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Will not allow army to take any unconstitutional steps: CJP Bandial

Says those who abide by Constitution will be successful; Armed forces should be "praised" for not opening fire on civilians on May 9; Hearing adjourned indefinitely

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Adjourning the hearing of a set of petitions challenging civilian trials in military courts indefinitely on Thursday, CJP Umar Ata Bandial remarked that the Supreme Court will not allow the Pakistan Army from carrying out any un-constitutional act.

"Those who build their case on the Constitution of Pakistan and law will be successful," said CJP Bandial.

The six-member bench led by CJP Bandial and comprising Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Ayesha A Malik and Justice Yahya Afridi adjourned the hearing for an indefinite period.

During the hearing, the

Thursday said that Paki-

stan wanted to enhance its

relations with the United

Kingdom (UK), the Repub-

lic of Korea, and Malawi in

the fields of trade,

these remarks while talking

to the High Commissioner-

designates of the United

Kingdom and Malawi, and

the Ambassador-designate

of the Republic of Korea to

their diplomatic credentials

to the president and sepa-

rately called on him, at

the UK's High Commis-

sioner to Pakistan, the

president said that Pakistan

APP Headquarters.

Independent Report

QUETTA: The nephew of

Chief of Sarawan and

former Chief Minister

Balochistan, Nawab Aslam

Haroon Raisani was laid to

rest in the ancestral grave-

vard of Kanak, Mastung on

people belonging to different walks of life including

the political and tribal el-

ders attended the funeral prayer and burial of Nawabzada Haroon

Raisani. Also among those

participated in the funeral

and burial of Nawabzada

Haroon Raisani, son of

Nawabzada Asadullah and burial.

A large number of

Thursday morning.

Raisani,

Nawabzada

The envoys presented

Talking to Jane Marriot,

attached utmost signifi- ship.

Pakistan.

Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The president made

economy, and culture.

CJP observed that the incidents of May 9 were of a serious nature. He said it pained him to hear remarks about the Pakistan Army being equipped to open fire

on protestors on May 9. The CJP added that the army is meant to serve the country. The Pakistan Army did the correct thing by not resorting to shooting citizens on May 9, he

Earlier, Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Awan assured the court that the 102 civilian suspects currently under military custody will be fairly treated during ongo-

AGP Awan claimed that his assurance are coming from the military's top leadership. Concessions are

ISLAMABAD: The United Kingdom's High Commissioner-designate to Pa-

kistan Ms Jane Marriot, the Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Korea

Mr. Park ki Jun, and the high Commissioner-designate of Malawi Mr Younos

Abdul Karim, presenting their diplomatic credentials to President Dr. Arif

President for enhancing ties

with UK, South Korea, Malawi

ISLAMABAD (APP): cance to its longstanding President Dr Arif Alvi on ties with the UK, which world needed to prevent the incidence of the inci

connections and enduring

people-to-people linkages.

countries needed to further

expand and promote eco-

nomic and trade relations

for the mutual benefit of the

He also lauded the contributions of the Pakistani

diaspora in the UK towards

its socio-economic devel-

scored the need for

strengthening cultural ties

and people-to-people con-

both governments were

committed to establishing

and maintaining a more ro-

bust and long-term relation-

President Alvi under-

He highlighted that

two sides.

opment.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information

and Broadcasting Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb and

Her Excellency Pang Chunxue, the Charge

d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan cut-

ting ribbon to inaugurate Chinese News Service at

Nawabzada Haroon Raisani

laid to rest in Kanak and so

Brahmdagh Lehri in Quetta

burial

Raisani were his uncle,

Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani and other relatives,

Balochistan Food Author-

ity, Muhammad Naeem

Bazai was also among those

attended the funeral and

Brahmdagh Lehri was also

laid to rest in the local grave-

vard of Killi Ghousabad, in Ouetta the same noon. Ear-

lier, his funeral prayer was

offered at the Jamia e islamia

Maftahul Uloom. A large

number of people from dif-

ferent shades of life partici-

pated in the funeral prayer

Meanwhile.

well wishers and friends. The Director General

He remarked that both

were grounded in historic and discourage the inci-

being made for May 9 suspects on the court's insistence, said the AGP.

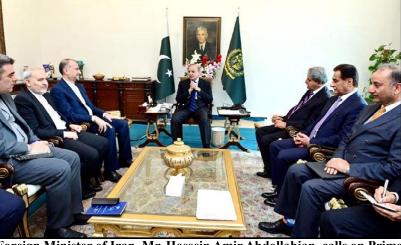
At one point the AGP also reminded the court that the military is armed.

"No efforts are being made to overturn the Constitution Pakistan...What happened

on May 9 is before everyone," said AGP Awan. "Remember one thing – they are the armed forces. If they are attacked, they have weapons to defend themselves.

The AGP further said that the army is equipped to fire bullets. "It is not possible that if they are attacked, they first approach an SHO to lodge a formal complaint."
"They [the military]

Continued on page 2



Foreign Minister of Iran, Mr. Hossein Amir Abdollahian, calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad.

We all have to take ahead this country: PM

Country's interests sole purpose of meetings held with army chiefs throughout political career; People taunt me, calling me the establishment's man, but this doesn't bother me; Global action a must to save faultless countries like Pak from climate disaster

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has said we have to take ahead this

'We have to take forward this country. If we decide with consensus that we have to take ahead this country then we can make progress with consultation, national unity and national consensus. PM said this while addressing a ceremony following inauguration of Bhara Kahu Bypass people. Only those people can understand it who are

here Thursday. "I am taunted that I am

man of establishment. Such things don't make any difference to my health. The objective was only this that government and establishment should together take ahead country, he added.

He went on to say "I, you and Marriyum Aurangzeb cannot understand the circumstances of these millions of poor

facing this situation. Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir has a very vital role in completion of this project, he added. Had he not given full attention and not persuaded and supported if this project would not have been completed. I am thankful to him. He has

shown great commitment. This project was and is Nawaz Sharif vision, he said adding Nawaz Sharif

Continued on page 2

Chief Minister Bizenjo approves allocation of budget for bar bodies of Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has approved

ocation of the budget for the bar bodies of the province. This was announced in an official hand out issued here on Thursday. The approval was made under the Section 57 of the Legal Practitioner Bar Council

As per the hand out, the budget has been allocated for the Balochistan bar bodies on

permanent basis in the financial year 2023-24. The Chief Minister gave approval to the budget on the summary sent by the Law

With approval of the summary, the Balochistan High Court Bar Association (BHCBA) would get Rs. 5 million while the Loralai, Sibi, Khuzdar and Turbat High Court Asso-

ciations would get Rs. 2 million each. Similarly, all the district bar councils would be released Rs. 1 million each, the official hand out mentioned.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar in a group photo with under trainee officers of the 37th Mid-career Management Course (MCMC) at the National Institute of Management (NIM) Quetta

Governor Balochistan emphasizes:

16 killed in rain-related incidents in **Balochistan**

dents of the Islamophobia

Jun, the ambassador of the Republic of Korea, the

president said that Pakistan

highly valued its multidi-

mensional relationship

with Korea, encompassing

political, economic, scien-

tific, cultural, and people-

kistan and Korea had tre-

mendous potential to in-

crease bilateral trade to fur-

ther strengthen economic

was open for business and

investment, and would

welcome Korean invest-

ment in all sectors of its

He said that Pakistan

He mentioned that Pa-

to-people linkages.

relations.

economy.

Speaking to Park Ki

in the world.

QUETTA (APP): The death toll from the monsoon rains and floods during last one month in different parts of Balochistan has risen to 16 people and around 1330 houses have been swept away. As per Provincial

Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) death toll from recent monsoon rains and floods in different parts of Balochistan merit. has risen to 16, including 8 men, 2 women and 6 children, while 24 persons have

QUETTA: The Governor

that the civil officers play key role in establishing good governance, formation of corruption-free society and utilization of development budget for the public welfare. Therefore, it is responsibility of the civil officers to take special steps for ending safarish culture and nepotism and ensuring implementation of the

were expressed by the Gov-

Addressing the participants of MCMC, the Governor said that the civil officers are posted on the important portfolios, and they have the capability to transform the society.

officers to use their pen, knowledge and authority welfare work.

He also urged them to pay wholehearted attention on performing their responsibilities and public service as per the law and constitution.

He also said that we have expectations with the officers coming from other provinces that they would play their role in removing the hardships of people of Balochistan while serving in their respective departments.

Earlier, the NIM Director General also addressed the officers while Khalid

\$5 b trade volume PM reaffirms commitment to strengthen Pak-Iran relations ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa-"I am confident that the steps we are taking today, will chart the course for a day set a target of \$5 billong-term durable economic lion for bilateral trade as the partnership between our two countries chalked out a five-year trade cooperatwo countries in the

tion plan to enhance coop-

Agreement and establishing

of institutional linkages be-

tween the private sectors of

both countries.

Pakistan, Iran

chalk out five-year

trade plan; target

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, held a meeting as well as the addressing a joint press stakeout with his Iranian delegation-level talks. He said during their meeting, they had agreed to counterpart Hossein Amir Abdollahian, said the fiveprioritize operationalization of the year trade cooperation plan was aimed at removing imfive remaining border markets by the end of current pediments in bilateral trade, finalizing the Free Trade

Foreign Minister Bilawal said Pakistan and

months and years ahead,"

the foreign minister told the

media after the two leaders

Continued on page 2



Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and Iran Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian witnessing signing of memoranda of understanding between Pakistan and Iran in Islamabad.

BHC declares appointment of Ombudsperson null, void & without lawful authority

Division bench headed by CJ BHC restrains Ms. Noor Jehan Mengal from acting as Ombudsman with immediate effect; directs to appoint Ombudsperson on strength of criteria strictly in accordance with law

Independent Report OUETTA:

Balochistan High Court (BHC) has declared the appointment of Ms. Noor Jahan Mengal as Ombudsperson, Balochistan against harassment of women at workplace as null, void and with-out lawful authority and of no legal effect.

The court also restrained Ms. Mengal from acting the Ombudsperson with immediate effect and directed the Secretary Women Development to appoint ombudsperson on the

strength of criteria man-The dated by section 7(3) of the Act, 2016 strictly in accordance with the law.

The division bench headed by the Chief Justice, BHC, Mr. Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan in a constitutional petition filed by Ms. Andleeb Qaisrani, Tayyaba Altaf and Bibi Shakar Baloch against the appointment of Ms. Noor Mengal as Ombudsperson, here on Thursday.

The court, however, remarked that the instant Continued on page 2

Minister Home takes notice of Korangi incident

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has taken notice of the incident of firing that claimed lives of two students from Mastung in

Korangi area of Karachi. The Minister Home also directed the Additional Chief Secretary Home to seek report from the Additional Chief Secretary and Inspector General of Police Sindh about the incident.

He said that the killing of students at hands of the law enforcement agencies is a matter of concern. However, he urged the masses of the province to maintain

environment of brotherhood among their ranks.

The Minister Home asserted that the provincial government would not leave its citizens in isolation. He also said that the provincial government is with its people living in any part of the country.

He said that we are Pakistanis and we should live with one thinking and ide-

He expressed grief and share with the bereaved family of the victims of firing. He assured that action would be taken against those responsible as soon as there is progress into the matter



rately offering Fateha on sad demise of Sardarzada Haroon Raisani and Mir Bramdagh Lehri

Civil officers ought to take special steps for ending safarish culture, nepotism and ensuring merit can please Allah by doing **Independent Report** career Management Course

Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated

This and similar views

(MCMC) at the National Institute of Management (NIM) Quetta on Thurs-

Also present on the occasion was the Director General of NIM, Muhammad Aslam Ghani.

He exhorted the civil

ernor while addressing the closing ceremony of trainee officers of the 37th Mid-masses. He said that they sented welcome address. PM's Health Insurance Scheme for journalists, artists historic step of Shehbaz Sharif: Marriyum

insurance scheme for journalists and artists was a historic decision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. While addressing the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and State Life Insurance Corporation for the health insurance of journalists and artists here Thursday, she said that the prime minister took a historic decision for the health insurance of journalists and artists, which was starting from today, for the first time in the history of Pakistan.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said that the health

She said that Rs 1 billion had been allocated for each category of journalists and artists from all over Pakistan in the current fiscal year. She said that the prime minister had issued directives that the money allocated in the budget for journalists and artists should not be limited to announcements only but practical steps should be taken on this project.

The minister said that the registration for health insurance was started two weeks ago for journalists and media workers and one week ago for artists. She said that the foundation of the health insurance card scheme was laid during the Nawaz Sharif tenure as prime minister. She said that keeping in mind the experience of State Life Insurance Corporation, the Ministry of Information was going to issue health insurance cards for journalists and artists community. Continued on page 2

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PM launches Digital Youth Hub as one-stop guide on youth initiatives

ISLAMABAD (APP): of business loans. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday launched a Digital Youth Hub portal to provide integrated and one-stop guidance on the youth-related initiatives launched by the government.

In his address, the prime minister congratulated the youth on the launch of the facility and assured that the government was expanding Youth Program across the country as laptops and business loans were being disbursed across the country.

He told the gathering that Rs 30 billion had already been disbursed by the banks to youth in the form

had been specified for vouth-related initiatives including IT programs, freelancing, IT incubators and others, besides another Rs 5 billion allocated for sports projects.

Minister Prime Shehbaz said he had replicated his idea of an Endowment Fund at the federal level as an Education Endowment Fund had been set up with Rs5 billion

funding.

He said the facilities like laptops and other funding initiatives were only meant for the high achievers of the public sector uni-

Justice Akhtar observed

He said that it could not

The concept of funda-

remarked Justice

Access to justice is part

mental human rights is such

Akhtar, emphasizing that

these rights have been guar-

anteed by the Constitution.

of fundamental rights, ob-

served Justice Ayesha. If

military courts are not

[same as] a court of law, then

trials conducted by them

would be tantamount to a

denial of fundamental rights,

she said, he AGP contended

that military courts are simi-

lar to tribunals and deal with

people associated with the

institutions. "Court martial

is not part of courts formed

under Article 175, thus it

doesn't give the right to ap-

peal." CJP Bandial re-

marked that the bench was

now reviewing the consti-

tutionality of trials of civil-

ians for offences listed un-

der the Army Act. The court

is now moving towards con-

stitutional procedure and

how a case goes before mili-

questioned appointment as

illegal and directed the Sec-

retary Women Develop-

ment to invite the applica-

tions afresh for the office

of the Ombudsperson un-

der the Act 2016 on the ba-

sis of eligibility criteria as

mentioned under Section

7)3) of the said stature on

merit and in accordance

tioners' arguments is that

judge of a High Court un-

der section 7 sub-section

(3) clause (a) of the Act

2016.

OUETTA: Balochistan National Party (BNP) Cen-

tral General Secretary, Waja Jahanzaib Baloch

addresses to media persons during press confer-

ence held at Quetta press club.

The crux of the peti-

with the law.

tary courts, he said.

BHC declares appointment...

that ensuring fundamental

rights of citizens could not

be left to the "sweet will of

be such that one house of

parliament includes some

offences in the Army Act

parliament"

The prime minister He said Rs 80 billion asked the youngsters to register themselves at the portal to avail the available facilities.

The prime minister thanked SAPM Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Lt General Senator Abdul Qayyum, vice-chancellors, and members of the Youth Parliament for their efforts to uplift youth. He assured the partici-

pants of continuing his efforts to empower youth to make Pakistan a great coun-The prime minister told the Azerbaijan Ambas-

sador, also attending the ceremony, that a horticultural delegation from his

Islamabad and shared experiences with the CDA which would be replicated in Islamabad.

