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Vol. XIII No. 253 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Tuesday August 29, 2023, Safar 11, 1445 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

PM directs to accelerate execution of identified projects under SIFC

COAS reaffirms army's all-out support to caretaker govt

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Staff, entire federal cabi-Monday directed the authorities concerned to accelerate the realisation of high-level government identified projects by capitalising enabling environment, already achieved through Special Investment Facilitation Council

was chairing the 4th Apex Committee Meeting of SIFC - the inaugural meeting under the caretaker government - to continue positive impetus under the Council

The meeting was at-horizontal and vertical revival of country's tended by Chief of Army synergy. net, chief ministers, pro- appreciated SIFC's out- dorsed the projects, apvincial ministers and reach strategy to achieve proved by the previous officials.

span of time.
Prime Minister Kakar

appreciated the efficient Approach" for achieving

The Apex Committee global traction and ongoing engagements with broth-The meeting was erly/friendly countries intors of agriculture, livegiven a wholesome re- cluding productive visits of stock, mining, minerals, view of SIFC initiatives, high-level delegations from encompassing progress in the Kingdom of Saudi and energy. key areas and benchmarks Arabia and Islamic Orga- The Ar The prime minister achieved thus far in a short nization for Food Security firmed Pakistan Army's

> expressed confidence on tinuity of policies in a bid functioning of SIFC SIFC initiatives and dis- to through a collaborative played its resolve and sup-"Whole of Government port in maintaining positive trajectory towards the

The body also engovernment, for attracting investments in key secinformation technology

The Army Chief reafall-out support to the care-The Apex Committee taker government for conrevive country's economy and steer Pakistan towards progress and prosperity.

sued by the ministry.

ISLAMABAD

According to the state-

Relief to masses in

(APP): nore the issue."

programme.

to a query.

He said the caretaker today too. The media

on the relief to the masses.

the relevant stakeholders

should inform the masses

about the reasons behind

increase in electricity bills

he said while responding

"Political temperature

The minister said the

cross-cutting function of

the governance section

called for its proper and ef-

ficient monitoring of all

projects. Sami Saeed under-

scored that the economic

and social outcomes ob-

tained from the projects

should be closely moni-

tored while focusing on the

optimal utilization of every

He said the prime minister held a meeting with

ment, the ministry has for-

Caretaker Minister for In-

"We are focusing on

how to provide relief to the

masses instead of delving

into discussion that who is

responsible for expensive electricity," the minister said while talking to a pri-

government took the oath

on August 17, and the con-

sumers received inflated

bills of the month of July.

ister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar

had taken notice of in-

flated electricity bills.

Solangi said, adding, "We

Caretaker Prime Min-

vate TV channel.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chaired the 4th apex committee meeting of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

Power ministry finalises proposals on inflated bills

Proposals to be presented to cabinet which will make the final decision today; Senate body directs Power Division to provide list of defaulters, outstanding dues in each DISCO

 $S\ L\ A\ M\ A\ B\ A\ D\ /\ tions$ regarding the issue finalised recommendations on the issue of skyrocketing electricity bills, causing a widespread outcry in the entire nation. The prothe federal cabinet for approval on Tuesday.

KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi chairing a meeting with representatives A high-level meeting of banking industry to review progress on initiatives for financial inclusion, was held at the Ministry of gender equality and issues of banking sector at Sindh Governor House. Power to address the matter, during which officials President Alvi for strengthening discussed the performance of all power companies and financial inclusion, gender equality proposed solutions to address the issue of inflated bills, said a statement is-

President Dr Arif Alvi Monday asked the banking institutions to take of women and differentlyinclusion and gender equality in the sector. Besides ensuring easy

and accessible financial services to women and differently-abled persons, he emphasized the banking employment job training and financial

chairing a meeting of said it was encouraging to representatives of banking see the ratio of female in

employment and financial

The meeting was He said the jobs for the attended by senior officials people with disabilities of State Bank of Pakistan economic activities vital for The president was the country, the president industry here at the Sindh bank account holders and

(APP): Governor House to review banking sector jobs had progress on initiatives recorded a significant aimed at financial inclusion growth in previous years but still more efforts were measures to further abled persons, progress on required by the sector to strengthening financial measures taken to ensure promote gender equality and inclusion of all opportunities for them, and segments of the society for other issues of the banking achieving the objectives of inclusive banking.

could be tailored in the sector to focus on providing and chief executive officers banking industry and the of different commercial process of bank account opportunities and financing banks. Terming meaningful opening could be made easy

President Alvi also progress and prosperity of proposed the bank officials to explore parttime job avenues in their institutions for the household women.

Cipher case: Court approves 2-day further physical remand of Qureshi

ISLAMABAD (Online): The court has approved two days physical remand of former Foreign Minister (FM) Shah Mehmood Qureshi in cipher case and handed over him

Judge Abul Hasnaat Zulqarnain of special court constituted under official secret act held in-camera hearing of cipher

case Monday. Shah Mehmood Qureshi was presented in the court on completion of three days physical remand. Babar Awan and

Shoaib Shaheen counfor Shah Mehmood Qureshi also appeared in the court. Special prosecutor Zulfiqar Naqvi appeared on behalf of FIA. The court while accepting FIA plea approved further two days physical remand of Shah Mehmood Qureshi and handed him over to FIA.

CARACHI/ LAHORE which will be presented INP): The Ministry of during the federal cabinet on Monday meeting for final approval It said that the ultimate cial year.

decision rests with the federal cabinet, as only the and make a final decision.

APP adds: Senate Standing Committee on Power directed the Power Division to provide list of defaulters and outstanding dues in each DISCO in the next meeting. The committee met

here under the chair of Senator Saifullah Abro also asked about the 'Capacity Charges' which are being paid to Independent Power Producers (IPPs). mulated the recommenda-

Senator Sarwar Khan Nyazee questioned about the electricity theft and electricity subsidy for the current finan-

The officials stated that approximately Rs.467 bilcabinet has the authority to lion worth electricity theft posals will be presented to endorse these proposals and around Rs. 976 billion electric subsidy has been provided in the financial year 2023

Senator Saifullah Abro lamented the IPPs and attributed them as the primary reason behind the unjustified electricity costs.

He pointed out that IPPs have inflated the invoices of three significant power plants, a fact acknowledged by the Secretary of the Power Division.

Saifullah He maintained that unless the WAPDA employees. the IPP issue is resolved, the electricity crisis cannot be effectively tackled. The Senate body also

> discussed the public petition of Ashraf Ansari retired WAPDA.

The officials informed that Group Life Insurance has been provided in Power Division apprised Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Civil Servant Retirement and investigate the alleged Benefit and Death Compensation Act, 2014",

After detailed deliberations, the committee decided to amend the Act to resolve the issue of WAPDA employees. Moreover, as to the

garding non-payment of current status of implemengroup life insurance to re- tations of recommendations employees of relating to 765kV Dasu-Mansehra-Islamabad T/L (Lot-I) and consultant M/s GOPA Intec, the officials of that a Committee to analyse the bidding process of LoT-I irregularities of M/s GOPA Intec has been formed and however, there is currently a comprehensive report no existing Act that serves will be submitted before the as a basis for providing committee within a month Group Life Insurance to period time.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti in a meeting with the Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf

IHC to

announce

Toshakhana is already high in the country," he said, stressing that verdict today there was no need to resort ISLAMABAD (INP): The are responsible caretaker to debate that who was re-Islamabad High Court government and cannot ig- sponsible for the bills. (IHC) today (Monday) Journey to progress pivoted has reserved a verdict on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf on adherence to good (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's plea seeking susgovernance principles: Sami pension of sentence by the trial court's Addi-ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Planning partional District and Sessions Judge (ADSJ) Humayun

Dilawar in the Toshakhana A two-member bench, comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, conducted the hearing, with Election Commission of Pakistan's lawyer, Amjad Parvez, who wasn't able to appear before the court due to ill health at the last hearing on Friday, presented his arguments in the case.

