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President dissolves National Assembly on PM advice

Dr. Alvi dissolved the lower house of parliament under the Article 58(1) of the Constitution

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi approved the summary for dissolving the National Assembly (NA) at midnight on Wednesday at outgoing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's advice, marking an end to the current government's tenure.

The notification for the dissolution of the assembly



was issued by the Aiwan-i-Sadr, which said the NA the assembly within 48 was dissolved under Article hours after the PM has rec-58 of the Constitution. ommended so, the assem-

According to Article 58 bly automatically stands of the Constitution, if the dissolved. Earlier in a state-

ment, Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi confirmed the development, saving that the elected government has completed its 5-year constitutional term. The parliamentary af-

fairs ministry will issue a notification on the approval of the summary and the formation of the caretaker government, he added. РМ Meanwhile,

Shehbaz and Leader of the Opposition in NA now have three days as per the Constitution to finalise a name for the caretaker prime minister.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharifin a group photo with members of the Federal Cabinet



JHELUM: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir visited Tilla Field Firing Ranges, witnessed Live Fire and maneuvers of the advanced VT-4 tanks, shoot and scoot capabilities of long range SH-15 artillery guns and innovative equipment display, near Jhelum.

lic Relations (ISPR) news

ated combat proficiency of

the crews and their mastery

over state-of-the-art weap-

onry. He remarked, "Paki-

stan Army was alive to the

existing and emerging chal-

lenges and possessed the

wherewithal to thwart ne-

farious designs of its adver-

saries through the entire

gamut of threat". Earlier on

arrival, the COAS was re-

ceived by Commander

Mangla Corps and was

briefed on operational readi-

The COAS appreci-

release said.

Visits Tilla Field Firing Ranges near Jhelum Pakistan Army alive to existing, emerging challenges: COAS

PEMRA amendment bill sails through Senate, NA

Thorough consultations held with all stakeholders during preparation of PEMRA Amendment Bill: Marriyum ISLAMABAD (APP): PEMRA Ordinance, which The Senate and the National involved a year-long consul-Assembly on Wednesday approved the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory According Authority (Amendment)

Bill, 2023, which was re-tracted by the federal government earlier this week, with a majority vote. Minister of Informa-tion and Broadcasting,

Marriyum Aurangzeb proposed the bill and highlighted her role in initiating the process to amend the

No meaningful engagement with India unless revocation of illegal, unilateral steps on IIOJK: FM

ISLAMABAD (APP): United Nations Security Foreign Minister Bilawal Council resolutions, but Bhutto Zardari on Wednes- also the bilateral agreements

involved a year-long consultation and the incorporation of three important clauses. Marriyum Aurangzeb, the 2023 PEMRA Bill safe-SLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz

guards the rights of media workers and journalists. farewell address to the Na-This is because the bill mantional Assembly, expressed dates all media house ownheartfelt gratitude to a diers to settle their outstandverse array of political paring dues, including salaries, ties, underscoring their pivwithin a two-month otal support and guidance timeframe. during the challenging term Continued on page 2

before sending advice to President Dr Arif Alvi for the dissolution of the National Assembly, the prime Three terrorists

killed in Zhob ZHOB (INP):

Sharifon Wednesday, in his

of 16 months. Just hours

guidance; Terms tenure 'most difficult test of life; minister told the House that the previous government to the 16-month tenure was the shortest ever period for a government particularly when compared to the plethora of issues inherited from the previous regime. He said besides other unsuitable conditions, the coalition government also had to face other massive challenges like the worst floods and the signing of the IMF (International Monetary Fund)

deal which was breached by

Farewell address at National Assembly

Pakistan to be made

economically stable via

joint efforts, says PM

Thanks who's who of political parties for support,

hurt national integrity. He said through its poor conduct and episodes like

the "cipher drama" the previous government undermined foreign relations, including with the United States, besides carrying out defamatory propaganda against political opponents. "This is the painful

story of the previous government's four years... Continued on page 2



RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Sved Asim Munir on Wednesday appreciated high degree of professionalism, battle worthiness and offensive spirit displayed by the troops of the Strike Corps.

The Army Chief visited Tilla Field Firing Ranges near Jhelum and witnessed Live Fire and manoeuvres of the advanced VT-4 tanks, shoot and scoot capabilities of long range SH-15 artillery guns and innovative equipment display, an Inter Services Pub- ness of the Strike Corps.

Minister Home takes notice of Joint road attack:

Terrorists have no other option but to surrender before writ of state, asserts Langove

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has taken notice of the hand grenade attack on Joint Road in Quetta on Wednesday. According to an offi-

who called on him here at the Governor House on Wednesday. The Governor stressed Mir Ziaullah Langove that it is very necessary to

ensure merit in promotions and recruitments of the government officers and other employees.

> Maryam Nawaz directs youth coordinators to mobilize PML-N LAHORE (APP): Pakistan

Governor calls for

creating balance in

salaries and incentives

of govt. employees

of equal grade

Independent Report

OUETTA: The Governor

Balochistan, Malik Abdul

Wali Khan Kakar has un-

derlined the need to create

balanced in salaries and in-

centives of the government

employees serving in equal

found in salaries and allow-

ances of the officers and

employees working in

similar grade in different

departments is causing

sense of deprivation among

the employees of attached

mediate attention, main-

tained the Governor while speaking to a delegation

comprising the office bearers of Federation of At-

This issue needs an im-

departments.

He said that disparity

grade.

dav

ment.

sons including two police Muslim League-Nawaz personnel and a female (PML-N) Senior Vice Presiwere injured in hand grenade dent and Chief Organizer attack on Joint Road, Maryam Nawaz has di-Quetta on Wednesday. rected the newly appointed According to the police sources, some unknown

youth coordinators to mobilize the party in the miscreants hurled a hand streets, neighborhoods and villages She said this while addressing a party meeting held here on Wednesday two police cops as well as under her chair. On this oc-

casion, youth coordinators were appointed in the provincial constituencies of Punjab and the notification was also issued.

shifted the injured of blast The PML-N's Senior to the civil hospital. Vice President said that the

young leadership will be given responsibilities based on their qualifica-She expressed these tions and abilities. The traditional politics of Pakistan is changing and

added.

night.

in the committee room of

Balochistan Assembly on

Continued on page 2

Wednesday

braced martyrdom in firing the youth have to change by unidentified armed men the style of politics, she and 1 pedestrian was injured in Mangchar. Maryam Nawaz fur-

passersby.

grenade apparently at a

push cart. As the explosive

device went off with a big

bang, it caused injuries to

a female and three other

cue teams rushed towards

the spot and immediately

The area police and res-

ther said, "To strengthen the security party at the ground level, we have to work day and Bacha Rehman died on the

reiterated between the two countries. that Pakistan's stance over its "There is no space left

relations with India was fully engage with India," the very clear and consistent, foreign minister maintained unless it revoked its illegal while addressing a presser and unilateral acts of 2019 over the Indian Illegally to highlight the achieve-Occupied Jammu and Kashments of the Ministry of mir (ÎIOJK), there was no Foreign Affairs during his space to meaningful engagetenure

The foreign minister, He said that India had replying to a query, said not only violated the inter-Continued on page 2 national laws and the



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, talking with Deputy Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Eng. Waleed bin AbdulkarimAl-Khuraiji after the meeting at Ministry of foreign Affairs in Federal Capital.

Two police cops, a female among six injured in hand grenade attack in Quetta In the meantime, the Independent Report

bomb disposal squad also QUETTA: At least six perreached the spot and started investigations. Further investigations are in

progress. While on the other hand, the hospital sources informed that medical treatment is being provided to all the six injured at the Trauma center. However, their condition is stated to be stable, the spokesman Dr. Waseem Baig mentioned.

Later, the Senior Superintendent of Police Operations, Zohaib Moshin also visited the spot and told the media persons that investigations have been started into the blast.

Two security personnel martyred in firing

KALAT (Online): Two se- scene while pedestrian curity personnel have em-Abdul Hakeem was injured in firing near Mangchar Chouhan Bazaar area of Oalat.

Dead bodies were According to details, handed over to their heirs officer after necessary formalities. Mohammad Sajjad and Further action is being taken by relevant authorities.

Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) brought down for Pakistan to meaningthree 'terrorists' of a banned outfit during the wee hours of Wednesday in Balochistan.

According to the CTD spokesperson, the operation was conducted by Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) team in Zhob district of Balochistan province on the intelligence information regarding the presence of highly wanted

'terrorists'.

OUETTA: Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar giving away shield to Senior Director Provincial Ombudsman Balochistan Syed Munnawar Shah Hashmi on best performance

THANK YOU PRIME MINISTER SHEHBAZ SHARIF, INFORMATION MINISTER MARRIYUM AURANGZEB AND LAW MINISTER AZAM NAZEER TARAR

FOR LISTENING TO AND ACCEPTING THE DEMANDS OF MEDIA BODIES.

The PEMRA amendment act 2023 was a result of collective discussions between AEMEND, CPNE, PFUJ, PBA, APNS and MOI. The bill is a step in the right direction. The bill has resolved some of the longstanding issues of electronic media workers and the broadcast industry. For instance to alleviate media workers salary delays, government advertisements have now become conditional upon workers getting their dues paid on time. All media organizations agreed to these changes. At the same time in this bill the Government has voluntarily given up its right to appoint The Chairman of PEMRA and now Chairman PEMRA will be appointed by the Parliament, this is a step to make PEMRA more independent. To address fake news, Broadcasters, Journalists and the Government have agreed to a definition and changes in the law to discourage it.

More consensus building initiatives like these are required to make media laws better in the country where freedom of speech has been curbed by successive governments. But this bill is a step in the right direction.

We thank Honorable Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for encouraging Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb for facilitating industry stakeholders to agree on these changes.



QUETTA (APP): Parlia- business continued according to the constitution, playmentary secretary law and ing an active role in the overparliamentary affairs Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi said in all situation the last five-year parliamentary period of views while addressing a Balochistan, as many as 96 ceremony held to award bills were passed, 196 resoexcellent performance cerlutions were approved, 521 tificates to various social workers and organizations

questions were disposed of, 87 attention notices and 36 adjournment motions were presented. Despite the change of

government, the assembly

tached Departments Officers Welfare Association. soon after the attack, the Minister Home expressed sorrow over the injuries caused to six persons in the attack.

sought report from the concerned high ups. He asserted that such cowardly attackes can't down our mo-

cial hand out issued here rale.



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh meeting with Speaker Balochistan Assembly Mir Jan Muhammad Khan

Jamali Rubaba Buledi says BA passes 96 bills, approves 196 resolutions during five year parliamentary period



Thursday August 10, 2023

Miscellaneous

Farewell meeting: Federal cabinet made 1295 decisions in 53 sessions with 99% implementation rate

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday chaired the farewell meeting of the Federal Cabinet wherein it was told that the federal body made 1295 decisions in 53 sessions dur-

ing the last 15 months. In the meeting, the Secdetailed report on the cabinet's performance from April 20, 2022 to August 8, 2023.

It was told that of 1295 decisions, around 99% were implemented.

The prime minister thanked the cabinet members for their untiring efforts for the country's development.

The cabinet offered Fateha for those who lost their lives in an accident of Hazara Express that place took near Nawabshah.

The body approved the draft of the National Music Policy as well as the National Aviation Policy 2023. Under the National Music Policy, the application of legal frameworks and modern technological resources would be used to proved.

ISLAMABAD (APP): protect the musical heritage of Pakistan, promote contemporary music, and prevent the plagiarism of musicians' works.

On the prime minister's instructions, the cabinet approved the auction of all the valuable gifts received by him during the last 15 retary Cabinet presented a months in a transparent manner. He directed that the proceeds should be donated to organizations working for the welfare of orphans and destitute children in Pakistan

> The cabinet also decided that the public would Commissioner be able to participate in the Mansoor Ahmad Qazi on auction process.

> Wednesday chaired a meet-On the Commerce ing to review the perfor-Ministry's recommendamance of the health departtion, the meeting approved ment to provide healthcare the appointment of Abdul facilities to the public. Rasheed Sheikh, Naeem

National Assembly in Federal Capital.

Addressing the meet-Anwar, Iqbal Tabish and ing, Deputy Commissioner Ahmed Sheraz as the tech-Sibi said that Chief Secrenical members of the Natary Balochistan and Sectional Tariff Commission. retary of Health have spe-The appointments of cial instructions to take all Salman S. Mehdi as Chairurgent measures to improve man of Board of Directors the performance of the of State Life Insurance and health department saying Saleemullah as Deputy that the agenda that has been Governor of State Bank of provided to us has to be Pakistan were also apfulfilled by working hard day and night.

SC maintains stay against DC Sibi reviews performance of arrest of Imran Khan health department in lawyer murder case QUETTA (APP): Deputy

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday maintained its stay against the arrest of PTI chairman Imran Khan in a case pertaining murder of a lawyer in

Quetta A three-member bench headed by Justice Yahya Afridi heard the appeal of the former prime minister against addition of his name in the FIR of the incident

At the outset of hearing, the complainant of the verbally while standing at case raised objections court rostrum, he said.

Daily, traveling allowances

of FG employees

increased up to 50%

ISLAMABAD (Online): Ministry of Finance has increased daily and traveling allowances of Federal government

daily and traveling allowance of employees from grade 1

to 22 has been increased up to 50% which will be imple-

According to notification, daily allowance of grade 22 officer will be RS 7200, RS 6000 for grade 21, RS 4920 for grade 19 and 20, RS 3840 for grade 17 and 18, RS 2160

for grade 12 to 16 while daily allowance of grade 5 to 11

The notification has also been issued for increase in

According to issued notification by Finance Ministry,

against two members of the bench including Justice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is posing for a group photo graph along with Parliamentarians after attending the last Session of

The bench expressed annoyance with the lawyer Amanullah Kanrani for leveling false allegations. Justice Yahya Afridi said that the lawyer should have submitted a written application if he had objections against any member. The

lawyer should have not leveled such allegations

Bilawal Bhutto says: **Character assassination of** PPP is based on 100% lies

GHOTKI (Online): Pakistan People's Party Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has announced that if the

nation gives him a mandate in the upcoming general elections, he will provide interest-free loans and residential land to these families throughout Pakistan

He said ownership rights will be given to those who have been living on government lands for generations but are de-

common man.

human rights.

prived of ownership the construction of 82 thousand 746 houses in rights. Women will be Ghotki district in relation made owners of readymade houses, he added. to 2 million houses to be Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, while condemning the anti-

built for flood affected people across Sindh under Sindh People's Housing and the ownership rights people actions of the former government, said of residential land to the victims. Speaking at the that the selected prime minister deceived the naopening ceremony of giving, PPP Chairman said tion by falsely promising to build 1 crore jobs and that Pakistan People's Party governments have always introduced such

Page 02

revolutionary programs, which combat poverty.

No meaningful engagement with....

She noted effective legislation was enacted with the support of non-governmental organizations for different classes, while amendments were made to existing laws according to the ground realities and the available to pronounce challenges faced, the ben-Pakistan's interests. efits of which benefited the He said due to his par-

ticipation in the SCO meet-She further said that ing where he presented during the last five years in Pakistan's stance clearly, Balochistan Assembly, ef-India went on the back foot fective legislation was finaland held the SCO heads of ized for the protection of states summit virtually.

About sending Paki-"Thanks to the volunstan national team to conteers and organizations test the ICC Cricket World working for public welfare Cup in India, he said conin the social sector for the trary to India's indulgence collaborative process of in immature acts, Pakistan laws for good governance. always maintained that Secretary Balochistan there should be a difference between politics and

Assembly, Tahir Shah Kakar, on the occasion, informed the participants had security concerns as the about the five vears of par-

if they continued with their statements, it would create complications and the Afghan people would continue to suffer, he added.

