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Government to come up with out-of-box solution on power sector for public relief: PM Kakar

Expresses hope that foreign investment projects worth \$25 billion each from Saudi Arabia and the Middle East would realize in a time span of two to five years

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday assured that his government was exploring realistic options to come up with out-of-box solutions to provide relief to electricity consumers.

The prime minister, in an interaction with foreign media representatives, said the government would make informed decisions to satisfy the masses on the issue of electricity bills without deviating from the country's commitments with the international financial institutions. Mentioning the issues of circular debt, power theft and taxes, the prime minister said the government would introduce short-term solutions to the issue without undermining the agitating people.

caretaker government was mandated to facilitate holding the general elections as early as possible while observing the constitutional obligations.

He said the Constitu-

tion called for carrying out the delimitation of constituencies following the population census.

Prime Minister Kakar said without redesigning the government structure, the interim setup was mainly focused on rearranging the fiscal and monetary policies to build an edifice for economic revival.

Council (SIFC) a strategy for economic revival, he said it focused on agriculture, mines and minerals. defence production and in-

out the economic reform agenda of his government, saying that the imminent included the privatization of two or more power distribution companies.

He said the reforms needed in taxation and power sectors, and his government would leave behind a basis for mid-level re-

Kakar said the government was pursuing a policy of doing the doable and providing a strategic direction to economic planning.

To a question, he said Calling the Special Investment Facilitation all the registered political parties would be provided all the registered political a level playing field to contest the general elections without any discrimination

However, he said in certain instances, political formation technology. However, he also spelled behaviour turned into var dalism and the country behaviour turned into van

PM orders immediate action against power thieves, defaulters SLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday ordered immediate action against those involved in power theft in the counry and asked relevant authorities to submit reports in his regard on the daily basis.

Chairing a meeting, the prime minister also directed o take swift action against electricity defaulters, saying here should not be any leniency towards electricity nieves and the defaulters.

During the meeting, the prime minister was briefed detail about all sections of the energy sector.

The meeting was informed about the total installed apacity, actual generation and overall energy supply luring various seasons.

The prime minister was also informed about the energy m̂ix in power production.

law was already in vogue to deal with such conduct. Talking about the ter-

ror attacks by the TTP, the prime minister drew attention to the leftover military equipment by the United

States and allied forces back in Afghanistan, which, he viewed, were becoming a threat to peace thus necessitating a coordinated approach to deal with the challenge.

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In his condolence

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message, the minister

prayed for the departed

Interim Interior Minis-

Condoling the martyr-

Caretaker Prime Min-

with equanimity.

Gwadar.

The president ex

Pakistan-KSA joint exercise on counter terrorism concludes



RAWALPINDI (APP): The closing ceremony of Pakistan-KSA Joint Exercise in Counter Terrorism domain, AL BATTAR-I, was held at Cherat on Monday

The two-week long exercise commenced on August 22 with the participation of Special Forces contingents from two brotherly countries, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) Nawaf Saeed Al Malkiy along with senior military leadership, witnessed the final day activities of the exercise. Combat Aviation along with the Special Forces of both countries, displayed their professional excellence. The Exercise concluded with the Fly Past.

The exercise was aimed at further harnessing the historic military-to-military relations between both brotherly countries, including nurturing of joint employment concept against counter-terrorism and identifying areas of mutual interest for future military collaborations.

Issue of missing persons more important than inflation: **Article 6 should be applied**

Independent Report

OUETTA: The President Balochistan National Party (BNP), Sardar Akhtar Mengal has stated that no one is safe in the circumstances being created in the Balochistan province. He said that the issue of missing persons is more critical than the issue of price hike and law and or-

on those responsible for delay in elections: Mengal companions.
Welcoming the new ISLAMABAD (INP): The

> the party would be strengthened further with their joining. Referring the issue of missing persons, the BNP president said that we have been raising the issue of missing persons since 2006, and we have talked about it at every forum since then.

> joiners in the party, Sardar

Akhtar Mengal said that



He also said that we have already described the present rulers as undertakers instead of caretakers.

This and similar other views were expressed by the BNP chief while addressing a scheduled press conference at his residence on Monday afternoon.

Advocate announced to join the BNP along with his responsible for the delay.

He said that the issue (of missing persons) is more severe than the inflation and law and order, and

as such it must be resolved. About the general elections, he said that the same should be conducted within 90 days of the dissolution of assemblies, and if these A lawyer Ibrahim Lehri are delayed then Article 6 should be applied on those

Four sentenced to death in blasphemy case RAWALPINDI (APP): The District and Sessions Court

Rawalpindi on Monday sentenced four accused to death in a blasphemy case. Additional District and Sessions Judge Ahsan

Mehmood Malik pronounced the verdict after recording evidence from the witnesses and final arguments from

The convicts Faizan Razzaq, Amin Rais, Muhammad Rizwan and Wazir Gul were found guilty of blasphemy under Section 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC).

The court also gave seven years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 100,000 to another accused Usman Laigat under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act.

Imran Khan, **Qureshi's bail** pleas unheard as cipher judge goes on leave

PTI lawyers have reached the court of Judge Raja Jawad Abbas for the bail of PTI Chairman Imran Khan and Vice-Chairman Shah Mehmood Oureshi in the cipher case as the special court judge who conducts hearing of cases registered under the Official Secrets Act has gone on leave.

PTI lawyers Salmar Safdar and Babar Awan ap peared in Judge Abbas court on Monday request ing him to conduct a hear ing on the bail applications of Imran Khan and Shah Mehmood Qureshi as the special court judge went on week-long leave.