Imaan Mazari arrested again after release from Adiala jail

ISLAMABAD (Online) Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad accepted bail plea of Imaan Mazari and Ali Wazir in sedition case and Imaan Mazari was released.

However she was again arrested.

The ATC accepted bail plea of Imaan Mazari and Ali Wazir against the surety bonds in the sum of Rs 30000 each. Later Imaan

PM, Lord Aamer Safraz discuss ways to enhance **Pakistan-UK relations** (APP): Pakistanis living in Britain,

ISLAMABAD Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Monday here held a meeting with Member of House of Lords of British Parliament Lord Aamer Sarfraz and discussed matters of mutual interest.

They discussed ways to expand cooperation between the two countries in trade, investment, developmental planning and other

particularly their contribution to the British political He said the Pakistanis

residing in Britain were playing an important role in further improving ties of Pakistan and the United Kingdom (UK).

Lord Aamer Sarfraz congratulated the prime minister for assuming the office and assured full cooperation from the British The prime minister political leadership and the appreciated the services of Pakistanis living in Britain.

Aneeq urges Saudi govt to increase Pakistan's Hajj quota as per new census

Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed, in a bid to accommodate the growing population of Pakistan, on Monday called upon the Saudi government to expand the Hajj quota for pilgrims. In an exclusive conversation with APP, he highlighted the discrepancy between the current Hajj quota and the country's population figures. "Presently, Pakistan's allocated Hajj quota stands at 179,210 pilgrims, a number that falls short of accurately representing the nation's popula-

ISLAMABAD

The recently conducted census revealed that Pakistan's population has surged to 241.49 million,

(APP): of 2.55 per cent," he added. Minister Aneeq took the opportunity to discuss this matter during a recent visit from his Saudi counterpart, Dr. Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah. Dr. Al-Rabiah, acknowledging the concern, assured him of an increase in the Hajj quota, subject to the completion of necessary procedural formalities Highlighting the suc-

cess of the 'Road to Makkah' project, which significantly streamlined the pilgrimage process during Hajj 2023, the minister proposed extending the initiative to encompass multiple airports across Pakistan, including Lahore and Karachi. This expansion would undoubtedly facilitate pilgrims embarking on the sacred with an annual growth rate Hajj journey, he added.

at Parliament House Pakistanis residing in Britain bridges between two countries: Sanjrani

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Muhammad Faisal, High Com-

missioner- designate to United Kingdom calling

on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani

ISLAMABAD Chairman Muhammad Sanjrani acknowledging mote cooperation in the the vital role played by fields of environment, Pakistanis residing in Brit- trade, IT, education and ain termed them as other sectors. bridges between the two countries.

attention to the chal- Chairman Senate exlenges faced by these ex- horted British businesspatriates and stressed men to explore investthe need for swift reso- ment opportunities in lution. The Chairman Pakistan. He underscored Senate was talking to that the confidence of in-Pakistan's newly desig- vestors would contribute nated High Commissioner significantly to the to the United Kingdom, country's economic sta-Dr. Muhammad Faisal, bility. who called on him here at the Parliament House on man Senate emphasized Monday. He warmly con- that strong business and gratulated Dr. Faisal on economic ties would his recent appointment, serve to strengthen the expressing his good wishes for his tenure.

Commissioner would fursizing the importance of sioner to the United collaboration between the Kingdom.

(INP): two nations, the Chair-Senate man Senate urged Dr. Sadiq Faisal to actively pro-

Highlighting the potential for economic He urged immediate growth and stability,

Additionally, Chairbond between the people of both nations. In his Sadiq Sanjrani ex- concluding remarks, pressed that Dr. Faisal's Sanjrani expressed his role as the Pakistani High confidence in Dr. Muhammad Faisal's cather enhance the already pabilities and extended strong bilateral ties be- his best wishes for his tween Pakistan and the endeavours as the Paki-United Kingdom. Empha- stani High Commis-

Caretaker Minister for ticipated in the meeting. Planning, Development and Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Monday said the journey to progress and development pivoted on adhering to the principles of good governance in institutions and the system.

Chairing a review meeting on governance-related issues, he stressed that the process of development should continue by adhering to the principles of good governance in institutions and the system.

Governance Section of the masses.

single penny incurred on the projects. He added that projects of national importance should be continued on a priority basis to pass Officials from the on their due benefits to the



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Muhammad Sami Saeed chairing a meeting to review Governance related matters.

Daily soice of Masse. Independent

Tuesday August 29, 2023

The PPP stirs

Is the PPP coming around to the realisation that it has made a big mistake? After quietly succumbing, along with the PDM parties, and controversially approving the results of the last census just days before the 15th National Assembly was dissolved, it now seems to be having trouble coming to terms with the implications of its decision.

It is worth recalling that the party had consistently protested the census's results till the time came for their approval. Independent observers had warned repeatedly that validating the census at the eleventh hour would give the authorities an excuse to delay elections beyond the constitutionally mandated 90-day limit, and the PPP had been cognisant of this eventuality throughout.

It had, therefore, come as a shock when it was reported that the Council of Common Interests' eventual decision to approve the results was a unanimous one. The party now claims it was told there would be no change in election timelines due to the CCI's decision.

To be clear, the PPP is taking the correct line: there is no room for any further violation of the Constitution on any pretext, delimitations included. However, it is difficult to accept the PPP's excuse for its abrupt U-turn at face value, given how calculated the party's politicking generally is.

It is difficult to believe that its leadership could have been so credulous as to believe, even momentarily, that their approval of fresh census results would not automatically result in the need for fresh de limitation of constituencies.

There is considerable speculation as to what actually changed their mind, but whatever the case may be, it appears that the party has now decided to take a forceful stand on the matter. The PPP announced its position following a recent meeting of its Central Executive Committee, saying it will be firmed up once its representatives meet the chief election commissioner next week.

The party's refusal to accept any delay in the elections lic trust and confidence in a democratic and political dishas placed it in opposition to pensation. its erstwhile partners in the PDM-led coalition government. With the PML-N and JUI-F, along with others, throwing their weight behind the ECP's decision to go for fresh delimitations, this may push the PPP and the beleaguered PTI into the same cor-

The sight of Aitzaz Ahsan seated at the PPP's CEC meeting has already piqued a lot of interest. A PPP stalwart, Mr Ahsan had long been out of favour with his party's central

His sympathies for his Zaman Park neighbour are also well known. Was he there to bring the bitter rivals together, if only for the sake of upholding the Constitution? It is a tantalising possibility for those who have grown weary of the recent listlessness in political activity. Any ripple in these placid waters is welcome news.

Game of words



Maleeha Lodhi

Every time there is a tragedy or a violent incident in the country, the official response is the same. First, there is the usual round of condemnations. Then there is an expression of sympathy for the victims, photoops with them, and resolve to deal 'firmly' with those responsible for the atrocity.

But often words and tweets are all that are on offer rather than tangible actions to prevent the next tragedy. Soon, the incident is forgotten, and the government as well as the media move on. The underlying problem responsible for the tragedy is left to fester and flare up again.

