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In de la commentant de

dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Islamabad

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KARACHI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addressing the debriefing session of Pakistan Navy's War Game "Shamsheer-e-Bahar IX"

Saudi Crown Prince may pay hours-long

visit to Pakistan ISLAMABAD (INP): Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman may pay a short visit to Pakistan in the second week of next month, diplomatic sources said on Wednesday. The possible visit of the Saudi Crown Prince would be of four to six hours as part of first leg of his tour which will later take him to Pakistan's archrival India.

The Saudi Crown Prince is likely to come to Pakistan on September 10. During his brief stay, the Saudi royal guest is expected to hold meetings with Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq and Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir.

Wednesday emphasized the significance of war games in validating naval war plans in sync with military and national security policy, besides exploring operational concepts and refining deployment strat-The prime minister,

addressing the debrief session of Pakistan Navy's war game Shamsheer-e-Bahr IX, lauded the welldeliberated plans of the force commanders and the

KARACHI (APP): Care-taker Prime Minister war game, which would Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on help crystallize operational plans for maritime security and seaward defence of Pakistan, a PM Office press release said. He also highlighted the

the Pakistan Navy in ensur-

ing the security of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Gwadar Port. Prime Minister Kakar expressed complete confidence in the preparedness of the Pakistan Navy to

to provide all available resources for its capacity building. Earlier upon arrival at the venue, the prime minister was received by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi. enhanced responsibilities of

While presenting the overview, the Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Operations) outlined the objectives of the war game which was conducted in tri-service format, with participants of relevant meet all threats and chalministries and divisions lenges, and reassured the

PM emphasizes significance of war games in validating naval war plans

Pakistan's economy linked with IT development: Alvi ISLAMABAD (APP): said IT had now become President Dr Arif Alvi on unavoidable part of almost

to financial transactions.

easing the financial movement and financial transactions in Pakistan, the country's economy could further boost and its GDP growth rate could increase by 2-3%. Addressing the He informed that

Huawei was going to open its global service center in Pakistan which would create employment opportunities besides ensuring technology transfer to the youth of the

tion Program from Huawei speaks volumes of the efforts made in the past decade and how this Industry-Academia Relationship has been thriving towards providing the solid backbone towards the ICT Industry of Pakistan", he added. The president stressed that the universiclosing ceremony of ties should arrange boot Huawei ICT (Information camp in the campuses to and Communication Tech- train the university gradu-



Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir visited Tilla Field Firing Ranges near Jhelum on Wednesday, where he witnessed field fire and battle drills.

President refuses to meet Imran in Attock jail

ISLAMABAD (Online): fused to meet PTI chairman in Attock jail.

PTI leaders sent a mes sage to president Arif Alvi in connection with meeting with PTI chairman. They had requested president Arif Alvi in the message that PTI chairman wants to meet him.

The president while refusing to meet PTI chairman said he can not meet party chairman while holding the office of president.

Shamshad Akhtar No room for further subsidies in IMF agreements

ISLAMABAD (INP) Caretaker Federal Mińister for Finance Dr Shamsad Akhtar has ruled out any room in the IMF agreements to provide additional sub-

Addressing the media after the committee meeting on Wednesday she emphasized that the government was aware of the plight of the country's poor popula-tion and that further burdening the under-privileged segment of society was not an op-

tion.

The subsidies included in the IMF agreements were already established by previous governments, and there was no room for further subsidies in these agreements, she pointed out.

Dr Shamsad Akhtar went on to say that the government was planning for economic stability and was working on practical measures to improve the economy.

Battle preparedness of army personnel commendable: COAS

RAWALPINDI (APP): The COAS appreci-Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Wednesday visited Tilla Field Firing Ranges, near Jhelum and witnessed Field Fire and Battle Drills.

On arrival, the COAS was briefed on training objectives, set for the exercise with a view to validate operational readiness of the formation in the challenging environment, an Inter Services Public Relations

(ISPR) news release said.

by Air Force, Army Aviation and ground troops in the execution of various operational drills. He lauded the troops for their combat proficiency and offensive spirit.

ated the synergy displayed

He also appreciated the high morale and battle worthiness of the troops. Earlier on arrival, the COAS was received by Lieutenant General Syed Aamer Raza, Commander





Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza meeting with President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon

Cipher case:

Special court extends judicial remand of PTI chairman till Sep 13

ATTOCK (Online): Special court set up under Official Secret Act has extended judicial remand of PTI chairman till September 13.

Hearing of Cipher case against PTI chairman was held in Attock jail.

Members of legal team of PTI chairman including Suleman Safdar, Ahmad Misrar and Intizar Punjotha were also present in Attock

Judge Abual Hanat Zulqarnain of special court heard the case Wednesday. According to sources PTI chairman was brought

before court in connection with his attendance. The court after mark-

ing attendance extended judicial remand for 14 days. PTI legal team filed

three petitions. These included chairman PTI bail plea. Through second petition court was requested to declare illegal and revoke law ministry notification for jail trial of PTI chairman. 3rd petition related to open court trial of chair-

The counsels took the plea the case of official secret act cannot be made against Chairman PTI. Cipher case was instituted on the basis of political victimization Notice was issued by

the court on bail after arrest plea of chairman PTI.

The court while issuing notices to the respondents sought arguments on September 02

It is pertinent to mention here chairman PTI is on judicial remand in cipher case. FIA had sought physical remand of chairman PTI on August 16. However court did not accept the plea and sent chairman PTI to jail on judicial remand.

According to FIA they cannot seek physical custody or remand in this case due to judicial remand. Now challan will be filed and trial will run. However the accused can file bail plea. Law ministry had issued notification to conduct hearing in Attock jail due to security concerns.

Apex court wants to conclude NAB amendments case early: CJP

Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial on Wednesday observed that the top court wanted to conclude cases pertaining to the NAB amendments as soon as possible.

He was heading the three-member bench, comprising Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan and Justice aimed at tightening the grip Mansoor Ali Shah, which heard the case.

Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan said that he had not stated that 'there was a flaw in the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act', rather he was of the view that it was similar to the Supreme Court Review

(NAB) nad withdrawn ne questioned. corruption cases of less

der which law this policy amendments in light of the has been adopted?" he provisions of Constitution.

the NAB amendments carried out in 2022, the arrest of accused at inquiry stage was excluded but in July 2023 the respective clause had been included in the law again, which was

At the outset of hear- it had to be viewed that ing, Attorney General for who had been targeted and for how long. Negotiations were underway some people in matters pertaining to the billions of rupees

He said there was something wrong in the NAB law, due to which the apex court was approached to review it. Whether the

Justice Mansoor Ali He observed that in Shah remarked that the NAB amendments were challenged by a person who had quit the Parliament. Fundamental rights had been clearly defined in the Imrana Tiwana case, adding that the top court had conducted some 50 hearings against politicians.

CJP Bandial said that but no answer had been received regarding the im-

pacts of NAB amendments on basic rights.

He said the amendments were not challenged by any citizen. He asked that whether the limit of Rs 500 million in NAB cases was fixed to book only big fish or whether the people committing corruption of

The chief justice asked lawyer Makhdoom Ali marked that the National Accountability Bureau Bureau was working to protect the public interest,

The Chief Justice 10 to the Accountability Bureau was working to protect the public interest,

That Hawyer Making 10 to the Accountability Bureau was working to protect the public interest,

The Chief Justice 10 to the Accountability Bureau was working to protect the public interest, cation of the NAB amend-The chief justice said ments from the past. The

less amount were honoured.

