in Karachi on late Tuesday

According to details the accident occurred near the shrine of Hazrat Abdullah Shah Ghazi (RA) in Clifton area where a motorcycle fell into a pit, killing a man on the spot and injuring his wife and minor girl.

Rehana Laghari for election reforms to strengthen role of women in politics

Independent Report KARACHI: Actin

Speaker Sindh Assembly and Pattern in Chief Women Parliamentary Caucus Sindh Rehana Laghari, on Wednesday, stressed on need of reforms in the election laws to strengthen role of women in politics.

She was addressing a consultative meeting of Women Parliamentary Caucus of National and Sindh Assembly on election reforms organised here at Sindh Assembly building in collaboration with UN Women and UNDP.

Rehana Laghari said that female members also wanted to contest elections on general seats so political parties should give tickets to women politicians to contest elections on general seats and necessary amendments be made in the relevant laws and rules. The meeting discussed various matters concerning to election reforms for making women's role in politics and

effective and meaningful. Secretary of Women Parliamentary Caucus Na-tional Assembly Dr. Shahida Rahmani, speaking at the occasion said that the meeting was aimed at formulating recommendations regarding reforms in elec-tion laws related to women so women members give their recommendations as to. She added that such meetings would also be held in other assemblies of the country in collaboration with the Women Parliamentary Caucus of the National Assembly.

Member National Assembly Nafisa Shah said that most of the business in assemblies was done by women members that shows that women wanted to participate in every development process of the society including elections.

She suggested amending the election laws to increase women quota in assemblies from 5% to 10% and threshold of women's process of elections more turnout from 10% to 20%.

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 cash 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 lishment of new universities next nine months (which remains subject to approval by its board as well as Islamabad and retain the quality talent needed to staff it. 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 of 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 least 1.2 billion people die 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 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 composition of the forthcoming 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 de-

mocracy; the main objective

seems to have been to chart

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 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 oppo-sition in a truncated National Assembly has hardly any credibility, but still one has to go by the book. But who cares about the Constitution in this game of forced the view that it is part preme Court, has paved the

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 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 jails and facing terrorism charges. Some of them will be tried by military courts.

Surely those who were involved in attacks on military installations must be punished, but the indiscriminate crackdown has rein-

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 battle-

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 new bills by parliament, reducing his disqualification to five years and allowing him the right to appeal against his conviction by the Suway 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 twist to Pakistan's 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.

general elections would be held before the end of this vear, with the country facing the prospect of an economic meltdown and defaulting on its external debt epayment. 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 Until a few weeks ago, tesy Dawn



Dr Ayesha Razzaque

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

Financial sustainability of universities has always been a challenge but the cost of an education at public universities remained 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 estabin the remotest tehsils without consideration to whether they will be able to attract

growth in the number of universities. Factor in the rate of inflation over the last few years, and the funding picture for public higher 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 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 cost broken down by departments and programs, and with it, unaware of which programmes/departments are the greatest con-

tributors 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

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

city, as we see some of

these trees being cut down

to the mission of public uni-

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 affordability and educa-

and complex task. So far, those efforts 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-

tional quality, an ongoing

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 Pakistan today have endowments (IBA went as far as sharing the size of its endowment fund: Rs 2.2 billion) or are moving in the direction of es-

tablishing one. University endowments are fueled in large

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 simultalines 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. -- Courtesy

Banyan tree's future

preservation plan.

Over the years, ban-

ers and trees that are merely

beautifying elements.
The latter include date

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 city — 40.69 billion square

Karachi's fractured in-

agement.

Natural heritage foli-



Marvi Mazhar

Environmental displacement can hardly be quantified; however, the severity 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

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 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 banyan trees as 'protected 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 banyan trees of Old Clifton feet (3.8bn square metres)

were left for the next phase - Karachi expanded con-— to be part of the next project — as a complete annexure; they were deamnexure; they were deamnexure defends an average annual growth rate of 4.7 project — as a complete annexure; they were declared the 'Banyan Trees of per cent — an unmanage able 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

van trees have witnessed in order to construct buildings, or being neglected. moments of transformation This is leading to the deand resilience. In recent struction of the natural entimes, the regrowth and maintenance of these trees vironment and habitat. These developers, folhave lessened because of Karachi's worsening air lowing unethical architecquality and the lack of govtural practices, have conernance in maintaining the tributed to a humanitarian natural heritage. But the crisis, where malpractice, easy turnkey projects, and industrial material for mass main reason is the real estate boom, which has been invasively uprooting the construction have altered foliage of the city and reclimatic conditions, resultplacing it with concrete paving in high temperatures and

> tion. 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 association. Learning matters: the process of learning from cities and within them

heated corridors of circula-

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 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 generalŝ, "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 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 were mainly of North Afri-

Macron and his acolytes 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

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.