Consider the horrendous attack on the churches and homes of the Christian community in Jaranwala by violent mobs. This was followed by strong words and

calls for "inter-faith harmony" by government leaders, an appearance by the caretaker prime minister and Punjab chief minister in Jaranwala, and assurances to track down and punish the perpetrators of the rampage. Were any meaningful actions taken to signal that the state will not tolerate such behaviour, whatever its motivation? No. And not for the first time

Attacks on minorities have continued with impunity as the deterrent against such attacks simply isn't in place. The guilty are rarely caught or prosecuted, much less punished. This is evidenced by the absence of convictions in most previous incidents of violence against minorities. Moreover, there is a

lack of protection for minorities and their places of worship, or efforts to calm the situation when there is a clear and present danger to their safety. Beyond delivering homilies, governments do little to avert another attack. Successive governments have in fact responded so timidly to violence by religious extremists. that it has unintendedly encouraged rather than de-

The reliance on words rather than actions is, of course, not limited to official reactions to tragedies and violent events. It is pervasive in every area of government functioning and has become a familiar practice among political leaders and

other managers of state.

Sermons are delivered

with tiresome frequency and exhortations are issued that urge people to do one thing or another. But the surfeit of rhetoric hardly obscures the lack of policy and administrative actions to deal with the issue at hand. Government leaders announce goals ('we will end violence'. 'we will promote harmony', 'the rule of law will be enforced', and so on) as if they are magically selfenforcing. Showcasing intentions is deemed sufficient to show they are governing. Platitudes and trite statements serve as substitutes for policy measures.

telling than in the area of economic governance. Here, government rhetoric has long clashed with grim reality. It is one thing to try to build confidence by offering a positive outlook. But if there is a yawning gap be-structure and reliability of cently by a minister in the tween official claims and on- power supplies as well as caretaker government, who - Courtesy Dawn

ground reality, the effort boomerangs.

Also, goals are stated without identifying the means and strategy to achieve them — 'we will increase exports', 'record tax resources will be mobilised', 'inflation will be controlled' Clichés are stated as profound statements of policy.

Pronouncements about attracting foreign direct investment are a case in point. New bodies are set up with hyper claims that overseas investors will flock to the country Investors are expected to respond to official exhortations to take advantage of opportunities and rush forward Again, the disconnect with reality is telling. There

has been a precipitous decline in FDI in recent years. Even the modest level of \$2 billion in FY 2022 (0.4 per cent of GDP) declined by 25pc in FY 2023. It is now negligible as a consequence Nowhere is this more of the macroeconomic crisis and protracted political uncertainty. Foreign investment

flows to where the security situation is stable. Investor interest also depends on the quality of available infracertainty about judicial enforcement of rules. An unstable macroeconomic environment is an obvious impediment. So is the absence of policy continuity and lack of consistency in rules

among provinces. Significant investment can hardly take place when policies lurch between liberal business measures and foreign exchange restrictions, profit repatriation curbs, and import controls. Words and exhortations do not change this reality.

In some instances. words are used in a self-delusionary way. Some ministers in the previous ruling coalition made extravagant claims in the last days of their government about 'trillions of dollars worth of mineral deposits' in the country waiting to be exploited. When investment in this sector hasn't been forthcoming for decades and has still not materialised, it is misleading to make such hyperbolic statements, especially as there is a big difference between theoretical/ technical potential and economic value

Another disingenuous statement was made redeclared he is "determined to take Pakistan's ICT exports from \$2.4bn to \$10 to \$20bn". In a short-duration government?

crisis-ridden economy perpetually on the brink can hardly become the basis of such policy. Serving as an element in another country's strategy geoeconomic doesn't turn Pakistan into a

geoeconomic player. If Pakistan wants to pursue a geoeconomics policy in any meaningful sense it has to transform its economy through structural reforms, ensure a stable political environment, and reorder its budget priorities.

Geoeconomic power cannot be 'borrowed' or 'imported' from outside, but acquired by building a strong economic foundation with attractive and efficient markets and substantial trading capacity. Policy shifts are not accomplished by just talking and the use of buzzwords. Little wonder then that official reference to this policy shift has all but vanished now.

Announcements long on rhetoric and short on action only leave governments with a crisis of credibility.

conundrum: the sequel



Dr Ayesha Razzaque

A few weeks ago, A-level students in Pakistan and the region received their grades for the May/June 2023 exam session. The results came as a shock to many students and parents. For many of them, their A-level grades came two and even grades expectations. The reason is Cambridge International Examinations' (CIE) policy to gradually retreat from the inflated grades it awarded during the years the pandemic disrupted examina-

Covid-19 hit in early 2020 and with very little reaction time until the May-June exams, CIE first hurriedly put together a policy to award grades by asking teachers to collect evidence of student performance during the school year and submit their predicted grades for each student and then moderating those grades based on statistics. That last step turned out to be a disaster, and only a week later CIE had to reverse course and decided to simply award students the awards their teachers had submitted. As expected, grade inflation shot through the roof, and it rained A* and A grades that year. In effect, in 2020, teachers had awarded students their A-level grades.

The following year, in 2021, CIE conducted exams in countries whose Covid policies allowed for it and resorted to teacher-predicted grades with better thought through moderation where they did not. Nevertheless, the result was one of the highest inflation in CIE-awarded grades ever witnessed. Covid vaccines started becoming available that same year. Schools the world over

reopened, but students were still reeling from the effects of learning losses caused by pandemic closures. Students' learning had been disrupted for two school years by remote / online learning and by not having had an exam in supervised conditions. When the 2022 exam

may have been the odd under-informed commentator left here or there, it was amply clear that students had suffered from the suboptimal online teaching and were suffering from learning losses and misaligned grade expectations

CIE had to make the return to its original, pre-Covid level of grading/assessments standards to bring down the grade inflation of the previous two years - it had to be done, but gradually. And CIE decided to do it over two years. This year was the second of those two years, finally bringing its marking standards back to the 2019 pre-pandemic level.

CIE had publicly announced the return to 2019 marking standards well in advance to prepare student expectations. Nevertheless, we know from some of the media coverage that followed that when international and UK students received their A-level grades on August 10 and 17, respectively, the lower-thanexpected results still came as a shock to many. Many fewer students were awarded grades between A* season rolled around, most and C grades – which are

grades A* and A.

Many graduating high

school students hold conditional admission and scholarship offers. They need to achieve certain grades in the final result to convert those conditional offers into unconditional offers. If grades come in below expectation, a university is within its rights to rescind a provisional offer of admission or scholarship they made. This year was especially tough on students in this regard, and I can only sympathize with students who find themselves in this unfortunate situation. Students from less wealthy families who depend on scholarships, particularly to study at universities abroad, will be espe-

cially hard hit A rescinded offer at this late stage means the remaining opportunities for admission are limited, leaving three main options: one, reapply for admissions for next year with actual grades in hand; two, retake exams and try to improve grades; and, three, those very confident in their exam performance may apply to have their papers re-check (for a fee). In either case, students with rescinded offers have to de-

remaining admission offers still available to them for this year. For CIE A-level students across the world. these are the choices they are faced with this year.

Like I said, all of the above is true for all A-level students across the globe in 10.000 schools in 160 countries. But in addition to all of the above, A-level students in Pakistan had to contend with some additional circumstances this year – the riots on May 9 and the following day after the ar-rest of the PTI chairman which forced CIE to cancel exams scheduled for May 10, 11 and 12 for safety reasons. Fortunately, CIE has a long-standing pre-existing procedure to fairly extrapolate marks for a missed exam paper based on a student's performance in papers of the same subject that they did take. This provision allows students who miss a paper for legitimate, acceptable reasons to graduate instead of waiting for a year to retake it next year.