As the prime minister asked youth representatives to express their emotions, Abdul Hakeem of Youth Parliament and Muhammad Shehzad of Pakistan Youth Council arose to laud the leadership of the prime minister for steering the country out of economic crisis within 15 months period.

They spoke against the efforts to fan polarisation in society and urged the youth to utilise their energies for productive





BAGHDAD: Federal Minister for Interior Rana Sana Ullah Khan inaugurating Machine Readable Passport System at Pakistan Embassy.

Will not allow army to...

Continued from page 1 arguments.

could have opened fire [on citizens] on May 9," said the AGP

This prompted Barrister Aitzaz Ahsan, one of the petitioners, to ask the AGP why the military did not open fire then on the day

and the other house of par-"We do not want that liament removes or adds such a situation is created other offences. next time that the army resorts to opening fire. This is why we are conducting that the state cannot take [military] trials.' them back even if it wants

At this, Barrister Ahsan observed that the incumbent government's tenure ends on August 12. "How can they give assurances then?" he asked.

At one point during the hearing, Justice Munib Akhtar observed that the state cannot deprive citizens of their fundamental rights even if it wishes to.

He observed that the trial of civilians being conducted by military courts was equivalent to running a parallel judicial system in the country. He asked AGP to comment on Articles 175 and 175 (3) of the Constitution, which pertain to the establishment and limits of

To this, AGP Awan replied that, "Court martial doesn't fall under the juris-

diction of Article 175 This prompted Justice Avesha to inquire whether there was any other provision in the Constitution to provide basis for the AGP's

Continued from page 1

fect in any manner the de-

cisions made or proceedings

taken by the respondent

No. 4 (Ms.Noor Jahan

Mengal) as Ombudsperson

under the Act 2016 not it

will affect in any manner the

administrative orders and

appointment (s) made, if

any, by her as the

The petitioners, through this constitution

petition, have assailed the

appointment of Ms. Noor

Jahan Mengal to the statu-

ary public office of B a l o c h i s t a n

Ombudsperson vide notifi-

cation dated 21 December,

2022 and, prayed for issu-

ance of a writ of quo war-

ranto, that respondent No.

4 (Ms. Noor Jahan Mengal)

was not qualified to be ap-

pointed as Ombudsperson

under section 7(3) of the

Balochistan Protection

against Harassment of

Women at the workplace

Act 2016, Briefly, facts of the case

are that the petitioner No. 1 filed a CP No. 1605/2021

before this court whereby

the appointment of ex-

Ombudsperson Mrs. Sabira

Islam was assailed. The

court, vide judgment dated 29 July, 2022, declared the

Ombudsperson.

iudgment shall not af-

Pakistan, Iran chalk out... Continued from page 1

Iran had decided to repatriate all the sentenced prisoners as per provisions of existing agreements between two sides. It was also decided to set free fishermen in custody in Pakistan and Iran and to waive off any fine imposed by the authorities of both countries for the release of their

He said the two sides would exchange lists of prisoners to put into practice the understanding expeditiously.

The meeting also discussed the grave human rights situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Foreign Minister Bilawal thanked the Iranian leadership for its firm and consistent support to the legitimate cause of Kashmiri people.

Online adds: The Foreign Minister of Iran, Mr. Hossein Amir Abdollahian called on the Prime Min-Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif ir Islamabad today.

Underscoring the close brotherly relations between the two countries, the Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthen these ties, with particular focus on enhancing cooperation in the economic domain. Recalling the joint inauguration, with President Ebrahim Raisi, of the Mand-Pishin border marketplace on 18 May 2023. the Prime Minister stressed that initiatives aimed at economic uplift of the border areas, were a tangible manifestation of the shared priority to collectively work for the betterment of our two peoples.

PM's Health Insurance.... Continued from page 1

The minister said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will issue health insurance cards on August 7 to both journalists and artists. Marriyum said that ir a short period of 15 months the government had done important legislation for the welfare of journalists, linking their minimum wages with government business She said that health facilities would be provided to journalists in the form of

the respondent No. 4 (Ms. health insurance cards. Mengal) could not have The federal minister appointed as said that various surgeries Ombudsperson for, she had including renal surgery, not been or was not qualiheart surgery and cardiac fied to be a judge of a High surgery including indoor Court and was not or had and outdoor medical facilinot been in the service of ties were covered under the Pakistan in BPS-19 or health insurance scheme while ambulance service Moreover, in violation would also be provided unof the proposal of his own

der this card. department, and by ignor-She said that many ing the note of Law departvalue additions have also ment, GoB, the secretary been done by State Life Inwomen development issued surance in the scheme impugned notification Marrivum Aurangzeb said which is illegal and was isthat along with health insursued without lawful authorance scheme, the welfare of ity as the respondent No. 4 journalists and artists had was not fulfilling the eligialso been arranged by the bility criteria mandated by incumbent government. section 7(3) of the Act 2016 She said that in a short as she had not been or wasn't qualified to be a

period of 15 months, Rs 120 million have been recovered and paid to newspaper employees in the form of salaries, while health insurance including job security of media workers has been started.

The federal minister said that in the last four years, the country was facing serious economic crisis and important projects were delayed. She said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif not only rescued these projects but also restored them and ensured their completion

The minister thanked the entire team of the Ministry of Information for making the health insurance scheme for journalists and artists a success.

AML/CFT Authority established to counter terror financing

ISLAMABAD (Online): An important bill for the establishment of the Authority for Anti-Money Laundering and Prevention of Financing of Terrorism dering and terrorist financ-(AML/CFT) has also been approved by the National Assembly on Thursday, under which the authority will also be able to impose targeted financial sanctions. According to the con-

tents of the bill for the establishment of the National Anti-Money Laundering authority of the prime minand Counter Financing of Terrorism Authority approved by the National Assembly, the authority will monitor the transactions of relevant institutions against anti-money laundering and counter-financing of

The authority will also impose targeted financial sanctions. The Authority will act as a focal point for FATF and other relevant international organizations.

terrorism.

According to the bill, the authority will oversee the national strategy to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

The Authority will also be able to approve the National Action Plan (NAP) in the context of the Na-

The Authority will be able to review the national policies, laws and regulations against money launing and also recommend amendments in the relevan

And send recommendations to the federal and provincial governments for policy making. The appointment of the chairman of the authority will be the

The chairman will be appointed for three years. The appointment of the Director General of the Authority will also be the authority of the Prime Minister.

Secretary Finance, Foreign Affairs, Interior, Governor State Bank, Chairman SECP, Chairman NAB, DG FIA, DG ANF, Chairman FBR, DG Financial Monitoring Unit and National Coordinator of NECTA are also the part of the authority. After the passage of the law, the National Financial Action Task Force Coordination Committee and the National Financial Action

Task Force will be abol-

ished

PM receives Junior Squash **World Champion** Hamza; awards Rs10m prize

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here on Thursday received World Junior Squash Champion Hamza Kĥan and also awarded him a cheque of Rs1 million for his acknowledgment.

Hamza Khan appreciated the prime minister as well as the cooperation he received from the Pakistan Squash Federation.

The prime minister, who also interacted with Hamza's parents in the Pashtu language, congratulated Hamza Khan for winning the World Junior Squash Championship held recently in Australia.

Calling the youth like Hamza the pride and asset of the nation, the prime minister said Hamza made the whole nation including himself proud by winning such a title after decades.

Recalling his experience of playing squash and calling it the best game, the prime minister expressed the hope that Hamza would continue to work hard to win the senior world title. He said that Hamza was a role model for Pakistan's youth and that he always strived for providing the sports facilities of international facilities to the youth.

Govt fails to ensure sugar supply in province: Traders

Independent Report

QUETTA: Muhammad Asif Tarin Patron-in-Chief Pishin Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Executive Member Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry has said that despite acute sugar crisis in Balochistan, the government has failed to ensure timely provision of sugar to the consumers.

Addressing a press conference, Spokesperson Association Balochistan and the officials of Balochistan Sugar Association, patron in chief Pishin chamber of commerce and industry and member of federal chamber of commerce have other traders including

Syed Abdul Rahman Shah Agha, Siddiqullah Durrani, Saifullah Longo and others said that there is no industry or factory in Balochistan from the first day. Yes, the business community is not being supported in terms of legalities and taxes to establish a factory. "Those who are doing legal business are also reluctant to do legal business due to the weakness and incompetence of various government insti-

tutions."They maintained. They further details their demand was that all

issued sugar quota according to the 2017 household census, according to which each household will get only 17 kg of sugar per month, in addition to the trade related to sugar. For example, bakery, juice shop, hotel, restaurant, and other institutions are also getting 17 kg per month, which is contrary to the reality and it is cruel because at least one to two sacks are given to a small house. And 10 to 15 sacks sent for a commercial trade organization are used. They also asserted that the sugar quota should be released according to the population of 2023, especially according to the law in relation to the fair and transparent distribution of sugar by the Industries and Commerce Department. Issuance of permits has been

Balochistan, especially the

capital Quetta, have been

lowed to go", they alleged. Shedding light on the illegal businesses, they stated that instead of legal business, the smuggling business is going on vigorously. They deplored that that From the first day, It is obvious that smuggling is not possible without

started, but despite this,

the issued permits have ei-

ther been stopped or

closed. "Sugar permits

have been issued to 10 reg-

istered sugar dealers, but

they are still not being al-



The Executive Engineer CW, P P & H Department District Kohlu intends to carry out the following Provincial Public Sector Development works and invites sealed tenders based on composite schedule of rates 2018 GoB from the PEC Registered Government Contractors having category C - 6 and above. Earnest Money 2%

S# Name of Schemes

Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and Time limit July 2024 for each work E/Cost 1. Construction of Rest House Pazza District Kohlu 19.997

TSE-232408346313 2. CONSTRUCTION OF 03 ROOMS FOR SHULTER 9.7 M LESS SCHOOL KILLI MIR BAIYAN PAWADI DISTRICT KOHLU. TSE-232408346403

The Procurement shall be carried out in accordance with the BPPRA

rules 2014 and Amended 2019. The BOQ and tender documents may also be downloaded from the BPPRA website from their respective TS E No. Mentioned above. ELIGIBILITY OF CONTRACTORS: Firms/contractors (Single Entity) having valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in constructor's Category C-6 & above with Specialization Only firms/contractors with PEC certificates renewed for the current year will be considered for bidding. Valid registration certificate of PEC in the relevant category and having following Specialization Codes: CE 01, CE 10. Valid registration certificates from Income Tax Authority (NTN) and BST from Balochistan Revenue Authority (BRA). Relevant Completed of Works with completion Certificate 3 No Schemes with completion Certificate. Turnover of at least last three years. Audit reports of past 3 years from a chartered accountant firm. The firm/ Contractor either blacklisted nor involved in any Litigation / Arbitration (Attach all certificates and the affidavit (on non-judicial stamp paper) of not blacklisting not involved in any litigation / arbitration. Valid registration certificates from Income Tax Authority (NTN) and BST from Balochistan Revenue Authority (BRA). In case the bidders not fulfill the above requirements, their financial proposals will not be taken into account METHOD OF PROCUREMENT: Single Stage (One envelop) procedure will be adopted for this procurement. PURCHASING OF SET OF ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE & DRAWINGS: The contractors may purchase the set of drawings and copy of estimates at the cost of RS: 1,000/= per set of the contract for appraisal and scope of work BIDDING / TENDER DOCUMENTS ISSUANCE: The bidder(s) car obtain the bidding documents from the address mentioned below in office working hours on production of green challan form for ar amount of Rs: Mentioned above (NON REFUNDABLE) deposited in the head of account C02716 thorough Government Treasury/National Bank of Pakistan OR can be downloaded from website of BPPRA (www.bppra.gob.pk),under TSE Nos. given against each package above from the date of publication of this invitation in newspapers till to the last date of submission i.e 17-08-2023 until 11:00 pm. BIDDING / TENDER DOCUMENTS OPEING The tenders will be opened on 18-08-2023 at 11:00 P.M. before the procurement committee in the presence of contractors or their authorized representatives who may wish to be present. DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION: Technical & Financial proposals from intending contractors/firms sealed in two (2) separate envelopes clearly marked with work title and type of proposal must be delivered by hand or through registered mail to the address mentioned below or before 17-08-2023 at 12:00 Hrs. SUBMISSION OF EARNEST MONEY: Earnest money 2% of estimated cost in shape of call deposit to be produced from any scheduled bank as mentioned against the contract will be enclosed with the bidding documents TERMS & CONDITIONS: Terms & Conditions are mentioned (incorporated) in detail in Bidding Documents. The bidders providing unsubstantiated and / or incorrect information will be liable to disqualification and / or legal action. PLACE OF OPENING TENDERS: The place of issuance and opening of tenders and inquiries about the tender viz. site of work and scope of work shall be at the following address. Office address Executive Engineer CW, P.F. & H Department District Kohlu, Land Line # 0829-667320. E-mail: executiveengineerbuildingkohlu@gmail.com



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif presenting cash prize of Rs. 10 million to Hamza Khan who recently won the World Junior Squash Championship.

We all have to take....

Continued from page 1

was removed from government through worst conspiracy otherwise this project would have been completed during his ten-

Metro bus project had stalled and when we came to power again we run it within few weeks, he indi-

Ahead of IMF agreement we were facing shortage of foreign exchange reserves. Therefore, it was difficult to open LCs. Now LCs are opening. Now electric buses will start coming and there will be no

Some friends taunt me I am man of establishment, he said adding such things make no difference to my health. Was I to reap personal benefits then it would have been meant so.

I give you an example because this thing has become public. It was said about Pervez Musharraf that Shahbaz Sharif was close to him. But Nawaz Sharif

went to jail and I too went to jail. Like him I and my family was exiled. What I got. It is and will remain there in my heart that there are our ground realities that we have to take care of this poor nation. APP adds: Prime

Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday called for timely decisions and actions, warning that climate disasters could also hit other countries like Pakistan with even no contribution to the emis-

The prime minister, addressing a seminar on cli-

mate change, urged the international community to burden. stand for the future and He said Pakistan was work hard as the calamities like flash floods in Pakistan could hit any other

He said Pakistan was among ten countries facing the impacts of climate change despite having no fault. "We need to stand for

country too.

our future. We need to work hard. Let us accept the challenge, work out a plan, and not waste time to save generations," the prime minister remarked. He said it had been a

vear since the most devastating floods in history put one-third of Pakistan under water and caused largescale destruction of infrastructure including millions of acres of standing crops and houses.

He said it was the worst flood he had seen in his entire life as Sindh looked like River Indus flowing all around. He said despite the

government having spent billions of rupees, the challenge was not yet over. He thanked the friendly countries and do-

nors for timely rescue and questioned what would be the consequences if the country was hit again bu a similar disaster. The prime minister asked what was the fault of the countries like Paki-

the crisis of "unknown consequence. He urged the international community to ponder over the situation and suggest solutions as the countries like Pakistan

stan which had been facing

could not afford the debt

still dealing with the IMF program with a huge gap between its exports and imports. "If we have such a ter-

rible natural accident, we

need extra money to deal with the situation. This needs the answer. Come forward with the solid recommendation for implementation in letter and spirit," he remarked. On the very issue, the

nrime minister wrote on a social media platform that the floods had inflicted an overall loss of \$30 billion on Pakistan's economy. He said Pakistan used

the unprecedented floods to

warn the world of impend-

ing disasters induced by climate change.

We called for prompt global action and a show of solidarity to help the countries most vulnerable to climate change impacts, he

added. Minister Prime Shehbaz said under the 4RF framework, Pakistan had been working on recovery, rehabilitation and rebuilding of the flood-affected re-

He said the federal cabinet recently approved a landmark National Adaptation Plan 2023, which would ensure that the country's policies, infrastructure, and communities were fully equipped to tackle the challenges.