However, Judge Abbas told them that he could hear the anti-terrorism court cases as a duty judge, but he was not authorized to hear cases registered under the Officia Secrets Act.

PPP responsible for exporting sugar: Ahsan

SIALKOT (INP): Former federal minister and senio leader of Muslim League N Ahsan Iqbal claimed that Pakistan People's Party is responsible for exporting

Speaking on a private TV program, Iqbal has said that the Ministry of Commerce headed by Naveed Qamar, a leader of the PPF granted permission to exrt sugar.

He said former govern-ment of the PDM was a coalition government so the PMLN could not carry the entire responsibility. The PML-N leader said that there is a need to break smuggling, cartelization and mafia in the country

President, PM, others express grief **Three Pakistan Navy** personnel martyred in Gwadar helicopter crash the services rendered by

erland.

ISLAMABAD (INP): Two Pakistan Navy officers and one soldier were martyred on Monday in a helicopter crash in Balochistan's Gwadar, a spokesperson for the navy

According to media reports, the spokesperson said that the helicopter crashed during a training flight in Gwadar. "The helicopter crashed during the flight due to a possible technical fault," the spokesperson said. "As a result of the accident, two officers stan Navy lost their lives, the spokesperson added.

The spokesperson added that an investigation had been launched into the incident President Dr Arif Alvi

on Monday expressed deep sorrow over the loss of precious lives in a helicopter crash in Gwadar. He condoled the mar-

tyrdom of Pak Navy officers and Jawans in the helicopter crash, and prayed for elevation of ranks of their souls in paradise. He also paid tributes to



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industries Prince Ahmed Ali Baloch meeting with **Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan**

No issue in world, which has no solution: Governor

We have to make serious decisions for finding sustainable solution to the complex issues being confronted by the province

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has categorically stated that there's no issue in the world, which has no solution. However, we have to make serious decisions for finding sustainable solution to the complex issues being confronted by the province.

He said that he has true realization of the deprivations of basic facilities in Panjgur. He said that the present government is determined to provide basic facilities to the masses at their doorstep in remote areas of the prov-

The Governor was speaking to the district President Balochistan National Party, Abdul Ghaffar Shaĥezai and General Secretary Qadeer Baloch, who called on him here at the Governor House on Monday.

During the course of meeting, the matters about border trade, poor state of roads and highways, law and order situation and is sues of health and education were discussed The members of del-

the Governor about the issues and hardships of the people of Panjgur and its adjoining areas. They said that the people of Panjgur are

egation also apprised

deprived of the basic facilities of life in the present developed era. They demanded of the Governor to take steps for ensuring pres-

ence of doctors and teachers in their area. The Governor gave patient hearing to the issues and assured them of his every possible cooperation to resolve them. The Governor also

assured that he would visit

Panjgur very soon.

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Once the new plan is

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a

IMF rejects Pakistan's

meeting regarding power sector in Islamabad

International Monetary Fund (IMF) has turned Pakistan down government's proposal designed to provide relief to the impoverished for exorbitant electricity bills, sources in the Finance Department said Monday.

They said a consensus could not be achieved with the IMF over the relief

In the proposal, the IMF was informed by the Pakistan government that relief provision would have an impact of less than Rs6.5 billion. The IMF, however, put the impact at about Rs 15 billion, and dismissed the plan as a result.

The IMF has now reportedly sought a proposal on how Pakistan intends to

President calls for upholding **supremacy** of constitution

dom of three personnel of President Dr Arif Alvi on minister prayed to Allah Monday appreciated the Almighty to grant courage statement made by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar that his government would abide by the Supreme ter Sarfraz Bugti expressed Court's judgement on the grief and sorrow on the sad

matter of general elections. The president said this in a meeting with Caretaker Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Ahmed Irfan Aslam, who called on him

here. The meeting discussed many issues related to the holding of general elections in the country.

President Alvi emphasized the need for upholding the supremacy of the Constitution, adding that decisions should be taken in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution.

US dollar reaches Rs. 330 in open market

ISLÂMABAD (INP): In a relentless surge, the value of the US dollar against the Pakistani rupee continued to rise, reaching an unprecedented high of Rs330 in the open market on Monday.

On the first day of the business week, the interbank market saw the dollar's value increase by 53 paisas, while in the open market, it surged by 2 rupees. The staggering climb to Rs330 in the open market is a new record that has left traders and the public grappling with the implications. Last week had witnessed a slight dip in the dollar's value in the interbank market, as it had depreciated by 7 paisas, closing at Rs305.47 according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

shared with the global lender, the Finance Ministry and IMF authorities will head into talks again. Pakistan has assured

the IMF that providing relief for inflated power bills will not result in a budget deficit, sources added. The IMF was requested to approve a plan

seeking payment of electricity bills by consumers in installments over the course of four months. The interim government devised a strategy to

provide relief to power consumers on exorbitant electricity bills, with a reduction of Rs3000 for users

consuming 300 units.

power relief plan cover this fiscal gap of Rs.15 bills for power consumers using 300 units in September will be decreased by the

aforementioned amount. The government, a few days ago, shared a plan with the IMF seeking relief for the impoverished people in connection with

electricity bills. The government held out an assurance that none of the targets agreed upon by the previous government would be compro-

mised. Caretaker Minister for Finance Dr Shamshad Akhtar said a team comprising Pakistani authorities met with IMF officials while she was not part of the team, she reiterated Pakistan's commitment to honour the IMF



QUETTA: General Secretary Balochistan National Party Jahanzeb Baloch meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Pak Navy's helicopter crash in Gwadar: Governor, CM pay rich tributes to martyrs sacrificing their lives in line of duty

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has expressed deep grief and sorrow over martyrdom of two officers and a jawan in the helicopter crash took place in Gwadar.