The result of the MoFEPT's involvement and advocacy to CIE on students' behalf has countries had gone back to regular exams. While there many fewer received top war or pick one of the few schools, can apply to have TheNews

Invisible heroes

their exams rechecked, with 80 per cent of the cost to be borne by schools (which schools are fighting) and 20 per cent by students, which will be fully refunded if there is a change to their grade. And, two, students can retake papers that were canceled as a result of street riots in the October/November session, free of

The only perfect solution to make up for canceled exam papers that comes to my mind involves a time machine. CIE's return to 2019 marking standards affected all students equally, but the cancellation of exam papers will now cost some students a year of their lives. If anything is to blame for this, it is the lack of self-control and disregard for the line that divides the right to protest and voicing one's opinion on the one side and flat-out rioting with no regard for anyone else's life on the other. Having a rally or political protest without shutting down an entire city is a skill this nation has yet to master. You can either have a revolution or you can get brought about two compro- an education, but you canmise options: one, students, not have both at the same -- Courtesy

Proceed to the route

fairs of the government.

perpetuate its term indefi-

tutional norm.

nitely, violating the consti-

initiate fresh delimitation of

constituencies, following

the approval of the Coun-

cil of Common Interests for

the 2023 population cen-

sus, is a declaration that

general elections may not be

held within the constitu-

cess typically takes a mini-

considerably due to pos-

sible litigations by the af-

fected candidates. There-

fore, the ECP decision has

exacerbated uncertainty. If

the fate of the Supreme

Court's orders to hold by-

elections in Punjab is any

indicator, then general elec-tions seem to be a distant

stipulated in Article 224 are

imperative to mitigating the

political tension and pre-

vent impending constitu-

tional, political, and eco-

nomic crises before they

supported Stand-By Ar-

rangement, Pakistan has

just averted an imminent

sovereign default risk.

While the SBA has helped

the retreat of near-term vul-

ment, and the new govern-

ment after the elections will

need to engage with the

IMF for an extended financ-

ing arrangement to meet

nerabilities, it remains a

Thanks to the IMF-

become insurmountable.

Timely elections as

The delimitation pro-

tional limit of 90 days.

The ECP's decision to



Saeed Ahmed

Pakistan is getting deeper into a constitutional quagmire. The unending series of political manoeuvres over the past couple of years have caused much economic damage to the country while eroding pub-

The ramifications of the current constitutional and political crisis stretch beyond the judicial and democratic systems to affect macroeconomic stabil-

The dissolution of the Punjab and KP assemblies earlier this year, as part of a strategic political move complete and could extend aimed at securing a PTI government during the upcoming elections to the National Assembly, precipitated a crisis that continues without respite.

This plan was thwarted by the coalition government by refusing to provide funds and administrative support to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to conduct by-elections within 90

The Supreme Court's decisions to hold by-elections in the provinces were flouted by the executive relying on the powers of parliament. Such a scenario, where the Supreme Court's orders are disregarded by other organs of the state, signifies a collapse of both the judicial system and the

Polity.

Article 224 of the short-term bridging arrangement and the new govern-Constitution unequivocally states that elections for a legislature — dissolved before the completion of its five-year term — must be

held within 90 days after crucial medium-term fiscal its dissolution. The pur- and external financing pose of a caretaker government is to facilitate elections The SBA programme and run the day-to-day af-

comprises two reviews

scheduled for November Accordingly, de facto 2023 and February 2024. The assumption behind extension in the term of the caretaker governments in this schedule was the instal-Punjab and KP is against the lation of a new elected govspirit of the Constitution. Unfortunately, this precedent of extending terms It may be recalled that could now be used to delay general elections beyond the stipulated 90 days and the major political parties caretaker federal government may also potentially

prior to SBA approval, IMF staff had met the representatives of Pakistan's the PML-N, PPP, and PTI - and all these parties expressed written support for the SBA's key objectives and policies ahead of the approaching national While requesting a

nine-month SBA, the Pakistani authorities had also communicated to the Fund that a new short-term financing arrangement was needed until national elections were held and the installment of a newly elected government, empowered with a strong mandate to take medium-term decisions, took place later in the year. The route to achieving economic prosperity and the well-being of citizens traverses strong democratic traditions and institutions. Our Constitution has clearly defined the boundaries of the polity, which must be honoured.

Manipulating document out of reasons of political expediency will lead us nowhere. Instead, our direction should be guided by the Constitution itself, rather than being influenced by vested interests. Failing to do so will inevitably steer us towards the abyss of political and economic turmoil. In our journey towards establishing a strong and progressive democratic state, we must follow the constitutional path. When such direction is lost, the best action is to retrace our steps and pro-

ceed to the route that leads

to our mapped destiny.

Aisha Khan

In a world where recognition often gravitates towards the apex of power, the unsung champions of success remain hidden in plain sight. These dedicated individuals wield their skills as the unseen cogs in the machinery of achievement, always first in the line of confronting challenges and last in receiving credit. While headlines chronicle the triumphs of a few, it is the quiet dedication of the many that propels victory and makes success pos-

Mountain climbing serves as a perfect analogy for talking about people who lead from the back to make a summit possible.

An expedition starts with many people, including porters and guides, but as it advances, the support circle narrows and centres around persons with specific skillsets needed for advancement. On reaching the summit, the triumphant mountaineer is hailed for his achievement, but little mention is made of the names without whom the win would not have been possible

The climate journey of Pakistan is replete with stories of contributions made by people who have worked silently from behind the scenes to make milestone moments possible, but who are not adequately recognised.

Climate negotiations provide a multilateral platform where countries get the opportunity to demonstrate leadership capacity for pitching creative ideas, lobby for agendas and galvanise support for agree-

Seeing only through the narrow lens of Nationally Determined Contributions takes away from the purpose convenings at multilateral spaces. This is a platform for debate, discussion, sharing perspectives and steer-

ing the process forward. This space was used effectively by Pakistan's Foreign Office in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio to create a niche role for itself by drafting the language used in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Over the years, somehow the country ceded this space, making its participation a token presence with no meaningful contribution in negotia-

COP27 marked a turning point, where a strategic plan to combine political frontloading supported by technical interventions created the perfect mix that made Loss and Damage possible. The powerful duo of former minister Sherry Rehman and Ambassador Nabeel Munir was supported by a variety of subset groups who worked tirelessly to make the landmark

L&D outcome possible. While the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination takes the lead at COP meetings, Pakistani diplomats play a pivotal role at the negotiations. Capitalising on the G77 plus China presidency, Pakistan reclaimed lost space at COP27 with its able leadership and technical

backstopping. Over the years, for a variety of reasons, we have fallen victim to the malaise of maligning the country and giving disproportionate pace to prophets of doom. There is a mounting tendency to see everything through the lens of negativity, and negligence in shining light on achievements. This constant self-flagellation takes a toll on individual morale and dissipates the

energy needed for promoting excellence in work.

The climate journey is difficult but not impossible to navigate. Despair, gloom, complaints and accusations are not going to fix the problem, and will certainly take away from our resolve to find solutions.

Moving forward will require team work, a wellthought-out strategy that covers all the important bases, and actors to work in unison.

