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Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XVI No. 102, Safar 11, 1445 AH Tuesday August 29, Pages 08, Price Rs.15



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

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 Monday directed the authorities concerned to accelerate the realisation of identified projects by capitalising enabling environment, already achieved through Special Invest-ment Facilitation Council

The prime minister achieved thus far in a short span of time.

Committee Meeting of Prime Minister Kakar SIFC - the inaugural meeting under the caretaker government - to continue positive impetus under the Council.

The meeting was athorizontal and vertical revival of country's tended by Chief of Army synergy. Staff, entire federal cabinet, chief ministers, pro- appreciated SIFC's outhigh-level government officials. The meeting was erly/friendly countries in-

given a wholesome re- cluding productive visits of view of SIFC initiatives, encompassing progress in the Kingdom of Saudi and energy, key areas and benchmarks Arabia and Islamic Organization for Food Security

(IOFS). The Apex Committee appreciated the efficient expressed confidence on functioning of SIFC SIFC initiatives and disthrough a collaborative "Whole of Government played its resolve and support in maintaining posi-

The Apex Committee The body also endorsed the projects, apvincial ministers and reach strategy to achieve proved by the previous global traction and ongoing government, for attracting engagements with brothinvestments in key sectors of agriculture, livestock, mining, minerals, high-level delegations from information technology

The Army Chief reaffirmed Pakistan Army's all-out support to the caretaker government for continuity of policies in a bid to revive country's economy and steer Pakistan towards progress and Approach" for achieving tive trajectory towards the prosperity.

Traders, others let loose their anger across country against exorbitant electricity bills

Monitoring Desk LAHORE: Protests against inflated electricity bills across the country contin-

ued for the fourth day on

Monday. gency meeting held on Sunday at the Prime Minister's House in Islamabad ended without a decision.

In several areas of Lahore, people came out on the streets against high electricity bills.

The angry protesters said they could not feed increase in electricity bills their families if they pay electricity bills. They threatened that they would stage sit-in inside Wapda House if taxes were not withdrawn.

Meanwhile, government employees and businessmen also registered

their protest against the inflated electricity bills. They demanded that facility of free electricity to officers should be withdrawn.

The members of Wasa Interestingly, an emer- Phool Union also protested in the offices against the increase in electricity bills.

On the other hand, Hall Road traders vent their anger against huge increase in electricity bills. Anjuman i-Tajran President Babaı Mahmood Butt said if the was not withdrawn, they would be forced to take to the streets.

Hundreds of citizens surrounded the grid station at Bakra Mandi and burnt electricity bills. They chanted slogans against the



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

Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Sahafat observed at QPC:

Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar Bright future can be ensured keeping in view needs of artificial intelligence & robotic technology: Governor

QUETTA: Director General PDMA Jahanzeb Khan meeting with Governor

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor

Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that bright future can be ensured keeping in view the requirements of artificial intelligence and robotic tech-He said that the artifi-

cial intelligence is affecting the economy and human behaviours very fast. Therefore, it is necessary This and similar other

views were expressed by the Governor while speaking to the Vice Chancellor, University of Gwadar, Professor Dr. Abdul Razzaq

Sabir, who called on him tant, he maintained. here at the Governor House The Governor s on Monday.

Vice Chancellor, the Governor said that thousands of remote districts of the people of Balochistan are province. forced to work hard away from their families. He said that it is our

that our youth may not go to other provinces and dents and youth. countries to earn livelihood for us to meet the modern as night watchman, labourer versity has created history needs of the ever changing or driver, but every jawan by launching different has the capability of leading life as successful professional, IT expert, re-

QUETTA:

Judicial

celled.

of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

(PTI), Imran Ahmed Khan

Niazi that was lodged with

Police Station Billi road.

Quetta under sections 124-A, 153-A, 505 P.P.C r/w

section 20 of the Act, 2016.

that non-bailable warrants

of the petitioner issued by

Quetta are without lawful

authority and are of no le-

gal effect, and thus the non-

bailable warrants are can-

The court also declared

Magistrate-I,

The Governor stressed the need to impart higher While speaking to the education to the poor male and female students of the

He appreciated the initiative of University of Gwadar through which difconscious efforts and desire ferent courses were launched for the local stu-He said that the Uni-

courses for the local students and other youngsters.

However, he emphasearcher or scientist. In this sized upon focusing on regard, the role of quality of higher education Balochistan Public sector and training at the same universities is very importime.

BHC quashes FIR registered Domki greets Arshad on against PTI chief, cancels winning silver medal in World Athletic C'ship

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has congratulated the Olympian Arshad Nadeem on winning silver medal in the World Athletic

Championship. In a felicitation message issued here on Monday, the caretaker Chief Minister noted with pleasure that the star Olympian Arshad Nadeem is the first Pakistani athlete who got big success in Julin throw at the international level.