In a condolence statement issued here on Monday, the Governor prayed for the departed souls of the Navy officers and jawan in the helicopter mishap.

He also prayed that may Allah Almighty give enough strength and patience to the bereaved families to bear the tragic loss.

Meanwhile the caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has expressed sorrow over the mishap of Pak Navy's helicopter in Gwadar on Monday.

In a condolence statement issued here, the caretaker Chief Minister expressed condolence and sympathy with the bereaved families of those martyred in the helicopter Ali Mardan

Domki said that he was

moved over the tragic helicopter crach in Gwadar. He said that those who

are rendering sacrifices of their lives in the line of duty are our heroes. He prayed for the departed souls of jawans. He also prayed that may Al-

lah Almighty give enough strength and patience to the bereaved family members to bear the tragic loss of their dear ones. It may be mentioned here that two officers and a jawan of Pak Navy embraced martyrdom in the

Gwadar on Monday morn-The Pilot of helicopter Lt. Commander Jawad, assistant pilot Hamza and Technician Hasnain were martyred in

crash of helicopter in

the helicopter crash. The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Captain (Retd) Zubair Jamali and caretaker Provincial Minister for Sports, Culture and Affairs, Youth

Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani has expressed grief and sorrow over the crash of helicopter in Gwadar claiming lives of two Pak Navy officers and a jawan.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over meeting of Secretaries Committee

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Tuesday September 05, 2023

Stymied growth

A new report, published by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, shines a light on the multiple obstacles hampering the growth of the country's fledgling engineering industry — and, by default, its small and medium enterprises.

The study, based on a survey of 328 engineering firms, apparently operating in the SME sector, points out unreliable electricity supply, lack of access to formal bank credit, exclusion from global supply chains, branding, pricing, product quality, informality, etc, as major factors affecting the growth and productivity of such enterprises. These issues are faced by SMEs in every sector. The report underlines that a majority of industrial units — 83pc — in the country do not have plans for future expansion, owing primarily to the non-availability of electricity. A few entrepreneurs, however, intend to invest in technology, machinery, land, and skilled labour to boost their business prospects. Likewise, the lack of access to credit for most of these firms, owing to inadequate collateral, is highlighted as another major snag in the realisation of their potential. The report underscores the significance of addressing closely linked to, China and these challenges, recommend- the Middle Eastern states. ing that the engineering firms It is endowed with unique advantages to function not adopt international and national only as a figurative bridge quality standards. The study also emphasises the importance of strong ties between and historical linkages are businesses and the govern- split between a variety of ment, adding that political in- cluding Afghanistan, China, stability and unfavourable eco- India, Iran, and the Middle nomic policies have led to mistrust and dissatisfaction among therefore somewhat probbusiness owners. SMEs, especially in the engineering sector, are globally regarded as the backbone of economies. Their crucial role in fostering growth, creating large-scale employment opportunities and reducing poverty is universally recognised. Hence, successive governments here have repeatedly pledged to boost the 'ease of doing business' for them since the 1990s so that they can help boost overall economic growth.

However, practically speaking, little has been done to solve their problems. For example, the SME policy of 2021-25, which was widely welcomed dents and passersby, who because of its generous incen- thought a bomb nad gone off A man died when a signtives, such as tax reductions | board fell on him in and a Rs60bn bank credit line for collateral-free loans offered lives, including those of to small and medium entrepreneurs, is yet to be implemented. Already faced with formidable challenges, SMEs are electrocution, especially believed to have been affected the most by the ongoing eco- lar occurrences, often ignomic slowdown and surging inflation. Numerous units have already closed down because of financial troubles caused by increased costs, and thousands of workers have been folk and broken infrastrucfired by others to minimise losses as industries struggle handrails and balustrades, to survive the present crisis.

For long-term economic stability, more exports and greater job creation for millions of individuals entering the labour with clips of mugging and theft. A most unexpected market each year, Pakistan's passerby in the city was a big cat on Sharea Faisal; it policymakers need to immediately focus on addressing the hours in the haphazard inlong-standing issues holding SMEs back from realising their full potential.



Maleeha Lodhi

Pressure is mounting on the caretaker government and the establishment on multiple fronts — political, economic and legal. Several developments have fuelled more uncertainty at a time when the country is already in a tense and unsettled state. This has created the prospect of greater instability ahead. The conflation of crises could even push the country towards a tipping

Nationwide street protests by traders and members of the public over the sudden and excessive rise in electricity bills have confronted the government with a challenge. It is now struggling for a response that can quell the protests but also not upend the stand-by agreement with the IMF, which provided

While talks with Fund representatives are underway to find a way to provide 'relief' to consumers, protests continue across the

These protests come on the back of a cost-of-living crisis fuelled by record inflation — mostly the result of economic mismanagement by governments in the recent past. This has worsened people's plight in a deteriorating economic environment and bred widespread public discontent.

It was always a ques-

tion of not if but when this discontent would spill over into the streets. The spark was provided by the exorbitant hike in utility charges. These protests can snowball into wider social unrest if other issues of public grievance — there are many — kick in. Such a potentially explosive situation would be beyond the interim government's capacity to control.