Wednesday stressed the every filed of life. need to equip youth with skills of latest technology saying that the Pakistan's economy was linked with the development of Information Technology in the

He said Pakistan had become the second largest free lance market in the world, however the people were facing issues related

He underlined that by

"This ICT Competi-

nologies) competition ates and make them ready



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the closing ceremony of Huawei ICT Competition 2022-23 at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Protests over inflated energy bills continue unabated

ISLAMABAD (INP): As ers the countrywide protests over massive power bills are intensifying, the Kakar-led caretaker government has failed to come up with any relief measures as it tries to strike a balance between avoiding drawing the IMF's ire and causing more citi-

zens to blow a fuse. In a recent meeting of the federal cabinet, chaired by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar, the focus was on providing relief to electricity consum-

It was decided that consumers using up to 400 units of electricity would be allowed to pay their bills in installments over the next six months.

However, approval from the IMF will be sought before announcing this re-

lief measure. During the meeting, the economic situation of the country, public protests over electricity bills, and the formula for power divi-

sion were also discussed.



ISLAMABAD: Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Dr Mehmet Pacaci, Lt Gen Muhammad Ali and others cutting the cake during ceremony of 101st Anniversary of the great Victory Day of Turkey, at a local hotel in Federal Capital.

Türkiye embassy celebrates Turkish Victory Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Turkish Embassy in Pakistan here on Wednesday celebrated the Turkish Victory Day. The event was attended by the political leaders, diplomats of various countries, media men and others in large numbers.

The Ambassador of Turkiye in Pakistan Dr. Mehmet Paçaci, on the occasion, readout the message of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The president in his message said, "We reach the 101st anniversary of the Great Victory, I would like to congratulate the August 30 Victory Day of our honourable nation, of the Turkish Cypriots, and of more than 7 million Turkish citizens living all across the world.

FM Jilani, Iranian envoy discuss bilateral ties between Pak. Iran

ISLAMABAD (APP) Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani and Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam, on Wednesday, reviewed the bilateral relations between the two

countries. The Iranian ambassador called on the foreign minister, Foreign Office Spokesperson posted on

During the meeting, they agreed to maintain positive momentum in the bilateral dialogue and exchanges, and to further strengthen Pak-Iran cooperation in trade, investment, energy, security and regional connectivity.

Petrol prices likely to hike by Rs. 10 & diesel by Rs. 15

ISLAMABAD (Online): Preparations have been started to drop a petrol bomb on inflation stricken people once again. The costs of petroleum products are likely to be raised from September 1 due to depreciation of rupee. Petrol prices are likely to increase by RS 10 per liter while cost of high speed diesel may increase by RS 15 per liter. The final approval of increase in prices will be given by Ministry of Finance in consultation with Caretaker Prime Minister (PM). The increase in the costs of petroleum products will be done in next 15 days.

Smuggling & terrorism to be wiped out with nation's support: Bugti

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Bugti on Wednesday vowed to wipe out the menaces of smuggling and terrorism from Pakistan with the full support of the nation.

The caretaker government was fully determined to eliminate smuggling of any food items and dollars from the country, he said while talking to a private television channel

Smuggling of essential items and dollars were criminal activities which must be stopped at any cost, he About the May 9 may-

hem, he said a deep conspiracy was hatched against the security institutions. However, now the law enforcement agencies were fully vigilant to cease any type of violence and hate speech against them.

As regards the cipher issue, he said investigations were underway. The law enforcement agencies

people to further probe the Sarfraz Bugti said they had zero-tolerance against

violent material, and hate speech against the state institutions. No one would be allowed to create violence anywhere in the country, he To a question, he said it had been decided in the

meeting of Council of Common Interest (CCI) that the general elections would be held after accomplishing the task of census and delimitation. The delimitation process would take some three to four months, he said adding that Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) would announce the date for next polls. The caretaker government would provide all necessary assistance to the ECP to hold free and fair elections, he said.

To a question about the unsuccessful operation against the criminals of Kacha area, he said there was a need to purge the police force of politics so that it could per-



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti in a meeting with visiting Saudi Delegation

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Some relief

Former prime minister Imran Khan's legal team and party loyalists may rejoice in their consolation victory at the Islamabad High Court, but the suspension of Mr Khan's sentence in the Toshakhana case does little for him in the larger scheme of things.

His conviction and, therefore, his disqualification from holding public office continue to stand, and until his appeal against the trial court's verdict is disposed of, his political fate remains in limbo. Bail or not, it is also unlikely that he will be allowed to walk free anytime soon: as has been the case with other political leaders arrested in recent months, the state could bring new cases against him to bypass release orders.

The wheels are already in motion. Soon after the IHC announced its decision, it surfaced that a special court constituted to try Mr Khan under the Official Secrets Act had directed Attock Jail authorities to keep him locked up and produce him before the court on Aug 30 for the 'missing cipher' case.

It had previously been commented that the IHC would find itself compelled to give some relief to the PTI chief, ing democracies, constituespecially after a Supreme Court bench headed by the chief justice made adverse observations regarding 'procedural defects' in Mr Khan's conviction in the Toshakana case. Though the SC ultimately restrained itself from and abeyances of constituintervening more forcefully in the matter, it put the IHC on hardly have any meaning. the spot.

While the apex court's 'reservations' were justifiably criticised as 'interference' in the high court's workings, it bears mentioning that the manner in which Mr Khan was tried and eventually convicted left a lot to be desired. No wonder that independent observers saw it merely as another example of unelected quarters inflicting punishment on a political leader who had dared cross them.

As the aphorism goes, justice must not only be done, down on Pakistan, children's vulnerability to but seen to be done. At some climate change and extreme point in Pakistan's recent po- fore. Seasonal rains have litical history, the law stopped lalready wreaked havoc, disbeing a reference point for placing communities, damaging homes and vital infrawhat is right and wrong or what is permissible and what including 87 children. Tens is not. Perhaps it was always

Court cases, especially weather events are becoming more frequent and dethose that have involved political actors, have always seemed more like a means through which different factions within the state may of the country was under assert their dominance over water, 33 million people affected, over 1,700 lives the other. Despite many bitter experiences over the future hopes and dreams, years, though, nothing seems cannot let this happen to change. Those who were once the victims are now perpetuating the same cycle of droughts that directly violence under the patronage hoods. It is only a matter of their own oppressors, and those being oppressed today are just as likely to do the same whenever the roles are inevitably reversed. If the situation appears hopeless, it dren today to red-uce their vulnerability to climate is only so because those who change in the future. Last have had the power to change sting inequities and deprisiting inequities and depriit have consciously chosen vations painfully obvious: not to. Our leaders must answer: when do they want this women living in underserved areas who are to stop?