Arshad Nadeem is the only athlete who have done the biggest throw of the year, the caretaker Chief Minister maintained

Mir Ali Mardan Domki said that his success is a big honour for the country.

He also said that the players happen to be the ambassadors of peace everywhere, and the national flag is hoisted in every nook and coroner of the world.

The caretaker Chief Minister hoped that Arshad Nadeem would continue to perform in the same manner and get more achievements at the international level brightening the name of country.

non-bailable warrants **Independent Report** headed by Chief Justice High Court, Mr. Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan The Balochistan High Court (BHC) has quashed the FIR passed the order on the petition filed on behalf of the registered against the chief

> PTI chief. In its judgment, the court remarked that after registration of FIR on March 5, 2023, the learned JM-I issued nonbailable warrants of the petitioner on March 9, 2023 without applying its judicial mind and without determining as to whether it can take cognizance of the offences in absence of any authorization / sanction by the federal or provincial govern-



MULTAN: Traders are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products, inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills

NHA released Rs. 540m for construction of Bolan's Pinjra Bridge: Solangi

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Director of Sibi National Highway Authority (NHA) Imdad Hussain Solangi on Monday said that Chairman NHA has released Rs. 540 million for construction of Pinjra Bridge area of Balon district, which will start in September and was

damaged by high-level flood last year.

He expressed these views while talking to media on the occasion of inspecting the work of the causeway at the Bolan

Shahrah Pinjara Bridge. He said that the NHA department would utilize all

available resources for the improvement of the highways saying that the NA 65 Bolan National Highway was badly affected by heavy rains and high level floods last year and the Pinjra Bridge completely de-

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

According to the state-

KARACHI/ LAHORE ment, the ministry has for-(INP): The Ministry of mulated the recommenda-Power on Monday tions regarding the issue finalised recommendations which will be presented on the issue of skyrocket- during the federal cabinet ing electricity bills, caus- meeting for final approval ing a widespread outcry in the entire nation. The proposals will be presented to the federal cabinet for ap-

proval on Tuesday. was held at the Ministry of Power to address the matter, during which officials discussed the performance of all power companies and proposed solutions to address the issue of inflated bills, said a dues in each DISCO in the statement issued by the next meeting.

It said that the ultimate decision rests with the federal cabinet, as only the cabinet has the authority A high-level meeting to endorse these proposals and make a final deci-

> adds: Senate Standing Committee on Power directed the Power Division to provide list of defaulters and outstanding

The committee met

Relief to masses in electricity bill, caretaker govt's priority: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Solangi said, adding, "We Caretaker Minister for In- are responsible caretaker ing Murtaza Solangi on Monday said the complete focus of the government was on providing relief to the masses in electricity

bills.

"We are focusing on waste the 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-

vate TV channel. He said the caretaker government took the oath on August 17, and the consumers received inflated bils of the month of July.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar had taken notice of inflated electricity bills,

nore the issue.'

He said tomorrow the issue would be taken up by the Federal Cabinet which would explore the ways to pass on relief to the public without violating the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme.

The minister resolved that the cabinet would decide in favour of passing on the relief to the masses.

He said the prime minister held a meeting with the relevant stakeholders today too. The media should inform the masses about the reasons behind increase in electricity bills , he said while responding



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Muhammad Faisal, High Commissioner- designate to United Kingdom calling on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at Parliament House

Inclusion of some ministers and Advisors in caretaker cabinet of **Balochistan challenges in BHC**

Independent Report QUETTA: The inclusion of some ministers and advisors in the cabinet of Balochistan has been challenged in the Balochistan High Court (BHC) here on Monday.

The division bench of High Court headed by Chief Akhtar Afghan heard the constitutional petition ini-

tially.

The petition was filed on the matter by a citizen namely Bayazeed Khan.

After initial hearing, the High Court issued notices to the Advocate General of Balochistan and Attorney General of Pakistan.

The petitioner's stance was that the caretaker cabinet of the province comprised some political, convicted and non-local per-

It was also pointed out that a political government has been formed in the province instead of caretaker government. He also claimed that some ministers Justice, Mr. Justice Naeem and advisors included in the caretaker cabinet don't meet the criteria under various articles and clauses of the constitution and as such the election would be controversial due to

The petitioner also submitted certain proofs along with his petition filed in the High Court.

The BHC has fixed the date of August 30 for regular hearing of the petition.

tor Saifullah Abro also asked about the 'Capacity Charges' which are being paid to Independent Power Producers (IPPs). Senator Saifullah

here under the chair of Sena-

Sarwar Khan Nyazee questioned about the electricity theft and electricity subsidy for the current financial year. The officials stated that approximately Rs.467 billion worth electricity theft 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.