When people see no hope of improvement in their economic condition, it is hard to douse the flames of their anger. What has contributed to public rage is the fact that they are being indicating it needed four tance itself from its former cision is for its patrons to

country needed to avert a asked to bear the burden of governance failures - mismanagement of the power sector by successive governments, failure to deal

Power failure

lack of reform. Added to this is a glaring inequity. Certain sectors are exempt from additional electricity taxes. while several categories of state officials receive preferential treatment by way of free electricity. There cannot be a more telling example of a policy that only privileges the elite while the public pays the price. With the rise in petroleum prices and more painful measures ahead, public discontent is

Already, cities across the country have seen a complete shutter-down strike by retail establishments in response to a call by the traders' association. Such strikes have obvious economic consequences.

likely to intensify, not dis-

Meanwhile, political pressure is growing for elections to be held in 90 days, as stipulated by the Constitution. Last month, the Election Commission of Pakistan ruled this out when it issued a schedule

months for fresh delimitation of constituencies, which it said it would complete in mid-December. This followed approval of the new population census, with its inefficiencies, and secured by the PDM government from the Council of Common Interests in its final days in power. The ECP's decision to delay general elections and not specify a date prompted speculation that the polls could be pushed to February and even beyond. Uncertainty was also fuelled by installation of a gratuitously large caretaker government that began to act as if it were anything but a

> The election delay predictably provoked an outcry from several political parties, as well as a spate of legal challenges. Îmran Khan's PTI and the PPP demanded elections within the 90-day time frame. The PPP was party to the unanimous CCI decision on the digital census. Its latest stance suggested it has doubts on whether elections will even be held after completion of the delimitation process. Its Uturn is also an effort to dis-

short-duration arrange-

coalition partner, PML-N. A cynical explanation is that PPP is mounting pressure in response to administrative actions taken against some of its sympathisers, hoping the establishment will remedy this. In any case, this has left PML-N isolated as the only major party that wants a delay in elections. This signals a lack of confidence in its electoral prospects, especially after Shehbaz Sharif's lacklustre tenure.

The Supreme Court Bar Association has filed a constitutional petition in the apex court that seeks suspension of the ECP decision to hold elections on the new census. It points to the ECP's responsibility to convene elections within 90 days of the Assembly's dissolution. The Bar Council of Pakistan has made a similar demand. PTI and Jamaat-i Islami also filed petitions in the top court seeking general elections within 90 days as mandated by Article 224(2) of

the Constitution. While a legal battle looms, it also puts pressure on the interim government to weigh in on this even though that de-

take. The government's response through the law ministry to President Arif Alvi's letter to ECP asking for an election date questioned his authority to do this. But it skirted around the issue of when the polls should be called. During a meeting with journalists, Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar simply said it was for ECP to decide the timing.

Not announcing an

election date has become a source of growing political controversy and legal contention. Doubts persist that elections may not even be held by February/ March. This is deepening polarisation in the country and having a damaging fallout on the economy More uncertainty will raise the cost to an economy that is already on life support.

It will continue to

produce instability in the capital market, vitiate the investment climate, encourage capital flight and delay any significant economic policy decisions. Whether or not the authorities realise this, it puts Pakistan's economic future at grave risk. --

Bridging the gaps in the region



Dr Khalid Jarral

The recent Iran-Saudi Arabian rapprochement has taken place against the backdrop of America's evolving role in the Middle East and deepening strategic partnerships between China and the Gulf states.Pakistan is centrally located between, and between these states but also as a land link connecting their trade.

Pakistan's geographic countries and regions, in-East. Its location and geostrategic relevance is lematic for strategic planners and scholars alike.

located within the orbit of the Middle East and has strong ties with Arab states and Iran, it defines a region that is sometimes referred to as the Greater Middle East. As the Sino-Middle Eastern engagement deepens, Pakistan, China's backdoor neighbour, will be increasingly clubbed to-

gether with these regional

partners

In the last decade or so, the US has become a leading net exporter of oil and gas, hence a competitor to OPEC countries in the global energy market. With an exponential rise of this sector in the US, the historical American interest in the security of international access to the energy sources in the Middle East has ostensibly waned.

This perception was strengthened by a palpable absence of tangible American protection, for the first time since the petrodollar agreement of 1973, when oil facilities and transport the UAE. It has also been suggested that it is about time for international stakeshare the responsibility for the security of international strategic partnerships.

Because Pakistan is oil trade routes.

This implies that China, since it has replaced the US as the largest importer of oil from the Gulf countries, should contribute to the security of the energy trade routes. Meanwhile, the American threats of withdrawal of military support to Saudi Arabia and expression of opprobrium concerning their longstanding ally exacerbated the already strained relations between the two countries. Saudi Arabia vehemently rebuffed these coercive tactics of its ally and stepped out to assert its strategic and political centrality in the region and beyond.

These factors have ultimately diminished the effectiveness of the US-Saudi Arabia strategic alliance of the cold war era and set in motion a historical geopolitical and geostrategic repositioning in Rivadh.

Under the leadership of Saudi Crown Prince vessels were under Houthi attacks in Saudi Arabia and dependent path for its country has charted an insocio-economic transformation and has since departed from its exclusive reliance holders to proportionately on the US, actively pursuing a diversification of its

With a recalibrated foreign policy and a flurry of diplomatic initiatives, the Saudi crown prince has taken centre stage in international diplomacy, proving that the 'international pariah' denunciation was a sheer misjudgement on the part of the American leadership. It only served to unleash the potential of Saudi diplomacy

These policy shifts have opened the door to China's deeper strategic engagement with Saudi Arabia. But China's competitive relationship with the US, the ongoing tensions in the South China Sea, and its quest for safer alternatives to the Malacca Strait trade route - through CPEC and other alternatives - make it a tricky proposition.