Minister Foreign Bilawal said that after the fall of Kabul, there was a sharp spike in terrorist incidents in Pakistan and stressed that cooperation and engagement between the two countries was neces-

sary to tackle the issue. He said Pakistan remained engaged with the Afghan leadership. About women's education issue, he said, Pakistan had a very open and clear stance. For the first time, they arranged a trilateral format among Pakistan, China and Afghanistan to make them realize the concerns of Pakistan and China regarding terrorism, he said, adding Minister of State sports, adding that they still Hina Rabbani Khar had also visited Afghanistan. The for-

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

Pakistan to be made economically...

Balochistan.

Continued from page 1 ports sectors.

During our 16 months, the incumbent government did not victimise anyone. Today, if a party leader has been punished, we are in no way happy over that. One should have the fear of Al-

worth appreciating, he said. All the institutions, The prime minister paid tribute to Shaheed including National Disas-Benazir Bhutto and exter Management Authorpressed gratitude PML-N ity (NDMA) and Benazir Quaid Nawaz Sharif and all Income of the political leaders from Programme (BISP) played both the ruling coalition a crucial role in the reha-

transport allowance for government employees. RS 7.50 for car and RS 3.75 per km for motorcycle have been increased in transport allowance. The travelling allowance has been increased to Rs 15 per km in case of use of private car and Rs 6 per km in case of use of motorcycle.

mented from this year on 1st July.

employees.

will be RS 1320.

According to notification, transport and daily allow ance will be applicable for major cities.



50 lakh houses. According to the statement issued by Media Cell Bilawal Hawass, BA passes 96 bills... Continued from page 1

Continued from page 1 that he went to Goa, India to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting despite serious reservations and carrying head money, to present Pakistan's stance and tried to utilize the space

lah. There is no question of distribution of sweets (to rejoice the punishment)," he remarked. Reiterating the condemnation of the May 9 arson, the prime minister said it would be remembered as the Black Day in history as it marked the "worst conspiracy" against the state of Pakistan, the Pakistan Army and Chief of Army Staff, as well as those who sacrificed their lives to safeguard the nation.

He said the House should again take notice of that heart-wrenching incident and also pass another resolution to condemn it.

Prime Minister Shehbaz told the House that he would send the advice for National Assembly's dissolution on Wednesday night.

He said that he would meet Opposition Leader Raja Riaz to hold a consultation to finalise the name of the interim prime minister.

"These 16 months were the toughest trial of my life during my 38 years of political career when the country was faced with inflation, skyrocketing oil prices, and political turmoil. Who will invest when there will be threats for long marches?" he questioned

He said with the signing of IMF agreement, the risk for default had ebbed away, despite the evil designs of those who tried to sabotage the process.

He said the country was steered out of turmoil as a mechanism in the form of SIFC had been put in place to boost investment in agriculture, information technology, mining and ex-



QUETTA: Former Spokesperson of Balochistan Chief Minister, Babar Yousafzai inquires about the health of victim after hand grenade attack at Joint road, at Civil Hospital in Quetta. Five people, including two policemen, were injured on Wednesday in a hand grenade attack on Quetta's Joint Road.

and opposition parties for bilitation process, he their support and guidance. added. He said the incumbent

The prime minister government tried to adalso thanked Chief of the dress the problems faced Army Staff General Qamar by the Balochistan prov-Bajwa, Minister for Cliince and called for collecmate Change Sherry tive efforts to uplift the Rehman. Minister for Econeglected province as the nomic Affairs Ayaz Sadiq, country's progress was Planning Minister Ahsan linked with that of Idbal and Minister for BISP Shazia Marri, who He also appreciated worked as a team during

the efforts and hard work the rehabilitation process of his cabinet members in the flood hit areas. particularly Foreign Min-PM Shehbaz said the ister Bilawal Bhutto

Zardari for his "best diplo-Meanwhile Prime

Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharifon Wednesday lauded and appreciated the coalition partners for demonstrating maturity, sincerity, dedication, and loyalty for bringing economic stability in the coun-

Addressing the Cabicisions such as raising penet meeting, he stressed the need for ensuring national unity as it was vital for socio-economic development of the country.

The prime minister said the political leadership had set aside all their political differences and worked diligently to bring the country out of crises. He said the coalition

government in its 16-month stint, the shortest tenure of a government in the country's history, endeavoured to serve the people. The big challenge faced

during the period was of flash floods that hit most parts of the country, especially in Sindh and Balochistan, but the way the federal and provincial governments joined hands to cope with the calamitous situation was lion

government had to face another challenge of high inflation that affected the common man badly. The main reason behind it was the criminal negligence of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government that had

badly damaged the economic structure. The coalition partners fully supported the govmeeting ernment in taking tough de-

Support

troleum prices and sacrificed their politics for the sake of stability and development, he added. With regard to the

agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the prime minister said all the stakeholders. including the minister for finance, contributed to feel aggrieved. wards its finalization.

He also thanked China for supporting Pakistan dinance, during the crisis, as the IMF deal would not have been possible without its

support. "Chinese Premier Li had told me that he himself had talked to the IMF formation Managing Director to support Pakistan," he said adding during the last four misinformation" and months. China had also 'disinformation" were rerolled over a loan of \$5 bil fined through consultation

of various countries' inter-He said recently a high level Chinese delegation visited Pakistan which showed that Pakistan was China's best friend and that the later would extend all-out support to it.

The delegation had officially announced the launch of second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) encompassing many projects in agriculture. IT. Industries and export sectors, he added.

The prime minister said the coalition government had completed many projects in Gwadar, which were lingering for long time, in the shortest possible time.

ISLAMABAD: Players in action during 1stAsian junior super series organized by Pakistan Squash Federation at Mushaf Squash Complex.

PEMRA amendment bill....

Continued from page 1 Aurangzeb acknowledged

allegations of external influ-Marriyum Aurangzeb ences impacting the bill's conveyed that the Parliaformulation. Despite her ment now holds the authorconsistent attempts to inity to appoint the PEMRA troduce amendments, the Chairman. This proposal issue was magnified. Nevswiftly garnered endorseertheless, she maintained ment from the Prime Minher open stance towards ister during the committee criticism. The House also ap-

Additionally, she conproved three additional trasted the earlier PEMRA bills, namely The Federal Ordinance of 2002, wherein Prosecution Service Bill, the Chairman of PEMRA 2023, and The Price Conheld significant authority over channels, suspensions, licenses, and program suspensions. In comparison, the present bill reallocated this power, empowering the Council of Authority and incorporating a mechanism for appeals from those who

Regarding the need for changes in the PEMRA or-Change Rehman. Marriyum Aurangzeb stressed the significance of amending multiple clauses. This extended consultation phase eventually broadened the bill's scope to encompass misinand disinformation aspects. Imto benefit journalists and portantly, the definitions of

foster a free and responsible media environment. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb pretations and insights tabled the bill in the House from the United Nations as passed by the Senate

Human Rights Committee. with certain amend. This meticulous process ments. ensured the bill's alignment The minister said the bill was finalized after vig-orous consultation for 12 with diverse perspectives and international standards. She also emphasized months to repeal the black her commitment to involvlaw enforced in 2002. Uning stakeholders, highlightder the bill, the Parliament ing the previous absence of had been empowered to a platform for electronic appoint the PEMRA chairmedia workers. She conman in future, she added. trasted this with the ITNE Minister for Informa-

platform accessible to tion and Broadcasting newspaper employees. En-Marriyum Aurangzeb on couragingly, ITNE managed Wednesday said thorough to recover 140 million ruconsultations were held pees within nine months, facilitating employee salary payments. Addressing past controversies, Marriyum 2023

liamentary proceedings and laws as saying, "there is no bill pending, resolution or any legal issues in the Balochistan Assembly.

Earlier, Chairperson Commission on Status of Women Fauzia Shaheen, FDI Pakistan Executive Director Uzma Yaqub, WHO Balochistan Chief Dr. Asfandiar Sherani, UNFPA Balochistan Provincial Chief Dr. Sarmad Saeed Khan, National Human Rights Commission Member Farkhunda Aurangzeb, Aurat Foundation Resident Director Alauddin Khilji, EVA Alliance Chairperson Sana Durrani, former ombudsperson Sabra Islam Advocate, Seema Batul of Shirkat Gah, Saima Haroon

of TKF, Naseema Salam of BRSP and others were awarded with excellence certificates

KAREEZAT DISTRICT PISHIN TSE-232408347633

security of the national eign minister said using the team could not be compro-OIC platform at the UN mised; and they had conwomen education conferveyed such to the Internaence, he had addressed the tional Cricket Council world community and (ICC) and India. highlighted steps taken by The foreign minister, to Pakistan for the women's another question, said that rights. The event also en-

Pakistan was not interested abled the member countries in the bloc politics and did of Organisation of Islamic not want to be part of any Cooperation (OIC) to polar world because they show to the world the initiatives taken for the wanted to serve their 224 million population, and if women's rights which also they were drawn into othhelped remove the impresers' interests, then they sion in which the Muslim would be distracted. world was painted.

The foreign minister, Terming the fight against responding to a question terrorism their own fight, the about Afghanistan, said foreign minister said that Pathat certain opinions were kistan had been the largest being formed across the country in the world affected world on the basis of from the curse of terrorism. He said that they wanted

ground realities. If they wanted diploto save their coming generamatic recognition, the Aftions and would not allow ghan interim government the enemies of the religion, would have to address the the country and the people international concerns, but to cause any further harm.



The Executive Engineer (Building) CW PP&H Department Pishin invites sealed bids from eligible bidder who can prove their eligibility and qualification as mention in the bidding documents for the work mentioned below. The work estimated cost and other information of works as under percentage tender based on Composite Schedule of Rates 2018. Government of Balochistan amended up-to-date as required from interested contractors / firms for the work listed below under BPPRA Rules. Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and Earnest Money 2%

INVITING TENDER

E/Cost S.No. Name of Work CONSTRUCTION OF MULTIPURPOSE HALL, AT KILLI ZARGHOON 19.810 M

The Executive Engineer (Building) CWPP&H Department Pishin invites technical proposal of Contractors / firms along with sealed financial proposals). All interested bidders are required to submit documents as per following briefs in support of their technical / financial proposal. The procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Rules 2014 and Pakistan Engineering Council By-Laws BASIC ELIGIBILITY: The contractor must have valid registration i.e 2022-23 with Pakistan Engineering Council in required relevant Category & codes and criteria mentioned in the bidding documents and fresh registration with tax authorities i.e (NTN, Sales tax Department and BRA) where applicable. METHOD OF PROCUREMENT: Single Stage - One Envelope Bidding Procedure wil be adopted call Deposit and Challan Should be attached with Technical proposal. Which will be verified accordingly. BIDDING / TENDER DOCUMENTS: Issuance: The bidders can obtain the bidding document from the address mention above on production of green Challan form for an amount of Rs, 1000 (Non-refundable) for each work deposited in the head of account C-02716 through Govt: Treasury National Bank of Pakistan or can be downloaded from the website of BPPRA (www.bppra.gob.pk) during working hour, from the date of publication of this invitation in newspapers till one day prior to the last date of submission. The contractors / Forms who obtain bidding documents by downloading them from BPPRA website will also be required to provide deposited green Challan from of above mentioned fee. The bids must accompanied bid security "Technical Bid" for each work in the form of Call Deposit are bank Guarantee of amount specified above in the office name of the under signed from a scheduled bank. No any Bank Drafts & Banker Cheek will be acceptable. Dead Line of Submission: Technical and financial proposals from intending contractors/ firms sealed in two sprite envelopes clearly marked with work title & type of proposal must be delivered by hand or through registered mail to the address mentioned below on or before 24th August 2023 at 11:45 Hrs. Opening: The envelope containing "Technical Bids" will be opened on the same day i.e 24th August 2023 at 12:45 Hrs before procuremen committee in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend with authority letter. Second envelope containing financial bids of technically qualified bidders will be opened later, the date of which will be communicated after evaluation of technical bids. Bid validity: (90) Days Place: The place issuance, submission, inquiries and opening will be the Executive Engineer (Building) CWPP&H Department Pishin The Technical Qualification Criteria as mentioned in Bid data sheet and annexures of bidding documents viz. Equipment's , Financial capabilities and staff requirements etc. must be fulfilled besides other requirements as mentioned in bidding document by the participating firms. All bidders are required to examine bidding documents in all respect prior to bid submission. The firms providing unsubstantiated and / or legal action. The undersigned reserves the right to reject all bids as per the BPPRA Rules. Address: Office of The Executive Engineer (Building) CWPP&H Department District Pishin

xecutive Engineer (Bu CWPP&H Department Distric Pishin 🍯 www.dpr.gob.pk. 😼 @dpr_gob 👩 dpr.gob 📑 @dgpr.balochistan

with all stakeholders during preparation of the PRQ No.326/09-08-2023 PEMRA (Amendment) Bill

trol and Prevention of Profiteering and Hoarding (Amendment) Bill, 2023 both presented by Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazir Tarar. Additionally, The Islamabad

Nature Conservation and Wildlife Management Bill, 2023, was presented by Minister for Climate

Ms Sherry Meanwhile the National Assembly on Wednesday passed the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023 having the prime objective Daily voice of Massey



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairing a meeting to discuss the project of setting up an Olympic Village in Islamabad.

17 students complete internship program with Islamabad Capital Police

said

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: 17 stu-dents from Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto University of Science and Techsty of science and fech-nology (SZABIST) and Capital University of sci-ence and technology (CUST) completed their intermedia internship with the Islamabad Capital Police, a police public relations of-ficer said.

He said that, following the directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO), the Islamabad capital police are acquainting citizens and students about traffic rules various through programmes. Under such a programme, a batch of SZABIST and CUST University students completed

policing in the city. "The young generation is our asset and their cooperation as well as responsible attitude is crucial for a safe road en-

vironment in the city," he The concluding ceremony was attended by University students as well as officials from the education wing of Islamabad Capital Police. The CTO Islamabad distributed certificates among the students and hoped that they would further educate and brief their fellows and family members about road safety rules and hoped that a disciplinary traffic system could be ensured through cooperation of the young generation.

In the end, he further

said that those completing

such programmes with the

Islamabad capital police

were brand ambassadors

and were entrusted with

their internship spanning 65 hours.

Addressing the concluding ceremony, Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad Dr Syed Mustafa Tanveer the task to cooperate in ensaid that efforts were un- suring a safe road environderway to promote friendly ment in the city

Stable, consistent political

Govt approves new National Aviation Policy -2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): this sector He said that the policy

Federal Minister for Aviawill also help in promotion tion Khawaja Saad Rafique on Wednesday said that the of the domestic aviation infederal government has apdustry, attract private inproved the new National Aviation Policy -2023 to vestment for the management and development of help reviving the national new airports, increasing facarrier and promoting pubcilities for passengers, imlic-private joint ventures. proving consumers' protec-Addressing a press tion and encouraging aviaconference, the minister ex-

sector. He said that the He said that the Islamabad Airport was betion sector. pressed the hope that unprivatization or public-prider this new policy all missing aspects will be covered vate investment is the only option to improve the stan-dard of aviation sector in bidding for 15 years but no employee would lose job. and private investors will be encouraged to invest in **PML-N** leadership to

Court transfers LNG reference against Abbasi ISLAMABAD (APP): An Accountability Court (AC)

on Wednesday transferred the LNG reference against former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi to the court of special judge central while declaring the case beyond the jurisdic-tion. AC-I Judge Judge Muhammad Bashir announced the verdict which was reserved previously after hearing arguments from the two sides. The

2023. defence side had challenged the maintainability of the case on the basis of amendments in NAB Act. The court stated that the reference didn't fall into its jurisdiction after the amend-

"PML-N had track record of delivering to the nation", he said while talking to PTV news channel. He further lashed out that PTI chairman Imran Khan was failed to give any ments in the NAB law and tangible policy whereas we ordered to transfer it. have a number of develop-



come up with people's

ing crises and would come tics of victimization, he up to people's expectations added after winning elections Replying a question, he said the government had to take tough decisions to improve economy, even

risking its political capital. These steps were vi tal to stabilize the economy and the government was supported in these measures by the PDM coalition

IHC seeks comments on partners, he mentioned. petition for

Senate passes 8 bills establishing higher education institutions across country

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Wednesday successfully passed eight crucial bills for the establishment of new educational institutions in a significant move to bolster the country's higher education landscape across the coun-

A total of 24 bills were reported by the standing committee, with the eight bills gaining approval with a majority vote during the session The bills that received

the green light from the Senate include The Askari In-stitute of Higher Education Bill, 2023; The Metropolitan International Institute

Pakistan as attracting inter-

national brands is not pos-

sible when the sector is

working in limited re-

sources. He said that the

capturing the business of

international brands is the

need of the hours to increase

business activities a

country's airports to in-

crease revenue generation.

ing outsourced through in-

ternational competitive

of Science and Technology higher education sector. Senators Syed Yousuf Raza Bill, 2023; The Islamabad University of Health Sci-ences and Emerging Tech-Gillani, Hidayatullah Khan, Kauda Babar, Naseebullah nologies Islamabad Bill, 2023; The Mufti-e-Azam Islamic University, Islamabad Bill, 2023; The International Islamic Insti-tute for Peace (IIIP) Bill, 2023: The Kalup Bibli In Bazai, Rana Maqbool Ahmed, Kamran Murtaza, Irfan-ul-Haq Siddiqui, Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, and Syed Muhammad Sabir Shah played vital roles in 2023; The Kalam Bibi Inpresenting and supporting these bills.

ternational Women Institute Prior to the legislative business taking place, Sen-ate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani sought the approval of the Minister for Bannu (Amendment) Bill, 2023; The Rahim Jan University Bill, 2023; and The Akhuwat Institute Kasur Bill, 2023.

