Simultaneously published from Quetta, Gwadar, Hub, Karachi, Islamabad

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Member APNS & CPNE

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www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vol. XXIV No. 356, Muharramul Haram 30, 1445 AH Friday August 18, 2023 Pages 12, Price Rs. 15

Terms incident extremely tragic, intolerable

COAS vows to bring culprits of Jaranwala incident to justice

Gen Munir says all citizens of Pakistan are equal amongst each other irrespective of religion, gender, cast or creed

RAWALPINDI (INP): the mob that set fire to a during the COAS's address Chief of Army Staff number of churches and (COAS) General Asim vandalised Christians' Munir on Thursday con-demned the "extremely over alleged blasphemy on tragic and totally intolerable" Jaranwala incident, saving that "there is no space for such incidents of intolerance and extreme behaviour"

As per the military's media wing, General Munir made the remarks when he

Wednesday. The mob made its way

through a predominantly

Christian area on the outskirts of the industrial city of Faisalabad after allegations spread that the Holy Quran had been desecrated. The question was

was asked a question about asked by a "participant" minorities," the army chief

to the 370 students that were interns at the yearly Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Internship Programme.

'Jaranwala incident is extremely tragic and totally intolerable. There is no space for such incidents of intolerance and extreme behaviour by any segment of the society against anyone, particularly against

was quoted by the ISPR as saying.
The COAS said that all

citizens of the country "are equal amongst each other irrespective of religion, gender, cast or creed". He assured that no one would be allowed to take the law into their hands and those "culpable of committing such crimes will be brought before the court of justice". Earlier in his address,

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi administering the oath of office to members of the caretaker Federal Cabinet, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir addresses to the 370 students that were interns at the yearly Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Internship Programme.

Murtaza Solangi assumes charge as Interim Information Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP):Murtaza Solangi on Thursday assumed charge as Interim Minister for Information and

"Mortaza Solangi arrived in his office at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting after taking oath



of his position (at the President's House)," said a news

After assuming the responsibilities as the interim information minister, Murtaza Solangi held a meeting with the ministry's officers and his staff.

Governor describes provision of equal rights to masses true democracy

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has categorically stated that true democracy is to provide equal rights as well as even facilities and opportunities of progress to the masses. He said that he got to the conclusion in the light of his knowledge and experience during his political life that provision of equal rights, even facilities and equivalent opportunities of

growth to the masses is actually real democracy. Therefore, the policy of

guarantee sustainable solution to the problems.

This and similar other views were expressed by the Governor while speaking to different delegations who called on him at the Governor House on Thurs-

The Governor on the occasion stressed that brotherhood and respect to difference of opinion is the essence of democracy.

He added that we have to promote national solidarity and unity to combat the chaos and division in the

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Chairman Khadmit-e-Khalq Foundation Naimatullah Zaheer meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Manzoor Pashteen, Ali Wazir meet Akhtar Mengal invite to take part in protest gathering

Independent Report QUETTA: The Head of Pashtoon Tahafuz Movement (PTM) Manzoor Ahmed Pashteen met the President of Balochistan National Party (BNP) Sardar Akhtar Mengal in Islamabad on Thursday.

During the course of meeting, the PTM leader and former Member National Assembly, Ali Wazir

was along accompanied

with Manzoor Pashteen. The sources aid that PTM leaders invited Sardar Akhtar Mengal to participate in the protest and public meeting to be held in Islamabad.

Meanwhile, during the course of meeting, the matters pertaining to the politics and other related affairs

Safar moon not sighted

ISLAMABAD (APP) The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony on Thursday announced that the moon of Safar, 1445 AH has not been sighted.

In accordance with the decision made during the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Comclared that the commencement of the 1st Safar, 1445 AH will take place on Saturday, the 19th of August,

The decision was reached after careful consideration by the Central Ruete-Hilal Čommittee and in line with the ministry's efforts to ensure accuracy in marking the start of each Islamic month.

Blinken calls PM Kakar, greets him on assuming office

ISLAMABAD (Online): US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has congratulated Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on becoming the Caretaker Prime Minister

Ántony Blinken said that preparations for the election are underway in Pakistan according to the constitution and we will continue to cooperate for the economic prosperity of

Pakistan. Antony Blinken also congratulated Caretaker PM Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on his assumption of office.

Caretaker PM Anwarul-Haq Kakar thanked the US Secretary of State on Twitter and made it clear that help will be provided

for transparent elections. Caretaker PM Anwarul-Haq Kakar said that he is committed to the stability of Pakistan's economy and democracy and attaches importance to relations with the United States.

Syrus Sajjad Qazi appointed foreign secretary

ISLAMABAD (Online): Syrus Sajjad Qazi has been appointed as the 32nd Foreign Secretary of Pakistan

He replaces Ambassa-dor Asad Majeed Khan who retires from government service upon attaining superannuation.

Consultation has been completed in connection with care taker federal cabinet. According to sources Jalil Abbas Jillani and Sarfaraz Bugti are likely to be given portfolios of care taker foreign minister and caretaker interior minister respectively. Defence analyst Syed Muhammad Ali is likely to be made care taker information minister

Govt will strive to meet expectations of public representatives; says PM

Says caretaker govt to facilitate free, fair election process

ISLAMABAD (APP): also accelerate the course of Caretaker Prime Minister economic development. Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday said that his government would make its utmost efforts to come up to the expectations of public representatives within the given short stint.

The prime minister said this in a meeting with Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani here. The Senate chairman congratulated the prime minister on assuming the office.

Prime Minister Kakar thanked Sadiq Sanjrani, who expressed the hope that the caretaker government would not only assist in holding fair elections as racy and stability in the reper public expectations but

Senator Danesh Kumar also attended the meeting.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar has said that the government would be assiduously working to facilitate a free and fair election process in Pakistan according to the Constitution. On his Twitter handle on Wednesday, the prime minister thanked US Secretary of State Antony Blinken for his good wishes. "We place importance

on our partnership with the US and deeply value the shared commitment to economic prosperity, democgion," he further posted.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjarani and Senator Danesh Kumar call on care taker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

16-member caretaker federal cabinet takes oath

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday administered the oath of office to the 16member caretaker federal

The swearing-in ceremony was held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr that was attended by Interim Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, politicians and prominent figures from different sectors.

anthem before the recitation of verses from the Holy

Among newly ap pointed federal cabinet members who took oath, included Senator Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, Jalil Abbas Jilani, Shamshad Akhtar, Lt. General (Retd) Anwar Ali Hyder, Murtaza Solangi, Sami Saeed, Shahid Ashraf Tarar, Ahmad Irfan Aslam, Muhammad Ali, Gohar Ejaz, Umar Saif Nadeem Jan, Khalil George,

The ceremony commenced with the national and Madad Ali Sindhi.

Quran.

Aneeq Ahmed, Jamal Shah

Newly sworn-in cabinet vows to cope with challenges, serve masses

The members of the newlyappointed interim Federal Cabinet on Thursday vowed to cope with the challenges confronting the country and serve the masses within their short

The 16-member interim cabinet members took the oath of office at a swearing-in ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, also attended by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ulnent figures from various Talking to newsmen after his oath, Murtaza

Mohsin Naqvi and promi-

Solangi said that the masses would be ready to back the government if it succeeded to create closeness with The minister said if he were given the portfolio of

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Members of Balochistan Union of Journalists (BUJ) holding protest demonstration against killing of Senior Journalist Jan Muhammad Mehar in Sukkur, at Quetta press club.

Elections to be delayed as ECP announces delimitation schedule

Entire process of delimitation will take nearly four months; ECP is bound to draw new boundaries after CCI approves new census; Delimitation of constituencies across the country will be notified in December this year

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has opted to initiate the delimitation of constituencies following the approval of the Council of Common Interests (CCI) for the Digital Population Census 2023 and complete the process

within four months. The decision to the effect was taken during a meeting chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja and attended by the ECP members, secretary and other officials, a press release tice seeking help from provincial governments and the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) in the delimitation process.

schedule, delimitation com-

mittees will be established on August 21. Administrative tasks concerning delimitation will be concluded by August 31. Delimitation committees' training is scheduled for September 1

Allocation of district quotas for national and provincial assembly seats to delimitation committees ber 14.

The ECP issued a no- will take place from September 5 to 7.

Delimitation committees will conduct the initial delineation of constituencies between September 8 According to the and October 7.

Preliminary proposals will be made public on October 9. Representations on preliminary proposals can be filed between October 10 and November 8, and the Commission will address/hear these representations from November 10 to December 9.

The final delimitations will be published on Decem-

State responsible for protection of minorities² rights: CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): An eight-member delegation of the Sikh community on Thursday paid a courtesy call on Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial.
The delegation was

headed by Implementation Minority Rights Forum Chairman Samuel Payara and comprising Baba Makhan Singh, Baba Gurpal Singh, Dr Sahib Singh, Sardar Bishan Singh, Amrik Singh, Kaka Singh, Satnam Singh and Dharam

Singh, said a press release. The CJP welcomed the delegates and felicitated them on the Minorities Day. He briefed them about the rights of minorities as enshrined in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973. He further said that in Pakistan, every citizen had the right to profess and practice their

respective faiths. The chief justice termed the courts in Pakistan the custodian of the fundamental rights of the people, which had always been cognizant of the rights of minorities and had delivered judgments to enforce. implement and address issues faced by the minorities in the country

After dissolving assemblies **Putting name plate** of Ministers, MNA, **MPAorCoordinators** on vehicles illegal

Independent Report QUETTA: Th Balochistan police has warned that putting name plate of the Ministers, Members of National Assembly, Member Provincial Assembly and coordinators on the vehicles after dissolution of assemblies is an illegal

This was announced in an official communique issued by the spokesman of Balochistan Police here on Thursday.

The spokesman also mentioned that it is also an illegal act to install blue light on the private vehicles. According to the spokesman, those place such number plates and blue lights on the vehicles are given time of 24 hours for removal of the same.

Speaker forms parliamentary committee for nomination of caretaker CM Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali constituted parliamentary committee for nomination of the caretaker Chief Min-

ister on Thursday. According to the official sources, the parliamentary committee announced by the Speaker provincial Assembly comprised three members each of the government and opposition

Those included in the parliamentary committee are: Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo, Sardar Abdul Rehman

Khetran and Engineer Zamarak Khan Achakzai as well as Muhammad Nawaz Kakar, Abdul Wahid Siddiqui and Younas Zehri.

It may be mentioned

that Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo had sent names of three MPAs to Speaker assembly including him. Other two members he referred from his side for the

committee were included:

Sardar Abdul Rehman

Khetran and Zamarak Khan Achakzai. Similarly, the leader of Opposition Malik Sikandar Khan Advocate had sent



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Minorities representatives presenting a souvenir to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan Mr. Justice Umar Ata Bandial at the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

PPP demands timely polls,

opposes ECP move to hold fresh delimitation

PTI rejects ECP decision on delimitation, set to challenge CCI decision in Supreme Court

ISLAMABAD (INP): Shortly after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced holding fresh delimitations, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) on Thursday opposed the decision, saying drawing new boundaries of constituencies is not a "constitu-

ional requirement" The electoral authority has announced that new delimitations will be carried out across the country on the basis of a new census approved by the Council of Common Interest (CCI) meeting last month, meaning the general elections in the country will be delayed beyond its 90 days constitutional requirement.

The ECP schedule

showed that fresh delimitation will take nearly four months, to be held from September 8 to October 7, as per the electoral body's schedule.

Reacting to the ECP's

announcement, PPP spokesperson Faisal Karim

Kundi said the party has been demanding elections to be held as per the Consti-"There is no constitutional requirement to do delimitations but there is [a] constitutional requirement

days," he added. The PPP was a key ally of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)-led government in the Centre,

to hold elections within 90

Continued on page 2

Media community

applauds President

Alvi's approval

of PEMRA

Amendment Bill

ISLAMABAD (Online).

Media Joint Action Commit-

tee representing PFUJ, CPNE, AEMEND, APNS and PBA today issued a

statement thanking the President of Pakistan, Dr.

Arif Alvi for formally ap-proving and signing the PEMRA amendment Bill

mittee in the statement said

that we appreciate President

Alvi's understanding of the

need for these amendments,

which are a first step to-

wards making PEMRA in-dependent, defining the of-ten misused term "Fake News", ensuring that elec-

tronic media workers get

paid on time, appointment of Chairman PEMRA by the

Parliament instead of the

Government and partially

addressing the long pend-

ing demands of electronic

media to rationalize the

terms of license. Although there is still a long way to

go to ensure freedom of speech and free media, the

current bill is a step in the

MQM leader

Kunwar

Naveed Jameel, Deputy Convenor of Muttahida

(MQM), has passed away

Deputy Convenor was

confirmed by party Convenor Khalid Maqbool

Siddigui, who emphasized

his status as a valuable as-

set and senior leader within

Siddiqui went on to under-

score Kunwar Naveed's in-

delible contributions to

both MOM and the nation,

asserting that every MOM

the MQM leader will be

offered today after the Fri-

day prayer at Defense

Larkana Press Club

holds candlelight

vigil to remember

journalist Jan

Muhammad

candlelight vigil was held at

Larkana Press Club on

Thursday to pay tribute to

renowned journalist and

Bureau Chief of a private

Sindhi TV channel Jan

the Press Club, members of

the club, journalists, cam-

eramen, photographers and

people from different walks

of life gathered there to

reminisce Jan Muhammad

Mahar and placed flowers

and candles light vigil in

front of the photo of the

martyred Jan Muhammad

cial prayer for Jan Muhammad Mahar was

COAS vows to....

Continued from page 1

Gen Munir highlighted the

"role of youth towards na-

Pakistan, which can con-

tribute immensely towards

peace, progress and pros-

perity of the country," the

army chief said. He also

"highlighted the efforts of

inimical forces towards cre-

ating and fomenting fis-

sures, intolerance, mistrust

and violent behaviour

among the people to spread

anarchy and unrest in the

tive for the youth to dis-

cern the difference between

truth, half-truth, lies, mis-

also lauded the young in-

ternees for successfully

completing the programme

He added: "It's impera-

In the end, Gen Munir

country.

in form ation

disinformation

"Youth is the future of

tional development".

On the occasion, a spe-

Mahar.

offered

All the office bearers of

Muhammad Mahar.

LARKANA (APP):

Phase I Masjid Mustafa.

The funeral prayer of

worker mourns the loss.

the movement.

Khalid

The demise of MQM's

after prolonged illness.

Movement

Maqbool

right direction.

Oaumi

The Joint Action Com-

2023.

Pakistan urges India to end illegal detention of Kashmiri activists

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Thursday urged India to bring an end to the unjustified and illegal detention of Khurrum Pervaiz and Irfan Mehraj and numerous other Kashmiri activists who were languishing in jails for raising their voice against Indian oppression.

Speaking at a weekly press briefing here, the For-eign Office Spokesperson said, "In a communication addressed to the govern-ment of India, UN special procedures for human rights have expressed serious concerns at the arrest, detention and charges against Kashmiri human rights defenders Khurram Pervaiz and Irfan Mehraj.'

The communication has been signed by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders; the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntarily Disappearances; the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Freedom and Peaceful Assembly and of Association; and the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,'

Khurram Pervaiz, who

was the Programme Coordinator of the Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCSS) and Irfan Mehraj, a researcher with JKCSS, were detained in Rohini prison in New Dehi. The UN Special Procedures had expressed concern that their arrests and detention were designed to delegitimize their human rights work and to obstruct monitoring of the human rights situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu

and Kashmir (IIOJK). The Spokesperson said the communication by the UN Special Procedures was yet another indictment of the Indian occupation authorities in IIOJK as it continued to silence and harass Kashmiri human rights defenders.