Caretaker CM

reaches Karachi on brief visit **Independent Report** QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan,

Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki reached Karachi o Monday on a brief visit. During the stay in Karachi, Ali Mardan Khan Domki would meet the

former Chief Minister, Jam Kamal Khan and other personalities. It may be mentioned here the caretaker Chief Minister went to Islamabad from Quetta a couple of

on Monday IHC to announce Toshakhana verdict today

days back. From Islamabad,

Mr. Domki reached Karachi

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) today (Monday) has reserved a verdict on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's plea seeking suspension of sentence by the trial court's Additional 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.

The IHC will announce the verdict today (Tuesday) at 11am.

Jan Achakzai assures every possible efforts for welfare of journalists

Independent Report

OUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Muhammad Achakzai has stated that the journalists of the province are facing financial hardships while the budget of Information department is limited. Still, he would make every possible endeavor for welfare of the

media persons. Jan Achakzai was addressing the seminar held under the auspices of Balochistan Union of Journalists (BUJ) here at the Ouetta Press Club on Monday.

The seminar marked the observance of Youme-Shuhada-e-Sahafat in memory of three media persons who had been gunned down on August 28, 2014.

The office bearers of media persons as well as the lawyers, representatives of civil society participated in the seminar. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister Infor-

mation said that media persons are his companions, and his heart beats with them.

He stressed that we have to bring reforms in our institutions so as to get desired results and improve their performance. He also emphasized that we would also have to perform our responsibilities honestly. Jan Achakzai also

spoke about the ways and means for bringing improvement in the economy of the province. He said that we have to remove the obstacles to attract investors in the province. He said that there could be development in the province by putting the free trade zone on modern lines.

While on the other hand, some 200,000 people can get jobs at the refinery to be set up in the province, he hoped.

The President BUJ Irfan Saeed, Presiden OPC, Abdul Khaliq Rind and other senior journalists also addressed the seminar



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information Jan Muhammad Achakzai presiding over a meeting regarding departmental affairs at DGPR. Secretary Information Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat, DGPR Kamran Asad and other officers are also present

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 ops with them, and resolve to deal 'firmly' with those seems to be having trouble coming to terms with the implications of its decision.

It is worth recalling that the tragedy. Soon, the incident party had consistently protested the census's results till move on. The underlying the time came for their approval. Independent observers had warned repeatedly that validating the census at the and homes of the Christian 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

| Covid-19 int in early 2020 and with very little reaction time until the May-

its leadership could have been riedly put together a policy so credulous as to believe, even momentarily, that their of student performance durapproval of fresh census results would not automatically in their predicted grades for each student and then 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 belea- aimed at securing a PTI govguered 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 provide funds and admin-Ahsan had long been out of istrative support to the Election Commission of favour with his party's central Pakistan (ECP) to conduct

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 legislature — dissolved beis 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, photoresponsible for the atrocity.

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

Consider the horrendous attack on the churches 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 deterred them.

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

with tiresome frequency and

Sermons are delivered

other managers of state.

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

for policy measures. Nowhere is this more 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-

tween official claims and on-

show they are governing.

Platitudes and trite state-

ments serve as substitutes

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 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 infrastructure and reliability of cently by a minister in the

certainty 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 repower supplies as well as caretaker government, who

declared 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. - Courtesy Dawn

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 below 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 June exams, CIE first hurto award grades by asking teachers to collect evidence

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

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 an-

nounced the return to 2019 marking standards well in advance to prepare student expectations. Nevertheless, we know from some of the reopened, but students were 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 countries had gone back to regular exams. While there many fewer received top

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 especially 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 delay going to university by a with support from their

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 brought about two compromise options: one, students, year or pick one of the few schools, can apply to have The News

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 an education, but you cannot have both at the same

Proceed to the route



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 ernment 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 by-elections within 90

days.
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

Article 224 of the Constitution unequivocally states that elections for a fore the completion of its five-year term — must be

pose of a caretaker government is to facilitate elections and run the day-to-day affairs of the government.

Accordingly, de facto extension in the term of the caretaker governments in spirit of the Constitution. Unfortunately, this precedent of extending terms could now be used to delay general elections beyond the stipulated 90 days and the caretaker federal government may also potentially perpetuate its term indefinitely, violating the constitutional norm.

The ECP's decision to initiate fresh delimitation of constituencies, following the approval of the Council of Common Interests for the 2023 population census, is a declaration that general elections may not be held within the constitu-

tional limit of 90 days. The delimitation process typically takes a miniearlier this year, as part of a strategic political move complete and could extend considerably due to possible litigations by the affected candidates. Therefore, the ECP decision has exacerbated uncertainty. If the fate of the Supreme Court's orders to hold byelections in Punjab is any indicator, then general elec-tions seem to be a distant

Timely elections as stipulated in Article 224 are imperative to mitigating the political tension and prevent impending constitutional, political, and economic crises before they

become insurmountable. Thanks to the IMFsupported Stand-By Arrangement, Pakistan has just averted an imminent sovereign default risk. While the SBA has helped the retreat of near-term vulnerabilities, it remains a short-term bridging arrangement, and the new government after the elections will need to engage with the IMF for an extended financing arrangement to meet

held within 90 days after crucial medium-term fiscal its dissolution. The pur- and external financing needs

The SBA programme comprises two reviews scheduled for November 2023 and February 2024. The assumption behind this schedule was the instal-Punjab and KP is against the lation of a new elected government by November

It may be recalled that prior to SBA approval, IMF staff had met the representatives of Pakistan's major political parties 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 elections.

