

Member APNS & CPNE

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PM directs to accelerate execution of identified projects under SIFC

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

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on thorities concerned to accelerate the realisation of identified projects by capitalising enabling environ-ment, already achieved through Special Invest- passing progress in key arment Facilitation Council eas and benchmarks (SIFC).

The prime minister span of time. was chairing the 4th Apex Committee Meeting of SIFC - the inaugural meeting under the caretaker government - to continue positive impetus under the

The meeting was at- synergy. Caretaker Prime Minister tended by Chief of Army Staff, entire federal cabi-Monday directed the au- net, chief ministers, provincial ministers and highlevel government officials.

The meeting was given wholesome review of SIFC initiatives, encom-

Prime Minister Kakar appreciated the efficient functioning of SIFC through a collaborative "Whole of Government Approach" for achieving tive traje horizontal and vertical revival

The Apex Committee appreciated SIFC's outreach strategy to achieve global traction and ongoing engagements with brotherly/friendly countries including productive visits of high-level delegations from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Islamic Organization for Food Security

The Apex Committee expressed confidence on SIFC initiatives and displayed its resolve and support in maintaining positive trajectory towards the country's

The body also endorsed the projects, approved by the previous government, for attracting investments in key sectors of agriculture, livestock, mining, minerals, information technology and energy.
The Army Chief reaf-

firmed 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



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

Monitoring Desk LAHORE: Protests against inflated electricity bills across the country continued for the fourth day on

Interestingly, an emer-gency meeting held on Sun-tested in the offices day 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 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 tested 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. Anjumani-Tajran President Babar Mahmood Butt said if the said they could not feed increase in electricity bills 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

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

Power ministry finalises

KARACHI/ LAHORE mulated the recommenda-(INP): The Ministry of tions regarding the issue Power on Monday finalised recommendations on the during the federal cabinet issue of skyrocketing electricity bills, causing a widespread outcry in the entire nation. The proposals will be presented to the federal cabinet for approval on

meeting of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

Tuesday. A high-level meeting 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 statement issued by the ministry.

Kamal Khan and other per-

here the caretaker Chief

Minister went to Islamabad

from Quetta a couple of

days back. From Islamabad,

Mr. Domki reached Karachi

IHC to

announce

Toshakhana

verdict today

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 sus-

pension of sentence by

the trial court's Addi-

tional District and Sessions

Judge (ADSJ) Humayun

Dilawar in the Toshakhana

comprising Chief Justice

Aamer Farooq and Jus-

tice Tariq Mehmood

Jahangiri, conducted the

hearing, with Election

Commission of Pakistan's

lawyer, Amjad Parvez, who

wasn't able to appear be-

fore the court due to ill

health at the last hearing on

Friday, presented his argu-

the verdict today (Tues-

The IHC will announce

ments in the case.

A two-member bench

on Monday.

It may be mentioned

According to the state-

ISLAMABAD/ ment, the ministry has forasked about the 'Capacity Charges' which are being which will be presented Producers (IPPs). Senator meeting for final approval

> It said that the ultimate decision rests with the federal cabinet, as only the cabinet has the authority to endorse these proposals 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 Sena-

paid to Independent Power

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.

Continued on page 2

Bright future can be ensured keeping in view needs of artificial intelligence & robotic technology: Governor Sabir, who called on him tant, he maintained.

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-

Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

He said that the artificial intelligence is affecting conscious efforts and desire the economy and human that our youth may not go behaviours very fast, to other provinces and Therefore, it is necessary countries to earn livelihood for us to meet the modern as night watchman, labourer versity has created history

ing to the Vice Chancellor, regard, the role of University of Gwadar, Professor Dr. Abdul Razzaq universities is very impor-

here at the Governor House 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 or driver but every jawan has the capability of lead-This and similar other ing life as successful proviews were expressed by fessional, IT expert, rethe Governor while speak-searcher or scientist. In this Balochistan Public sector

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 different courses launched for the local students and youth.

He said that the Uniby launching differen courses for the local students and other youngsters.

However, he emphasized upon focusing on quality of higher education and training at the same

Domki greets

Arshad on

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

medal in the World Athletic

star Olympian Arshad

stani athlete who got big

only athlete who have done

Arshad Nadeem is the

international level.

Minister maintained

nonour for the country.

He also said that the

erywhere, and the national

flag is hoisted in every nook

Minister hoped that Arshad

Nadeem would continue to

available resources for the

The caretaker Chief

and coroner of the world.

In a felicitation message

Championship.

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Monday on a brief visit.

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: Jan Achakzai assures every possible efforts for welfare of journalists

Independent Report

OUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information. Jan Muhammad Nadeem on winning silver Achakzai has stated that the journalists of the province are facing financial hardships while the budget issued here on Monday, the of Information department is limited. Still, he would caretaker Chief Minister make every possible ennoted with pleasure that the deavor for welfare of the

Nadeem is the first Pakimedia persons. Jan Achakzai was addressing the seminar held success in Julin throw at the under the auspices of Balochistan Union of Journalists (BUJ) here at the the biggest throw of the year, the caretaker Chief Ouetta Press Club on Monday.

The seminar marked the observance of Youm-Mir Ali Mardan Domki e-Shuhada-e-Sahafat in said that his success is a big memory of three media persons who had been gunned down on August players happen to be the 28, 2014. ambassadors of peace ev-

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 also have to perform our

velopment in the province by putting the free trade zone on modern lines.

The President BUJ.

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

tor Saifullah Abro also Relief to masses in Caretaker CM reaches Karachi electricity bill, caretaker on brief visit govt's priority: Solangi **Independent Report**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Solangi said, adding, "We ing Murtaza Solangi on Monday said the complete During the stay in focus of the government Karachi, Ali Mardan Khan was on providing relief to Domki would meet the the masses in electricity former Chief Minister, Jam

"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-

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

bilk of the month of July. ister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar

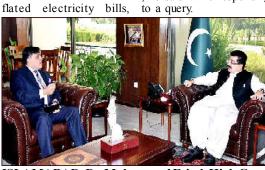
Caretaker Prime Minhad taken notice of in-

Caretaker Minister for In- are responsible caretaker formation and Broadcast-government and cannot ignore 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 Justice, Mr. Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan heard the constitutional petition ini-

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 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.

BHC quashes FIR registered against PTI chief, cancels non-bailable warrants

Independent Report Balochistan High Court (BHC) has quashed the FIR registered against the chief of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Imran Ahmed Khan Niazi that was lodged with Police Station Bijli road, Quetta under sections 124-A, 153-A, 505 P.P.C r/w

section 20 of the Act, 2016. The court also declared that non-bailable warrants of the petitioner issued by Magistrate-I, Quetta are without lawful authority and are of no legal effect, and thus the nonbailable warrants are can-

tition filed on behalf of the PTI chief. In its judgment, the court remarked that after

headed by Chief Justice

High Court, Mr. Justice

Naeem Akhtar Afghan

passed the order on the pe-

registration of FIR on March 5, 2023, the learned JM-I issued non-bailable 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-

ments u/s 196 Cr.P.C. Continued on page 2



perform in the same man-MULTAN: Traders are holding protest demonstraner and get more achievetion against massive unemployment, increasing ments at the international level brightening the name price of daily use products, inflation price hiking of country. and the highly inflated electricity bills

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 Shahrah Pinjara Bridge. Balon district, which will start in September and was department would utilize all

damaged by high-level flood

NHA released Rs. 540m for construction

of Bolan's Pinjra Bridge: Solangi

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

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 was com He said that the NHA pletely destroyed.

Continued on page 2

institutions so as to get desired results and improve their performance. He also emphasized that we would

> 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 de-

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

day) at 11am.

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

Pak to host UN Peacekeeping Ministerial preparatory meeting on Aug 30-31

tory meeting of the forthcoming United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping Ministerial in Islamabad on August 30-31.

The meeting will be held under the theme of "Safety and Security of UN Peacekeepers.

Japan is co-host of the meeting being held at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), Pakistan's premier training institute offering courses, workshops and seminars to UN peacekeepers from all over the world, Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release on Monday.

The foreign minister and the defence minister will deliver keynote addresses at the preparatory

Member States represented in the UN Special Committee on Peacekeep-

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- ing 156 countries - will participate along with local and international experts, besides senior officials from the UN Secretariat including the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, the Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support, and the UN Police advisor will also attend

> Panel discussions will be held during the two-day meeting on various subthemes to deliberate on capacity-building needs; safety and security of UN peacekeepers from the perspective of international law; enhancing medical capacity of UN peacekeeping missions; and leveraging technology and strategic communication. The meeting will also feature an expert talk on the threats posed by improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and

The UN Peacekeeping Ministerial is the seminal high-level event for UN peacekeeping, held biennially with the participation of foreign and defence min-

The 2023 ministerial will be held in Ghana in December, preceded by a series of four preparatory meetings, including one being hosted by Pakistan, with a focus on specific areas to facilitate concrete outcomes for improving UN peacekeeping opera-

Pakistan is an active player in the field of UN peacekeeping, both at the policy and operational levels. Pakistan is among the largest troop contributors and, since 1960, has contributed over 230,000 men and women peacekeepers to 46 UN peacekeeping missions in almost all continents of the world, the



and Nepal teams at Multan Cricket Stadium.