To a question, she said, "Pakistan has always welcomed peace and dialogue between countries especially between our friends." "Iran is a friend and so is the United States. We welment and result-oriented dialogue between them. As far as the meeting with Dr. Aafia Siddiqui is concerned, I do not wish to speak on a case that is subjudice.'

"But what I can say is that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, our Embassy in Washington and our Consulate in Houston have been closely following the case of Aafia Siddiqui and the requests for consular ac-

To another question about relations with Afghanistan, she said Pakistan had said clearly time and again, that it would like to have peace and amity with Afghanistan.

"Our relationship is centuries old, it is rooted in our culture and in our history. It is important for the two sides to resolve all differences and concerns and that is why we have been raising our concerns with respect to terrorism that emanates from Afghanistan and endangers Pakistan. This has been an area of regular contact and dialogue between our two countries," she added.



ISLAMABAD: German Ambassador Alfred Grannas and President of German-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Pervaiz Akhtarin a group photo with the dignitaries during a book launching ceremony on Landmarks of Pakistan Drawings by Ute Elpers German porcelain painter compiled by Shahid Kamal/Folker Falsse/Farrah Mahmood at PNCA

Book "Landmarks of Pakistan" by German artist launched

cal places of Pakistan by a German Painter, Ms. Ute Elpers launched on Thursday here at Pakistan National Council of Arts

(PNCA). The event was organized by the German-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry with the support of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany and PNCA.

President of the German-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Pervaiz Akhtar and Director General PNCA Muhammad Ayub Jamali were present on the occasion. The event was attended by many diplomats,

VIPs, dignitaries and artists. The chief guest at the event was Alfred Grannas, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Guest of Honour was Ambassador Shahid Kamla, Former Ambassador of Pakistan to Germany, who initiated and pioneered the compilation of the book.

Addressing the participants, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany Alfred Grannas said, "As Ambassador to this fascinating country, I have the

the Information and Broad-

casting Ministry, he would

strive to modernise the

state media institutions, in-

cluding the Associated

Press of Pakistan (APP),

Pakistan Television and

Radio Pakistan to make

them cope with the mod-

foreign secretary Jalil

Abbas Jilani, who is also

part of the interim cabinet,

said the main objective of

the foreign policy was to

serve the national interests.

cabinet would strive to

serve the country's interest

through national consensus

and improve cordial ties

with countries like China.

the United States, the

United Arab Emirates, Iran

and South Asian states,

should further strengthen

its relationship with China

being a strategic partner

with great economic coop-

success of the Afghan gov-

Similarly, he said, the

He said Pakistan

among others.

He said the caretaker

Talking to APP, former

ern trends

also the soul of these buildings with the economical methods of a technical

draftswoman could" He said the fact that their legacy is now being immortalized in this book is not only a long overdue honor but also a beautiful example of the diverse ties between Germany and Pa-

"I am particularly grateful to my fellow Ambassador Shahid Kamal for his tireless dedication to this project over the years", he

President of the German-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Pervaiz Akhtar said Ms. Ute Elpers was a German porcelain painter who died in 2019. She was trained as a porcelain and ceramic painter at the Roloff porcelain factory in Muenster, Germany. She gifted 21 of her beautiful filigree ink drawings of landmarks of Pakistan to the Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA), Islamabad, he

added. He said that Ute very skillfully portrayed through her pen and ink drawings the rich architectural and cultural opportunity to experience heritage of Pakistan, adding many of the monuments im- that to support humanitar-

eliminate terrorism.

and water issues.

Moreover, Jilani said

he also desired that

Pakistan's all longstanding

disputes with India should

be resolved peacefully in-

cluding Kashmir, Sir Creek

the media that if given the

portfolio of education and

youth ministry, he, in co-

operation with his team,

would strive for the promo-

tion of education in the coun-

government would also ad-

dress the issue of confron-

tation in student politics as

disputes among the student

unions adversely impacted

the working of universities.

director Jamal Shah, who

was also sworn in, said if

given the portfolio of the

culture ministry, he would

serve to promote the

country's cultural heritage

as coming from the same

field, he was cognizant of

the potential in the culture

sector.

Renowned actor and

He said the caretaker

Madad Ali Sindhi told

Newly sworn-in cabinet...

ISLAMABAD (APP):A mortalized by Ute Elpers on ian work in Pakistan, she book titled, "Landmarks of site, and I am always im-donated proceeds from the Pakistan" containing pen pressed by how they cap- sale of her artwork through and ink drawings of histori- ture not only the shape, but the Humanity Care Foundation based in Muenster.

Pakistan's ex-Ambassa dor to Germany, Shahid Kamal in collaboration with the head of Humanitarian Care Foundation, Folker Flasee, and Ms. Farrah Mahmood have compiled the drawings of Ute Elpers in a coffee table book to showcase her memorable artwork and acknowledge her passion and love for Pa-

Pakistan's ex-Ambassa dor to Germany, Shahid Kamal said that today is a very special occasion for him to unveil this special book of Ute Elpers. He said that she was a versatile artist and great humanitarian as she working two jobs as an artist and as an humanitarian. He highly praised Ute Elpers humanitarian work during floods in Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Pakistan National Council of the Arts hosted a fantastic new exhibition of Ute Elpers, a German Porcelain Painter "Landmarks of Pakistan" in collaboration with the German-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and with the support of Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany to celebrate the publication of the book on the drawings of Ute Elpers Ute Elpers (1935-2019) was a highly gifted artist trained as a porcelain and ceramic Continued from page 1 ernment was also essential painter as well as in the art that should play its role to

of using special ink pens In 2003 Ûte met Col ® Folker Flasse, President of Humanity Care Foundation, a charitable organization registered in Germany and Pakistan. Col Flasse encouraged her to support the Foundation's humani-

are open for everyone as Continued from page 1 there is very much important of the masses and province to him.

He said that Allah Almighty has given him an opportunity to serve the masses for he is indebted to Allah. He appreciated the per-

formance of Khidmat-e-Khalq Foundation and said that it would be an honour for him to participate in the 31st anniversary of the Foundation. Earlier, Naimatullah Zaheer invited Governor to

participate in the anniversary of his welfare organization. He also extended an invitation to the Governor to

visit Pishin, which was accepted by him. Moreover, he briefed

the Governor about overall performance and functioning of Khidmat-e-Khalq Foundation



NASEERABAD: Patient is being examine by doctor during the free medical camp organized by International Rescue Committee, held in Naseerabad.



OUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz Uqaili meeting with Speaker Balochistan Assembly Mir Jan Muhammad Khan Jamali

Hurriyat leaders urge UN to resolve Kashmir dispute

Hurrivat leaders and organizations have sought intervention of UN Secretary General. Antonio Guterres, to resolve the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the

people of Jammu and

Kashmir.

According to Kashmir Media Service (KMS), Jammu and Kashmir Muslim league acting chairman Abdul Ahad Parra, United Peace Alliance chairman Mir Shahid Saleem, Jammu and Kashmir Youth Social Forum Chairman Maulana Musaib Nadvi, Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Youth Forum Mueeb Ahmed, Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Resistance Party Chairman Imtiyaz Ahmed, Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Movement Chairman Prof Zubari, Jammu and Kashmir Political Resistance Movement, Chairman Jameel Ahmad and Chairman of Jammu Kashmir Pir Panjal Freedom Movement Asrar Ahmed reiterated that the Kashmiris will continue their freedom struggle till the settlement

ISLAMABAD (APP): aspiration of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The leaders while denouncing the gross violation of fundamental rights of the people said that the freedom-loving people of Kashmir have earned a moral victory by observ-ing Indian Independence Day as a Black Day despite all-out repressive measures adopted by Indian forces in the territory.

statements pointed out that Modi can't defeat IIOJK people's spirit for freedom by resorting to killings, arrests and torture. The Kashmiris will not relent in their struggle to free their homeland from Indian clutches as they are not ready to let Modi to impose Hindutva plans in ΪΙΟJΚ.

The leaders said that Kashmiri people are united to defeat BJP-led Hindutva designs in the occupied territory and the day is not far off when the sun of freedom will rise in IIOJK.

The overwhelming enthusiasm displayed by the brave people of Kashmir daring worst type of military siege of India has frustrated its one million Indian forces who are engaged in a war against the common resolved as per United masses, added the state-Nations resolutions and ments.

Naveed Jameel passes away PPP demands timely polls.... KARACHI (INP): Kunwar

which "unanimously" approved the new census ear-

of the Kashmir dispute is

lier this month, requiring the ECP to carry out fresh delimitations before holding

As per the schedule, the new delimitation of the constituencies across the country will be notified in December this year. Meanwhile Following

the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) decision to carry out new delimitation, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Thursday rejected the idea and announced it would challenge the Council of Common Interest's (CCI) decision to notify the new census in the Supreme Court.

In a statement, the party spokesperson alleged that the schedule for the delimitation issued by the ECP was "malicious and a clear deviation from the

Continued from page 1 Constitution" The party added that if

the National Assembly is dissolved before the completion of its tenure the Constitution clearly states

that the ECP is bound to hold polls within 90 days. Election Commission's schedule is a criminal attempt to prolong the caretaker government contrary to what is written

in the Constitution," the party spokesperson said. It added that the poll organising authority after violating the Supreme Court's order on elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) is once again trying to "violate the Constitution' 'In light of the decision

of the Council of Common Interests, the formation of new constituencies cannot be used as a justification to escape election." the former ruling party further

Governor describes provision....

society. In this regard, we need to raise voice for promotion of democratic norms and behaviours among the masses at every forum, adding he stressed.

The Governor also said that all are equal and bound to law equally in the real democracy. He said that the country's prevailing circumstances require national unity and solidarity, and for the purpose, we would have to play our due role in national development and reconstruction setting aside mutual differences and personal interests, adding Governor stressed.

Meanwhile, speaking to the Chairman Khidmate-Khala Foundation. Naimatullah Zaheer, the Governor said that the public service is actually true politics.

He said that his doors

Ashrafi visits church in Lahore, expresses solidarity with Christian community

LAHORE (APP): Interfaith Harmony Council President and Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi visited Saint Anthony Catholic Church here on Thursday and expressed solidarity with the Christian community after the Jaranwala incidents.

Addressing a press conference at the church here, he expressed sorrow over the recent events, stating that harming innocent lives and property was totally against the Islamic teach-

On behalf of all Pakistanis, he sought pardon from the Christian community over the losses, Christian had to suffer at the hands of angry mob in

Ashrafi urged the govemment and judiciary to investigate the matter, suggesting that stern award of sentence in previous such instances could have prevented the current tragedy. He also expressed his sorrow over destruction of sacred texts and called for accountability.

Archbishop Sebastian Francis Shaw also spoke at the conference. He expressed distress faced by the Christians and condemned the burning of Holy Quran. He emphasised the need for patience and tolerance, while demanding a thorough investigation into the incident. He thanked the Muslim individuals, who provided shelter and assistance to the affected Christians.

ECP sets deadline for political parties to submit 2022-23 financial statements

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has directed political parties to submit their consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year 2022-23 by Au-

gust 29th. As stated by the ECP spokesperson, political parties were obligated under Section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017, in conjunction with Section 204 of the same Act, along with rules 159 and 160 of the Election Rules, 2017, to submit their financial statements for the fiscal year ending on June 30th no later than August 29th, 2023. As a reminder, Section

210 of the Elections Act, 2017 stipulates that a political party must, following the outlined procedure, furnish the Commission with a consolidated audited financial statement within sixty days after the conclusion of a financial year. This statement, documented on Form-D, should encompass yearly income and expenses, fund sources, as well as asset and liability

The report that needs to be provided to the ECP include an accountant's audit report of the political party's accounts, along with a certificate signed by an authorized party member, as designated by the party head. This certificate affirms that the party did not receive funds from any prohibited source according to the Elections Act, 2017, and also confirms other method.

the accuracy of the financial details within the statement. The financial statement

is required to be submitted using Form-D, as outlined in the Elections Act, 2017. Printed copies of these forms were accessible at no charge in the Election Commission Secretariat in Islamabad, as well as at the offices of the provincial election commissioners in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan. Additionally, Form-D and the source of funds proforma were also made available on the ECP's official website.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) emphasized the importance of avoiding overwriting. They also instructed that the membership or certificate from ICAP for the engaged Auditor should be attached to Form-D, along with the most recent valid renewal certificate. Additionally, Form-D must include clear copies of the party's bank statements from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, as well as a bank reconciliation statement. The statement should be directed to the Secretary of the Election Commission of Pakistan at Constitution Avenue, G-5/ 2, Islamabad. It should be handed over by a party office bearer who has been authorized by the party head according to rule 156 of the Election Rules, 2017.

The statement won't be

accepted if sent via post,

fax, courier service, or any



QUETTA: Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) Balochistan Chief, Mufti Wazir Ahmed Rizvi addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

Pakistan to feature in Asian Baseball C'ship

Pakistan U15 baseball team Thursday left to take part in the Asian Baseball Championship in Weihai, China.

The players and officials have been provided with essential camp and accommodation facilities by the Pakistan Sports Board, showcasing their commitment to supporting the youth athletes of the country. Pakistan Federation Baseball has taken on the responsibility of arranging all other necessary expenses for the team, said a press release.

Before their departure, the Director General of the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB), Shoaib Khoso, bid farewell to the players and officials at the Pakistan Sports Board in Islamabad to convey his well wishes and to offer his encourage-

He further explained that the decision to send a minimum number of play-

ISLAMABAD (APP): The ers and officials was made in order to ensure the team's participation.

The Pakistan Sports Board, citing budgetary constraints, was unable to afford to send the national team to the Asian Games. Consequently, the Pakistan baseball community has made a significant effort to send the U15 team, as the nation cannot afford to compromise its international ranking despite having formidable

The decision to send the U15 team to the Asian Baseball Championship not only showcases the resilience of Pakistan's sports community but also highlights their determination to maintain their presence in the international sports arena. The team's participation would contribute to the development of young athletes and further promote the sport of baseball within the nation.

CANCELLATION

The notice inviting Tender Published in Daily Newspaper 04.08.2023 Vide PRQ No,279/03.08.2023 is hereby Cancelled due to letter No S-II-2(4)/2023-S&GAD Dated 16th Aug 2023

💲 www.dpr.gob.pk. 🔻 @dpr_gob 🌀 dpr.gob 🛨 @dgpr.balochist:

PRQ No.399/17-8-2023

Policy dialogue stressed for clean energy transition

kistan to China Naghmana moderate and flexible en-Hashmi on Thursday said developing an expert-led long-term strategic energy plan and monitoring mechanism was crucial to ensure just energy access and eradi-

forming the Power Sector: Exploring the Prospects of China-Pakistan Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETPs)", organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Pakistan China Institute (PCI), a news release said.

She expressed that by reforming economic and energy policy structure, energy access for industry and rural economies could be improved and export and economic growth could catalyzed

Head of Political and Press Section, Embassy of People's Republic of China in Pakistan, Wang Shengjie said that energy inflation during Russia-Ukraine conflict triggered a global shift in energy policies for "just" and "adjust" energy transi-

He suggested that curergy policies to ensure adjust energy transition, introduce supply-side reforms, and diversify the power generation for sustainable energy supply.

He added that Biomcate energy poverty.

