CM Murad

orders to arrest

culprit involved

in sexual assault

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad

Ali Shah on Thursday or-

dered authorities concerned

to arrest the culprit who sexually assaulted a veiled

woman allegedly in the Gulistan-e-Johar area of

Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said

that the chief minister had

taken notice of the matter

In a statement, Sindh

nachenacht

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Karachi

two police stations were included in the teams. Po-

lice said that the department

took notice of the incident

following a viral video, however, a formal com-

plaint was not filed by the

on social media which

showed a man on a red mo-

torcycle launched a sexual

assault on a woman. The

incident was reportedly

taken place in the Gulistan-

e-Johar area. The CCTV

footage showed the man

parking his motorcycle in a

street and removing his

shorts. Later, he tried to

grab a woman passerby in

the street. The woman re-

sisted and hit back the as-

saulting man which led him

to run away from the scene immediately.

A video has gone viral

affected woman yet.

Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00 Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 05. No. 200 Zil Hajj 18, 1444 AH Friday July 07, 2023

Pakistan desirous of improving ties with **US: PM Shahbaz**

We value support of the US which had been the biggest donor and very helpful in providing relief to millions of flood affected people

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Thursday said Pakistan desired to improve its bilateral relations with the United States in diverse

Addressing a ceremony for the celebration of the 247th Independence Day of the United States of America, he said Pakistan and the US had made serious efforts to mend their ties putting aside any misgivings and misunderstandings, and now the relations were back to normal.

He assured of his personal efforts as head of the government and as a Pakistani to cultivate better and stronger relations with the United States on the basis of mutual trust and respect.

"Over the last 75 years, our relations have ups and

He said the United States was the largest trading partner of Pakistan and also a steadfast partner in the war against terrorism.

In the fight against terrorism, Pakistan lost the support and coopera-80,000 people from all walks of life and this unparalleled sacrifice explained Pakistan's commitment and US had been a

ago when Pakistan was facing serious power outages, the then government established 5000 megawatts of LNG-based power plants and the entire equipment was brought from the United States.

He said both the coun-



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of Qatarto Pakistan, Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdulrahman Faisal Al-Thani calledon President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr

PTI govt forced NAB to file plot allotment reference against Nawaz: detailed verdict

LAHORE (INP): The Accountability Court of Nawaz Sharif of charges in Lahore has issued a detailed verdict in the acquittal of former premier Nawaz the same relief should be Sharif's plot allotment given to Nawaz that has

A copy of the detailed verdict explains how Nawaz Sharif's proclaimed offender status ended and under which law he has been given relief.

The verdict states that according to the record, the PML-N supremo was targeted over political revenge.

The former government forced the National Accountability Bureau to institute a reference against Nawaz Sharif to destroy his career, it stated further.

The court orders the

the case.

An amicus curiae said been given to the main suspects in the case, according to the verdict.

A proclaimed offender also deserves the same punishment or relief that a central accused does, the verdict said.

It further said the proceedings to declare Nawaz Sharif a proclaimed offender were not in accordance with the law.

In light of the Supreme Court's decision, Nawaz Sharif should have also got the same relief that was given to the other acquittal of three-time accused

Sharjeel for diverting all energies to

complete BRT Red Line in time

Early completion of the BRT project requires the

collective efforts of all stakeholders

downs but on the whole we tries had a huge ground to have been very good cover and expand their ties in different fields, including agriculture and information technology. Pakistan had great talent and youth bulge, which was a challenge but it could be turned into an opportunity with

> he continued. He praised the United States for its support during the devastating floods

> tion of the United States,

great supporter and partner in this fight, he remarked.
He said about five years

He said about five years

He said about five years biggest donor and very helpful in providing relief to millions of flood affected

> He felicitated President Joe Biden, and the people and the government of the United States on their 247th Independence Day.

Over 7000 street crime incidents reported in Karachi in one month

KARACHI (INP): The Citizens Police Lines Committee (CPLC) in its report on Thursday stated that 7096 incidents of street crimes were reported across the metropolis during the nonth of June this year.

At least 4,125 citizens ere deprived of their motorcycles at gunpoint in different areas of Karachi, the report stated. On the other hand, as many as 2179 people were deprived of their cell phones during street crime incidents. Meanwhile, according to the CPLC report, 158 incidents of vehicles theft and 34 incidents of vehicles snatching were reported during month of June.

Landslide kills eight children

in Shangla PESHAWAR (APP): Eight children died and one was injured after fell on them while playing at Shangla district. Police said the tragic incident occurred at Koz Kallay village at tehsil Martung where children busy in the game came un-

der a huge lands lide. Police and rescue workers rushed to the spot and

retrieved eight bodies and one injured from the

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing a

ceremony of the celebration of the 247th Independence Day of the United States of America

President for boosting Pak-Qatar economic ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday said Pakistan wanted to expand trade and investment relations with Qatar and translate the brotherly relations into mutually beneficial economic

ries.

"Pakistan desires a partnership with Qatar in the energy sector and looks forward to Qatari investments in various sectors of the economy", he said in a meeting with the outgoing Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan, Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdulrahman Faisal Al-Thani, here at the Aiwan-e-

The president appreciated the Government of Qatar for hosting the Pakistani diaspora which served the two brotherly countries. peace and security.

He expressed the hope that Qatar would increase the number of skilled Pakistani workers and would open more visa facilities in Pakistan. He lauded the leadership of Qatar for makefforts against Islamophobia, adding that the Islamic world needed to make collective efforts against the rising tide of Islamophobia in the world.

He also highlighted the gross human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) as well as the persecution of minorities, especially Muslims, in India. He underlined that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and the atrocities being committed by the Indian Security Forces in IIOJK con-

as a strong bridge between tinued to threaten regional Asif Zardari visits Mausoleum of martyrs of Bhutto's family

President PPP (Women Wing) Pakistan MPA Faryal Talpur visited on Thursday the mausoleum of the marturs of Bhutto's family at Garhi Khuda Bakhsh Bhutto.

Asif Ali Zardari visited the grave of former prime minister and chairperson of PPP Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and laid a floral wreath at the grave and offered "Fateha".

LARKANA (APP): visited the graves of Former President and founder-chairman of Co-Chairman of PPP Asif Ali Zardari along-with his Sister and Jamhooriat late Begum Iamhooriat late Begum Nusrat Bhutto, Yate Shireen Amir Begum, Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto and Shaheed Mir Shahnawaz Bhutto and laid floral wreaths and offered Fateha.

Former President Asif Ali Zardari on the occasion prayed for the country's security, development, and prosperity.

On the occasion MPA Suhail Anwar Siyal, Ghulam Qadir Marri, Magsi and Ghulam Mustafa

He along-with Ghulam Mustafa Faryal Talpur also Leghari were present. **IGP** for strict security in Muharram-ul-Haram

strictest security during Muharram-ul-Haram.

According to spokesman for Sindh Police, in his orders the IGP Sindh asked the officers to submit a fool-proof contingency/ communication plan prepared on range/districts level for the venues of Majalis, processions, routes of main procession and other places.

He said the plan should cover in detail the overall affairs and responsibilities of the police and the implementation of the overall peace-keeping measures so that the responsibilities like protection of life and property of the people during Muharram could be made very effective and successful at all

Ghulam Nabi Memon said the contingency plan should also include details of license renewal regarding processions and Majalis, survey of procession routes, starting and ending times of Majalis and processions, utilization of available manpower, strong monitoring of miscreants, establishment of

KARACHI (APP): In- peace committees at the spector General of Police police station level, to keep (IGP) Sindh Ghulam Nabi anti-riots platoons Memon on Thursday is- equipped with all equipsued instructions to offic- ment and weapons in readiers concerned to ensure ness, stock review of arms and ammunition/ anti-riots kits, establishment of control rooms for effective communication, availability of containers to block/ seal other roads connecting to the routes if required, prevention of wall chalking and distribution of pamphlets containing religious hatred, implementation of Loudspeakers Act and matters such as the implementation of the fourth schedule list as per the law during Muharram should not only be included in the prepared contingency plan but these measures should also be ensured according to their priorities.