Chinese Consulate approves project for financial support to orphan students of Gwadar

MQM delegation meets CEC

ISLAMABAD (Online): MQM has proposed to com-

plete the delimitation of constituencies and revision of

Sattar met with Chief Election Commissioner on Mon-

have presented our suggestions to Chief Election Com-

missioner. He said that Election Commission (EC) and

MQM are on one page on matter of constituencies and

MQM supported Election Commission (EC) on matter

sus is a constitutional requirement. We also demand that

delimitation of constituencies and revision of electoral

decrease or increase the number of seats in the national or

provincial assembly in the country but there may be a

Power ministry finalises....

He said that delimitation of constituencies after cen-

He said that delimitation of constituencies may not

1st COMMANDER KARACHI & 2st INTERDEPARTMENTAL

NAVAL PHYSICAL TRAINING & SPORTS CENTRE PNS KARSAZ KARACHI (28 AUG - 1 SEP 23)

NAL BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP 2023

SVESTO

A 3-member delegation of MQM under Dr Farooq

While talking to media Dr Farooq Sattar said that we

QUETTA (APP): The Chinese Consulate Karachi has approved a project to provide financial support to the orphan students of Gwadar under which 350,000 RMB would be spent.

Tuesday August 29, 2023

Two policemen killed, three

injured in Laki

Marwat firing LAKI MARWAT (APP) Two policemen were killed

and three injured in a firing

incident that occurred near

the Pizoo area of Laki

Marwat, police and TV

channels reported on Mon-

unknown assailants

opened fire on a police

van near the Pizoo area

of Laki Marwat, result-

ing in the killing of two

taken to a nearby hospital

for necessary treatment. A

police team rushed to the

site and cordoned off the

area to arrest the perpetra-

tors behind this gruesome

killing. No success has been

made so far till the filling of

this report. Investigations

are underway.

Three injured were

policemen on the spot.

According to details,

Balochistan Education Department has compiled a list of 1201 orphan children in Gwadar, said in press released issued here on Monday.

It is reported that two-thirds of the RMB 350,000 will be used to purchase school bags and stationery for students while the remaining amount will be disributed among the orphan students in the form of

(COPHC), District Admin- fishing community.

electoral lists before general elections.

day and presented their suggestions.

of constituencies before general elections.

lists should be completed as soon as possible.

difference in the number of seats at district level.

istration and Education Department of Gwadar have discussed the method of distribution of money under the project.

The official of Gwadar district administration said that China's diplomatic missions in Pakistan have accelerated socioeconomic and human redevelopment source projects in Gwadar with the cooperation of Chinese institutions working in Gwadar.

Up-gradation schools in Gwadar is also in progress, recently the Chinese Consulate distributed 10,000 free ration bags to the deserving people of China Overseas Ports Gwadar and most of the Company recipients belonged to the

of funds, traffic flow has been restored by constructing a temporary passage on Pinjra Bridge. The work of the bridge will be started in September next month and will be completed in six

He said that NHA was

PCB reveals Star Nation Jersey for ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 Committee: "The Star Na-Cup 2023.

The Star Nation Jersey

signifies more than a mere

piece of apparel; it embod-

ies the profound connec-

steadfast supporters.

Drawing inspiration from

symbolises brilliance, aspi-

ration, and the radiant glow

This design philosophy en-

tion Jersey bears witness to

the enduring bond between

our cricketers and the pas-

sionate fans who stand by

them through every match.

This jersey encapsulates our

rich cricketing heritage and

the luminous future that

tor - Commercial: "The Star

Nation Jersey isn't just a

uniform; it's a canvas wo-

ven with stories, sacrifices,

and triumphs. Each star on

this jersey represents the

unwavering support of

our fans and the radiant

Usman Waheed, Direc-

Sports Desk LAHORE: The Star Nation Jersey signifies more than a mere piece of apparel; it

embodies the profound tion between Pakistan's connection between Pakistan's cricketing heroes and their steadfast supcricketing heroes and their porters. The Pakistan Cricket celestial bodies, each star

Board unveiled the Star

Nation Jersey today at a of cricketing achievements. grand ceremony held at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore. The ceremony, led by Mr Zaka Ashraf, Chairman of capsulates the spirit of cricketing excellence, resothe PCB Management nating deeply with every Pakistani cricket enthusi-Committee, marked a significant step as the national team prepares for the forthcoming ICC Cricket World

NHA released.. Continued from page 1

He said that due to lack months, he said.

trying hard to restore the structure of NA-65 Bolan national highway by utilizing all resources adding that we were trying to restore the beauty of the highway as soon as possible He appealed to the owners of freight vehicles and public transport and said that as long as the condition of the highway was in poor condition, they should travel on the Bolan National Highway with natience



Zaka Ashraf, Chairman legacy of our cricketing he-

LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board Zaka Ashraf unveiling the new kit of Pakistan Cricket Team for Asia Cup, during media talk at Gaddafi Stadium in Provincial Capital

Asia's cricket giants square up ahead of WC

COLOMBO (INP): Asia's cricket giants India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will get a final chance to size each other up before October's

Wednesday. Fiery rivals India and Pakistan could clash as many as three times if they go all the way in the sixnation continental championship. Pakistan and Sri Lanka are co-hosts, a hybrid model agreed after World Cup hosts India refused to tour Pakistan, with the final on Sept 17 in

Colombo. Babar Azam's Pakistan, who became the world's top-ranked ODI team after last week's 3-0 series sweep against Afghanistan, open their campaign at home on Wednesday against Asia Cup debutants Nepal in Multan. Azam, who scored 113 runs in the Afghanistan series, leads a side contain-

ing a triple-pronged fast bowling attack in Shaheen Shah Afridi. Naseem Shah and Haris Rauf.

World Cup hosts India, 50-over World Cup when led by Rohit Sharma, will Pakistan in a hotly anticipated clash on Saturday in Pallekele. India and Pakistan, who only play against each other in international tournaments due to the countries' long-standing political tensions, are expected to meet again in the Super Four stage and could face off for a third time in the final.

there are other teams, Rohit said of the hype surrounding the Pakistan clashes, with the rivals also scheduled to meet in the 50over World Cup in Ahmedabad on Oct 14. "Sri Lanka won the Asia Cup last year. So there are other teams who are playing good cricket and will challenge



PTI rally organisers booked in seven cases in Karachi

cases were registered on Monday against those who Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in Karachi

tered at Malir, Korangi, Sharqi, Khokhrapar, Tipu Sultan, Brigade, Soldier Bazaar and Bahadurabad police sta-

lating Section 144 and spreading disorder were included in the cases.

The arrested and absconding accused were nominated in the cases,

police said.

"It's not just Pakistan,

QUETTA: A large numbers of vehicles stuck in

The cases were regis-

Malir city,

Provisions such as vio-

10 people were nominated in cases at Bahadurabad police sta-

KARACHI (INP): Seven tion, 15 at Brigade, 17 at Tipu Sultan, seven at Soldier Bazaar, eight at Malir took out a rally of Pakistan city and 23 at Khokhrapar

police stations. The participants of the rally continued to cause traffic iams on various highways," the text of the cases

read. "The cases have been registered on the government's complaint," police said.

It is to be noted here that Karachi police detained several members of the PTI on Sunday who had reached the city's Numaish Chowrangi area while participating in a bike rally organised to express solidarity with incarcerated PTI chief Imran Khan.

a briefing on the system of spokesperson said. ing Operations – compris-

ISLAMABAD: Lord Amir Sarfraz called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Moonis calls for 'reconciliation' with PTI chief

LONDON (INP): Moonis country's Elahi son of Pakistan economy, he added. Tehreek-e-Insaf President Parvez Elahi has said reconciliation with the PTI chief is the way to move Pakistan forward from current political and economic

This he said in an informal interaction with the journalists in London. The former MNA said Shehbaz Sharif had the opportunity to serve the masses but

failed to deliver. Replying to a question,

Elahi said inflated electricity bills have made the lives of the masses miserable and asked the government to provide relief to the masses. It may be noted that Moonis Élahi had been declared an absconder over continued absence in the money laundering case by a Lahore dis-

trict court. The case against Pervaiz and Moonis includes charges of fraud, minister Ishaq Dar re- billions of rupees in five mained successful in their Panama-based companies, 'goals'. Both caused a ma- with Pervaiz Elahi using jor dent in the economy, he apparent money laundering

Magnitude 5.1 earthquake jolts parts of Khyber **Pakhtunkhwa**

SWAT, (INP): An earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale jolted different parts Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on

Monday. The National Seismic Monitoring Centre (NSMC) confirmed that tremors were felt in Swat, Lower Dir, Malakand, Kohat Mardan, Mohmand

and adjoining areas. People came out of their houses in fear Moons Elahi said former money laundering, and corprime minister Shehbaz ruption. It is alleged that the Tayyaba. No loss is Sharif and former finance father-son duo concealed reported as per initial

The epicenter of the earthquake was in the Hindukush moun-

added. Delay in elections techniques to acquire these tain range in Afghaniwill further dent the companies. Memorable "reunion" of members of

Independent Report QUETTA: The reunion of cially Balochistan is a bou-Alumni members of the Pak-US Alumni Network Quetta chapter was held

here on Monday. The media persons, teachers, doctors, social activists and members from can be promoted by prodifferent other walks of life proceeding USA under varifellowship programmes participated in the reunion.