The appointment of Ambassador Munir as chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation should be seen as a recognition of his skills and used for strategic planning. SBI work has been at the heart of implementation issues under the convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agree-m-ent. Taking a lead from this achievement, the Foreign Office should use it to promote excellence and formalise the structure of its negotiating strategy by building a core team for steering the agenda.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination is ideally positioned to improve coordinated actions and convenings among stakeholders. The services of civil society champions like Kashmala Kakakhel, who routinely provides advice on climate finance, and other actors should be used for strengthening strategic partnerships.

Pakistan has political commitment, able negotiators, a vibrant civil society and a cohort of experts, but lacks coordination. This communication gap creates misunderstandings and misplaced expectations. It is time for Pakistan

build a team to carry the climate agenda for landing points. There are a variety of groups, each skilled in their craft, who can serve as critical parts of the whole under an umbrella strategy that covers negotiations at COP and actions at home. -- Courtesy Dawn

First Lady for creating awareness on socio economic, health issues

KARACHI (APP): First the fields of Oncology, balanced and healthy Lady Begum Samina Alvi Psychiatry and Behavioral lifestyle, women must on Monday called for Sciences, and faculty adopt the habit of a fivecreating awareness on health and socio-economic issues, particularly the high mortality rate due to breast cancer, the neglected issue of mental health, and wellbeing and the rights of persons with disabilities.

She urged teachers, students, mediapersons, and health professionals to play their proactive role in that regard which would help create an equitable and inclusive society, she added. The first lady was speaking at an Interactive Dialogue on Breast Cancer, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and Mental Health Issues, organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) at Hamdard

University.

situation in Gilgit-Baltistan at CM Secretariat.

Mayor Karachi for

accelerating work to bring

streetlights on solar system

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza lights except load shedding

solar system and take M.T.Khan Road and other whatever approval is main roads and highways required from him cannot be tolerated any

chairing a high-level meeting with the officers of the engineering lights installed must ensure that the street lights installed must ensure that the said that the engineering department is a single factor of the chairing a high-level engineering department is a single factor of the chairing a high-level engineering department is a single factor of the chairing a high-level engineering department must ensure that the engineering department is a single factor of the engineering department i

administrator, he had engineers should visit the

started work to bring areas personally and take

streetlights to the solar immediate steps where

system in Karachi, but required, but provide then this work was convenience to the citizens

engineering department Deputy Mayor Karachi should start the work of Salman Abdullah Murad,

solar streetlights from Municipal Commissioner

gradually extend it to other General Engineering Azhar

streets of Karachi, he said. Electrical & Mechanical Murtaza said that Abbas Ali Shah.

<u>Jaranwala incident</u>

Registrar LHC raises

objection over petition

hours on the city's major

corridors like Shahrah-e-

Faisal, Rashid Minhas

Road, Shahrah-e-Pakistan,

roads are kept lit within a

On this occasion,

Syed Afzal Zaidi, Director

an week and the concerned

Kolachi

Karachi Barrister Murtaza

directed the officials

concerned that work

should also be accelerated

to bring streetlights to the

department in his office.

as

stopped, the Mayor of at any cost.

The

important roads and Hussain Shah.

Earlier,

Karachi said.

Shahrah-e-Faisal and

on Monday

members and students of minute self-examination Hamdard Technical Advisor from disease at early stages and WHO, Head of WHO-Sindh, Chancellor Hamdard notice any lump or unusual University, Chancellor Hamdard University, Leading Consultant Medical

Dow Psychiatry University also attended the event. Begum Alvi said early stages. Pakistan had a high As reg mortality rate in the South Asian region due to breast cancer, and numerous lives could be saved by

Oncologist, and Head of

early stage. th Organization She stated that breast neglect their mental health cancer was curable, and do not seek provided it was diagnosed Besides experts from early. Besides having a stignt. The people stated that breast neglect their mental health on not seek provided it was diagnosed professional advice," she added.

University, every month to detect the seek medical help if they Vice change in their bodies, she added. She said she had been raising awareness about breast cancer since 2018 and due to the efforts Department (HoD) of of her team and support from the media, more women with breast cancer were being diagnosed at

As regards mental health and well-being, Begum Alvi said the topic of mental health and stress was often neglected in diagnosing the disease at an Pakistan due to its social stigma. "The people

police stations and the

overall security situation.

police officials to facilitate

the downtrodden sections

of the society in the

provision of justice, adding

that the aim of his late-night

visit was to motivate the

police personnel to further

arrangements. He instructed

the police officials deployed

at different check-posts to use

safety helmets and jackets in

view of the current situation.

On the occasion, the SSP

met with the relevant

police officers and checked

cleanliness and other

arrangements at police stations including crime

chat, personnel statement.

ANF seizes

75 kg drugs;

arrests seven

accused

RAWALPINDI (APP)

(ANF) Pakistan while

operations across the

country, managed to recover 75 kg drugs and

arrested 7 accused including

a woman, said an ANF

Headquarters spokesman

here on Monday. He

informed that in an

operation at Islamabad

International Airport, 1.6 kg

heroin and 344 grams Ice

drug were recovered from

the possession of a

passenger, resident of

Mustang who was leaving

for Qatar on flight number

PK-287.In two operations

near Motorway Toll Plaza

was recovered from the bag

of a woman resident of

Mirpur travelling

Anti-Narcotics

conducting

sec urit

improve the

He instructed the



Farooq along with Mr. Niaz Hussain Lakhvira called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore.

CM GB chairs Apex body meeting, reviews law & order situation

GILGIT (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan, Haji Gulbar Khan on Monday chaired the meeting of Apex Committee and reviewed the current law and order situation in the province.

All Senior officers including Chief Secretary, IG Police, Home Secretary, all other LEAs officers and field formations attended

Following decisions

Nobody shall be allowed to take law into hands and violate the SOPs for maintenance of law and order and strict action shall be taken against the into hate speech and religious intolerance shall be proceeded against as per relevant provision of law.

Any person propagating hate speech and such like material on Social Media shall be taken to task and legal action shall be taken without any impunity.

Security of life and property of all citizens shall be ensured through strict enforcement of law.

Movement of all vehicles plying from and to down country through KKH, JSR and Babusar Top shall be made safe and secure by deployment of Karakoram Task Force and

Any person indulging Police throughout the route. Nobody shall be allowed to block any road and immediate legal action shall be taken against the violators.

Heavy contingents of GB Scouts, Rangers and Police shall be deployed in all major cities of GB to ensure peace and safety of

Moreover, CM, GB directed the Parliamentary Committee headed by Minister Home to meet religious leaders of various sects and ask them to ensure strict adherence to the provisions of Code of Conduct agreed by all sects so as to ensure durable

SACM rules out compromise on corruption

Special Assistant to KP Caretaker CM on Irrigation and Housing, Zafarullah Khan Umerzai on Monday ruled out any compromise on corruption in his departments and vowed to take stern legal action against corrupt officials.

He expressed these views during a briefing regarding various development schemes initiated in the irrigation and housing departments. Secretaries of departments gave him a detailed briefing on protective walls and tubewells also highlighted the importance of the

should

peace in the region.

PESHAWAR

construction of small dams

projects. Umerzai directed that all those schemes interest completed within the

Governor Punjab for preserving cultural heritage of Uch Sharif

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor
Punjab Muhammad Great and a seat of Sufis and Saints between the 12th and 15th century. Balighur Rehman has called upon the government and non governmental organizations to play their in preserving, protecting cultural heritage of historic Uch Sharif besides promoting tourism in the city.