> structions to all DIGPs and SSPs that under the Muharram Contingency Plan, the concerned SHOs should be formally bound to carry out operations against various types of crimes/organized crimes under their supervision. Police actions against criminal groups and their patrons and operatives including raids/operations should be well organized, coordinated and extraordinary at all levels

Army major martyred in gunfire with terrorists in Khvber: ISPR

RAWALPINDI (Online)

While establishment of blocking positions to cut the escape routes of terrorists was underway, a party of terrorists was spotted by Major Abdullah who was leading the operation from

As a result of heavy having fought gallantly embraced Shahadat.

and ordered the police to arrest the culprit involved in the ghastly incident immediately. Police officials said that two teams have been

On night 05/06 July 23, Security Forces conducted an Intelligence based operation on reported presence of terrorists, in general area Shakhas, Khyber District.

exchange of fire, the brave son of the nation Major Mian Abdullah Shah (age 33 years, resident of Kohat)

formed to arrest the culprit who sexually assaulted a veiled woman allegedly in the Gulistan-e-Johar area. They added that station house officers (SHOs) of Pak fully committed to implement

Karachi.

Indus Water Treaty: FO Pakistan remained fully committed to the implementation of Indus Water Treaty, including its dispute settlement mechanism, said Foreign Office spokesper-

son here on Thursday. While responding to media queries concerning the decision by the Court of Arbitration in the Hague on the question of its competence to hear Pakistan-India water disputes, the spokesperson said, "the Government of Pakistan is in receipt of the Award of the Court of Arbitration,

ISLAMABAD (Online): addressing its competence and the way forward on the disputes between Pakistan and India concerning the Kishenganga and Ratle Hydroelectric Projects; and, wider questions of the interpretation and application of the Indus Waters Treaty." The court had upheld its competence and determined that it will now move forward to address the issues in dispute, she added. She said, "the Indus Waters Treaty is a foundational agreement between Pakistan and India on water sharing.



are showering rose petals and offers Fateha for the peace of departed soul of Benazir Bhutto during their visit to Bhutto Mausoleums in Garhi Khuda Bux.

PML-N Quaid's acquittal exposes last PTI regime's political vendetta: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Thursday that acquittal of thrice-elected prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Ouaid Nawaz Sharif in the plot allotment reference by an accountability court in Lahore clearly showed a political vendetta of the last PTI regime.

Addressing a press conference, she said the plots allotment case related to the tenure when Nawaz Sharif was the chief minister of Punjab.

She said the owner of a leading media house was arrested in a fake case just to pressurize the media to to e the line of the then rul-

Similarly, journalists

were arrested and targeted only to curb dissent views, and on that account the then prime minister was given the title of a 'predator' at international level. She said today's ver-

dict of the accountability court was an eye-opener for those who had blindly followed the fake narrative of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-

She said in the so-called illegal plots allotment reference it was alleged that Nawaz Sharif as Punjab chief minister had specifically favoured Mir Shakeelur Rehman to manage favourable media cov-She said under the

'NAB- Niazi nexus', the National Accountability Bureau was given the task to to target political opponents of the PTI chief. The minister said today, the accountability court had affirmed that Nawaz Sharif was targeted to have political avenge. The court also noted that no evidence of corruption was found against the PML-N Quaid, which led to his honourable acquit-

The incident occurred (PAF)

Azerbaijan President's Advisor calls on Air Chief, lauds PAF professionalism ISLAMABAD (APP): A interest and regional devel-

high level defence delegation headed by Advisor to President the Azerbaijan, Khalid Ahadov called on Chief of shared his vision of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu here on tional excellence in air, Thursday and lauded the space and cyber dohistoric and exemplary mains. The Air Chief professionalism demon- emphasized strated by the personnel longstanding religious,

eral key areas of mutual bust bilateral relations.

opments, a PAF news release said. During the meeting,

the Chief of the Air Staff modernizing PAF's capabilities to achieve operaof Pakistan Air Force cultural and historical bonds between Pakistan The meeting under- and Azerbaijan, which are scored discussion on sev- exemplified through ro-

timely completion.

KARACHI: Minister for Information, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon, has emphasized the need to spare no effort in resolving the issues encountered in the Red Line BRT project and said that the BRT project holds the potential to benefit millions of people in Karachi. Chairing a high-level meeting regarding the Red Line BRT project, Provincial Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon issued instructions to expedite the construction work of the Red Line BRT project and ensure its

Independent Report

He emphasized that the early completion of the BRT project requires the collective efforts of all stakeholders. It is essential

to make diligent efforts to minimize any inconvenience faced by the citizens during the project's construction. In a high-level meeting presided over by Provincial Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, the progress and challenges encountered in the Red Line BRT project were discussed. Additionally, the meeting addressed the advancements made in the construction of the underpass from Tank Chowk to Safuran Chowrangi Karachi, as part of the Red

Line BRT project. During the meeting, a committee was established tion of the Red Line BRT with the purpose of closely project. The committee monitoring and evaluating assessed the ongoing the daily progress of the Red Line BRT project. The meeting was at-

Transport, Saleem Rajput, CEO of Trans Karachi, Tufail Palijo, Chairman of Trans Karachi BOD, Suresh Lodhi, MD of Sindh Mass Transit Authority, Kamal Dayo, representative from the Asian Development Bank, Shaukat Ali Alvi, GM of Trans Karachi, Pir Sajjad, BRT Consultant, Sir James, Sohail Abidi, and other participants. Following the meeting,

a monitoring and review committee led by Transport Secretary Saleem Rajput conducted a compreĥensive physical inspecconstruction work and identified potential issues for furtherreview and tended by Secretary of resolution.

IGP Sindh issued in-

Young man shot dead by robbers over resistance KARACHI (INP): Rob-

bers shot dead a young man on resistance during a robbery in Karachi on Thurs-

in Shah Lateef Town when some robbers gunned down a man for retaliating during snatching. Police teams arrived at the scene after receiving information about the incident. The suspects were initially caught and tortured by nearby citizens; however, police took them into custody upon arriving Moreover, the police also shifted the citizen's body to a hospital for legal pro-

Daily soice of Masse Independent

Friday July 07, 2023

SCO anticlimax

The SCO has the potential to become one of the world's most prosperous and powerful economic and geopolitical blocs, considering its vast geographic scope and the large population of its member states. However, to achieve these goals, irritants between member states must be resolved in a satisfactory manner. Clearly, as the virtual SCO Council of Heads of State government and the state summit, hosted by India on Tuesday showed, there are many miles to go before the bloc can achieve its full potential. Bilateral disputes overshadowed the promise of multilateral cooperation, with the host nation using the platform to take a swipe at geopolitical adversaries within the SCO.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's thinly veiled critique of both Pakistan and China during his address was a reminder of the internal challenges that confront the bloc.

There was, of course, little hope that the SCO summit could have provided a platform for Pakistan-India dialogue on the sidelines. Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari's frosty reception in Goa earlier in the year under the aegis of the SCO foreign ministers' moot was a sign that the welcome for Shehbaz Sharif was unlikely to be any warmer.

Perhaps that is one reason why India chose to go virtual and avoid any personal interaction between Mr Sharif and Mr Modi, though there is also widespread conjecture that India opted to hold the summit online to avoid hosting Vladimir political leadership.

They saypolities is the

Mr Modi sang a familiar tune, calling for an end to 'cross-border terrorism', while also targeting CPEC by saying that sible. connectivity schemes should "respect sovereignty", in an oblique reference to the megaproject's passage through Gilgit-Baltistan.