These Saudi policies of diversification and strategic repositioning have set the stage for the enhancement of Pakistan's defence and economic cooperation Mohammed bin Salman, the with Saudi Arabia. China's strategic partnerships with Iran and Saudi Arabia and the Iran-Saudi rapprochement have already removed the bottlenecks of strategic economic and defence cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Negotiations are currently underway between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia for an all-encompassing strategic cooperation agreement as an instrument for a comprehensive defence relationship. In this regard, another important consideration would be the position of India, which is a major consumer of Saudi oil. Defence and security cooperation is also on the agenda of the Saudi crown prince's upcoming visits to

Pakistan and the UK. Against this background, the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) of Pakistan has emerged as a vehicle for defence diplomacy initiatives. The council capitalizes on the prestige of Pakistan's defence institutions to pull in foreign investment from the Gulf states. In August. the council launched its investment drive with a conference to attract investment in Pakistan's underexplored mineral

wealth. For Iran, these regional adjustments are conducive to contriving alternative solutions to its economic development agenda. gridlocked by the US sanctions In addition to entions. In addition to enhancing bilateral trade with TheNews

Pakistan. Iran could work with Pakistan and China to explore ways to subsume the dormant Iranian projects, such as the Pakistani section of the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline, into CPEC or other BRI framework.

Iran is currently grappling with India's diverging interests in its strategic economic cooperation with Iran and a patchy commitment to the development of the Chabahar Port and the International North South Corridor Transport (INSTC). Whereas India seeks to exploit Iran's connectivity advantages to bypass Pakistan for access to Central Asia, its Ouad membership and its ambitious vision of technology transfer from the West drive its divergence with Iran and

Meanwhile, Iran's strategic partnership with China and recent detente with Saudi Arabia have prepared the ground for Iran to overcome the divergence with India on the INSTC and the Chabahar Port by seeking convergence with the Gulf states. Pakistan. and China The views expressed in this article are

Infrastructure risk



Dr Noman Ahmed

In the recent past, Karachi has experienced several unfortunate, infrastructurerelated accidents that impacted human lives and assets. The list is long: nine people were injured in a sewer gas explosion in Lasbela. Its intensity caused panic among resithought a bomb had gone Nazimabad. Uncovered sewers have taken scores of two siblings, who fell to their death through a manhole in Malir.

Other common infrastructure hazards include during the monsoons. Fires at various premises are regunited by faulty electric fixtures, wiring and devices. Not too long ago, malfunctioning oil pipes caused an oil spill in Korangi.

Traffic accidents

pose a constant and common danger to ordinary ture, such as dilapidated pedestrian bridges without is a hazard for pedestrians, especially women and children. At the other end, there has been an unceasing rise in Karachi's street crime, and the media is rife evaded capture for many frastructure of the me-

Whenever one has brought the grave realities of a fractured infrastruc-

ture and poor urban gov- with dubious safety meaernance to the notice of the sures, and often workers city and provincial lead- are seen waving red flags ership, investment figures set aside for mega projects have been rattled off. Take the much-trumpeted 'safe city' project; five years on, there is negligible progress. Media reports say it overshot the original spending target and has exceeded Rs40 billion, perhaps higher than the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation's annual budget. Also, how the mere installation of CCTV cameras will ensure safety for pedestrians and passengers is unclear, as merging this network with law-enforcement agencies and their response teams requires detailed, foolproof

Another multibillionrupee project, S-III, is also ongoing. It aims to take the bulk of wastewater to treatment plants, for purified water to be released into the environment. But wastewater management in Karachi has many dimensions — storm water drains and nullahs have become secondary, with tertiary sewers with wastewater being randomly disposed in these conduits, and unregulated development with scarce application of planning and engineering wisdom resulting in sewage flowing into lanes and streets

across the city. Moreover, when unplanned construction covers wastewater conduits, it traps harmful gases, and their accumulation leads to explosions. Therefore, mapping the existing wastewater disposal situation, identifying bottlenecks and other snags, population projections and redevelopment of sewers are some of the more common remedies for the en-

Many central corridors of movement are dug up for the BRT corridor. On University Road, mighty cranes are at work

at motorists, but an alternative plan for travel is absent. Billions of rupees have been spent on subsidy-driven transportation initiatives. The Karachi BRT is a classic example of wasteful expenditure of public funds. It is estimated that if and when all seven BRT corridors operate, they will not carry more than nine per cent of the total passenger load. The adjustments for

these are already creating congestion, as many lanes of movement will be lost to make way for BRT buses. There is a plethora of new institutions to manage the BRT at the federal and provincial levels, with huge administrative costs. In these times of grave economic crises, exacerbated by World Bank and ADB loans, one is forced to question the technical and financial merits of exorbitant projects, with minimal

benefits to the commuters. Karachi's populace deserves better. Our civic institutions, land management agencies and utility organisations require enormous reforms so that they are able to resolve contemporary challenges. It will be prudent to include independent and experienced experts in governing bodies and management

For instance, while there is a provision for an oversight committee in the building control authority, since its creation in 1979, this committee has rarely been notified. When active, it provided objective appraisals of building control activities that led to many useful procedural reforms. It requires firm will on the part of governments to create such oversight entities in order to avert a collapse of governance, glimpses of which are commonly observed in our civic affairs. -- Cour-

Mentoring in school



Neda Mulji

Walking past a noisy classroom where a teacher was screaming to get her students' attention, the principal turned around and said: "This teacher needs help." She was spot on. In the absence of policies and mentoring programmes, teachers use a variety of methods to control their classes, mostly guiding only those students who are easy to communicate with.