She was speaking at policy dialogue on "Transpolicy dialogue on "Transpolicy dialogue on "Transpolicy dialogue on "Transpolicy" were overlooked areas with immense energy generation potential.

Energy efficiency was essential to address the circular debt issue which was the biggest hurdle in foreign investment, he said. Senior Advisor and

Research Fellow, SDPI, Dr Hassan Daud Butt highlighting the immense energy financing opportunity for BRI countries urged the government to leverage it to increase access to clean and affordable energy as well as for international financial institutions to introduce cheaper clean energy technologies in developing

He added that Pakistan must address the headwinds to create a true, sustainable easy-of-doing business environment to attract foreign investors in

Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem AlZaabi giving food packets to deserving people under the banner of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation.

Saudi embassy commemorates

Pakistan's Independence Day

with spirited celebrations

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a patriotic fervency, Ambas- tween the two countries.

with the flags of Pakistan

The poignant strains of the national anthems of

both nations reverberated

through the embassy, echo-

ing the shared aspirations

and values that bind them.

ship and goodwill, the am-

bassador generously dis-tributed gifts to Pakistani

nationals present at the event. This heartfelt ex-

change symbolized the un-

wavering brotherhood that

defines the relationship be-

in distress through its Helpline-130, an official of

NHMP said. He said the

NHMP has installed LED

lights at all toll plazas and

it displays safety messages

to sensitize the general pub-

lic at toll plazas and their

vehicles. Motorway Police

regularly takes measures for

road safety education to

educate the general public

through seminars, work-

shops, walks and briefings.

Massive road safety cam-

paigns are also launched

through print, electronic

and social media.
"Moreover printed

pamphlets and brochures regarding road safety are

distributed among road users. The NHMP has taken

steps to ensure availability

of two drivers in public service vehicles traveling on

As a gesture of friend-

and Saudi Arabia.

show of unity and camara-derie, the Royal Embassy of ously cut a cake adorned

In one year

503 killed, 270 injured in

accidents on national

highways, motorways

ISLAMABAD (APP): As ing help to the commuters

Saudi Arabia marked

Pakistan's Independence

Day with fervor and national

pride. The local employees

and officials gathered at the

embassy to partake in the

iubilant festivities that high-

lighted the enduring bond

between the two countries

bin Said Al-Malki led the

commemorative event, em-

bodying the deep-rooted

ties between Saudi Arabia

and Pakistan. Amidst an

atmosphere charged with

many as 503 persons were

killed and 270 were injured

in various accidents that

took place on national

highways and motorways

in the jurisdiction of Na-

tional Highways and Motorway Police

Motorway Police (NHMP) during one year period from July 12, 2022 tto July 11, 2023.

According to official figures issued by the

NHMP here Thursday, a total of 259 fatal and 128

non-fatalmishaps occurred

at national highways and

motorways during one the period. The NHMP has

taken several steps to con-

To ensure smooth flow of traffic and control accidents, the NHMP has

accidents

been conducting round-the-

motorways.

Ambassador Nawaf

the other day.

Director Green Fi-Former Ambassador of Parently Pakistan needed nance and Development Centre, Fudan University Dr. Christopher Nedophil said that Pakistan was among top 5 recipients of China's energy financing which had expanded coalpowered generation from 0.15 GW in 2015 to 7.2 GW in 2023 under CPEC, reducing import dependency and foreign exchange reserve

> However despite economical cost of clean energy, renewable energy transition in Pakistan is impeded by policy inconsistency and local political

outflows.

Executive Director, PCI, Mustafa Hyder Sayed stressed that political will, bold decision making and concrete policy actions were crucial to cata lyze clean energy transi-

He further added that attracting foreign investments in energy and meet-ing climate and delivering on the 30% emission reduction commitments required developing technical capacity of public bodies in energy sector to formulate policies for competitive tar iff structures.

The occasion was or-

ganized by Saudi Press

Attaché Dr Naif Al-Otaibi

who emphasized the pro-

found interconnectedness

across various spheres be-

tween Saudi Arabia and Pa-

kistan. Dr. Al-Otaibi under-

scored that the celebration

was a testament to the pro-

found social, political, cul-

tural, economic, and reli-

gious affiliations that have

blossomed over the years.

tion, Dr. Naif Al-Otaibi

noted the significance of

Pakistan's Independence

IHC issues

written order

regarding

hearing on

plea of Najam

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court

(IHC) on Thursday issued

a written order regarding

hearing in a plea of Najam u

Saqib, the son of former

chief justice Saqib Nisar

challenging his summon by

a parliamentary committee

IHC issued the written or-

had been told that attorney

general of Pakistan was not

ments of the federal govern-

ment were not as per the order dated May 31, and

instructed it to submit the

would summon the princi-

pal secretary to the prime

minister, and federal secre-

It said that the court

detailed answer again.

available for arguments.

Justice Baber Sattar of

It said that the court

It said that the com-

in audio leak case.

Day for Saudi Arabia.

In a poignant reflec-



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Algeria, Khalid Hussain Khan Gudaro called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Qibla denounces Jaranwala incident, urges respect for religious values, legal actions

Council of Islamic Ideology Chairman, Dr. Qibla Ayaz, Thursday vehemently denounced the recent incidents that unfolded in Jaranwala, highlighting the disconnect between such actions and the core principles of religion, national laws, and societal norms.

He, in a statement, asserted that the occurrences in Jaranwala stood in stark contradiction to the teachings of Islam, which espoused reverence for places of worship and religious symbols across all faiths.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Country Representative,

International Union for

Conservation of Nature

(IUCN-Pakistan),

Mahmood Akhtar Cheema

has emphasized the ur-

gency of adopting a collabo-

rative approach, which was

crucial amid for spiking up

environmental degradation

as development partners were currently working in-

dividually while combining their resources could yield

sustainable Disaster Risk

He was addressing in

Reduction (DRR).

"Our religion and our vations, we are bound by

Yield sustainable DRR

Urgency of adopting

collaborative approach

crucial: Cheema

nation's laws are rooted in our faith and our Constiturespect, tolerance, and coexistence," stated Dr. Ayaz prevails. Those responsible adding, "Acts of violence, hatred must be held actargeting individuals based countable under the full exon their beliefs, or attempting to take matters into tent of the law," he added. one's own hands due to al-Furthermore, Dr.

within Islam," he added. The chairman emphasized that legal recourse should be pursued without bias or discrimination against any individuals involved in fomenting animosity and hatred.

No matter the moti-

on 'Climate Change and its Impacts on DRR' held at

the Pakistan Expo on Di-

saster Risk Reduction 2023

(PEDRR-23) titled "Navi-

gating Towards Resilience:

Group Discussion on Cli-

mate Change and its Impacts on DRR" organised

thusiasts came together to

delve into the critical inter-

section of climate change and disaster risk reduction.

They agreed to collaborate

and drive meaningful action

to build a resilient future for

The experts and en-

by IUCN.

for promoting discord and

leged acts of religious blas-Ayaz urged the government phemy find no endorsement to take immediate and comprehensive measures to rehabilitate the affected homes and places of worship. He stressed that compensation should be extended to individuals who had suffered losses to their private properties as a result of these distressing in-

cidents. Court

terminates bail of two accused

Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Thursday dismissed the bail petitions of two activists of PTI allegedly involved in riots and vandalizing the public

present at the crime scene.



property.
ATC Judge Abul
Hassnat Zulkernain announced the verdict against the interim bail petitions moved by accused Syed Mehtab and Sayed Aftab in FIR registered by Shams Calony Police Station. During the course of proceeding, the defence lawyer adopted the stance that his clients were not even



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Zia (PML-Z) chief Ijaz-ul-Haq, DR Anwar Ul Haq and others offering fatcha on grave of Former President Gen (R) Zia Ul Haq on death Anniversary.

Psychological evaluation conducted for CTD's personnel

ISLAMABAD (APP): A comprehensive psychologi-CTD, who chaired the comcal evaluation was carried out for personnel within the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) with the purpose to enhance the performance and mental acuity of Islamabad Capital Police

officials. The psychological evaluation was undertaken to augment the capabilities of police personnel in accordance with the special directives of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Ďr. Akbar Nasir

Khan, police said.

CTD, who chaired the committee, along with SP CTD and Clinical Psychologists as its members.

ICCPO Dr. Akban Nasir Khan highlighted that the Islamabad Capital Police consistently upholds its responsibilities in maintaining law and order to safeguard the lives and property of citizens.

Given the substantial challenge of ensuring lawfulness in the federal capital of Islamabad, officials were encountering both physical and mental stres-

The committee over- sors. **Mufti Muneeb denounces** Jaranwala incident, urges comprehensive investigation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman Mufti Muneeb-ur-Rehman on Thursday denounced the Jaranwala incident in the strongest terms and called for a thorough and impartial investigation to ensure accountability and justice into the matter. Speaking out against biased or onesided positions, he, in a statement, emphasized the importance of upholding

the law without favoritism. "The responsibility of safeguarding the lives, property, and honor of every citizen, regardless of their background, rests with filed the Holy Quran.

the state," the Mufti said who is also the president of Tanzeem-ul-Madaris and Darul Uloom Naeemia, Karachi. He reiterated that the Constitution of Pakistan guaranteed the protection of all citizens, including minorities such as Christians, and their places of worship. He further said, 'Although we unequivocally denounce the harm inflicted upon the churches and residences of Christians. we also assert the necessity to elucidate that the motives behind this occurrence must be revealed, including the identities of those who de-

CDA plans to develop several new parks in capital

ISLAMABĀD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) is planning to develop several new modern parks in the federal capital to provide better recreational facilities to the residents of the city.

"The civic authority has already developed around 37 public parks in the federal capital during the last ten years and is working on a policy to increase their number in the coming years," official sources in the CDA told

Police to enhance traffic management, safety measures Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have decided to enhance traffic management and safety measures for a safe road environment in the city. In line with the directives from Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO), the Chief Police Officer (CPO) of Safe City/ Traffic Shoaib Janbaz convened a significant gathering at Safe City Islamabad to discuss and strategize traffic-related matters. Present at the meeting were key personnel, including the Chief Traffic Officer of Islamabad, the AIG General and Development, and the SSP Logistics, according to a police public relations statement.

introduces 'Intelligent **Project Automation** System'

Planning Ministry

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives has introduced an Intelligent Project Automation System' (iPAS), bringing together different systems to make project work smoother and get enhanced management effi-

The iPAS is a joint effort by the Ministry of Planning and Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) to assist project managers in making smarter choices with the help of geospatial technology, a news release said on Thurs-

Making a proud announcement, the ministry said the Spatial Decision Support System was now a part of the iPAS.
"This means we're

entering a new era of project appraisals. By mixing different kinds of information using GIS, #SDSS gives decision-makers a complete picture," it added.

Elaborating further, the ministry said the iPAS was not just a technology but like a smart brain. "It gathers information from different places like demographics, economics, and

the environment. This helps to make better choices for the future.

With iPAS, it said project managers and ministry officials could get a helping hand that gave them tools to improve project operations, financial management, monitoring and execution of the assigned

The iPAS stands as a testament to the government's unwavering dedication to progress and innovation.

"It's more than just a system. It's a beacon guiding toward a brighter fu-ture,"the ministry said adding that with the iPAS, it not only streamlined the processes but also fostered collaboration, data-driven decisions, and strategic plan-

"As we navigate the complex landscape of development, iPAS empowers the officials and stakeholders to make choices that aren't just informed but strategically calculated. This initiative encapsulates the essence of Govt's commitment to building a stronger, more efficient, and prosperous Pakistan," the ministry remarked.



ISLAMABAD: German Ambassador to Pakistan Alfred Grannas, President of Pakistan-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry Pervaiz Akhtar and others are taking interest in paintings.

Crackdown on reckless driving: 175 licenses revoked for repeat offenses

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police is taking a resolute stance against traf- licenses have been susfic violations, demonstrat- pended due to the deducing its commitment to road tion of 10 demerit points safety and it revoked 175 from their respective licenses over repeated vio-

Amidst a wave of strict actions against traffic rule violators this year, the licenses of 175 habitual offenders have been revoked, alongside the suspension of 217 public service vehicle permits for severe infractions, stated a spokesperson for the police.

This robust initiative follows the precise directives of Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO). The police have diligently issued numerous challan tickets for a range of infractions, including overs-speeding, signal jumping, lane indiscipline, zebra crossing violations,

Employing the e-challan system, 175 driving records.

Additionally, 217 public service vehicle permits have been suspended due to serious breaches of traffic rules. These suspended licenses encompass not only Islamabad but also licenses from other districts. In tandem, legal notices have been dispatched to these repeat offenders for their serious traffic rule violations. Should they fail to respond, their driving privileges will be tempo-

rarily revoked. The proficient strategy of the e-challan system, synergized with the Excise and Taxation department's database, has led to a considerable reduction in fatal accidents and traffic viola-

PTCL Group partners with PHA to plant trees

Pakistan's largest telecommunication company, PTCL Group (PTCL &

ISLAMABAD (APP): region's natural splendor. Speaking at the plantation drive, Nauman Fakhar, Chief Retail Sales Ufone 4G) in collaboration Officer, Ufone 4G said, with the Parks & Horticul- "Environmental protection ture Authority (PHA), and resilience against cli-



Rawalpindi, carried out a tree plantation campaign at Khajut on Murree Expressway to help promote environmental protection and the country's resilience against climate change.

Senior management, employees, staff and interns actively participated said a news release.

Murree is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the country that receives massive footfall each year.

The afforestation drive will ensure the sustainability of the local environment and natural resources that usually come under pressure due to greater human and vehicular influx.

Apart from carbon recover will also add to the nance of parks.

ten countries adversely impacted by climate change. As responsible corporate citizens, it is our duty to help create a world that is safely habitable for our coming generations. We are making progress on our zero emissions commitment and hope to emerge as a green organization in the near future." Also sharing his thoughts, Sheikh Tariq

important for Pakistan,

which is amongst the top

Mehmood, Director PHA Rawalpindi said, "It is heartening to witness PTCL Group stepping up to support efforts for a cleaner and greener Pakistan. PHA has been working tirelessly for the beautification of our citduction, the new forest ies and towns and mainte-



ISLAMABAD: A view of massive traffic jam at Islamabad Expressway during rain that experienced the Federal Capita

Daily soice of Masse, Independent

Friday August 18, 2023

Faisalabad rampage

Unless both state and society decide on a practical way of tackling extremism, and go beyond clichés and condemnations, the monster of obscurantism will continue to devour Pakistan's

Another shameful incident was witnessed on Wednesday tion. in Faisalabad's Jaranwala area when a mob torched several churches, ransacked Christian homes and vandalised a graveyard. The apparent provocation for this assault was blasphemy, as the house of a Christian man allegedly involved in the offence was razed.

Clearly, in Pakistan, evidence is not required where the issue of blasphemy is concerned, and mobs take it upon themselves to dispense 'justice'. This is the second such event in recent days; just a few days ago, a teacher in Balochistan was murdered because of blasphemy allegations against him.

There has been the usual round of denunciation by the political elite, including the interim prime minister. Yet the question is: do the rulers – politicians and establishment as well as clerics and prominent society figures have the courage to confront this madness? Past precedents do not inspire confidence as murders, riots and lynchings in 'defence' of religion testify.

This is not a situation that rent post while others too developed overnight; it has been decades in the making. For over 40 years, the state has itself been either promoting obscu- the country. Kakar has rantism, or using sectarian and promised fair and free elections but doubts linger as to religious fanatics as proxies. The result of these failed policies is before us, as these same him, will end up being a gloforces have now begun to influence the general populace by framing the narrative.