PM Sharif paid Mr Modi back in the same coin, cautioning against the dangers of "violent ultra-nationalism" criticising the use of terrorism for diplomatic point-scoring.

It is a rule of thumb that Prime Minister Narendra multilateral fora should not be used to settle bilateral scores. If anything, these bodies should provide a conducive atmosphere that can help resolve stubborn regional disputes.

Unfortunately, India's current leadership has shown that both bilaterally and at multilateral platforms, it is not serious about engaging Pakistan in a dialogue for peace. Instead, the kingdom to his younger half-BJP regime is more interested in isolating this country by using familiar, tired tropes.

If this attitude persists, little his sandals to be placed on the vacant throne. He dewill change where hostility in the subcontinent is concerned, and perhaps another generation will be condemned to live in perpetual confrontation. Terrorism, climate change, poverty and disease are all common problems that can be confronted bilaterally and through the SCO, if India chooses to shun its rigidity.

Where the SCO itself is concerned, it can be turned into a Eurasian behemoth driving is the Sharif brothers. The growth in the entire region and the wider world. However, unless the irritants between its member states are resolved, it will remain but a talk shop, is now prime minister in his much like Saarc has become.

Deconstructing May 9



Fais al Siddigi

The political violence witnessed from May 9 to May 11, 2023, is a subject of much controversy. For the establishment, it was an attack on the state. For PDM and its aligned parties, it was proof that the PTI is not a democratic political party. For the PTI, it was a conspiracy to dismantle it.

Therefore, on the one hand, the ruling coalition institutions have either justified, or kept silent, about the grave violations of fundamental rights, defiance of superior courts orders, subversion of democratic constitutionalism and repression of a free media in their quest to dismantle the PTI, on the pretext of safeguarding the state.

On the other hand, despite its authoritarian politics and past collusion with and armed forces, and label-

the establishment, the PTI ling of the prevailing politi-has, paradoxically, now be-cal system and political parcome the torch-bearer of fundamental rights, anti-establishment democratic constitutionalism and press free-

Who is right in this battle between state survival and democratic constitutionalism?

Leviathan strikes back: Faced with the English Civil War in the 17th century, Thomas Hobbes, through his classical text Leviathan. responded with a simple theory of governance only a strong state can save us from anarchy and violence. In other words, before any democracy or constitutionalism or fundamental rights, there must be order based on obedience to state authority derived from its monopoly over violence.

stani state have reacted to the events which culminated in the political violence of May 9, which involved abuse against, and efforts to question, the legitimacy of the military and intelligence leadership, along with a campaign to create divisions within the armed forces, violence against the coercive arms of the state, ie, police

How should the Paki-

ties opposed to the PTI as toreign agents?

Hobbes would have approved of the state's reaction to the May 9 political violence because, if there is anything worse than a military coup against a constitutional order, it is a coup within the armed forces.

Regardless of our complete unacceptability of the military coups by Ayub, Yahya, Zia and Musharraf and the continuing political dominance of the establishment, the saving grace in this country is the unity of command of the armed forces. The alternative to this unity command nightmarishly scary; ie, present-day Sudan, Libya

last and this century. But all successful modern states have also shown that Hobbes's philosophy of order has to be combined with John Mill's theory of rights. In other words, coercion has to be balanced and legitimised by consent based on rights and

and Yemen and all the Afri-

can military civil wars of the

Coercion and consent: As the Marxist intellectual Antonio Gramsci has ex- ductive for the following faced with two insurgen- tesy Dawn

cluding authoritarian regimes, can rule only on the basis of fear based on coercion, and legitimacy based

on patriotism. For example, all three previous military dictatorships of Ayub, Zia and Musharraf lasted for years because their rule was also based on implied consent of the masses, which was derived from relative economic growth (based on foreign aid) and a semi-successful propaganda ideology — ie, development for Ayub, Islam for Zia and enlightened moderation for Musharraf.

Pakistan is a huge country of over 240 million people, mostly young men and women, who have an insatiable urge to be prosperous, but in the current times, this unfulfilled urge is fuelled by sociopolitical narratives through social media, resulting in anger and

Although there is nothing unusual about the Pakistani state's authoritarian response to May 9 violence, its objective to dismantle a popular political party and subvert judicial decisions are completely disproportionate, wrong and counterpro-

Firstly, the 2007 judicial-lawyers movement, the PTM movement, the present Baloch insurgency and the May 9 political violence have much in common they are middle class, urban, women have a role, and there is rage without pragmatic solutions. This anger and rage cannot be crushed through coercion and seduced through patrio-

Secondly, political mobilisation in Punjab, and Lahore in particular, has always succeeded (eg, 1968-9, 1977 and 2007-2009), and repressive tactics tested in Sindh, Balochistan and KP will not necessarily work in Punjab.

Thirdly, legitimacy based on coercion and patriotism in a period of stagflation will not succeed. Propaganda and coercion don't gel well with empty stomachs. Fourthly, nobody re-

lies on television for their and ethnically diverse political views and information. Propaganda on TV achieves little legitimacy.

Fifthly, can this state open up another front against a popular political party, when already it is ments in Indonesia. – Cour-

cies, ie, TTP and Baloch insurgents, and a hostile geopolitical neighbourhood? In short, a strategy based on coercion and patriotism to control politics and judiciary will not work. The sword (coercive power) must tolerate and coexist with the people (politics) and the pen (judic iary).

Indonesian path: In order to avoid chaos and global humiliation, the only rational path open for this establishment-dominated state is the Indonesian path to democratic constitutionalism. Indonesia and Pakistan have remarkable similarities: Indonesia also achieved independence in the 1940s; it was a military dictatorship from 1967 to 1998; its military establishment had institutional economic interest and was deeply involved in Indonesia's sociopolitical develop-ment; it is a geographically country, and the world's most populous Muslim country; it has experienced tensions between Islam and modernity; and lastly. there are secessionist move-

Who will lead Pakistan?



Dr Shahnaz Khan

Pakistan is caught in the vortex of multiple crises: economic, political, governance and institutional. The political discourse has become increasingly divisive and intolerant and the trust deficit between people and state institutions has reached new lows. The threat of terrorism is getting worse. And there are major geopolitical shifts, with China and the US competing for influence and resources, putting Pakistan in a difficult position. However, the most acute, most important and most challenging issue is the crisis of

art of making possible what is necessary. In Pakistan, politics is the art of acquiring the seat of power by any means possible and holding on to it for as long as posdoes not mean winning elections, holding large jalsas, having street power or the art of wheeling and dealing. It does not even mean being informed or having technical and management skills. Leadership requires

empathy more than anything else. It requires a vision with the ability to see into the future, finding and implementing solutions to complex problems. It means developing future leaders by empowering, encouraging and opening the doors for all who want to enter the political arena. It means to be at the forefront when it is time to sacrifice and at the end of line when it is time personal material gains.