Professional development of teachers is not just about upgrading teaching skills. There are many fantastic teachers, with expert subject knowledge, who struggle in other aspects of their work lives. There are avenues of growth that require focused attention, such as teacher motivation, relationship management with colleagues, and collaboration with the school management. While informal approaches to mentoring are prevalent in schools, structured programmes are lack-

ing in most schools. Ad hoc ways of colleagues gathering together to resolve issues over a cup of tea may be an excellent way of improving camaraderie among staff members, but carry the dangers of momentary firefighting. Often, these informal routes result in setting up cliques of school staff that stick together due to common struggles. It perpetuates a 'culture of complaining' that can become an obstacle to their enjoyment and appreciation of work life. Many narratives abound. ranging from discontent with the management to a lack of agency in decision-

making, perceived absence of autonomy and general Sustainable mentoring programmes can be a positive intervention.

While mentoring programmes cannot re--solve every issue that arises — and cert-ai-n--ly not eradicate conflict from the school en--vironment there are many benefits to ini--tiating systematic intervention by trained school leaders. Sustained conversations over a period of time, with members of the school's senior management, can do wonders to bridge the gap between hierarchies and give teachers an opportunity to be heard and feel valued. These conversations must follow a framework with clearly identifiable goals, a two-

way exchange of ideas and a solution-focused goal. When teachers complain about a 'thankless' job, the feeling is usually born out of a need to be recognised individually for their efforts and a desire to be included as contributors to school policies, ethos and day-to-day operations. Very few teachers change jobs due to low remuneration; most switch in search of an institution where their efforts are regarded as more than just a drop in the ocean.

school-wide programme that offers guidance, advice, feedback and support can help early-career teachers develop confidence in their ability to have a positive impact on students and colleagues. It also helps their relationship management with parents, who are a vital cog in the school support system. Besides developing trust and confidence amongst colleagues, a mentoring programme can provide the tools for resilience, adaptability to changes within the school context and self-reflection. Many teachers face common problems, such as students' unruly behaviour, and usually apply tools that come intuitively to them. In many

cases, the differences between teachers' own behaviour and attitudes is enough to confuse children. This is why we see students behaving well with one or two teachers and not oth-

Consistent policies for addressing student attitudes and parental concerns can help schools establish a culture of positivity where students and teachers alike are encouraged to seek help. Many schools send a student handbook at the start of a new academic year, but very few have such a handbook for teachers.

In a classroom, every teacher is a leader, a shepherd and a mentor. How-ever, they cannot do justice to this lea-dership role in isolation. When they collaborate throu--gh a teacher-mentoring programme, they often find that many others are in the same boat, and consistent communication and ways to address challenges create a positive climate for teachers and students alike. Change often starts at the top, and the impact of great leadership trickles through the echelons of a school system, right down to students, school support staff and externally to the parents and society at large.

The teacher who screams in a noisy classroom to get her students' attention also uses a few choice words that sound like dire warnings. She believes that 'tough love' is what the children of today need and haven't been accustomed to. In her mind, she is 'helping' - not hindering — their ability to regulate their own behaviour. She clearly needs pastoral care from her own leadership and mentors that may steer her in the direction of using a positive approach to make a positive impact. After all, students often mirror their teachers. Eventually, society reflects what's happening in the classrooms, and vice versa. -- Courtesy Dawn

Punjab Governor says: Vast opportunities for Pakistani businessmen to export in ASEAN countries

Independent Report Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended the Trade and Tourism Conference on ASEAN at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry today as a special guest. Ambassadors of ASEAN countries, President Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Kashif Anwar, and officials and executive committee members of the Chamber were present in

the conference. Addressing the Punjab conference, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that there are vast opportunities for Pakistani businessmen to export in countries. Similarly, businessmen from ASEAN countries can invest in Pakistan in

taken various measures to provide facilities to foreign investors. ASEAN member countries can benefit from these facilities, he added. He said that he warmly welcomes the honourable ambassadors of ASEAN countries present in the conference and expressed hope that this conference will play a significant role in the promotion of trade and tourism relations between Pakistan and ASEAN countries. He said that Pakistan has vast business opportunities for ASEAN countries in various sectors including tourism, agriculture, and export of halal products. He said that Pakistan has a unique position in the world in terms of its natural scenery, cultural heritage, and hospitality. He said

that the government has country have all the features, adding that investment and proper promotion can make Pakistan the centre of tourism. Punjab Governor emphasized that the expertise of ASEAN countries should be utilized development of Pakistan's tourism sector and with their support and guidance, better policies should be formulated to improve basic infrastructure and attract foreign tourists. He further said that new avenues of trade and

economic cooperation can be explored within the ASEAN region. He said our presence here today reflects the importance we attach to fostering robust relationship and creating synergies that can pave the way for mutual growth and



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan Addressing a

Principal's indecent viral video

Minister directs to seal unregistered school

while taking notice of an indecent viral video of an legal action against the investigated. incident in the school. The

Hadeed area of the city.

(APP): Private Institutions on the Interim Sindh Minister for directives of the provincial Education Rana Hussain minister, has written a Deputy letter Commissioner Malir to unregistered private school's principal, has directed to seal and take unregistered private school until the matter is

The private school is administration has been located in Gulshan e directed to take legal action on the incident in the

Ghazanfar says: IRD launched at regional office of Federal Ombudsman

FAISALABAD (APP): Federal Ombudsman was making strenuous efforts to facilitate the masses and in this connection, the regional office had focused on Informal Resolution of Disputes (IRD) to pass on benefits to the grieved sectors of the economy, said Incharge Regional Secretariat of Federal Ombudsman Faisalabad Syed Ghazanfar Mehdi.