Vice Chancellor, University of Balochistan, Pro-

was chief guest at the Also participated in the event was by the Manager Alumni Affairs, Sindh, US Consulate, Karachi, Ms.

Pak-US Alumni Network Quetta chapter held He said that Pakistan espequet of colourful multi cultures of different nationalities and communities living

> He was of the strong view that Pak-US relations jecting our beautiful culture at the international level.

Earlier, speaking on the occasion, Adeel Lashari briefed the participants about the projects successfully completed in different fessor Dr. Shafigur Rehman sectors by the alumni members including health, education, sports, protection of women rights, climate

He told that members of the Quetta chapter con-Faria Fatima, President, ducted orientation and

Ouetta chapter in order to provide ample opportunities to the young women. An awareness walk was also organized in collaboration with the Environmen-

tal Protection Agency. Speaking at the reunion, President of the Ouetta chapter. Mir Behram Baloch said that it is an excellent opportunity for the alumni members to speak to each other and

pionship 2023

Continued from page 1

IPPs have inflated the in-

voices of three significant

be effectively tackled.

WAP DA.

employees.

employees

The officials informed

has been provided in

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa un-

Retirement Benefit and

Death Compensation Act,

2014", however, there is

that serves as a basis for

providing Group Life In-

surance to the WAPDA

tions, the committee de-

resolve the issue of

current status of imple-

mentations of recommen-

dations relating to 765kV

Dasu-Mansehra-

Islamabad T/L (Lot-I) and

Moreover, as to the

WAPDA employees.

After detailed delibera-

"Khyber

He pointed out that

share their experiences. He also appreciated the role of US Consulate for making the reunion success-

The Manager Alumni Affairs Sindh, Balochistan US Consulate, Ms. Faria was also highly appreciative of the Pak-US Alumni US-Pakistan Alumni Net- awareness programmes for Network Quetta chapter

the students in educational

work Quetta chapter, Mir Behram Baloch, Vice President, Salman Khan, Exchange Ambassador, Adeel Lashari, Youth Director, Ms. Saira Batool, former Presidents of Quetta chapter, Gul Khan Naseer Baloch, Qudratullah Shah, Jahangir Khan, Ms. Shazia Langove, Ms. Saira Baloch, Ali Lehri, President of Gwadar chapter, Dr. Adnan Ahmed and others.

The chief guest Professor Dr. Shafiqur Rehman appreciated the organizers of the reunion and said that such events are welcoming.

institutions of Quetta and different other parts of Balochistan besides Pakistan Engineering Council

In addition to this, training programmes were also conducted for girls and teachers in colleges and schools for awareness about their basic rights and against the harassment of women at workplace.

Similarly, sports competitions were also organized under the auspices of Pak-US Alumni Network mance.

for arranging an excellent reunion of the members. She also informed the

participants about becoming part of the Alumni Network by taking part in diffellowship programmes under the US Consulate. In the end, a cultural

music programme was also

arranged that enthralled the participants. The Alumni members and volunteers were also given commemorative shields and certificates for showing excellent perfor-

consultant M/s GOPA Intec, the officials of Power Division apprised that a Committee to analyse the bidding process of LoT-1 and investigate the alleged irregularities of M/s GOPA

Tournament Director Cdre Faisal Zafar addressing during media brief of 1st

Commander Karachi & 2nd Interdepartmental Elite National Boxing Cham-

power plants, a fact acknowledged by the Secretary of the Power Division. Intec has been formed and He maintained that unless the IPP issue is resolved, a comprehensive report will be submitted before the the electricity crisis cannot committee within a month The Senate body also period time. The body also disdiscussed the public peticussed 765kV Dasution of Ashraf Ansari re-

garding non-payment of Mansehra-Islamabad T/I group life insurance to re- (Lot-II) in which after deof tailed deliberations the committee unanimously decided that M/s Harbin that Group Life Insurance Electric International is a disqualified firm for LoT II and huge irregularities have been found by the Pakhtunkhwa Civil Servant body. Power Division may take action against the company and M/s GOPA Intec as per discussion in currently no existing Act the previous Committee meeting related to LoT-I.

The meeting was at tended by Senators Fida Muhammad, Bahramand Khan Tangi, Saifullah Sarwar Khan Nyazee cided to amend the Act to Prince Ahmed Umer Ahmedzai, Sana Jamali Haji Hidayatullah Khan Asad Ali Khan Junejo, Additional Secretary Power Division Arshad Majeed and other senior officers of relevant departments were

also in attendance.

BHC quashes FIR... Continued from page 1

It was also observed

that in this case, registra-

tion of FIR, issuance of

non-bailable warrants.

Investigation of the case

and submission of in-

ers vs Sved Hamid Ali

appeared as lawyers of

the petitioner.

terim challan against the petitioner are the "acts" done by the officer Incharge and Investigating officer of PS Bijli road without lawful authority for, the prosecution was launched against the petitioner without complaint made by the order of the federal government or the provincial government or by an officer authorized in this behalf by either of the two governments. Therefore, constitution petition to review such acts is held competent. Reliance in this regard is placed on the case reported as FIA through Director General, FIA and oth-

Shah and others (PLD 2023 SC 265). It may be mentioned here that the PTI chief had challenged the FIR as well as the non-bailable warrants in the High Court making IGP Balochistan and other high ups party in the case. The leader of Insaf Lawyers Forum Syed Igbal Shah and others

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

(APP): UNSC and the civilized world must play a role to ensure the smooth implementation of the UN resolutions on the Kashmir dispute.

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

"The International community is well aware of the importance of the Kashmir issue in the region and also aware of Indian atrocities on inno Kashmiris," she said. innocent

"Unfortunately, the

in the occupied valley," she added.

'The entire Hurriyet leadership is under house arrest, she said. The Kashmir valley

has turned into the largest prison in the world," she added. The world needs to take concrete measures and

valley," she said.
"Sooner or later, the Kashmiris will get their fundamental right to self-determination.

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



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

Issues of police employees to be addressed on priority: ICCPO

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Islamabad nity to raise both personal Capital City Police Officer and official concerns before (ICCPO), Ďr. 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 In- also highlighted ongoing of their pivotal role in enspector Generals (AIGs), measures taken to enhance hancing the city's well-be-Senior Superintendents of the welfare of police eming. He said, "If you are Police (SSPs), Superinten- ployees. These include strong, your commander Deputy Superintendents of institutions to provide top-Police (DSPs), and Station notch educational and medi-

officers had the opportuthe police chief Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan.

Immediate resolutions were provided for some of the issues presented during the gathering, underlining the commitment to swiftly 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 pro-

tection of your citizens." Islamabad police chief agreements with various will be strong. You repre

of police personnel.

facilities are being introduced at the police lines headquarters, and the construction of the National Police Hospital is underway. Promoting a fair and efficient promotion system, 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

Additionally, modern

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 sent an excellent force. Treat your uniform as your pride and wear it with honor'



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

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

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

According to an official of HEC, the applica-tions 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 titled, "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 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 eligible to apply while the maximum age limit is 22

application submission. The candidates will have to a Scholarship Program for 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 chargesmaximum 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 apply. 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 Pakistan however, any expenditure over and above the cost given in Project PC-I.

Earthquake iolts various cities of KPK, Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (Online): Severe earthquake tremors have been felt in various cit-Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) in-cluding federal capital

According to details, fear and panic spread in the provincial capital Peshawar, Attock, Swat, provincial Malakand, Dirbala, Shabqadar, Abbottabad. Mardan and its surroundings 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 region of Afghanistan.

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

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 Latif Khosa Advocate and some newsmen.



principles: Sami Caretaker Minister for 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 the system.

Ministry of Planning participated in the meeting.

The minister said the

cross-cutting function of the governance section called for its proper and efficient monitoring of all projects. Sami Saeed underscored that the economic and social outcomes obtained from the projects should be closely monitored while focusing on the optimal utilization of every 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 Governance Section of the masses.