Do we see anyone meeting these criteria among the current ruling class? Even though Pakistan has been blessed with an abundance of natural resources, it has never had strong political leadership. The question is, why is that so? The answer lies in what the late Kofi Annan said, "Politics is too important to be left only to politicians. Democracy depends on lively participation of organized civil

society in political life." In Pakistan platforms like trade unions and student unions which were once for a strong man who will used for organized participation in politics — and as training grounds for people at the grassroots level to understand and educate themselves about the issues and then enter mainstream politics — were intentionally and systematically dismantled very early. Of course, dictators had a role in this but even during civilian rule, the trend was not reversed. In fact all political parties/leaders happily continued the policies of dicta-

tors in this matter. These platforms were replaced by NGOs and charity/welfare organizations which were politically impotent and promoted the narrative that 'doing good' can only be done through charity and that this is the solution to the country's

The local government system which acts as the springboard for entry into politics at the grassroots level has been made completely ineffective. The result is what we are seeing a politically naive people gullible for populist slogans, emotional narratives and a target for misuse of religious sentiments. Instead of having confidence making tough decisions, cation and healthcare and mine their place in history. in their strength, they wait

save them from the clutches of some vague, ill-defined evil forces. Thus a populist leader who offers simple solutions to complex problems and makes empty threats to perceived enemies is seen as a messiah. This is what happened in the past few years and has culminated in the events of May 9, 2023

So, where do we go from here? The short-term goal is to get out of the economic mess we are in. We all know what needs to be done but is not being done because it is contrary to the interests of most so-called leaders. If there ever was a country in dire need of an honest and sincere political leadership, it is Pakistan. Pakistan needs a leader

who is willing to become a role model for the rest by giving up all perks, making tough economic decisions which will adversely affect him/her and who can stand on the moral high ground. A nation increasingly burdened by inflation, poverty and joblessness will and may be willing to forgive the past excesses.

starting a pathway for an

inclusive economic system, where all share the fruits of good times as well as the losses incurred when the economy is not in the best shape. No nation can become great where only a few are wealthy while the rest struggle to just sur-The long-term goal

should be to increase human capital, without which progress is not possible. The World Bank report — the Pakistan Human Capital Review documents and quantifies the country's human capital crisis. Pakistan's Human Capital Index (HCI) is 0.41 which is lowest in the region. The South Asian region's average is 0.48 with Bangladesh at 0.46 and Nepal at 0.49. Even the most economically advantaged groups in Pakistan have lower HCI compared to peer coun-

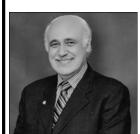
According to the World Bank, "if Pakistan improves both its human capital and its use of human capital...its GDP per stand behind such a leader capita could rise by 144 per cent." For that it has to control population growth, But this will require increase investment in eduempower women increas-

ing their participation in the job market. Developcomprehensive plan beyond laptop schemes, scholarship programmes.

Is there a leader who is up to this challenge? Is there someone who has empathy for millions in this country whose lives are no better than animals who has the vision and ability to find solutions to complex problems? Is there someone who is confident enough to not be threatened by new emerging leaders and who will open the doors of opportunity for them? Is there someone willing to change the economic structure so all stakeholders reap the benefits, and become the role model for that? Who will lead by example — someone who will sacrifice their personal interests for the eater good?

History has put this burden on the shoulders of the current leaders of state institutions, the men who hold the future of this country in their hands. How they negotiate through this complex maze of problems and its outcome will deter--- Courtesy TheNews

Rama's sandals



F.S. Aijazuddin

Modi should seriously consider visiting Islamabad soon. He will find a number of kindred Ramabhakts

For those unfamiliar with the Hindu epic Ramayana, Rama (the eighth incarnation of Lord Vishnu), surrendered his kingdom in obedience to a rash promise made by his father, King Dasaratha. Rama quit the royal capital of Ayodhya and went into exile for 14 years, entrusting the administration of his brother, Bharata.

Pleading unworthiness, Bharata nevertheless agreed but asked Rama for his sandals to be placed on clared to the people of Ayodhya: "Accept the sandals as symbols of the feet of the Exalted One! Through these sandals belonging to my superior shall righteousness be established in the kingdom [...] When he comes once more to Ayodhya, I shall fasten them to his feet, and, casting my burden upon him, in making over the kingdom to him, I shall serve him."

In Pakistan's politics, there are too many examples of such political surrogacy for them not to be interpreted as a pattern.

The pre-eminent case elder brother, Nawaz Sharif, went into exile in 2019, leaving his younger brother, Shehbaz Sharif, to administer their PML-N on his behalf. Even though Shehbaz own right, following Imran Khan's ousterthrough a noconfidence motion, he still holds out as he is acting only as his brother's proxy, waiting for his return before reprime ministership to him.

Many suspect that Nawaz Sharif may not want to become a fourth-term prime minister. Others question Shehbaz Sharif's altruistic intentions. He seems to be enjoying the perks of his position too much to hand them over without a frown. At another level, both would like to see themselves succeeded later rather than sooner by their children -Nawaz by Maryam and

Shehbaz by Hamza. In the PPP, Asif Ali Zardari, who served as Pakistan's president, is content to dumb-down as an MNA and share the steering wheel of the party with his son and Benazir's heir, Bilawal. It may be too early for him to negotiate the prime ministership for his son before the next general election. He might conceivably expect it as their share

of the post-election spoils. In the Aiwan-i-Sadr, the incumbent has never pretended to be anything more than Imran Khan's — a PTI sandals apparatchik, there to do his

leader's bidding.
Within the PTI, the decimation of its top hierarchy (one can hardly call it 'leadership', so precipitous and callous was their betrayal) has left its senior vice chairman Shah Mahmood Oureshi as its reluctant spokesman. He is vet to be anointed successor pro temp by Imran Khan. For the time being, he seems to be content to use his leader's sandals as the symbol of absent authority.

Peripheral political parties like the PML-Q struggle to secure a foothold of relevance for their sons or nephews. The newest party — Jahangir Tareen's İstehkam-i-Pakistan Party - was established as recently as June 2023. Tareen, exiled by law from politics,

as IPP's patron-in-chief

nominated Aleem Khan as its first president and accommodated other escapees from the PTI in senior positions. To those with experience of such makeshift hotchpotch, the IPP appears to its opponents less a fearsome adversary than a war-weary 'forlorn hope'.
The battle for power

in the next general elections is strangely reminiscent of the recent shenanigans in the Ukraine. There, Putin's bulldog mercenary, Yevgeny Prigozhin, threatened to bite the hand that had been feeding him, unless his master fed him some more. Then, reportedly bought off by Putin with uncountable millions, Prigozhin suddenly abando-n-ed his march on Moscow and, dec-a-mping to Belarus, betrayed his cannon-fodder mercenaries in the field.

One is reminded of Leon Trotsky's cutting observation about the French intellectual poseur André Malraux: "Malraux is organically incapable of moral independence; he was born biddable.'

establishment relationship.

Rama's ever-present sandals

remain more than a meta-

phor. -- Courtesy Dawn

The outcome of the next general elections will depend not on electables, but on biddables. It is rumoured that, already, the two major parties within the ruling PDM alliance are squabbling over the trillions they can divert from the state treasury into their war chests. Ďemocracy comes at price, and the price for these swing constituencies is still under negotiation. The recent helicopter trip to Parachinar by the civilian and military leadership together to celebrate Eid with the jawans defending the extremities of our country was more than a joint tribute to their bravery. The optics emphasised one thing: the present PDM coalition govthe state. ernment (as long as it lasts), and its successor (however long that lasts) will have to be the Bharata in the civil-

Pardon my French

have never felt as uncomfortable and scrutinised in any European capital as I have in Paris, where many white people exude silent belligerence.

I wasn't surprised, then, by the video of a French policemen shooting a teenager of Algerian descent during a routine traffic stop. The teenager was 17-year-old Merzouk. In the days following the fatal shooting, thousands of rioters took to the streets of France and burned down shops and cars. The protesters said they identified with the teenager because they too had faced persecution by the police. The incident seems to have brought France's racism towards Muslims and other non-

white immigrants to the A huge crowd of French Muslims attended the funeral prayers of Merzouk, whose family members were protected by security guards provided by the mosque at which they were held. In an illustrative irony, no police officers were present at the large public event, even though 45,000 of them had been mobilised to go after rioters following his death. France has a large Muslim population, but their existence seems to be ignored by

Some of those attending the funeral prayers pointed out to the media that had there not been a video of the incident, Merzouk's death, like so many others at the hands of an overzealous, brutal

For its part, the Ma-

wrongheadedness as the

administrations before it.