Lives Matter movement in

America and found its ech-

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 ment 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 tesy Dawn

a decade. The murder of Nahel was the reinforcement of a long-standing trend rather than an unusual

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 up 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 yet 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, staying 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 culithe subsequent reinforce- nary delights common in 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

appreciated the deeprooted historic and durable

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 of the US and reiterated the 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 &

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

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.

this major cash crop of the

government was also

working to ensure the

availability of certified

seeds for different crops

including cotton, wheat,

rice, maize and other major

and minor crops to

enhance crop output to

achieve sustainable

agriculture growth and

social development in the

track and traceability of

certified seed was launched

and the traceability data

seed requirements were

estimated at 41,048 metric

tons, whereas seed

The wheat seed

In this regard, the

country.

Besides,

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 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

economic challenges facing the nation and underscored the need for consistency in economic policies. LCCI firmly believes

highlighted the daunting

that a unified approach is imperative for dealing with

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

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 Karachi Electric on account of the monthly fuel cost adjustment (FCA) for

May.
The hearing was presided by the NEPRA Authority comprising of NEPRA, Chairman Taus eef H. Farooqi, Member (Technical), Engr. Rafique Ahmad Shaikh, Member (Licensing), Engr. Maqsood Anwar Khan, Member (Technical & Finance), Mathar Niaz Rana and Member (Law), Ms. Amina Ahmed.

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. 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 applications on which they launched after a detailed were already trained by assessment conducted in 7 districts of Punjab and FAO.A ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Hyper Localized Weather Station Sindh with the support of

education,

opportunities.

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

the provincial governments of both provinces. $Government\ of ficials,$ community leaders, researchers, male and female farmers, the private sector, and other key stakeholders were present at the launching event.

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

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

weather station. Through these stations, farmers will pilot site was also organized along with a be able to get customized and specific information to their farmland, accurate briefing on the digital data and information which monitoring and forecasting function of the weather will help them in reducing costs related to inputs and station. The stations were installed on both pilot sites taking measures for crop along with the provision of protection. Fly Jinnah's SkyTime

Sohail Barlas elected as SIAL chairman

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

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 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.

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,

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 protected through blocs regional connectivity.



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 Committee at Parliament House.

President upholds penalties, enhances fines upon sexual harassers

ISLAMABAD (APP): After the charges of blackmailing and sexually harassing a female employee at MEPCO were proven, President Dr Arif Alvi has upheld the penalty of "dismissal from service" imposed upon Khizer Hayat, Assistant Director and enhanced the amount of the fine from Rs 500,000 to Rs 1

He also upheld the penalty of "reduction to lower post" imposed upon Mian Sohail Afzal, Director (Admin), for three years and increased the fine from Rs 1 million to Rs 1.1 million to be paid as compensation to the victim, a President House

He also upheld the exoneration of Sohail Abbas, Deputy Director, and Jamshed Ahmed Niazi, Director, as no cogent evidence or substance was prove them guilty of the Khizer Hayat and Mian orders of the Federal Omthe two officers. A female Multan Electric Power strong action

Company (MEPCO) had filed a complaint before FOSPAH against four employees stating that they hacked her mobile data, made sexual demands, got available against them to published false news items against her, and demanded charge beyond any shadow Rs 500,000 from her to of a doubt. The president stop the series of news gave these orders while re- from its further publicajecting two representation. In his decision, Presiions filed separately by dent Alvi stated that a good message had to be Sohail Afzal against the sent to society that we would ensure the protection budsman for Protection of women against harassagainst Harassment of mentsothatourwomen feel Women at Workplace safe in the working environ-(FOSPAH) imposing fines ment of the country and our and major penalties upon families were confident that if women get harassed, the Commercial Assistant at law of the land would take

"When Islam came, i lifted women out from exploitation, live burials, and denial of property rights and granted unbelievable gender parity. Such acts of harassment reflect poorly upon our country, which is an Islamic Republic", he

He emphasised that a strong message should go out to the people of Pakistan that their daughters, sisters, and mothers would be protected in society from harassment so that they could participate in public spaces and in their work without fear, adding that measures should be taken to uphold our religious values and international norms



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.



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.

COP28 President to visit Pakistan on Sherry Rehman's invitation

ISLAMABAD (INP):The Pakistan's climate adaptaincumbent 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 call upon Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif during the official visit. The the frontline of climate meeting will focus on

tion 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 reset that enhances support for developing countries on emergencies

Case registered against 8 Pak, 5 arrested for

doing job in Israel ISLAMABAD (Online): FIA Mir Pur Khas circle has registered case against 8 Pakistanis and arrested 5

among them for doing job in Israel. 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

The arrested accused include Noman Siddiqui, Kamil Anwar, Kamran Siddiqui. Muhammad Zeeshan and Muhammad Anwar. These accused stayed in Tel-Aviv for the period ranging between 4 to 7 years.