Talking to APP during an exclusive meeting here, he said that Federal Ombudsman had launched IRD program during April 2022 which had provided tangible results. Therefore, this mechanism was also secretariat Faisalabad so that the people could be provided speedy and free

He said that regional

office had so far received four complaints under IRD. The IRD had no need of fee payment to any pleader or bear the brunt of litigation or face long judicial procedure rather this program helped in resolving the dispute through an arbiter at preliminary stage, he added.He said that Federal Ombudsman had so far resolved more than 2275 disputes under IRD whereas 127 cases were under progress across the



SIALKOT: Deputy Commissioner Adnan Mehmood Awan is addressing the convention of District Numberdars titled "Ab Gaon Chamkein Gay".

Special measures being taken to improve cleanliness: Sec LG South

MULTAN Local Secretary Government South Punjab, Amin Owaisi, said that special measures were being taken to improve cleanliness of city of Saints.He expressed these views during visit to Waste Multan Management Company (MWMC) office here on

Monday. Chief Executive Officer MWMC Shahid

Yaqub gave briefing on sanitation situation. New board directors has been formed

Amin Owaisi directed officials officials to place containers and dust bins at central places of the city in order to provide pleasant environment to citizens.Company was performing well despite limited resources.

company's affairs and

capacity of the company

will also increase.

He also ordered to fix place for new landfill sites and transfer stations.

Earlier, CEO Shahid Yaqub said that merit policy was implemented to improve the performance | Safe Cities project would be extended to the whole for the improvement of the of the company

CM extends sympathies to heirs of martyrs

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has expressed a deep sense of sorrow over the Pak Navy helicopter crash Gwadar.

In a message, he extended heartfelt sympathies to the heirs of two officers and a jawan who embraced martyrdom.

LHC orders to produce Parvez Elahi on Sept 5

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday ordered district and sessions judge Attock to recover former chief minister Punjab Parvez Elahi from Attock jail and produce him tomorrow (Tuesday).

The court also issued a notice to the inspector general of police Islamabad for September 8 and sought explanation over the arrest of Parvez Elahi. Justice Muhammad

Amjad Rafiq passed the orders while hearing two separate petitions filed by Qaisara Elahi, wife of Chaudhry Parvez Elahi, for the production of her husband and contempt proceedings against Punjab police officials.

The court heard the petitions at different ntervals during the day.

Under-training police officers delegation visits PSCA

AHORE (APP):

delegation comprising police officers, undergoing training at the Chung Training Centre, visited the Punjab Safe Cities Authority here

The delegation was briefed by the Safe Cities officers about working of the authority. The visitors were informed about the operations and monitoring centre, 15 emergency help centres, call dispatch control centre and also briefed about the echallenging system.

The delegation was told that the PSCA electronic data analysis centre has provided digital evidence in more than 20,000 cases

The police officers said the Safe City cameras were providing full support in police operations and investigations. The plan is very important for guiding law-enforcement agencies. For that, the scope of the Safe Cities project would of Punjab.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman addressing the Trade and Tourism Conference on ASEAN at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

<u>Inspects development projects in city</u> Naqvi directs acceleration of work on Nawaz Sharif interchange underpass project

CM Punjab overflies Ring Road Southern Loop-III project for inspection

Independent Report Punjab AHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the Shahdara flyovers and the Nawaz Sharif Interchange Bedian Road underpass projects to assess the progress.

Shahdara flyovers project is approximately 84 percent complete, while the Nawaz flvovers Sharif interchange Bedian Road underpass project has seen about 40 percent of its work finished.

During his visit to the Shahdara flyovers, Mohsin Nagvi closely examined the to

peaceful, Business life is

going on as normal in

commercial centres and

bazaars. According to a

statement issued by the

Information Department of

Gilgit-Baltistan, thousands

of tourists from home and

abroad are coming to enjoy

the natural environment of

to give a negative colour to

the peaceful protest by

some religious parties in

According to the

Gilgit-Baltistan.

construction of protective completion of both walls and met with the project workers, urging them to continue their hard work diligently. He expressed satisfaction with the progress and instructed the creation of an alternative service road to facilitate traffic flow from

Gujranwala. emphasized the need to elevate the service road to improve management and provided necessary directives to the Director General Lahore Development Authority

(LDA) and the contractor

Situation in GB is

completely peaceful

Shahdara flyovers projects continues round the clock achieve timely completion, which will significantly improve daily traffic flow for 300,000

projects within the specified time frame. This

project would permanently

resolve traffic issues at

entry and exit points of the

provincial metropolis, he

LDA Mohammad Ali

Randhawa, chief engineer

LDA and contractor briefed that work on the

Commissioner/ DG

GILGIT (APP): The misleading public opinion situation in Gilgit-through fake news and Baltistan is completely propaganda. In any places in Gilgit-Baltistan, no shots were fired and no damage was done to private or government property during the peaceful protest against religious and communal response.