As rioters began to destroy



Rafia Zakaria

government property and stores and started to attack police officers, government officials beg-an to condemn the loss of property rather than the core reason behind the riots. Property losses and injuries to policemen were dragged to the centre of the debate rather than the animosity that state instr-u-ments show towards those of Algerian and Moroccan descent in France. This has only whetted the destructive appetites of the rioters, who see the response as yet another example of a white-dominated French state ignoring the pressing problems faced by French Muslims of Algerian and Moroccan

Soon after Merzouk was killed, the protests had spread all across France. In one incident, rioters began to target the homes of mayors seen as colluding with the government. The home of the mayor of L'Hay-les-Roses — a usually quiet area — was targeted. The mayor's family was injured when rioters rammed their car through the gate of the residence, set the vehicle on fire and launched firework rockets. The French association of mayors has become even more vocal about

quelling the protests. At a meeting with French officials on July 4, Macron hoped to "start the painstaking, longterm work needed to understand the deeper reasons" behind the events. It is difficult to establish if he meant this as a delaying tactic where the obvious racism of state officials towards the Muslim minority can continue to be ignored until later. Even if he was sincere about wanting to understand the problem, the fact that he does -- Courtesy Dawn

French police, would have not understand it yet is depressing enough. If anything, it reveals just how cron government has acted oblivious the French majority is to the lives of French Muslims living amongst them for decades. The fact that the country's top political official thinks that there is a need for further research to understand a very basic story of racism and abuse of power is alarming.

Only a few weeks have passed since hundreds of Pakistanis died while being smuggled to Europe on a fishing boat. It truly hurts the heart to realise that young people from Pakistan are quite literally putting their lives at risk to Europ-ean cou-ntries. inc luding Fra-nce, where it is almost guaran-teed that they wil be treated poorly, exploi-ted, perhaps even killed as non-white immigrants. And yet it appears that these migrant flows from an inflation-wracked. climate change-battered, and politically stunted Pakistan will increase.

One of the biggest ipes the mainstream middle-class French have against the povertystricken French Muslims of the suburbs is that they take advantage of the social welfare state set up after World War II. These immigrants should not be milking the government in this way is the refrain. It is a clever trick, because the rea sentiment behind it is that the social welfare system should only benefit good white people (the real French) and not the immi-

It is quite likely that as more migrants pour into European countries, the now quaint-sounding liberal values of freedom. equality and brotherhood will be done away with altogether. In their place will be some formula that permits racist European states to limit government benefits to non-white people.

China proposes SCO members to expand digital currency settlements

BEIJING (APP): China has proposed to expand cooperation on sovereign digital currency among member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Experts have said that the proposal will elevate the transaction efficiency among SCO members.

In addition to the expanded cooperation on using sovereign digital currencies, the Chinese side also suggested the SCO to scale up local currency settlement between SCO members promote the establishment of an SCO development bank.

The trade among SCO members can be expanded with higher efficiency through the increasing adoption of sovereign digital currency as enterprises can lower

and the fluctuation in the reduce US dollar exchange rate, Wang Peng, a research fellow at the Beijing Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times. As a major SCO member, China has been implementing targeted efforts to boost the use of yuan in crossborder settlement.

In January 2023, a cross-border trade center was established at China-SCO Local Economic and Cooperation Demonstration Area (SCODA) in Qingdao, East China's Shandong Province, where enterprises can choose to settle their SCO members in the yuan.

statement sent to the and Road Initiative.

potential risks resulting Global Times that the trade from geopolitical factors center can effectively settlement cost while avoiding the risks incurred by frequent exchange rates

By the end of June, the trade center of SCODA has facilitated 24.29 billion yuan (\$3.35 billion) worth of cross-border settlement. The center processed 3.84 billion yuan in crossborder financing using the yuan, with 1.25 billion yuan coming from overseas markets, according to

SCODA also revealed that demonstration area will set an innovation lab targeting China's Crossinternational trade with Border Interbank Payment System, aiming to expand Lu Wei, a the utility of the system representative from among SCO members and SCODA, said in a the China-proposed Belt



ISLAMABAD: Andreas Ferrarese the Italian Ambassador in Pakistan and Secretary Ministry of Economic Affairs in a group photo after signs the Exchange of Letter as Pakistan and Italy extend Pakistan â€"Italian Debt Swap Agreement (PIDSA) timeline until December 2024, at the Ministry of

PTI govt left biggest trade deficit in country's history, damaged economy: Kiyani

ISLAMABAD (APP): question, he replied that Minister's Coordinator for Economy and Energy Bilal Azhar Kayani Thursday lashed out at the previous government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was responsible for damaging the economic sector and left biggest trade deficit in the country's history.

brought the country on the in Pakistan's economy will verge of bankruptcy but the PDM-led now enhance, he said, adding, the IMF agreement the default", he said while talking to a private news channel.

He further blamed that the political instability created by chairman PTI has also caused irreparable damage to the country's economy adding that the economy is in dire need of reforms which will be directly related to political Replying

we need to learn from our past mistakes and devise medium and long-term policies to improve the economy, adding, economic indicators are constantly improving after the signing of the stafflevel agreement with the

The trust of domestic "PTI government as well as foreign investors will also o external financing, including funding from bilateral and multilateral institutions and individual

investors.

IMF deal was the need of the hour, he said, adding, the conspiracies of some inimical forces did not succeed and that it was very important for Pakistan to get the IMF program as it will help a achieve financial discipline.

PSX turns around to bullish trend, gains 626 points

The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on gaining Thursday, 626.01 points, a positive change of 1.44 percent, closing at 44,178.85 points against 43,552.84 points the previous trading day.

A total of

A total or 297,822,139 shares were traded during the day as compared to 351,181,910 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.12.428 billion against Rs 12.014 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 335 companies transacted their shares in the stock market;

and 112 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 23 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 28,845,201 shares at Rs.1.21 per share; Pak Elektron with 16,169,219 shares at Rs.10.66 per share and Pak Petroleum 14,126,634 shares at Rs.67.24 per share.

Meĥmood witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.43.15 per share price, closing at Rs.725.00, whereas the runner-up was Shield Corp with an Rs.21.97 rise in its per share price to

MULTAN: A trader selling seasonal fruit mango at Fruit Market.

Pakistan's total foreign reserves rise to \$ 9.74b

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign réserves of Pakistan rise to US\$,745.5 million while reserves held by the central bank reached US\$ 4,462.7

The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that foreign reserves held by the central bank increased by US\$ 393 million to US\$ 4,462.7 million 'mainly due to receipt of official GoP inflows' as of June 30,

foreign reserves held by commercial banks stood at US\$ 5,282.8 million, it added.

In the previous week ending on June 23, 2023, total liquid foreign reserves hold by the country was US\$ 9,340.8 million. Among them, foreign reserves held by the central bank were US\$ 4,069.9 million while net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were US\$ 5,270.9 million.

Gold prices up by Rs1,800

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 1,800 and was sold at Rs 207,800 on Thursday against its sale at Rs. 206,000 the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs1,543 to Rs178,155 from Rs 176,612 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went up to Rs 163,309 from Rs 161,894, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten-gram silver remained constant at Rs 2480 and Rs 2,126.20 respectively. The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$23 to \$1905 from \$1928, the association reported.



Pakistan.

more loans and investments for Pakistan,

In a statement issued should start a diplomatic here, he said that the IMF's campaign to get the

will open the way for



Federal Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting on restructuring of PIA at Finance Division.

OMMERCE EWS

Dar seeks early legislation for quick resumption of PIA flights to USA, UK

Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday instructed the relevant authorities to bring forward appropriate legislation as soon as possible to ensure quick resumption of PIA flights to the United States of America (USA) and the United Kingdom (UK). The minister was

chairing a meeting on matters related to the Civil Aviation Division (CAA) and the Airport Security Force (ASF), according to a Finance Ministry press release. Earlier, the minister was briefed on the issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): sector pertaining to Federal Minister for regulation, service provision, and security functions. The meeting discussed various legal solutions available and the necessary amendments required in the aviation laws/ordinances in order to enhance the capacity in the aviation sector and to make it compatible with the international standards.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Aviation and Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique; Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Oamar. Federal Minister for Law & Justice Azam Nazir Tarar; SAPM on Finance being faced by the aviation Tariq Bajwa also present.