'Together with our partners and friends, we will ensure the success of the climate journey," he commented

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CW,PP&H Department, District Kohlu

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Independent

Friday August 04, 2023

APITAL NEWS

Page 03

Inaugurates newly constructed Bhara Kahu Bypass

PM stresses need of collaboration among all stakeholders for dev., prosperity of country

Project would facilitate commuters and tourists travelling from Rawalpindi Islamabad to Murree, Azad Kashmir and other hilly areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif inaugurated newly constructed Bhara Kahu bypass project at a ceremony held in Islamabad on Thursday. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, he said the project would facilitate commuters and tourists travelling from Rawalpindi Islamabad to Murree, Azad Kashmir and other hilly areas. The Prime Minister said the Bhara Kahu bypass project, which has been completed in a very short span of only nine month time at a cost of six billion rupees, would also provide easy access to people who travel on daily basis be-

stressed on the need of collaboration among all the stakeholders and state institutions for development and prosperity of the country. Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif worked day and night to provide relief to the people of Pakistan. She said stabilizing Pakistan's economy is not less than a miracle. Marriyum Aurangzeb said previous government could not complete a single project in the capital city.
PML-N leader Dr.

traffic jam issue at Bara will not only facilitate Kahu. The Prime Minister people of Islamabad, but it will also facilitate tourists across Pakistan visiting northern areas.

He said rural areas of Islamabad were ignored in past and all development projects were carried out in established sectors of the capital. He said incumbent government introduced bus services for commuters.

Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhary said multipurpose sports facility and parks will be established on the left and right side of the bypass. Speaking on the occasion, PML-N leader Muhammad Hanif Abbasi said Capital Development Authority executed over



Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal chairs a meeting of Education Research Commission in Islamabad.

Operational universities without NOCs risking students' future: Rana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Federal Edu-cation and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain on Thursday emphasized the paramount importance of fulfilling legal prerequisites and obtaining a 'No Objection Certificate' for the establishment of universities rather than putting the future of students at risk.

Speaking here at National Assembly, the minister stressed the significance of obtaining official approval, specifically the No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Higher Education Commission (HEC), prior to granting charter approval.

He expressed concern over several universities operating without the necessary NOC, despite having charter approval. This incongruence has led to the issuance of degrees that lack the HEC's attestation, rendering them essentially

The minister underscored that degrees from such institutions hold no credibility and leave students, their families, and guardians in a state of distress even after completion of degree despite heavy financial investment.

The minister acknowledged instances of student protests stemming from these irregularities and underscored that the absence of proper procedures within these degree-awarding universities was trou-

He clarified that while the National Assembly possesses authority to legislate the establishment of universities within the confines of Islamabad Capital Territory, it does not extend to granting approvals for universities in provinces. However, the Assembly can deliberate on legislation pertaining to institutions and new campuses affiliated with Islamabad-based universities.



ISLAMABAD: Labourers busy in construction work of IJP Road during development work in

Senate body wants LHC CJ intervention in IUB drugs, video scandal

Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training Thursday decided to approach Chief Justice (CJ) Lahore High Court (LHC) requesting him to constitute a commission to probe into the Islamia University Bahawalpur (IUB) drugs and video Scandals issue.

The committee that met here with Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui in the chair decided to address the matter by writing a letter to the LHC CJ, urging the constitution of a judicial commission to conduct a thorough The IUB Vice-Chan-

cellor briefed the Senate body regarding concerning issues of drug sales, scandals, exploitation, and dissemination of obscene material involving students and teachers on Campus.

He informed the committee about ongoing investigations by the Punjab

ISLAMABAD (APP): Higher Education Department and a special inquiry committee established by the CM Punjab.

Notably, three university officers were in police custody for their involvement in illegal contraband drug possession, the committee briefed. The matter of harassment and obscene videos was still under investigation.

In light of the gravity of the issues, Senator Siddiqui remarked that this has the potential to not only disrupt education but also affect the lives of female students

During the meeting, the committee reviewed "The Higher Education Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2023," presented by Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain.

Senator Mian Raza Rabbani who attended the meeting on a special invitation provided valuable historical context.

August 5 one of darkest chapters in Kashmir's

history: Saghar ISLAMABAD (APP): The Convener of All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter, Mahmood Ahmed Saghar terming August 5 as one of the darkest chapters of Jammu and Kashmir's recent history said the Kashmiris do not accep Modi-led government's illegal actions it had taken on the day in 2019 in violation of the UN resolutions. According to Kashmir Media Service,

Mahmood Ahmed Saghar in a statement issued in Islamabad, Thursday, said, it was on August 5 in 2019 when the RSS-backed apartheid regime led by Modi snatched all political social, religious, and other basic rights of the people of occupied territory by dint of force.

River Indus experiencing medium flood since July 26

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has said that River Indus has been experiencing medium flood at Guddu and Sukkur since July and 30th July 2023 respectively, however, flows have now receded from 461,353 cusecs to 400,000 cusecs at Sukkur.

According to daily FFC report on Thursday, the maximum peak discharges were observed at Guddu on 30th July 2023 and at Sukkur on 31st July

Further to above, Rivers Indus at Taunsa Barrage (upstream Guddu), Ravi at Sidhnai and Sutlej at Suleimanki & Islam are also flowing in mild category flood (Low Flood) while rivers Jhelum & Chenab are discharging normal flows.

Tarbela and Mangla Reservoirs are at 1541.29 feet and 1231.90 feet respectively (i.e. 8.71 feet and 10.10 feet are below their respective MCL of 1550.00 feet and 1242.00 feet).

ISLAMABAD (Online): vener Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs stated that Local Government representatives are much closer to citizens unlike provincial and federal governments on

economic progress in the country, she added.

the SDGs.



Steering committee discusses legal migration opportunities to EU

Growing financing gap major

Pakistan's Climate Journey

here whereas the event

aimed to showcase the

government's collective ef-

forts and accomplishments

in combating climate change

over the past year, under-

scoring the critical impor-

tackling this global chal-

Investigation Agency, TEVTA (Punjab) and

progress and discussed op-

portunities as well as chal-

tee stressed the need for

The meeting reviewed

The steering commit-

ISLAMABAD (APP): Export Board, Higher Edu-Minister for Overseas Pakistan and Human Resources Development Sajid Turi and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar on Thursday co-chaired inaugural meeting of PM Steering Committee on Legal Migration Opportunities to European Union countries.

Barakahu Bypass.

Federal Minister for Cli-

mate Change and Environ-

mental Coordination Sena-

tor Sherry Rehman on

Thursday said the major

challenge to Pakistan's

Roadmap to 2030 was the

growing financing gap, and

the country needed state-

of-the-art projectisation,

resources and money to

scaffold adaptation and

transformational municipal,

rural and Agri-water gover-

nance for the years of

nate Change and Environ-

mental Coordination suc-

cessfully organized the Na-

The Ministry of Cli-

unpredictability ahead.

The meeting was attended by SAPM Tariq Fatemi and representatives of NAVTTC, Overseas Employment Corporation, Overseas Pakistanis Foundation, Pakistan Software

better coordination on skills development and certification, language proficiency and importance of regula-The participants also underscored the importance



ISLAMABAD: A view of the broken shed of Blue Line Bus Stop at Express Way, which needs the attention of concern authority.

Responsive and inclusive local governments essential for achieving SDGs

Convener Parliamentary Task Force on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam on Thursday said that sustainable progress cannot be achieved without a proactive third tier of government.

She stated this during the inaugural session of the National meet on Sustainable Development Goals 2023 with the theme "From Global Goals to Local Impact: empowering Local Government for SDGs Success" -Ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decisionmaking at all levels.

She said that this tier of the government (local government) should not only be empowered but should also be included in all policy formulation and strategy development. She further said that the local government system plays a pivotal role in the adoption and implementation of

Furthermore, Con-

account of constraints such as limited resources and limited personnel. Moreover, she said that United Nations has also recognized the significance of Local Governments in achieving the SDGs and urged governments to empower their local administrations and departments. It is high time that Federal and Provincial Governments collaborate with the third tier of Governance to localize the SDGs and ensure socio-

In addition, she stated that Parliamentarians and Government Representatives should ensure the implementation of the Local Government System in Pakistan in order to manage critical aspects of our communities such as education, healthcare, water and sanitation systems.

to 2030 climate resilience: Sherry Rehman in her keynote speech said, "We stand at the crossroads of history during this crucial decade leading up to 2030. Our people have been uprooted from their homes repeatedly due to the climate carnage,

inaugurates blocks of IBC complex

ISLAMABAD (Online): Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar Thursday inaugurated the extended blocks of Islamabad Bar Council (IBC) complex.

Talking to newsmen on the occasion, the minister said that a part of the happy ending came to me, adding that it was a fundamental right of the legal fra-

He said that the Constitution was superior to everybody and judges were more bound to follow it.

The minister said that good system should be developed for the next generations, adding that attitude is the problem, to correct attitude. He said that the lawyers are the main component for the development of the country, adding that if they fight for the rights of others then their rights should also be heard.

PAC directs MoWR to complete ongoing projects ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Thursday directed the Ministry of Water Resources to complete its ongoing various projects within the stipulated time to vield desirous results. Chairing PAC meeting, Chairman Noor Alam Khan said that the Ministry of Water Resources had launched several projects in the last 20 years but it could not complete a single project during the period.

The committee had shown serious concern over the non-attendance of the meeting by the Secretary Ministry of Water Resources and urged the authorities concerned to apprise him to appear before PAC in the next meeting.
"We will write a letter

of displeasure to the Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Water Resources to take actions against the officials and ask them to appear before the committee to settle the audit paras, Noor Alam Khan added.

He further said that the Department Audit Committee (DAC) ordered inquiries into many irregularities and embezzlement but the same were not being completed for years.

Ahsan unveils ERC to transform education sector, ensure sustainable dev.

SLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Igbal on Thursday unveiled a momentous Education Research Commission (ERC) to revolutionize the country's education system, ensure inclusive and sustainable national development. Chairing a maiden meeting of the commission, the minister shed light on the nation's paradoxical history, and said "Pakistan has ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurates achieved remarkable milestones, defying global opposition, and asserting itself as a nuclear power. challenge to Pakistan's Roadmap However, we face challenges in our education sector, which is vital for our future growth and prosper-

Emphasizing the significance of education as a fundamental right and a catalyst for socioeconomic progress, he reiterated that education impacted every citizen and transcended all societal barriers. He acknowledged the

widespread desire for highquality education and high-

lighted the need for urgent action to address the persistent shortcomings.

In his address, Ahsan Iqbal delved into crucial issues plaguing the education sector, expressing concern over the widening salary gap between public and private school teachers and recognizing the governance issue that hampered effective education delivery.

The minister called for comprehensive reforms to attract and retain highly qualified teachers, stressing the importance of stability of tenure in improving the quality of education.

Furthermore, Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the significance of data-driven decision-making and proposed the establishment of key performance indicators (KPIs) to assess the educa-tion system's efficiency and effectiveness

"By adopting evidence-based policy frameworks, Pakistan can ensure that every rupee invested in education yields optimal results and positively impacts the nation's future.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazir Tarar along with SAPM on Interior and Legal Affairs Attaullah Tarar inaugurated the Extended Blocks of Islamabad Bar Council Complex at Federal Judicial Complex.

Javed Latif says: PML-N stands strong on timely elections for fresh mandate, national unity

ISLAMABAD (APP): N's commitment to the Federal Minister Javed Latif on Thursday categori- decisions to safeguard the cally said that the Pakistan state and preserve democ-Muslim League Nawaz racy. He emphasized that (PML-N) is against any the people place their postponement of elections because it believes that for achieving a fresh mandate on timely elections is also essential for national unity.

Talking to media, he asserted that his party firmly opposes any delay in the upcoming general elections, believing that the elections will undoubtedly benefit the country. While some people claim democracy has weakened in the past 15 months, he countered that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government had a deliberate agenda to undermine the democracy.

country by making bold hones in former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif as the only leader capable of leading the country towards prosperity and progress.

He said Nawaz Sharif was ousted from power by international adversaries, working alongside local collaborators, due to his endeavors in fortifying Pakistan's defense and launching the game-changing China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects. Similarly, he contends that former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was executed through the involvement of international forces and their local agents.



ISLAMABAD: Workers filling drinking water in their water tankers outside Ghori Town area due to drinking water shortage in Ghori Town, which needs the attention of concern authority.

Islamabad police arrest two suspects in child abuse cases

SLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Police have apprehended two individuals connected to cases of abuse, securing their remand from the respective courts to facilitate

ongoing investigations. Utilizing advanced scientific and technological methods, the SSOI Unit of Islamabad Capital Police, in collaboration with Shahzad Town Police, diligently traced and detained two suspects implicated in the heinous act of assaulting two young girls.

All suspects are currently in custody, with their remand granted by the relevant court to facilitate further in-depth inquiries.

On May 30, 2023, Hazar Gul, son of Satar Gul residing near 'Deputain' in close proximity to Maryam Masjid within the jurisdiction of Shahzad Town police station, filed a complaint concerning the sexual abuse of his eight-year-old daughter by an unidentified

Promptly registering the case under the appropriate legal provisions, Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan promptly intervened and entrusted CPO/DIG Operations Syed Shahzad Nadeem Bukhari with the responsibility of ensuring the swift apprehension of the perpetrator. A specialized team,

led by SSP (Investigation) and comprising personnel from SSOIU and Shahzad Town police station, was constituted to bring the culprits to justice. Employing cutting-edge forensic techniques and modern technologies, these teams succeeded in arresting the accused individual, Danish, son of Darwish and a resident of Alipur, who had initially managed to evade capture following the crime



Federal Minister for Human Rights, Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada chaired the 4th Meeting of National Committee for Implementation of UNCRPD, Incheon Strategy & Other International Commitments Pertaining to Disability at the Ministry of Human Rights in Islamabad

Edited with the trial version of

OPINION Daily Independent Page 04

Daily Joice of Masse Independent

Friday August 04, 2023

A terrible law

The National Assembly — a forum elected, empowered and entrusted by the nation to safeguard the public interest — has once again capitulated to unelected powers to pass legislation that gravely undermines civil rights.

The amendments to the Official Secrets Act passed by the Lower House on Tuesday read tax base, its export base and raise productivity to become competitive in productive in product like an autocrat's wish list: sweeping powers to search and detain; to brand anyone an 'enemy' of the state on mere suspicion; to pry into citizens' personal affairs without a courtissued warrant; to freely use force against suspects who resist such intrusions; and to treat anyone as guilty until they the emphasis is old, the priare proven innocent.

It is deeply troubling that whoever had this law drafted clearly not only felt that such extreme measures were 'appropriate' against citizens of this country, but that they should also be given sanction. Thankfully, the Senate has refused to abdicate its responsibility. Facing stiff opposition from both government and opposition benches, the Senate chairman has referred the NApassed bill to the relevant Senate committee for further debate.

It is unfortunate that so few legislators are speaking out while Pakistani democracy is being frogmarched into the shambles by their own hands. A law which empowers the state to consider anyone an 'enemy' — even if they have unintentionally interacted with any litical non-alignment and person or entity deemed to be | lomatic reorientation on the working against the country not only runs counter to the established principles of justice, it is dangerous in the hands of a state that routinely brands its own citizens, including elected prime ministers, 'traitors'.Likewise, any law that gives intelligence agencies carte blanche to "enter and search any person or place, without a warrant, and if necessary, by use of force, and seize any document, sketch, or like nature, or anything which is or can be evidence" on the basis of mere suspicion is excessive and will only serve to create a climate of perpetual fear.