The bills were presented by a group of dis-Hussain, and the house ittinguished senators, each contributing to the effort of self. enhancing the country's

Tanveer proposed a methodicalapproach, suggesting a review of the bills one by one to ensure thorough evaluation and smooth pas-sage of the legislation.

Page 03

He highlighted contrasting reports between the committee and the Higher Education Commission (HEC), prompting calls for stringent scrutiny.

Rana Tanveer empha-sized the need for strengthening the HEC to ensure the quality of education.

Minister for Law and Education and Professional Justice Azam Nazir Tarar Training, Rana Tanveer supported this stance, advocating for approval only for institutions with repu-

Rana table track records.

ISLAMABAD: Senator Seemee Ezdi, Chairperson Senate Standing Commit-

Minister

tee on Climate Change presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

Sherry says: Islamabad Nature Conservation, Wildlife Management Act 2023 to enhance MHNP protection

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman on Wednesday said the Islamabad Nature Conservation and Wildlife Management Act 2023 passed by the Parliament has become a law that would enhance protection for the Margallah National wildlife park which was under constant stress from unchecked development.

The federal minister took to Twitter to share the enactment of the muchawaited legislation required to ensure optimized protection of the Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP).

Senator Rehman try could fulfill its internawrote, "Passing the bill to tional obligations relating to provide for the protection, biodiversity and climate preservation, and managechange and place it in a poment of nature in the sition to access emerging Islamabad Capital Terriinternational financing and tory. It will now become law support available for proas the Islamabad Nature Conservation and Wildlife tection of biodiversity such as Green Funds. Moreover, Management Act 2023." it intends to introduce the The minister tabled concept of Nature (as opposed to only wildlife)

the landmark legislation at the lower and upper houses which was all encompassof the Parliament to meet ing and in line with emerging the prerequisites of formulation of the law.

The basic objective of the Islamabad Nature Conservation and Wildlife Management Act 2023 is to upgrade the MHNP to international standards to

best practices in the world for the protection of biodiversity. The Board would be empow-ered to manage the MHNP and wildlife in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and which could not be subsumed by the Capital Development demonstrate that the coun- Authority (CDA).

NCHR to stress for improving bonded labour (APP): tion, particularly with re-

environment crucial to ensure progress: Shah

Resources Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah on Wednesday underscored the need for a more stable and consistent political environment to ensure the progress of the nation.

In his address during the farewell session of the National Assembly, he highlighted Pakistan's unique history of constitutionmaking and dissolution. He emphasized that the constitution of the country was pursuit of restoring the not followed, fostering a sense of complexity in its governance

Shah drew attention to the did not intend to support.

Almost every family in Pakistan affected by Hepatitis B, C

LAHORE (APP): At least problems. one person expected to be affected by the Hepatitis B and C virus in every family in the country which is needed certain measures to overcome this disease.

These views were expressed by Post Graduate Medical Institute Principal Professor Al-Fareed Zafar during the awareness walk held at the Lahore General Hospital, here on Wednesday

He said that Hepatitis B and C are extremely deadly viruses that cause countless diseases and deaths worldwide. He said that majority of the Pakistani population do not get their medical checkup due to lack of awareness as well as economic and social



ISLAMABAD: A female traffic police warden is performing her duty at D-Chowk as the authorities appointed new crew to implement traffic rules effectively in Federal Capital.



the memory of the revered martyr, Benazir Bhutto, attributing her sacrifice to the preservation of the very house he was addressing. He revealed that, in democratic system, the government had extended drive continues support even to individu-Minister Khursheed als and groups they initially ISLAMABAD (APP)

He stressed on pro-

The Principal PGMI

viding more awareness to

the new generation about

suggested that apart from

organizing special lectures

in educational institutions,

it is also important to add a

chapter about Hepatitis B

be controlled by providing

timely treatment to the pa-

tient if any disease appears

in blood screening result.

and C in the syllabus.

hepatitis.

The polio immunization campaign continued on Wednesday across the country to protect children from the crippling disease. According to official

sources, trained and dedi-cated "Sehat Muhafiz" have been engaged in the vaccination drive to inoculate the targeted children at their doorstep Park. "I urge all parents and

Polio

vaccination

caregivers to ensure the vaccination of eligible children during the campaign to save them from the debilitating disease. Polio is incurable. and vaccines can protect our children," Federal Health Minister Abdul Qadir Patel said.

He said that where The front-line health people spend a lot of workers have been playing money on their food, they a vital role in keeping our should also go for blood screening at least once a children safe from the debilitating effects of polio year to determine that they are not suffering from any Despite facing many chalkind of viral infection. He lenges, they have been said that viral diseases could

working tirelessly.' We recognize the important contributions of the health workers to achieve the goal of polio eradica-

tion," said the Minister. Coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Centre, Dr Shahzad Baig said, "Let's work together and play our part to protect our children from vaccine-preventable disease." He said, "I particularly urge all parents and caregivers to get their

of Broad Peak (8047m). Mr. Woerle demonstrated children vaccinated instead unparalleled courage and of hiding them or refusing selflessness by putting huto take the necessary drops manity above personal amduring all vaccination drives. It is important to realize bition.

Woerle's act of kindthat the polio virus still exness and bravery in rescuists in our surroundings.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Dr.Asad Majeed Khan, High Commissioner of Malaysia Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, and other ambassadors of ASEAN countries cutting the cake during the 56th Anniversary of the ASEAN Day Celebration at a local hotel.

IWMB, CDA at odds in Senate body over golf course construction in MHNP

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Wildlife A comprehensive update was furnished to the Management Board (IWMB) and the Capital committee regarding the news of a golf course con-Development Authority (CDA) on Wednesday came at a disagreement over the matter of construction lage of the golf course at the land

of Margalla Hills National The Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change chaired by Senator Seemee Ezdi along with committee members expressed their deep concerns about the encroachment on tion, a move contested as the National Park's land in the federal capital.

struction within Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP) near Sinyari vil-Chairperson, IWMB, Rina Saeed Stated that ongoing demarcation of the

National Park Boundary was following court direc-tives, adding that 138 acres of land had purportedly been allocated by CDA for the golf course construcencroaching upon Margalla National Park Land.

Tourism Dept GB salutes Austrian Climber for Heroic Rescue on Broad Peak

The Tourism Department of Gilgit-Baltistan commends the exceptional heroism of Austrian climber Lukas Woerle, who, on the 15th of July, 2023, chose to forego his lifelong dream of paragliding from the summit of Broad Peak to save the life of local mountaineer and High Altitude Porter, Murtaza Sadpara. Facing a life-threatening situation near Camp 3

ing a special event organized by the Tourism Department of Gilgit-Baltistan at it's Islamabad office

SLAMABAD delimitation of The National Commission gard to agricultural tenancy for constituencies ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday served notices to respondents in a petition seeking to hold delimitation of constituencies under the results

of fresh census in the country.

The court sought study comments from Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and federal government against the petition and adjourned further hearing

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the case filed by a citizen Muhammad Ashraf regarding the aforesaid matter. The petitioner praved the court to issue orders for holding delimitation of constituencies across the country. He said that the census had been taken place in the country after 1997, adding that the results of 2017 census were not notified.

The petitioner said that billions of rupees had been spent for holding of the recent census in the country. The chief justice asked the petitioner to read out the relevant law in this regard.

The court served notices to respondents and adjourned further hearing with the above instructions.

Human Rights rights and brick kilns. (NCHR) has suggested imexisting laws regarding proving access to justice for bonded labour and enhancbonded Ilabour, including ing the capacity of District the Bonded Labour System Vigilance Committees (Abolition) Act 1992 and (DVCs) to suppress the subsequent provincial leguse of bonded labour in the islation, fail to protect laborers due to weak implecountry.

mentation. It says that The recommendations made part of a research there is general disinterest "The lssue of on the part of state func-Bonded Labour in Pakistan: tionaries, who are often in-Brick kilns workers in fluenced by traditional feu-PUNJAB & Tenant Farmdal power structures that ers in Sindh" launched by seek to maintain bonded the Commission on labour. Wednesday.

The study shows that The study says that lack of implementation of Sindh Tenancy Act and feuthe primary hope for change lies in the implemendal involvement provides tation of judicial rulings and cover to practices of debtthe passing of new legislabondage

The study states that



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development GB, Fateh Ullah Khan presenting a certificate to Austrian mountain paraglider Lukas Woerle who aborted his Broad Peak summit to rescue a Pakistani porter Murtaza during his expedition.

Jazz, UNDP extend collaboration to promote women-led social innovation in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Jazz, Pakistan's largest digi-tal operator, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have launched the Women Initiative in Social Entrepreneurship (WISE) to promote women-led social innovation in Pakistan.

WISE The Bootcamps, registrations for which are open now, aim to empower 400 women social entrepreneurs across 12 cities of Pakistan with essential business knowledge and skills to manage sustainable social enterprises, says the press release

neurs.

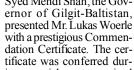
To strengthen the start-up ecosystem in Pakistan, in 2020, Jazz and UNDP partnered to launch SDG Bootcamps to pro-

mote social innovation and Jazz. "This outcome resoentrepreneurship by youth in Pakistan. The SDG nates well with Jazz's purpose of improving the lives Bootcamps engaged 401 participants, 40% of them and livelihoods of women in Pakistan through techbeing women entreprenology. We hope that neurs. The solutions adwomen-led businesses in dressed by these enter-WISE will address unique prises included climate acchallenges and create innotion, health, and digital vative solutions that positransformation. Continuing tively impact their commuthe partnership – and with nities and beyond." implementation through the

"Digital space in Pakistan must be a place for gender equality, for social School of Leadership Foundation (SoLF) – the WISE Bootcamps will focus on and economic empowerstrengthening Pakistan's women social entreprement and inclusion. Knowledge and skills of technology and innovative entre-"WISE is aimed at preneurship are all part of empowering Pakistani women by creating opporthis ecosystem. If we get it right, development indicatunities for financial and tors of inclusion and gendigital inclusion for the der equality will achieve women and youth," said their positive trajectory," Aamir Ibrahim, CEO of remarked Samuel Rizk.

ISLAMABAD (Online): ing Murtaza Sadpara at the peak's perilous altitude showcases a new standard of morality and humanity in the history of mountaineering. This remarkable display of empathy has not only earned Woerle admiration but has also set an inspiring precedent for future mountaineering en-

deavors. In recognition of his dedication and sacrifice, Syed Mehdi Shah, the Governor of Gilgit-Baltistan,



OPINION

Daily **Independent**

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Daily A oice of Masse Independent Thursday August 10, 2023

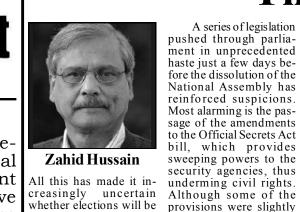
Old politics

Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari's farewell address to the National Assembly after his first stint as an elected representative has given voice to the feelings of general despair being felt by the silenced masses, but also solved and a caretaker adinvited renewed criticism of the ministration takes charge. 'dynastic' style of politics espoused by certain democratic parties.

Addressing his father, PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari, and the PML-N supremo, Nawaz Sharif, Mr Bhutto- by the Election Commis-Zardari expressed regret at the sion to complete the de-limitation exercise. A proway Pakistani politics continues to be conducted, complaining that the two 'senior politicians' may have condemned the new lot to suffer for the next 30 years what they had suffered over the past three decades.

He seemed to be speaking with reference to the events of these past few weeks, which have seen parliament reduced to a rubber stamp for a seemingly endless stream of bad legislation, as well as the start of a new cycle of political victimisation that culminated with the incarceration of the PTI chief.

Though it was a smaller excerpt of his speech that ignited heated debate on social media, Mr Bhutto-Zardari's remarks, in general, were otherwise stand outside, and watch praiseworthy for their astute- you through the windows. ness. He spoke of the need for dialogue and a new charter of democracy; for institutions to function within their domains; for the rules of the game to be simply keeping watch. There was a robbery in the defined; and for the powerful neighbourhood two days



creasingly uncertain whether elections will be held within the stipulated time frame even as the National Assembly is dis-The last-minute decision to hold elections on the basis of the latest population count has already delayed polling beyond

the 90 days as mandated plan to silence the oppoby the Constitution. sition. What the ruling There is a fear that coalition fails to underthe delay could exceed stand is that it could also the few months needed be used against them. It will certainly come back to haunt the current ruling parties. The shadow longed and empowered of the security establishcaretaker administration ment has already grown backed by the security establishment seems to be about the country stayvery much on the cards, ing on the democratic putting democratic tranpath sition on hold.

diluted after strong pro-

test in the Senate, its over-

all lethality has not been

powers for security agen-

strengthen the extra-

seems to be part of the

will

unchecked

further

blunted.

cies

Such

The interim solution towards permanent hy-A series of legislation brid rule, with the civilpushed through parliaians playing second fiddle. There are already ment in unprecedented haste just a few days beprocess fore the dissolution of the signs of the security establishment's creeping National Assembly has

reinforced suspicions. domination, with the se-Most alarming is the pascurity leadership's insage of the amendments creasing role in several cito the Official Secrets Act vilian fields, including bill, which provides running the economy. The sweeping powers to the ruling coalition has virtusecurity agencies, thus ally abdicated civilian auunderming civil rights. thority Although some of the What has been hap-

pening is a sad commentary on the country's retreating democratic process, however weak it may have been in the first place. The last 16 months

is a testimony to the backward march. The PTI, which is now in the eye democratic forces. It of the storm, is equally, if not more, to be blamed for wrecking the system with its destructive narrative.

Instead of taking the parliamentary path, the former prime minister took a confrontationist approach, seeking to bring down the entire edifice. His populist rhetolonger, raising concerns ric and the public's disenchantment with the PDM government may have won him unprec-

the people, but his recklessness has done huge damage to the democratic

He simultaneously took on his political rivals and erstwhile patrons in the security establishment. He is now paying the cost of his thoughtless populist politics. Though his popular base seems to have remained intact, the party is in disarray, with the departure of several leaders under pressure.