Naqvi presides over ceremony for providing skill courses to inmates

Independent Report AHORE: Caretaker Chief Naqvi presided over an agreement signing ceremony between the Technical Education & Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) and the Punjab Prisons Department aimed to facilitate technical courses for prisoners in 10 additional jails across the province. The agreement was signed by the Chief Operating Officer of TEVTA Ahmad Khawar Shahzad and IG Prisons Farooq Nazir, at the CM

Under this agreement, a total of 16 skill-based courses will be organized in |Laho re, Kasur, Sheikhupura, Pakpattan,

Okara, Jhang, Sargodha, Vehari, Toba Tek Singh, Minister Punjab Mohsin and Layyah jails. Upon successful completion of these courses, which typically last between 3 to 6 months, the inmates will receive certificates to support their reintegration into society. The courses will

cover a wide range of skills, including electrical work, welding, plumbing, motorcycle mechanics, fashion design, and computer applications.

During the event, the COO TEVTA highlighted that each course can accommodate up to 25 detainees. It was mentioned that TEVTA had already provided training to 20,000



HYDERABAD: Sindh Abadgar Ittehad President Nawaz Zubir Ahmed Talpur addressing a press conference at HPC.

Baligh initiates joint research to improve crop quality, boost agri production

Independent Report SLAMABAD: On the special direction of Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman, Chinese scientists, Punjab University and Guard Agriculture Research and Services will collaborate on modern research to develop the best quality seeds of rice, cotton, and wheat crops to boost agricultural production and meet the ever-increasing food needs of the growing population.
Vice Chancellor Punjab University Prof Dr

Khalid Mahmood has

already notified a high

powered

industrial

Dr Muhammad Arshad Javed, head of Plant Breeding and Genetics Department Dr Nasim Ahmad Yasin, Dr Abdul Qayyum Rao and Prof Dr Shakil Ahmad, Director ORIC with Shahzad Ali Malik, Sitara-I-Imtiaz, as its Convenor, said a press release issued here on Thursday.

Chairman, Pakistan Hitech Hybrid Seed Association Shahzad Ali Malik, while chairing the preliminary meeting of the committee, expressed his solemn resolve to promote the linkage and assured full cooperation from his company and linkage collaboration with Chinese committee comprising Prof scientists.

IMF board to give approval of Pakistan loan within days: PEW

Brig. (retd) Aslam Khan on Khan said that the Thursday hoped that few approval of IMF loan possible ratification of the which will improve the Staff Level Agreement with situation. government The

Executive Board's meeting international community scheduled to be held on and friendly countries to July 12, during which there implement

their

Pakistan, Italy extend PIDSA timeline until December 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): canceled, completion of Pakistan and Italy have reached an agreement to extend the timeline of the assets, impact evaluation Pakistan-Italian Debt Swap Agreement (PIDSA) through the Exchange of Letters (EoL).

Ferrarese, the Italian Ambassador in Pakistan and Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, signed the EoL and extended the timeline of the PIDSA up to December 31, 2024, on the same procedures, modalities, terms, and conditions as defined in the signed Agreement dated November 4, 2006, between Pakistan and Italy, said a press release issued here on Thursday. During the extension

period, the remaining activities of PIDSA will be completed i.e. the remaining debt will be

Port Qasim KARACHI (APP): Four ships namely, Maersk Pelepas, MSC Lisbon, Eva Usuki and Milaha Ras Laffan carrying Containers, LNG and Chemicals, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Engro Vopak Terminal and Pakistan Port Gas Terminal respectively.

Meanwhile, two more ships, Southern Anoa and Seaspan Beacon with Palm oil and Containers also arrived at the outer anchorage of Port Qasim during the last 24 hours. A total of 07 ships

were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two container ships 'Maersk Pelepas and MSC Lisbon' sailed out to sea on Thursday morning and four more ships, Eva Usuki, N-Orhan, Huang Additional same day. The cargo throughput of 128,071 tonnes, comprising 109,048 tones imports Cargo and 19,023 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 2,959 Containers (1,840 TEUs Imports and 1,119 TEUs export) was handled at the port.

ongoing PIDSA projects, handing/taking over of of the PIDSA Programme, and final report of the PIDSA Programme.

The Government of Pakistan and the Economic Affairs along Government of Italy had with representatives of the signed an agreement for Development Swap, on November 4, 2006, which came into force in 2009. Approximately \$100 million (ÛŜ \$26.52 million & Euro 58.74 million) equivalent to PKR 8.276 billion of Pakistan's debt owed to Italy is to be swapped for expenditure on development projects around the country on Health, Education, Agriculture, Environment, Micro Credit Schemes, Poverty Alleviation, Development

Committee (MC) is the highest decision-making body of Pakistan Italian Debt Swap Agreement (PIDSA), co-chaired by H.E. the Italian Ambassador and Secretary Ministry of Federal and Provincial Governments. To date, 48 projects have been approved and funded by PIDSA, out of which 45 projects have been completed and 3 are in

The Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs thanked the Government of the Republic of Italy for providing assistance under the Debt Swap Agreement and other Technical Assistance and emphasized further enhancing the bilateral ties between the

Shipping **Amin vows to address** activity at IT, Telecom issues, safeguard user rights

ISLAMABAD (APP): 2023-24 was approved. Federal Minister for Information Technology Syed Amin Ul Haque on officials from the IT Thursday made a firm commitment to tackle the challenges faced by the Information Technology and Telecom industry while ensuring the protection of cellular users'

During a meeting with Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of telecom companies, namely Ufone, Jazz, and Telenor, the minister recognized the need for striking a balance between service providers

He assured the CEOs resolve the issues plaguing FY 2023-24, amounting to

Additionally, Shan and Yakul Silver are expected to sail on the active measures being taken active measures being taken highlighted the challenges through relevant forums, aiming for positive outcomes.

Universal Service Fund (USF) Policy meeting, where the USF where the Company's annual budget of Rs 18,036 million for FY

The meeting was attended by high-ranking sector, including the Secretary IT and representatives from the Cabinet Division and Finance Ministry. The CEO of USF briefed the chair about the ongoing

The minister also presided over the Policy Committee meeting of the Research & Development Fund. The CEO of Ignite, go vernment-o wned technology innovation organization, presented various future projects during the meeting. The of his dedicated efforts to annual budget of Ignite for Rs 3,206 million, was the approved.

Syed Amin Ul Haque to settle these matters faced by telecom companies in importing equipment and upgrading systems due to limited Furthermore, Syed Letters of Credit (LCs), Amin Ul Haque chaired a causing delays in Universal Service Fund completing USF's ongoing projects. The minister assured his commitment to addressing this issue and finding suitable solutions



Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque chairing policy Committee meeting of Research & Development Fund in Islamabad.

China's services trade sustains growth in first 5 months

BEIJING (Xinhua/APP) China's services trade sustained its growth momentum in the first five months of the year, official data showed Thursday. The country's

services trade reached nearly 2.61 trillion yuan (about 362 billion U.S. dollars) from January to May, up 10.2 percent year on year, data from the Ministry of Commerce Trade in showed. knowled ge-intensive services expanded 13.6 percent year on year to exceed 1.12 trillion yuan in the period, the data showed. The figure accounted for 43.1 percent of the country's total volume of services trade, up 1.3 percentage points from the same period last year. Travel services saw approving a loan of three billion dollars and releasing

Kashif highlights potential benefits of barter trade ISLAMABAD (INP): strengthen economic ties

Chief Executive Officer, Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Kashif Ashfaq on Thursday said that barter trade among Russia, Iran and Afghanistan would hold several potential benefits and significance for these countries.