The same bill also pushes for all materials collected by intelligence agencies during their investigations to be considered admissible as evidence, even readed the US infalliation project which developed and when they may not have been detonated the first atomic collected by legal means. This would include secretly taped conversations or video recordings done without a warrant from a court of law.

Do our lawmakers really want to give intelligence agencies complete impunity to conduct surveillance operations against anyone, which would include themselves, and conveniently justify their intrusive activities later by calling them part of an ongoing investiga-

Even in the worst period of oppression in Pakistan's history, such a brazen attempt to jettison civil liberties would have prompted an outcry from the thinking segments of society. When the implications are this serious, it is critical that this law is debated further – not just in parliament, but by civil society too. The Senate, meanwhile, must do its duty.

Shortcuts to nowhere



Khurram Husain

Seeking ways to get around the crucial reform agenda the country has to implement, in order to escape its regular cycles of boom and bust, is as old a reflex as the reform agenda itself. For more than three decades it has been known that the country needs to expand its raise productivity to become competitive in products beyond simply textiles. It has been known that the power sector is riddled with inefficiencies and leakages that can only be recti-fied if it undergoes deeprooted reform of its governance and pricing structures. On all these issues tax reform, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) reform (or outright privatisation) and power sector reform - the roadmaps are old,

orities have been laid out as a broken economy'. Every far back as the early 1990s. But little has actually been done on any of these fronts. Instead successive governments since then have preferred to search for shortcuts that enable a short term period of growth

that are inevitably followed by a crash so severe the country lands up on the doorstep of the IMF, with reserves depleted, the fiscal equation in blowout, inflation skyrocketing. The same adjustment follows every time: devaluation of the currency, hike in interest rates, a rain of taxes, sharp contraction in expenditure and sharp hike in in-Each boom over the

decades has been engineered using the same methods. There is runaway printing of money at home, and runaway borrowing of dollars from abroad. With the economy flush with liquidity, what follows is a consumption binge that leads to a blowout in imports while exports lag. This consumption binge is presented by the rulers of the day as their signature achievement. Every government since at least 1998 has come into

government since then (with the exception of the PPP in 2008) has left power arguing 'while we were ruling the economy grew, but when our rule was replaced by somebody else's, the economy suf-

Each episode sees the country's ruling elites go around the world searching for ways to finance its dysfunctions rather than do the work necessary to actually address them at home. This is the reflex that has driven up Pakistan's debt levels to the point where they are now described as "highly risky" by the IMF, the one body all creditors look towards to assess the creditworthiness of the sovereign.

This search for shortcuts takes various forms. The Musharraf regime partook heavily of 9/11-related inflows that came into the country in the middles of the 2000s. The PML-N government of 2013 found inflows from bilateral sources like China or the Gulf countries. The PTI government found a bonanza following Covid when debt-service obligations could be suspended, porarily suspended, and Covid-related facilities made available in ample supply, along with bilateral borrowing from China and the Gulf monarchies.

Now one more time this story is gearing up for another cycle. A framework is being put in place to bring in more dollar inflows, that may not be borrowed, but nonetheless create liabilities that the country may or may not be able to afford in the longer run. Something akin to how CPEC-related inflows created assets that in the short run appeared like an impressive achievement, but in the longer run turned out to be too expensive for an aging, leaky and highly inefficient power sector to be able to afford.

The framework today consists of a number of things. First is a law passed in the summer of 2022 called the Intergovernmental Commercial Transactions Act of 2022 (ICTA). Second is the creation of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). And the third, probably the least likely to actually take off, is the creation of a sovereign wealth fund, to be capitalised by resources from

The framework focuses on providing assets against dollars in government-to-government transactions. Its first test case was the transfer of operations of the Pakistan International Container Terminal (PICT) to the Abu Dhabi Ports Group. Some people have tried to paint this transaction in a sinister light, thinking that somehow all of Karachi port has been

given to Abu Dhabi. Noth-

ing of the sort has hap-

pened. Only the rights to

operate one terminal, con-

sisting of a few berths, have

been leased to AD Ports

to the tune of Rs2.3 trillion.

Group once the lease of the existing operator, also a foreign company, expired. But as a test case of the new framework, the PICT deal is crucial. Having shown that the ICTA works, that it can create sufficient confidence on the part of a foreign SOE to acquire operating assets in Pakistan, it can now be

built upon. That's where the SIFC comes in. The SIFC can now streamline the negotiation process, close deals under the ICTA, and use resources from the Sover-

any equity participation required from Pakistan's side, to close deals in mining and agriculture as well.

None of this is wrong or objectionable on the face of it. What would be wrong and objectionable is if this framework comes to be seen as a panacea for reform, which is very likely to happen. What ails Pakistan is not just an inability to accumulate foreign exchange reserves. That is a symptom of the problem. What ails the country is the inability of its system to generate the liquidity required to operate a modern economy - the limited tax and export base, and the leakages in the power system and the burden of the SOEs,

to name some of the top problems. If these remain as they are and we see massive dollar inflows coming into the country against deals concluded under this new framework, we can

rest assured that an old

story is repeating itself, and its ending will be no different. It will be nothing but another shortcut to nowhere. -- Courtesy existing SOEs, reportedly eign Wealth Fund should Dawn

mediator in the region



Dr Khalid Jarral

Earlier this year, China emerged as a new trustworthy mediator in the Middle Eastern region by successfully brokering a detente between Iran and Saudi

The subsequent Sino-Palestinian strategic partnership and China's renewed commitment to the settlement of the Palestinian question also endorses its resolve to engage as not only a mediator but also a stakeholder in regional

This is a noteworthy step forward from China's traditional approach of poimplies a foreseeable dippart of regional players at least in theory. For instance, these emerging features of China's foreign policy and its international dispute resolution capacity have long been cognizant of

to other disputes, such as the Kashmir dispute in South Asia.

China's strategic partnership diplomacy in the region alongside its development-led approach to dis-pute resolution helps decipher its motives as a stakeholder and delineate its position as a trustworthy international mediator.

It is understood that China's strategic partnership agreements with Iran and Saudi Arabia are a major source of trust between the parties and enhance the sustainability of their reconciliation.

Evidently, China has pulled off the diplomatic feat of Iran-Saudi Arabia rapprochement by introducing its development-led approach to conflict resolution and exploiting the resources that a Chinese strategic partnership offers to the parties

It is more obvious now that China has introduced an innovative developmentled approach to regional peace and dispute resolution as an alternative to the American approach to peace in the Middle East

Iran and Saudi Arabia

have enhanced its relevance the benefits of ending their hostility and developing friendly relations. China's engagement helped the two A closer look at countries define the guiding principles and incentives for their reconciliation and sustainable cooperation.

In effect, China is the source of the strategic glue that ties Iran to Saudi Arabia and can sustain their reconciliation initiative. Through its strategic partnership diplomacy, China is enhancing not only much-needed trust between the parties but also the sustainability of their reconciliation.

Unlike the American approach to peace in the region – which is pegged to security and Arab-Israel relations – the Chinese approach seeks to pursue a greater common good and align the economic strength of the Arab states to China's strategic economic agenda for the region This common good is appropriate to serve as a higher or greater incentive for reconciliation and also facilitates the achievement of those bilateral incentives.

As it appears, with its development-led approach to conflict resolution. China has re-channelized the negative energy of a long-standing conflict between two of

its partners and turned it to the achievement of the long-term strategic goals as a greater good that they share with China. This feature of China's approach to conflict resolution has enabled de-escalation between the parties and an effort at strengthening their bilateral relations

The Iran-Saudi Arabia rapprochement does not itself erode US influence in the region. However, continued strategic economic cooperation of the parties with China will offset the American influence in the region and balance it with China's.

Irrespective of US support or opposition to a desired Iran-Saudi entente, China's mediation is a giant leap towards becoming a great power with the credibility to mediate solutions to international conflicts. What China will continue to build is its technical capabilities, resources and political clout necessary to sustain mediated solutions.

As for China's resourcefulness, it has set up a mechanism of coordinated international cooperation with its partners under the umbrella of its strategic partnerships diplomacy.
This mechanism offers

of peaceful coexistence,
political non-alignment and

frameworks for the management of international repercussions of their bilateral or multilateral cooperation. A prototype of this mechanism was deployed

by China and Pakistan under the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of the China-Pakistan Économic Corridor (CPEC). The Joint Working Group on International Cooperation and Coordination and the Foreign Ministers' Dialogue served to consolidate political cooperation between the parties and streamline their coordinated response to the international repercussions of

ship with Pakistan. These mechanisms proved instrumental in ensuring international political cooperation to avert the FATF sanctions on Pakistan and China-Afghanistan-Pakistan trilateral cooperation for socioeconomic development, trade and security. China also recently launched a preparatory of-fice for resolution of international disputes, that combines its resources for such initiatives

China's strategic partner-

China's philosophies

War in tea leaves

its development-led approach to conflict resolution have great appeal in countries with longstanding disputes. However, some of these countries, such as Palestine, are already weary of the UN's dysfunctional mechanisms and America's disinclination to intervene

and help. Therefore, if China aspires to attain the status of a great power comparable to the US, it will have to be capable of functioning as a better alternative to the US - not only in the domain of the economy but also in conflict resolution and be prepared to address longstanding conflicts.

The antithesis of China's development-led approach to conflict resolution dictates that conflicts prevent and potentially reverse development of all

China therefore faces legitimate expectations of its strategic partners currently engaged in or at risk of, conflicts that it will contribute to resolving those conflicts. China cannot afford to allow (mis)perception that it is a partner in economic dealings and a stranger when its friend is embroiled in a conflict -- Courtesy TheNews

Our cloudy future

Mussolini's Italy and

Hirohito's Japan, turned on

each other after the war ended

in 1945. Their arms race con-

member of the US Atomic

Energy Com-mission, lob-

bied to minimise nuclear pro-

against an arms race with the

Soviet Union. He opposed

the development of the hy-

drogen bomb, alienating the

US government and its mili-

tary. Dr Oppenheimer's se-

curity clearance was with-

drawn and he found himself

ostracised on suspicion of

being a closet communist.

Eventually, in 2022, (55 years

after his death), the US "or-

dered that the 1954 decision

to revoke Oppenheimer's se-

curity clearance be vacated".

born in India, he would have

been fêted like his scientific

counterparts the polymath

Dr Homi Bhab--ha, Dr

Vikram Sarabhai, and Dr

Abdul Kalam who became

India's president. Had

Oppenheimer been a Paki-

stani, he would have shared

the indignity suffered by the

self-styled father of our bomb,

Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan (a

claim contested by his nem-

esis Dr Munir Ahmad Khan).

time, many countries have

amassed large nuclear arse-

nals, ostensibly to deter their

enemies. None has been fool-

hardy enough to deploy

them in combat. Neither the

US, nor Russia, China, Israel,

North Korea, India nor Pa-

kistan. Prohibitively costly

to produce, nuclear weapons

are too dangerous to be used

(even with a limited objec-

tive) without endangering the

rest of humanity. They have

become the ultimate status

symbol, like some gold-

plated skeleton — a maca-

retired Lt-Gen Khalid

Since Oppenheimer's

Had Oppenheimer been



F.S. Aijazuddin

Every thinking person should watch Christopher Nolan's film Oppenheimer. Tickets are expensive but they are cheaper than ignorance about the implications of our nuclear prowess. The film is a disturbing narrative of the career of J. Robert Oppenheimer, the man who headed the US Manhattan bomb Trinity' in 1945. Like Alfred Nobel who invented dynamite, Oppenhei-mer suffered postpartum qualms about the demon he spawned: "Death — the Destroyer of Worlds".

The atomic bombs dropped by the US on first Hiroshima and then Nagasaki in 1945 killed or permanently maimed 200,000 hu--m--ans. They were followed between 1945 and 1980 by atmospheric nuclear tests conducted by powerful countries across the globe. The impact has been the direct sil-e--nt cause of cancer in about 2.4 million

Nolan spared his audience graphic ima-g--es of the effect of the atom weapons on hu--man beings — peeling flesh, blindness, loss of hair, leukemia, incurable tumours. He avoided mention of the irreversible im--pact on the world's atmosphere, contamina-ted water resources and genetic mutations

instead on the political aftermath following the birth of Oppenheimer's brainchild. Like Frankens-tein's monster, it destroyed its creator.

having fought as allies against

ore talking point. The film concentrated Earlier this year, Pakistan celebrated the 25th anniversary of its first nuclear tests. At a seminar organised by the Ins-titute of Strategic Studies, adviser to the Na-The US and USSR, tional Command Authority,

Kidwai, spoke on our nuclear doctrine options. The NCA handles all policy matters concerning our nuclear weapons. After discussing the 'horizontal' tritoday.Oppenhei-mer, as a services inventory of a variety of nuclear we--apons "held on land with the Army Stra-t-e-gic Force Command liferation and advocated the ASFC; at sea with the Naval St--r-a---te-g--ic Force Co-m-m--and, the NSFC; and in the air with the Air Force Str-a-tegic Com--m-a--nd, the AFSC' he dilated on the 'vertical' as-p--ect — the physical

> 2,750 kilo---metres. The former was construed as a hint that Pakistan could lay "nuclear land mines across the India-Pakistan border" to deter Indian advances; the latter specified that the limit of 2,750 km referred to the land-based surface-to-surface mediumrange ballistic missile Shaheen-3 "with the stated aim to reach the Indian islands of Andaman and Nicobar, thereby denying New Delhi the strategic bases for a potential secondstrike capability

reach of our weapo-n--ry

ranging from 0 metres to

Naive civilians ask whether either country has any strategy for escalation control, for civilian security, or for war termination. Their armed forces may survive long enough to unleash a second strike. Civilians will have but one choice: to be Hiroshima first or Nagasaki second. The 19th Prussian general Carl Clau-s--ewitz once said: 'Three quarters of the factors on which action in war is based are wrapped in a fog of greater or lesser uncertainty'. cynical observation, but one pro-ven true by history. Take the invasions of Russia by Napoleon in 1812 and Hitler in 1941, or the incursions into Afghanistan by Russia in 1979 and by the US-led forces in 2001. The fog of uncertainty cleared after those wars were over.

Nuclear mushroom clouds,

however, take centuries to

clear. -- Courtesy Dawn

Shahzad Sharjeel

Can one nation's freedom become a millstone around another's neck? That too across oceans and over mountains as mighty as the Himalayas? The answer, unfortunately, is, yes.

The Brits and their cousins in America had to have their tea. The Chinese would only sell it for silver dollars. The American War of Independence scuttled silver mining. Jack Beeching has meticulously documented in The Chinese Opium Wars how by 1781 no silver remittances had reached India for two years. To make matters worse for the East India Company and its patrons in London, opium production of two years from Patna remained unsold. The quadrangle of

tea-silver-opium-war came together. Boston was not just the scene of the Tea Party but also home to clans called Boston Brahmins. These traders — some in their teens — monopolised America's opium trade with China. Amitav Ghosh, author of Smoke and Ashes, holds that almost all merchant communities in East and West India had their initial capital accumulation through opium. The generally peaceable and philanthropic Parsis were no exception. Rustomjee Cowasjee's clippers 'Sylph' and 'Cowasjee Family' were considered the fastest vessels in the opium trade. In fact, philanthropy is the common hallmark of opium fortunes

from India to Holland and from Britain to the US. Things have a way of

coming full circle. After decades of trying to stem the tide of foreign drugs like heroin, cocaine, ice, etc, the US faces a 'made in America' opioid pandemic. Powerful family names have been tarnished, skeletons are tumbling out of cupboards, and foundation plaques have been removed as university and museum links to opium come to the fore. Poppies are, after all, not just flowers.