The gathering storm



Zahid Hussain

Inflated electricity bills in the country have triggered an eruption of public indignation that had been simmering for long. Discontent over the escalating cost of living has now exploded into mass protests. The unbearable nike in electricity rates seems to be the proverbial last

Angry protesters are now out on the streets, threatening to bring down the edifice of the state. It is now left to a hybridised interim administration to face the public's wrath. Stuck between the IMF deal and growing unrest in the country, the options for the caretaker set-up are limited. The crisis over excessively priced electricity indicates a structural problem that has been aggravated by flawed policies pursued by successive governments over the

past several decades. A patch-up job will not help resolve a chronic prob-

lem that requires massive systemic reforms. And that is beyond the capacity of a short-term interim arrangement led by a novice who has apparently been imposed by the security establishment. The multiple taxes and surcharges included in the electricity bills are nothing less than extortion by a state unable to collect taxes from the politically powerful landed and business classes. The burden has shifted to the already overtaxed middle and lower middle classes

What has made the situation extremely combustible is the prevailing political uncertainty. The spontaneous outburst of public anger has all the potential of turning into a mass movement against the existing system. You just have to listen to the chants of protesters against the privileged power elite. Events like this could easily ignite a prairie fire engulfing the entire sys-

The ongoing public protests have brought to the surface contradictions embedded in the existing power structure. They have also political parties that were part of the former ruling coalition. The alliance bears much blame for the worsening economic crisis. The disastrous policies of the Dar period may not have been solely responsible for the economic downslide but they are just as much to blame as the approach of previous dispensations. The situation has posed a huge dilemma for the PML-N, with elections approach-

It will be hard for the

party to go to the polls with such a liability. The optics of the former prime minister and his finance minister arriving in London for consultations with the supreme leader were hardly comforting for party supporters and voters. The party is at a loss as to how to react to the public protests, particularly in its former stronghold of Punjab, just two weeks after its government ended. It is apparent that the

decision to include excessive taxes in the electricity bill was taken by the PML-N-led government and certainly not by the caretaker administration. While ex-

thriving real estate businesses, the former finance minister conveniently shifted the burden to the common people. It is a lame excuse that it was necessary to meet IMF conditionalities. The fiscal gap could have been bridged by removing those exemptions as per the requirement of the IMF rather than fleecing the With little to show for

its performance during its 16-month rule, and now with street protests breaking out, it is hardly surprising that the PML-N favours an extension in the election date, as suggested by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in order to complete the delimitation process required under the recently concluded population census. Given this uncertainty and the prevailing confusion in party ranks, it is hardly surprising that Nawaz Sharif has yet again delayed his return to the country. He is now expected to come back in mid-October.

Meanwhile, differences within the former ruling alliance over the

become sharper, with the PPP taking an obvious Uturn and demanding that elections be held within 90 days as stipulated in the Constitution. It seems that the PPP's changed position on the election timeframe is for reasons of expediency, as the party doesn't want any delimitation of constituencies in Sindh that could result in an increase in National Assembly seats in Karachi at the expense of the rural areas. The issue has become more contentious with the MQM now siding with the PML-N over the de-

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Bar Council, too, has demanded that polls be held within 90 days. However, it seems highly improbable that the ECP will change its plan and agree to hold elections on the basis of the old population count. It may lead to yet another court battle, deepening the political turmoil. Growing public unrest over inflation has simply added to the multiple challenges the state confronts.

The public outrage over inflated electricity bills is just a symptom of empting the retailers and election timeframe have a much deeper problem.

The escalating cost of living has pushed millions of more people below the poverty line and massively increased the ranks of the unemployed. The worsening state of the economy and growing political instability have also put our national security at risk. It is perhaps one of the most serious situations the country has faced in recent times. The prospect of a nuclear-armed nation collapsing under its own contradictions is frightening. But the powers that

be seem completely oblivious of the gathering storm. They remain occupied with their own agenda. While the country is imploding, the security agencies have apparently intensified the crackdown against the opposition, further destabilising the political situation. Recent draconian laws are now being used with impunity against evervone who dares to speak

This is the last thing the country needs while facing an existentialist threat. The rumbling of the coming storm is loud and clear, if the ruling elite are prepared to heed the warning. -- Courtesy Dawn

The date debate



Muhammad Waqar Rana

Mark Tushnet in his book 'Why the constitution matters' argues that the constitution matters because it provides a structure for a civil government that assures liberties. In developtions also matter a lot. Any slight deviation, for any reason whatsoever, be it state necessity or political expediency, from the constitutional precepts can be fatal for democracy, rule of law and the people. The political and constitutional history of Pakistan is abundant with instances of abrogation the constitution and the law The constitution however remains the only protection and unifying force for a fledgling federation weak-

ened by divisions and polarization. A colorful gloss put on the constitution in long and lengthy judicial sermons seems like beautifying marginal notes and nothing more. The constitution needs to be treated like a scripture.

It is in this context that

the debate about fixing the date for general elections to the national and four provincial assemblies is to be approached. The caretaker government remains noncommittal in its stance. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in its response to the president's letter seems clear in its stance that the power to fix the date for elections vests in it. That the time limit given in the constitution is not sacrosanct. The outgoing leader of the opposition and the governor of Punjab have been vocal in giving February 2024 as the time for elections. Their stance is aligned with the position taken by the major political parties which have been avoiding elections for the last one year for political expediency.

Two provincial assemblies were dissolved but the governors failed to fix the date for the elections. The matter ended up in courts

amongst the brethren on the issue of assumption of jurisdiction – with the consequence that despite clear orders by the Supreme Court the PDM government and their appointed governors refused to implement those orders. The ECP, a constitutionally mandated institution to organize elections, also joined the cause of the former federal government and deviated from its constitutional mandate without any fear of accountability. Caretaker governments installed in the provinces were allowed to continue beyond 90 days.

The term of five years of the previous National Assembly would have expired on August 12, 2023. The prime minister, Shehbaz Sharif, however – seemingly to gain political advantage – on August 9, 2023 advised the president under Article 58(1) of the constitution to dissolve the National Assembly. It thus stood dissolved on August

president to dissolve the National Assembly, for constitutional purposes, the prime minister failed to notice that he had lost the and was lost somewhere due power to advise the presi-

to differences having arisen dent in the performance of constitutional functions for which the prime minister had to have the confidence of the majority of the members of the National Assembly. After giving the advice for dissolution he lost that power for lacking two underlying constitutional requirements, responsible government and representative character, which provided constitutionality to his advice to the president. This constitutional fiasco may have a serious bearing upon many actions of the previous federal government. It is an established constitutional principle of Westminster parliamentary democracy that the prime minister can advise the sovereign to dissolve the House of Commons. But this rule has exceptions. When a motion for no-confidence is tabled against the prime minister the sovereign may refuse dissolution and instead thereof allow the opposition leader to form the government. When the prime minister advises dissolution his/her advice usually con-Having advised the tains the date for the next reason that in clause (1), the elections. The sitting government has this advantage in choosing an appropriate time for elections. There is a

Britain elections were never disputed on the ground of rigging or manipulation by the sitting governments. This principle was followed in the 1973 constitution of Pakistan as well. But the events of 1977 provided a ground to change this rule. Instead of improving the political culture and conduct of leaders. an expedience was found that seemingly further compromised the integrity of the electoral process

A system of caretaker setup was introduced. Article 48 was amended by PO 14 of 1985 and clause (5) was added whereunder the president in case of dissolution would fix the date of elections not later than 100 days of the dissolution and also appoint a caretaker cabinet. Through the 8th Amendment the period of 100 days was reduced to 90 days. Through the 18th Amendment (2010) Article 48(5) was substituted and amended to the effect that the words 'notwithstanding anything contained in clause 1' was added for the words 'act on and' were added. On the other hand, read literally, the newly added subsection (1) of Section 57 tions at an early date. In the constitution' – and the con-

political history of Great stitution provides that the president shall appoint the date for elections. Moreover, since the president does not issue notification and the matter was not to be left to the caretaker governments, obviously the ECP had to an nounce the date(s) appointed by the president or the governors respectively, in the official gazette. It is a machinery provision. The difference between the words 'announce' and 'appoint' was perhaps overlooked by the ECP. In SMC 1 of 2023, the Supreme Court has held that power to appoint the date of elections in case of premature dissolution vested in the governors. The same ap-

plies to the president. Elections were delayed for no reason after the 1956 constitution came into force. In 1970, the mandate of the majority was not respected Since 1985, almost every election has remained disputed. Pakistan needs stability and peace for development and prosperity. In the ultimate analysis, the people are the best judges of their leaders – provided they are allowed to elect them or reject them through the ballot for which timely and transparent elections starts with 'subject to the are mandatory. -- Courtesy TheNews

The hardest hit



Abdullah Fadil

As monsoon rains bear weather again comes to the structure, and claiming the lives of at least 211 people, of thousands of people are currently affected by floods in Punjab. Extreme ing more frequent and destructive. All too often, it is children who pay the

heaviest price. The scale of last year's floods was unlike anything lost. Homes, livelihoods, wiped out in a flash. We again. Pakistan is a known climate hotspot, suffering from floods, heatwaves and of time before another largescale climate disaster strikes.