Presiding over the PFC Board of Directors meeting, he said that this wise and timely epoch making decision of Pakistan would promote regional integration and economic cooperation by leveraging their geographic proximity. Russia, Iran, and Afghanistan can enhance trade routes, connectivity and people-to-people exchanges, leading to a more integrated regional

economy, he said.

and promote cooperation among these countries and facilitate the exchange of goods and services without necessarily traditional transactions. It will also be particularly useful for the countries facing financial constraints or limited access to global financial systems, he said and added that barter trade would serve as an alternative mechanism for conducting business when traditional financial channels were restricted and in addition to bypassing monetary transactions, these countries can continue trading despite the sanctions shocks. The PFC head said it can help address trade imbalances between these countries that promotes Kashif Ashfaq said that it would help further mutual benefits and foster economic equilibrium.

PM extends Pakistan's full support to UAE hosting COP28 summit

Woos UAE investment in alternative energy as both countries sign MoU

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday extended Pakistan's full support to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as the country was set to host COP28 summit in Dubai from November 30 to December 12 this year.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Presidentdesignate of COP-28 and UAE's Special Envoy for Climate Change, Minister for Industries and Technologies and Chairman Masdar Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber and his delegation, conveyed best wishes to the leadership of UAE for the success of

ister underscored the importance of high level exchanges and felicitated him on his appointment as President-designate

He expressed full constewardship of this important global conference.

COP28.

Appreciating UAE's efforts in combating climate change and developing renewable energy projects, the prime minister thanked the Emirates for its support during last year's devastating floods

He also thanked the best wishes of the UAE Welcoming Dr. Sultan UAE for its vital support Al Jaber, the prime min- to Pakistan which has been critical in reaching staff level agreement with the IMF.

Prime Shehbaz also briefed the delegation about the Special Investment Facilitation fidence in Dr. Jaber's Council established by the government aimed at providing facilitating the foreign investors in diverse

He also shared details of the 10,000 MW solar energy projects for which a road show was already held in Dubai.

Dr. Sultan Al Jaber conveyed the greetings and

Sharjeel



Division Mr Rashid Mahmood Langrial and Undersecretary of Ministry & Infrastructure of UAE Mr

Joint sitting of Parliament condemns desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden

ISLAMABAD (APP): The joint sitting of the Parliament on Thursday strongly condemned the desecration of the Holy Ouran in Sweden and called upon the international community to take serious action to prevent such incidents in the future.

leadership to the prime

minister. He showed keen

interest to enhance part-

nership with Pakistan in all

domains and emphasized

UAE's leadership direc-

tions to him to further improve collaboration with

Pakistan in the renewable energy sector that would

help boost energy security

for Pakistan. The visiting

dignitary underscored that

they viewed Pakistan as an

important partner in climate change discourse and

appreciated Pakistan's ac-

tive role in climate change

They were addressing on a motion moved by Federal Minister for Human Rights, Riaz Hussain Pirzada on the situation arising out of the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden in the joint sitting of the Parliament, which was chaired by Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez

Parliamentarians from the government and the this matter. He said that

deep distress over the incident, stating that Muslims worldwide have been profoundly hurt by this disgraceful act.

no civilized society should permit the provocation and disrespect of religious sentiments under the guise of freedom of expression. They urged the international community to address this tragic incident and take effective measures to prevent similar occurrences Leader of the Opposi-

tion in the National Assembly Raja Riaz Ahmad strongly condemned the incident and said that the enstrict action against that person. He said that every Pakistani would participate in peaceful protests on Friday against the incident. He praised the decision to convene an emergency meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in response to the incident.

Opposition Leader in Senate, Senator Dr Shahzad Waseem said that such act will increase the feeling of abhorrence among various communities of the world

Kundi rejects

propaganda on

Iraq visa fee dera ismail khan

(APP): Minister of State for

Poverty Alleviation and

Social Safety and Central

Information Secretary of

Pakistan People's Party

(PPP) Faisal Karim Kundi

has rejected a propaganda

about increase in Iraq visa

fee and termed it against the

here on Thursday, he said

some travel agents and op-

position elements were

misleading people regarding

Iraqi visa fees despite the

fact Foreign Minister and

the party's chairman

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had

successfully fought the

In a statement issued

some countries and demanded to stop happening of such incidents. He said that playing with the senti-ments of Muslims on the name of freedom of expression is absolutely deplor-

Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani said that holding of joint sitting of the Parliament was a good step to give a message to the world that the entire nation was condemned the anti-Islam

ensuring international

He called upon the international community to take notice and strict action against those responsible. He said that our protests should be held peacefully following the teach-

ings of Islam. Federal Minister for Communications Maulana Asad Mehmood strongly united on this incident. He said that Muslims respect unjustifiable.

Faryal Talpur pays tribute to late Dr. Balgees

Independent Report

KARACHI: PPP Women's Wing Central President and Sindh Assembly Member Faryal Talpur visited the resi-dence of the late Dr. Balqees Malik in Larkana to offer condolences

She recited Fateha (a prayer for the deceased) for the late Dr. Balqees Malik's reward in the hereafter.



Faryal Talpur mentioned that the late Dr. Balqees Malik had heeded the call of Shaheed Bhutto and came from abroad to settle in Larkana, dedicating her entire life to the medical and social services of the people of Larkana

Faryal Talpur paid tribute to the late Dr. Balqees Malik and stated that she will always remain alive in the hearts of the people of Larkana and the entire Pakistani nation. Former Minister of Interior Sohail Anwar Sival Mayor of Larkana Anwar Luhar, Deputy Mayor Ameen Sheikh, PPP Larkana City President Khair Muhammad Sheikh, and other party leaders and workers were also present with Faryal Talpur.

CPC unites and leads Chinese People to achieve remarkable **Success: CG Yang Yundong**

CPC played a pivotal role in shaping the destiny of Chinese nation: Naqvi

Independent Report KARACHI:

Yundong, Consul General of China in Karachi has said that the Communist Party of China (CPC) has been able to unite and lead the Chinese people to achieve such remarkable achievements, to the Party and the Chinese people, mainly includes the following aspects.

He said CPC is the central leading force of all causes in China. History

CPC in governing and rejuvenating the country. He emphasized that the Party will follow the guidance of President of China and the Secretary General of the CPC, Xi Jinping's thoughts on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, unite and lead the Chinese people to build a modern socialist country in an all-

round way.

The Chinese side is willing to strengthen ex-



and reality have proven that the CPC possesses keen judgment, strong organizational capabilities,

and unwavering execution. He was addressing the celebration of the 102nd anniversary of the founding of the CPC as the Chief Guest, organized by the Karachi Editors Club (KEC), in association support of GFS Builders.

Zhang Hao Wang Haitao, Shang Hailong, Chen Junjie, Chen Weilong diplomats from the Chinese Consulate Karachi also participated in the event along with the C.G.

Highlighting the century-old history and great achievements of the Communist Party of China

governing the party and the country with all walks of life in Pakistan, and walk hand in hand on the road to modernization, he Professor Yang Fanxin

Head of the International Relations of the Renmin University, Beijing China in her zoomlink address with Adpulse with the support of GFS Builders. of the CPC history, said, Over the past 102 years, CPC has upheld the great spirit of building the Party, constructed a spiritual lineage for the CPC and honed a distinct political character in its long-term struggle. The CPC and the Chinese people have fought for a century, writing the grand-(CPC) arranged by est chapter in the history Karachi Editors (Club) of the Chinese nation est chapter in the history Yang Yundong shared the spanning thousands of valuable experience of the years.

ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Disaster Management Authority Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik presiding Flood Management Conference.

Naqvi visits Ganga Ram Hospital to inquire about injured

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohs in Naqvi visited Sir Ganga Ram Hospital to inquire about the injured due to collapse of a building's roof, caused by the falling of a wall from an adjacent building.