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

Report on facilities avail- chicken cooked in desi ghee able to PTI chairman in Attock jail has been filed in Supreme Court (SC). The report was filed

in the chamber of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial. Sources said the re-

port was also filed in the chambers of Justice been provided to chairman Mazahar and Justice PTI as per jail manual and Mandokhail

It has been said in the have been provided to in front of jail.

Mufti Hanif Qureshi".

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Benazir Income Sup-

port Programme (BISP) on

Monday conducted E-Kachehri to address the

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

provided by BISP. During

the E-Kachehri, Addl. Sec-

retary Benazir Income Sup-

port Programme (BISP), Dr.

Muhammad Tahir Noor

work in Federal Capital.

This enthusiastic par-

all across the country.

ISLAMABAD (Online): chairman PTI in jail. Desi 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

He is also allowed to report that B class facilities have a walk in the corridor

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

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

jority of the complaints

For the remaining grievances that required further

attention, he directed the

relevant authorities to en-

sure their resolution within

one day, further emphasiz-

ing BISP's commitment to

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 Benazin

Taleemi Wazaif and Benazin

Nashonuma Programme,

which collectively contrib-

ute to improving the socio-

most vulnerable segments of

society. In case of any com-

plaint, the BISP encourages

beneficiaries to reach out to

the nearest BISP Tehsil Of-

The BISP, through its

responsive governance.

BISP conducts

E-Kachehri to address

beneficiaries' concerns

rely on the vital support economic conditions of the

and his team tried to fices or contact the toll-free

ISLAMABAD: Heavy machinery being used for

expansion work of Club Road during development

promptly address the ma- helpline at 0800-26477.

MIH organizes free medical camp

ISLAMABAD (APP) International Hospital's (MIH) Clinical Investigation Centre and Research Department has organized a free medical camp at Nala Musalmana to provide treatment services and blood screening free of cost to the local com-

The camp was set up at Nala Musalmana Kalar Syedan Rawalpindi for extending vital healthcare to local rural communities. The camp was placed

targeting communities in distant small towns that often lack access to essential medical facilities.

In a joint effort that underscores the commithealthcare accessibility, the Clinical Investigation Centre and Research Department of MHI partnered with Resham Barkat Memorial Hospital to organize this free medical checkup and blood screening camp.

Dr. Saboora, Associate Director of MIH and other specialist doctors provided essential services on HBV, HCV, Malaria, Dengue Screenings, H. Pylori tests and more.

Personalized care, free medicines, and expert guidance on hypertension and diabetes were also provided to patients. Over 100 patients attended the free medical and screening camp. During medical checkups and screening, the most prevalent health issues among attendees were

> **Teachers** training

workshop on

space education

from Sep 7

ISLAMABAD (ĀPP): A

three-day training work-

shop on space education for

primary and secondary sci-

ence school teachers will

commence at the Institute

of Space Technology (IST)

on September 7. The work-

shop organized by the Space

Education Research Lab,

National Center of GIS.

Brazilian ambassador calls on Health Minister

(SLAMABAD (APP): Brazilian Ambassador 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 world-renowned public

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 that Border Health Services



health expert is a positive development for the health that Pakistan and Brazil have deep and strong relations and added trade relations and cooperation between the two countries are commendable. The minister said, "We are determined to eradicate polio from the eradication of polio. We are present on the occasion.

are being strengthened to deal with epidemics. "We sector. Dr. Nadeem Jan said are ensuring compliance with the recommendations of the International Health Regulations." He said that it is my mission to pursue the agenda of development and prosperity under the leadership of the caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan. country and will work on Secretary Health Iftikhar an emergency basis for the Ali Shallwani was also

Ministry committed to take up exams issue with Cambridge International

ISLAMABAD (APP): cation and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi tutions that do not impleon Monday reiterated his commitment to take up the

to Cambridge International 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.

He said that disciplin-Federal Minister for Edu- ary action will be taken against all educational instiment the decision. The federal minister

issues being faced by the said that Cambridge Interstudents related to Cam- national has its own sepabridge International exams. rate system of examination He said that his min- which is practiced on the

The students thanked the Federal Minister of 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 Professional also attended the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Aview 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.

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

The International Water Institute Management (IWMI), in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), organized a comprehensive workshop and panel dis-cussion 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 vari-

ous dimensions of the climate change-water nexus. Among the topics addressed were the effects of mate change is real, and it is

climate change on global and national water resources, economic impact of climate change, climate change and water governance, changing patterns of water 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

Muhammad Nawaz, Development Specialist, USAID Pakistan said cli-

happening already. In 2022 initially temperature shoot up and suddenly dropped resulting in heavy downpour that was 87 percent 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.

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 Mayits 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

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. 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 between official claims and on-

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 power supplies as well as caretaker government, who

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 re-

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 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 brought about two compromise options: one, students, lay going to university by a with support from their 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

its dissolution. The pur- and external financing pose of a caretaker governneeds ment 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 constitutional 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

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

ally Determined Contributions takes away from the purpose of larger convenings at multilateral spaces. This is a platform for debate, discussion, sharing perspectives and steer-

the narrow lens of Nation-

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 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

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,

Sindh Finance Minister

directs to clear dues

of ex-govt employees

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

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. Besides experts from members and students of Hamdard 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 early. Besides having a

minute self-examination University, every month to detect the Technical Advisor from disease at early stages and 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 cancer was curable, and do not seek provided it was diagnosed professional advice," she



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 required from him.

Earlier, stopped, the Mayor of at any cost. Karachi said. engineering department Shahrah-e-Faisal and gradually extend it to other important roads and 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, solar system and take M.T.Khan Road and other whatever approval is main roads and highways cannot be tolerated any He said this by further. He said that the chairing a high-level engineering department meeting with the officers of the engineering lights installed on all these 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 then this work was convenience to the citizens

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,

<u>Jaranwala incident</u> Registrar LHC raises objection over petition seeking judicial inquiry

Registrar office Lahore taken the plea that false High Court (LHC) has and unrealistic incident of 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

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



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

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 shall be taken against the violators. secure by deployment of Karakoram Task Force 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 commission had set up 256 polling stations in 21 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

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

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

commitments

these

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

Political parties

pledge to elevate

girls' education in KP

sustain and support on the government and prioritizing girls' education in party manifestos, to significant leverage in

discourse.

understand

PESHAWAR (APP): The include

representatives of different

political parties and Ex-lawmakers of Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa pledged 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

f 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

projects. Umerzai directed that all those schemes there were a total of initiated in the public interest should be 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 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

Younus Dagha was stipulated time period.

working of the District

Caretaker Minister for

Younus Dagha has directed

take immediate measures to

clear the dues and

payments of retired and

officials who have been

suffering due to non-

clearance of their dues for

the past two years.

Mohammad

government

KARACHI (APP): Sindh against the heads of pension commutation, gratuity and LPR. The liability

the finance department to 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 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 due to low budgeting against them.

Intelligence agency of enemy country involved in Jaranwala tragedy: IGP

Anwar said on Monday that intelligence agency of the enemy country was involved in the Jaranwala

Addressing a press conference, he said they had broken the network of nation that such incidents would not happen in religion, future. The tragedy was an attempt to foment a clash between Muslim and

(APP): Christian communities, he Inspector General of said and added that Punjab Police Dr Usman 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 the enemy and assured the cost. He said that showing the true spirit of the presented their mosque to the Christian community for worship.



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

President Alvi for strengthening financial inclusion, gender equality

institutions to take further measures to further strengthening financial equality in the sector.

Besides ensuring easy and accessible financial services to women and differently-abled persons, he emphasized the banking banking industry. sector to focus on providing employment opportunities of State Bank of Pakistan and financing facilities as and chief executive officers well as extending job training and financial literacy to them.

KARACHI (APP): chairing a meeting of for progress and President Dr Arif Alvi representatives of banking prosperity of the country, Monday asked the banking industry here at the Sindh the president said it was Governor House to review encouraging to see the ratio progress on initiatives of female in bank account aimed at financial inclusion holders and banking sector inclusion and gender of women and differently- jobs had recorded a abled persons, progress on significant growth in measures taken to ensure employment and financial opportunities for them, by the sector to promote and other issues of the

> s on The meeting was more attended by senior officials of different commercial banks. Terming meaningful participation of women in banking industry and the

previous years but still more efforts were required gender equality and inclusion of all segments of the society for achieving the objectives of inclusive

banking He said the jobs for the people with disabilities could be tailored in the

President Alvi also proposed the bank officials to explore part-time job institutions for household women.

Referring to the fast-

paced growth of digital technologies across the world, he said the banking industry in Pakistan had to keep pace with the evolving trends with the maximum information technology as "the IT driven financial inclusion at the grassroots level not only encourages taxable economy.



KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi chairing a meeting with representatives of banking industry to review progress on initiatives for financial inclusion, gender equality and issues of banking sector at



LAHORE: A delegation of All Pakistan Crockery Importers Association met Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at

Pak, Iran, Turkiye trade route can be vital to China's **BRI Project: PCJCCI**

Road Transport Corridor, integrated in conjunction with the international trade because

views in a think-tank meeting on Pak-Turkey-China tripartite trade, here

He said that Turkiye, like China, had been an allweather friend of Pakistan Vice President Fang Yulong

Association met Governor

Balighur Rehman here

today at Governor House

meeting, the delegation apprised the governor of

problems faced by them.

occasion, Governor Punjab

Rehman said that despite

Puniab

Muhammad

Despite difficult conditions

Business community plays

active role in country's

economic development

f All Pakistan development.

Lahore. During the not only leads to social-

Punjab about the various employment opportunities

the difficult conditions, the steps are being taken to

business community is provide them condusive

Meat exports grew

Balighur

playing an active role in the environment.

Speaking on this further said that the

Muhammad important even if it is a

small shop.

He said that business

economic development.

to millions of people. He

government is well aware

of the problems of the

business community and

also provides

LAHORE (Online): A country's

Belt and Road Initiative of CPEC and BRI projects, (BRI) project, will prove which had created new to be a game-changer in opportunities for Turkiye promoting regional trade as well as Pakistan. among the four friendly Turkiye's exports to China would be able to route Pakistan-China Joint through Pakistan towards Chambers of Commerce China, he said, asserting and Industry (PCJCCI) that Islamabad-Tehran-Moazzam Istanbul Road Transport Ghurki expressed these Corridor Project was successfully carrying commercial cargo on Pakistani trucks Turkiye and vice versa up

to Chinese markets. The PCJCCI Senior

friendly said that both countries Pakistan, Iran and Turkiye relationship was now more shared positive trade investments by Turkish companies in Pakistan had increased by over US\$1

The two countries also signed a Strategic Economic Framework agreement that covers a cooperation in science and technology, tourism, education, and health. He said that PCJCCI would enhance Chinese investment in this sector to create susta inable triangle amongst the three friendly states.

China's Internet users total **1.079bwith** steady app growth

Online): A country's economic development. Governor Importers Punjab said that all businesses are very Muhammad important even if it is a small shop.

Schillad 1.079 billion by June 2023, an increase of businesses are very large to the country for all segments should be withdrawn immediately as protests against them and has urged the government to cut the electricity tariff, overbilling, and nationwide protests against them and has urged the government to cut the electricity tariff economic challenges and enormous debt burden, steady growth in internet applications, a report revealed Monday.

China's Internet penetration reached 76.4 percent, according to the statistical report on China's Internet development released by China Internet Network Information Center, Xinhua reported.

Regarding Internet applications, as of June 2023, the user scale of instant messaging, internet video, and short video stood at 1.047 billion, 1.044 billion, and 1.026

by 37.22% in first billion, respectively. month of FY 2023-24 ISLAMABAD (APP): metric tons of fish and fish meat products valued at \$18.980

and preparations exports from million were also exported the country during the first during the period under month of the current review as compared to the financial year increased by exports of 8,084 metric 37.22 per cent as compared tons worth \$18.572 million to the exports of the in the same month of last corresponding period of year. During the first month

In July 2023, about 8,910 metric tons of meat and meat products valued the exports of fruits at \$9.926 million were increased by 4.61 per exported as compared to cent. In July 2023 food 5,705 metric tons worth commodities valued at \$25.408 million in the same \$329.156 million were period last year, according exported as compared to to the data of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

Meanwhile, 10,284

of the current financial year, seafood exports grew by 2.20 per cent, whereas the exports of \$356.073

Shipping activity at **Port Qasim**

KARACHI (APP): Two ships namely, Vancouver and Al-Karamu, carrying Container and berthed at Container Terminal and Bulk Terminal, respectively on Sunday. Meanwhile three more ships, MSC Shay, Okyroe and Southern Robin, carrying Container, Mogas and Chemicals also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim during last 24 hours. A total of 07 ships were engaged at million of the same month PQA berths during the



LAHORE: Members of National Labor Federation Pakistan Punjab are holding protest demonstration for rise of basic salary, at Lahore press club.

ML-1 to start by end of this year: Railways CEO

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan added and said its fare was Officer Shahid Aziz has said that work is underway improvement of project will start by the end of this year.

responding to questions of as well. people on Facebook ecourt on Monday.

He said that all possible steps were being taken for the betterment of train operation and to facilitate passengers. The CEO said that

more trains would be restored on availability of racks and improvement of resources.

In Green Line, quality service and food standard was well maintained, he

Railways Chief Executive finalized keeping in view the facilities provided in it. Shahid Aziz said that

in view of security, CCTV railway track and ML-1 cameras had been installed at all big railway stations and its horizon would be He said this while expanded to other stations

He further said that if Pakistan Railways get some investment it could profitable become department.He said, "We want that government of Pakistan bears the burden of pensioners so that burden of railways can be reduced to some extent."

Due to limited resources there were difficulties in timely payment of salaries, he



SIALKOT: President Chamber of Commerce Abdul Ghafoor Malik presenting a shield to Farrukh Amil Chairman Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan.

LCCI demands cut in power tariff

LAHORE (APP): Lahore electricity theft instead of Industry (LCCI) on prices. Monday expressed deep ISLAMABAD (APP): concern over increase in facility of free electricity

Kashif Anwar, Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry and Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt said in a media statement here that recent electricity bills had left the industry, trade and people in a lurch. They said that nationwide protests against over-billing, hike in tax and multi-fold increase in electricity prices could lead to an economic stress and

LCCI office-bearers should provide electricity and

Chamber of Commerce and increasing the electricity

They demanded that LCCI President could not afford to provide such facilities. They said that no tax should be levied on electricity bills up to 300 units. They said that electricity was the main raw material of industries. if such anti-industry measures were not avoided. the manufacturing sector would be completely destroyed and the country would remain only a trading place. They said that despite hike in power the country could not tariff, the circular debt afford such circumstances. could not be controlled. while the energy crisis had said that the government also become worst due to free which the industrial production .



ISLAMABAD: A vendor is preparing traditional stone rings on a green belt alongside a road at Aabpara area in Federal Capital.

Stable US-China ties 'profoundly important': Gina

Raimondo met with her year. Chinese counterpart in Beijing on Monday, saying it was "profoundly important" for the world's two biggest economies to have a stable relationship. Her visit is the latest

in a series of high-level trips to China by US officials in months as Washington works to cool

trade tensions with Beijing. The trips could culminate in a meeting between their leaders, with US President Joe Biden the saying recently that he was

BEIJING (AFP/APP): US expecting to sit down with Commerce Secretary Gina China's Xi Jinping this Raimondo met on

Monday morning with Commerce Chinese Minister Wang Wentao, describing the economic relationship between the two countries as "the most significant in the world".

'We share \$700 billion dollars of trade and I concur with you that it is profoundly important that we have a stable economic relationship," she said, according to a readout from Commerce US Department

Gohar asks for framework to take exports of Pharma industry to 1 bn dollars

ISLAMABAD Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce and Industry Dr. Gohar Ijaz asked for a framework to take the exports of the pharma industry to one billion dollars.

He said this in a meeting with a delegation of Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Association (PPMA), led by Chairman Farooq Bukhari, said a press release issued here.

The main agenda of the meeting was the industry's growth. strategy to increase exports of the pharmaceutical industry.

During the meeting, an ambitious target of country's achieving a one-billiondollar export milestone for the industry was set.

commitment and support official capacity but also on a personal level. He assured the dedication to its progress. delegation of his dedication

to creating an environment conducive

conditions.In a remarkable display of patriotism, Dr. Gohar Ejaz announced his Dr. Gohar Ejaz decision to donate his expressed his unwavering entire income for the year to the pharmaceutical country. This gesture sector, not only in his showcased his deep concern for the well-being of the nation and his

Recognizing the need for a competitive edge in the global market, the minister urged further pharmaceutical delegation emphasized the importance to formulate a comparative of focusing on exports as a policy framework.

PSX loses 192 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) shed 192.61 points on Monday, showing negative change of 0.40 percent, closing at 47,478.61 points against 47,671.22 points the previous trading day.

A total of 184,138,134 shares were traded during the day as compared to 192,036,691 shares, whereas the trading value of shares was recorded at Rs 6.465 billion against Rs 6.528 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 313 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 90 of them recorded gains and 202 sustained losses. whereas the share price of 21 companies remained

The three top-trading companies were K-Electric Ltd. with 19,236,327 shares at Rs 2.02 per share; Bankislami Pak.

IG FC urged to expedite release of vehicles at Torkhem border

PESHAWAR (APP): Chairman Pak-Afghan Chamber Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Muhammad Zubair Motiwala has requested IG FC KP to intervene in the resolution containers at the Torkherm

In a letter sent to IG FC and Secretary Commerce Ministry of Commerce, Muhammad Sulaeh Ahmad Faruqui, Chairman PAJĆCI apprised that complaints were being received from the Torkham border. This situation is further raising

(APP): and due to the delays the number of stuck containers Motiwala added.