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 the 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.

Invisible heroes



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 agreeSeeing only through

the narrow lens of Nationally Determined Contributions takes away from the purpose of larger convenings at multilateral spaces. This is a platform for debate, discussion, shar-

ing perspectives and steering 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 re-claimed 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 space 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-flagellamorale 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 to 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 tion takes a toll on individual COP and actions at home. -- Courtesy Dawn

Great and a seat of Sufis

and Saints between the 12th

and 15th century.
Earlier, a delegation of

All Pakistan Crockery

Importers Association

called on Governor Punjab

the delegation apprised the

Governor about various

occasion, Governor Punjab

Muhammad Balighur Rehman said despite

difficult conditions, the

business community is

playing an active role in the

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

government is well aware

He further said the

economic

problems faced by them.

During the meeting,

Speaking on this

Muhammad

Rehman.

country's

of people.

of religious tourism for its of the problems of the

begum Samina Arii Aivi

Mental Hand Issues

Sindh Finance Minister

directs to clear dues

of ex-govt employees

Mohammad

affinity with Alenxader the business community.

Breast Cancer, Disabilities

nue: Bait al

development.

Governor Punjab for

preserving cultural

heritage of Uch Sharif

Independent Report
LAHO RE: Governo

Balighur Rehman has called

upon the government and

non governmental organizations to play their

protecting cultural heritage

of historic Uch Sharif

besides promoting tourism

was talking to Chairman

Organization Engr. G. A.

Farooq and Niaz Hussain Lakhwera who called on

him at the Governor's

Balighur Rehman hailed services of Bahawalpur Heritage

organization in promoting

cultural heritage of Uch

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

Governor Punjab

Balighur

House here on Monday.

The Governor Punjab

Heritage

in the city.

Bahawalpur

Muhammad

in preserving,

Governor Muhammad

First Lady for creating awareness on socio economic, health issues

creating 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.

Besides experts from

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 fivemembers and students of Hamdard Technical Advisor from disease at early stages and WHO, Head of WHO-Sindh, Chancellor Hamdard Vice University,

Chancellor Hamdard University, Leading Consultant Medical Oncologist, and Head of Department (HoD) of Dow Psyc hiatry University also attended the event.

Begum Alvi said Pakistan had a high mortality rate in the South Asian region due to breast cancer, and numerous lives could be saved by diagnosing the disease at an early stage.

cancer was curable, and cancer was curable, and do not seek provided it was diagnosed professional advice," she early. Besides having a

minute self-examination University, every month to detect the seek medical help if they notice any lump or unusual change in their bodies, she added. She said she had been raising awareness about breast cancer since 2018 and due to the efforts of her team and support from the media, more women with breast cancer were being diagnosed at early stages.

As regards mental health and well-being, Begum Alvi said the topic of mental health and stress was often neglected in Pakistan due to its social "The people stigma. She stated that breast neglect their mental health



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan chairing a high level meeting of Parliamentary Peace Committee on current law and order situation in Gilgit-Baltistan at CM Secretariat.

Mayor Karachi for accelerating work to bring streetlights on solar system

KARACHI (APP): Mayor non-functioning of street Karachi Barrister Murtaza on Monday directed the officials concerned that work should also be accelerated to bring streetlights to the solar system and take M.T.Khan Road and other whatever approval is main roads and highways required from him.

chairing a high-level engineering department meeting with the officers of the engineering lights installed on all these

Earlier, then this work was convenience to the citizens stopped, the Mayor of at any cost. Karachi said. engineering department Shahrah-e-Faisal and gradually extend it to other important roads and streets of Karachi, he said. Electrical & Mechanical Murtaza said that Abbas Ali Shah.

lights except load shedding hours on the city's major corridors like Shahrah-e-Faisal, Rashid Minhas Road, Shahrah-e-Pakistan, Mai Kolachi Road, cannot be tolerated any He said this by further. He said that the department in his office. roads are kept lit within a an week and the concerned 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

On this occasion, Deputy Mayor Karachi should start the work of Salman Abdullah Murad. solar streetlights from Municipal Commissioner Syed Afzal Zaidi, Director General Engineering Azhar Hussain Shah,

Jaranwala incident Registrar LHC raises objection over petition seeking judicial inquiry

Registrar office Lahore taken the plea that false High Court (LHC) has raised objection over the petition filed in the court in connection with judicial inquiry into Jaranwala

Registrar office while raising objection said the application filed connection with judicial commission is not attached. The petition has been

filed by Grace Bible Fello wship church Pakistan.

will hear objected petition.