While Pakistan cannot alter the course of climate change alone, there is a clear need to invest in its chilit is the poorest, most vulnerable girls, boys and bearing the brunt of climate

change. What little they had was washed away, and access to essential services was severed or disrupted. Many of the hardest-

hit districts were already

among the most vulnerable

in Pakistan. One- third of children aged five to 16 years were out of school. The floods damaged or destroyed 30,000 schools, locking an additional 3.5m children out of learning. We know from experience that the longer children remain out of school, the less likely they are to return, exposing them to protection risks such as child labour and child marriage. As part of its flood response, Unicef is providing education support for 258,000 children, but this is a drop in the ocean compared to the

Pakistan's looming nutrition crisis has worsened with the floods, bringing immediate and longterm consequences for children's survival and wellbeing. Around 1.5m children in flood-affected areas are severely malnourished, the most life-threatening form of malnutrition. Lowbirthweight babies continue to be born to mothers who themselves are malnourished. This robs Pakistan of human potential and capital that can help drive its economy forward: malnutrition results in a loss of three per cent in national

GDP. As Pakistan undergoes a period of political transition, nutrition and education must remain national priorities while flood recovery and rehabilitation continue. Pakistan has a window of opportunity to make critical investments in climate-resilient infrastructure and resilient services that bridge equity gaps and reach children, mothers and families in underserved areas. This is vital for not only education and nutrition, but also health, protection, water, hygiene and sanitation. Sadly, the children affected by the floods

in 2010 are again bearing the brunt of last year's devastation. Without real change and societal transformation, the future for children in affected communities looks bleak. Poverty has increased after the floods, further perpetuating the cycle of intergenerational poverty, increasing inequality and worsening out-

Last year's climate devastation was a wake-up call for the world. With the right choices and investments, Pakistan can become a global leader on climate change solutions. This requires urg-ently addressing the underlying so--cial inequities and deprivations negl-ected for far too long. The action must start at home, with governments

at the national and provincial levels leading the way. The whole of society must contribute and play a pivotal role, including the private sector, philanthropists, civil society and communities. With Pakistan's house in order, efforts exerted and exhausted, the global community will have no option but to take its own moral and ethical responsibilities and make good on commitments to support Pakistan.

There is no time to lose. The caretaker government and the expected incoming elected government must prioritise sound fiscal policies, such as broadening the tax base and public financing for children. This will lead to the economic gains needed to address chronic malnutrition and increase access to quality education. Unicef is committed to supporting the government of Pakistan to strengthen and expand essential services for children and families and build back resilient systems. Without immediate action, vulnerability to climate shocks will only intensify, and children and the poorest communities will continue to suffer the most. -- Courtesy Dawn

Extreme misogyny



convention of holding elec-

Mahir Ali

The latest chapter in the Taliban's crusade against women was unveiled this week, when at least 60 potential scholars expecting to be accommodated at a university in Dubai were turned away from Kabul airport. It followed a series of similar gestures that have stretched from stripping the right of girls to secondary or higher education, to bans on women working for aid agencies and a ban on

hair and beauty parlours. During the Doha conversations that preceded the cakewalk into Kabul two years ago this month, the interlocutors from Afghanistan indicated that Taliban 2.0 would be different from their Pakistani- and Saudibacked incarnation in the

mid-1990s. It has not worked out that way. Just last week, the Band-i-Amir national park in Bamiyan was declared off-limits to women. "I've heard more than one Afghan woman talk about how next the Taliban won't allow them to breathe," Human Rights Watch's Heather Barr was quoted as saying. "That sounds very hyperbolic until you see them doing things like actually trying to stop women from being outdoors and enjoying nature.'

The Taliban response? "Going sightseeing is not a must for women." That comes from a spokesman called Mohammed Khalid Hanafi who, like many of his Taliban brethren, seems to be unaware that he wouldn't exist without his mother's nurturing regime—not even Pakistan, instincts following the

agony of childbirth. In other three sponsors of the words, as the singersongwriter Peggy Seeger queried: "How can a man of woman born/ Thereafter

treat her sex with scorn?" She wasn't talking about Afghanistan. Prejubeen entrenched to various degrees in all societies, and their recent resurgence in the US is deplorable but not surprising. Former first lady Laura Bush at one point pretended to be keen on women's rights in Afghanistan, which served as one of the post-hoc excuses for the 2001 invasion, but appears to have had noth-

Only a few American journalists have acknowledged that women in urban Afghanistan experienced the least limitations on their ambitions during the Soviet-backed PDPA phase. As schoolteacher Glenn Sacks noted Counterpunch this month, "In 1985, women accounted for 65pc of the 7,000 students at Kabul Úniversity — unthinkable

ing to say about their deple-

tion in the US.

in previous times." Some US initiatives after the 2001 occupation may have echoed Soviet ones, but that could never officially be acknowledged not least because back in the 1980s, the Afghan mujahideen were receiving instructions from America on slitting the throats of schoolteachers who dared to instruct girls. An outcome of ingredient for heroin. The recent Taliban policies has nation's future, however, been to turn Afghanistan into one of the few countries where more women than men commit suicide. The ruling clique seems not to care.

There is a perception that the Taliban leadership is divided between those who might be willing to make social concessions, and a hard-line faction keen to reverse even the tiniest nod to liberalisation. Small wonder, then, that no country has formally recognised the the Saudis and UAE, the

Taliban's first incarnation. In a recent report, BBC's Lyse Doucet quoted a Kabul beautician as saying that the mounting pressure on women is part of an effort to win international recogdices against women have nition. If that's true, it's a strange way of going about it. One would have thought that some movement in the opposite direction might be more effective.

It is unlikely that any harm can come from talking to the Taliban — and the regime's emissaries are reputedly frequent flyers. So far, there is also no evidence that diplomatic dialogues will yield meaningful results. The conversations should nonetheless continue, if only because there is no obvious alternative. While resisting IS-K, the Taliban have also exercised control over opium production, and, more broadly, security for travellers is reported to have vastly improved since the US occupation — which is hardly surprisi-ng, given the Taliban and their affiliates were once the main purveyors of insecurity. There has been talk of

Afghanistan profiting by allowing exploitation of the rare earths buried underneath its soil — most likely by Chinese entities unbothered by violations of human rights. The country could obviously benefit from such engagements, given its most lucrative produce is the chief will not be determined by royalties. It cannot possibly prosper without liberating women from their shackles. Afghanistan is not entirely an outlier in the Muslim world in the context of women's rights, but it goes further in denying them than even its most retrogressive peers. Plenty of nations have contributed to Afghanistan's plight, but right now its destiny is in the hands of the (originally Pakistan-spawned) Taliban. -- Courtesy Dawn

ATE CHOLISTAN

PROJECT-II

Edited with the trial version of **Foxit Advanced PDF Editor**

Caretaker govt to remain apolitical, impartial: Azam

taker Chief Minister tion would be the top pri-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Azam Khan on Wednesday said that the caretaker government will keep itself restricted to its constitutional and legal role and remain apolitical, impartial and will perform its and more than 90 percent duties without any sort of political affiliation.