However, there is no sign of Khan losing support, despite the restrictions on his statements being printed or telecast. In fact, his popularity graph seems to have climbed after his imprisonment. Despite state repression and efforts to dismantle the party, the

PTI is still capable of giv-ing a tough fight to the PML-N in the electoral battleground of Punjab even in relatively free polls. Perhaps it is the fear of being swept away that has brought the PDM closer to the security establishment and that has seen the emergence of a new hybrid arrangement

cum-military rule stabilise ner. There is complete convergence between the two on eliminating the PTI challenge. In the process, it is democratic space that seems to be shrinking. With the PDM

tionable

tary rule.

the politically volatile situation? Of course not. Ruthless use of state power to suppress the opposition will only make things worse. It would then become exgovernment's departure tremely hard for anyone

around the corner, all eyes to control the situation. are on the composition of It is a dangerous scethe caretaker administranario that confronts a tion. With the PTI, the country already in the midst of a dire economic main opposition party, out of the consultation crisis and rising terrorism. Sidelining a popular leader and making and process, it has been left to the coalition partners breaking political parties and a token Leader of the won't stabilise the situa-Opposition to nominate the interim prime ministion. Unfortunately, our political leadership has ter — of course, with input from the security esnever leant any lesson tablishment. That would not even from their own make the credentials of history. The politics of the interim government as confrontation and revenge has already led to shrinka non-partisan body quesing democratic space. De-With the likelihood laying elections is not the solution. It is the responof prolonged interim rule, there is very much a pos-

sibility of both the govsibility of an empowered ernment and opposition technocratic setup being to bring down the temperature in order to creinstalled to run the administration during perate a conducive atmohaps the most challenging sphere for free and fair time in our recent history. elections. Regrettably, it doesn't seem to be hap-Such an arrangement pening. The time for powould mean virtual mililitical reconciliation ap-Can such non-reprepears to be over. One can only hope sanity pre-Courtesy

ered PTA or investigation

agencies to direct social

media companies to pro-

vide agencies with any in-

formation or data they want

without placing any condi-

tion or safeguards on when

this can be requested. The

We may be moving edented support among with another civilian part- sentative technocratic-

State of surveillance

what are the legitimate interests to which the right to privacy may be subject?

tween the competing rights of privacy and public security has always been a rocky one. As a nation we have always felt insecure. Given our history of terrorist attacks, robberies, rape and child abuse, perhaps that is for good reason. Why should we not be extra vigilant to protect our safety and security?

The answer lies in the dangers of disproportionate use of power and the slippery slope on which it stands.

The disproportionate use of state power for perceived national security and criminal threats is a part of our nation's history. Coercive laws have been a primary tool to legitimize control and suppression of funrather than simply reacting to a threat let alone an actual attack, those in power have always preferred pre-

ingly used to pre-empt permessages of persons and

The relationship be-

damental rights. Moreover, calls: social media interac-

ceived threats as opposed to investigating crimes already committed. Surveillance does not only entail monitoring through visual observation but also includes collecting data by intercepting communications or gaining access to private information. In the age of Big Data, surveillance has turned from targeted surveillance to mass surveillance. In this regard. ready access to data is key for government authorities. In the age of technology, the type of informa-

tion which may be included in such data is our personal identity information (name. age, email, employment / education history, relationship status, religious views, political views, health data. and interests); location (where you live, places you like to go); messages and tions (what we post, content we consume). device information: and financial information (bank account,

Government surveil-

lance is not a new concept

in Pakistan. It dates back to

the Telegraph Act, 1885

classes of persons in the interest of public safety or during emergencies. This was replaced with the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organisation)Act, 1996 which allows the government to intercept calls and messages in the interest of national security or apprehension of an offence. In order to enable such interception, the PTA has always required its licensees (telecom companies and internet service providers) to make their networks 'lawful-interception complaint'

In 2010, the PTA made the Monitoring and Reconciliation of Telephony Traffic Regulations to combat grey traffic. Such regulations allowed for real-time monitoring and recording of network traffic. The PTA has in recent years claimed that these regulations also ban the use of VPNs which are used by internet users to ensure Unlawful Online Content their privacy and safety from hackers on line. Hence. these regulations do not al-low for encryption of data cise even more control over access it. Such data is also

enacted to allow government agencies to intercept all forms of communication and carry out surveillance, with a court warrant. This Act enables designated agencies to execute the warrant by serving it on service providers, but also allows agencies to carry out the interception or surveillance themselves where this is possible, without serving the warrant on anyone.

The Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016 (Peca) was enacted to counter electronic crimes and to provide for online censorship of what the PTA considered harmful. But Peca is more than just about censorship and prosecuting online offences It allows for acquisition of data, retention of traffic data search and seizure, disclosure of content data, and real-time collection and recording of data. In the same vein the Removal and Blocking of

The Xiaoping model

terms and conditions.

grow.

an

rules also required social media companies to appoint officers based in Pakistan to ensure compliance with the law. Clearly the design was to exact physical control and pressure to access online user data. But there are gaps in all of the above laws. The Fair Trial Act and PECA presume that: (1) government, or its agencies can physically exercise power and control over service providers to extract data: or (2) in the case of the Fair Trial Act, agencies have the technological means to carry out surveillance by themselves. But what happens where this is not possible? Social media companies encrypt most private data and normally. Rules, 2021 made under Peca was designed to exer-the technological means to Rules. 2021 made under



Mian Sami ud-Din Imagine you are walking in

a park on a bright sunny morning. As you sit down on a bench, three police of-



ficers walk towards you and stand at a distance. They simply stand there,

looking at you, observing your every move. They then follow you home, Perturbed by this unwarranted behaviour, you approach them and ask them why you are being monitored this way. The response is that they are

to not continue to ignore the ago, and the police officers have been told to observe effective way of control. needs of two-thirds of the every single person in the population, which comprises neighbourhood. It is in the interest of public safety, rabbit hole of surveillance. Surveillance is a compeople below the age of 30. you are told.

candid in admitting that although the outgoing government may have seized power last April through a constitutional manoeuvre, it failed to keep institutions within their constitutional domains over the next 16 months.

Such clarity of thought in the upcoming generation of political leaders would give one hope that all is not lost. But, and perhaps rightly so, many were left outraged when he beseeched Messrs National Assembly and Zardari and Sharif to "make politics easier for me and Maryam Sharif".

He may have been addressing the two seniors as a child new census and its electoral implications, much of it might their parents, possibly suggesting that the voting for some added pathos, but it ritual is very likely to be delayed for some months seems Mr Bhutto-Zardari beyond the constitutionally hasn't fully read the nation's ordained 90-day time frame. mood. At a time when faith in the democratic system is rapidly evaporating, and the the interim has also been a people have been left disenfranchised, the suggestion is whether any of this matthat political power is an inheritance to be shared between fore there were memes, the Sharifs and Zardaris was bound to raise hackles.

There is no dearth of able, forward-looking politicians in text, that sense — and the Pakistan, and it must be unacceptable to any democratically political parties – partially inclined person that their helped propel Imran Khan to the fore as a possible alchances of being chief execu- ternative, with substantial tive should be automatically limited by an accident of birth. together a parliamentary

It may well be that the scions of our political dynasties die best at third of the popular vote in 2018 are capable politicians in their was readily provided. And when it was withdrawn last own right, but 'level playing year, the coalition inevitafields' cannot just be for contests between a handful of minister, he frequently families.

And so, we fall down the

mon method to gather evi-The PPP chairman was also what are the limits to our right to privacy? And dence for law-enforcement purposes. It is also increas-

no substance

Electoral fantasy

siderable speculation of late

the caretaker government that will 'rule' Pakistan in tightly guarded secret. Arguably, the bigger question ters. An American witticism from decades ago, long bewent something like: it doesn't matter who you vote for, the government

legitimate claim to power under Benazir Bhutto. Perhaps because it cuts too close to the bone in the case of the PTI. military assistance. The help he required to cobble majority after his party

decision to break away from the Ayub dictatorship. Bhutto's subsequent ties bly crumbled. During his with the military are indeed truncated tenure as prime murky, but not subservient.

boasted of being 'on the story that Khan perpetusame page' as the military

hierarchy, but was appar- ates is that the arrests of ently taken aback when his party's female supportstraying off-script entailed ers was "the first time in being ruthlessly cut down to size. But then, one of the biggest problems with Imran Khan is that he seems to assume everything is about him, conveniently overlooking the fact that his promise of a 'naya Pakistan' came to naught, because it turned out to have

His fairly abysmal record in government does not measure up to his selfordained status as an outstanding democrat. And it's absolutely no good, in the aftermath, to blame almost everything that went wrong - notably the reinforced repression that stretched from political opponents to freedom of expression on the uniformed elite with The far bigger question which he willfully collaboin relation to the next elecrated. In recent interviews with foreign media outlets-after a ban was surreptitiously imposed on his engagement with the local variant — he continued to spout a great deal of nonsense, much of which went unchallenged. It's not incorrect to describe Nawaz Sharif's political incarnation as a military-ordained

Can anyone in their right mind imagine that might offer some kind of a solution to Pakistan's political malaise and economic dysfunction? That the alternatives are almost equally dire does not detract from the validity of the query. It may well be that understandable concern about the timing of the election is misplaced. The point is, whenever it is held, and regardless of who is permitted to participate - or for that matter, favoured over others - how exactly will the future be any differ the Ayub regime to his ent from the abysmal present? Khan recently told Stephen Sackur on BBC's Hard Talk that the "only solution" for Pakistan is "free and fair elections". That pheclosely correlated to his nomenon has not been witnessed since 1970, and it's unlikely to be repeated. But

even if it were, given the nature of the leading contenders, where on earth could it possibly lead? -

changed everything for good in China. Pakistan needs a leader of the quality and caliber of Xiaoping to transform the The architect of

geted four priority sectors agriculture, industry, providing livelihood for defense, science and techrural communities. nology - as part of modernization to improve uplift the economy. Pakistan also needs to initially focus on these sectors to transform and revolutionize its economy. Unlike China in the early 1970s,

Pakistan already has a ment. Pakistan can public-private partner- achieve prosperity and ship model to develop and development through an inclusive growth model That model must be by investing more into the utilized in a more coheragriculture sector for ru-

ent and consistent way as ral communities. part of its policy para-The message from digm. That would lay a Chinese President Xi strong foundation to get Jinping is a great hope for robust economic growth a sustainable and develto get rid of poverty and oped Pakistan through the the heavy burden of opportunities provided debts and loans. It would by CPEC's Phase 2. It is, in fact, poised to provide also pave the way to enhance exports with a lot an immediate opportuof investment in these nity to address the presssectors. Initially, the oping needs of the country, portunity can be materifurther paving the way to alized with the help and long-term development. support of China The transfer of technol-(through CPEC) and ogy through the second phase of CPEC will go a Middle Eastern countries like Saudi Arabia, UAE long way in achieving selfand Qatar, which are sustainability in the field showing an interest in inof modern agriculture farming. vesting in these sectors. That needs to be capital-

The Chinese economic development model First of all, let's take introduced by the great up the issue of agricul-Deng Xiaoping in the late tural modernization that 1970s is, in fact, a great needs to be prioritized as guide for developing a step towards corporate countries like Pakistan. farming. The armed forces But one of the most imhave already taken up a portant factors was a project to cultivate barstable political system in ren government lands in China. That provides a far-flung areas to convert conducive atmosphere, them for corporate farmfacilitating investment for ing. Friendly Middle Easteconomic development.

ern countries including Saudi Arabia and the UAE A stable political system is important, missing in the case of Pahave also expressed an interest in taking up the kistan.

green project of agricul-A fragile economy ture farming if they are cannot afford a politically provided land on certain weak, polarized, and fragmented society, which is The US-Pak Green detrimental and disas-Alliance is all-out for trous for economic supporting agriculture ingrowth and development. novation as part of its cli-Pakistan immediately mate advocacy project. needs to go for elections The second phase of to put in place a stable CPEC also indicates agripolitical government to culture as a lifeline project achieve the target of high for a sustainable Pakistan, economic growth and development.

All the four priority Phase 2 of CPEC has areas and sectors of the brought a message, as economy discussed in this conveyed by China's Vice article are important to Premier He Lifeng's refollow as a first step to cent visit, heralding coopachieve the aim of high eration in the field of ag-GDP growth and ecoriculture, rural revitalizanomic development. -tion and green develop-Courtesy TheNews

women have been taken into precedented times. We are custody for political reafacing enormous difficulsons. Is he really that ignoties with a clear lack of rant about Pakistan's past? resources, overpopula-Tellingly, he never mentions tion, widespread povthe Zia era — and no one erty, a huge debt burden, savings, ever seems to ask him about no his key mentor as a politiuncompetitive industry, calnovice, Gen Hamid Gul. abundant raw labour, lack of technology and a po-litical crisis. This was the None of this is intended to suggest that just because political persecution has long been the norm

situation China faced in 1949-1976 (the Maoist period), but then came visionary leader and statesman Deng Xiaoping in 1978, who literally

country and society.

modern China is Deng ized. Xiaoping. What he did was a departure from past policies to introduce a new set of indigenous policies most suitable for China, especially introducing business reforms by accommodating the private sector in the development process. He brought a new Chinese economic development model by introducing market-economy reforms that proved to be a great leap forward for China. Pakistan also needs a dynamic visionary leadership like Xiaoping to introduce new economic reforms most suitable for its development, as we see a continuous and perpetual downslide of our economy due to a wrong set of policies and priorities. China initially tar-



Mahir Ali

Will the dissolution of the provincial assemblies be accompanied by the announcement of an election date? There has been con-

around the controversial delayed for some months

The composition of

of the ISI role in forming the IJI coalition with the aim of thwarting the PPP's always gets in. In the Pakistani condominance of the two fam-ily firms masquerading as

Similarly, he routinely

relates Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's pre-eminence in party's electoral successes

in 1970, implying it was a military creation, without ever bothering to point out that ZAB's popularity was

phenomenon under Ziaul

Haq's regime, although

there's never any mention

An even more obvious Courtesy Dawn

Hassan Baig Pakistan is passing through difficult and un-Pakistan's history" that

in Pakistan, it is in any way justified in the case of the failed PTI experiment. The imprisonment of a previous prime minister is merely part of a pattern, and this particular prisoner's hypocrisy doesn't necessarily make it more palatable.

tions, whenever they take place, is not who will win or who might be excluded but, rather: what difference will it make? Let's imagine for a mad moment that the PTI were to return to power without a hybrid setup.

meant to regulate the exer-

social media companies and stored on servers in data centres abroad. As per a US ers While these rules were International Trade Commission report, as of Janucise of the PTA's censor- ary 2021 there were almost In 2013, the Investiga-tion for Fair Trial Act was step beyond and empow--- Courtesy TheNews

Daily A oice of Masse Independent

Thursday August 10, 2023

Governor terms educated youth valuable asset, laptops distributes among students

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Governor Punjab Engr. Muhammad Baligh ur Rahman has said that the educated young generation was our valuable asset. Education, training and character building of the young generation are the guarantee of a bright future, he said while addressing the ceremony of giving laptops to meritorious students at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB) on Wednesday.

On this occasion, Vice Chancellor of the IUB Prof. Dr. Naveed Akhtar, former parliamentarians Begum Parveen Masood Bhatti, Fauzia Ayub Qureshi, Hasina Naz, Khalid Mehmood Jajja, Afzal Gill, Vice Chancellor the Cholistan University of Animal Sciences Bahawalpur Prof. Dr. Sajjad Hussain, Vice Chancellor Sadiq College Women University Bahawalpur Prof. Dr. Saiqa Imtiaz, Vice Chancellor the University of

Gujrat Prof. Dr. report of Transparency In-Muhammad Mushahid Anwar, teachers and students were present.

ternational, corruption had increased during the tenure of PTI. He said that the is-The Governor said sue of the IUB had been exaggerated on social media. that during the previous tenure of Prime Minister Associating dirty videos on Muhammad Nawaz Sharif,

more than 0.5 million laptops were given to deserving students on merit. This scheme has been relaunched and this month more than 3000 students of the IUB will be given laptops on merit, he expressed. He said that the against any irregularity, he superiority of merit was the maintained. He said that the distinction of the Pakistan teachers and students of the Muslim League (N). He IUB were respectable and said that PTI used the would not let affect their youth generation to proreputation.

mote hatred, adding, we will not allow the spread of hatred among the people of Pakistan through social empowerment. Zero-tolermedia. He said that laptops ance policy is being folhad been provided to the lowed on drug use in educational institutions and youth on merit and their political affiliation was there will be no leniency with those involved in this

The Governor Punjab kind of nefarious business said that according to the the Governor maintained.

social media with the University without research is hurtful, he said and added that a high-level investigation was being conducted on all aspects of the University's financial affairs, drugs and harassment. GHOTKI: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari giving Strict action will be taken ownership rights among flood affectees during the inauguration ceremony of construction of houses for 82,746 flood victims under Sindh Peoples

Housing for Flood Affectees (SPHF) in Ghotki **Economic development must for** country's prosperity: Kundi He said that all resources were being used for DERA ISMAIL KHAN women's education and

(APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi said that economic develop-

ment was must for any country's prosperity. During a visit to a private security office here

Wednesday, he said that the restoration of the international community's confidence and promotion of foreign investment was needed for economic development.