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

NA Speaker strongly condemns Israeli attack on Palestinians in Jenin

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

violations exposed the added

ISLAMABAD (Online): dark character of the Zionist 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 Assembly of 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 The freedom of ex-struggle to achieve the right pression has also been to life, right to freedom, and tarnished by the Israeli most importantly right to forces and such blatant self-determination, he

Ahsan express satisfaction with recent IMF package

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday expressed satisfaction with the recent IMF package, which alleviated concerns of an im-

mediate 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 Opportunities 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 much-

needed respite that restored investor confidence.

However, he stressed the need for structural reforms to ensure longterm sustainability and capitalize on this breathing space.

The minister pointed out that the deal was necessary due to a severe balance of payment crisis in 2022, caused by poor policies of the previous government. He noted that the country experienced its worst deficit of \$50 billion after allowing imports worth \$84 billion.

The minister emphasized the importance of introspection and pursuing development for the country, rather than merely celebrating the deal.

It is worth mentioning that following the IMF deal, the country's stock market experienced a significant upswing, with renewed confidence from investors. Additionally, the Pakistani rupee gained against the US dollar in the interbank market he said, adding that if the business continued as usual, the positive momentum could be

He stressed the necessity of implementing structural reforms to guide the country onto a sustainable path and achieve desired results in the long term.

These policies should be maintained regardless of which government was in power, he added.

Highlighting achievements of the current government, the minister mentioned that since assuming the charge of office, they had been focused on addressing immediate chal-

The Planning Ministry successfully conducted a turnaround conference in June last year, leading to the development of a comprehensive framework.



Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial said on Wednesday that the boat tragedy on Greek shores — which resulted in the deaths of nearly 300 Pakistanis — was a matter of human rights.

He passed these remarks as a two-member bench, comprising the CJP and Justice Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi,

fishing boat that set off from Libya towards European shores, perished when their vessel capsized in the Mediterranean Sea last

The passengers largely omprised Pakistanis, Afghans, Egyptians, Palestin- gling. "Does the governians and Syrians migrating ment have statistics on the in the overloaded boat. It was a recurring tragedy — smuggled," the CJP with no end in sight as eco- asked

Independent Report

KARACHI: Women Par-

liamentary Caucuses of Na-

tional Assembly and Pro-vincial Assembly of Sindh

on Wednesday jointly or-

ganized a roundtable on

Electoral Reforms to en-

hance Women's Political

Participation & Represen-

the Committee Room of Sindh Assembly building

with the support of UN' Women Pakistan and

cial Assembly of Sindh and

Pattern in Chief Women

Parliamentary Caucus of

Acting Speaker Provin-

The event was held at

tation in Pakistan.

crises compelled increasingly large numbers of people to flee their homes.

The tragedy of such immense proportions was 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 took up petitions pertain- to the tragedy during the ing to the trafficking of mi- hearing today, Justice Bandial noted that innocen At least 600 migrants, 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 smugnumber of children being

WPC alongwith NA, PA Sindh hold

roundtable on electoral reforms

National Assembly Syeda



ding of Gas, Electricity and Water at Liyari, in Provincial Capital

introductory meeting of **District Council** Mirpurkhas todav

Independent Report MIRPURKHAS: Distric Council Mirpurkhas First Introductory Meeting will be held tomorrow under the chairmanship of District Chairman Council Mirpurkhas Mir Anwar Ali Talpur on 6th July 2023 held on Thursday at 11 am in Dis-

trict Council Hall Mirpurkhas.

Technical Adviser UNDP

money laundering reference LAHORE (Online): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has filed acquittal plea in money laundering ref-

PM files acquittal plea in

Amjid Pervez advocate submitted acquittal plea on behalf of PM Shehbaz Sharif and his son Hamza Shehbaz in Accountability Court (AC) Lahore in money laundering reference.

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.



KARACHI: Antiencroachment authorities demolishing illegal marriage halls constructed on residential land, during anti encroachment campaign under the supervision of local government departments located on Malir Model Colony area

Haq Parast parliamentarians strongly condemns Holy Quran desecration in Sweden

Haq Parast parliamentarian Muttahida Quomi Movement (Pakistan) have strongly condemned the des ecration of Holy Quran outside the Masjid in Stockholm Sweden adding that this painful act has created unrest among the

Muslims of the world. In a joint statement issued here on late Wednesday evening, MNA Salahuddin, MNA Eng: Sabir Hussain Kaimkhani, MPA Rashid Khilji, MPA Nadim Ahmed sidd iqui and MPA Nasir Hussain Qureshi have said that such shameful incident has exposed the mentality of the cover of right of the ish products.