Our power elite has been silent as blasphemy laws have been misused to settle personal scores, occupy property, or terrorise minorities. In fact, the last parliament had tried to bulldoze, without any proper debate, an amendment that would have 'strengthened' the blasphemy law.

Can we then complain if episodes such as Jaranwala un- Glenn—the first human to fold with disturbing regularity? Violence in the name of religion through space in a capsule. is indefensible in any context, but in Pakistan, the blasphemy laws have been misused with impunity by vested interests.

However, it is also true that in the 'civilised' West, the appalling trend to attack the sacred symbols of Islam feeds into a vicious circle of bigotry and Islamophobia. In fact, extremists, such as the ones involved in the Jaranwala outrage, use these despicable acts to point out the hatred the 'Christian' Khan (the still thrashing tail West allegedly harbours towards Islam, and channel their vitriol at local minority communities.

The fact is that both in the West and in Muslim states, efforts need to be intensified to approved by him with alacrity) was Senator Anwaarul counter the forces of religious Haq Kakar, a comparatively bigotry. The attacks on Islam's sacred symbols — indeed, the revered symbols of all faiths in the West must stop, while PM should be someone Pakistani society must bring to justice all involved in such grotesque violence, and begin an internal reckoning that exorcises the demons of obscurantism tearing this country apart.

Pakistan's Afghanistan policy



Ashraf Jehangir Qazi

Afghanistan's internal developments are of importance to its neighbours, especially Pakistan. But far important is Pakistan's Afghanistan policy mess which is a direct consequence of Pakistan's political situa-

Let us take a brief look

at Pakistan's external relations. Its relations with India are hostile largely due to India. Its relations with Afghanistan are strained because of strategic shortsightedness. Its relations with Iran are dubious because of US diplomatic and economic leverage over Pakistan. Its relations with China are stable but static because of its structural inability to avail of transformation opportunities. Its relations with Russia remain undeveloped due to

the US and India's continuing influence in Moscow. Its relations with the US, despite its elite deference, have declined because of its diminished strategic relevance as well as India's rising strategic profile in Wash-In this bleak situation,

Pak-Afghan relations are crucial. The Taliban government, long considered a protégé of Pakistan, is no longer friendly. It sees Pakistan's policy towards it as wavering between furtive support and kowtowing to Ame-rican demands. Its enemy at home is the Khorasan branch of the Islamic State. It cannot and will not treat the TTP as an enemy even though Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada has openly declared that attacks in Pakistan are not Mullah Akhundzada

also asks pertinent questions. Why out of Afghanistan's neighbours only Pakistan, which has fenced almost its entire border, complains of terrorism from Afghanistan? Is it because Pakistan cannot contain the TTP which actually operates from inside Pakistan with

certain quarters? Or is it because the other neighbours of Afghanistan are more committed to stopping TTP terrorism? The Taliban government of Afghanistan denies it allows TTP terrorism against Pakistan from its territory. However, it concedes it has not been able to stop it altogether.

The rest of Afghani-

stan blames Pakistan for having imposed the Taliban on them and for the vicious regime that oppresses them especially women — in the name of Islam. They prefer India to Pakistan and not just because of India's economic assistance. Pakistan's assistance to Afghanistan on a per capita basis has actually been more than India's but it has not brought any political goodwill. This is the measure of the failure of Pakistan's Afghanistan policy. It has allowed India to potentially develop a strategic pincer or twofront situation against Pa-

There is, however, a larger regional context that has to be considered. India seeks regional hegemony in South Asia. As long as Pa-

kistan was perceived as a viable state its relations with China presented an impossible obstacle to India's regional ambitions. This posed a strategic dilemma for it. The closer it got to the US against China, including a quantum jump in critically important military technology cooperation, the more the US would demand as quid pro quo that India move away from military cooperation with Russia, neutrality on Ukraine, and economic cooperation with China.

Why would India ob-

ject given the importance of being a de facto non-Nato military ally of the US which would significantly advance its regional hegemonic aspirations? One. because India prizes its own status as an emerging great power which chooses its own strategic options; and two, because ironically a closer strategic alliance with the US actually reduces India's options for regional hegemony in South Asia despite the dwindling stra-tegic significance of Pakistan. This is because China would be compelled by the US-India military alliance to dramatically raise its own strategic profile in the Inthe neighbours of India, including Afghanistan which does not actually border India. Even with US assistance, India does not have the capacity to overcome such a Chinese challenge. India's strategic planners know this and unlike their counterparts in Pakistan do

Accordingly, they know India's 'efficient path' towards hegemony in South Asia is a détente with China rather than an optionlimiting strategic alliance with the US against China. Such a détente would incline China to view Indian hegemony in South Asia with less alarm and allow it to concentrate on countering US hegemony in East Asia.

not fool themselves.

Once a détente develops between India and China its momentum could carry it forward towards a possible entente cordiale and Pakistan would be strategically isolated. To think the US would or could prop up Pakistan against such a development would be foolish. It would still seek a close if less strategic relationship with India. It will not consider 'balancing' its relations with India and towards Pakistan against

Accordingly, whenever Pakistan recovers from its current domestic predicament it should prioritise investing diplomatically and economically in Afghanistan's stability and prosperity. This would progressively build good-will among the Afghan people, eliminate the danger of a two-front pincer situation, and restore China's confidence in its preferred option of Pakistan being able to counter India's hegemonic aspirations in South Asia.

This could incentivise

China to financially and diplomatically support Pakistan's much more welcome influence in Afghanistan and transform the bilateral CPEC into a multilateral CAICAP (China, Afghanistan, Iran, Central Asia and Pakistan) that would be book-ended by China and Pakistan. This would eventually enable Pakistan to negotiate with India on more equitable terms, and enable the CASA region (Central and South/ Southwest Asia) to become a major force for peace, security and development in Pakistan, leave alone tilting Asia. -- Courtesy Dawn

Living in the worst of



Kamila Hyat

Pakistan's eighth caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar has taken the reins of the country at a time when it faces economic, social and political disharmony of the worst kind. Kakar's name has also caused a degree of controversy, with the BNP Mengal particularly strong in the opposition to his nomination to the curare said to be displeased over the choice made by the opposition leader and the former prime minister. The issue at hand is the future of whether these will actually take place, or whether Kakar, like others before rified rubber-stamp for powerful stakeholders in the country.

The reality is that Pa-

democracy through its years of existence since 1947. In recent years after three clean and democratic transfers of power from one government to another, we now see the possibility of a disruption in the democratic process although there is of course hope that this will not happen. Much depends on what is decided behind the scenes and also on whether Kakar, chosen as a presentable man acceptable to the world, will

government. It is true that Pakistan's governments elected by the people, have not served the people well. Today we see the result of that the hyperinflation that has hit virtually every household in the country and the taxation through indirect means the people are subjected to means those from lower income brackets end up paying more while the wealthier states. This follows the patin the country get away

act on what he has claimed

and ensure transfer of power

to a democratically elected

rected is the true challenge for the incoming setup and

kistan has barely known true scene. The conjecture that this caretaker government will stay longer than is expected is of course vet to be determined and will eventually decide the future of our democracy.

The reality is that our democracy has been disrupted far too often by interventions. The possibility that Pakistan could have risen further in the ranks as a country able to offer true justice to its people may have been higher had a democratic setup been allowed to function smoothly as for example has been the case for the most part in In-Of course, this is not

to say that anything is perfect in India. The country has many problems. They begin with poverty and now have translated into other issues such as increasing intolerance and hatred. But on the whole India has a literacy rate of nearly 90 per cent and more in some with paying very little tax.
This is a disaster.
nations which all have a higherrate of schooling than Whether that can be cor- Pakistan's sad looking 70 per cent or so. For women. this figure falls to 50 per cent any setup that takes over and of course when 'real' is after the caretaker govern- measured the problems are ment of Kakar leaves the far greater. With literacy

measured by the ability to scribble a name on a piece of paper and nothing more than this, many of those capable of writing out their names cannot read the headline of a newspaper.

Pakistan then has a long way to go. It needs good governance if it is to develop and give its people the opportunities they need. In the first place, there must be a setup which allows all children in the country to gain quality education at schools which meet their needs and where they are taught true facts of our history and what can be learnt from it rather than a series of lies and misrepresentations than what has really happened in the seven decades of Pakistan's

While real schooling is an urgent need, there are also many others. The question is if we can bring in power a government that can achieve this. Because of the chaos we have seen notably during the often tem of Bangladesh and other unsavoury events, there are many who are once again calling for a nondemocratic or technocratic government as such governments are labeled. The fact is that such governments have not been able to deliver in the past. We achieved little under

existence.

Shaukat Aziz who then left the country and the various technocrat' caretaker prime ministers who have held office before this. Indeed, in many cases those who do not have their own interests vested in the country, leave for other shores soon as their tenure is over.

So what then is the solution for Pakistan? In fact, is there any solution? The fact is the country must have a continued process of democracy, smooth transitions and democratic spirit visible in both houses. This could perhaps bring up leaders who can offer solutions and ways to bring about change. We know that people exist in the country who are capable of writing up new ideas for Pakistan's future. Many politicians and others have

We need to see many years of clear, healthy transitions so that a new and possibly more competent leadership can emerge. Yes, this is the high road.

already done so.

It is also the harder route to take than the lower route which offers powers to many nondemocratic players along the way. But

Young workers

and the only way to ensure that power is transferred without disruption and without constant efforts to bring in so-called 'caretakers' who have little to offer. Only those with interests in the country would have this kind of affection for Pakistan and its future.

We need to support real democracy and nothing other than this. No matter how long it takes, democracy and smooth transfers of power is the only way Pakistan will get the kind of leaders it needs. Yes, this will take time - it will take plenty of time. But the time will come when we have leadership that is capable of putting in place some of the most basic steps that we need, such as rule of law and a contract with the people that gives them security and certainty that they will benefit them as citizens of Pakistan

We are as vet a long way from this goal, but we must move towards it so that our future as a country is secured and people are given the reins they need to hold the country steadily as it moves forward - hopefully towards a better place it is the only route to take than the one it occupies right Courtesy TheNews

Flying solo

is not small. It may have less

of a population than the oth-

ers but it deserves fraternal

respect, not gratuitous con-

that the new caretaker PM

owes his nomination to an

stable of dark horses. The

last such unexpected entrant

was Usman Buzdar, former

Punjab chief minister, ap-

pointed by then PM Imran

Khan. In 2018, he appeared

until 2022, and then disap-

peared unlamented into

nomination been announced

than his fellow politician

from Balochistan Akhtar

Ba--lochistan National

of remonstrance above the

head of Sheh-baz Sharif to

his elder brother Nawaz

complained: "You have des-

ignated an individual as the

caretaker prime minister

whose appointment has

shut the doors of politics for

us." He added more point-

edly: "A solution is being

sought by consulting the

establishment instead of

Sharif — less in anger than

frustration — of the 'op-

pression' suffered by the

Baloch at the hands of mili-

tary-led administrations

from Gen Ayub to Gen

Musharraf, which had not

History has a longer

been forgotten nor, it would

memory than politicians

from Punjab. Mengal served

as Balochistan's ninth CM

from February 1997 to June

1998, 10 years before Kakar

entered politics. Seen as a

militant Baloch, Mengal's

provincial loyalties attracted

suspicion. He complained in

an interview in 2013: "The

Baloch militants consider

me a traitor while the secu-

appear, forgiven.

He reminded the elder

politicians.

No soonerhad Kakar's

chairman,

No one would doubt

descension.



F.S. Aijazuddin

The US astronaut John orbit the earth — was once asked how he felt hurtling His trenchant reply was: "How would you feel trayelling in a machine assembled from 150,000 pieces of equipment, each procured by Nasa from the lowest bidder?" Over 200 million Pakistanis today are reliving his apprehensions. They are orbiting in a political void, led by a caretaker prime minister chosen from among the lowest political denominators.

Following the National Assembly dissolution on Aug 9, it took three days for Shehbaz Sharif (representing the outgoing government) and Raia Riaz Ahmad of a PTI opposition) to propose a name for the post of caretaker PM to an impatient president.

Names proffered by Sharif and Raja Riaz were unacceptable to the other. The person finally proposed to the president (and unknown politician from Balochistan.

Raja Riaz justified the choice, saying: "We had earlier decided that the caretaker from a smaller province and a non-controversial personality. Our aim was to remove the sense of deprivation in small provinces.

Raja Riaz, a Punjabi, should have been more circumspect. Balochistan is the largest of Pakistan's provinces Geographically it is one and half times the size

of Punjab, two and half rity establishment also times the size of Sindh, and treats me as an enemy. Mengal will not receive five times the size of KP. It

reply from Na--waz Sharif. Like the astronaut John Glenn, Sharif's prime concern is a safe re-entry. Will Nawaz Sharif be

welcomed by the very establishment that aborted his is non-controversial. He earlier prime ministerships? Will he want to forgo the comforts of establishment that breeds a Avenfield House in London for the sweat, dust and drudgery of an election campaign in an insolvent Pakistan? Will his younger brother Shehbaz Sharif be out of nowhere, survived in content to play second fiddle office for over 43 months after he has enjoyed being the master of his own one-man band in Islamabad? In the closing days of the last go--vernment, She--hbaz admitted to having a close working relationship with the establishment. This came as no revelation. Five years ago, in 2018, he had Party-Mengal, shot a letter told the Financial Times: 'Where the military leadership needs to be consulted, we will consult them." And he did Sharif in London. Mengal not mean only on military or

security-related matters. A younger generation of voters might have noticed the last speech Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari made in parliament. Stressing the need for "political unity and reconciliation", he appealed to key political figures, including his father Asif Ali Zardari and Nawaz Sharif "to make decisions that would help create a conducive political environment, notably for Maryam Nawaz and himself". His conciliatory speech was intended "to calm contending kings" His entrenched elders though might construe it as premature patricide. Today, Pakistan's political future is again up in the air. No one knows for sure when elections will be held. Probably next year. However, those who have watched Shehbaz Sharif's self-laudatory leave-taking can fore--see

the result. He intends to re-

turn as PM and then fly solo

for at least five years. --

Courtesy Dawn

Shazia Nizamani

The case of 13-year-old Rizwana, who was brutally tortured by her employer, the wife of a civil judge, in Islamabad, is a reminder of the despicable acts of violence and abuse perpetrated on our young domestic workers who are still minors. The girl is still receiving medical care. A case against her employer was registered only after a hue and cry was raised on social and mainstream media. Even judges were seen to come to the rescue of their fellow judge's wife by granting bail to the suspect.

Earlier this year, an 11-year-old domestic worker was killed by his employer in Karachi. The victim had been working with his two brothers in Karachi to support his family back in Tharparkar. After the horrible death of their youngest son, the family found out that all three had been subjected to inhumane torture and violence. Some years ago, 10year-old Tayyaba was physically and mentally tortured for months by her employers — an additional sessions judge and his wife. Due to media coverage and public pressure, the authorities took action. Although the Islamabad High Court had increased the initial sentence of the culprits to a maximum of three years, the apex court restored the lesser sentence.