He said that the founder leader of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) grass-roots level, he main-Zulfikar Ali Bhutto gave tained.

prosperity of the people. tioned that PPP Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was He said the "Roti, Kapra aur Makan" was not just a slogan but a vision. promoting a positive image He said that former of Pakistan at the interna-

priority to the economic

president Asif Ali Zardari tional level following the had laid the foundation vision of his grandfather. stone of the mega project China Pakistan Economic District Bar Association

Corridor (CPEC) under the Qaizar Khan Miankhel, same vision, adding that the President of Anjuman CPEC project had started Tajran eastern Circular Road Chaudhry Jameel the process of changing the country's destiny. Ahmed, PPP City Presi-Likewise, the Benazir dent Seth Fazlur Rehman Income Support Program

Baloch, Shafiullah Kundi, (BISP) is also a mission of Farhan Leghari and State economic prosperity at the Life Building Dera in-charge Muhammad Sajid were also present on this occasion.

Court issues notice Proceedings against members of assembly involved in not showing gifts in assets

LAHORE (Online): Lahore Toshakhana gifts in their High Court (LHC) has is- assets.

lis Excellency Yang Yundong

sued notice to Election Commission (EC) and other respondents on the petition seeking proceedings against all the members of assembly who have not shown Toshakhana gifts in their

The petition filed by Nadeem Sarwar advocate came up for hearing before a single bench of LHC led by Justice Rahil Kamran here Wednesday.

The petitioner took tice to federal government the plea in the petition that and others besides issuing chairman PTI was awarded notice to Attorney General

ational ews

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KP Caretaker CM launches monsoon tree plantation campaign

PESHAWAR (APP): The sion, the chief minister caretaker Chief Minister lauded the efforts of Wednesday launched Mon-soon Tree Plantation Cam-Minister's Peshawar. Provincial caretaker

occasion

cent.

day.

Faisal Kundi men-

Former President of

Corruption case:

Moonis'

secretary in

NAB custody

minister Moonis Elahi, to

National Accountability

Bureau (NAB) on physical remand till August 16 in a

Earlier, the NAB offi-

corruption case.

caretaker Chief Minister lauded the efforts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for-Muhammad Azam Khan on est and wildlife department in promoting tree plantation and their preservation addpaign 2023 by planting a ing that it is gratifying that sapling on the lawn of Chief the Forest Department is House taking result-oriented steps under a comprehensive

strategy to this effect. cabinet members Bakht In order to overcome the challenges emerging Nawaz Khan, Barrister Feroz Jamal Kakakhel and from environmental pollution, the importance of for-est has increased many relevant higher authorities of the forest department fold" he remarked. were also present on the

He urged the public to Briefing the chief minensure their full participaister about the monsoon tion in making the ongoing plantation drive, he was told plantation drive a success that during the campaign,

more than 13 million sap-Plantation and their lings will be planted across preservation is our national the province. The chief obligation and collective responsibility; citizens should play their proactive minister was also informed that under the 10 billion tree project, the total area of role in this regard so that forests in the province has been increased by 6.3 per we can give our coming generations a pollution-free and green environment, he con-cluded.

Speaking on the occa-



LAHORE: Canadian High Commissioner Ms. Leslie Scanlon meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi

MoU inked between PCP, UET Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): A SMACT wheel chairs) is Memorandum of Underalso planned in future. standing (MoU) was signed

He expressed his utbetween the Paraplegic most satisfaction over the Center Peshawar (PCP) and fact that PCP, is a well rethe University of Engineerputed organisation of its ing and Technology (UET) Peshawar here on Wedneskind in Pakistan and UET Peshawar will leave no stone unturned to do ap-The Chief Executive plied research in the field PCP Dr. Syed Muhammad as part of its policy for Ilyas and Dean Faculty of knowledge exchange and Mechanical Industrial and technology transfer. Dr. Chemical Engineering UET Syed Muhammad Ilyas said

Prof Dr. Sahar Noor signed that this initiative was a sigthe document in the presnificant step towards proence of senior officials of viding vital assistance to the PCP and UET Peshawar. mobility-impaired patients Prof. Dr Sahar Noor of Pakistan. He said that the said, UET has initiated a SMaCT wheel chairs, number of projects funded manufactured successfully by PCP in which the de- by the PCP, was only pos-

BAHAWALPUR: Governor of the Punjab Engr. Muhammad Baligh Ur

with any party.

Rehman Distributing Laptops to students at the Prime Minister's Youth Laptop Program Ceremony at the Islamia Universiry Bahawalpur.

PML-N saved country **Dengue fever** curable: from default: Hassan **Dr.Ajaz**

LAHORE (APP): Coordi- adding that the government nator to Prime Minister also took solid measures for Khawaja Ahmad Hassan on Wednesday said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his team worked hard day and night to strengthen economy of the country and saved it from default.

Addressing a press conference after farewell heads of all departments

the welfare of people. The PM's coordinator said: "As a part of PM Shehbaz Sharif's team, he has tried to meet the vision of Prime Minister, worked hard for the people to resolve their issues". He thanked the

Assistant Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences Dr Ajaz Shaikh said on Wednesday that dengue fever was curable and did not spread by touching. Most of the people rush to hospitals because of panic and fear, he said and

HYDERABAD (APP)

assets Professor

three years punishment on

Election Commission (EC)

plea. EC is not meeting the

Court remands

LAHORE (APP): An accountability court on Wednesday handed over The petitioner has Sohail Asghar Awan, the secretary of former federal

taken the plea Asif Zardari, Nawaz Sharif, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Yousuf Raza Gillani did not show Toshakhana gifts in their assets. But EC is not taking action against them deliberately. Therefore, court should order to take action against all those members

cials produced Sohail Asghar Awan before Accountability Court Judge Zubair Shahzad Kiyani. of assembly who have not shown toshakhana gifts in The officials submitted assets. The court issued nothat the accused was involved in corruption and underlined the need of re-

meeting with heads of the local departments and staff at his office at Aiwan-e-Iqbal, he said the prime minister took difficult decisions and saved the country from default.

He said it was not an easy task to run a coalition government but the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) took the challenge and worked day and night for progress and prosperity of the country, welfare.

DC Rafia Haider, Chief Executive Officer Lahore Waste Management Company Babar Sahib Din, Water & Sanitation Agency (WASA) Managing Director Ghafran Ahmed played a key role for resolving problems of people related to

Muhammad Ali Randhawa,

Mayor Karachi says: **Municipal facilities** to be provided indiscriminately

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Wednesday said that all of the political parties in the city council are respectable for us and there will be no discrimination in the provision of municipal facilities.

He expressed these views while talking to the UC members of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam who led by Mufti Asad, the parliamentary leader of Jamiat Ulemae-Islam in the City Council, who met him in his office to brief him on the problems faced in their areas.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that the issues of water, sewage, roads and sanitation are a priority in all areas of Karachi. We want to take everyone together in the wider interest of the city and consultation of all parties will be ensured

so that the work done will be sustainable and useful, he said.

The Mayor Karachi said in order to fulfill the trust of the people, it is necessary that the UC Chairman and other representatives play an active role for the provision of civic facilities. They will be given full support by the bail from Rawalpindi. office of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor Karachi.

He said that whatever suggestions will be presented for the improvement rected 57 workers to subof the city will definitely mit affidavit to Deputy be considered and all the Commissioner (DC) office problems will be solved within three days. Court through the relevant departalso made DC Rawalpindi ments. On the occasion, bound to not issue 3-MPO Mufti Asad said that we are order against anyone withwith Mayor Karachi and out contacting court. Court will strengthen his hands remarked during hearing and we will support the that court do not want to legislation that will be issue any order that create passed in the City Council. more grumpiness.

concerned for their full supadded that they should take port regarding the public preventive measures in services, and said that stead of being afraid. Commissioner Lahore

norms of justice. No pro-Talking to APP, he said ceedings has been initiated Punjab Bar as amicus cuthat dengue is a viral infecagainst members of assem- riae adjourned the proceedtion transmitted by mosblies who have not shown ings. quitoes. It can cause symptoms such as fever, severe joint and muscle pain, rash,

and in some cases, haemorrhaging. Talking about the preventive measures he said it includes eliminating mosquito breeding sites and using protective clothing and insect repellent. If you sus-

pect dengue, seek medical attention promptly. Petition filed against re-detention ofAfridi approved

Increasing literacy rate RAWALPINDI (Online): to end poverty prime Lahore High Court (LHC) Rawalpindi bench justice agenda: ACS South Anwar ul Haq approved petition against re-detention of Pakistan Tehreek-e-

seen on the stage.

MULTAN (APP): Addi-Insaf (PTI) leader Shehyar tional Chief Secretary Afridi and 57 others after South Punjab, Capt ® Saqib Zafar said that increasing Justice Anwar Ul Haq the literacy rate and eradideclared detention of cating poverty was the prime agenda of the South Shehyar Afridi and 57 others null and void. Court di-Punjab Secretariat.

dav.

He expressed these views during a meeting with a two-member delegation comprising head of the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office, Shah Nasir Khan and Provincial Program Coordinator (UNRCO) Laila Rabab Jaskani who called on him

The United Nations program "Sustainable Development" in South Punjab came under discussion in the meeting

The Additional Chief Secretary appreciated the initiative of involving various stakeholders of the society in the sustainable development dialogue and assured effective implementation on recommendations for sustainable development He said that South

Punjab Secretariat was trying to increase the effiat his office here Wednesciency of government insti-

Detention of Ch Pervez Elahi LHC seeks more arguments from state counsel in petition

tutions.

LAHORE (Online): Lahore challenged detention of High Court (LHC) has Chaudhry Pervez Elahi. sought more arguments from state counsel on the the plea her husband was petition filed against detention of former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Chaudhry Pervez Elahi.

The petition filed by Qaisra Elahi wife of Chaudhry Pervez Elahi came up for hearing before single bench of LHC led by Justice Raheel Kamran

The petitioner has the hearing of the case

trieving crucial documents and other material from his and others for assistance. The court while apcustody. The officials repointing president Supreme quested the court to grant Court Bar, vice chairman physical remand of the accused for the purpose.

At this, the court handed over the accused to NAB on physical remand till August 16. The court directed for producing the accused on expiry of his remand term.

Two involved in house robberv arrested

KARACHI (APP): The district Central Police on Wednesday claimed to have KARACHI: Consul General of the People's arrested two alleged robbers Republic of China in Karachi Mr. Yang Yundong and recovered a pistol and addressing to the Press Conference at local hotel. snatched mobile phones, Commercial Counselor Mr. Yang Guangyuan also gold jewellery and other things.

According to a spokesman for district Central Police, arrested identified as Zubair and Arsalan on May 19th, this year had forcefully entered a house in Gulbahar Colony and snatched 14 tola gold, Rs. 0.65 million cash and three mobile phones from the family members on gunpoint.

A case of the incident was registered with the Rizvia police station. The police using technical resources arrested both the involved culprits and recovered a 30-bore pistol along with rounds and two each gold chains, gold rings, gold bracelets, snatched mobile phones and Rs. 0.3 million cash from the possession of the suspects.

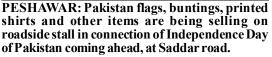
15 dead,1250 injured in **Punjab** road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least 15 people were killed and 1250 injured in 1235 road accidents in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Of whom, 627 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 623 victims with minor injuries were treated on the spot by Rescue medical teams. Analysis show that 653 drivers, 48 underage drivers, 128 pedes-trians, and 484 passengers were among the victims of road accidents. Statistics show that 313 road accidents were reported in Lahore which affected 318 people placing the provincial capital. any other interests

sign of Smart Active Folding Wheel Chair (SMACT) holds special significance in terms of its efficient design and economical aspects. Under the project, 500 SMaCT Wheelchairs have been provided to the Physical Rehab Centers across Pakistan by the PCP. He said, another flag-

ship project, "Design of Supportive Devices" is also in the final stages of completion, funded by the Pakistan Science Foundation and PCP while the work on related projects for improving the wheel chair such as its braking system, footrest and designing of Trike (extension of

sible with the help of the precise designing done by the expert engineers of UET Peshawar. He said that the PCP was in the process of manufacturing the wheel chair for many years but had faced multiple problems on its adaptability, precision and compactness aspects. The commitment of both the PCP and UET Peshawar will enhance the quality of disabled people through customized supportive devices, he said and added. the PCP is a successful model of third work country which has set an example for comprehensive physical rehabilitation that helps towards promoting the mental.



FPCCI strongly condemned desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden

KARACHI (APP): The president Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FPCCI) Irfan Iqbal Sheikh on Wednesday strongly condemned the utterly unacceptable, blasphemous and intolerable incident of desecration of the Holy Quran. The business community collectively and strongly demands that the government of Pakistan should engage the Swedish government at the highestlevel and convey our protest vociferously, unequivocally and categorically, FPCCI president said in a statement. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh maintained that the business community is the most peace-loving and lawabiding community; but,

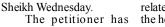
we cannot tolerate any such blasphemous incidents and the sanctity of our beloved religion comes first before

FPCCI has proposed that the government should invoke the 57-country strong alliance of OIC; utilizing Pakistan's unique position and influence within Muslim Ummah; in a way that forces the Swedish authorities to take strongest possible action against the culprit and ensuring that no such incident is repeated in Sweden.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh has called for inter-faith harmony, dialogue and mutualrespect - the very basis for peaceful co-existence in this diverse world. He also stressed that the platform of SAARC should also be engaged to raise the concerns on an international and regional level. He explained that strictest possible international laws were needed to make sure that all religions are respected and feelings of their followers are not hurt at any cost



KARACHI: Consul General of UAE Bekhait Atiq Al-Romeiti addressing a ceremony regarding Independence Day with players of Special Olympics organized at UAE Consulate



arrested by involving him

The state counsel presented in the court material related to detention during

The petitioner took

in the politically motivated cases. Government detained Chaudhry Pervez Elahi against the law. She requested the court to nullify the detention of Chaudhry

Pervez Elahi.

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent



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Ahsan urges industrialists to benefit from universities' R&D expertise

ISLAMABAD (APP): 5 billion had been allocated Minister for Planning, Dévelopment and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday urged the private sector to utilize the Research and Development (R&D) services and expertise of universities for theirbusinesses' technological advancement to compete in international markets.

"I urge the private sector to collaborate with universities in all technologicaladvancements to get the benefit of their R&D labs to meet international standards and increase the country's exports," he said addressing the launching ceremony of the Venture Capital Fund (VCF).