Chief secretary, home secretary, IG Punjab and police officers Faisalabad been respondents

and unrealistic incident of desecration of the Holy Quran took place on August 16.

One person made announcement in the mosque which ignited provocation among others. 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

books. has constituted in regard to this incident but this process can take too much time.

Several affectees still stand deprived of basic facilities despite lapse of

SSP Operations for facilitating downtrodden sections of society

PESHAWAR (APP): The newly appointed SSP Operations Kashif Aftab Abbasi visited various police stations Yakka Tut Police Station, Tarnab check post and Motorway Blockade late at night and reviewed the working of police staff at various police stations and the overall security situation.

He instructed the 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 impro ve security 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): Anti-Narcotics (ANF) Pakistan while conducting 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 Islamabad, 2 kg hashish was recovered from the bag of a woman resident of Mirpur travelling



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.



LAHORE: Chairman Bahawalpur Heritage Organization, Engineer GA 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 violators. secure by deployment of Karakoram Task Force and

Any person indulging into hate speech and religious intolerance shall be proceeded against as per relevant provision of law. 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 country through KKH, JSR and Babusar Top shall be made safe and

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 peace in the region.

Overwhelming victory of independent PESHAWAR candidates in KP LG poll

independent candidates in seats out of a total of six the local government by- neighborhood and village election in 21 districts of councils while JUIF and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ANP candidates clinched defeated the one seat each. candidates of major political parties by securing an overwhelming lead in the polls, revealed the results announced by the election commission on Monday.

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 of 21 districts in the province.

In Peshawar, PTI

PESHAWAR (APP): The candidates secured four

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

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.

including 208,964 male and 176,871 female voters.

KARACHI: Students of different school and college holding banners are

towards the enhancement

of girls' education in their

on the government and

opposition benches, held

significant leverage in

steering the national

consultative workshops.

Blue Veins and PECN have

facilitated an environment

where political leaders can

acknowledge their critical

role in promoting girls secondary education.
"We believe that the

political machinery can be

an incredibly effective tool in advancing the cause of girls' education," said Sana

Ahmad a representative

"Qamar Naseem from PECN also added,

commit to an issue, they

conference representatives

from the participating political parties.

When political leaders

from Blue Veins.

have the power to bring about lasting systemic changes." During the

Political parties, both

election manifestos.

Through

discourse.

understand

commitments

these

participating in the "Clean and Green Walk" in Provincial Capital.

Political parties

pledge to elevate

girls' education in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The include

representatives of different

political parties and Ex-lawmakers of Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa pledged to

sustain and support prioritzing girls' education in party manifestos, to

address barriers to girls'

education in the province.

According to a press release issued here on

Monday, Blue Veins, in

collaboration with Pakistan

national and provincial

conferences with political

parties to underscore the

leadership of notable

political parties including PTI, PML (N), Jamaat-E-

Islaami, PTI (P), JUI (F), Mazdoor Kisan Party, and

objective of the conference

was to emphasize the

urgent need for political parties to prioritize and

importance of education in

Pakhtunkhwa.

participants

The

Among

representatives

Network

organized

girls' Khyber

were

and

Education

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

regarding development schemes initiated in the irrigation and housing departments. Secretaries of both departments gave him a detailed briefing on protective walls and tubewells also highlighted the importance of the construction of small dams other

that all those schemes completed within the

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

area while one patient

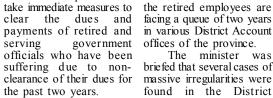
views during a briefing

projects. Umerzai directed there were a total of initiated in the public interest should be stipulated time period.

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,

KARACHI (APP): Sindh against the heads of Caretaker Minister for Younus Dagha has directed the finance department to soared to Rs 36 billion and

Younus Dagha was working of the District



briefed that several cases of massive irregularities were found in the District treasuries in which the chairing a meeting with the officials found involved officers of the Finance were penalized. However, Department on Monday at the system cannot still be any such fraud in the future. Younus Dagha The minister was told directed the Secretary of that the cases of over Finance to remove the ill-20,000 retired government reputed treasury officials officials have become from their positions and overdue in past three years take disciplinary actions

pension commutation,

The liability

gratuity and LPR.

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, 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 sacking of management for sending the petition to chairman Pakistan secretary committee Cricket Board (PCB) Zaka Commission (EC). Ashraf.

Muhammad Iqbal took up the case for hearing in the court and told the removing Zaka Ashraf.