It is uncertain if Rizwana's tormentors will be brought to justice because our rotten criminal justice system hardly works for the underprivileged and disadvantaged as it does for the privileged

Undoubtedly, it is poverty that compels parents to send their minor children to work instead of letting them enjoy their childhood. Poor households send their children for domestic work to make both ends meet or to pay off family debts. There is also social acceptance of child labour in our society, so well-off families hire children, paying them a meagre amount. Thus the general public and families of domestic workers don't understand how harmful child labour is and the lifelong

violence In 2004, the ILO estimated that 264,000 children in the country were engaged in domestic labour. Meanwhile, it was also estimated that in 2004, 80 per cent of children engaged in domestic labour worked to support their families, while 14pc worked to pay off family debts.

impact of the attendant

physical and psychological

child labour is "work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children and/or interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school, obliging them to leave school prematurely, or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work". ILO and other reports indicate that 93pc of children "engaged in child labour in domestic work in

2021", most of them girls. In 2011, the ILO adopted the Domestic Workers Convention which, among other things, requires countries to set a "minimum age for domestic workers consistent with the provisions of the Minimum Age Convention .. and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention". The latter convention considers "work under particularly difficult conditions such as work for long hours

or during the night or work where the child is unreasonably confined to the premises of the employer" to be hazardous. Based on these criteria, child labour in domestic work could be considered and addressed as hazardous work.

Some 30-odd countries have adopted the Domestic Workers' Convention but Pakistan is not among them, though it is a signatory to eight international treaties directly related to labour rights, including the rights of chil-

The Cons-titu-tion guarantees the rights of children. Article 11 prohibits the in--volvement of chi-l--dren younger than 14 years old in work. Article 25-A affirms that the state must provide free and compulsory education to all children aged five to 16

The Ministry of Hu-

man Rights, the National Commission of Rights of Child (NCRC), the Minis-According to the ILO, try of Poverty Alleviation and the provincial child protection bureaus have an obligation to enforce policy frameworks and laws on child labour. The NCRC has a dedicated complaint cell. But there is hardly any awareness about such services and laws at the public level. Unfortunately, the monitoring, implementation and accountability mechanisms of these institutions are very weak, and there is a lack of coordination and collaboration among them where child labour in domestic work is concerned. Awareness must be created in communities that child labour in domestic work is illegal and unconstitutional. The power of social media can be utilised for raising awareness about child rights, the available social protection measures and existing laws. Pressure should be put on the state by civil society and child rights organisations to ensure protection for children. -- Cour-

PM AJK committed to provide relief to masses

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): to ensure development in especially roads to Azad Jammu and Kashmir the backward areas of the provide easy access to Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq on Thursday reiterated his government's commitment to providing relief to the common

While addressing the coalition coalition partners' parliamentary meeting at Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis, the AJK PM expressed gratitude to the heads of the coalition partners and cabinet ministers for expenditures in their reposing their confidence respective ministries.

upon his leadership. no efforts to provide relief to the people and would

state, he added.

We all have to work for the welfare of the people and all resources would be utilized for this purpose", he added.

The expenditures of the Prime Minister's House had been reduced to a great extent, adding that he expressed optimism that the ministers would also follow suit and reduce

In order to make The coalition Azad Kashmir more government would spare attractive for tourists, the AJK PM said that special focus was being laid on along

Besides improving the road infrastructure, he said that the hotel industry would be promoted in collaboration with the

The meeting was attended by People's Party President Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, PML N President Shah Ghulam Qadir, former President and Prime Minister Sardar Muhammad Yaqub Khan. former Prime Minister Raja Muhammad Faroog Haider Khan, Senior Minister, Finance Minister Colonel ® Waqar Ahmad Noor, with



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah talks with media persons during press conference after the Gujjar Nala implementation case, outside Supreme Court Karachi Registry building.

Kashmir's rich culture and heritage needed to be keep alive: Samina Alvi

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): First Lady Mrs. Samina Alvi has said that handicraft was a part of Kashmir's culture and handmade things and heritage which needed to be appreciated the skill of kept alive and should be marketed on modern lines women. Before leaving for another visit, she planted so that women associated a tree at the center. with this skill can earn as much as they work hard to a

remarks during a visit to training small industries display Authority

organized by the small industries corporations and appreciated the different handicraft prepared by local women including embroidery, wooden carving displayed in the

Small Corporation Rasheed Baig told the first lady that their organization was supporting the women associated with this trade by displaying their items different departments.

on different occasions. The first lady on the occasion took a keen interest in different

Later, she also visited training institute established by technical She made these education and vocational education Authority (TEVTA) bodies of the deceased mother and sons on the center here on Thursday.

Mrs. Alvi visited
Meena Baazar in the center

where she was told about the skill development training of the women by the main road for all kinds of traffic. They demanded chairman TEVTA Raja

Razaq Nadeem. She visited the different departments of institute and the encouraged the women to take training in different skills like handicrafts, Managing Director embroidery, wood carving all Industries and beautician. The first reporation Wajhat lady also visited a rehabilitation center for physically challenged person before leaving for Islamabad and visited

PRCS-KP completes distribution of aid after heavy rains in Chitral

Society Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (PRCS-KP) on Thursday successfully completed the distribution of essential aid to families affected by the recent floods in Chitral District, following heavy rainfall.

This assistance was provided to 118 families in various areas of Chitral, including the Kalash Valley. Relief items such as tents, blankets, and family hygiene kits were provided. In this regard, Habib Malik Orakzai, Chairman, Pakistan Red Crescent Pakhtunkhwa, stated that Chitral District is currently facing the effects of natural disasters in both the summer and winter

These adversities have not only affected the region's infrastructure but have also deeply impacted the homes and fields of its residents. Our mission is to

PESHAWAR (APP): assist people in such Pakistan Red Crescent situations as an Auxiliary body to the Government. However, it's imperative that we also play a role in mitigating the impacts of climate changes emerging in

> distribution of relief items, our efforts have been supported by the German

At this time, the Pakistan Red Crescent Society Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, collaboration with the German Red Cross, is working to reduce the effects of climate change and to maintain the safety of local populations during disasters in various areas of Chitral. In this context, it's crucial for other organizations to also support the PRCS.

On the other hand, during the relief distribution, Syed Ali Secretary, Hassan, Pakistan Red Crescent.



HYDERABAD: Members of Hyderabad Union of Journalists are lighting candles to express solidarity with martyred Senior Journalist Jan Muhammad Mehar, who was shot dead in Sukkur, at Hyderabad press club

private sector.

Mother, two

sons killed over

property

dispute

MALAKAND (APP): :A

mother, along with her two

sons, was tragically killed

due to a property dispute here in Ghawar Kale near

Skhakot while the culprits

crime scene, police said on

perpetrators had been

embroiled in a long-

standing conflict over land

bodies of the deceased

of traffic. They demanded

for early arrest of the

Due to the road

killers involved in the

closure and extreme heat,

the passengers in the

vehicles faced severe

difficulties. Later, the

crowd was dispersed after

receiving assurances from

the authorities about the

Small cell of jail

cannot defeat IK,

Aleema Khan

LAHORE (Online): PTI

leader Imran Khan's sister

Aleema Khan said that we

are not being allowed to meet Imran Khan despite

questions of journalist on

appearance in Anti-

terrorism court Lahore she

said that court remarked

that jail authorities will tell

you in this regard about

we are very worried

because even doctors and

only if jail authorities allow

us, I do not understand

response of a question that

they are giving many

statements and they will

WHO

delegation

meets PFA DG

LAHORE (APP): A delegation of the World Health Organisation (WHO) called on Director

General Raja Jahangir

Anwar to discuss the

medical screening project and reorganise the testing

system for food-borne

the DG PFA said that the

authority was working on

reducing medical screening

fees for small-scale

businesses and providing

free facilities for roadside

street vendors. He also

highlighted the plan to

reorganise the testing

system for food-borne

diseases with the help

During the meeting,

diseases.

of WHO.

have many more stories.

Aleema Khan said in

why this is being done.

She further said that

İmran Khan.

While responding

arrest of the murderers.

bloody incident.

The people kept the

Thursday.

ownership.



views with Ambassador of Beligum, Mr. Charles Delogne at Governor House.

Former PM Imran took u-turn on providing houses to displaced persons: CM

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday said former prime minister Imran government had promised to provide shelter to the turns. displaced persons of Gujjar, Mehmoodabad and Orangi Nullah but he reneged his promise as

He stated this while talking to media persons here outside the Supreme Court registry after appearing in a case of rehabilitation of displaced

The chief minister said Imran Khan, continued to make an announcement court for rehabilitation of and former provincial that his government would displaced persons. First to minister Nasir Shah. to make an announcement court for rehabilitation of

displaced persons under Naya Pakistan housing scheme', but later on, he took a Ú-turn.

He said Imran Khan was well known for his u-Murad Ali Shah said

the provincial government had been working on this sincerely since the day

rehabilitation scheme of Rs 9.8 billion, he said, adding the floods of 2022 caused the lack of resources which halted the process of rehabilitation.

"Today, we presented two options before the

provide houses to all the provide 80 square yards plots with construction money and the second to provide amount for both a plot and construction." the CM said.

He said the Sindh government was giving cheques of Rs 15,000 to the affected people for rental purposes. Murad Ali Shah said the government had been working on this however it could not submit progress reports in the court for which he had sought an apology and his apology had been accepted. The chief minister on the occasion was flanked by Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab

GB govt striving to phase out use of plastic for many years: CS GB

Muhiudeen Thursday said the was decided to ban the use, Government of Gilgit-sale, manufacturing and

Baltistan has been striving managed to escape from the to phase out the use of plastic for the last many years owing to its The victims and the hazardous impacts on health and the human health and the ecological system. environment.

> considered imperative to uproot this malice from the society, said an official statement to media here.

The meeting was

GILGIT (APP): Chief was attended by the Secretary Gilgit Baltistan Inspector General of Police Wani and the Home Secretary. It transportation of plastic bottles in Gilgit-Baltistan given the detrimental impacts it causes on human health and the overall

'In this regard, Order He said a series of under Section 144 of CrPC awareness campaigns were shall be issued to ensure launched to sensitize the ban on transportation of general masses and plastic bottles from down business community country to GB with effect interventions as were CS GB said.He said necessary directions are to be issued to all government departments, attached departments, subordinate offices, autonomous

Imtiaz hopes PPP to emerge victorious in general elections KARACHI

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader and former provincial minister Imtiaz Ahmed Shaikh has expressed the hope that general elections would be held on time and PPP would emerge victorious.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, Shaikh said PPP has no competitor in Sindh because it believes in performance and not in

He said that if the election was held in a transparent manner PPP would win with two third majority from Karachi. Imtiaz Shaikh said

Pakistan People's Party will serve the people after get elected in the next general elections.



Shaw and scholars of religion rises hands to show solidarity during the Vice Chancellor Conference on Civic Education by Punjab Education Department at local hotel in Provincial Capital.

Belgium to support promotion of education in merged districts

lawyers are not being allowed to meet Imran Khan.

The court has left us on mercy of jail authorities that we will be able to meet only if jail authorities allow here at the Governor's

In the meeting, discussions were held on bilateral issues, trade relations and enhancing people-to-people relations between the two sides, said a press release issued here.

The two sides also discussed issues related to said the two countries had providing better education a history of 75 years of opportunities to the youth strong public and of the merged tribal diplomatic relations. districts.

that Belgium should anniversary of 75 years of provide support for diplomatic relations.

an educational project that could bring the youth of merged districts forward in the field of education.

Ghulam Ali also underlined the need to strengthen bilateral trade and people-to-people ties with Belgium. The Belgium envoy

The two countries The governor said were celebrating the

RWMC's sanitation activities underway during rains

The Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC)was carrying out the cleanliness of the city during the ongoing rainy

According to a RWMC spokesman, during the rains, the company had made special arrangements rain on Thursday morning.

RAWALPINDI (APP): for cleaning in the city and deployed additional workers to clean and dredge major drains to avoid urban flooding.

He informed RWMC workers removed hundreds of tons of waste in the Rawalpindi city areas while drains blocked during the

Al-Nisa Secretariat inaugurated at **ANF HQ**

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Secretariat of the Al-Nisa Forum has been formally inaugurated at Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Headquarters here on Thursday.

According to an ANF

Headquarters spokesman, other vital initiatives by ANF to protect gender equity in all its facets include the construction of women's hostels, daycare centres, exclusive Ladies' Common Rooms in all establishments, constitution of an Anti-Harassment Committee headed by the Senior Most Lady Officer, the establishment of Women's Career Planning Cell and focused efforts to enhance professional their capacities.

He informed that in its journey towards women empowerment, ANF has acknowledged contributions and support rendered by the U.S. Embassy Islamabad Office of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) and UNDP in formulating "ANF Gender Strategy & Advocacy Plan 2022-2027" and other

related initiatives. ANF looks forward to undertaking multifaceted initiatives

Naqvi directs to ensure free of-cost medicines to patients

RAWALPINDI (APP): process, Naqvi said that Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday directed the hospital's Bhutto Hospital(BBH) to the process of registration ensure the provision of at the reception counter. free-of-cost medicines to the patients.

During a visit to inspect facilities at BBH, he reviewed the treatment of the patients in the new

Emergency department.
The CM interacted with the patients and their attendants and inquired about the medical facilities provided to them.

delays in medical checkups and the X-rays CM during his visit.

management of Benazir administration to expedite

During his visit, the CM in detail inspected various sections of the hospital and found some doctors were absent from

their duties. He also inspected the sanitation situation of the BBH and directed the hospital's management to improve the cleanliness

arrangement. Taking notice of the patient's complaints about Information Minister Amir Mir also accompanied the



GILGIT: Ex-Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Hafiz Hafeez Ur Rehman addressing a press conference at PMLN Secretariat.

LHC orders to produce Hassan Niazi nephew of chairman PTI on Aug 18

Lahore High Court (LHC) while taking action on the petition seeking recovery of Hassan Niazi nephew of chairman PTI has ordered to produce Hassan Niazi on Friday in the court.

A single bench of LHC led by Justice Sultan Tanvir took up on Thursday for hearing petition filed by Hafeez Ullah Niazi father of Hassan Niazi in connection with recovery of his son.
In the petition IG

Police Punjab and others have been respondents.

The petitioner has of his son. taken the plea Police have

to court to order for the recovery of his son. Justice Sultan Tanvir

issued written order on the petition of Hafeez Ullah Niazi. The court ordered all

other respondents including IG Police should file report on next hearing. It has been said in the written order of the court

then he should be presented in the court on August 18. Hafeez Ullah Niazi father of Hassan Niazi had resorted to LHC in connection with recovery

if Ahsan Niazi is in the

custody of the respondents

On the other side the kept Hassan Niazi in counsel took the plea habeas corpus at unknown during the hearing of place and family members are being told nothing about him. It is requested place and family members are being told nothing about him. It is requested High Court (PHC).

GB officials review work on **GLOF-II Project to enhance** disaster risk management

GILGIT (APP): Additional outburst floods (GLOFs) Secretary of the Ministry of Climate Change and management in the region. Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) and

Director General of the Gilgit-Baltistan Disaster Management Authority Qamar and other officials,

During the visit, the

delegation engaged in (MoCC&EC) and National Project Director of the GLOF-II Project wherein they sought productive meetings with Syed Mujtaba Hussain valuable feedback about the accompanied by Provincial Coordinator Abdul Basit,

The insights garnered from the discussions will play these discussions will play a pivotal role in ensuring that the project aligns with (GBDMA) Kamal Uddin the needs and aspirations of the local communities here on Thursday visited further enhancing its various parts of Gilgit- effectiveness. Talking to the Baltistan to assess the media, the Additional ongoing initiatives under the GLOF-II Project and Secretary highlighted the alarming rise of over 3,000 address the challenges lakes as a consequence of posed by glacial lake melting glaciers.