The minister said Rs ment increased the develop-

ment budget of the Higher ing and fastest-growing under the initiative aimed at Education Commission creating a conducive envi-(HEC) from Rs26 billion to ronment for the promotion Rs70 billion, which was almost 135 per cent unprec-edented hike. Making a of investment in digital technology. "Pakistan's future depends on matching the pace of digital technology." The minister urged for comparison, Ahsan Iqbal said the tertiary education

rate in the world stood at establishing industry-academia linkages with priaround 40 per cent, India at 31 per cent, Bangladesh at 25 per cent and Pakistan, vate sector universities paving the way for developunfortunately, stand at 13 ment through applied reper cent only. search, adding development

was not possible without higher education to our vouth besides equipping them with technological Highlighting the imadvancements," he said while declaring the portance of producing quality and skilled human recountry's 'youth a 'nuclear sources in achieving national prosperity and develasset' in the economic field. opment goals, the minister The minister said the said the incumbent governcountry had the potential to become one of the lead-

We have to impart

10-15 years by ensuring peace, stability, and continuity of policies. "No country in the world has attained success in develop-ment without a decade of stability." Recounting the government's initiatives to match the technological changes taking place in the world, he said it established national centres for artificial intelligence, cyber security, big data cloud computing, automation and robotics. Besides, the minister

said, a national centre for quantum computing had been set up laying a 'future foundation' for information technology infrastructure to contest the development pace at the international level.



along with Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Youth Affairs Shaza Fatima Khawaja launching Venture Capital Fund at Ministry of Planning.



increasing exports.

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with Muhammad Zaman Mulla Khalil, Secretary General NBP Trade Unions Federation Pakistan, Syed Jahangir, Chairman NBP TUFP, Akhtar Ali Khan, President NBP TUFP, Anwar Shah, Joint Secretary NBP TUFP and Tariq Hussain, General Secretary NBP Employees Union (CHA) Balochistan during meeting held at Parliament House in Islamabad

Lucky cement achieves record-breaking profit in Fiscal Year 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): Lucky Cement Limited has achieved a significant milestone by announcing an alltime high consolidated profit after tax of Rs. 59.5 billion for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2023 with Rs. 10.8 billion attributed to non-controlling interests. This marks an impressive 63.5% surge compared to the same period last year, translating to an EPS of Rs. 152.97 said a news release. The remarkable increase in profit includes gain on disposal made by Lucky start of a 2nd share Core Industries, a subsidiary buyback. An integral facet company, of approximately of our accomplishments is 26.5% of the issued and the unwavering dedication paid-up share capital of ofour employees, who con-NutriCo Morinaga (Private) limited resulting in an after-tax gain of Rs. 9.6 billion. In response to inquiries about the financial results for the year ended June 30, 2023, a Lucky Cement spokesperson expressed sincere gratitude for the Company's outstanding accomplishments. These achievements were attributed to the gracious blessings of the Almighty.

significant milestones, including the commencement of profitable operations of Lucky Electric Power Plant, the strategic part-sale of NutriCo Morinaga, , the announcement of a new 1.82 MT production line in Samawah, Iraq, a substantial 3.15 MT expansion in our cement division, the strategic integration of solar power plants for selfsustained energy consumption, the successful conclusion of our 1st share buyback initiative, and the

tion on November 20th,

PTA takes action against illegal internet service providers ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), in collaboration with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA)

has conducted a raid against an illegal internet service provider situated on Walton Road, Lahore. According to a news release, an operational

SBP, apprised that one wininternet setup was discovdow was provided in Deered, being operated withcember to facilitate port out valid license. clearance, however, the im-As a result, three individuals were apprehended,

premises have been sealed

July and no LCs have been and equipment including 1 halted since then. server, 1 router, and 30 Optical Network Terminals (ONTs) were seized. The

Senator

Wednesday presided over

farewell meetings of the

Boards of Directors of Pa-

kistan Software Export

Board (PSEB) and National

Information Technology

Board (NITB). Addressing

the meetings, the Federal

Minister for IT said that he

promptly resolve issue ISLAMABAD (APP): Mandviwalla stated that The Senate Standing Comtargeted LCs issuance is dismittee on Finance and Revcriminating against the enue Wednesday directed manufacturers and directed the SBP to provide a level the FBR to investigate and playing field to all the stake promptly resolve the issue.

Senate body directed

FBR to investigate,

holders. meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on While discussing the Finance and Revenue was issue of unlawful clearance held, Senator Saleem of goods worth 847 million Mandviwalla in Chair, said USD at a time when the a press release issued here. import ban was in effect. The Senate body was

Zeba Hai Azhar briefed on claims of refund Member Customs Operaby M/S Kolachee Int (Pvt.) tions, informed that the Ltd. Representatives of M/ goods were of a consumer S apprised that a refund nature and did not comprise application was submitted any banned items, however, FBR is investigating the in FBR some 4 years ago for the supply of unfinished matter and will submit a goods to the textile sector report upon conclusion. which falls within five The Committee directed zero-rated sectors. Howthe FBR to conclude the ever, the FBR has rejected inquiry within one month. the application, stating that Moreover, as to the the taxpayer has to provide appointment of Board

evidence for the claimed Members of the Competisupplies. The Senate Comtion Commission of Pakimittee deliberated on the sestan (CCP) and President lective opening of LCs to NBP and ZTBL. import EV cars in the coun-Officials stated that

four members of the CCP Muhammad Akhtar have been notified and a Javed, Executive Director Chairman has also been appointed among these members, which fulfils the requirement of having a minimum of three members for effective decision-making. port ban has been lifted in In addition to that, the President of NBP was ap-

Saleem pointed yesterday.

Khursheed inaugurates power resumption at NJHP

LAHORE (APP): Subsequent to completion of resforation works in the tail race tunnel, Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project (NJHP) has resumed electricity generation.

Federal Minister for Water Resources Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah visited Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project and resumed the electricity generation by pressing the button, WAPDA spokesman told media here on Wednes-

day. The minister also unveiled a plaque to mark resumption of electricity generation from the project. At present, Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project is providing 969 MW to the National Grid. The Federal Minister had a detailed visit of the Control Room and

the Power House. Federal Secretary Water Resources Hassan Nasir Jamy, Chairman WAPDA Engr Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd), and Joint Secretary Water, Ministry of Water Resources, Syed Mehar Ali Shah also accompanied the Federal Minister.

Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah commended the efforts made by WAPDA, the project team, the consultants and the contractors for resumption

of electricity generation tion firm after seeking apfrom the project. Chief Executive Officer Neelum Jhelum Hy-

Jhelum

proval from the Federal Government. The remedial works were carried out day dropower Project, Project and night under supervi-Director, representatives of sion of the consultants and the consultants and the guidance from the Internacontractors were also tional Panel of Experts. present on the occasion. Completion of remedial The Federal Minister works led to resumption of was briefed that electricity electricity generation from

generation from Neelum the project. Neelum Jhelum is a Hydropower Project had to suspend in run-of-the-river hydro-July 2022 due to blockade power project, that started electricity generation in April 2018. It envisages diin the tail race tunnel caused by collapse of a part of its tail race tunnel. WAPDA version of Neelum River immediately started remethrough a system of tundial works by awarding connels having out fall into tract to a Chinese construc-Jhelum River



SIALKOT: British Private Sector Development Team Leader, Anna Gibson, VP Chamber of Commerce, Amir Majeed Sheikh are addressing exporters at SCCI.

Gov't to spend Rs 377b on solarisation

'Our recent journey has been punctuated by



2023.

PESHAWAR: Labours busy in offloading sacks of sugar from delivery truck in local market.

and FIA is probing further enquiry as per law. sistently exemplify a profound commitment to Shipping growth and operational efficiency. Their steadfast deactivity at termination resonates in every interaction," the

Port Qasim spokesperson elaborated. KARACHI (APP): Ship-Moreover, following ping activity was recorded the successful completion at the port where three of the Company's first ships namely, Maria Elena buy-back of 10.0 million Sun-9 and Golden Lotus shares, the Company has carrying Containers and started another buy-back of Palm oil, berthed at Oasim 23.8 million of its own shares, slated for comple-

International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal and Liquid Cargo Terminal respectively on Tuesday. Meanwhile four more ships, MSC Sabrina-III, Zagori, Star Sabaru and TTC Vidyut carrying Container, Coal and Mogas are also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim during last 24 hours. A total of 05 ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a gas carrier 'Hafnia Experience' sailed out to sea morning, while two more ships MSC Maria Elena and Enugu are expected.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Muhammad Sharif on Wednesday said the government would spend a total of Rs 377 billion on solarisation of agri-ISLAMABAD: Senator Muhammad Abdul Qadir, Chairman Senate Standing culture tube wells across the country.

Committee on Petroleum presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

Amin presides over farewell meetings of BoD of PSEB, NITB

ISLAMABAD (APP): fully ran the affairs of the for IT said the IT and Federal Minister for IT and Ministry of IT and Telecom Telecommunication Syed in a transparent manner, Amin Ul Haque here

He said that due to the cooperation of the entire team of Ministry of IT and its attached departments, he succeeded to take steps owing to which the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector of Pakistan get an important place.

He noted that Pakialways gave topmost priority to merit and transparstan is rapidly moving on ency, and thanks to Althe path of digitalization. mighty Allah as he success-The Federal Minister

Telecom sector has an important role in the economic development of the country. The Boards members paid tribute to Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque for his revolutionary steps and services in the ICT sector during his tenure. The meetings were attended by Secretary IT

ter handle.

tion.

Wednesday.

billion at end June 2022.

ening in recent years.

He

said

tricity to the farmers and

Navid Ahmed Shaikh, Ex Secretary IT Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui, Secretary Finance

the country's

He said that bilateral

He said that Prime

Muhammad

relations with all friendly

countries were significantly

improved especially with

China, Saudi Arabia and

UAE by the present govt.

economy, he added.

with

of tube wells: PM

"Our economy can't Minister grow with high power tariffs. We have to replace the Shehbaz power plants operating on costlier fuel that burdens our people and results in circular debt. The long-term solution lies in tapping our abundant solar & hydel en-

"As part of the ergy resources. Hence, the government's revolutionary prioritization of the solarisation project. A total solarisation project of generating 10,000 MW to reof Rs. 377 billion will be place the costly thermal spent on solarisation of power, I launched a tube wells," the prime minprogramme for solarisation ister added. of 100,000 tube wells yes-

PM Shehbaz said terday," he said on his Twitother than solar, nuclear and coal power projects, the coalition government had solarisation of tube wells focused its attention on the would provide cheap elecdevelopment of hydropower projects. "We have offered our brotherly counboost the domestic agricultural yield, leading to selftry, KSA, to invest in the sufficiency in food producmultipurpose Diamir Basha

SBP says: Agriculture financing hits record Rs1.78trln in FY23

dam

the

ISLAMABAD (APP): riculture Credit Scoring The financial institutions Model played a key role in disbursed Rs1,776 billion supporting financial instiunder agriculture financing tutions in extending agriculduring fiscal year 2023 and ture financing, particularly achieved 97.6% of the agriin the under served areas culture credit target of where significant growth Rs1,819 billion set by State was registered during the Bank of Pakistan (SBP). period under review.

In addition, the stra-The credit disbursement recorded an imprestegic guidance of Agriculsive growth of over 25% tural Credit Advisory Comcompared to Rs 1,419 bilmittee (ACAC) coupled lion disbursed in same pewith rigorous monitoring of financing by SBP provided riod of last financial year (2022, said a press release further support in accelerissued by the SBP on ating agriculture finance.

The last ACAC meeting, held in December 2022, The outstanding portfolio of agriculture credit brought industry's focus to the potential of Islamic also registered a growth of 10% and reached Rs. 760 banking for meeting the billion at the end of June needs of the farming com-2023 compared to Rs. 691 munity. As a result, Islamic agriculture financing also grew significantly during The unprecedented

performance in fiscal year the year. SBP efforts were fur-2023 is owed to the collecther bolstered by the Prime tive efforts of the financial Minister's Kissan Package, institutions and various iniwhich provided stimulus to tiatives taken in the backdrop of several challenges revive the flow of agriculincluding the devastating ture financing especially in floods of 2022, rising input the flood affected areas. costs and monetary tight-Under the Kissan Package, various measures were

Among the various initiatives, SBP's Cham-pion Bank Model and Agimplemented to strengthen the agriculture sector in flood-affected regions.

Economic revival: a key area PM Sharif Govt to proud of

PESHAWAR (APP): Besides successfully overcoming the monster challenge of floods and improving bilateral relations with countries, the PMLN-led coalition government has been succeeded to bring the economy back on the right track and saving the country from an economic default in its 16-month rule.

Financial and economic experts said that the revival of IMF agreement was a big achievement of the 16-month government Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif that has not only saved the country's from bankruptcy and economic default but also restored the confidence of international monetary institutions to invest in Pakistan

Muhammad Naeem,

Professor of the Economics Department, University of Swabi said that saving the country from bankruptcy, IMF agreement and Economic Revival Plan (ERP), was one of the key achievements on the eco-Dr nomic front of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Govt.

He said that \$3billion stand-by agreement with International Monetary Fund has helped Pakistan on economic, financial, investment and bilateral fronts and its trickled-down proach. He said SIFC would effects started with the rise of rupee value against the dollar and price stability in the open market.

He said the economic revival plan was another achievement of the government that envisages capitaltween federation and provizing the country's untapped potential in key inces

sectors of defence production, agricultural, livestock, minerals& mining, IT and energy through indigenous development as well as investments especially from friendly countries. Muhammad

Naeem said the government has taken a bold step pertaining to establishment of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to act of China Pakistan Economic as a single window interface for the potential investors Corridor (CPEC), he said and to adopt a unified apthat various projects in agriculture, IT, Industries and

shorten hithertofore cumexport sectors would be bersome and lengthy busilaunched that would generate employment opportuness processes through a cooperative and collaboranities for youth. tive approach with representation of all stakeholdeconomic and financial poliers besides creating horicies were imperative to zontal-vertical synergy beachieve all devolopment

goals Ikhtair Wali Khan,

PMLN KP spokesman that He said it would help facilitating timely decision work on all projects halted making and avoiding dupliby the previous governcation of effort besides enment, has been restarted suring swift projects impleacross the country and all sectors including agriculmentation. Work on CPEC projects were expedited

bumper wheat production Minister Shehbaz Sharif has rewas achieved this year in the country that stabilizes Under second phase

Ŵali said despite fragile economic situation, the government has provided free flour worth billions of rupees to people during Ramazan and financial relief to millions of flood victims.

He said continuity of The past government Fund thus played hovac

launched Laptop and skills flour prices in markets. development programs for empowerment of youth. These programs educates youth in a wide range of topics by enhancing their abilities to excell in their l adopted careers. Wali said that Prime Minister's

sports endowment fund has greatly helped in the had damaged Pakistan's promotion of sports in the reputation by violating the country including KP and agreement signed with the that is why Pakistan has International Monetary recently won the world junior squash title



ISLAMABAD: Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House

ture, IT, Textile as well as during PMLN led Governindustries were promoted. ment and second phase of As result of which, CPEC was launched which magnified present Govt investment friendly policies.

ndependent

Thursday August 10, 2023

International News

Page 07

Syria's Assad blames Turkey's Erdogan for violence in Syria, insists on pullout of Turkish troops

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Syria's President Bashar Assad slammed Turkey in comments published Wednesday, blaming Ankara for the uptick in violence in his war-torn country and insisting on the withdrawal of Turkish forces from Syria.

Assad spoke in an interview with Sky News Arabia, his first interview with a foreign media outlet in months. The interview is to be fully aired later on Wednesday but Sky News Arabia released some excerpts ahead of the broadcast.

Turkey is a main backer of armed opposition fighters who have been trying to remove Assad from power and has carried out three major incursions into northern Syria since 2016. Turkish forces control parts of northern Syria.

Assad, who is backed by Russia and Iran, has managed over the past few years to retake most of the territory with the help of in Wednesday's interview.

his allies, and turn the tide "Why should I and Erdogan of war in his favor. Syrian meet? To have soft drinks?" rebels and Turkey-backed opposition forces now only hold a small northwestern corner of Syria, where fighting and violence have persisted. "Terrorism in Syria is made in Turkey," Assad said. He also denied rumors

to restore strained ties.

improve relations.