The name Abbot, avarice and Americans it appears are destined to be intertwined. The most wanted man on earth was discovered in Abbottabad. Abiel Abbot Low, progenitor of the leading family of entrepreneurs and philanthropists after whom Columbia University's Low Library is named, made his fortune in opium. Assuming you are

hooked by now, let's tell

the tale from the beginning. The vernacular term 'posti' (lethargic) is derived from post', Persian for the poppy bulb. Another term used for these substance abusers is 'afyonchi', which reflects the drugs' antecedents more closely and precisely. Afyon is a region in Turkey that was famous for its poppy crop in the olden days. Opium's medicinal use is miraculous, especially for pain management amongst the chronically ill, and has been employed for millennia. Opium forms the basis for most other, nonchemical illicit drugs and has posed a major problem for governments for well over a century. Poppy and its main derivative morphine are essential for pharmaceutical purposes, and preventing them from falling into the wrong hands has proved near impossible; the profit margins are just mind-boggling. No other nation

knows the debilitating effects of opium dependence like our Chinese friends. No other nation has so brazenly forced it upon a hapless people as the British

did from their colonial perch in India. Two major wars were imposed on China between 1839 to 1860 to force it to not just open its ports for the British ships carrying opium, but making it mandatory for the Chinese to buy this agent of destruction and allow its free use across the land. China lost both wars, the first war ended with the Nanking Treaty through which China had to cede

Hong Kong. Availability of illicit drugs and the challenges of managing Pakistan's more than 2600-kilometre-long border with Af--gh-a-nistan across which all sorts of troubles move back and forth hogs so much of our attention that the lack of sufficient regulation and the res-u-l-tant abuse of overthe-counter opioids is hardly ever mentio-ned. Visit any pharmacy across the country, diddle about for a while, and start counting the number of people who ask for 'relaxants' but fail to produce any prescription. What makes dozens of medicines open to abuse, unfortunately, is also found, albeit in lower volume, in something that does not require a doctor's prescription, ie, cough syrup.

Drugs, wars, civil unrest and politics go hand in hand. Those calling for a cap, and rightly so, on the range of punishments that can be meted out by military courts, must also think about how various types and quantities of drugs inexplicably show up in the possession of political opponents. Planting 20 kilograms of heroin on a member of the opposition is as bad as ensuring capital punishment, military courts or not. One hopes that our jails become rehab centres for all prisoners, present and future. No one begrudges an occasional mattress, a fan, or a homecooked meal, but a red line must be drawn against white lines behind bars. -

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Sational

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Over 1200 children to be taught skills of literacy, numeracy through digital program: CM

KARACHI (APP): Over 12,500 children will be taught vital life skills of literacy and numeracy through a digital program that will help underserved primary-level students, all over the province.

This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah while speaking at Accelerated Digital Learning Program (ADLP) under which Sindh Education Foundation has Digital launched Microschool collaboration with Teach The World.

In fulfilling the Sindh government's commitment to improving the level of education in Sindh, Shah said that the Sindh Education Foundation was establishing high-quality, scalable projects that will reach a maximum number over Pakistan.

The CM said that the project of digital education the field of digital learning, was taking us one step closer to eradicating illiteracy. "Keeping this goal in mind, the twopronged approach is to increase access to education and improve the quality of delivery, which will be tested by digital, adaptive assessments," he

Foundation and Teach The World Foundation, he said and added that it would be implemented by TTWF, a nonprofit currently running three digital programs in 21 centers all

Recognizing the need

the project would run for 18 months and then scale it up incorporating the lessons learned during the pilot, the CM said and added that the two MicroSchools under the scheme have been established, starting from the increasingly populous area of Razzakabad ir Murad Shah said that an initial phase of the Accelerated Digital Learning Program is being launched on Thursday. This is in partnership between Sindh Education Foundation and Teach The completed and then results would be measured for scaling up.

It may be noted that a Micro School maximizes resources by providing 2hour shifts for students to learn reading, writing, and math through approved curriculum-based games.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for IT & Telecom Syed Amin-ul-Haq presents Certificate of Graduation during Graduation Ceremony of 8th & 9th COHORTS at National Incubation Center NED University.

Allocation of Rs 471bln for BISP shows govt sincerity: Minister

SARGODHA (APP): Board, Production and Industries Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi has said that the coalition government allocated huge Support Programme (BISP) in the recent budget 2023-2024 would be spent on 9.3 million families under the Benazir Kifalat to end poverty in the

country Talking to APP here on Thursday, he said Pakistan People's Party Qures (PPP) had played crucial role for increasing the BISP allocations. He said the PPP had a vision for development of the poor since its formation by former premier Zulfikar Ali

He said the BISP

under State Minister for supervision of Federal Minister Shazia Marri, approved the huge amount for financial year 2023-2024. Out of total funds for the Benazir allocation, Rs 361.5 million would be spent on 9.3 which showed its sincerity Programme, whereas 1.5 million beneficiaries would

get Rs 32.27 billion under growth BISP programme. Tasneem Qureshi said that Rs 55.4 billion had been allocated for Benazir Taleemi Wazaif, through which 9.2 million children would get the BISP stipends. He said Rs 6 billion would be spent on 50.000 students under the Benazir Undergraduate Scholarships Programme.



PESHAWAR: Iranian Consul General in Peshawar Ali Banafsha Khawa speak during visited

PDMA warns of more rains, flooding

(PDMA) has issued a warning about the chances of more monsoon rains. already continuing in several districts of Punjab, until August 7.

The current situation indicates potential flooding in Sialkot, Narowal and Rawalpindi drains. Furthermore, rivers in Punjab are experiencing low-level floods. According to a spokesman for the PDMA, residents should remain vigilant as Mangala in Jhelum river is at risk of 270,850 cusecs of water.

LAHORE (APP): The high-level flooding during Punjab Disaster August 4 to August 6. Punjab Disaster August 4 to August 6.
Management Authority However, water flow is reported to be normal at Tarbela, Chashma and Kalabagh. The flow of water in Jhelum and Chenab rivers remains normal.At Sulemanki, the water inflow is measured at 72,627 cusecs, while the outflow is at 63,412 cusecs. Head Islam is witnessing an inflow of 64,597 cusecs and an outflow of 53,974 cusecs. Taunsa at Indus River is also experiencing a lowlevel flood with a rail of

IGP awards Ghazi Medals to brave Police personnel

and personnel injured in operations against dangerous dacoits, bandits, drug dealers and other antisocial elements are valuable

assets the department.He said this while speaking at a function personnel, at the Central Police Office on Police Office on who did not care Thursday. The IGP said lives during duty. Office

LAHORE (APP): that all possible care is being Inspector General Police taken for the best treatment Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar and speedy recovery of has said that the officers their brave personnel. He said that the names of these brave Ghazis of the department are being recorded on the Ghazi Wall constructed in the Central Police Office and all possible steps are being taken to honor them. In the organized in the honor of Ghazi police officers and awarded Ghazi Medals to the brave officers and personnel who did not care about their

8 dead, 1,195 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least eight persons were killed and 1,195 others injured in 1,107 road traffic crashes (RTCs) in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

As many as 607 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 588 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical

The analysis showed that 601 drivers, 46 underage drivers, 136 pedestrians, and 466 passengers were among the victims of the road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 261 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 293 persons, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by 82 in Multan with 80 victims, and at third Faisalabad with 74 accidents and 70

According to the data, 981 motorbikes, 84 auto-rickshaws,

ACs Hangu, Tal inspect petrol pumps, BHUs

PĒSHAŴAŔ (APP) Assistant Commissioner Hangu Nawab Gul on Thursday inspected various petrol pumps in Hangu district and checked the gauge cleanliness rate

Action was taken against them according to the law for poor cleaning and low gauge on the pumps and imposed a fine on them. He gave strict instructions to the pump owners regarding cleanliness and low gauge.

Similarly, Assistant Commissioner Muhammad Arshad Afridi visited the Basic Health Units (BHUs) of Sarozai Chapri and Darsmand and inspected staff attendance cleanliness, availability of medicines. He noted the problems and assured to solve them. He also directed the concerned staff to ensure maximum facilities to the patients.

Car plunges into ravine,

woman dies RAWALAKOT (Online): A woman died while her husband was injured when car fell into a deep ravine on its way from Rawalakot to Rawalpindi. This tragic incident took place in Pathan Pahari Swah Cross Goon Nala on Main highway. The deceased girl was daughter of Mang Boys college Principal Masood Khan. Condition of husband is said to be ou of danger.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali presenting relief cheque to Senator Abdul Rasheed and Deputy Commissioner Bajaur for blast victims of Bajaur.

Caretaker CM inspects Mozang, **Civil Lines police stations**

Independent Report LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi conducted thorough inspection of Mozang and Civil Lines police stations on Thursday. He was accompanied by Provincial Information Minister Amir

He was disheartened

to find that both police

stations were in a state of

disarray, with poor cleanliness dysfunctional front desks. The staff's inability to provide satisfactory responses to the chief minister's queries further highlighted the issues at hand. What made matters even more distressing were the grievances expressed

LAHORE (APP): A delegation from North

Waziristan led by Member

(MNA) Nazir Khan met

Muhammad Balighur

Rehman and discussed

varied affairs including

current political situation in

the country during a

meeting at the Governor's

House here on Thursday.

occasion, Governor Punjab

Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that speedy

work on CPEC projects, establishment of Special

Economic Zones and

Speaking on the

Assembly

Punjab

National

Governor

particular incident involved a young motorcyclist, who shared a troubling experience with the caretaker CM. The boy narrated how he was unjustly detained by the police while on an errand to buy daily-use items. The police demanded bribe from him and he was only released after succumbing to their extortion demand. Taking immediate

action, the chief minister took the boy to the front desk to thoroughly investigate the matter. Testimonies from other staff members confirmed that Constable Naveed was involved in extorting money from him. Incensed by people at the police by this revelation, CM

Governor Punjab

blast,

He promptly ordered swift actions for those who deserved immediate relief. North Waziristan Three people delegation calls on

g o v e r n m e n t 's determination to stabilize the country economically. The Governor Punjab said whenever Pakistan started to get stronger economically, anti state elements became active to derail the process of development. He strongly condemned the Bajaur extended condolences to the bereaved families, and prayed for the elevation of ranks of those who lost

their lives in the blast. He said that the nation and security forces made lasting sacrifices in inauguration of various the war against terrorism development projects are a and eradicated the scourge practical example of the of terrorism.

die in separate incidents DERA ISMAIL KHAN

Mohsin Naqvi ordered immediate arrest of the

corrupt constable and

ensured that the bribe

money was returned to the

hapless boy. Furthermore,

the CM issued instructions

for departmental action

against the accused constable. Expressing his

deep displeasure at the deplorable state of the two

police stations, he promptly directed the IG

police to implement

necessary improvements within three days.

During his visit, the

chief minister interacted

with the visitors present at

the police stations to

inquire about their cases.

(APP): Three people were killed in two separate incidents that took place here Thursday.In the first incident, two laborers died after receiving electric shocks at a private colony when a lift in which they were taking up construction materials to a rooftop of an under-construction house touched with electricity wires.In the second incident, the Rescue 1122 spokesman said a man who was identified as Shah Nawaz died when unknown persons opened fire at him at Draban Chugi. The rescue medical team of Station-11 reached the spot as it received information in this regard and shifted the deceased to the

hospital.

LAHORE: A delegation led by Member National Assembly from North Waziristan, Nazir Khan, meeting with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

Iranian CG shows interest as CPEC partner

PESHAWAR (APP): Iranian Consul General in facilitated Peshawar, Ali Banafsha Khawa, while reaffirming Iran's unwavering commitment to regional peace and stability, has emphasized Iran's keen and fostering people-tointerest in becoming an active participant in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, underscoring the importance of cooperation among regional nations for mutual progress and

The Iranian Consul General expressed these during views conversation with media persons during his visit to Peshawar Press Club on Thursday.During the visit, the Iranian diplomat participated in a Meet the Press event alongside esteemed members of the

prosperity.

gathering discussions on various subjects, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Iran-Pakistan trade relations, people contact between the two neighboring nations. During the event, the

Consul General while the responding to different questions on the Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline project stated that Iran had completed its part of the pipeline and now it was incumbent on Pakistan to fulfill its commitments to ensure the project's success and benefits for both nations. President of the Peshawar Press Club, Arshad Aziz Malik, and other esteemed members warmly welcomed the Iranian Consul General at the event.

Day celebrations. On this occasion, President Bahawalpur Chamber of Commerce and Zulfikar Maan, Additional Deputy Commissioner Headquarters Sumera Rabbani, Additional Deputy Commissioner

76th I-Day to be

celebrated with

national zeal

BAHAWALPUR (APP): A

meeting was held under the

chairmanship of Deputy

Bahawalpur Zaheer Anwar

Jappa in the committee

room of his office to review

the arrangements related to

Pakistan Independence

General Naeem Sadiq Cheema, and officers of relevant departments attended the meeting. Deputy Commissioner Zaĥeer Anwar Jappa said that Pakistan's 76th Independence Day should be celebrated with national enthusiasm and all departments.



Yousaf addressing during the launching ceremony of Global **Breastfeeding Month 2023.**

KP CM chairs meeting to take detail review of census 2023

Chief Minister Khyber related matters. Pakhtunkhwa Muhammed II was told that for the Azam Khan in the chair to take a detailed review of the Census, 2023 to the extent of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Advisor to Chief Minister for Finance Himayatullah Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Zubair Asghar Qureshi, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Amjad Ali Khan, Administrative Secretaries of the concerned departments, Census Provincial Commissioner, Director Bureau of Statistics Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and other relevant officials

PESHAWAR (APP): An the mechanism and important meeting was held here with caretaker the Census, 2023 and other

first time in the history of Pakistan, technology was used in the Census. It was further informed that the entire Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was divided into more than 28000 blocks for the purpose of census adding that the final statistics of the census would be presented in the Council of Common Interest (CCI) for approval.

It was decided in the meeting to form a committee headed by the Home Secretary with the purpose to examine and attended the meeting. Check the results of the census with ground were briefed in detail about realities.

PFA DG inaugurates Model Food Carts, distributes food kits

Independent Report AHORE: Punjab Food Authority (PFA) Director General Raja Jahangir Anwar inaugurated Model Food Carts (MFC) and distributed free of cost to ensure food hygiene. He said that training

sessions will also be arranged for small food points including tandoor, roadsides carts and food pedlars. He said that the purpose of the training is



vessels among 291 food peddlers on Thursday.

On the occasion, he has directed food business operators (FBOs) to ensure the hygiene principles at roadside carts, dhabas' and food points because a large number of people visited these sites o beat hunger on a daily

He further said that a process will be continued

to be aware food handlers regarding personal hygiene and safe food preparation.

The director general said that the purpose of the PFA is to bring reforms in food industry. All resources will be utilized to ensure the availability of safe, quality and standard food to the people. Despite the awareness, strict action will be taken against those continuous checking FBO who sell substandard food, he added

LHC suspends detention orders of 10 PTI workers including Shehryar Afridi

RAWALPINDI (Online): days in view of his possible Lahore High Court (LHĆ) Rawalpindi bench has suspended detention orders of 10 PTI workers including former federal minister Shehryar Afridi and his brother.

hearing before LHC Rawalpindi bench led by Justice Anwar ul Haq Punnun Thursday.

The court has ordered to release all these 10 detained PTI workers forthwith.

court has The

arrest in any other case. The court remarked what is going on in the

God's sake let the country go ahead. We are making The case came up for mockery of ourselves on

country is regrettable. For

our own. The counsels for

Shehryar Afridi were present in the court during the hearing of the case. Deput

Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi Hassan Waqar Cheema and CPO Khalid approved protective bail of Hamdani appeared in the Shehryar Afridi for seven court on being summoned.