HYDERABAD: Members of Christian Community are holding protest demonstration against attack on churches in Jaranwala, at Hyderabad press club.

Commissioner visits Warsak Dam, reviews security

(APP): PESHAWAR Commissioner Peshawar Division Muhammad Zubair visited Warsak Dam on Thursday to review the security situation and ongoing rehabilitation work on the dam. The major purpose was to bring project.

D e p u t y Commissioner Peshawar, Shah Fahad, Deputy Commissioner Khyber Abdul Nasir, SP Security Atiq Shah, District Police Officer (DPO) Khyber occasion.

Saleem Khan, Additional Deputy Commissioner Relief Peshawar Imran Yousafzai and other relevant officers also accompanied commissioner.

On this occasion, the Project Director gave a improvement in the detailed briefing on the security of the staff of the project.

Security of the staff of the second Warsak Dam Rehabilitation Project, while the Director Security gave a detailed briefing on the security of the staff

working on the project. Talking on the

OMMERCENEUS

Govt to ensure full use of SIFC forum for economic development: Kakar

ISLAMABAD Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday said that the harmonize the regulatory government would ensure structure with the full use of the forum of contemporary Facilitation Council (SIFC) to improve the energy to carry forward the sector.

ray of hope for Pakistan's economic development, the prime minister said the government would focus on development of energy and defence different sectors under the

Council's umbrella. Addressing a meeting held here in connection with the working of SIFC, Prime Minister Kakar said

energies to the stability and progress of the economy. He directed $c\ o\ n\ t\ e\ m\ p\ o\ r\ a\ r\ y$ Investment international requirements

development agenda. He said Pakistan Terming the SIFC a had vast potential for foreign investment in the fields of agriculture, mining and minerals, information technology, production.

During the meeting, Secretary SIFC Jahanzeb Khan and Secretary Implementation Jameel Ahmed Qureshi briefed

PM Kakar was also apprised about the whole of government approach under SIFC to increase the foreign investment by facilitating investors.

The meeting was further informed that under the forum, the government would provide one window facility to the investors for different projects.

The prime minister appreciated the efforts of Jahanzeb Khan and Jamil Ahmed Qureshi for bringing investment in the country, adding the SIFC would play a vital role in improving the economy.

He said there was huge potential for foreign investment in the

PSX turns

around, gains

179 points

ISLAMABAD (APP)

The 100-index of the

Pakistan Stock Exchange

(PSX) turned around to

bullish trend on Thursday

gaining 179.40 points, a

positive change of 0.37 per

cent, closing at 48,325.84

points against 48,146.44

points the previous trading



MUZAFFARABAD: First Lady Begum Samina Alvi viewing the handiwork of artisans during her visit to TEVTA Vocational Training Institute.

EAG Emphasizes Economic Openness, **Crucial Structural Reforms**

The Economic Advisory Group (EAG) on Thursday highlighted economic openness and the need for key structural reforms including pricing (EAG) improved revisions, improved vocational education, participating in regional trade blocs, and shifting industrial policy towards

in urban land utilization, current crisis, the EAG simplification of tax also asserts that measures harmonization with the and weakening contractual

moving economy. A meeting was different plan organized by the Economic policymakers to follow, Advisory Group (EAG) to deliberate on the recent the nation's future revisions made to the Board of Investment Act.

Within the d i s c u s s i o n s, apprehensions were raised regarding the substantial authority vested in the challenges Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). The EAG stated productivity that unless the challenge of competitiveness.

ISLAMABAD (APP): servicing external debt is directly addressed, Pakistan's investment environment will remain vulnerable to the associated uncertainties. macro Notably, Pakistan's external debt servicing burden, when measured against its dollar income,

stands among the highest

globally. innovation. Recognising the need
These reforms encompass improvements to address Pakistan's and diminishing competition EAG's vision for a more competitive and forward- institutions will not attain the desired goals.

The EAG suggested a with the goal of promoting

prosperity.
The EAG suggests a forward that combines restructuring external debt to tackle immediate liquidity and implementing structural reforms to boost Pakistan's

Most markets drop as US rate, China fears dent global optimism

HONG KONG (APP): Most Asian markets joined a global sell-off Thursday on fresh worries that the Federal Reserve would hike interest rates again, while China's economic woes continued to shred traders'

meeting showed two decision-makers were against lifting borrowing costs, they also revealed that "most participants" saw a significant risk that price increases would persist and could require monetary tightening. The remarks dealt a blow to investors who had hoped rates were now at their peak following

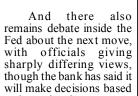
a string of data indicating

inflation was falling and

the jobs market softening.

on incoming data.

Futures traders assign While minutes from a probability of close to 90 down the line.



the US central bank's July percent that the Fed will stand pat at its September meeting, according to data from CME Group, though there is a growing belief that more hikes are coming indexes on Wall Street sank,

with tech firms—which are susceptible to higher rates—acting as a major drag, while 10-year Treasury yields hit their highest level since 2008 at the height of the global





FAISALABAD: Labourers spreading corn cobs for drying purpose.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar getting briefing about steps taken to bolster Foreign Direct Investment by SIFC officials.

Sino-Pak joint venture set to start production of electric rickshaws

BEIJING (APP): In a Group, Chinese battery development for Pakistan's transportation sector, a joint venture between Chinese and Pakistani companies is set to commence production of electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers, commonly known as rickshaws in the country.
The collaboration is

expected to bring about positive changes in the local market, reducing carbon emissions and promoting eco-friendly transportation options. The joint venture was

electric vehicle options in densely manufacturer Benling populated urban areas,

manufacturer Dongjin Group and Pakistani auto company Crown Group to leverage their expertise to introduce cutting-edge electric mobility solutions to the Pakistani market. Two-wheelers and

three-wheelers are widely used in Pakistan for public transportation and are a vital part of the country's mobility ecosystem. By electrifying this segment, the vehicles to be produced here are expected to address the growing demand for efficient environmentally and formed in April by Chinese friendly transportation

Chairman of Railways, and

another senior official in

"Only one salon has been

allocated to the federal

government while one each

Governors of Sindh,

governments." Balochistan, Punjab, and

In addition, eight salons had been allocated

Headquarters Lahore, in

which one each would be

marked to Chief Executive

Additional

Federal

Officer/General Manager

General Manager BS-21

Inspector General Railway

Government Inspector, and

four salons were allocated

has been allocated to the

The official said,

interview with China Economic Net, Hu Ge, General Manager of Dongjin Pakistan noted that "it is expected that the first batch of materials, batteries and equipment for the production of electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers will arrive in Pakistan after customs clearance next week. We are excited about the launch of the first batch of electric two-wheelers and threewheelers manufactured by our joint venture late this month or in early September."

where traffic congestion and

air pollution have become

major concerns. In a recent

Railways earn over 5mln from salons in last three years

Pakistan Railways has generated revenue worth Rs 5,269,315 through utilizing its 23 salons and inspection coaches for commercial purposes, during the last three years. 'At present, Pakistan

A total of 48,146.44 shares were traded during Railways has only 23 salons and inspection coaches with different the day as compared to dignitaries of the country 194.576.873 shares the who are entitled to use previous day, whereas the these salons when needed," price of shares stood at Rs an official in the Ministry 10.021 billion against Rs of Railways told APP on 7.670 billion on the last Thursday.

trading day. said, "Two highly luxurious companies transacted their coaches have been allocated shares in the stock market for the Prime Minister's 155 of them recorded gains Secretariat while four and 147 sustained losses coaches have been allocated whereas the share price of for the Minister for Secretary/

23 companies remained unchanged.
The three top-trading Railways, companies were Dewan Motors with 25,214,746 shares at Rs 14.23 per share; JS Bank Ltd with 14,384,000 shares at Rs.5.59 per share and Pak Refinery with 12,576,009 shares at Rs.16.71 per

Ismail Ind witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 42.50 per share price, closing at Rs 642.50, whereas the runner-up was Sanofi-Aventis with an Rs 38.00 rise in its per share price to Rs 800.00.

Shipping Activity at **Port Qasim**

KARACHI (APP): Six ships namely, Wide Juliet, Maersk Pelepas, Asphalt Alliance, Laniki, IMKE Selmar and Al-Jassasiya, are scheduled to load Container offload offload Container, Bitumen, Palm oil, Coal and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Liquid Terminal, Bulk Terminal and Engro Terminal respectively

Meanwhile, three more ships, New Liberty, Elka Athina and Hafnia Caterina scheduled to load offload Corn, Gas oil and Mogas also arrived at the outer anchorage of Port Qasim during the last 24

19 (Saturday). SMEDA hunting, product sourcing, under product listing, creation Business and management, launching Development Programme and ranking, how to (NBDP) for SMEs, is develop your own private

offering free online awareness sessions on various e-commerce Amazon. verticals through pre-

PESHAWAR (APP): Vice should be taken to resolve

The PBF Vice

Rupee gains 02 paisa against **US Dollar**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Thursday gained 02 paisa against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs294.91 against the previous day's closing of Rs294.93. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs302 and Rs304 respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by Rs1.61 to close at Rs320.75 against the last day's closing of Rs322.36, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen closed at Rs 2.01, whereas a decrease of 58 paisa was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound. which traded at Rs375.54 as compared to the last closing of Rs376.12.



Provincial Minister Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce

SMEDA to organize webinar on Amazon Private Label for SMEs

Small Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) is going to organize a webinar on "Amazon Private Label for SMES" for profitable business growth on August

National

ISLAMABAD (APP): awareness and training initiatives will provide opportunities to the SMEs on high trending and most demanding e-commerce tools, and platforms.

The webinar provides information about product develop your own private label, and how to sell madein-Pakistan products on

The training session qualified services provider would be attended by M/S Extreme Commerce individuals and firms across Pakistan, according operating in e-commerce to a source in the authority. verticals, existing and The e-commerce potential SMEs.

PBF calls for the revival of sick industries in KP

Chairman, Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Ashfaque Paracha on Thursday urged the authorities concerned to take effective measures to revive sick industries and also solve the problems being faced by the industrialists in the province.

He said that steps

the issues of the industrialists in the industrial estates falling under the KP Economic Zones Development and Management Company and the Small Industries Development Board as

Chairman was given a detailed briefing by the Nowshera Industrial Zone.

DC inspects fruit, vegetables

SARGODHA vegetables and fruits.

market

Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Awan visited fruit and vegetables market in city on Thursday.He inspected the auction process of vegetables. He went to different sheds and stalls in the market and checked availability of

Kyrgyz company sees promising investment opportunities in food sector

Kyrgyzstan business community on Thursday described Pakistan as a promising destination for investment, especially in the food sector.

heading the delegation of a company "Shoro," expressed keen interest to explore potential investment avenues and collaborations within Pakistan's vibrant food industry, particularly in the Punjab province. Talking to Chairman

Kyrgyzstan Trade House and Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis, he stressed the need for focusing on a mutual goal of fostering economic growth and enhancing bilateral ties.

He said recognizing the abundant resources, skilled workforce, and growing consumer demand within Pakistan, Kyrgyz businessmen enthusiastic about the prospect of joint ventures and partnerships that

visiting delegation of employment opportunities, and market

Zhumadil Egemberdiev said the food industry, being an essential component of both Z h u m a d i l countries' economies, Egemberdiev, who is offered a plethora of opportunities collaboration.

He said Kyrgyzstan's expertise in certain food products and processing techniques could synergize effectively with Pakistan's rich agricultural resources and establish international standard food processing

partnership can result in the creation of value-added products, improved supply chains, and a broader market reach," he

Zhumadil Egemberdiev proposed the establishment of a collaborative platform that facilitated communication, knowledge exchange, and business matchmaking between Kyrgyzstan and



MULTAN: Deputy Managing Director Muhammad Shahid Punjab Small Industry distributes souvenirs among the participants during glass cut work competition organized by Punjab Small Industry at Tea House.

SCCI chief invites **Belgium investors to invest** in KP's important sectors

Acting President of Sarhad Khan Afridi invited the meeting.

Belgium companies to The President SCCI make investments in mines, minerals and managements and managements and managements are already to the meeting.

Chyber Pakhtunkhwa. Prospects enhancing mutual trade ties between Pakistan and Belgium are brighter, said Ijaz Afridi while speaking to members during a visit of the Ambassador of Belgium in Pakistan, Charles Delogne here at the Chamber's House on Thursday.

The SCCI's acting president Commercial Attaché of the Belgium Embassy in Islamabad, Former presidents of the Chambers Zulfigar Ali Khan, Sherbaz Bilour, former vice president Malik Niaz Muhammad, members of the executive committee of the SCCI Naeem Qasmi, Kashif Amin, Hafaf Ali Khan, Javed Ahmad Khan, Laal Monawar Badshah Shinwari, Qurtul Ain and relations with Pakistan.

Ihsanullah, Fazl e Wahid, Saddar Gul, Faiz Rasool, Ishtiaq Muhammad and Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), Ijaz others were present during Khan Afridi invited the meeting.

make investments in mines, called for the minerals and other establishment of business important sectors in to business contacts, organizing of exhibitions and taking ties benefits from each other's experiences to further strengthen the mutual economic cooperation

between the two countries. Charles Delogne while speaking to members of the SCCI said that his country gave much importance to Pakistan to further enhance the diplomatic and bilateral trade relations with Pakistan, because of which Abid Hussain, Trade cordial diplomatic and Officer Shoukat Niazi, trade relations were trade relations were established between the two countries for the last 75 years.

> He said bilateral cooperation has been improved to some extent granting after GSP+status to Pakistan.

However, the envoy stressed the need for further enhancing bilateral Khurshid, Abdul Hakim trade and economic



for delivery to other markets at Subzi Mandi.

Telenor Pakistan's climate change dialogue unites industry leaders for 'Greener Tomorrow'

KARACHI (APP): The climate change experts on Thursday came together in a cross-industry dialogue to understand challenges and learning opportunities for Pakistan due to increasing global warming impacts and natural calamities impacting the country's economy, masses, and natural resources.

The event, organised and hosted by Telenor Pakistan at their Karachi office, furthers the company's commitment to advance sustainability efforts and promote collaborative approaches towards addressing climate change, a news release said.

comprising representatives from Reon Energy, Sapphire Group's Renewable Energy & Infrastructure Business; Linked Things and S. Mehboob & Company shared their insights on the ever-accelerating pace of climate change, its farreaching consequences, and businesses. deeper, they explored renewable initiatives technologies, underscoring

energy and the pivotal role of stable economic indicators and sustainable futures. A key

panel, takeaway from the discussion: by prioritising the reduction of carbon emissions and the promotion of renewable energy, businesses can contribute to the resilience and adaptation efforts crucial for combatting the impact of climate change in Pakistan. Given Pakistan's vulnerability to climate the evolving roles of change, this discourse businesses. Delving takes on even greater urgency. The nation grapples with extreme climate events such as heatwaves and floods. which have inflicted substantial damage. policies in empowering the exacerbated poverty rates, private sector towards and stifled economic growth

Iran FM touts unity on first Saudi visit since ties restored

Monitoring Desk RIYADH: Iran's top diplomat preached unity and dialogue during a visit to Saudi Arabia on Thursday, his first since the two Middle East rivals announced a surprise rapprochement in March.

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian also took the opportunity to reiterate the Islamic Republic's support for the Palestinian cause at a time when Riyadh is in discussions with the United States about potentially normalising ties with

Ties between Sunnimajority Saudi Arabia and Shiite-majority Iran "are progressing in the right direction," Amir-Abdollahian told reporters at a press conference with his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal

bin Farhan, touting economic and security cooperation without announcing any new agreements.