He expressed these views while presiding over the 9th meeting of the of the province has in-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa caretaker cabinet here.

Besides caretaker cabinet members, the meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry and concerned administrative secretaries. In his address to the participants of the meeting, the Chief Minister welcomed the new cabinet members. The chief minister said that the role, responsibilities, and dos and don'ts of the caretaker setup is very much clear in the relevant provisions of the Constitution and Election Commission Act 2017.

Azam Khan remarked that the caretaker government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is faced with two major challenges: law and order and financial crunch, and continued that improvement of the pre-

pledged to make all-out efforts to this end.

He said that the provthe federal government, with regard to its revenue, of its revenue comes from various federal receipts and added that after the merger of ex-FATA, the population creased, and as per the exhas climbed to 19 percent of the federal divisible pool, but unfortunately, it is get-

ting only 14.6 percent. The Chief Minister remarked that at the time of the ex-FATA merger, it was committed by all the percent of their NFC share newly merged districts, whereas it was also pledged that Rs. 100 billion would be provided to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa every year for the accelerated development of the NMDs, but during the last five years, only 103 billion has been provided to the province out of the total 500 billion.

Highlighting the priorities of his government,

PESHAWAR (APP): Care- vailing law and order situa- that his government will focus special attention on ority of government and merit, transparency, and good governance in its dayto-day business, adding that the administrative secince is largely dependent on retaries of the provincial government has already been directed to take the

necessary steps to this end. He urged the administrative secretaries to give honest and sincere advice to their concerned ministers with regard to the official business of the department. isting population ratio, the NFC shares of the province He further directed the cabinet members and administration members and administration of the province He further directed the cabinet members and administration of the province He further directed the cabinet members and administration of the province He further directed the cabinet members and administration of the province He further directed the cabinet members and administration of the province He further directed the cabinet members and administration of the province He further directed the cabinet members and administration of the province He further directed the cabinet members and administration of the province He further directed the cabinet members and administration of the province He further directed the cabinet members and administration of the province He further directed the cabinet members and administration of the province He further directed the cabinet members and administration of the province He further directed the cabinet members and administration of the province He further directed the cabinet members and administration of the province He further directed the cabinet members and administration of the province He further directed the cabinet members and the province He further directed the cabinet members and the province He further directed the cabinet members and the province He further directed the cabinet members and the province He further directed the cabinet members and the province He further directed the cabinet members and the province He further directed the cabinet members and the cabinet members trative secretaries to identify corruption cases, if any, in their respective departments and initiate appropriate actions against those involved. The agenda for the meeting encompassed seven key points, notably federating entities that three the approval of project revisions, the establishment would be provided for the of a forensic science laboratory at Peshawar, the nomination of an administrative judge for anti-terrorism courts, and fixing matters relating to the Police Public School teachers' case in court. The meeting deliberations encompassed the approval of supplementary funding for the Forensic Science Laboratory in Peshawar and revisions to

PC1 for the Janikhel Bannu



KARACHI: Activists of Pakistan Commission for Human Rights hold placards and banner during protest on the eve of International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, at Frere Hall in Provincial Capital.

lanthropists in Thalassemia

House was valuable and

citizens deserve tribute

who donated blood for a

need to take special care of

the children affected by

thalassemia and it's our re-

sponsibility to help them

to become beneficial citi-

their medical illness.

their well-being.

He said there was a

noble cause.

Dr Jamal Nasir says: Couple's test essential for controlling Thalassemia

RAWALPINDI (APP): eradicating thalassemia, Provincial Minister for Pri- adding the support of welnary and Secondary fare organizations and phi Healthcare and Population Welfare, Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir has said that thalassemia disease can be controlled by conducting medical tests of the couple before marriage.

He said this while visiting Thalassemia House, Tipu Road here on Wednesday. The minister said that thalassemia patients were increasing in Pakistan while public awareness and blood screening were indispensable to control this disease.

He said that the provision of a transplant facility in the Thalassemia house was a vital initiative that would benefit thalassemia patients.



KARACHI: Hindu women celebrate the Hindu festival Raksha Bandhan at Laxmi Narayan Temple in Provincial Capital.

Minister assures steps for welfare of prisoners

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Caretaker Minister for der-trial prisoners, who Home and Prisons, Brig (retd) Haris Nawaz, on Wednesday, assured the Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners (CWP) of the maximum possible support for the welfare of inmates in the prisons.

He was talking to a 5member delegation of CWP led by Barrister Haya Zahid, who called on him. Sindh Home Secretary Syed Aijaz Ali Shah was also present in the meeting, according to a statement issued here.

The minister was briefed that the CWP has been working for the last many years in the field of legal aid, legal empowerment, welfare and rehabilitation as well as research and policy work while it also provides legal repre-

sentation to first-time unwere poor and needy and were implicated in petty of-

The minister was informed that 2,838 prisoners were interviewed and provided with 'legal advice' by qualified lawyers in the previous two years by CWP and 2.690 and vakalatnamas (power of attorneys) were signed and filed in courts while 2235 cases were disposed of with certified judicial orders.

The committee successfully pleaded 1,349 applications for bail and also assisted 41 prisoners in the submission of fines and

surety.

The committee also discussed with the home minister the financial issues being faced by CWP and requested support.

PTI's Ehsan **Guljoins IPP**

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chunian vice president Ehsan Gul has announced to join the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party

He met with the General Secretary, IPP, Lahore Division, Mian Khalid Mahmood and announced to join the IPP. Ehsan Gul expressed full confidence in the leadership of Abdul Aleem Khan and Jahangir Khan Tareen. The IPP leader welcomed him in his

party.

On this occasion.

that IPP is zens of the society despite Ehsan Gul said that IPP is working on the vision of On the occasion, the building, development and provincial minister met the children affected by thalasstability of the country. The incident of May 9 is semia and inquired about a historical tragedy, we General (retd) Pervaiz strongly condemn the incident," he said and added that they are standing with their institutions and na-

Enmity claims two lives in Nowshera

ESHAWAR (APP): At east two people were killed when unidentified armed men fired at them in Nowshera district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Wednesday.

Khweshgi police said the incident took place in Khweshgi Bala where two men identified as Farooq and Abdullah Umar were fired at by unknown assail-

Both the men died on the scene while the assailants whose identity could not be ascertained so far,

managed to escape the area. Police informed that the killing was a result of old enmity between the deceased and assailants.

Lyari gang commander arrested by Rangers KARACHI (APP): The

Pakistan Rangers Sindh and Police in a joint intelligence based operation in Lyari area on Wednesday arrested an alleged commander of a Lyari Gang and recovered a hand grenade and arms, ammunition from his pos

Arrested was identified as Muhammad Saleem alias Mullah Sohail, a most wanted gangster of Lyari. according to a news release

The accused joined zair Baloch group in 2003 and in 2009 joined People's Aman Committee