Dr Javed Akram cuts the ribbon along with others to inaugurates Museum at King Edward Medical University during ceremony in connection with World Hepatitis Day, in Provincial Capital.

Mayor Karachi calls for achieving revenue targets set by KMC

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Parliamentary Leader of Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Thursday said that the revenue targets set in the budget should be achieved in any case to further stabilize the institution financially and negligence officers will face action in this regard.

talking to the 10-member Association KMC headed by Abdul Qayyum Khan, said a statement. The Mayor of Karachi said that all necessary measures will be taken for the welfare of KMC employees.

On this occasion, Salman Abdullah Murad,

the People's Party in City Council Najmi Alam and General Secretary of People's Party in Central District Dil Muhammad were also present. delegation The discussed with the Mayor

matters regarding the He said this while promotion of the officers and other delegation of All Sindh employees and the DPC.
Officers Welfare They said that the 33 They said that the 35 percent raise in the salaries

announced in the budget should be implemented.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that the welfare of the employees and solving their problems are among the priorities. The Deputy Mayor Karachi officers work efficiently to achieve the revenue targets.

OMMERCE EWS

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PM urges

Pak-US businessmen to benefit from investment opportunities; highlights SIFC 1-window facility

highlighting the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) as a onewindow facility for contributions being made investors, urged the by the successful and Pakistani-American businessmen to benefit American community. from the numerous available in Pakistan.

currently visiting Pakistan, called on him.

He lauded the vibrant Pakistani-

He said they were investment opportunities contributing to the sociolable in Pakistan. economic development of under the newly The prime minister their motherland as well as constituted SIFC through said this as a group of their adopted country but

ISLAMABAD: Aug03- Members of Chinese delegation travelling by the

coaches given by the Chinese government in connection with 10 years

production of unique and

high-quality furniture

also facilitate access to each

potentially increasing trade

and economic benefits for

be an exciting opportunity

for both countries

businesses to strengthen

their ties and explore

potential investment and

joint ventures in the

It could lead to

He said the Turkish

Turkiye strategic

furniture industry has been

craftsmanship, innovation,

and the use of high-quality

location at the crossroads

of Europe, Asia, and the

Middle East can help

Pakistan be a hub for

furniture industry.

This partnership may

He said their visit will

products, he remarked.

celebration of CPEC at Margalla Railway Station, in Federal Capital.

Turkish delegation to visit

Pakistan for joint ventures,

investment: Mian Kashif

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Chief Executive Officer

Pakistan Furniture Council

Mian Kashif Ashfaq on

Thursday said a high level

delegation will soon visit

Pakistan to further explore

the possibilities of

collaboration for joint

ventures and investment.

a week-long tour of Turkiye he held a series of

fruitful meetings with

manufacturers and invited

them to Pakistan, said a

furniture industries were

significant players in the

between the Turkish and

industries could lead to

exciting opportunities for

both countries. It could

involve sharing expertise,

technology, and design

Collaboration

global market.

Pakistani

After his return from

furniture

furniture

Turkish and Pakistani both countries.

furniture

ideas, resulting in the furniture exports.

news release issued here.

He said both the beneficial collaborations and economic growth for

known

materials.

ISLAMABAD (APP): prominent Pakistani-Prime Minister Shehbaz American businessmen and Sharif on Thursday, entrepreneurs, who are Pakistan and the United government was working States. Highlighting Pakistan's geo-economic potential, its strategic location, vast mineral wealth, and population dividend, Prime Minister Shehbaz briefed the delegation about Pakistan's economic recovery plan

a whole-of-the-government

Pakistan's

total foreign

reserves reach

at \$ 13.46b

KARACHI (APP): The

total liquid foreign reserves

of Pakistan stood at US\$

13,463.7 million while

reserves held by the central

bank reached \$ 8,153.8

Pakistan, in a statement

issued here on Thursday,

informed that SBP'

reserves decreased by \$ 32

million to \$8,153.8 million

on account of debt

week ending on July 27

Meanwhile,

foreign reserves held by

commercial banks stood at

US\$ 5,309.9 million, it

ending on July 21, 2023.

total liquid foreign reserves

held by the country was

reserves held by the central

bank were US\$ 8,186.1

million while net foreign

commercial banks were

Rupee gains

Rs 2.18 against

US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Pakistani Rupee on

strengthened by Rs 2.18

against the US Dollar in the

interbank trading as it

closed at Rs 287.20 against

the previous day's closing

to the Forex Association of

Pakistan (FAP), the buying

and selling rates of dollars

in the open market stood

at Rs 290 and Rs 293

respectively. The price of

the Euro decreased by Rs

4.18 to close at Rs 313.53

against the last day's

closing of Rs 317.71,

according to the State Bank

of Pakistan (SBP). The

Japanese Yen lost 03 paisa

to close at Rs 2, whereas a

decrease of Rs 5.53 was

witnessed in the exchange

rate of the British Pound,

which traded at Rs 364.53 as

compared to its last day's

closing of Rs 370.06. The

exchange rates of the Emirates

Dirham and the Saudi Riyal

decreased by 59 and 57 paisa

However, according

Thursday

of Rs 289.38.

US\$ 13,534.1 million.

reserves held

US\$ 5,348 million.

In the previous week

Among them, foreign

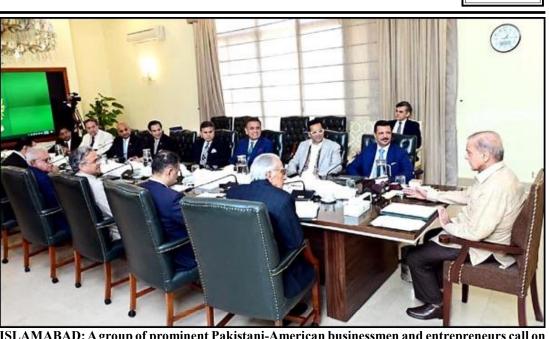
repayments during the

The State Bank of

million.

on a comprehensive plan to attract investment in the five select fields of agriculture, information technology, mine and minerals, energy, and defence production.

He said the purpose of establishing the SIFC was to provide a one-



window facility to the potential investors.

ISLAMABAD: A group of prominent Pakistani-American businessmen and entrepreneurs call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Saudi extends 1m bpd oil output cut: Ministry

RIYADH (AFP/APP): Saudi Arabia announced voluntary oil production cut of one million barrels per day for another month, keeping up its campaign to prop up prices.
"Saudi Arabia will

extend the voluntary cut of one million barrels per day... for another month to include the month of September," the energy ministry said in a statement.

The cut, which first took effect in July, could be further prolonged or even deepened, the energy ministry added. The move leaves daily production by to slash production the world's biggest crude voluntarily by more than exporter at approximately one million bpd.

nine million bpd.
The "voluntary cut Thursday it is extending a comes to reinforce the precautionary efforts made by OPEC Plus countries with the aim of supporting the stability and balance of oil markets," the energy ministry said. Announcing the cut

following a June meeting of the 23-nation OPEC+ alliance, which also includes Russia, Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman noted that it was potentially "extendable".

It followed a

decision in April by several OPEC+ members



ISLAMABAD: Labourers busy in unloading bunches of bananas from a delivery truck at Fruit and Vegetable Market.

Corporate farming to attract Rs100 billion investment in agriculture sector: Khokhar

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Kissan Ittehad Khalid Mehmood Khokhar Wednesday said that corporate farming will agriculture sector within three years and help to achieve self-sufficiency in staple food crop production, besides production, besides attaining food safety and

security in the country.

Addressing a press
conference, he dismissed all the misconceptions being created by some elements regarding corporate farming in the country in which they claimed that adding that they would initiation of corporate also provide proper seeds farming would deprive the and other agriculture small farmers of their cultivable lands.

corporate farming the farmer's clusters would be established to start collaborative farming to enhance the output of all attract about Rs100 billion major and minor crops by investment in the adopting modern and innovative cultivation technologies and they would be enabled for purchasing of latest tools including tractors, combine harvesters and land levellers.

The farmers would be given their due right through future market practice as it was protecting farmers' rights around the world, he said inputs to enhance their farm income to alleviate poverty in the country.



ISLAMABAD: A vendor displaying and selling

China-Pakistan **Economy, Trade B2B** Forum held in Shenzhen

BEIJING (APP): The 10th Anniversary Ceremony for China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and China-Pakistan Economy and Trade B2B Forum was held in Shenzhen, China. At the invitation of

and Technology Cooperation Center, guest including Rana Ihsaan Afzal Khan, Coordinator to Prime Minster of Pakistan on Commerce and Industry, Muhammad Asif Noor, Chief Executive Officer at Belt and Road Consultants Pvt Limited, Mr. Fu the "1+4" cooperation Chaoyang, Chairman of the Board of Directors of CPEC, with Gwadar Port, China Ocean Group energy, infrastructure and Industry Co., Ltd, Ms. Zhu Yanyan, President of

the

Economic

Chambers' presidents call for cut in govt expenses, imports with strategy to increase exports

MULTAN (APP): craftsmen at MCCI. They Presidents of Lahore and appreciated the Multan Chambers of craftsmen's work but Commerce and Industry on government expenses, cut in imports and practical steps to increase exports to bring the national economy on the right track. They expressed these

views during a ceremony at the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) organized in honour of a delegation from the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) led by its president Kashif Noor. The delegates visited

different stalls showcasing products developed by

Gold rates dip

by Rs2,800

per tola

the initiatives to increase added that their skill level Thursday stressed reducing be upgraded through a shortage of dollars and government expenses, cut training to match present- export earnings would not day advancements and only improve reserves their access to lucrative international markets be made easy. LCCI

Kashif Noor said on the occasion that the country's economy-related troubles could compound further in case of no cuts in expenses and imports, and also stressed on withdrawal of free gas, electricity and other privileges saying

exports," he said adding that the country was facing position but would also strengthen Rupee. He expressed president concerns that the country

does not have enough dams and added that floods play havoc every year and then water goes waste into the sea without benefitting agriculture. He said that the

country should have started making strides in these initial steps were imperative for a stronger harnessing alternate means of energy like solar power much earlier.

Services' trade deficit narrows by 87% in FY2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.2,800 and was sold at Rs.220,200 on Thursday against its sale at Rs.223,000 on the previous day, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. Pakistan Bureau of

The price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold also decreased by Rs2,401 to Rs 188,786 from Rs191,187 whereas the gold dipped to Rs173,054 from Rs. 175,254.

The price of per tola silver decreased by Rs.50 to Rs.2750 and that of ten gram by Rs.48.86 to Rs.2,357.68

ISLAMABAD (APP): The services' trade deficit shrank by 87.68 percent during the fiscal year 2022-23 as compared to the corresponding period of

Statistics reported. The services trade July-June (2022-23) against the deficit of \$5,840.11 million during July-June (2021-22). The

22 to \$7,300.13 million during fiscal year 2022-23, according to PBS data.

On the other hand, the imports declined from \$12,942.46 million to the previous year, the \$8,019.58 million in FY2023, showing negative growth of 38.04 percent.

Meanwhile, on a yeardeficit was recorded at on-year basis, the export of \$719.45 million during services decreased by 13.99 percent by declining from 664.02 million in June 2022 to \$571.10 million in June 2023. The services exports of services during imports also increased by the period increased by 50.71 percent, from 2.78 percent going up from \$1,328.89 million to \$7,102.35 million in 2021- \$655.06 million.



presenting shield to nominated Pakistan Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassar Tipu during his visit to FPCCI.

Tibet sees record air passenger volume in July

LHASA (Xinhua/APP): Southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region logged a new record in singlemonth passenger throughput in July since the opening of civil aviation in the region in

In July, seven civil airports in Tibet handled a total of 770,000 passenger trips, an increase of 31.6 percent year on year. Meanwhile, the region's civil aviation also achieved a new record by handling 5,936 flights in July, up 2.4 percent year on year, according to the Tibet branch of the Civil Aviation Administration of Tibet is rich in

tourism resources, with its majestic mountains and rivers, magnificent grasslands and forests, and profound ethnic and religious culture. The region has seen surging passenger arrivals after China adjusted its COVID response.

From January to July, air passenger volume in the region hit 3.8 million, a year-on-year increase of 37.1 percent. Airports here handled 33,523 flights and 25,985.5 tonnes of cargo and mail in total, up 8.7 percent and 7.8 percent, respectively, compared with the same period in the previous year.

Commissioner vows to achieve cotton production target

MULTAN (APP): Cotton released by Commissioner, ministry of national food security and research, Dr. Zahid Mahmood said on Thursday that Pakistan is expected to meet national cotton production target of 12.65 million bales in 2023-24 pleading that weather conditions were favourable for cotton crop

During a telephonic conversation with Sajid Mahmood, the head of technology transfer wing of Central Cotton Research Institute (CCRI) Multan, Dr. Zahid said that the cotton arrivals report

compared to last year.

Assiociation (PCGA), putting the arrivals figure at more than 1.4 million bales, was encouraging, according to a release issued by CCRI Multan spokesman. He further stated that total 368 cotton ginning factories were operational in Pakistan, 70 more than the previous fortnight, meaning thereby there was steady arrival of seed cotton (Phutti) necessitating operations of increased number of factories. This, he added,

brought a ray of hope for

Over 1.4m bales of cotton arrival recorded at ginneries till Aug 1 in Pakistan

Cotton (Phutti) equivalent to over 1.4 million (1,428,638) bales have reached ginning factories across Pakistan till Aug 1, 2023 with major contribution of over one million bales recorded from Sindh owing to early picking and its Sanghar district alone attracting more than half of the total arrivals so far. According to a fortnightly report of Pakistan Cotton Ginners recorded at 1.3 million Association (PCGA) (1,327,847)

MULTAN (APP): Seed issued to media on Thursday, Punjab ginning factories recorded cotton arrival figure of 388,568 bales while arrivals to ginneries in Sindh recorded at one million plus (1,040,070) bales including 721,149 reaching ginneries in Sanghar district alone. Arrivals in Baluchistan were recorded at 41,100 bales.Out of the total arrivals, seed cotton converted into bales was

US, China, UK remained top three destinations of Pakistani exports in FY23 ISLAMABAD (APP): under review against the The United States (US) exports of US\$ 2201.080

remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the fiscal year (2022-23), followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK). Total exports to the US during July-June (2022-23) were recorded at US\$ 5929.176 million as opposed the exports of US\$ 6808.278 million during July-June (2021-22), showing a decline of 12.91 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US\$ 2029.104 million compared to the exports of US\$ 2783.059 million last year, showing a decrease of 27.09 percent.

UK was the third top

export destination, where Pakistan exported goods worth US\$ 1966.357 million during the year Among

1087.434 million.

million during last year, showing a decline of 10.66 percent, SBP data revealed.

Pakistani countries, Pakistani exports to Germany stood at US\$ 1600.172 million against US\$ 1751.423 million last year, showing a decrease of 8.63 percent while the exports to UAE were recorded at US\$ 1475.809 million opposed US\$ 1848.991 million last year.During July-June (2022-23), the exports to Holland were recorded at US\$ 1446.927 million against US\$ 1499.671 million whereas the exports to Afghanistan stood at US\$ 521.999 million against US\$ 522.781 million.

Pakistan's exports to Italy were recorded at US\$ 1151.448 million against the exports of US\$



PESHAWAR: A vendor displaying national flags color decoration and wearing stuff to attract customers at Qassa-Khwani Bazaar on ahead of 76th Independence Day of Pakistan on 14 August.

fruits on his handcart setup at KhanaPul.

the Shenzhen Municipal Government and the China-Trade, Pakistan Investment

China-Pakistan United (Shenzhen) Economy and Trade Management Co. Ltd., Zang Mengsheng, General Manager of the Trade and Finance Department of Pakistan's Habib Bank Limited (HBL) in China, attended the forum, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday. At the forum, Pakistani representative introduced in detail the more than 50 agreements signed by two

governments since the construction of the China-Pakistan Corridor was launched in 2013, which determined layout centered on the industrial cooperation as the four priorities.