Thursday's meeting in the Saudi foreign ministry's Islamic Solidarity Hall "will be a prelude to the meeting of the heads of the two countries", he added, without specifying when President Ebrahim Raisi would visit Saudi Arabia at King Salman's invitation.

We are sure that these meetings and cooperation will help the unity of the Islamic world." The foreign ministers

did not take questions. The two countries severed ties in 2016 after Saudi diplomatic missions in Iran were attacked during protests over Riyadh's execution of Shiite cleric

But in March, a China-brokered deal saw the long-time rivals agree to restore diplomatic relations and reopen their respective embassies

In June, Iran reopened its embassy in Riyadh with a flag-raising ceremony. Its new ambassador, Alireza Enavati, travelled with Amir-Abdollahian Rivadh on Thursday.

Earlier this month Iran said the Saudi embassy in Tehran had begun operations, but Riyadh has yet to confirm this or announce an ambassador of its own. Amir-Abdollahian's

one-day stop in Riyadh came two months after Prince Faisal became the first Saudi foreign minister to travel to Iran since



ECOWAS Committee of Chiefs of Defense staff pose for a group photo at the headquarters of the Ghana Armed Forces as they meet on the deployment of its standby force in the Republic of Niger, in Accra, Ghana.

centre that handles emer-

gency response in the

country's west. In August

last year, 32 people were

killed and 159 wounded in

Militia fighting leaves 55 dead, 146 wounded in Libya

Monitoring Desk

TRIPOLI: Tripoli's worst armed clashes in a year have killed 55 people and wounded 146, Libyan media reported on Wednesday, before a truce took hold in tween divided Libya's two the capital and air traffic rival administrations. The was restored.

the Al-Radaa, or Special Deterrence Force, two of the myriad of militias that have vied for power since the 2011 overthrow of Muammar Qadhafi, erupted on Monday night and raged through Tuesday. The clashes with rocket launchers and machine-guns followed the detention of the 444 Brigade head, Colonel Mahmud Hamza, by the rival Al-Radaa Force on Monday, an interior ministry official said.

Al-Ahrar TV updated the death toll to 55, citing Malek Mersit, spokesman for the emergency medical a "neutral party".

17 soldiers killed in Niger border attack Monitoring Desk

NIAMEY: At least 17 troops were killed in an ambush in Niger in a reminder of the nation's deep security crisis as its military rulers face off against neighbours determined to reverse last month's coup.

Tripoli during battles be-An army detachment was "the victim of a terrorcountry has seen more than ist ambush near the town Fighting between the influential 444 Brigade and flict since the Nato-backed flict sin revolt that toppled Burkina Faso on Tuesday Qadhafi. A period of relasaid a defence ministry tive stability had led the statement published later United Nations to express that day.

It added that another 20 hope for delayed elections soldiers had been wounded, to take place this year, and six seriously, with all the cathe latest fighting triggered sualties evacuated to the capiinternational calls for calm. The social council in tal Niamey. More than 100 assailants, who were travelthe southeastern suburb of ling on motorbikes, were Soug el-Joumaa, a stronghold "neutralised" during their reof Al-Radaa, announced that an agreement had been

treat, the army said reached with Prime Minis-An insurgency has ter Abdelhamid Dbeibah, plagued Africa's Sahel rehead of the UN-recognised gion for more than a decade, breaking out in northern government in Tripoli, for Hamza to be handed over to Mali in 2012 before spreading to neighbouring Niger and Burkina Faso in 2015.

Israeli troops

kill a Palestinian

outside a West

Bank bakery

Monitoring Desk

TEL AVIV: Israeli forces

raided a home above a bak-

US imposes sanctions on four Russians linked to FSB over Navalny poisoning

WASHINGTON: The United States on Thursday

Treasury's Under Secretary for Terrorism and Fiimposed sanctions on four Russians it accused of being involved in the 2020 poisoning of now jailed

Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny. The U.S. Treasury Department in a statement said the four hit with sanctions are linked to Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) and included two it said are among the main reported perpetrators of Navalny's poisoning.

'Today we remind Vladimir Putin and his regime that there are consequences not only for waging a brutal and unprovoked war against Ukraine, but also for vionancial Intelligence, Brian Nelson, said in the state-

'The assassination attempt against Aleksey Navalny in 2020 represents the Kremlin's contempt for human rights, and we will continue to use the authorities at our disposal to hold the Kremlin's willing would-be executioners to

Thursday's sanctions were levied under a 2012





Red Cross volunteers help local residents to evacuate from the city of Kupiansk-Vuzlovyi in Kharkiv region, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in

Kharkiv, Ukraine.



terpart Faisal bin Farhan hold a joint press conference in Riyadh.

BRICS nations to meet in South Africa seeking to blunt Western dominance

Monitoring Desk

OHANNEŠBURG BRICS leaders meet in South Africa next week to discuss how to turn a loose club of nations accounting for a quarter of the global economy into a geopolitical force that can challenge the West's dominance in

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who faces an international arrest warrant over alleged war crimes in Ukraine, will not join leaders from Brazil, India, China and South Africa amid rifts over whether to expand the bloc to include dozens of "Global South" nations queuing up to join.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, Brazil's Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the BRICS summit from August 22 to 24.

Spread over the globe and with economies that operate in vastly different ways, the main thing uniting the BRICS is scepticism about a world order they see as serving the interests of the United States and its rich-country allies who promote international norms they enforce but don't always respect. Few details have emerged about what they plan to discuss, but expansion is expected to be high on the agenda, as some 40 nations have shown inter-South Africa will host est in joining, either formally

or informally, according to South Africa. They include Saudi Arabia, Argentina and Egypt.
"BRICS AND AF-

RICA" China, seeking to expand its geopolitical in-fluence as its tussles with the United States, wants to enlarge BRICS quickly, while Brazil is resisting expansion, fearing the already unwieldy club could see its stature diluted by it. In a written response

to Reuters questions, China's foreign ministry said it "supports progress in expanding membership, and welcomes more likeminded partners to join the 'BRICS family' at an early date.'

Around 45,000 Muscovites fight in **Ukraine:** mayor Monitoring Desk

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Tens of thousands of Muscovites are taking part in combat operations in Ukraine, the Russian capital's mayor Sergei Sobyanin said on Wednesday, giving a rare estimate of the forces deployed. Russia and Ukraine

total number of troops involved in the conflict, or on their respective losses. "Forty-five thousand

Muscovites are fighting in the area of the special military operation," Sobyanin was cited as saying by Russian news agency

Interfax. The mayor added they represented a "considerable part" of the fighters there. Among them, "at least 5,000 people are pro-fessional soldiers," he also

Beginning in August, Deputy Security Council Chairman Dmitry Medv-edev said Russia had rarely communicate on the enlisted over 230,000 additional personnel into the army since the start of the

Last September, President Vladimir Putin announced a "partial" military mobilisation of 300,000 men to replenish the troops.

Small aircraft carrying 8 people crashes in Malaysia

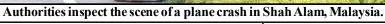
KUALA LUMPUR: A small aircraft crashed in with eight people on board on Thursday, the country's civil aviation authority said.

six passengers and two crew on board the Beechcraft Model 390 (Premier 1) aircraft could not immediately be confirmed and a search and rescue mission was underway, the civil aviation chief said in a statement. It crashed near Elmina township after departing from the holiday island of Langkawi, en route to Selangor's Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport.

Malaysia's Selangor state

The condition of the of Niger, the military said on Thursday.





Oman and Arabian Sea that

carries a fifth of world oil

threat, a heightened risk to

strait, said Commander Tim

Hawkins, spokesman for the US Navy's Fifth Fleet.

is on... increasing our pres-

ence in and near the Strait

of Hormuz to ensure secu-

rity and stability in a very

There is a heightened

'Right now, our focus

US beefs up Gulf deployment over Iran oil tanker threat

Monitoring Desk

from the region.

Three thousand addi-

tional US personnel on

troop-landing warships

have already passed through the Red Sea, and

US-led maritime forces are

warning ships against ap-

proaching Iranian waters.

ery in a militant stronghold in the occupied West Bank MANAMA: As Iranian on Thursday, killing one seizures threaten oil tankman in a gun battle in Jenin, ers plying the Gulf, the a city that has seen some of United States is raising its the worst bloodshed in the military presence — a move current round of Israeli-Pallong demanded by Gulf estinian fighting. Arab states who accused Violence has gripped Washington of retreating

the region since last spring, when Israel launched nearnightly raids in response to a spate of deadly Palestinian attacks.

It's become the fiercest fighting in the West Bank in some two decades and along with increased violence by radical Jewish settlers and settlement expansion by Israel's far-right government, has fueled tensions in the region.



Monitoring Desk LAHAINA: Embattled of-

ficials in Hawaii who have been criticised for the lack of warnings as a deadly wildfire ripped through a town insisted on Wednesday that sounding emergency sirens would not

have saved lives. At least 110 people died when the inferno levelled Lahaina last week on the island of Maui, with some residents not aware their town was at risk until they saw flames for them-

> But the head of Emergency

lack of wildfire sirens Management Agency which operates a net-work of 80 sirens, on Wednesday defended the decision not to sound them as fire bore down on Lahaina's more than 12,000 people.

The sirens are used primarily for tsunamis. The public is trained to seek higher ground in the event that the siren is sounded.' Herman Andava told a press conference. 'Had we sounded the

siren that night, we're afraid that people would have gone (into the hills)... into the fire.

Sweden raises terrorist alert level after **Ouran burnings** Monitoring Desk

STOCKHOLM: Sweden's and around the Strait of Hormuz, the U-shaped national security service gateway to the Gulf of raised its terrorist alert to the second-highest level on Thursday and warned that the threat of attack could persist for a long time after burnings and other acts regional mariners in terms against the Quran outraged of seizures" by Iran in the Muslims.

Denmark and Sweden have tightened border controls as authorities in both countries fear revenge attacks after anti-Islam activists burned and damaged several copies of the Muslim holy book in recent Sweden's SAPO secu-

rity service raised the warning level to 4 from 3 on a scale that runs from 1 to 5, reflecting a "high threat".

Big potential for green hydrogen in North

Africa: report Monitoring Desk

PARIS: By 2050 North Africa could become a leading exporter of green hydrogen with Europe its main market, according to a recent report projecting the future of an industry still

in its infancy. So-called green hydrogen is set "to redraw the global energy and resource map as early as 2030, creating a \$1.4 trillion-a-year market by 2050," according to the report from accounting consultancy Deloitte.

Biden hopes to tighten South Korean, Japanese bond at Camp David

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: When Yoon Suk Yeol this week commemorated his country's 1945 independence from Japan, the South Korean president didn't dwell on the brutal 35-year occupation his people endured under their neighbor.

Instead, the 62-yearold leader, too young to remember the humiliations of Japanese rule, celebrated the country as a "partner" that now shares the same values and interests. Facing nuclear threats from North Korea – a constant worry for both Seoul and Tokyo – Yoon reserved his condemnation for "Communist aggression.

The Biden administration believes that a seismic but fragile realignment is underway in East Asia: a deeper relationship between two close US allies with a long history of mutual acrimony and distrust. The change would

accelerate Washington's effort to counter China's influence in the region and help it defend Taiwan. US President Joe Biden hopes to cement those ties with a summit at Camp David, the storied presidential retreat in Maryland's Catoctin Mountains, this Friday. While the summit is

unlikely to produce a formal security arrangement that commits the nations to each other's defense, they will agree to a mutual understanding about regional responsibilities. "I find the meeting at Camp David mind blowing," Dennis Wilder, a professor at Georgetown University who once managed the Japan and South Korea relationship under former President George W. Bush, wrote on the social media platform X. "We could barely get South Korean and Japanese leaders to meet with us in the same room '



Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida waves as he gets on an airplane at the Haneda international

At least 36 Nigerian soldiers killed in ambush, helicopter crash

Monitoring Desk ABUJA: At least 36 Nigerian soldiers were killed in two attacks during operations against armed gangs in the northern-central state

Gangs of heavily armed men have wreaked havoc across northwest Nigeria in the past two years, kidnapping thousands, killing hundreds and making it unsafe to travel Major-General Edward Buba said the fatalities include three officers and 22 soldiers, with seven soldiers wounded during an ambush around Kundu village in the Shiroro local gov-

sualties crashed near Chukuba village in Shiroro on Monday, killing others. While Buba didn't confirm the cause of the crash, two military sources told Reuters the helicopter was probably brought down after gang members shot at it.

helicopter "The crashed with 14 of the earlier killed in action personnel, seven of the earlier wounded in action personnel, two pilots and two by road or to farm in some crew members," Buba said areas. Defence spokesman in a statement. "Operations are ongoing to recover the bodies and investigate the cause of the air crash which will be communicated," he said. Attacks by gangs, often referred to locally as bandits, have confounded ernment area in Niger state Nigeria's security forces, on Aug. 14. An Air Force who have been stretched as Mi-171 helicopter des- they tackle a violent secespatched to evacuate the cassionist group in the east.

Russian raid off Turkey's coast tests Erdogan's resolve

Monitoring Desk ISTANBUL: Russia's raid on a ship just off Turkey's coast brings the fallout from the Ukraine war to another NATO frontier and raises the stakes as Ankara seeks to coax Moscow back to a grain-export deal that would restore some calm to the Black Sea.

Armed marines raided the Turkish-based vessel via helicopter on Sunday some 60 km (37 miles) off Turkey's northwest coast, in international waters but near Istanbul, in what Moscow called an inspection before it sailed on to Ukraine. Turkey, NATO's

the incident that occurred far south of the war that has raged for a year-and-ahalf in the north Black Sea.

Analysts said it tests President Erdogan's resolve to maintain good relations with Russian President Vladimir Putin, whom he has invited to Turkey this month to discuss resuming the UNbrokered deal that had protected grain exports from Ukraine. "This type of aggression being exercised so close to Istanbul went unchecked and doesn't respect Turkey's overall rights," said Yoruk Isik, an Istanbul-based geopolitical second-largest military, has analyst at the Bosphorus made no public comment on Observer consultancy.

India landslides block trucks taking supplies to strife-torn Manipur

Monitoring Desk GUWAHATI: Landslides

in India have stranded hundreds of trucks carrying fuel and essential items to the violence-hit state of Manipur, police said on Thursday, after heavy rains caused devastation that killed at least 84 people.

Torrential rains that officials blame on climate change, coupled with unabated construction over the past few years in the mountainous Himalayan region, have also led to frequent flash floods and landslides in neighbouring Pakistan and Nepal.

Rocks and mud engulfed part of a highway near Imphal, the capital of Manipur, following Wednesday's rains, stranding 400 trucks, police said, adding that incessant rain was hampering efforts to

clear the road. The state is trying to restore peace after it was

hit by deadly ethnic violence that began in May, killing at least 180 people and driving tens of thousands from their homes. Hundreds of struc-

tures have also crumbled down the mountains this week in landslides in the northwestern state of Himachal Pradesh, killing at least 68 people with about 15 missing, disaster management official Praveen Bhardwaj said.

The state's chief minister, Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, told the Indian Express newspaper he blamed indiscriminate construction and improper structural design among the reasons for the destruction.

In the neighbouring state of Uttarakhand, at least 16 people died in landslides this week with 15 missing by Wednesday, government figures showed.