The Governor Punjab was talking to Chairman Heritage Bahawalpur Organization Engr. G. A. Farooq and Niaz Hussain Lakhwera who called on him at the Governor's House here on Monday.

Balighur Rehman hailed services of Bahawalpur Heritage organization in promoting cultural heritage of Uch

Governor Punjab Balighur Muhammad Rehman further said Uch Sharif is home to one of the ancient cultures in the country, and it must be preserved. He said Uch Sharif is full of prospects of religious tourism for its affinity with Alenxader the business community.

Earlier, a delegation of All Pakistan Crockery Importers Association called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman.

During the meeting, the delegation apprised the Governor about various problems faced by them.

Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said despite difficult conditions, the business community is playing an active role in the country's economic development.

The Governor Punjab said all businesses are very important even if it is a small shop. He said that business not only leads to socio-economic development but also provides employment opportunities to millions

of people.

He further said the government is well aware of the problems of the



KARACHI: Begum Samina Arif Alvi is being presented with memento during the interactive dialogue Session on Breast Cancer Awareness, Mental Health and Inclusion of Differently Abled Persons organized by World Health Organization, at Hamdard University.

Sindh Finance Minister directs to clear dues of ex-govt employees

KARACHI (APP): Sindh against the heads of Caretaker Minister for Mohammad Younus Dagha has directed the finance department to take immediate measures to clear the dues and payments of retired and government officials who have been suffering due to nonclearance of their dues for the past two years.

chairing a meeting with the officials found involved officers of the Finance were penalized. However, initiated in the public Department on Monday at the system cannot still be treasuries.

that the cases of over Finance to remove the ill-20,000 retired government reputed treasury officials officials have become from their positions and

pension commutation, gratuity and LPR. The liability soared to Rs 36 billion and

the retired employees are facing a queue of two years in various District Account offices of the province. The minister was

briefed that several cases of massive irregularities were found in the District Younus Dagha was treasuries in which the working of the District any such fraud in the future. Younus Dagha The minister was told directed the Secretary of overdue in past three years take disciplinary actions due to low budgeting against them.

Intelligence agency of enemy country involved in Jaranwala tragedy: IGP

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Punjab Police Dr Usman Anwar said on Monday that intelligence agency of the enemy country was involved in the Jaranwala tragedy.

Addressing a press conference, he said they had broken the network of the enemy and assured the nation that such incidents would not happen in future. The tragedy was an attempt to foment a clash between Muslim and Christian communities, he said and added that religious scholars and civil society played their role in controlling the situation.

He confirmed that the three main accused of the tragedy had been arrested and those responsible for the conspiracy would be brought to justice at any cost. He said that showing the true spirit of the religion, Muslims presented their mosque to the Christian community for



HYDERABAD: Members of Sohni Dharti Youth Council are holding protest demonstration against unbridled hikes in the electricity and fuel prices, area while one patient reported from Rawalpindi at Hyder Chowk in Hyderabad.

LHC directs govt to file written reply on the matter of possible sacking of Zaka

Lahore High Court (LHC) has directed the federal government to file written reply on the matter of possible sacking of chairman Pak istan committee Cricket Board (PCB) Zaka

Ashraf. Chaudhry Justice Muhammad Iqbal took up

Monday.

recommended to send the petition to Justice Shahid Karim for further hearing. LHC rejected the plea management for sending the petition to

division so far. The petitioner has challenged the summary.

matter has gone to cabinet

The counsel for Zaka Ashraf said Secretary PCB wants to bring chairman of his management committee before world cup. Secretary PCB wrote letter to principal secretary of the Prime Minister (PM) for

Overwhelming GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan chairing a high victory of independent level meeting of Parliamentary Peace Committee on current law and order candidates in KP LG poll **SSP Operations** for facilitating

PESHAWAR (APP): The candidates secured four independent candidates in seats out of a total of six downtrodden the local government by- neighborhood and village sections of society election in 21 districts of councils while JUIF and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ANP candidates clinched PESHAWAR (APP): The defeated the newly appointed SSP candidates of major Operations Kashif Aftab political parties by securing an overwhelming Abbasi visited various police stations Yakka Tut lead in the polls, revealed Police Station, Tarnab check post and Motorway the results announced by the election commission on Blockade late at night and Monday. reviewed the working of police staff at various

According to election results, PTI candidates secured 14 seats in the bypolls followed by JUI with six seats, Jamaat Islami with five, ANP with four, PPP two, and TLP one.

The elections were held on a total of 72 local body seats including 65 villages and neighborhoods districts in the province.

commission had set up 256 polling stations in 21 districts of the province including 102 for males, 89 for females, and 65 joint

one seat each.

stations. Election Commission had declared 156 polling stations most sensitive, 84 sensitive, and 13 normal, however, the elections were concluded

peacefully at all the polling stations. According to the election commission. there were a total of

35 registered voters



KARACHI: Students of different school and college holding banners are participating in the "Clean and Green Walk" in Provincial Capital.

Political parties pledge to elevate

According to a press release issued here on Monday, Blue Veins, in collaboration with Pakistan Education Network (PECN), organized national and provincial conferences with political parties to underscore the importance of girls education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Among were and leadership of notable political parties including PTI, PML (N), Jamaat-E-Islaami, PTI (P), JUI (F), Mazdoor Kisan Party, and

election manifestos.

on the government and opposition benches, held Through

understand acknowledge their critical role in promoting girls' secondary education.
"We believe that the

"Qamar Naseem from PECN also added, Naseem

When political leaders commit to an issue, they have the power to bring about lasting systemic During the changes." conference representatives from the participating political parties.

Seven more dengue cases surface in 24 hours

RAWALPINDI (APP): As many as seven more déngue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 157 in the district. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, Monday said that, among the new cases, three cases had arrived from Chaklala Cantonment, two of each from Potohar town urban and Municipal Corporation Rawalpindi

girls' education in KP PESHAWAR (APP): The include commitments representatives of different

political parties and Ex-lawmakers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa pledged to susta in and support prioritizing girls' education in party manifestos, to address barriers to girls' education in the province.

participants representatives

The primary objective of the conference The was to emphasize the urgent need for political parties to prioritize and

towards the enhancement of girls' education in their Political parties, both

significant leverage in steering the national discourse. these consultative workshops, Blue Veins and PECN have facilitated an environment where political leaders can

political machinery can be an incredibly effective tool in advancing the cause of girls' education," said Sana Ahmad a representative from Blue Veins.

secretary Commission (EC). On court's orders Additional General (AAG) appeared

Attorney the case for hearing in the court and told the removing Zaka Ashraf.

raised objection over the petition filed in the court in connection with judicial August 16. inquiry into Jaranwala Registrar office while raising objection said the provocation among others. filed connection with judicial commission is not attached. The petition has been filed by Grace Bible Fellowship church Pakistan. books will hear has

objected petition. Chief secretary, home secretary, IG Punjab and police officers Faisalabad been made respondents

One person made

Several affectees still

seeking judicial inquiry (Online): Registrar office Lahore taken the plea that false High Court (LHC) has and unrealistic incident of desecration of the Holy Quran took place on

Islamabad, 2 kg hashish

announcement in the mosque which ignited 25 churches and over 200 homes were set ablaze in Jaranwala. The homes of Christians were looted and later were destroyed. The mob desecrated divine

constituted in regard to this incident but this process can take too much time. stand deprived of basic facilities despite lapse of



KARACHI: A large numbers of vehicles stuck in traffic jam due to negligence

of traffic police staffs and illegal parking, at New M.A Jinnah road in Karachi.