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman addressing the launching ceremony of Literate Cholistan Project Phase 2 organized by **Punjab Education Foundation. Punjab Governor says:** PEF lighting the candle of knowledge in remote

areas commendable **Independent Report** LAHORE: Governor MuhammadBalighur Rehman, attended the launch ceremony of Literate Cholistan Project 2 organized by Punjab Education Foundation here today at Governor House Lahore as a special guest. Secretary School Education Punjab Muhammad Ahsan Waheed, Managing Director Punjab Education Foundation Manzar Javed Ali, Vice Chancellor University of Education, Talat Naseer Pasha and other senior of-

ficers were present in the

Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that education is the way through which nations develop. He said that it is commendable that Punjab Education Foundation is lighting the candle of knowledge in remote and backward areas through

public private partnership. He said that the moral training along with educa-tion is very important, adding that high moral values

including honesty and truthfulness should be inculcated in the youth. He further said that an educated person neither believes nor spreads what he hears with-Speaking on the occa-ion, Punjab Governor said that it is very impor-

and information spread on social media. There was a time when Muslims made a name for themselves in education, science and research all over the world. But today we are lagging behind in research. We have to make joint efforts for bringing improvement in the education sector, he added. Governor Punjab said that the best investment is on the education and training of children and youth. Governor Punjab said that Punjab Education Foundation (PEF) is doing good work. It is spreading the light of education in re-

No ban on approval of layout plans of down buildings: Maqbool

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice(retd) Maqbool Bagar has categorically announced that the government will not place a ban or bar on approvals of the layout plans of residential and commercial build-

In a statement issued here on Wednesday, the Chief Minister said that there was no ban on the approval of the plans for the construction of com- courage legal construction

buildings. However, violation of the building laws, rules, and regulations by the Sindh Building Control Authority or the builder(s) would not be tolerated, he

Talking about the regularization of the illegally constructed buildings, the caretaker CM said that no such proposal was under consideration at all. The caretaker chief

minister urged SBCA to en-



LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Minister Barrister Syed Azfar Ali Nasir addressing press conference at Director of Public Relations Office in Provincial Capital.

Crackdown against vehicles emitting smoke launched in Abbottabad

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Vehicle Emission Testing Station (VETS) in charge and Traffic Police, acting upon directives of the Secretary of Transport and the Director of Transport on Wednesday launched a campaign against vehicles emitting smoke.

The crackdown has specifically targeted a multitude of vehicles emitting smoke across various locations within the city. Legal actions have been taken against these smokeemitting vehicles, while fitness certificates have been issued for those adhering to emissions stan-

The VETS in charge Sofia Jadoon in collaboration with the traffic police, conducted inspections in the localities of Havelian. They imposed fines on 50 vehicles emitting smoke and awarded fitness certificates

to 42 vehicles Sofia Jadoon highlighted the substantial contribution of smoke-emitting vehicles to environmental pollution. She said that we have taken proactive measures in accordance with

instructions from the Transport authorities in Abbottabad city.

Vehicle owners have been earnestly advised to ensure optimal engine conditions to mitigate environmental contamination. Sofia Jadoon underscored that emissions not only fuel air pollution but also exacerbate noise pollution. Stringent measures are being enforced against both issues, including subjecting multiple vehicles to emissions tests to tackle air quality concerns.

Recalling a collabora-tion with the German agency GTZ, Sofia Jadoon mentioned that a smoke testing station was established in Peshawar in 1997, focusing on evaluating smoke emissions from vehicles leaving the She further said that

over time, this initiative has expanded its coverage to encompass significant provincial cities such as Peshawar, Mardan, Malakand, Swat, Abbottabad, Mansehra, Kohat, Dera Ismail Khan, and Bannu.



LAHORE: Former Federal Minister Mian Javed Latif addressing press conference at Press Club in Provincial

3 of family gunned

SHEIKHUPURA (APP) Three members of a family were gunned down in Shaqpur Khurd, in the jurisdiction of Factory Area police station, some 24 km away from here on Wednesday. According to police unidentified people came on a motorcycle stormed into the house of Akram and opened indiscriminate fire at the family. As a result of

Akram and his two daughters- Fatima and Uzma sustained critical bullet injuries and died on the spot. The motive behind the triple murder was stated piece of land.

On information, Factory Area police reached the spot and collected evi-

The police have sent the bodies to hospital for oostmortem. Sheikhupura Zahid Nawaz Marwat directed the police to cordon off the area for the arrest of suspects at the earliest. Further investigation was underway.

Lady shot injured by her father dies MIANWALI (Online):

Lady Doctor Sidra who was injured in firing by father has died in Rawalpindi hos-Father had shot in-

jured his daughter lady doctor Sidra in Muslim Colony Mianwali 10 days earlier due to refusal by her to marry with her cousin.

Lady doctor was re ferred to Rawalpindi hospital in critical condition She succumbed to injuries after 10 days.

According to police the bullets had hit her head and legs. Operation of her head was conducted but she died. According to sources lady doctor Sidra had requested her father that she wanted to marry with some educated person. This turned her father furious who opened firing on her.

Hindus celebrate **'Raksha** Bandhan³

SUKKUR (APP): The Hindu community observed their brotherhood festival commonly known as 'Raksha Bandhan' at the main Sadhu Bela Temple here on Wednesday.
Wearing colorful

clothes, the participants observed their religious festival by tying the knot of protection and distributed sweets. They said that they used to observe the festival every year in this month, adding that Hindus celebrated the festival on sighting full moon in the lunar calendar's Savan or Sravana month, during which Hindu women used to tie a thread of Rakhi around their brothers' wrist and pray for their safety

Naqi urged to take notice of non-payments to printers, publishers by PCTB

Industry (LCCI) on Wednesday urged Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi and relevant authorities to take notice of non-payment of Rs 5.5 billion to respective printers and publishers by Punjab Curriculum and Textbook Board (PCTB) as they were facing a severe financial The LCCI President

printers and publishers led by Khalid Pervaiz here at Lahore Chamber. The LCCI Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, former president Muhammad Ali Mian, former vice president Faheemur Rehman Saigol,

Kashif Anwar made this de-

mand after having detailed

meeting with a delegation of

All Pakistan Anjuman Tajran (APAT) Secretary situation and direct the rel-Information Zikaria Butt

AHORE (APP): Lahore and All Pakistan Printers Association (APPA) Chairman Syed Makram Abbas also spoke on the occasion.

The delegation informed the LČCI officebearers that Punjab Curriculum and Textbook Board had issued a tender worth Rs 15 billion for printing of text books for students of public sector schools, however, the payment of Rs. 5.5 billion for this printing was still pending. They added that price of paper had increased many times and if the Board did not pay the remaining amount of Rs.5.5 billion to the printers and publishers, they would not be able to print textbooks for next academic year and millions of students would not get free books thus putting their career at stake. The government should take an immediate notice of this



PESHAWAR: Provincial Ombudsman Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Syed Jamal ud Din presenting annual report 2022 to Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

LHC reserves judgment on maintainability of petition against escalating bills, taxes

LAHORE (Online): Lahore tricity bills on what basis High Court (LHC) has reserved judgment on maintainability of the petition against inflated electricity bills and recovery of taxes

The petition was filed by a citizen Muhammad

A single bench of LHC led by Justice Shams Mehmood Mirza took up the case for hearing Wednesday. of art Ahmad Abdullah tion.

counsel for the petitioner argued in the case. The learned judge

while addressing counsel for petitioner remarked yes, you will say what. The counsel for petitioner said electricity bills have been enhanced and

Justice Mehmood Mirza inquired vou challenged hike in elec-

additional tax is being re-

ceived.

The counsel for the petitioner said the inflated bills are being sent to the Justice Mehmood Mirza inquired upto what extent the basic

ghts are being violated. hat law is being violated The counsel replied it

violation of article 2. The learned judge inguired how it is violation of article 2 of the constitu-

The counsel for the petitioner could not give

satisfactory reply. The learned judge remarked what procedure people have adopted is correct procedure. This is the method that people force government to with-draw its decision by voicing protest.

The court reserved judgment on the maintainability of the petition.



HYDERABAD: Caretaker Provincial Minister Mines and Minerals Development Mir Khuda Bakhsh Marri at a press conference at Shahbaz hall Hyderabad.