"This slowdown has been in process and if it further continues, then it would further badly affect of the slow processing of the Afghan Transit Trade vehicles loaded with empty (ATT) and bilateral business ties significantly," Chairman PAJCCI went on to say. As per reports, currently, 2000+ Pakistani Trucks are held in Afghanistan.

On the other hand, transportation rates are increasing, due to the shortage of vehicles in our members pertinent to Pakistan. The detention the stoppage and slow charges (120\$ -140\$) are release of vehicles loaded another expense, which is with empty containers at also accumulated on a daily aggravated on a daily basis enormously.



HYDERABAD: Markets are seen closed due to strike call by traders against rise in electricity bills. at Channi market.

Rupee sheds 99 paisa against **US Dollar**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee Monday witnessed a 99 paisa devaluation against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs301.99 against the previous day's closing of Rs301.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs316 and Rs319 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs 1.34 to close at Rs326.15 against the last day's closing of Rs324.81, according to the State Bank of Pakistan

The Japanese Yen remained unchanged and stood at Rs2.06, whereas an increase of 80 paisa was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs379.67 as compared to the last closing of Rs378.87.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 28 paisa and 26 paisa to close at Rs82.22 and Rs80.49 respectively.

Expo Centre Sharjah announces bustling event calendar with 18 exhibitions in 2023

ISLAMABAD Expo Centre Sharjah has announced its bustling event calendar for the last quarter of 2023, revealing an impressive line-up of local, regional, and international events.

These events are scheduled to take place not only at the Expo Centre Sharjah but also at its affiliated centres located in Khor Fakkan and Al Dhaid. With 18 economic,

trade, and cultural exhibitions on the horizon, there is a significant 63 per cent jump in events compared to the same period in the previous year, which hosted 11 exhibitions and events, WAM News Agency

reported. Major companies from around the globe are expected to participate, and the Centre is gearing up to welcome a surge in exhibitors and visitors. The expansive event line-up solidifies Sharjah's position as a premier regional and international

hub for exhibitions and conferences. Kicking off on 27th September 2023, and November 2023.

running until 1st January 2024, the season's highlights feature the 52nd Watch & Jewellery Middle East Show, the Gulf Coatings Show, the National Exhibition, and the International Education Show. Also on the agenda is the much-awaited Sharjah International Book Fair, an annual celebration of the literary arts.

The enriched event calendar underscores Sharjah's continued commitment to fostering business, culture, and education international scale.

Additionally, Expo Centre has an actionpacked schedule for the upcoming period, featuring five premier events and exhibitions making their debut in the Emirate of Sharjah.

The standout events include the "Emirates Perfumes and Oud" exhibition, scheduled from 6th October to 14th, 2023: the agenda also features the trade fair, which will be held on 21st and 22nd

the country needed to show it was different by holding

sion interview with Natalia

Zelenskiy, in a televi-

elections in wartime.

Top US and Chinese commerce officials express support for easier trade, but deep differences remain

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and her Čhinese counterpart expressed a desire to improve trade conditions on Monday, as Raimondo began a visit to Beijing aimed at warming chilly relations, but neither side appeared willing to make concessions on the other's main de-

mands Raimondo joined American officials including Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen in July who have visited China in the past three months. They expressed optimism about improving communication but have announced no progress on technology, security, human rights and other disputes that have plunged relations to their lowest level in decades.

For its part, Chinese leader Xi Jinping's government wants to revive fordeepening economic slump.

Beijing is ready to work together to "foster a more favorable policy environment for stronger cooperation" and "bolster bilateral trade and investment," Commerce Minister Wang Wentao told Raimondo

Wang gave no details of possible initiatives. Raimondo said the two sides are working on establishing "new information exchanges" for "more consistent engagement."

"It is profoundly important that we have a stable economic relationship," she said. "I believe that we can make progress if we are direct, open and Beijing broke off dia-

logue with Washington on military, climate and other issues in August 2022 in retaliation for a visit to Taithen-Speaker

of Representatives. The mainland's ruling Communist Party claims the selfruled island democracy as part of its territory and objects to foreign governments having contact with it. The state press has given positive coverage to the American visits to Beijing, but China has given no indication it might change trade, strategic, market access and other policies that irk Washington and its Asian neighbors.

Tuesday August 29, 2023

Raimondo told reporters before leaving Washington she was looking for "actionable, concrete steps" to move forward in commercial relations but gave no details. She said she was realistic that the "challenges are significant.'

The visits take place under an agreement made by Xi and President Joe Biden during a meeting last



People shout slogans during a protest against the redevelopment of Dharavi, one of Asia's largest slums, in Mumbai, India.

Republicans pillory Biden over 'disgraceful' Afghan pullout

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Republican lawmakers launched their campaign for the 2024 presidential elections this weekend by underlining President Joe Biden's role in the withdrawal of US and Nato troops from Afghanistan. Speaker Kevin McCarthy of the US House of Representatives ordered that flags at the US Capitol be put at half-staff in honor of 13 American service members who died on Aug 26 in Afghanistan during the US evacuation two years ago.

Congressman Corv Mills, a Florida Republican. introduced a resolution seeking to impeach US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin for allegedly committing 'high crimes and misdemeanors" by supervising a pullout the Republicans see as disgraceful "The fact that this was a President Joe Biden.

this day all the more difficult," another Republi-can, Congressman Mark Green of Tennessee, said in a tweet. On Aug 26, 2021, a

suicide bombing at the Kabul airport killed at least 183 people, including 170 Afghan civilians and 13 members of the United States military. And on Aug 31, 2021, the last American soldiers lifted off from this airport, officially ending the 20-year war in Afghanistan, the longest in US history. At its peak in 2011, the US had approximately 100,000 troops across at least ten military bases from Bagram to Kandahar. Although the Doha agreement that led to the US withdrawal was finalised by a Republican president, Donald Trump, the actual evacuation happened under a Democrat,

France to outlaw abayas in schools, says minister

Monitoring Desk

are to ban the wearing in creasingly worn school of abava dresses women, the education minister said, arguing the garment violated France's strict secular laws in edu-

"It will no longer be possible to wear an abaya at school," Education Minister Gabriel Attal told TF1 television, saying he would give "clear rules at the national level" to school heads ahead of the return to classes nationwide from September 4.

The move comes after months of debate over the wearing of abavas in French wearing the Islamic headscarf.

The right and far-right had pushed for the ban, which the left argued would encroach on civil liberties.

PARIS: French authorities ports of abayas being inschools and tensions worn by some Muslim within school over the issue between teachers and "Secularism means

the freedom to emancipate oneself through school,' Attal said, describing the abaya as "a religious gesture, aimed at testing the resistance of the republic toward the secular sanctuary that school must constitute. 'You enter a class-

room, you must not be able to identify the religion of the students by looking at them," he said. A law of March 2004

schools, where women have long been banned from signs or outfits by which students ostensibly show a religious affiliation" in schools.

This includes large crosses, Jewish kippas, and Islamic headscarves.

8 US marines in hospital after deadly Australia crash

Monitoring Desk DARWIN: Eight US marines were in hospital on Monday — one of them in intensive care — following a military aircraft crash in northern Australia that killed three of their comrades, authorities said.

Twenty three marines were on board the Boeing MV-22B Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft when it crashed on Melville Island, north of Darwin, during a military exercise for locally based troops. Northern Territory Chief Minister Natasha Fyles said eight marines were still receiving treatto "assure their families that they are getting the best care possible and we're working to ensure they're sup-

Tehran & Baghdad reach a deal to disarm & relocate **Iranian dissident** groups based in north Iraq

Monitoring Desk

BAGHDAD: Iran and Iraq have reached an agreement to disarm members of Iranian Kurdish dissident groups based in northern Iraq and relocate their members from their current bases, officials from the two countries said Mon-

Nasser Kanaani, the spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, said in a news briefing Monday that the Iraqi government had agreed "to disarm the armed terrorist groups stationed in Iraq's territory by September 19, and then, evacuate and transfer them from their military bases to camps designated by the

Iraqi government." He added that the deadline would not be extended and that while relations between the two countries are "entirely friendly and warm



Volunteers get ready to take off in the Loch Ness Project Research Vessel Deep Scan, as they take part in the largest Loch Ness Monster hunt for 50

years in Scotland, Britain.



Indonesian President Joko Widodo speaks as he launches the Light Rail Transit (LRT) in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Poland, Baltics will shut Belarus border if 'critical incident' occurs

Monitoring Desk

WARSAW: Poland and the Baltic states will close their borders with Belarus entirely if a "critical incident" involving Wagner mercenaries takes place, Polish Interior Minister Mariusz Kaminski said on Monday.