Mashal urges world to hold India accountable for rights violations in Kashmir

Caretaker Human Rights Minister Mashal Malik Monday urged that the international community should hold India accountable for human rights violations in Jammu and Kash-

"Kashmiris must be given the right to decide for their fate like all other nations" " she said while talking to a Private news chan-

"India has to respect democracy, the United Nations (UN) resolution, and the will of the people, she said, adding, that the time is not far when India will become the victim of its own agenda and aggressive poli-

She further said, "The permanent members of the

ensure the smooth imple- added. mentation of the UN resolutions on the Kashmir dis-

Minister "Kashmiris have been struggling to get their prison in the world," she right to self-determination for the last many decades as per UN charter, adding, that this struggle will continue until and unless the valley," she said.
Kashmiris are given the "Sooner or later, the Kashmiris are given the right of plebiscite."

"The International community is well aware of mination. the importance of the Kashmir issue in the region and also aware of Indian atroci-Kashmiris," she said.

(APP): UNSC and the civilized India to stop its aggression world must play a role to in the occupied valley," she

> "The entire Hurriyet leadership is under house arrest, she said.

> "The Kashmir valley has turned into the largest

> "The world needs to take concrete measures and force India to stop its human rights violations in the

> Kashmiris will get their fundamental right to self-deter-

Replying to a question, she said, "Pakistan will remain firm on its stand on Kashmir and will continue to support the Kash-"Unfortunately, the mir cause at all interna-



ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami ameer Sirajul Haq addressing a press con-

Issues of police employees to be addressed on priority: ICCPO

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan on Monday said that the Islamabad police would leave no stone unturned to ensure protection to the lives and property of the citizens and all issues of its employees would be addressed on priority to boost the morale of the force.

He convened a significant gathering at the Police Line Headquarters. This gathering, known as the "police darbar," saw the active participation of male and female police officers. as well as employees representing various divisions of the Islamabad Capital

During the Darbar, attended by Chief Police Officers (CPOs), Assistant Inspector Generals (AIGs),

officers had the opportunity to raise both personal and official concerns before facilities are being introthe police chief Dr. Akbar

address the challenges faced by the police force.

Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan emphasized the importance of maintaining high morale among the police force and reminded officers of their unique responsibility as chosen individuals, stating, "Allah has chosen you out of millions to serve the people. You should use these powers for the pleasure of Allah and the protection of your citizens."

Islamabad police chief also highlighted ongoing measures taken to enhance the welfare of police eming. He said, "If you are Senior Superintendents of the welfare of police em-Police (SSPs), Superinten- ployees. These include dents of Police (SPs), agreements with various will be strong. You repre-Deputy Superintendents of institutions to provide top-sent an excellent force. Treat agreements with various will be strong. You repre-Police (DSPs), and Station House Officers (SHOs), notch educational and medical facilities to the families

of police personnel. Additionally, modern duced at the police lines

headquarters, and the con-Immediate resolutions struction of the National were provided for some of Police Hospital is underthe issues presented during way. Promoting a fair and the gathering, underlining efficient promotion systhe commitment to swiftly tem, Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan assured that all pending promotions would be expedited, as he reaffirmed, "Promotion is your fundamental right. If you face any challenges, please do not hesitate to contact me. My office doors are always open for you.

In closing, Dr. Akbar Nasarkhan encouraged officers and young recruits to work diligently and with dedication. He vowed to continue supporting their efforts and reminded them of their pivotal role in enstrong, your commander your uniform as your pride

Earthquake

iolts various

cities of KPK.

Islamabad



ISLAMABAD: Former Mayor of Karachi Farooq Sattar is talking to media persons along with others outside Election Commission of Pakistan in Federal Capital.

HEC announces **Scholarship Program** for students of GB

ISLAMABAD (APP): years as on closing date of Higher Education Commission (HEC) has announced a Scholarship Program for students of Gilgit-Baltistan to study in top Pakistani universities or institutions.

According to an official of HEC, the applications have been invited from outstanding students of Gilgit-Baltistan who intend to pursue undergraduate studies (four/five years BS programs) from HEC recognized public sector universities/degree awarding institutions (DAIs).

The scholarships are being offered for the academic year 2023-24 in all areas of study or disciplines under the project "Undergraduate Scholarship Program for the Students of Gilgit-Baltistan in Top Pakistani Universities/Institutions (Batch-III)

About the eligibility criteria, the official informed that the applicants ply. must domicile or local certificate of Gilgit-Baltistan and have completed Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC)/ Equivalent.

The applicants who are already availing any other scholarship are not Pakistan however, any exeligible to apply while the maximum age limit is 22

application submission. The candidates will have to meet HEC and university criteria for admission in BS programs. About the scholarship program, the official revealed that the scholarship will cover tuition fee, hostel fee and

other charges-maximum Rs. 240,000 per year, stipend of Rs. 15,000 per month and books and traveling allowances of Rs. 30,000 per annum. The candidates will

be shortlisted based on their scores in Aptitude Test (to be conducted by Education Testing Council, HEC) and academic credentials in which the candidates must secure at least 50 percent marks. The students already enrolled in any BS Program in public sector universities/institutions prior to the advertisement or announcement (maximum one academic year/session) may also ap-

The award of scholarship will be purely meritbased and irrespective of gender, caste, race and religion. The applicant can apply to any Public Sector University/Institution of the cost given in Project PC-

ISLAMABAD (Online): Severe earthquake tremors have been felt in various cities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) including federal capital Islamabad.

According to details fear and panic spread in the provincial capital Peshawar, Attock, Swat, Dirbala, Malakand, Shabqadar, Abbottabad, Mardan and its surround-

ings and people came out of houses in panic. According to seismological center, the magnitude of earthquake was 5.2 on rector scale while epicenter was in the Hindukush

Seismological center said that the depth of earthquake has been recorded at 184 Km underground

region of Afghanistan.

IHC orders inquiry regarding lift malfunction

ISLAMABAD (APP) The Registrar Office of Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday ordered an inquiry into malfunctioning of the lift and sought a report within two days from the Director General of Pakistan Public Works Department PWD)

The Registrar Office also issued directives to the PWD for the inspection of all lifts of the IHC building and decided to appoint lift operators as well. The office, in its directive, said that the lift of the judges' block got stuck at second floor of the building on August 25, at 12:00 p.m. The lift was carrying lawyers including penditure over and above Latif Khosa Advocate and some newsmen



JI urges ECP to meet 90-day election deadline

delegation from Jamaat-eited the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and urged the commission to ensure the completion of the election process within the constitutionally mandated 90-day period.

In discussions with Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja and other senior officials of the commission, the JI delegation reminded the ECP that the election schedule should have been announced alongside the delimitation schedule that the commission had declared the previous week.

The delegation expressed the view that the came unfeasible.

ISLAMABAD (APP): A ECP should have initiated this consultation process at Islami (JI) on Monday vis- an earlier time, pointing out that the premature dissolution of the national and provincial assemblies could have been avoided.

They also highlighted that previous governments should have taken steps to ensure timely census and Council of Common Interest (CCI) meetings, enabling the Election Commission to finalize constituency processes before the assemblies' term expired or they were dis-

They expressed regret that following the dissolution of the provincial as-semblies of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, conducting elections be-

Reports on facilities available to Imran in Attock jail filed in SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): chairman PTI in jail. Desi Report on facilities available to PTI chairman in Attock jail has been filed in Supreme Court (SC). The report was filed

tice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial. Sources said the report was also filed in the chambers of Justice Mazahar and Justice

in the chamber of Chief Jus-

Mandokhail. It has been said in the

Mufti Hanif Qureshi".