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

Election On court's orders Additional Attorney General (AAG) appeared

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



KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi, and Begum Samina Arif Alvi, in a group photo with Special Olympics Pakistan delegation World Summer Games Berlin 2023 at Governor House

from mandatory biometric

verification for the Hajj pil-

grimage as this move would

alleviate the inconvenience

faced by senior citizens,

who often encounter diffi-

culties with fingerprint rec-ognition during the verifi-

cation process.

Aneeq urges Saudi govt to increase Pakistan's Hajj quota as per new census dividuals aged 65 and above

Caretaker Minister for Re- opportunity to discuss this ligious Affairs and Interfaith matter during a recent visit Harmony Aneeg 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 population.

The recently conducted census revealed that Pakistan's population has surged to 241.49 million, of 2.55 per cent," he added. vocated for exempting in-

QUETTA: Vice Chancellor University of Gwadar

Prof. Dr. Abdul Razzaq Sabir meeting with Gover-

Delay in holding

general election

unacceptable: Nayyar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa-kistan People's Party (PPP) secretary-general clear. Commenting on the

Nayyar Hussain Bokhari smear campaign against

has said his party wants IHC CJ Justice Aamer

timely general elections in Farooq, the PPP leader said

Pakistan and any delay is state-enmity should be dis-

ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami ameer Sirajul Haq

Flood funding for Pakistan

is more or less on track:

UN Resident Coordinator

KARACHI (APP): The tinue to keep active. And,

Last week, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Cen-

tral Executive Committee

(CEC) decided to advocate

the organisation of the gen-

eral elections in 90 days af-

ter the dissolution of the

Zardari chaired the session

of the PPP CEC to make

key decisions including

general elections and con-

sultations with the Election

Commission of Pakistan

'Everybody wants to get

that a commitment of over

9 billion dollars was ex-

pected. The Resident Co-

ordinator said that the UN

needed to keep working

with Pakistan and needed

to contribute to fixing the

lion people became home-

less due to floods and ef-

forts being made to provide

were on a visit to 12 Paki-

stani cities and after

Karachi their next destina-

tion would be Hyderabad,

and Sukkur and the visit

would continue until the

was on a mission of Sus-

Goals to eliminate poverty

and make the earth a pros-

perous planet by 2030.

He said that the UN

Development

them with houses.

last destination.

He said that 2.5 mil-

Harneis said that they

He was of the view

things faster.

challenges.

Bhutto

National Assembly.

Bilawal

not acceptable.

Bokhari in his state-

ment said PPP understands

the supremacy of the con-

stitution. Our stance is clear

on elections he said. He said,

today, people are facing the

brunt of inflation and held

the PTI government re-

sponsible for this current

economic turmoil. PTI gov-

ernment violated the agree-

ment with the International

Monetary Fund, which

destabilised the country's

Delay in elections will

addressing a press conference.

United Nations (UN) Resi-

dent Coordinator and Hu-

manitarian Coordinator in

Pakistan Julien Harneis has

said that the size of chal-

lenges is massive and the

flood funding for Pakistan

the Sustainable Develop-

ment Goals Dialogue at

Karachi Press Club (KPC)

here on Monday, he said

that the size of challenges

to Pakistan was massive

and there were millions of

people, who were affected

national Conference on Cli-

mate Resilient Pakistan,

which was co-hosted by

the Government of Paki-

stan and the United Nations

(UN) in Geneva had

pledged to provide over \$9

billion to support the

people and the government

of Pakistan.

He said that the Inter-

in the floods of 2022.

While talking about

is more or less on track.

economy, Bokhari said.

nor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

(APP): Minister Aneeq took the from his Saudi counterpart, Dr. Tawfig 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.

Addressing another crucial aspect, he recom-Highlighting the success of the Road to mended exploring alternative locations for the Paki-Makkah' project, which significantly streamlined stan Houses in Makkah and the pilgrimage process during Hajj 2023, the minister Madina adding that the structure had been disproposed extending the inimantled to pave the way for tiative to encompass multhe expansion of Haram Sharif particularly in Madina. tiple airports across Pakistan, including Lahore and Minister Aneeq emphasized Karachi. This expansion that the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harwould undoubtedly facilitate pilgrims embarking on mony was actively working the sacred Hajj journey, he on a range of plans aimed at with an annual growth rate added. Furthermore, he ad-



QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Achakzai visited the historic publication House, Kalat Publishers here on Monday.

During the visit, he viewed the books published by the prominent publication house of the province. He took deep interest in the

Moreover, he discussed with the Managing Director of Kalat Publishers, Major (Retd) Nazar Hussain Zamarud about the related matters.

Also present on the occasion was the senior journalist, Qaiser Butt.

PM, Lord Aamer Safraz discuss ways to enhance Pakistan-UK relations

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

(APP): Pakistanis living in Britain, particularly their contribu-tion 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.