EU members Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, which share a border with Belarus, have been increasingly concerned

Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: Iran has sum-

moned a Swiss diplomat

over the apparent U.S. sei-

zure of Iranian crude oil

from a ship that sat for

months off Texas, an offi-

cial said Monday, as the oil now appeared to be moored

nian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser

Kanaani mark the latest

twist in the saga of the oil

once aboard the tanker

Suez Rajan, which had be-

come mired in the wider

tensions between the

U.S. and the Islamic Re-

public. That's even as

Tehran and Washington

work toward a trade of

billions of dollars in fro-

zen Iranian assets in

Monitoring Desk

JAKARTA: A school on

Indonesia's main island has

partially shaved the heads

of more than a dozen girls,

its headmaster said on

Monday, after they were

accused of wearing their Is-

lamic hijab headscarves in-

and non-Muslim girls have

been forced for years to

wear a hijab in conservative

parts of the nation of 270

million people, which moved in 2021 to ban

schools from such manda-

Activists say Muslim

correctly

IMPLEMENTATION

OF THE UN RESOLU

Indonesian school shaves

14 girls' hair over

teacher's hijab complaint

The remarks by Ira-

in Houston.

spokesman'

since hundreds of Russian battle-hardened Wagner mercenaries arrived in Belarus at the invitation of President Alexander Lukashenko.

Poland has also seen an increase in the number of mainly Middle Eastern and African migrants trying to cross the border in recent months and has accused Belarus of facilitating them. "We demand from the authorities in about border security Minsk that the Wagner Iran summons Swiss diplomat

lease of five Iranian-

Americans held in Tehran.

evade sanctions and con-

tinue selling its oil abroad

while the U.S. and its allies

have been seizing cargoes

since 2019 after the country's nuclear deal al-

lowing the trade collapsed.

Speaking to journalists Monday, Kanaani said Tehran had summoned the

chargé d'affaires of the

Swiss Embassy in Iran to

express a "strong objection"

over the U.S seizing the oil.

Switzerland has looked out

for America's interests in

Protesters shut the ruling Baath party headquarters in the southwestern

ior high school SMPN 1 in

the East Java town of

Lamongan partially shaved

the hair of 14 Muslim girls

last Wednesday, headmas-

ter Harto, who like many

Indonesians goes by one

had apologised and the

teacher had been sus-

pended. He said the school-

girls did not wear inner caps

under their headscarves,

leaving their fringes visible.

tion for female students to

wear hijab, but they were

"There is no obliga-

Harto said the school

name, said.

Iran has been trying to

Group immediately leave the territory of Belarus and that illegal migrants immediately leave the border area and are sent back to their home countries," Kaminski told a press conference.

"If there is a critical incident, regardless of whether it is at the Polish or Lithuanian border, we will retaliate immediately. All border crossings that have been opened so far will be closed," he said.

over US seizure of Iranian crude oil that's now at port in Houston South Korea for the re-

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: The white gunman who shot and killed three Black people at a Dollar General store in Jacksonville, Florida on Saturday was a 21-year-old who bought his guns legally and had no criminal history, local law enforcement said. The shooter, Ryan Christopher Palmeter, lived with his parents in a suburb of Jacksonville, Sheriff T.K. Waters told a news conference. He died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Waters has said the shooting was racially motivated. Authorities say the shooter left behind several manifestos for media, his parents and law enforcement detailing his hatred for

Iran since the 1979 U.S Embassy hostage crisis. Kanaani's comments also acknowledged the oil was Iranian.

White Florida shooterwho killed three Black victims bought guns legally

Black people.

Moseichuk, an anchor for nounce elections in 2024, the 1+1 Channel, said he said voting could take place during wartime if partners had discussed the issue shared the cost, legislators with Graham, including the approved, and everyone question of funding and the need to change the law. got to the polls. Elections cannot curently be held in Ukraine under martial law, which

Zelenskiy says elections

could happen under fire

if West helps

Monitoring Desk

XYIV: Ukrainian President

Volodymyr Zelenskiy, re-

sponding to calls by a US

senator this week to an-

"I gave Lindsey a very simple answer very quickly," he said. "He was must be extended every 90 very pleased with it. As days and is next due to exlong as our legislators are willing to do it." He said it pire on Nov. 15, after the normal date in October for cost 5 billion hryvnia (\$135 parliamentary polls but be-fore presidential elections million) to hold elections in peacetime. "I don't which would normally be know how much is needed in wartime," he said. "So I told him that if the US and tors visited Kyiv Aug. 23, Europe provide financial among them Senator support ..." He added, "I will not take money from Lindsey Graham, who heaped praise on Kyiv's weapons and give it to elecfight against Russian Presitions. And this is stipulated

dent Vladimir Putin but said by the law." China, Japan agree to postpone head of Japan coalition partner visit: Chinese ministry

Monitoring Desk

held in March 2024.

Top American legisla-

BEIJING: China's foreign ministry said on Monday that China and Japan have agreed to postpone a visit by the head of Japan's Komeito party, the junior partner in the coalition government, given current strains between the two countries.

Natsuo Yamaguchi was planning to visit China from Aug. 28 to 30 in hopes of meeting China's President Xi Jinping and to hand over a personal letter from Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

"In light of current China-Japan relations, the two sides have agreed to postpone the Komeito delegation's visit to China," ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said

at a regular news briefing. Wang added that China attached great importance to exchanges and cooperation with the party which has long been comto promoting friendship between China

and Japan, and "stands ready to work with it to make active efforts for improving and growing China-Japan relations".

Despite opposition both within Japan and from abroad, the country began releasing treated radioactive water from the Fukushima nuclear power plant into the Pacific last

China has strongly opposed the move and banned all aquatic product imports from Japan.

Japan summoned the Chinese ambassador on Monday after various offices received what it called harassing phone calls from China regarding the release of the treated water.

Further straining Sino-Japanese Kishida and the leaders of the United States and South Korea met last week and issued their strongest joint condemnation yet of China's "dangerous and aggressive behaviour" in the South China Sea.

Libya's foreign minister suspended after meeting with Israel's chief diplomat

Monitoring Desk

CAIRO: One of Libya's rival preserving the heritage of Libya's former Jewish vealed that its chief diplomat met with her last week news that prompted scattered street protests in the chaosstricken North African nation.

Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, who heads the government of national unity in the capital, Tripoli, also referred For-Minister Najla Mangoush, for investigation over the meeting, which was the first ever between top diplomats of Libya and Israel. Mangoush fled to Turkey following the Israeli announcement of the meeting, according to a Libyan foreign ministry official.

Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen and Mangoush met in Rome last week. It was a small breakthrough for Israel's government, whose hard-line policies toward the Palestinians have led to a cooling of its burgeoning ties with the Arab world.

he has suspended his foreign community, including renoeteries. The talks also touched on possible Israeli assistance for humanitarian issues, agriculture and water management, according to Israel's Foreign Minis-The Libyan foreign

cussed the importance of

ministry, meanwhile, sought to downplay the importance of the meeting as "unprepared and an unofficial meeting during a meeting with Italy's foreign minister. It said in a statement that Mangoush's encounter with Cohen didn't include "any talks, agreements or consultations.'

Dbeibah's decision to suspend Mangoush suggested that he was not aware of the meeting. However, two senior Libyan government officials told The Associated Press the prime minister did know about the talks between his foreign minister and the Is-Cohen said they dis- raeli chief diplomat.

Clashes between US-allied **Arab & Kurdish fighters** in east Syria kill 3

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Clashes broke

out Monday between two U.S.-backed groups in eastern Syria, leaving three gunmen dead and raising tensions in the region where hundreds of American troops are deployed, opposition activists said.

The clashes raise concerns of more divisions between U.S.-backed Kurdish and Arab fighters in eastern Syria that borders Iraq and where the Islamic State group once enjoyed wide presence. U.S.-backed fighters play a major role in targeting sleeper cells of the Islamic State group that still carry out deadly attacks.

Monday's clashes came a day after the U.S.backed and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces detained the commander a formerly allied group and several other members of his faction after they were invited to a meeting in the northeastern city Hassakeh on Sunday.

The SDF did not confirm the detention of Ahmad Khbeil, better known as Abu Khawla. He heads the Deir el-Zour Military Council which was allied with the SDF in its yearslong battle against the Islamic State group in Syria. SDF officials did not immediately respond to questions by The Associated Press about the arrest.

Rami Abdurrahman, head of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said that the SDF was concerned that Khbeil was opening links with the Syrian government as well as Turkey. whose troops have carried out several incursions targeting Kurdish fighters in north Syria since 2016.

Khbeil's arrest could increase tension between Kurds and Arabs because most of his supporters who were also detained belong to a powerful tribe in eastern Syria.

advised to wear the inner tory dress codes. unidentified caps for neat appearance, teacher at state-owned jun-Harto told AFP. Heavy rains, floods inundate China; Hunan province sees record rain,

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: Chinese weather

forecasters on Monday warned several provinces to expect torrential rain and flash floods over the next two days as unrelenting downpours wreak havoc on the country. More than three thousand people were evacuated in northwestern Hunan province over the weekend as heavy rain was unleashed on Sangzhi, Shimen and Yongshun counties, and Zhangjiajie City, according to state media.