They said that by committing such shameful acts, the Anti-Muslim elements were trying to stop spreading Islam, but they cannot succeed in their nefarious designs as Islam is strengthening roots with fast pace. They also critical over

freedom of expression.

the attitude of the Swedish government in to the issue and said that the citizens of Hyderabad who are in deep sense of grief like other Muslims of the world have already lodged their strong protest with successful shutter down strike today and now they de-Anti-Muslim forces under cided to boycottthe Swed-

to mark the 5th July 1977, as Black Day CJ GB postpones election for CM

Owners of industrial and

commercial units to adopt

civil defense safety measures

GILGIT (INP): Chief schedule Justice (CJ) Supreme Appellate Court Gilgit-Baltistan, Sardar publication Muhammad Shamim Khan Wednesday postponed the election for Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan which was scheduled to be held on

According to a press release issued by the spokesperson Supreme
Appellate Court, the CJ
GB hearing of the case
titled "Haji Shah Baig"
postponed the election.
The court also stated

The court also stated that according to Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Rule (3) of Procedure and Conduct of Business, 2017,

Independent Report MIRPURKHAS: On the

instructions of Government

authorized member of vigi-

lance team Mehrab khan

khaskheli vigilance and en-

forcement officer civil de-

fense mirpurkhas Division

shall be visiting industrial

and commercial units on 10

July 2023 as to ensure

implementation of civil de-

fense measures for this he

has issued a letter to the

entire district Owners of all

industrial and commercial

television, newspapers, publications.

HYDERABAD: Members of Peoples Labour Bureau Sindh are holding rally

In addition, it is also necessary to notify the members by post.

Arguing on behalf of Haji Shah Baig, Advocate, Amjad Hussain said that even if there was an election in emergency, it was necessary to issue an election schedule of 72

After hearing the arguments of both sides, the court issued an order to postpone the elections for the chief minister and ordered the Speaker GB Assembly to submit the it was necessary to new election schedule to advertise the election the court by tomorrow.

units including Petroleum Services and L.P.G and also

directed the owners includ-

ing the industrial and com-

mercial units to ensure the

safety arrangements of

Civil Defense in this regard

. He has also directed to the

industrial and commercial

units' owners to make all

arrangements and keep the

record ready for inspection,

he further said that default-

ers shall be preceded under

the law in the public inter-

est without any chance.

bodies of new born babies KARACHI (INP): After

the directives of the Inspector General (IG) of Sindh, the province's first case has been registered against unidentified suspects for dumping dead bodies of newborn babies on Wednes-

First case registered

against suspects for

dumping dead

According to the details, Sindh police issued strict orders for the mandatory registration of the First Reports Information Information Reports (FIRs) and medical examination of all unclaimed bodies of newborn babies across the province.

Following the directives of the Inspector General of Sindh, the first case has been registered in Sindh, meanwhile, a case has been filed at the Ittehad Town police station against unidentified suspects.

The body of the new-

born baby was found in the garbage dump of Ittehad Town area of the metropolis, the first Information Report (FIR) was registered against unidentified suspects including the abortion of fetuses. Three samples, includ-

ing a postmortem and DNA, have been preserved at the Civil hospital, Karachi. After the report, fur-

Assembly and Secretary Women Parliamentary Cauther investigation will be cus National Assembly Dr. conducted into the matter. Shahida Rahmani, Member

Nafeesa Shah, Nuzhat Mary Cummins gave a Pathan, Member National briefing on election reforms. Assembly of Muslim League (N) Mahnaz Akbar Speaking on the occasion, Acting Speaker Sindh As-sembly Rehana Laghari said Aziz, Tahira Aurangzeb, Member National Assembly of JUI(F) Shahida that there is a need to amend the election laws related to Akhtar Ali, Women Memwomen, allowing women to bers of Sindh Assembly and contest election on general Women Parliamentary Causeats. Addressing the meetcus Heer soho, Sadia Javed, ing, Member of National Nida khoro, Sharmila Assembly Dr. Shahida Farooqui, Tanzeela Umm Rahmani said that the pur-Habiba, Ghazala Siyal, Mangala Sharma, Sarwat pose of today's meeting is to formulate recommenda-Fatima, Shahina Sher Ali, tions regarding reforms in Shazia Karim. and Shamim election laws related to Mumtaz also participated. women. Such meetings will Joint Provincial Elecalso be held in other Assemtion Commissioner Sindh blies of the country in col-

Sindh Assembly Rehana Javed Iqbal, Deputy Direc-Laghari, Senator Rubina Khalid, Member National tor NADRA Syed Aziz Oun, UN' Women representative Kapil Dev, Hasan Hakeem, UNDP representative Ambar Syed attended the meeting while Chief

laboration with the Women Parliamentary Caucus of the National Assembly. Women Members should give their recommendations regarding election re-

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