Pakistanis residing in Britain bridges between two countries: Sanjrani

ISLAMABAD Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani acknowledging the vital role played by Pakistanis residing in Britain termed them as bridges between the two countries. He urged immediate attention to the challenges faced by these expatriates and stressed the need for swift resolution. The Chairman Senate was talking to Pakistan's newly designated High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Dr. Muhammad Faisal, who called on him here at the Parliament House on Monday. He warmly congratulated Dr. Faisal on his recent ap-

good wishes for his tenure. Sadiq Sanjrani expressed that Dr. Faisal's role as the Pakistani High Commissioner would further enhance the already strong bilateral ties between Pakistan and the United Kingdom. Emphasizing the importance of col- United Kingdom.

pointment, expressing his

laboration between the two nations, the Chairman Senate urged Dr. Faisal to actively promote cooperation in the fields of environment, trade, IT, education and other sectors.

Highlighting the potential for economic growth and stability, Chairman Senate exhorted British businessmen to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan. He underscored that the confidence of investors would contribute significantly to country's economic stability. Additionally, Chairman Senate emphasized that strong business and economic ties would serve to strengthen the bond between the people of both nations. In his concluding remarks, Sanjrani expressed his confidence in Dr. Muhammad Faisal's capabilities and extended his best wishes for his endeavours as the Pakistani High Commissioner to the



Muhammadhassani visiting Directorate of Minerals. Secretary Saidal Khan is also present.

DC inspects works of Levies Line BRC, Bypass Road

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Zhob Mehboob Ahmed Achakzai and Assistant Commissioner Zhob Hafiz Muhammad Tariq along with SHO Levies Line Muhammad Yasin visited the under construction Levies Line BRC Zhob.

On this occasion. Deputy Commissioner Zhob inspected the Levies Line BRC building and Zhob Bypass Road and directed the concerned department to complete the outstanding construction work in the building and House in the federal mebypass road as soon as possible.

Poverty, inflated power bill claim life of praver leader

SHEIKHUPURA (INP): A prayer leader disgruntled over poverty and recent inflated electricity bill committed suicide by consuming toxic pills here on Monday. According to details, Umair Yaqoob serving as prayer leader in local mosque of Safdarabad area of Sheikhupura was facing financial problems due to minute income and surge in inflation. The recent high electricity bills further added to miseries of Umair and he consumed toxic pills due to which his condition deteriorated. He was rushed to District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital

Govt ensures good governance to State's socio-economic development: Anwar

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): expenses with a view to Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while reiterating his government's commitment to ensure good of law, said that good governance was key to the region's socioeconomic development.

While talking to public delegations that called on him at Jammu Kashmir tropolis on Monday the PM said that correcting the system and implementing reforms was the first and foremost priority of the present government.

He said that the public would benefit from the government initiatives only if service delivery in the state improves. He said that the government has reduced non-developmental

sis on the health, education and development of the re-After taking up the governance and supremacy reins of the state, the PM

putting an increased empha-

said that the coalition government had tried to solve the problems of the people and provide them with all the basic amenities of life. He said that development across the state can be visible on the ground only when the projects allocated in the current financial year's budget are completed.

"Our priorities are to raise the standard of living of the people by providing them with facilities at their doorstep and raising the voice for our oppressed Kashmiri brothers on the other side of the Line of Control", the PM said.



QUETTA: Anjuman-e-Tajran Balochistan President, Abdul Rahim Kakar addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

President says:

IT, inclusive education open paths to progress for differently-abled persons

dent Dr Arif Alvi on Monday said that information technology and artificial intelligence opened paths to progress for differentlyabled persons while inclusive education could sensitize the society about their importance and struggle.

The president expressed these views in a meeting with the delegation of Special Olympics Pakistan here at the Sindh Governor House. First Lady Begum Samina Alvi was also present on the occa-

President Alvi said the future was not only bright only for the people with normal abilities, but had also become friendly and helpful for the differently-abled people due to the evolving society of artificial intelligence and information tech-

technologies, particularly mobile phones with Internet facility, he added. with

The president said that the spirit of inclusive education was that the children with disabilities could also receive education along with normal children, however, the need for special schools arose only in case of special abilities.

He said the "society becomes sensitized through inclusive education, so much so that the normal children realize the hard letes. work and importance of the children with disabilities".

The president advised the special athletes to exhibit the same spirit in earnwhich they play sports.

nology. Access to knowledge and information had broadened to all with emerging abilities were equally important to the society if they were given some necessary skills and special

education. Both the president and the first lady met the special athletes and congratulated them on their participation and winning of awards in the World Summer Games Berlin 2023.

Special Olympics Pakistan Chairperson Ronak Lakhani thanked the president and the first lady for encouraging the special ath-

Total 176 countries had participated in the World Summer Games Berlin 2023. Pakistani special athletes participated in 11 ing their livelihood with sports events and won 83 medals, including 11 gold, Begum Samina Arif 32 silver and 40 bronze.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior, Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti in a meeting with the dignitaries from Balochistan.