The Benazir Income Sup-

grievances of the beneficia-

ries, in order to improve

service delivery. This vir-

tual event aims to directly

engage with beneficiaries

and address their concerns

in real-time, reinforcing

BISP's unwavering commit-

ment to the welfare of the

people. The E-Kachehri,

received an overwhelming

response from beneficiaries

ticipation underscored the

importance of such plat-

forms for the people who

rely on the vital support

provided by BISP. During

the E-Kachehri, Addl. Sec-

retary Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Dr.

Muhammad Tahir Noor

and his team tried to

promptly address the ma-

work in Federal Capital.

This enthusiastic par-

all across the country.

BISP conducts

E-Kachehri to address

beneficiaries' concerns

ISLAMABAD (APP): jority of the complaints

port Programme (BISP) on ances that required further Monday conducted E- attention, he directed the

Kachehri to address the relevant authorities to en-

chicken cooked in desi ghee is provided to chairman PTI on his demand. Mutton cooked in desi ghee is also provided to him.

The chairman PTI pays the cost of the things provided to him on his demand from his own pocket. All the facilities have

been provided to chairman PTI as per jail manual and

He is also allowed to report that B class facilities have a walk in the corridor have been provided to in front of jail.

ISLAMABAD: Activists of Ghulaman-e-All-o-Ashab are shouting slogans

and holds banners during protest at Murree Road, against the FIR on "

For the remaining griev-

sure their resolution within

one day, further emphasizing BISP's commitment to

responsive governance.
The BISP, through its

flagship initiative Benazir

Kafaalat, provides quar-

terly financial assistance of

Rs 9,000 to nine million reg-

istered beneficiary families

Additionally, registered

families also benefit from

stipends under the Benazir

Taleemi Wazaif and Benazir

Nashonuma Programme,

which collectively contrib-

ute to improving the socio-

economic conditions of the

most vulnerable segments of

society. In case of any com-

plaint, the BISP encourages

beneficiaries to reach out to

the nearest BISP Tehsil Of-

fices or contact the toll-free

helpline at 0800-26477.

Delay in holding general election unacceptable: Navvar Bukhari

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) secretary-general Nayyar Hussain Bokhari has said his party wants timely general elections in Pakistan and any delay is not acceptable.

Bokhari in his statement said PPP understands the supremacy of the constitution. Our stance is clear on elections he said. He said, today, people are facing the brunt of inflation and held the PTI government responsible for this current economic turmoil. PTI government violated the agreement with the International Monetary Fund, which destabilised the country's economy, Bokhari said.

Delay in elections will not provide relief to any political party, he made it clear. Commenting on the smear campaign against IHC CJ Justice Aamer Farooq, the PPP leader said state-enmity should be discouraged.

Last week, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Executive Committee (CEC) decided to advocate the organisation of the general elections in 90 days after the dissolution of the Natioanl Assem-

Bilawal Zardari chaired the session of the PPP CEC to make key decisions including general elections and consultations with the Election Commission of Pakistan

Brazilian ambassador calls on Health Minister ISLAMABAD (APP): ensuring all measures to

Pakistan, Olyntho Vieira called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan and discussed matters of mutual interest and bilateral relations on Monday. The Brazilian ambassador congratulated the minister on assuming this responsibility. He said the appointment of a

Brazilian Ambassador to strengthen the global health security system." He said that effective measures are being taken to ensure universal health coverage. An integrated strategy has been formulated to protect against epidemics, he added. Dr. Nadeem Jan said that health facilities in hospitals are being developed on modern lines. He said world-renowned public that Border Health Services



health expert is a positive are being strengthened to development for the health sector. Dr. Nadeem Jan said that Pakistan and Brazil have deep and strong relations and added trade relations and cooperation between the two countries are commendable. The minister and prosperity under the said, "We are determined to eradicate polio from the Prime Minister of Pakistan. country and will work on an emergency basis for the Ali Shallwani was also

deal with epidemics. "We are ensuring compliance with the recommendations of the International Health Regulations." He said that it is my mission to pursue the agenda of development leadership of the caretaker Secretary Health Iftikhar eradication of polio. We are present on the occasion.

Ministry committed to take up exams issue with **Cambridge International**

Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi on Monday reiterated his commitment to take up the issues being faced by the

He said that his minto Cambridge International world. to look into the problems of the students regarding

He was speaking during a meeting with the students and parents held here to discuss their issues related to the Cambridge Examination.

Madad Ali Sindhi stated that the ministry's earlier decision, which asked schools to retake exams, will be implemented.

ary action will be taken against all educational institutions that do not implement the decision. The federal minister

said that Cambridge Interstudents related to Cam- national has its own sepabridge International exams. rate system of examination which is practiced on the istry would write a letter same scale all over the

The students thanked the Federal Minister o Education for taking care of the students in these difficult situations and not only raised their demands with Cambridge International but also made every possible effort to resolve them.

Federal Secretary, Ministry of Education and Professional Training, Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry also attended the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the police personnel riding three colleagues on one bike without wearing helmet at Constitution, which is the open sign of the darkness under the lamp.

training workshop on space education from Sep 7 (APP): A

Teachers

ے رزورمطالبہ کرتے ہیں کہ ای **EIR** کرنی اف ختری

three-day training workshop on space education for primary and secondary science school teachers will commence at the Institute of Space Technology (IST) on September 7. The workshop organized by the Space Education Research Lab, National Center of GIS.

IWMI Islamabad

Building resilient water infrastructure can help communities withstand extreme weather events in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Online): climate change on global Management Institute with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), organized a comprehensive workshop and panel discussion titled "Climate Change...Implications for the Water Sector" on Monday. The event convened experts, practitioners, and stakeholders to discuss the critical challenges posed by climate change on water resources, both globally and in Pakistan. The workshop provided a platform for participants to engage in insightful discussions on various dimensions of the change-water

dressed were the effects of mate change is real, and it

The International Water and national water resources, economic impact change and water goverwater availability and quality, and the exacerbation of water scarcity issues in water-stressed regions such as Pakistan. Dr. Azeem Ali Shah,

Chief of the Party of the Water Management for Enhanced Productivity initiative (WMfEP) at IWMI Pakistan, delivered the opening remarks, highlighting the achievements and challenges associated with water governance and productivity initiatives in the region. Muhammad Nawaz,

Development Specialist, USAID Pakistan said cli-

2022 initially temperature (IWMI), in collaboration of climate change, climate dropped resulting in heavy downpour that was 87 pernance, changing patterns of cent heavier than country's average rainfall. These abrupt changes refer to climate change. Policy should be based on science and facts otherwise it would be gambling. The event's focus turned to the pressing need for enhanced water security and equitable access to water resources in the face of evolving climate conditions. Dr. Novaira Junaid, Researcher at IWMI Pakistan, drew attention to the economic impacts of climate change in Pakistan. She emphasized the country's vulnerability despite its minor contributions to global greenhouse gas emissions.

is happening already. In

ISLAMABAD: Heavy machinery being used for Among the topics adexpansion work of Club Road during development

Chief Editor: Syed Faroog Shah, Editor: Syed Rizwan Shah, Printed by: Rohani Art Press, Mohammadi Town, Sohan, Islamabad and Published from H. No. 426, Street No. 20, Ghori Town Phase 4/A Islamabad Ph: 051-2158688, 2158997, 0331-8383955 Email: dailyindisb@gmail.com