Provincial Ombudsman calls on Governor, presents annual report of 2022 PESHAWAR (APP): Om-

budsman of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Syed Jamalud-Din Shah here on Wednesday called on KP Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali and presented the annual report of 2022. Additional Secretary

of Law Department, Zaheer-ud-Din and Principal Secretary of the Governor, Mazhar Irshad were also present on the occa-

Provincial Ombudsman said that 2,519 complaints were received by the office of the ombudsman among which 1,947 have been addressed. He said that 492 com-

plaints were related to Elementary and Secondary Education. KP Governor appreciated the efforts of the om-

budsman office and its overall performance to facilitate people.

Provincial caretaker govt initiates action against illegal mining

HYDERABAD (APP): Caretaker Sindh Minister for Mines and Minerals Development Mir Khuda Bux Mari has informed that action has been initiated against all those who are involved in illegal mining of minerals in the prov-

this while presiding over a meeting of the officers of his department and later in this regard with the cotalking to media persons here at the Commissioner's

Office on Wednesday. Besides stopping illegal mining wherever reported in the province, he informed that strict legal action is also being taken against the persons who were involved in illegal min-

The provincial care-The minister informed taker government also reviewing the lease permission and also taking action operation of the administration, he added

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Talha Mehmood Wednesday said that Islamic

calligraphy interlinked with

the Quran and Quranic

verses and suras were well

used in the style of calligra-

phy. Addressing an Islamic

Calligraphy exhibition of

young artists at Punjab Arts Council (PAC) organised in

collaboration with Mehr-e-

Oalm, he said that Islamic

calligraphy was not based on belief that photography

was prohibited in Islam, but

Islam placed great impor-

Quran that Muslims were showing a pure art like Islamic calligraphy to the

It is a miracle of the

calligraphy with creative tistically.

tance on writing.

world, he added.

Islamic calligraphy

interlinked with

the Quran: Senator

thinking.
"A person gets peace heart in this

of mind and heart in this

world and the hereafter by

main focus of attention of

Muslims was the word of

Allah, in the shape of the

the role of PAC in promot-

the occasion said that the art

of calligraphy had a special

Punjab government was paying full attention to

the promotion and develop-

ment of all genres of arts,

Director of Arts Coun-

ing Islamic Calligraphy.

place in our culture.

she added.

Muhammad Talha cil Waqar Ahmad said that Mehmood further said that Islamic calligraphy was the

the young generation was name of presenting hand-

entering the field of Islamic writing and calligraphy ar-

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for

Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali

Sindhi officially launched the roll-out of an antidrug awareness campaign imitated by the Private

Educational Regulatory Authority (PEIRA) in col-

laboration with the Anti-Narcotics Force in the In-

augural seminar to roll-out the campaign was held

Body cameras distributed

Quran," he added.

'For centuries, the

In the end, he lauded

Naheed Manzoor on

following Quranic verses.

Aneeq stresses unity among faiths, condemns image-tarnishing efforts

Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed, addressing the Interfaith Harmony Conference at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts on Wednesday, emphasized the need for unity among all faiths and condemned any attempts to tarnish the image of religions. "Who are those individuals seeking to distort the essence of faith?" asked Aneeq, as he addressed a captivated audience. "We are brothers, and in our presence, any attack on a place of worship is a grave injus-

Reflecting on recent events such as the incident in Jaranwala, the minister stated that such incidents should never have occurred.

that there had been even to the tragic incident in worse atrocities against various communities in 150 Christians lost their

neighboring India. "Those who lost their lives in India among the Christian brethren are not just Christians but also our brothers," he passionately expressed

He further reiterated lamic Republic. "We are the People of the Book, and we are supplicants of the One God," he proclaimed.

Aneeq extended his message of inclusivity by highlighting the divine nature of all scriptures, including Torah, Psalms, Bible, and the Holy Quran. "These are all divine revthe Quran," he affirmed.
Turning his attention
Turning his attention
Turning his attention

lives the minister clarified that no Christian had been harmed in Pakistan. "We believe that what happened in Jaranwala should never have happened," he stated

emphatically. He applauded the colthat Pakistan was not merely a "State," but an Isbrethren in the face of the Jaranwala tragedy. "We are a resilient nation, and our protest speaks volumes, he declared.

In his closing remarks Aneeq urged that while any incident should be prevented, it must be handled through legal means. "We must not take the law into elations, the final one being our own hands," he emphasized, leaving the audience

Sanjrani, FNF delegation discuss multilateral issues of mutual interest

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) called on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani here on Wednesday The delegation consisted Dr Carsten Klein (Regional Director, FNF South Asia), Ms. Birgit Lamm (Head of Country Office, FNF Pakistan), and Ms. Rebea Firdous (Communication Officer, FNF Pakistan Office) engaged in a comprehensive dialogue with the chairman Senate.

The topics of discussion spanned a range of crucial areas, most notably renewable energy initiatives, fostering women's entrepreneurship, and fortifying the Pak-German trade relationship within the ambit of the GSP+ framework.

Of particular note was the foundation's unwavering commitment to nurturing a business-friendly landscape in Pakistan. This commitment was further underlined by an insightful exploration of challenges faced by businesses and entrepreneurs, with a



ISLAMABAD: Jamal Shah, Interim Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture visiting Aiwan-e-Quaid Building at Fatima Jinnah Park.

Jamal visits Aiwan-e-Quaid Building, sparks intent to elevate amenities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Jamal Shah, Interim Minister for National Heritage and Culture on Wednesday conducted a visit to Islamabad's Fatima Jinnah currently under develop-Park, where he expressed ment next to the Islamabad facilities at the Aiwan-e-Quaid Building during his ements, the garden will intour. During the visit, senior officials at Aiwan-e-Quaid provided him with an overview of the different amenities accessible

within the building.
The Federal Minister also toured several amenities within the Aiwan-e-Quaid Building, which encompassed the Quaid-i-Azam Gallery, Quaid Public Library, Auditorium, documentation center, as well as the Training and

Research Center. The Federal Minister conveyed his intention to enhance the facilities, aiming to transform the loca-

space for the community's cultural, educational, and

literary endeavors. The Minister also explored Bagh-e-Shuhada,

Among its various elclude portraits of martyrs and a captivating monument, designed to raise awareness among people, especially children and the younger generation, about the sacrifices made by these

The Minister confirmed that a formal inauguration of Bagh-e-Shuhada is planned for September 6. The proceedings will

begin with an elegant ceremony, succeeded by a musical concert aimed at paying homage to the martyrs. Simultaneously, an art exhibition will be held at the Islamabad Art Gallery as a

Tourists advised to avoid traveling Babusar road after 6pm

SLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) on Wednesday advised tourists venturing into orthern Areas to avoid tra veling and commuting after evening hours to refrain from any inconvenience and untoward situation. According to an advi-Gilgit-Baltistan Road was closed for all kinds of traffic after 6 p.m. in the evening due to recent floods that submerged a major portion of the thoroughfare leading to the scenic tourism magnet. Tourists and commuters were requested to complete their journey before 6 p.m. to avoid inconvenience. Tourists and travelers have also been advised to contact the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Kite Project Helpline (1422) to get fresh updates on weather, roads,

tion into a more valuable part of the tribute. First Lady hails positive role of media in promoting awareness for 'Breast cancer'

ISLAMABAD (APP): tions. "If women are being tion, she regretted that First Lady of Pakistan, diagnosed with breast can-Begum Samina Arif Alvi Wednesday hailed the supporting role played by the media in promoting awareness drives to educate and areas for self-examination voluntarily seek early diagnosis of breast cancer.