Independent

Friday August 04, 2023

International News

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China hints leaders started annual seaside vacation in flood-hit province

Monitoring Desk

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping's chief of staff met with experts holidaying at Beidaihe on Thursday, a signal that typically means top leaders have started their vacation at the seaside resort, even as large areas of northern China remain flooded.

The summer retreat comes as questions continue to swirl around the unexplained removal as foreign minister of Qin Gang, a former rising star under Xi's patronage, the abrupt replacement of the top brass at the People's Liberation Army Rocket Force, and as the leadership struggles to find the right tools to stimulate the

Beidaihe has traditionally provided a relaxed setting for retired Chinese

to interact and raise concerns with the current lead-

solidated power over the past decade, the scope for elders to speak their minds has shrunk, said a Chinese scholar who declined to be named as he is not authorised to speak to foreign media. Cai Qi, who is Xi's chief of staff, met with 57 technology experts on vacation at Beidaihe and urged them to do more to make China technologically self-reliant, state news agency Xinhua reported.

China does not announce when leaders go on holiday but typically indicates the start of their vacation with an announcement about meeting experts. Leaders then disap-

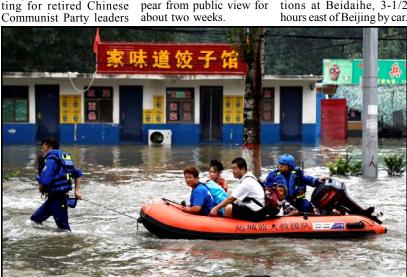
pear from public view for

It is unclear if Qin, who would be qualified to holiday at Beidaihe with the leadership since he retains the title of state councillor, will turn up. Qin has not been seen in public since

One of Xi's last tasks before going on vacation was to instruct emergency responders to work harder at rescuing those affected by floods battering northern China as a result of Typhoon Doksuri. At least 100,000

people in the province where Beidaihe is located have been evacuated, but the resort itself has not been affected

Since the founding of the people's republic, current and retired party and government leaders have gathered for summer vacations at Beidaihe, 3-1/2



Rescue workers from Shanxi province evacuate people through floodwaters with a boat after the rains and floods brought by remnants of Typhoon Doksuri in Zhuozhou, Hebei province, China.

Beijing records its heaviest rainfall in 140 years

Monitoring Desk Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Rains that
pummelled Beijing in recent
days were the heaviest

month of July dumped on
Beijing in just 40 hours.

On Tuesday, state
broadcaster CCTV said the

days were the heaviest since records began 140 years ago, the city's weather service said on Wednesday.

"The maximum relief" operations.

(amount) of rainfall re
Thirteen people. millimetres, occurred at the Wangjiayuan Reservoir in Changping," the Beijing Meteorological Service said, adding it was the "heaviest rainfall in 140

Storm Doksuri, a former super typhoon, swept northwards over China after hitting southern Fujian province last week, following its battering of

the Philippines. Heavy rains began pummelling the capital and surrounding areas on Saturday, with nearly the average rainfall for the entire tures this summer.

month of July dumped on

rains had killed at least 11 people in Beijing, two of whom were workers "killed on duty during rescue and

broadcaster said.

In neighbouring Hebei province, where over 800,000 people were evacuated, nine people were killed and six were missing, it said.

Another two casualties were reported in northeastern Liaoning province over the weekend. President Xi Jinping on Tuesday called for "every effort" to rescue those "lost or trapped" by the rains. China has been experiencing extreme weather and posting record tempera-

Four Nigerians, rescued in Brazil, survived 14 days on a ship's rudder

tenth day at sea, the four Nigerian stowaways crossing the Atlantic in a tiny space above the rudder of a cargo ship ran out of food and drink.

They survived another four days, according to their account, by drinking the sea water crashing just meters below them, before being rescued by Brazilian federal police in the southeastern port of Vitoria. Their remarkable,

death-defying journey across some 5,600 kilometers (3,500 miles) of ocean underlines the risks some migrants are prepared to take for a shot at a better

"It was a terrible ex-

year-old Opemipo Matthew Yeye, one of the four Nigerians, in an interview at a Sao Paulo church shelter. "On board it is not easy. I was shaking, so scared. But I'm

rescued soon gave way to The four men said

perience for me," said 38-year-old Thankgod

Their relief at being

they had hoped to reach Europe and were shocked to learn they had in fact landed on the other side of the Atlantic, in Brazil. Two of the men have since been returned to Nigeria upon their request, while Yeye and Roman Ebimene Friday, a 35-year-old from Bayelsa state, have applied for asylum in

sacks PM, the first woman to hold that job in an Arab League nation **Monitoring Desk** TUNIS: Tunisia's presi

Tunisia's president

dent has sacked the country's prime minister, who was the first woman to hold that job in an Arab League nation.

A brief statement from (amount) of rainfall recorded during this storm, which was 744.8 had been found safe, the was 144.8 had been found safe, the sons for the dismissal of Najla Bouden Ramadhane.

President Kais Saied had appointed the engineering school professor as Tunisia's first female prime minister in September

Her replacement is retired central bank director Ahmed Hachani, who was sworn in Tuesday night.

Tunisia is in the midst of an economic crisis with shortages of basic necessities and, in recent days, long lines for bread.

Lebanon hands over to Italy suspected drug dealer arrested near Beirut

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Lebanon handed over to Italy on Thursday morning a suspected Italian drug dealer arrested last month north of the capital of Beirut, judicial officials

Bartolo Bruzzaniti was flown to Italy on a private jet that took off from Beirut's Rafik Hariri International Airport, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

The anti-Mafia prosecutors based in Reggio Calabria, a city in the region of Calabria in southern Italy, have called Bruzzaniti a major organized crime figure. He was also described as a prominent player in Bruzzaniti-Morabito Palamara clan.



Greenpeace activists hold a banner while others cover British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's £2m manor house in oil-black fabric in protest of his backing for a major expansion of North Sea oil and gas drilling amidst a summer of escalating climate impacts, in Yorkshire, Britain.

Mongolian Prime Minster Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai gestures in front of Mongolia's flag and a portrait of the country's national hero Genghis Khan while speaking to Reuters correspondent Simon Lewis in an interview at the Mongolian embassy in Washington, U.S.

UN given green light to monitor peace deal between Colombia's government and its largest rebel group were displaced.

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: The Security Council on Wednesday unanimously authorized the U.N. political mission in Colombia to help verify implementation of a cease-fire agreement between the government and the country's largest remaining guerrilla group, the National Liberation

the same if a cease-fire is reached with another armed group, the Estado Mayor

The U.N. has been monitoring a 2016 peace accord between the government and Colombia's then largest rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC. It ended more than Army. 50 years of war in which over 220,000 people died and nearly 6 million people

More than 14,000 FARC fighters gave up their weapons under that agreement, but violence between some rebel groups has grown in parts of Colombia.

Colombia's govern-ment asked the council to extend the U.N. mission's verification mandate to include the June cease-fire deal with the National Liberation Army.

Monitoring Desk

NEW YORK: Russia has

added Norway to its list of

foreign states that have

committed so-called "un-

friendly" acts against Rus-

sian diplomatic missions,

news agencies reported on

are limited in the number of

local staff they can hire in

Countries on the list

Russia adds Trudeau and wife Norway to list announce separation of countries after 18 years 'unfriendly' to its diplomats an almost identical mes-

Monitoring Desk

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his wife Sophie said on Wednesday they were separating in an unexpected announcement that appeared to mark the end of the couple's 18-year high-profile marriage.

Trudeau, 51, and Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau, 48, were married in late May 2005. They have three children. "Sophie and I would

like to share the fact that after many meaningful and difficult conversations, we have made the decision to separate," Trudeau said on Instagram. Sophie posted husband.

sage on her own Instagram account. Trudeau's office said the two had signed a legal

agreement. "They have worked to ensure that all legal and ethical steps with regards to their decision to sepa-

rate have been taken, and will continue to do so moving forward," it said.

After Trudeau became prime minister in late 2015, he and Sophie were often seen together at social functions and on for-

Russia, with Norway restricted to 27, state news agency RIA Novosti said.

Norway expelled 15
Russian diplomats for alloged experies in April and leged spying in April, and Russia responded by order-ing out 10 Norwegian dipeign trips. But in recent years, Sophie has curtailed such appearances with her lomats.

Thursday.



line during their ongoing strike outside Netflix, in Los Angeles, California, U.S.

Dozens of states to pledge to combat use of food as weapon of war

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: More than 75 countries will "commit to take action to end the use of food as a weapon of war and the starvation of civilians as a tactic of warfare" by backing a U.S.-drafted communique at the United Nations on official. Thursday, senior U.S. offi-

cials said. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken will release the communique on Thursday when he chairs a U.N. Security Council meeting on famine and food insecurity caused by conflict. A senior U.S. official said more countries were ex- out any countries.

pected to sign. Blinken will also announce some \$362 million in new U.S. funding to "tackle the drivers of food insecurity and enhance resilience" in nearly a dozen African countries and Haiti. said a second senior U.S.

While the United States, the European Union and others have accused Russia of using food as a weapon of war by worsening a global food crisis when it invaded Ukraine in February 2022, the draft communique does not specifically call

Haryana tensions spill over into neighbouring states

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: Tensions ran high in Haryana and its neighbouring states on Wednesday, with riot popatrolling

skirts of the Indian capital as authorities issued prohibitory orders across the Nuh district, banning the sale of loose petrol or diesel in the aftermath of two days of communal violence that saw several shops, shanties and a mosque set ablaze. The death toll climbed to six on the third day of clashes between Hindus and Muslims, while

neighbourhoods on the out-

internet services also remained shut in four tehsils of Rajasthan's Bharatpur district, NDTV quoted officials as saying. Arson and vandalism

attacks had earlier broken out in parts of Gurugram, a satellite city of the capital and a key business centre where Nokia, Samsung and other multinationals have their headquarters.

One neighbourhood saw a mob of around 200 people armed with sticks and stones loot several meat shops and set fire to a restaurant while chanting Hindu religious slogans.

At least 15 thought to be dead after bus crash in Mexico, officials say **Monitoring Desk**

MEXICO CITY: At least 15 people are thought to have died and 21 more injured in a bus crash in the Mexican state of Nayarit in the early hours of Thursday, state officials said.

Local media had earlier reported that as many as 24 could have died when the passenger bus crashed off the highway into a ravine in western Mexico.

India to participate in Saudi Arabia summit on finding ways to start Ukraine war negotiations **Monitoring Desk** NEW DELHI: India will

participate in a weekend meeting that Saudi Arabia is hosting to find a way to start negotiations to end Russia's war in Ukraine. Saudi Arabia invited

India to the two-day meeting in Jeddah and its "participation is in consonance with our longstanding position that dialogue and diplomacy is the way forward," Arindam Bagchi, the spokesman for India's External Affairs Ministry, told reporters in New Delhi on Thursday.

Bagchi did not say who would represent the country at the summit

Ukraine accuses Russia of damaging 40,000 tonnes of grain

Monitoring Desk nost 40,000 tonnes of grain southern Ukrainian ports near the Danube river, Cyiv's infrastructure minster said on Wednesday.

The Russians atacked warehouses and grain elevators — almost 40,000 tonnes of grain were damaged," Minister Oleksandr Kubrakov said in an English-language post on social media. Kubrakov added that

the grain was destined for some African countries, China and Israel, and accused Russia of using Iranian drones to carry out the attack. "These are the very ports that have become the foundation of global food security today," he said. The port, across the office said.

river from Nato-member Romania, is the main alternative route out of Ukraine for grain exports, since Russia's blockade halted traffic at Ukraine's Black Sea ports in mid-July.

Video released by the Ukrainian authorities showed firefighters on ladders battling a huge blaze several stories high in a building covered with broken windows.

Several other large buildings were in ruins, and grain spilled out of at least two wrecked silos.

Putin-Erdogan talks President Tayyip Erdogan emphasised the importance of avoiding steps that could jeopardise the resumption of the Black Sea grain initiative in talks with Putin on Wednesday, Erdogan's

Niger junta says it will not back down despite 'inhumane' sanctions

Monitoring Desk NIAMEY: The self-declared new leader of Niger on Wednesday said the junta would not bow to pressure to reinstate ousted President Mohamed Bazoum, intensifying a standoff with the West African bloc which has threatened to intervene after last week's coup. The Economic Community of West African States (EČOWAS) has imposed sanctions on Niger and said it could authorise the use of force if the coup leaders do not restore Bazoum's presidency within a week from last

The bloc also sent a delegation to Niger on Wednesday to negotiate with the military officers who seized power, hoping to find a diplomatic solution before they have to decide whether or not to intervene. In a teleaddress, Abdourahamane Tiani said the junta "rejects these sanctions altogether and refuses to give into any threats, wherever they come from. We refuse any interference in

the internal affairs of Niger" ECOWAS has struggled to contain a democratic backslide in West Africa and had vowed that coups will no longer be tolerated after military takeovers in member states Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea and an attempted coup in Guinea-Bissau in

the last two years.
"The military option is the very last option on the table, the last resort, but we have to prepare for the eventuality," said Abdel-Fatau Musah, ECOWAS Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security.

"There is a need to demonstrate that we cannot only bark but can bite," he told reporters earlier on Wednesday, as regional defence chiefs started a twoday meeting in the Nigerian capital Abuja.

Vast majority of submissions to UN body on Israeli occupation favor them, Palestinians say

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: The vast majority of over 55

countries that made submissions to the U.N.'s highest judicial body which will give an advisory opinion on the legal consequences of Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories supported the Palestinians view that Israel is taking over land they seek for an independent state, their U.N. ambassador said

Wednesday.

The Palestinian U.N. envoy, Riyad Mansour, told a group of reporters the number of submissions to the International Court of Justice exceeded Palestinian expectations and came from every continent and included all five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council – the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France.

The U.N. General Assembly last Dec. 30 adopted a Palestinianbacked resolution asking the court's opinion on the le-

also seeks an opinion on the legal consequences of Israeli measures it said are "aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem." And it asks for an opinion on how all Israeli policies affect the legal status of its occupation, "and what are the legal consequences that arise for all states and the United Nations from this status." Israel vehemently op-

posed the resolution. Its ambassador, Gilad Erdan, called the measure "outrageous," the U.N. "morally bankrupt and politicized, and said any potential decision from the court will be "completely illegitimate. Mansour didn't pro-

vide further details on the submissions except to say the vast majority supported the Palestinians. He said the next step

is for the countries that made submissions to the court to rebut what other countries said if they desire, gality of Israeli policies in and to make additional subthe Palestinian territories. It missions by Oct. 25.

In Taiwan, Typhoon Khanun shuts markets, grounds flights

Monitoring Desk TAIPEI: Northern Taiwan on Thursday shut businesses and schools while airlines cancelled dozens of flights as the slow-moving Typhoon Khanun skirted past the island's northeast amid warnings of floods

Typhoon Khanun, categorised by Taiwan's weather bureau as the second-strongest typhoon level, slowly headed towards its northeastern coast with maximum winds of 198 kph (123 mph).
As of 1:15 pm Taipei time (0515 GMT), the eye

and high winds.

of the typhoon was 340 km off Taipei in the East China Sea, heading in a westerly direction at around 3 kph.