Sangzhi recorded the heaviest rainfall this year. with maximum precipitation reaching 256 mm (10.07

thousands evacuated inches) overnight from Saturday to Sunday, according to state broadcaster China Central Television. It was the most extensive and widespread rain in Sangzhi since 1998, CCTV said.

> China has been gripped by weeks of rains and floods amid an unusually wet summer. In late July, storms from Typhoon Dokusri caused record rains to hit China in over a decade, with Beijing experiencing its heaviest rainfall in 140 years. China's government has called for more precautions against flooding as Typhoon Saola now makes it way across the South China Sea

Trump campaign says it raised \$7.1m after mugshot **Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: Donald

SYRIAN CHILDREN

WETHERIGHT TO LIVE

Trump's presidential campaign said on Sunday that it has raised \$7.1 million since the Republican billionaire's mug shot was released after he was booked on racketeering and conspiracy charges at a Georgia jail this week. The campaign had

quickly embraced the scowling image of the former president — the first mug shot of a serving or former US leader — as the symbol of his bid to take back the White House.

Canada expects 900,000 overseas students this year Monitoring Desk

OTTAWA: Canada is concerned about the overall integrity of the system that educates hundreds of thousands of international students and not just the added pressure they put on housing, Immigration Minister Marc Miller said in an interview with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Canada is on track to

bring in 900,000 international students this year, Miller said in the interview aired late on Saturday, which was more than at any point in history and roughly triple the number who entered the country a decade ago. The university ecosystem that brings in foreign students "is very lucrative and it's come with some perverse effects.

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

KARACHI (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Montelligence opened paths to progress for differentlyabled persons while inclusive education could sensi-tize 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-

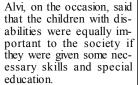
President Alvi said the future was not only bright only for the people with normal abilities, but had also become friendly and helpful for the differently-abled people due to the evolving society of artificial intelligence and information tech-

day said that information ened to all with emerging abilities were equally imtechnology and artificial in- technologies, particularly mobile phones with Internet facility, he added.

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 work and importance of the children with disabilities".

The president advised the special athletes to exhibit the same spirit in earning their livelihood with which they play sports.



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 sports events and won 83 medals, including 11 gold,



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

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 the department.

Khan Loni, Director General Minerals Abdullah priority basis.

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

The adviser said that all resources would be used to develop the Minerals improve the efficiency of Department on more modern lines.

On this occasion, Secretary Minerals Syedal lems related to the depart-

Jan Achakzai hails Chinese scholarships for Gwadar students

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker more cooperation to in-Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has hailed the initiative of Chinese government about provision of scholarships

ing from Gwadar. In a statement issued here on Monday, Jan Achakzai said that Chinese initiative of scholarships is investment in Balochistan.

to some 1200 students hail-

The 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 crease assistance in education and other sectors in

Jan Achakzi also said that the bilateral relations between the two countries i.e., China and Pakistan would strengthen further and Balochistan would lay foundation for the same.

The Minister Inforpart of its strong resolve for mation thanked the Chinese government and Embassy for its cooperation in different sectors Balochistan.

Referring the CPEC he said that this gigantic that 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

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

Independent Report 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 Shafiq Kakar, Abdul Bari, Sardar Olas Yar Khan, Qasim Khan, Attaullah, Adam Khan and others and federal high ups to take pointed out that some un- notice of the incident.

known terrorists threw a QUETTA: The Chaman patrol bomb on a trawler of Chamber of Commerce has an Afghan trader load of the appealed to the caretaker 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 Chamber of Commerce relations of Pakistan with Afghanistan. They appealed to the caretaker Prime Min-

ister and other provincial

Dawood Nasar posted as RegistrarBHC;

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.

Pazir as

D&SJ Quetta

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

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 Zulqarnain of special court constituted under official secret act held in-camera hearing of cipher case Mon-

Shah Mehmood 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 accepting 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.



KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi, and Begum Samina Arif Alvi, in a group photo with Special Olympics Pakistan delegation

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

ISLAMABAD

(APP): Pakistanis living in Britain, 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.

Pakistanis residing in Britain bridges between two countries: Sanjrani

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 appointment, expressing his

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.

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

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.

> ducted census revealed that Pakistan's population has surged to 241.49 million, with an annual growth rate of 2.55 per cent," he added.

Publishers

QUETTA: The caretaker Information,

During the visit, he viewed the books published by the prominent publication house of the province.

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

Also present on the occasion was the senior



Muhammadhassani visiting Directorate of Minerals. Secretary Saidal Khan

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

Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while reiterating his government's commitment to ensure good governance and supremacy 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 House in the federal metropolis 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

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): expenses with a view to putting an increased emphasis on the health, education and development of the re-

> After taking up the reins of the state, the PM 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.

QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Advisor for Minerals Umair

DC inspects works of Levies Line BRC, **Bypass Road**

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Čommissioner (ĎC) Zhob Mehboob Ahmed Achakzai and Assistant Commissioner Zhob 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 bypass road as soon as possible.

Poverty, inflated power bill claim life of prayer leader SHEIKHÜPURA (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 but could not survive.

Aneeq urges Saudi govt to increase Pakistan's Hajj quota as per new census (APP): Minister Aneeq took the Caretaker Minister for Reopportunity to discuss this from mandatory biometric

grimage as this move would

faced by senior citizens,

who often encounter diffi-

culties with fingerprint rec-

ognition during the verifi-

crucial aspect, he recom-

mended exploring alterna-

tive locations for the Paki-

stan Houses in Makkah and

Madina adding that the

structure had been dis-

mantled to pave the way for

the expansion of Haram

Sharif particularly in Madina.

Minister Aneeq emphasized

that the Ministry of Religious

Affairs and Interfaith Har-

mony was actively working

on a range of plans aimed at

reducing the cost of the Hajj

Addressing another

cation process.

alleviate the inconvenience

ligious Affairs and Interfaith matter during a recent visit Harmony Aneeq Ahmed, in from his Saudi counterpart, a bid to accommodate the Dr. Tawfiq bin Fawzan Algrowing population of Pa-Rabiah. Dr. Al-Rabiah, ackistan, on Monday called knowledging the concern, assured him of an increase upon the Saudi government to expand the Hajj quota for in the Hajj quota, subject pilgrims. In an exclusive to the completion of necesconversation with APP, he sary procedural formalities. Highlighting the success of the 'Road to highlighted the discrepancy between the current Hajj Makkah' project, which significantly streamlined the pilgrimage process during Hajj 2023, the minister proposed extending the initiative to encompass multiple airports across Paki-

stan, including Lahore and The recently con-Karachi. This expansion would undoubtedly facilitate pilgrims embarking on the sacred Hajj journey, he added. Furthermore, he advocated for exempting in-

Jan Achakzai visits Kalat

Independent Report

Provincial Minister for Achakzai visited the historic publication House, Kalat Publishers here on Monday.

He took deep interest in the

related matters.

journalist, Qaiser Butt.

general election unacceptable: Nayyar kistan People's Party political party, he made it secretary-general clear. Commenting on the Nayyar Hussain Bokhari smear campaign against has said his party wants IHC CJ Justice Aamer

QUETTA: Vice Chancellor University of Gwadar

Prof. Dr. Abdul Razzaq Sabir meeting with Gover-

nor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Delay in holding

timely general elections in Farooq, the PPP leader said 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.

akistan and any delay is state-enmity should be discouraged. Last week, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Cen-

tral Executive Committee (CEC) decided to advocate the organisation of the general elections in 90 days after the dissolution of the Natioanl Assembly. Bilawal

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



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

Flood funding for Pakistan is more or less on track: **UN Resident Coordinator**

KARACHI (APP): The United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan Julien Harneis has said that the size of challenges is massive and the flood funding for Pakistan is more or less on track.
While talking about

the Sustainable Development 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 in the floods of 2022.

He said that the International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan. which was co-hosted by the Government of Pakistan and the United Nations (UN) in Geneva had pledged to provide over \$9 billion to support the people and the government of Pakistan. Harneis said we con-

'Everybody wants to get things faster. He was of the view that a commitment of over

tinue to keep active. And,

9 billion dollars was expected. The Resident Coordinator said that the UN needed to keep working with Pakistan and needed to contribute to fixing the challenges. He said that 2.5 mil-

lion people became homeless due to floods and efforts being made to provide them with houses. Harneis said that they

were on a visit to 12 Pakistani cities and after Karachi their next destination would be Hyderabad. and Sukkur and the visit would continue until the last destination

He said that the UN was on a mission of Sustainable Development Goals to eliminate poverty and make the earth a prosperous planet by 2030.