Mohsin Naqvi directed the Medical Superintendent to ensure comprehensive care and treatment for the injured. expressing his prayers for their swift recovery. He instructed the hospital administration to provide necessarv med ic al to assistance the injured. Addressing the media after the visit, Mohsin Naqvi announced that an investigation would be launched against the owners of the wedding hall responsible for wall

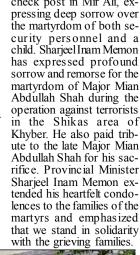
collapse. As many as 14

people, four of whom are in critical condition, were brought to Ganga Ram Hospital after the incident. assured appropriate action will be taken against those found responsible. In light of check post in Mir Ali, exvarious incidents caused by heavy rainfall, financial assistance will be provided to the families of the deceased, and the injured will receive free medical treatment, he added.

Mo hs in commended efforts of the highly competent team of doctors at the hospital, who were diligently providing treatment to the injured and Provincial Minister Dr Javed Akram was personally supervising their care. If necessary, the injured will be referred to other hospitals for treatment, he

condemns attack on check post in Mir Ali Independent Report ARACHI: The Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon, has strongly condemned the attack on the

Naqvi





HYDERABAD: Members of Pakistan Zindabad Movement (PZM) holding protest demonstration against desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden, at Hyderabad press club

Jamali were severely af-

people have built their own

houses under self help ba-

sis and the provincial gov-

ernment is also helping the

victims, now we are trying

to go to the flood affected

talukas and UCs where

people need such houses,

Society maintaining its tra-

dition, is going to build more

than 5 thousand shelter

houses for the flood victims

throughout Pakistan and

the goal is to build more

than 1 thousand shelter

Sardar Shahid Leghari

houses in each province.

we have promised to build

a thousand shelter houses

in which the Norwegian

Red Crescent, International

Federation of Red Cross,

German Red Cross are our

ers so that they can come

here and see that we will

build houses where there is

a need for houses, he added.

that the health conditions

in Pakistan are very bad due

to which the flood victims

of last year are still waiting

for medical aid and it is not

possible to reach every-

where, but the government

and the Pakistan Red Cres-

cent Society are working

together with all stakehold-

ers for rehabilitation and the

Chairman PRCS said

Pakistan Red Crescent

He also said some

Chairman PRCS hands over | Man tortures son keys first model shelter house to flood affected widow

LARKANA (APP): Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has set up the first shelter house for the flood victims of 2022 in village Badal Khan Brohi near Garhi Khudabakhsh Bhutto of Larkana district, on Thursday

Chairman PRCS Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari along with his team reached the village and handed over the keys to the flood affected widow Mst. Sita Bibi house comprising on tworooms and inaugurated the solar-powered water filtration plant at village Seerlo of Ratodero taluka along with the shelter house project.

Secretary General PRCS Ubeadullah Khan, Assistant Commissioner Ratodero Ghous Bakhsh Jatoi, Asma Naseem, Chairman Red Crescent Larkana Branch Ahmad Mehmood Farooqui, Rajab Ali, German Red Crescent Kasur other partners and support-Abbas, Nadeem Abbas, Nasir Khan, Kamran Kashif and others were also present, on the occasion. Speaking to the media.

Chairman PRCS Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari said that last year about 3.5 crore people of Sindh, Baluchistan and KPK and Punjab were affected by floods and heavy rains, especially Larkana, Kamber Shahdadkot, Shikarpur, Dadu, Jamshoro, Thatta, Badin in the coastal areas. He said in the districts

to death over buffalo theft allegations of Balochistan, Sahabatpur, Jafarabad, Dera Murad

KARACHI (INP): A man tortured his

hot_words.

The angry father hit young son Zulfiqar in head with iron rod resulting in his immediate death. The accused fled the scene.

university and observed that all facilities required for research were available like the facilities provided to any top ranked universities of Europe.He said

students at par with the

inaugural ceremony of

'strengthening of Main

campus' of the University

of Education here, he said

that he had visited

different sections of the

Addressing the

international standards.

young son to death over allegations of buffalo theft in Manghopir area of Karachi on Thurs-

day.
Police said that a man got annoyed with son over charges of buffalo against him which led to exchange of

The body was shifted to hospital and police after registering a case into the incident started raids for his arrest.

infrastructure and it was a job of teachers and students to achieve desired results from the world-class available facilities. In 2013 when the PML-N came into power, the country was facing a lot of challenges but during the tough situation dedicated efforts were made to turnaround the country, he said and added that unfortunately country's development process was hindered in 2018. He said all projects which were initiated by the PML-N for strengthening the country were scandalized and stopped. He lamented

that during the last four

years no short, medium or government could only long term development plan was given. Electricity, gas outages:

Protest at Maripur Road enters second day

KARACHI (INP): The protests of Karachi citizens against prolonged electricity and gas outages entered the second day on Thursday and the protestors blocked Maripur Road again. A large number of protestors blocked Maripur Road for the second day which disrupted the flow of traffic on

Port was also trapped due to the closure of both tracks of To disperse protestors, heavy contingents of police force equipped with teargas shells reached the road. The police contingents are expected to use teargas shells once

again to disperse the protestors. The traffic police said on its Twitter handle that the traffic is being diverted to Mirza Adam to Miran Naka, ICI to G Allana Road, whereas, heavy traffic is being lined-up to Mochko, Truck Adda and Jackson Market.



Council. Deputy Commissioner Zainul Abideen Memon, SSP Chaudhry Asad Ali and Vice Chairman Mir Ahmed Khan Talpur are also present

Religious scholars condemn burning of Holy Quran Representative on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prominent scholars, intellectuals, and leaders representing various schools of thought and religious denominations from across the country on Thursday strongly condemned the recent incident of burning the Holy Quran in Sweden.

In a joint statement, they expressed their outrage and announced that on upcoming Friday would be observed as 'Quran Sanctity Day.

They called for peaceful protests and condemnation of the incident in all mosques, emphasizing the need for swift action against the blasphemous act.

The Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council and

Ahsan Iqbal says:

country's development

Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, along with respected figures such as Maulana Ziaullah Shah Bukhari, Maulana Muhammad Khan Laghari, Allama Arif Wahidi, Allama Abdul Haq Mujahid, Maulana Muhammad Rafique Jami, Maulana Asad Zakaria Qasmi, Maulana Nauman Hashir, Maulana Muhammad Shafi Qasmi, Allama Zubair Abid, Maulana Asadullah Farooq, Maulana Muhammad Ashfaq Pitafi, Maulana Tahir Aqeel Awan, Maulana Aziz Akbar Qasmi, Maulana Muhammad Maulana Aslam Siddiqui, Maulana Abu Bakr Hamid Sabri, and others jointly issued a state-Prime Minister's Special ment.

case of Pakistani people and demanded a reduction in visa fees during his visit to On the directives of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, he had a detailed meeting with the Iraqi ambassador and discussed the problems being faced by the Pakistani pilgrims, he

Two held for collecting funds for banned organization KARACHI (APP): Sindh

Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) on Thursday claimed to have arrested two alleged terrorists affiliated with a proscribed organization who were collecting funds for their organiza According to In-charge

Anti-Terrorism Financing Unit of CTD Rafaqat AÌ told that two of a banned Sipah-e-Sahaba were arrested from Scheme-33 area of the megalopolis.

Jehangir Tareen's brother 'commits suicide⁵

LAHORE (APP): Alamgir Khan Tareen, a brother of Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) Patron-in-Chief Jahangir Khan Tareen, allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself in his head with a pistol at his residence in Gulberg area, here on Thursday. Alamgir the arterial road. Heavy traffic coming from the Karachi Tareen was the owner and managing director of the Multan Sultans PSL fran-

Police said the 62year-old lived alone. They said the crime scene had been sealed and the pistol he used for allegedly committing suicide recovered