The storm was expected to brush past Taiwan's northern coast late on Thursday before making a sharp turn to the northeast on Friday, bringing total rainfall of up to 0.6 meter (2 feet) in mountainous central Taiwan and 0.3 meter of rain on the moun-

tains near Taipei. Northern cities includ-

ing the capital Taipei shut businesses and schools. Taiwan's stock and foreign exchange markets were also

More than 110 international and domestic flights have been cancelled while all domestic ferry lines were suspended. In Taipei, rain and

wind have brought down dozens of street signs and trees, while subway services were reduced and food delivery services were suspended. Hundreds of soldiers were on standby in nearby cities for disaster response. The storm had cut power to more than 16,000 households across Taiwan although the majority of them had been restored. In Japan's popular tourist destination Okinawa, Typhoon Khanun left two people dead, injured at least 62 people and knocked out power to more than 200,000 households over the past two days. Typhoon Khanun comes just a week after Typhoon Doksuri brought heavy rains and strong winds to the Taiwan's south.

President urges efforts to deepen Pak-Iran ties in trade, culture

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday called for efforts to deepen and widen the relationship between Pakistan and Iran, particularly in the areas of trade, economy, culture, and people-to-people contacts.

The president, talking to Pakistan's Ambassadordesignate to Iran Mudassir Tipu, who called on him here, underlined that Iran a brotherly neighbouring country and Pakistan greatly valued its

the regional context, it was reinforced to highlight the plight of hapless people living in the Indian Illegal Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) to the Iranian people, adding that Iran had supported the causes of justice and equity.

The ambassador-designate maintained that he was determined to further solidify Pakistan-Iran ties and, in the emerging geopolitical developments, elrelationship with Iran evate those ties to new rooted in history, culture, heights exploring their full



QUETTA: A delegation comprising All Parties, transporters of Shirani, Zhob and Harnai and representatives of Harnai Awami Ittehad led by MPA Nasrullah Zairay meeting with Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Kakar.

Pak, Bahrain to enhance cooperation in Postal & **Communication Sector**

munication and Postal Services Maulana Asad Mehmood on Thursday stressed the need to enhance cooperation in postal and communication sectors be-Pakistan and

He welcomed highlevel delegation of Bahrain led by Minster of Transport and Telecommunication Muhammad Bin Tahmeer-al-Kaab in his of-

The minister, on the occasion, informed the delegation that Pakistan was heavily investing to build state-of-the-art road infrastructure spreading from Kashghar to Gwadar for countries in the region to take full advantage through delegates about the investment opportunity for the investors from Bahrain in road infrastructure develop-

The postal services of Pakistan is also being upgraded to bring at par with the global postal services, said the minster added.

He said National Highways and Motorway Police is also part of his ministry and the government is introducing more stringent traffic rules to avoid accidents and to facilitate commuters on Motorways.

Federal Secretary Ministry of Communication and Chairman National Highway Authority (NHA) Capt (Rtd) Muhammad Khurram Agha also briefed

Masood Khan, senior **US official discuss** boosting economic ties

Khan, Wednesday discussed with the US Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and Environment, Jose Fernandez, steps to strengthen the economic partnership between the two countries.

'Today I discussed with Pakistani Ambassador Masood Khan strengthening US-Pak economic partnership and climate resil-

WASHINGTON (APP): ience via the U.S.-Pakistan Pakistan 's Ambassador to the United States, Masood ment in the technology sector," tweeted Under Secretary Fernandez.

"I look forward to working together on mutually beneficial priorities," he

thanked Fernandez for receiving him with warmth, according to a press release issued by the Pakistani



QUETTA: Balochistan National Party (BNP) Central General Secretary, Waja Jahanzaib Baloch addressing press conference at Quetta press club.

Toshakhana case: Chairman PTI challenges order of rejection of his right to defence in IHC ISLAMABAD (Online): the court in his appeal plea

Chairman PTI has chal- that trial court's orders be lenged in Islamabad High Court (IHC) rejection of his right to defence in Toshakhana case. Additional Sessions Judge Hummayun Dilawar while withdrawing PTI Chairman right to defence yesterday had accepted Election Commission (EC) plea for nal arguments on Thursday declaring irrelevant all the

witnesses of chairman PTI. The chairman PTI while challenging the decision regarding rejection of his right to defence in IHC prayed the court to nullify the trial court's yesterday's

Imran Khan requested

plea today because Hummayun Dilawar had said during the hearing that the judgment will be reserved after hearing the fi-(August 03). Amjid Pervez the counsel for EC had raised the objection that these were irrelevant witnesses. District and Sessions court had maintained during its August 02 hear-

nullified and his right to de-

fence be restored.

witnesses with the case.

ongoing development projects in Quetta Zone Building

Former Chairman **PCB Ijaz Butt**

and former test cricketer firmed that Ijaz Butt was 85 years old and was ill for

Chairman PTI has prayed the court to hear his

ing that Imran Khan has failed to prove link of his



Insurance Corporation Shahid Iqbal Baloch exchanging documents after signing an agreement for the provision of health insurance to working journalists and media workers associated with the media houses of Pakistan. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Information Minister Ms Marriyum

Health insurance for journalists, artists step forward to equitable Pakistan: PM surance card was a gift for

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that the introduction of a health insurance facility for journalists and artists was a step forward to achieving the milestone of an equitable Pakistan as dreamt by Ouaid-e-Azam. He was addressing the ceremony of agreement signing between the Ministry of Informa-tion and Broadcasting and State Life Insurance Corporation for providing health insurance cards to journalists, media workers, and artists as well as technical workers associated with the film industry.

The prime minister said the agreement was of utmost importance as it addressed the media men and artists who worked

ISLAMABAD (APP): hard, even sometimes during tough working conditions, but remained deprived of basic amenities in their lives.

However, the government would provide them with health insurance coverage through budgetary allocations under the PM Program. Calling her a "moving spirit" the prime minister appreciated the key role of Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyu Aurangzeb to launch the said insurance facility. He recalled that dur-

ing Nawaz Sharif's tenure, health insurance card was launched on a massive scale, and at that time, the Punjab government also implemented his vision.

He said the health in-

the downtrodden people who could not afford costly medical treatments. The prime minister said no one would have ob-

jected to the previous government's health insurance facility if it was not meant to patronise the private hospitals. He said the across-the-board facility was misused as even some greedy healthy people misused that card to mint money, in con-nivance with the hospitals. The prime minister shared that in 2003 he suffered a fatal disease and had to spend around Rs8 million at a US hospital which was in no way affordable for the poor.

He said in order to provide equitable health facilities, Nawaz Sharif had nev and Liver Institute where 1.000 liver and kidney transplant procedures had been completed. The facility provides free treatment to the poor and charges the rich ones to help provide cross-subsidy.

He said the Nawaz Sharif-led government also introduced free medicine facilities at hospitals.

"This is the human service... This is the equality for which Pakistan was made but this is still a far cry," he remarked. He also lamented the suspension of free CT scan facilities provided at the district level, while he was Punjab chief minister, as the government had signed an agreement with private companies which in-

Nawabzada

Haroon's

martyrdom not

tribal conflict:

Spokesperson

Sarwan House

QUETTA (APP): Spokes-

person of Sarwan House on

Thursday said that the mar-

tyrdom of Nawabzda

Haroon Raisani is not some

Raisani was attacked by

criminals while he was on

official duty," Spokesman said adding that outlaws

consider themselves above

on social media about the

Chief of Sarwan and former

Chief Minister Balochistan

Nawab Aslam Raisani is

The news circulating

"Nawabzada Haroon

kind of tribal conflict.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services, Maulana Asad Mehmood in a meeting with Mohammad Bin Thamer Al Kaabi, Minister of Transport and Telecommunication, The Kingdom of Bahrain, to discuss cooperation in postal service and road networks.

Governor assures every possible cooperation to resolve issues of masses & transporters

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Kakar has assured every possible cooperation for resolving the issues being faced by the masses as well as transporters and those associated with the coal mining in Shirani, Zhob and Harnai.

Reciprocating, Ambassador Masood Khan

cial assembly, Nasrullah

The Governor was speaking to a delegation comprising the All Parties,

A-Web

delegation

visits ECP

to foster

collaboration ISLAMABAD (APP): A

two-member delegation

operations and invited the

Commission to attend the

General Assembly meeting

release, various Wings of the ECP provided detailed

briefings to the delegation.

passes away

LÂHORE (Online):

Former Chairman of Paki-

stan Cricket Board (PCB)

in-law Arif Saeed has con-

In this regard, his son-

Late Ijaz Butt repre-

He was chairman of

sented Pakistan in 8 test

Pakistan Cricket Board

QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Communication & Works Ali Akbar Baloch presiding over a meeting to review progress on

from 2008 to 2011.

Ijaz Butt passed away.

long time.

matches.

According to a press

year in Colombia.

resentatives of Harnai awami Ittehad, who called on him here at the Governor house on Thursday. The member provin-

Zairay led the delegation.

The members of delegations apprised the Governor about the issues and hardships being faced by the people of three districts them.

transporters of Shirani, besides transporters and Zhob and Harnai and repesses especially those associated with the business of

They informed that the people of concerned districts are facing numerous issues. They sought role of Governor for resolving their issues.

The Governor gave patient hearing to the issues and assured to resolve

Iranian FM calls on Chairman Senate

ISLAMABAD (Online): to acknowledge Pakistan's Chairman bilateral relations are rooted in historical linkages and based on religious, linguistic, cultural similarities and

from the Association of World Election Bodies (A-Web) visited the Election Commission of Pakistan spiritual affiliation. He expressed these views in a meeting with Ira-nian Foreign Minister (ECP) to learn about its of the Association, which is scheduled to be held next

Senate sovereignty and to support Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has said that Pakistan Iran
United Nations. "I view

Hossein Amir Abdollahian here at Parliament House on He further said that ternational forums such as Iran was the first country the IPU and the APA.

this as a solid foundation upon which we have built close bilateral ties that we continue to nature", Chairman Senate observed. He observed that Parliamentary ties between Pakistan and Iran have also grown stronger over the years, with multiple bilateral visits and cooperation at in-

Justice Mazahir Naqvi pens letter to CJP

Supreme Court Judge, Justice Mazahir Ali Naqvi, has said in a letter addressed to the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) that according to reports, frivolous and nonserious complaints have been filed against him. These complaints are part of a malicious campaign against the judiciary.

It is alleged that the

property is valued higher than the value shown in the revenue records and income tax returns. According to the

rules, the complaint against the judge is submitted to the Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council

ISLAMABAD (Online) (SJC). The Chairman of the Council shall send a member of the Council to examine the said information or complaint and express his opinion. "In my case, according to media reports, the matter was referred to Justice Sardar Tariq Masood on May 29 to ex-

press his opinion on the complaint. It is a matter of record that the said judge wrote two letters to the members of the Supreme Judicial Council and me on April 3 and 26, the letter expressed his impatience and eagerness to initiate proceedings before the Supreme Judicial Council said Justice



Mazahir Ali Naqvi.

performance, services of Levies & Police in Balochistan: DG Levies force headquarter here on **Independent Report** QUETTA: The Director Thursday. General of Levies force

Balochistan, Naseebullah Khan Kakar has stated that the peace has been restored in the province because of the excellent performance and services of the Levies and police force. He said that we have ended the concept of "A"

and "B" areas in the prov-

He said that huge sacrifices have been rendered by the police, Levies and Frontier Corps (FC) jawans for the cause of peace in the

The DG Levies force was speaking to the under trainee police officers of the National Police Academy (NPA), currently on study tour of Balochistan, during their visit to the Levies

Also present on the

occasion were the Additional Inspector General of Police, Jawad Ahmed Dogar, Director Training of NPA, Noman Siddiqui,Course Commander Rana Abdul Aziz, Director Operations Balochistan Levies, Mir Wais Khan Kakar, and oth-

Mir Wais Kakar briefed the visiting trainee police officers about the overall functioning and performance of Levies force in Balochistan.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director General Levies maintained that Levies is mainly responsible for security of the large area of the province. He menLevies force in the prov-

people is mounting on the

He also said that the Levies is a tribal and regional law enforcing force and it better knows how to deal with the criminals and law breakers having good capacity and capability of the same.

He also said that we are proud of the performance of Army, FC, Police and Levies.
The DG also high-

lighted the role and services of Levies force in dealing with different situations besides maintaining law and order in the province.

It has equally played important role in extending assistance and relief to the masses during the flood situation in Balochistan, tioned that the trust of the DG maintained.

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67th Meeting of National Logistics Board held

ISLAMABAD (Online): The 67th meeting of the National Logistics Board (NLB) was held on Thursday. Chaired by Chairman NLB, the Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives (PDSI), Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, the meeting was attended by other members of the

apex logistics body. Lieutenant General Muhammad Ali, Quartermaster General Pakistan Army / Officer In-Charge (OIC) NLC, and Major General Farrukh Shahzad Rao, Director General NLC, apprised the participants on the operational, administrative and financial matters of the organi-

The Board was apprised of NLC's regional connectivity initiatives un-Transport Internationaux Routiers (TIR), and the bilateral transit trade agreements with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkey.

The Board was informed that NLC has so far completed 14 trips to these countries in past one year while preparations are being made to undertake 2 more trips to Kazakhstan & Kyrgyzstan through

Earlier this year, 21 trucks of NLC delivered relief goods donated by the Government of Pakistan for the Turkish earthquake victims by road. It was the first ever road transportation of relief goods to any regional country by Paki-

Prof. Ahsan Iqbal lauded the performance of NLC and praised the organisation's contributions towards nation-building activities. He assured that PD&SI will play its role in resolving matters pertaining to issuance of I & E forms by commercial banks to exporters and importers for shipment through Iran.

The minister directed NLC management to explore ways and means for operationalization of khunjrab pass for trade



ISLAMABAD: The 67th meeting of the National Logistics Board (NLB). Chaired by Chairman NLB, the honourable Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives (PDSI), Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, the meeting was attended by other members of the apex logistics body.

NA body on HR urges govt for removal of civil judge on alleged torture

ISLAMABAD (Online): The National Assembly Standing Committee on Human Rights; expressing grave concern over alleged torture of underaged house-maid Rizwana by the wife of a Civil Judge, urged that the Ministry of Law and Justice should immediately initiate the process for removal from service of the

said Civil Judge. House Islamabad under the Chairpersonship of Dr. Mehreen Razzaq Bhutto,

The Committee was briefly apprised by the Chairperson of National Commission on the Rights of Children (NCRC), about the unfortunate incident occurred with an innocent Girl namely Rizwana who was a maid in the house of Civil Judge. She further informed the Committee that the incident was happened on 24th July, 2023, and refurther strengthen the case. The DIG ICT Police, also endorsed the statement of the chairperson NCRC. Chairperson of the

Standing Committee; while

referring the Articles No. 3, 11, 23, 25-A, 35 and 37 (a) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973, held that the unfortunate incident was clear-cut violation of the 26th meeting of the human rights therefore Standing Committee on Human Rights was held tomaximum punishment to day at the Parliament the responsible(s). She urged the Ministry of Law and Justice to play their role as per Judicial Code of Conduct, take all possible measures for the punitive action(s) against the Civil Judge and submit report to the Committee. The Committee however directed the DIG, ICT Police, to undertake an impartial inquiry; ignoring all sorts of pressures, finalize the report and submit to the Committee at the earliest possible. The Committee further directed the Ministry of Huported in media after 2 man Rights to give their indays. Initially, the FIR was put on the draft policy; prepared by Child Rights Commission, and submit very weak however on the basis of Medico Legal Report some more sections the same to the Committee in the next meeting.



QUETTA: Director General Balochistan Levies Force Naseebullah Khan Kakar in a group with under trainee ASPs of National Police Academy

Concept of "A" and "B" areas ended:
Peace restored owing to excellent