In recent months, Syria has also improved re-

lations with some countries that had backed the opposition since the 2011 outbreak of the country's civil For the first time in over a decade, Assad parof an upcoming meeting ticipated in the Arab between him and his Turk-League summit hosted by ish counterpart, Recep Saudi Arabia in May, mark-Tayyip Erdogan despite ing Syria's return to the meetings between Turkey Arab fold. However, the and Syria's defense and for-United States, a key Saudi

eign ministers under Rusally, has opposed normalsian and Iranian mediation izations with Damascus without a political solution Damascus maintains to the conflict. that Ankara must put for-Some Arab countries ward a timetable for the have blamed Syria for the withdrawal of Turkish flow of drugs into oil-rich Persian Gulf nations since

troops from Syria in order to normalize relations. In the war began. The drug May, the ministers agreed trade, estimated to be to set up a "roadmap" to worth billions, has been a priority in regional talks 'Erdogan's objective with Damascus. "The countries that in meeting me is to legitimize the Turkish occupacreated chaos in Syria are tion in Syria," Assad said responsible for the drug

people with 5 others feared under debris **Monitoring Desk** MOSCOW: As many as 52 people were forced to seek medical assistance including three in critical condition

after a power blast rocked a factory just outside the Russian capital city of Moscow Wednesday, aubusiness," Assad said.

thorities said.

According to RT, the incident occurred within the premises of the Zagorsk Optical-Mechanical Plant a designing and manufacturing optical and elec-

-and the preliminary findtreated in intensive care. ings show that the blast originated in the pyrotecha total of 52 people sought medical assistance after the nics warehouse. blast, adding that five people may still be trapped Andrey Vorobyev, the

Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey declares a state of emergency in Boston,

Blast in Russian factory injures 52

citing the influx of migrants to the state in need of shelter.

Governor of the Moscow Region said that the blast under the rubble. inflicted injuries upon 31 individuals, with three of them critical, later increasation, a comprehensive mass evacuation plan has

ing the number of injured been set in motion, encompassing all facilities within to 43. He further stated that the factory's vicinity. they were taken to a local hospital, with six of them suffering burns and head

over nearby structures. Iran says it has obtained supersonic cruise missile Myanmar, had expressed

He further noted that

In response to the situ-

Local media showed

"extreme concern" that the Myanmar ambassador, technology- Tasnim Monitoring Desk

DUBAI: Iran has obtained the technology to build a supersonic cruise missile which is still under test, the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported on Wednesday.

The announcement comes amid rising tensions with the U.S. in the Gulf and following the unveiling last week of new vessels equipped with 600-km range missiles.

Over 90 reporters

questioned in

caused by flooding or geo-. "This missile, which logical disasters, China's is a new generation of Ira-Ministry of Emergency nian-made cruise missiles, is currently under-

In Hebei province, going its tests and will be which neighbours Beijing, a new chapter in Iran's 15 were reported to have defence power," the died and 22 were missing. agency said

US vows to keep Syria's chemical weapons program in UN spotlight over Russian & Chinese opposition

Monitoring Desk JNITED NATIONS: The United States and its allies vowed Tuesday to keep Syria's failure to account for syria's failure to account for its chemical weapons pro-gram in the spotlight at the U.N. Security Council ev-ery month despite opposi-tion from Russia and China. U.S. Ambassador

Monitoring Desk

Korea's ban.

Chemical Weapons Convention in September 2013, when it was pressed by its close ally Russia following a deadly chemical weapons attack in the Damascus suburb of Ghouta, which the West blamed on Damascus.

For the first time, Russia and China refused to speak at the monthly meet-Linda Thomas-Greenfield ing on the Syria chemical told the council Syrian weapons issue, saying they President Bashar Assad's are repetitive and should be government "has repeatcut back. Syria's minister counsellor Álhakan Dandy edly lied to the international community" and to invesdid speak, saying his country was surprised at this tigators from the internamonth's meeting "given that tional chemical weapons watchdog, which has con-firmed that it used these there have been no developments that would require it,' banned weapons on at least other than what he called nine occasions. She said the continuous attempts by the Biden administration will United States "to exploit the continue to demand a full chemical weapons file to accounting from Syria as it serve their agenda of hostil-pledged after joining the ity against Syria."

South Korea says Myanmar arms ban in place after U.N. concern

ers, including Russia and SEOUL: South Korea said China, maintaining close on Wednesday its ban on relations.

"Our government has the sale of arms to been still strictly imple-Myanmar remained in menting countermeasures place even though it had against Myanmar since invited an envoy appointed they were announced shortly after the outbreak by its military rulers to an event promoting the sale of of the crisis, including a ban Thomas Andrews, U.N. special rapporteur on exports of military supplies, and there is no change

in this position," the South Korean ministry said in a statement.

Andrews had said in a letter to South Korea's dip-Thant Sin, attended the event hosted by South lomatic mission in Geneva Korea's foreign ministry in that the envoy's "partici-May, saying it had legitimised the junta and pation in the event legitimises an illegal and brutal military junta". raised doubts about South

The invitation to Myanmar has been in Thant Sin also "raises crisis since the military doubts" about South Korea's ban on arms exousted an elected governports to Myanmar and ment led by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu could imply its intention to permit the sale, despite the Kyi in 2021, with most Western governments isojunta's responsibility for lating the generals and cut- attacks on civilians, ting off arms sales but oth- Andrews said.

Massachusetts governor declares state of emergency amid influx of migrants seeking shelter

Thailand alliance expands in new effort to form government.

Armenians face genocide in Azerbaijan, former ICC prosecutor warns

Monitoring Desk KORNIDZOR: The former chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court warned that Azerbaijan is preparing genocide against ethnic Armenians in its Nagorno-Karabakh region and called for the U.N. Security Council to bring the matter before the international tribunal

the report said.

Scouts begin evacuation

as typhoon nears

ment

evacuation.

Monitoring Desk its physical destruction. AKARTA: Indonesia' There are no cremacapital Jakarta topped the list as the world's most tories and there are no machete attacks. Starvation is polluted city on Wednesthe invisible genocide day, having consistently weapon. Without immediranked among the 10 most ate dramatic change, this polluted cities globally since group of Armenians will be destroyed in a few weeks," May, according to data by Swiss air quality technol ogy company IQAir.

Nagorno-Karabakh is a Jakarta, which has a region within Azerbaijan that

tronic equipment company injuries, and are being 33 dead, 18 still missing after record Beijing rains: officials

Monitoring Desk press my deep condolences BEIJING: Thirty-three to those who died in the line people have been con-firmed dead and 18 are still of duty and the unfortunate victims," Xia Linmao, missing after Beijing's Beijing's vice mayor, told a press conference, according heaviest rains on record, officials said on Wednesday.

to state broadcaster CCTV China's capital has Scores have died in the been hit by record downfloods across northern China, with Beijing on Fri-day saying 147 deaths or pours in recent weeks. damaging infrastructure and deluging swathes of the disappearances last month city's suburbs and surwere caused by natural dirounding areas. sasters Of those, 142 were

Officials said on Wednesday that 33 had died in the recent had weather in Beijing, mainly by flooding and buildings collapsing, Management said. almost three times the figure given by officials last Tuesday.

"I would like to ex-

smoke ascending from the factory, casting a shadow weapons. on human rights in

A report by Luis Moreno Ocampo issued Tuesday said Azerbaijan's blockade of the only road leading from Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh seriously impedes food, medical supplies and other essentials to the region of about 120,000 people.

'There is a reasonable basis to believe that a geno-cide is being committed," Ocampo's report said, noting that a U.N. convention defines genocide as including "deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about

came under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by the Armenian military in separatist fighting that ended in 1994. Armenian forces also took control of substantial territory around the region. Azerbaijan regained control of the surrounding territory in a six-week war with Armenia in 2020. A Russia-brokered armistice that ended the war left region's capital. the Stepanakert, connected to Armenia only by a road known

as the Lachin Corrirdor, along which Russian peacekeeping forces were supposed to encold," he said. sure free movement.

> EU starts preparing sanctions **Monitoring Desk**

Monitoring Desk BUAN: Tens of thousands of scouts were being evacuated on Tuesday from their problem-plagued South Korean campsite to safer areas ahead of a looming typhoon, as Seoul scrambled

tain them. The mass exodus is the latest blow to the jamboree, which has already seen hundreds of scouts fall ill during a sweltering heatwave, prompting the early withdrawal of American and British contingents as complaints over site conditions mounted.

to accommodate and enter-

More than 100 police cars and four helicopters were deployed to escort buses carrying the scouts out of the camp site, with President Yoon Suk Yeol cutting short his annual holiday to help manage the fallout from the jamboree, which has been a PR disas-

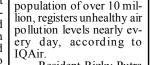
South Korea ter for his administration. This is the first time in more than 100 years of World Scout Jamborees that we have had to face such compounded challenges,' Ahmad Alhendawi, secrepean sources told Reuters tary-general of the World on Wednesday. Organisation of the Scout Movement, said in a state-

He said the massive event, which brought toforts at mediation. gether about 43,000 scouts

to a campsite in South Korea's North Jeolla province, had been "very un-Nations to prevent a military intervention threatened lucky with the unprecedented heatwave and now by other West African states. the typhoon".

At the sprawling campsite in Buan on Tuesvolved in sanctions work and an EU diplomat said day, tens of thousands of the bloc has started disscouts were packing up their tents and belongings cussing the criteria for punitive measures. The offiand queuing to get onto buses, with special forces cial said that would include 'undermining of democon hand to help with the racy" in Niger and was likely to be agreed soon.

The government sent



Indonesia's

capital named

world's most

polluted city

Resident Rizky Putra lamented that the worsening air quality was putting his children's health at risk. "I think the situation is very worrying," Rizky, 35, told Reuters TV by the side of a road in downtown Jakarta.

'So many children are sick with the same complaints and symptoms such as coughs and

against Niger junta - sources

BRUSSELS: European Union countries have started laying the groundwork to impose the first Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: India's opsanctions on members of the junta that seized power in Niger last month, Europosition leader Rahul

Gandhi condemned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's The new military lead inaction over deadly ethnic ers have so far rejected inconflict in the country's ternational diplomatic ef northeast on Wednesday, in his first parliamentary Neighbouring counspeech since his defamation tries backing the armed takeconviction was suspended. over called on the United Modi's administration

is being forced this week to defend its conduct over violence in Manipur state that has killed at least 120 An EU official inpeople

Gandhi's fiery address to the chamber was part of a no-confidence debate demanding the government's next year.

government inaction on Iran since **Manipur violence Amini protests** Monitoring Desk resignation for letting the TEHRAN: Iranian authoriunrest fester for months. ties have questioned or ar-You are throwing rested over 90 journalists

Rescue workers evacuate flood-affected residents with a boat after remnants

of Typhoon Doksuri brought rains and floods in Beijing.

Rahul Gandhi slams Indian

kerosene in the whole counsince nationwide protests try. You threw kerosene in rocked the Islamic republic Manipur, and lit a spark,' last year, local media re-Gandhi said, with cheers ported on Tuesday. from supporters and jeers Mass demonstrations

from rival lawmakers. erupted in September 2022 You're set on burnfollowing the death in cusing the whole country. You tody of 22-year-old Iranianare killing Mother India" Kurd Mahsa Amini. he added.

Hundreds of people Modi's Hindu-nationinclu-ding security forces alist Bharatiya Janata Party were killed and thousands (BJP) is regularly accused arres-ted over their particiby opponents of fomentpation in what the authoriing divisions for electoral ties have described as "ri-

Lebanon's army says it has detained dozens of smugglers planning to send migrants to Europe

sea" and had prepared sev eral boats, the army said. It gave no further details but added that the detainees are being ques-

they were preparing to send migrants on boats to Europe across the Mediterranean Sea, the army

said Wednesday. The military said 31 Syrians and 15 Lebanese were arrested Tuesday in several coastal towns and villages in northern Lebanon, including Minye, Salaata and Deir Am. The smugglers were getting ready to take "people of stability and opportu-through illegal ways by nities.

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Lebanese troops detained dozens of Lebanese and Syrian traffickers in the country's north as tioned. For years Lebanon

had been a country that received refugees from the region but since the small nation's economic meltdown began in October 2019, thousands of Leba-

nese, Syrians and Palestinians have been trying to take the dangerous trip across the Mediterranean to reach Europe in search

purposes, and India will hold general elections early ots" fomented by the West. **France frees** man accused of locking up wife

Monitoring Desk FORBACH: A German man, arrested in France after his wife said he had been holding her captive for 12 years, was released on Tuesday without charges, the lead prosecutor in the

case said Police arrested the 55subsidies will be around year-old on Monday after 12.6 billion euros, while 4.7 his wife was found naked billion euros will go toin a poor state following wards expanding the what she said was captivcountry's e-mobility chargity at the couple's home ing infrastructure. since 2011

But her husband denied this, saying that his wife had cancer and that he was caring for her. Prosecutor Olivier Glady said there was "no evidence" that would justify a continued investigation into the man

Monitoring Desk neys imaginable." The mi-BOSTON: Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey declared grants arriving in Massachusetts are the face of the a state of emergency Tuesinternational migrant crisis day, citing an influx of miand are coming at a time when the state is already grants seeking shelter at a time when the cost of housexperiencing a housing ing — already in short supcrunch, Healey said.

She called on the fedply - continues to rise. eral government for financial There are nearly 5.600 families or more than help, and more urgently, expedited work authorizations 20,000 people – many of whom are migrants-curto allow the new arrivals to rently living in state shelmore quickly find jobs and start earning a living, she wrote in a letter to U.S. Secters, including infants, young children and pregnant women. That is up from around 3,100 families retary of Homeland Security Álejandro Mayorkas. In the letter, Healey pointed to a year ago, about an 80% work authorizations as a increase, Healey said.

Many of the migrants primary driver of the crisis. Currently, she said, it can are arriving by plane from take weeks, months or more other states. In the past 48 hours alone, she said, 50 than a year to receive the migrant families have authorizations. "Our new arrivals are most eager to landed in the state in need of shelter.

work. The last thing they "It's exponentially want is to be dependent," more than our state has ever she said. As part of the emergency declaration, Healey served in our emergency said she is renewing a call to assistance program," she said. "These numbers are local organizations that can assist those seeking shelter being driven by a surge in new arrivals in our country as well as to people interwho have been through ested in sponsoring a family in their home. some of the hardest jour-

German cabinet approves 58 bln euro green investment plan for 2024 **Monitoring Desk**

become net zero by 2045.

said in a statement.

Renewable energy

dies next year. BERLIN: Germany's cabi-Supporting renewable energy production in Eunet on Wednesday agreed rope has become more urto earmark 57.6 billion eugent since the United States ros (\$63.2 billion) for green introduced generous subsiinvestments next year, up dies through its Inflation 60.2% from a 2023 target, Reduction Act which could the Finance Ministry said, as Berlin ramps up subsilure manufacturers away from Europe. Some 4 billion euros in dies to help the country

subsidies will go to support The lion's share of semi-conductors producnext year's Climate and Transformation Fund will tion next year as part of a 20 billion euro support go to Germany's building package for the industry, sector, with 18.9 billion including 5 billion euros for euros for subsidies in reno-Taiwan's TSMC to build a vations and new construcfactory in Saxony. tion in 2024, the ministry

We are laying the foundations so that future opportunities can arise from decarbonisation and digitisation," Finance Minister Christian Lindner said in a statement.

Total investments in To cut the country's the Climate and Transformation Fund, a supplemenreliance on Chinese imtary budget to push ahead ports. Germany aims to the economy's green tran-sition dubbed in German develop local production capacity for raw materi-KTF, would amount to 212 als and transformation billion euros between 2024 technology such as solar and 2027, the ministry power components with added. 4.1 billion euros of subsi-



North Jeolla province.

Daily **Independent**, Quetta

added.

the world.

PM announces package to facilitate Overseas Pakistanis with multiple initiatives

Muhammad Sharif on Wednesday announced a package to facilitate overseas Pakistan with multiple initiatives and expressed optimism that the upcoming government would continue its implementation.

The prime minister, on the occasion, said that Pakistani diaspora had been living in different parts of the world, and on the basis of their hard work, contributions and innovations, they had earned fame for the country.