Dawood Nasar posted as RegistrarBHC; Pazir as **D&SJ** Quetta

Independent Report QUETTA: The District & Sessions Judge, Mr. Muhammad Dawood Khan Nasar has been posted as the Registrar, Balochistan High Court (BHC) with immediate effect.

This was announced in an official notification issued here by the BHC on

According to the notition, Muhammad fication, Dawood Khan Nasar has also been given the additional responsibilities of the General Balochistan Judicial Acad-

Meanwhile, according to another notification, the District and Sessions Judge, Pazir Ahmed Baloch has been appointed as District and Sessions Judge Quetta.

Similarly, District and Sessions Judge Chaghai at Dalbandin has also been ggiven additional charge of the District and Sessions Judge Noshki.

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 to FIA.

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

Shah Qureshi was presented in the court on completion of three days physical remand. Babar Awan and Shoaib Shaheen counsels

Shah Mehmood Qureshi also appeared in the court. Special prosecutor Zulfiqar Naqvi appeared on behalf of FIA. The court while ac-

cepting FIA plea approved further two days physical remand of Shah Mehmood Qureshi and handed him

Water supply will start in Gwadar Free Zone on August 30

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) is set to commence the establishment of the water supply network for the Gwadar Free Zone North on August

According to the plan, GPA is preparing to initiate an open bidding process. An official from GPA informed Gwadar Pro that it is expected that the work orders for this project will be released in the first week of September.

Umar Muhammadhassani says Govt taking steps for development mineral sector in Balochistan

OUETTA (APP):Caretaker Shahwani. Director Miner-Provincial Adviser on Minerals Umair Muhammad Hassani on Monday said that the provincial government was taking all possible steps for the improvement of the mineral department in Balochistan.

He expressed these views during his visit to the Directorate General of Minerals Department to to develop the Minerals the department.

On this occasion, Sec-

als Abdul Salam Lehri, Deputy Director Minerals, Kamal Kakar, Deputy Director Minerals Hasan Bugti, Deputy Director Judicial Mateen Kakar and Deputy Director Marble Syed. Rafiullah Agha was also present. The adviser said that

all resources would be used improve the efficiency of Department on more modern lines. He said that the prob-

retary Minerals Syedal lems related to the depart-Khan Loni, Director General Minerals Abdullah priority basis.

Jan Achakzai hails Chinese scholarships for Gwadar students

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has hailed the initiative of Chinese government about provision of scholarships to some 1200 students hailing from Gwadar.

In a statement issued here on Monday, Jan Achakzai said that Chinese initiative of scholarships is part of its strong resolve for investment in Balochistan.

scholarships would help Gwadar students to get opportunities of education besides learning, he added.

He said that Balochistan is a gateway for the world, and China is focusing on the investment in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

He said that China and

Balochistan would extend more cooperation to increase assistance in education and other sectors in future Jan Achakzi also said

that the bilateral relations between the two countries i.e., China and Pakistan would strengthen further and Balochistan would lav foundation for the same. The Minister Infor-

mation thanked the Chinese government and Embassy for its cooperation in different sectors

Balochistan. Referring the CPEC. he said that this gigantic project would contribute tremendously in economic development of the province providing immense opportunities of employments for the local people.



QUETTA: Caretaker provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai addressing on the shuhada e Sahafat seminar.

Chaman CC appeals to PM Kakar to take notice of burning of trawler

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chaman Chamber of Commerce has appealed to the caretaker Prime Minister, Anwarul Haq Kakar to take notice of the torching of a trawler load of the dry fruits by unknown terrorists at

Quetta-Loralai highway. Addressing an emergent press conference at Chaman on Monday, the office bearers of Chaman Chamber of Commerce Shafiq Kakar, Abdul Bari, Sardar Olas Yar Khan, Qasim Khan, Attaullah, Adam Khan and others pointed out that some un-

known terrorists threw a patrol bomb on a trawler of an Afghan trader load of the figs and other dry fruit, on way to Wahga border from Chaman on Sunday night. As a result, it was burnt completely causing financial loss of millions of rupees to the trader, they noted with concern. They said that the very incident shows that some unknown elements want to sabotage the trade relations of Pakistan with Afghanistan. They appealed to the caretaker Prime Minister and other provincial and federal high ups to take notice of the incident.

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah printed at Independent Printers Querry Road Quetta and Published from Akbar News Agency, Airport Road, Gwadar Ph. 2842938 Fax: 2842941 Cell No. 0331-8383955 E.mail: dailyindisb@gmail.com. Quetta Office: Al Syed Building Jinnah road, Quetta, Phone 2842938 Fax: 2842941

but could not survive.