In an exclusive interview with PTV news channel, she underlined the need for continuous mass awareness campaigns through print, electronic and social media, especially for sensitization of women and girls in far-flung areas of the country about its symptoms, self-examination, di- eas. agnosis and treatment op-

cer, they do not even share members", she added.

lacked appropriate awaremotivate women in remote ness about diagnosis and treatment for breast cancer due to a range of multifaceted barriers, however now women are much more confident and approach doctors in the early stages, she mentioned. She stressed that the healthcare system should also pay more attention to cultural factors impeding women's access to available health facilities in rural ar-

Replying to a ques-

women are still neglecting society's priorities, adding, the news with their family that unaware women in remote areas of Pakistan are Women in Pakistan the main target group in awareness drives as they are the ones who are at a higher risk of developing breast cancer because they neglect the symptoms due to lack of awareness which leads to progression of the disease and may prove lethal. To another question about mental health, she stressed the need for raising awaresocio-psychological and ness about mental health and the need to increase the number of mental health professionals, besides strengthening the capacity of general



ISLAMABAD: Ms. Fauzia Viqar, Federal Ombudsperson (FOSPAH) preside over a meeting regarding protection against harassment of women on workplace at Federal Ombudsman Secretariat.



Madad acknowledges IBCC's vital role in education sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi Wednesday paid a visit to the Inter Boards Coordination Commission (IBCC) and acknowledged the IBCC's vital role in education sector.

During his visit, he was given a comprehensive briefing by Dr. Ghulam Ali Mallah, the Executive Director of IBCC, shedding light on the organization's vital mandate, functions, roles, and responsibilities.

During the briefing, Dr. Mallah highlighted the con-

education sector of Pakistan. He illustrated IBCC's role in standardizing and streamlining the examination and evaluation systems across various educational boards in the country.

Furthermore, Mallah provided insights into the pivotal role IBCC played in ensuring the equivalence of educational certificates, which greatly facilitated students in pursuing further studies both domestically and internationally.

Dr Mallah further briefed about IBCC's new initiatives and transforma-

ogressive steps taken by IBCC to embrace technology, which has led to improved efficiency and accessibility of services for students, educational institutions and other stakehold-

IHC orders for not arresting Imaan Mazari in any case after Aug 20

Islamabad High Court (IHC) has ordered Imaan Mazari be not arrested in any case after August

Petition filed by Imaan Mazari seeking details of cases registered against her came up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by Justice Miangul Hasan Aurangzeb here Wednes-

Shireen Mazari mother of Imaan Mazari filed petition through lawyer Zainab Janjua on behalf of her daughter.

Lawyers Suleman Akram Raja and Qaisar

Imam appeared in the court from Shireen Mazari side. Suleman Akram Raja argued we needed not to file petition but the situation has become such.

In two cases arrest was made and in these two cases she was released on bail. But Imaan Mazari was arrested in third case outside Adiala jail. Justice

Ahsanzeb remarked we are passing through very difficult time. Imman Mazari was present in this court. I said to her to control her mother tongue. Imaan assured me but she did not control her tongue.

of dengue reported in Islamabad

76% of dengue patients are male and 24% are female.

15 cases were reported in the rural areas of Islamabad in last 24 hours and 2 dengue patients were reported in the urban areas.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Sana Jamali presents awarding certificates to the winners of the making Short Movie on "Drug traffickers endangering our youth" as Country Representative of the UNODC Pakistan Jeremy Milsom and Chairperson KKAWF Cristina von Sperling Afridi are also presents on the occasion, in Federal Capital

ers. These IT reforms are not only revolutionizing the operational aspects of IBCC but also contributing to a more transparent and expedited evaluation pro-The minister ap-

plauded the dedication and endeavors of IBCC in strengthening the education sector's quality and effec

17 more cases

ISLAMABAD (Online): Total number rose to 85 after 17 more dengue cases were reported in the federal capital. According to authorities of Health Department, 17 cases of dengue were reported in Islamabad in the last 24 hours and after which the total number of infected patients in the federal capital rose to 85.

In the current season,

According to DHO

among cops to ensure transparency in policing ISLAMABAD (APP): behind this initiative is to

Islamabad police have distributed body cameras among the dedicated personnel of the Dolphin Squad to bolster transparency and accountability within the force. Under the direct orders of Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO), the SSP Safe City initiated the distribution of these body cameras, coupled with comprehensive training on their proper

at the City School.

ensure the secure and verifiable recording of interactions between police officials and the public.

By doing so, the Islamabad Capital Police aims to foster a safer environment, deter criminal activities, and keep a vigilant eye on any suspicious inviduals or events. During the training

session, Dolphin Squad members were instructed to consistently wear and operate these body cameras The primary objective while on duty.

Poor investigation in murder case SC summons IG Punjab, **RPO** in matter

Supreme Court (SC) has summoned IG Punjab and RPO Sheikhupura due to poor investigation in murder case.

A two members bench of SC presided over by Justice Mazahar Ali Naqvi took up bail plea of a citizen Sanwal Yousuf for hearing Wednesday.

Justice Mazahar Ali Naqvi while expressing resentment over the concerned IO and DSP during the hearing of the case re-

vestigation officer has not included name of the accused in investigation. The injured is saying Sanwal Yousuf opened firing. is the investigation carried out like

Justice Mazahar Ali Naqvi remarked as to why IO and DSP be not sent to jail from here.

The court ordered the senior police officers to appear before it due to poor investigation in murder

Nothing left for Imran Khan in Pakistani politics: Tessori

LONDON (INP): Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori has said that he doesn't see

also advised those still part of the PTI to, "Think of Pakistan first and then the any place in Pakistani politics for former prime minister Imran Khan after orchestrating 9 May violent attacks on Pakistan Army

installations. Speaking to the media in London, Tessori said that the events of 9th May involving Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) attacks on Jinnah House and other military areas — had jolted Pakistan and set a new course. The governor said that 9th May was similar to the Peshawar Army Public School attacks and both events had united the nation against

Tessori, who is in London on a private family visit, said: "The elements involved in the 9 May attacks are left behind and the nation has come on one page. No decent and civilised society allows the destruction and arson of its important national places such as the residence of Pakistan Muhammad Ali Jinnah, mosques and core headquarters; people don't burn their police stations

in the world, these people burnt down their Core headquarters and attempted attacks on military installations. After all of this, I think there is nothing left for Imran Khan in Pakistani politics.' The Sindh governor ment.

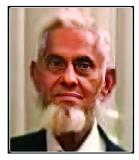
leader. The nation comes first, no harm in following any leader but not at the cost of Pakistan."

He also accentuated that he had the opportunity of working closely with former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif and found that he was very hard-working and wellmeaning and always listened to the grievances of others and tried to resolve their problems. "Imran Khan only made others listen to him and never tried to listen to others", the Tessori noted.

Expressing his views on the prospects of political meetings in London, the governor apprised that he had no plans of meeting Nawaz Sharif as nothing is planned but he said he will be calling Shehbaz Sharif, who is also in London

these days.
Furthermore, Tessori said there is no chance of him meeting the Muttahida Movement (MQM) founder Altaf Hussain. He said, "Altaf Hussain's issue is not political; his real issue is with the state of Pakistan. I am convinced he has no future in Pakistani politics. One of the main reasons is the deprivation of Karachi's plight including its education, gas, electricity, and develop-

CONDOLENCE -



APNS expresses profound grief over the sad

demise of

Mr. Hafeez Ulfat **Publisher and Chief Editor**

Daily Sarhad Peshawar

May Allah the Almighty rest his soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the family to bear the loss.



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