Underlining the need to facilitate them without wasting time, he said such initiatives would provide overseas Pakistanis a sort of encouragement.

They are the great ambassadors of Pakistan. An if provided with the skill development training with certifications from the global companies, the Pa-

ISLAMABAD (APP): kistani manpower can fur-Prime Minister ther supplement the valu-setting up Overseas Com-mission in all provinces, Shehbaz able remittances being reservation of 10 percent sent to the country," he quota for the overseas Pakistanis in all public sector

In the Gulf and Euhousing projects with 5 rope, the prime minister percent rebate in case of said, there was a huge marforeign exchange payment, ket for skilled labour, adding if the models and the patterns used by certain countries to train their manpower, were adopted in Pakistan, they could equip their manpower properly to meet growing modernday requirements across

The prime minister announced the package for overseas Pakistanis which included establishment of special courts to resolve the property issues faced by the expatriates, one such was being set up in Islamabad which would be replicated in other provinces, establishment of hot documents, online biometlines in the offices under all ric verification and auto rethe chief secretaries and the moval of blacklist pass ICT chief commissioner, ports etc.

establishment of dedicated counters at all airports of the country, awarding top ten overseas Pakistan who contributed remittances, allocation of 5 percent seats in the professional public sector educational institutes across Pakistan, needbased scholarship to the overseas Pakistan in the pursuit of higher education, dedicated national saving schemes at attrac-Revenue tive rates and linking of

NADRA central system at the union levels for various facilities and increasing of number of camp of nomic Council (ECNEC), which approved various fices for attestation of national development projects



day meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC), which approved various national development projects.

Senate passes resolution demanding timely elections

bodies

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Wednesday passed a unanimous resolution, presented by Senator Mushtaq Ahmed of Jamaat-e-Islami stressing the constitutional mandate for timely elections in the country.

According to the resolution, the Supreme Court of Pakistan reiterated the foundational principles of the state's Constitution and stressed the paramount authority of Allah Almighty over the entire

universe In a landmark decision, the Court emphasized that the governance of Pakistan and provincial assemblies, nin the cor fines of Allah's prescribed of the Constitution, neceslimits, with elected represitates the timely conduct of elections upon complesentatives serving as custotion of their term. This prodians of this sacred trust. The ruling highlighted vision safeguards the integthe meticulous procedural

framework outlined in the and ensures the continuity Constitution for the selec- of representative gover tion of elected officials, unnance The Court's ruling derscoring the necessity for adherence to these guideclarified that individuals or

lines across all government entities possess only the authority granted to them The resolution said by the Constitution or the the Constitution mandates law, as per Article 4. The supervisory role of the a detailed and mandatory procedure for the election caretaker government esof representatives, which tablished after the dissoluapplies to all institutions tion of assemblies, as dewithin Pakistan's adminisfined in Article 230 of the Elections Act of 2018, is trative structure. Further reinforcing the

limited to routine decisions democratic values enshrined during the interregnum and in the Constitution, the Sudoes not extend to major preme Court reaffirmed policy decisions. The resolution said that the tenure of national the Supreme Court undertlined in Article 224 ed that the resp

ity for organizing elections

within the prescribed

timeframe, as stipulated in

Article 224, lies squarely

with the Election Commis-

Imran's govt

wrong policies

brought Pak

to brink of

default: Raja

SLAMABAD (APP)

Leader of the Opposition

from the verge of default on

Wednesday said that wrong

policies of Imran Khan-led-

government had brought the country to the brink of de-

In his farewell address

representatives

sion of Pakistan.

GLOBAL AMBASSADORS PRIME MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF PACKAGE FOR **OVERSEAS PAKISTANIS** OVERSEAS PAKISTANIS FOUNDATION 000

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing a ceremony regarding Special Incentives Package for Overseas Pakistanis.

ECNEC approves various national development projects

project "Dualization of

road from Chistan to Chak

No 46/3R via Dahrnawala

(41.154 km) including two-

lane link road from

Dahrnawala to Chaki 175m

ECNEC at a total cost of

with the condition of con-

firmation of Punjab Gov-

ISLAMABAD (APP): their houses affected by floods in 2022 in the prov-ince. The entire cost will be Minister for Finance and Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday chaired a meetborne by the Federal Gov-ernment. ing of the Executive Com-The Committee also mittee of the National Eco-

Planning, Development and

the Prime Minister on Fi-

nance Tariq Bajwa, secre-

taries and other senior of-

ficers from the federal min-

istries and provincial de-

try press release said.

considered a project of the Board of Revenue (BoR) (4.859 km)" to be executed in the Bahwalnagar District of the Punjab province by regarding the "Punjab Urthe National Highway Auban Land Systems Enthority and the Ministry of hancement Project (PULSE)" at an updated cost of Rs 26, 440.704 mil-Federal Minister for Communications. The project was approved by lion, to be fully financed by the World Bank. The Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal. Special Assistant of Rs. 8,962.982 million without FEC on a 50:50 cost-sharing basis between the project is to be executed by the Puniab Board of Revenue (BoR) through Punjab Land Records Authority Federal Government and the Government of Punjab (PLRA) in the Punjab provpartments attended the ince.

meeting, a Finance Minis-A project of the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs & ECNEC approved a World Bank-funded project Gilgit Baltistan titled "Establishment of Regional of the Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Grids in Gilgit-Baltistan Phase-I (Revised)" was also Initiatives titled "Resilient approved with rationalized Housing Reconstruction scope and cost of Rs and Restoration in all dis-,148.509 million with FEC tricts of Balochistan at a of Rs 1,679.274 million. The project would be cost of Rs. 43,400 million.

The project would be executed by the Govern-ment of Balochistan Gilgit-Baltistan in Gilgit, Hunza and Skardu districts. through Federal PMU & provincial PIU to support Communication submitted

ernment cost share. A project submitted by the Ministry of Water Resources, namely "Construction of Awaram Dam (Revised)" was also accorded approval by ECNEC at a cost of Rs. 23, 579.263 without FEC. It would be executed in the Awaran District of Balochistan by the provinexecuted by W&P Dept.

cial Irrigation Department. The would be financed by The Ministry of federal and provincial governments on an 80:20 cost-



tached Departments Officers Welfare Association meeting with Governor Ouddus Bizenio. Balochistan, MalikAbdul Wali Khan Kakar



Thursday August 10, 2023

<u>CJ IHC says:</u> Who ordered to send Imran to Attock jail instead of Adiala Jail

SLAMABAD (Online): court's order for providing slamabad High Court (IHC) has sought reply from federation and Punjab government about facilities in jail for PTI chairman and his shifting to jail. Chief Justice (CJ)

A class in jail, his medical check up by his personal physician Dr Faisal besides allowing him to meet his legal team, members of family and senior leadership of party. Sher Afzal Marwat advocate appeared in the court on behalf of the peti-

He took the plea the

CJ IHC inquired did

IHC Amir Farooq has remarked who ordered to send PTI chairman to District tioner Jail Attock instead of Adiala jail. The petition filed by court had ordered a day bechairman^{PTI} seeking his fore for arranging meeting shifting from district jail with PTI chairman but per-Attock to Adiala jail came mission was not given to up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by CJ meet PTI chairman despite court's orders. IHC Amir Farooq here Wednesday.

they tell any reason for not PTI chairman has arranging meeting with PTI filed petition seeking chairman



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Aviation and Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique briefing on Insightful Interactive Discussion with the Media Personnel at local hotel.

GoB approves increase in special conveyance allowance of disabled employees The provincial Fi-

Independent Report QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has creased the special convey-

ance allowance to Rs. 4,000/- from Rs. 2,000 given approval to the increase in special conveyance allowance of the promonthly. vincial government employees with disabilities.

It may be mentioned here that the special allow-ance would be given to the According to an offiemployees who have been recruited on the quota of cial hand out issued here on Wednesday, the approval disabled employees. Similarly, the employwas given in the special

nance Department has in-

ees would also be entitled to draw the special conveyance allowance who were declared disabled by any ter Balochistan. Mir Abdul authorized medical board.

Speaker Balochistan Assembly gets 209yr old laws for library QUETTA (APP): Parlia-mentary Secretary Law and occasion Speaker, Balochistan Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Assembly hailed Parliamentary Secretary and the Rubaba Khan Buledi on Wednesday handed over six Law Department for comvolumes of 209 years old piling the two hundred and



in the National Assembly QUETTA: CEO Aid Adil Jahangir, President Quetta Raja Riaz while appreciat Press Club and other at launching ceremony of ing prime minister Shehbaz Right to Information Balochistan Act 2021. Sharif and his team for bringing back the country

Govt. land of worth millions of rupees evacuated from land grabbers in Hub

Independent Report QUETTA: The district administration has evacuated the government land of worth millions of rupees from the land grabbers in Hub on Wednes-

day. According to the official reports reaching here, the grand operation against encroachment was launched under leadership of Additional Deputy Commissioner General Hub. Sved Yasin Akhtar and Assistant Commissioner Hub. Syed Samiullah

at the National Assembly, It may be mentioned he said no doubt he conhere that the operation was tested the election on the carried out on directives of PTI ticket but he and some the Deputy Commissioner other colleagues opposed Hub the wrong policies of Imran The encroachments

Khan and parted way with established on the official PTI. Even Deputy Comland were also removed missioners and District Pothrough the Heavy machinlice Officers were being ery

posted in Punjab after tak-Moreover, the depots ing bribes by CM Usman of the illegal petrol pumps Buzdar and Farah Gogi, he set up at Hub bypass were said. also demolished

The district adminis-**AJK President** tration has warned that no one would be allowed to advises LBs establish encroachments on the government land. members to

fault.

Kakar reviews issues faced by medical colleges

QUETTA (APP): Secretary Health Balochistan Isfand Yar Khan Kakar on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the issues faced by the medicolleges cal of Balochistan.

The principals of the medical colleges including Prof. Dr. Shabir Ahmed Lehri Vice Chancellor BUMHS, Dr. Tehmina Asad Executive Member PMDC, Prof. Dr. Samad Gichki Principal JMC and Prof. Dr. Afzal Khaliq Principal MMC attended the said meeting.

They thoroughly the head of the colleges of briefed the secretary health early resolution of the is-

Sultan by the medical colleges of bodv Balochistan.

should make public service Addressing the paras their motto. The AJK ticipants, the secretary said president expressed these that steps are underway to views while talking to provide modern medical fa-Mayor Mirpur Chaudhry cilities to the medical col-Usman Khalid, who called leges at the district level in on him on Wednesday. Balochistan.

Barrister Chaudhry The functioning of said that after holding the medical colleges will not local body elections in Azad only reduce the burden of Kashmir, the power has patients on the hospitals now shifted to the lower of Quetta, but the people level. "Since the power has of Balochistan will have been transferred to the access to treatment faciligrassroots level, the onus of ties at their doorstep, he responsibility to serve the masses and address their

The secretary assured problems lies with the elected representatives of the local government. about the problems faced sues on priority basis.

facilitate Pak pilgrims ISLAMABAD (APP): In-

terior Minister Rana Sannaullah on Wednesday appreciated the Government of Iraq for making special arrangements for

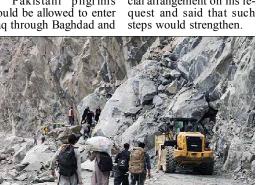
Pakistani visitors to holy places. The minister during his recent visit to Iraq, had requested the government for special arrangements for the pilgrims who face difficulties visiting holy places in Iraq, a news release said.

The government of Iraq on his request increased the quota of pilgrims up to one hundred thousand and issuance of 30 days free visa to the pilgrims. Earlier the pilgrims were given 15 days paid visa.

Pakistani pilgrims would be allowed to enter Iraq through Baghdad and

tries will regulate the tourism companies to ensure better provision of facilities to the visitors. Pakistan's embassy in Iraq will make arrangements to control the issue of overstaying at the end of the visa whereas Pakistani investors would be

issued electronic visas. The minister thanked the government of Iraq for the special arrangement on his re-



GILGIT: People crossing the blocked road on Juglot Skardu Road after land sliding near Rondu area.

Stable, consistent political environment crucial to ensure progress: Shah

S L A M A B A D political environment to ensure the nation's progress Shah paid tribute to

the memory of the revered martyr, Benazir Bhutto, and consistent political enattributing her sacrifice to vironment to ensure the the preservation of the progress of the nation. very house he was address-In his address during ing. He revealed that, in

the farewell session of the pursuit of restoring the National Assembly, he highdemocratic system, the lighted Pakistan's unique government had extended history of constitutionsupport even to individumaking and dissolution. He als and groups they initially emphasized that the constidid not intend to support. Moreover, the Ministution of the country was not followed, fostering a underscored the

sense of complexity in its achievement of the present assembly in completing a governance. Minister Khursheed full five-year term. He Shah drew attention to the urged fellow legislators and period spanning from 1988 citizens alike to introspect to 1997 when successive about the gains and losses

assemblies were elected and experienced during this subsequently dissolved. He time, encouraging a collecunderscored the need for a tive understanding of the more stable and consistent nation's trajectory

QUETTA: The Pakistan Al-Najaf Airports and Al-Àdministrative Service Saib port through while the (PAS) officer, serving in government of Iraq uplifts Grade-19, Muhammad the restriction of entry and Hamza Shafqaat has been exit from one airport. promoted in the Grade-20. Both the government

According to an official notification issued here decided to take stern action by the Establishment Diviagainst the tour operators charging extra fees from pilsion, the promotion has grims whereas both counbeen granted on recommendation of the Federal Selection Board.

It may be mentioned here that Muhammad Shafqaat has been serving as Secretary Information Department, Government of Balochistan.

> Shahzain Bugti pays farewell visit to ANF Headquarters

Assembly

of mother's milk.

RAWALPINDI (APP): Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Nawabzada Shahzain Bugti here on Wednesday paid a farewell visit to Anti-Narcotics Control (ANF) Headquarters.

Director General (DG) ANF Major General Mohammad Aneeq ur Rehman Malik, Hilal Imtiaz (Military) welcomed the Federal Minister. Other senior officers of ANF were also present on the occasion

Appreciating the performance of all departments of the institution, the min-ister expressed satisfaction awareness among mothers' and good wishes. dren.

The DG ANF also presented a souvenir to Nawabzada Shahzain Bugti.

Qadri bids adieu to politics

LONDON (Online): Chief of Pakistan Àwami Tehreek (PAT) Dr Tahir ul Qadri has announced to quit politics.

He made this announcement during a press conference here in London.

He expressed his views with reference to his political future. Announcing to quit politics on this occasion he said he has discharged his obligation. I am now satisfied. He went on to say "I made calls to 22 crores people. My workers were martyred. In Islamabad I gave call every day that if you don' rise up today then you will never be able to rise



laws to Speaker Balochistan nine-vear-old laws and updating them on the website Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali for the of the Law Department. library of the provincial as-"It was indeed a verv

difficult task to consolidate sembly. Deputy Speaker Sardar Babar Musa Khail, the laws based on more than two centuries of history, Secretary Balochistan As-Jan Jamali said, adding that sembly Tahir Shah Kakar it will always be rememwere also present on the bered.

Dr. Naeem for creating awareness among mothers' milk vital for children

QUETTA (APP): Director breastfeed her baby to make Nutrition Program, Dr. him a healthy citizen. Naeem Zarkoon on

The newborn baby should be given breast milk Wednesday said that stakeholders, scholars and civil immediately after birth. The baby would be exclusively society members have to play their role to promote breastfed until the age of six, do not even give wamilk importance for chilter", he said. He further said that as soon as the baby was

Highlighting the benborn, breast milk should be efits of breast milk of fed to the newborn within mother, he said that healthy the first hour while vellow and energetic children were thick milk was full of imthe foundation of a healthy mune components, it was society saying that there very useful and healthy for was a need to raise awarethe baby. The Dr. Naeem ness about the importance said that children across the country were severely de-Dr. Naeem said that ficient in iron and vitamins the price of mother's milk saying more than half of could not be put in the Pakistan's children were world adding that every being suffered from hidden malnutrition



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