Jaranwala incident Muslim-Christian leaders demand swift justice for perpetrators

LAHORE (APP): Prominent Muslim-Christian leaders Thursday united in demanding swift justice for the perpetrators behind the tragic incident in Jaranwala, which involved the desecration of places of

A delegation of Mus-lim scholars, led by Paki-stan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, visited Saint Anthony Catholic Church here and extended an olive branch to the Christian leaders and people, seeking forgiveness for the disrespectful act that has deeply disturbed the entire nation.

Addressing a presser, the Muslim-Christian lead-

ers, including Hafiz Muhammad Mahmood Ashrafi, Archbishop Sebastian Shah, Pastor Emmanuel Khokhar, Pastor Saleem, Maulana Nauman Hashir, Maulana Muhammad Shafi Qasmi, Maulana Asadullah Faroog Maulana Zubair Abid Maulana Muhammad Ashfaq Pitafi, Maulana Tahir Aqeel Awan, Maulana Muhammad Siddiqui, Qari Abdul Hakeem Athar, Maulana Muhammad Aslam Qadri, Mufti Naseem Islam Maulana Qari Mubashir Rahimi and others said the incident had not only strained interfaith relations but also cast a dark shadow over the country's reputa-



LAHORE: Religious Scholar AllamaTahir Mehmood Ashrafi along with the Archbishop is addressing a press conference on the Jarnawala Issue at Regal Church.

PNS SAIF visits Dubai for regional maritime security patrol deployment

The Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) SAIF visited Dubai, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) during deployment on Regional Maritime Security Patrol on Thursday.

Upon arrival, Pakistan Navy Ship was received by Defence Attaché of Pakistan at Abu Dhabi and Senior Officials of UAE Navy, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

During the port visit, Commanding Officer of PNS SAIF called-on Deputy Commander UAE Naval Forces and other senior Officials of UAE Navy. During the interactions, matters of mutual interests hancement of bilateral ties dination meetings

firmed. The Commanding Officer of PN ship conveyed well wishes from Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi for the people of UAE in general and UAE Navy in particular. PNS SAIF celebrated Independence Day of Pakistan at UAE. In this connection, a flag hoisting ceremony was held onboard the ship which was attended by DA (P) and children of Pakistani School at UAE.

During the port stay, various bilateral activities including exchange visits onboard UAE Naval units. orientation visits of miliwere discussed and en- tary installations and coor-



Commanding Officer PNS SAIF receiving Base Commander UAE Naval Forces on board during Pakistan Navy Ship's visit to UAE

Nawaz Sharif to return to Pakistan in third week of September: Irfan

PML-N senator Irfan Siddiqui has said Nawaz Sharif will return to Pakistan in the third week of September and he will run election campaign.

"Former Prime Minister (PM) Nawaz Sharif thinks election will be held this year. He wants there should be no delay in election, he said this while talking to a private TV channel

here Thursday. When government is ready to go then it remembers several forgotten things, he held.

ISLAMABAD (Online): haste is not good in connection with bill. Too much bills come in haste then their drafts are not mulled over, he stated. What bills came they were needed, he pointed out. These were PDMs bills and not of

PML-N bills, he observed. These people took part in the meetings in connection with preparations of bills and signed them.

He disclosed his bill is missing since 14 months. This bill was my property. I wrote a letter to speaker on August 10 and no re-1 had said too much sponse has been received so far.

ATC extends interim bail of Qureshi, Asad in May-9 vandalism cases

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Thursday extended the interim bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice Chairman Shah Mehmood Quershi, former PTI secretary general Asad Umar, Fawad Chaudhry, Uzma Khan and Aleema Khan, the sisters of PTI Chairman Imran Khan, till September 2 in six cases related to May-9 vandalism.

Earlier, Mehmood Qureshi, Asad Umar, Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan appeared before ATC Judge Îjaz Ahmad Buttar on expiry of their interim bail and got their attendance marked.

However, Fawad Chaudhry did not appear and his counsel moved an application with a request to grant one-time exemption from personal appearance to his client..

The counsel for other accused submitted that his clients had joined the investigation and they were not involved in any case.



budsman, Federal Tax Om-

budsman, Federal Harass-

ment Ombudsman and the

Federal Ombudsman were

'Insurance Ombudsman and

Concept of Speedy Justice

at the Doorstep' is a series

of seminars in which the

high dignitaries of the insur-

ance sector as well as from

the business community

were invited for their valu-

able views and vision for

betterment and transpar-

ency in the insurance busi-

ness. President Alvi said

due to his personal efforts,

awareness among the

people about the role of the

Ombudsman had signifi-

cantly increased. But still,

he stressed the need to

make more people aware of

it. He also highlighted the

other parts of the province

vice (BSS) cadre into BCS

cadre and other initiatives

taken by the provincial

The subject Seminar

working under his office.

FIO building confidence among public

awareness about the

Ombudsmen's role and re-

sponsibilities adding that

the good decisions by the

ombudsmen must be pub-

licized in the national print,

electronic and social media.

not an excuse, therefore the

people should know about

various ways to get justice

through alternative means.

lighted that in many cases

the decisions remained

pending for decades in the

mainstream judiciary due to

overburden of work and

other flaws. Therefore, he

called upon the people to

utilize this channel which

was relatively easy, more

quick, and affordable for all.

Dispute Resolution was the

solution to reduce the bur-

OUETTA: A delegation led by President Jawanan-e-Pakistan Nazariati

Balochistan Ehsanullah Khan meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik

Protest of BCS officers remain continued:

Posting of Balochistan Secretariat

Officers in field violation of

Rules: leader of BCSOWA

He said Alternative

He said ignorance was

The president high-

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday said the Federal Insurance Ombudsman was doing major work in building confidence among the general public to get speedy justice by follow-

CEOMB

The president said only few percent people about ombudsman's role mainly because of less marketing d awareness campaigns. He said approaching

he ombudsman was the cheapest and most effective vay to get speedy justice.

Addressing a Seminar itled 'Insurance Ombudsman and Concept of Speedy Justice at the Doorstep' here at Aiwan-e-Sadr, the president said all the five ombudsmen including Federal Insurance Ombuds-

U.S. envoy calls on Air Chief

ISLAMABAD (APP): U.S. Ambassador Donald Blome called on Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu here on Thursday.

The discussion underscored matters pertaining to geo political environment leading to emerging regional security challenges, augmenting the already fortified bilateral ties and fostering collaborative endeavours within the realms of defence and aviation, a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) news release said.

The Air Chief accentuated the cordial relations that exist between the two nations while emphasizing his steadfast determination to elevate the existing synergistic partnership between the two key allies.

Justice (Rtd) Maqbool Baqir takes oath as Caretaker **CM Sindh**

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori on Thursday administered to the oath to Caretaker chief minister of Sindh Justice (Rtd) Magbool Bagir.

The oath-taking ceremony held at the Governor House here, said a spokesperson of the Governor House.

Judges of the Supreme Court, Consul Generals of different countries, former federal and provincial ministers, businessmen, political and social figures, senior officers and dignitaries of the city participated in the ceremony.

On the occasion, the Governor of Sindh also congratulated Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqir on assuming the office of the caretaker Chief Minister of

37 new Covid cases reported in last week

ISLAMABAD (APP) Health officials on Thursday said that 37 new coronavirus cases were reported during the last week across the country.

As per the data shared by the National Institute of Health (NIH), the case positivity ratio was 0.43 per cent while no patient was in critical condition. No death was reported from the coronavirus last week while 8,673 Covid-19 tests were conducted. Meanwhile, an official of the Ministry for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination said that the government has strengthened the role of Border and Health Services in Pakistan to deal

government

Independent Report They also lodged pro-QUETTA: The protest of Balochistan Civil Service test in the offices of Tehsil, Officers (BCS) remained other settlements and ofcontinued under the umfices in the province. Meanwhile, addressbrella of BCS Officers Wel-Association ing a press conference at Pakistan, Mirwani added. (BCSOWA) in Quetta and

Quetta Press Club on Thursday, the senior leader of BCSOWA, Khuda-eon Thursday.
The BCS officers Rahim Mirwani announced three-days of protest against merger of the BSS kept on observing pen down strike against merger of cadre into BCS cadre. Balochistan Secretariat Ser-

He also said that approval about posting of BSS officers in the field is

just violation of the rules and regulations.

diciary. He also asked the

insurance company owners

to offer better products for

the public to increase trust

and remove doubts among

the people about the insur-

perception of insurance

among the general public

was not up to the mark

which needed to be improved by building trust

among them. Federal Insurance Ombudsman Dr

Khawar Jamil said the of-

fice of FIO was acting upon the concept of providing speedy justice. "We are

trying to enhance our out-

reach to grassroots level and

we are also endeavoring to

provide maximum relief to

the complainants by set-

tling their issues in an ami-

cable manner.

Generally, he said the

ance companies.

The decision of provincial government also violates certain judgments of the Supreme Court of

He said that if the decision was not averted then there would be an administrative crisis in the province. The BCS officers would announce their future of course action against the government's decision soon, Khuda-e-Rahim Mirwani maintained

New colour

developer

ultrasound

test started in

GDA Hospital

Independent Report

QUETTA: The facility of

new colour developer ultra-

sound has been launched in

the Gynecology depart-

ment of the Indus Hospital

and Health Network in

was started after necessary

trial in the Hospital being

administered by the

Gwadar Development Au-

thority (GDA) in collabo-

ration with the Indus Hos-

pital and Health Network.

here is that such an impor-

tant technology has been

installed for the first time

for health of the women.

Needless to mention

The modern facility

Gwadar on Thursday.



OUETTA: Members of BCS Executive Officers Welfare Association Balochistan are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, outside Chief Minister House in Quetta.

Jaranwala incident a matter of grave concern: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (Online): PML-N Secretary General and former Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal strongly condemned the incident of Jaranwala and said that there is no room for making factions in Islamic state.

Ahsan Iqbal said in a statement on social media that heartbreaking incidents in Jaranwala are matter of concern for us. Certain religious groups have freely used religion to create fanaticism among people for political purposes.

Ahsan Iqbal said that

torching the places of worship of other religion is no service to deen.

There are laws and courts in the country. Former Federal Minister said that one cannot take law in hands as there

is law for every crime. He said that if a minority in Pakistan considof Pakistan.

Ahsan Iqbal said that young people of 12 to 14 years are being seen in the footage holding sticks and chanting the slogans of a religious party.

this trend is reminiscent of the tragic incident of Sialkot. He said that all political parties and scholars have to work together to promote harmony in the society. He further said that the events of Manipur in India were drawing the attention of world to mistreatment of minorities in India before this incident. This incident turned media towards Pakistan. Ahsan Iqbal said that Christian community fully participated in Pakistan Movement by voting for Paki-

ers itself insecure, this idea will be negation of ideology

Otherwise, the patients were facing the hardships due to availability of only one developer ultrasound in the Hospital. He further added that

The technology would be used for diagnostic of different gynecology related diseases among the

16 held in action against profiteers, encroachments

QUETTA (APP): Atleast 16 shopkeepers were arrested in an action launched against profiteers, encroachments.

On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mir Shahak Baloch, Assistant Commissioner City Atta Al Muneem and Special Magistrate Maria Sĥimoun conducted operations on Alamdar Road and Abdul Sattar Road and held 16 profiteers, said a handout issued on Thursday.

AC Atta Al Munim said a complaint was received that low weight bread is being sold at high price on Alamdar Road.

Accused acquitted due to presentation of unacceptable evidences by prosecution: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): due to lack of protection of Supreme Court (SC) has adjourned the hearing of the petitions about cancellation of Police Order -2002 for indefinite period.

The Chief Justice of

Pakistan (CJ) Umar Ata Bandial has remarked due to lack of protection of crime scenes the evidences are destroyed and the accused are acquitted due to presentation of unacceptable evidences by the prosecution in the courts.

The CJP admired the steps taken by Sindh and KP police.

The petitions regarding cancellation of police order 2002 came up for hearing before a 3-meber bench of SC presided over by the CJP Thursday.

The CJP remarked

crime scenes, the evidences are destroyed and the accused are acquitted due to presentation of unacceptable evidences by prosecution in the courts. There are weaknesses in police investigation and accused persons take advantage of it.

He remarked Sindh has set up a separate investigation wing. Sindh police step is appreciable. Punjab and Islamabad police have not taken such steps for improvement in investigation. In KP Police system has been improved to some ex-

He observed Puniab and Islamabad are behind the other provinces in improving police system. Recently judicial policy making committee held meeting.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Tissori taking oath from Justice (R) Maqbool Baqar as a Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh at Governor House.

Pak delegation pays day long visit to Afghanistan to attend border meeting

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation from Pakistan Thursday paid a day-long visit to Afghanistan for attending border committee meetings held regularly on a fortnight basis for improving effective liaison and coordination for smooth operation of bilateral and transit trade on both sides of the border. The fifteenmember delegation was headed by Director Transit Customs Department, Arbab Oaiser Hameed.

Additional Director Transit Trade, Shams Wazir, Additional Collector Appraisement, Muhammad Rizwan, Joint Chamber of Com- will face a lot of problems. merce and Industry, Zıa-ul-Haq Sarhadi were also part of the delegation.

toms) Nangarhar Province. Haji Fazle Hadi received the delegation on arrival in Afghanistan

The participants of the meeting discussed different issues including the pendency in the clearance of goods and presented different suggestions for the resolution of problems. Speaking on the occasion, Director PAJCCI, Zia

ul Haq Sarhadi demanded taking stakeholders into confidence on the 2010 agreement of Transit Trade which is facing delay in implementation He demanded to make

the new Transit Trade Deputy Collector Appraisement, Mohib Khan tional at the earliest otherand Director Pak-Afghan wise business community

Zia demanded the provision of loose cargo e delegation. transportation in trains Raees Gumrak (Cus-which is not allowed.

Sui gas supply would remain suspended in various parts of Quetta, other areas

Independent Report QUETTA: The Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) has announced that the sui gas supply would remain suspended in different parts of Quetta city as well as Kanak, Mastung, Kalat and their adjacent areas today (Friday).

According to an announcement made by the SSGC, the gas supply would remain suspended on Zarghoon road, Governor House, Chief Minister House, Balochistan High Court, Jinnah Road, Shahrah-e-Iqbal, Liaquat Bazar, Prince road,

McCongy road, double road, Gwalmandi, Pashtoonabad, Alamdar road, Marriabad, Toghi road, Mastung, Kanak, Mangochar, Khadkocha, Kalat and their adjoining areas from 10:00 AM to

06:00 PM today. The SSGC administration has requested the gas consumers to make alternative arrangements during the gas suspension period.
The SSGC has also

regretted for any inconvenience to be caused to the consumers due to suspension of gas supply.



HUB: Members of Bhutani Community block road as they are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Hub river road.

Masood Khan says: Pakistan is moving towards political & economic stability

NEWYORK (Online): Masood Khan, Pakistan's ambassador to America, has said that Pakistan is moving towards political and economic stability.

On Independence

Day, Pakistan's Ambassa-dor Masood Khan unfurled the Pakistani flag and New York City while Mayor Eric Adams hoisted the American flag.

Speaking at the Independence Day ceremony in New York, Masood Khan said that it is a matter of pride for him that many Pakistanis are serving in the civil government of the United States today.

He urged people to Ignore rumors that Pakistani-Americans no longer have faith in Pakistan's economy He emphasized that do not lose faith in Paki-

stan, America is your homeland and Pakistan is your motherland and this strong bond will not break.

On this occasion, the mayor of New York said that people from different regions, cultures and religions live in New York and they themselves have come and settled here, but the people who live here should help each other to solve global problems



with any sub-variant.