According to the statement, the Gilgit-Baltistan government is implementing coordinated statement, anti-national measures with the and evil elements are trying cooperation of all stakeholders for the development and development of the region,

Heavy quantity of 'Gutka' seized

FAISALABAD (APP): The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) seized a heavy quantity of 'Gutka' (betel quid) and imposed fine on shopkeepers over violation of the laws. A PFA spokesman said here on Monday that a team conducted checking of a grocery store and cold drinks corner near Novelty Bridge Dijkot Road and found 1,100 packets of prohibited 'Gutka' (Rattan One2One). Both shopkeepers had stored the prohibited item at secret places of their shops. The PFA team imposed fine on the shopkeepers and warned that they would



KARACHI: Women supporters of Jamaat-e-Islami participate in a rally to mark International Hijab Day in Provincial Capital.

CM's aide says: Govt to utilize all resources for supplying clean drinking water

Advisor to KP Caretaker Chief Minister on Public Health Engineering (PHE) and Communications & Works, Dr. Syed Sarfaraz Ali Shah Monday said all resources will be utilized for uninterrupted supply of clean drinking water to the people across the province.He expressed these views during a briefing regarding the Public Health Engineering Department here. Besides, Additional Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and Chief Engineers and Executive Engineers of the department were present on the occasion.

The advisor directed the up-gradation and activation of all completed

basis besides modern training of staff including the timely release of funds and approval of new projects under publicprivate partnership and practical steps and initiating of practical steps for the achievement of the recovery of the water charges. He also directed for bringing improvement in the monitoring system of the ongoing development projects and their completion within the stipulated time period.

Director Technical Waseem Marwat while giving a briefing said that there are 7991 water supply schemes in the settled districts of Khyber.

Latest screening system installed at Lahore airport

LAHORE (APP): In an important development in connection with the start of flights from Pakistan to the UK and the European Union (EU) countries, a state-of-the-art screening system has been installed Allama Iqbal International Airport.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) sources told APP on Monday that the system has been installed with installed with the cooperation of the UK government. Last month, Pakistan

International Airlines (PIA) had passed an initial audit by the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), bringing the national flag carrier one step closer to resuming flights to the UK. The UK's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)



KARACHI: Pakistan Navy officials handing over the sized Narcotics to ANF

KP CM, US CG discuss collaboration for regional development

PESHAWAR (APP): behind in Caretaker Chief Minister decades. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Azam Khan, held a meeting on Monday with the newly appointed US Consul General, Shante Moore, in Peshawar.

During the meeting, they discussed mutual interests and matters related to cooperation and collaboration between the provincial government and States' development agencies in various sectors.

Muhammad Azam the Khan stated that the KP gove provincial government viewed cooperation with the US government and agencies in different sectors as of great importance. He emphasized that

the US government would continue to strengthen cooperation with the

The chief minister government with friendly nations and donor agencies in the tribal areas, which had lagged

(APP): behind in development for

He also highlighted the special need to focus on building basic infrastructure in these wartorn regions and placed particular emphasis on road infrastructure

development. He further noted that improving the police infrastructure in the merged districts was essential to ensure peace and security.

The promotion of girls' education was among the provincial government's top priorities, the chief minister said.

He expressed the willingness of the KP provincial government to welcome cooperation in these sectors and provide any necessary assistance.

Shante assured that the US stressed the need for continue to work closely increased cooperation with the provincial government and the public to carry on the work of public welfare



PESHAWAR: US Consul General Mr. Shante Moore meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji ĞhulamAli at Governor House.

Minister performs ground breaking of 'Isolation Hospital' at Lahore airport

Caretaker Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr Nadeem Jan said on Monday that

ound-breaking ceremony international conference. of the 'Isolation Hospital' Allama Íqbal International Airport,

The minister said that the government was determined to strengthen the border health services to deal with any sudden outbreaks as epidemics had no borders limits, adding surveillance mechanism at international airports of the country were being improved to tackle the situation.

Dr Nadeem Jan said that the government was ensuring implementation of international health recommendations.

He announced that a conference on Global Health Security Agenda

Pakistan and this was for the first time that this kind of international conference was being arranged in Pakistan in which public health experts from all over integrated strategy had the world would been formulated to protect participate. He recalled people from diseases and that it was a matter of lemics. prestige that Pakistan He was addressing the would host such

He was of the view that by organising such international conference in Pakistan, it would pave the way for improvement, modernisation development in the health

sector of the country. Meanwhile, delegation of pharma exporters called on Heath Minister Dr Nadeem Jan in Lahore and discussed various issues related to pharma sector. The meeting decided to create a comprehensive strategy to increase exports of pharma drugs as Pakistan's pharma

The health minister emphasised the need for quality of medicines as per international standards in was going to be held in order to increase exports.

sector had lot of potential.



HYDERABAD: Civil society, different political and nationalist parties activists, advocates and people from different walks of life block bypass against kidnapping of Hindu businessmen and children in Kashmore.

KP CS orders IBO against smuggling of essential commodities

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Khyber Secretary

Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary on directed intelligence-based operations against smuggling and hoarding of essential commodities.

instruction while presiding over a meeting of the provincial task force on anti-smuggling and hoarding of essential commodities and other items. The Chief Secretary said that, constituted on the direction of the Prime Minister, the task force would ensure that smuggling and hoarding of essential commodities are halted and strict action is taken against violators as per law. The forum was the sugar crisis.

Chief stock of sugar was available in the province, which would last until the start of the sugar crushing season in mid-November, provided that smuggling and hoarding of the commodity controlled. currency scanning and full body searches at airports and border points are standard procedures. It was further informed that 21 provincial joint check posts had been established in border districts, manned by officials of the agriculture and food department, the police, and the district administration. The Chief Secretary stressed upon the authorities to work in close coordination to tackle

apprised that sufficient



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Ahmed Irfan Aslam called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

PM for promoting PPP to reduce govt expenditures, improve performance

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday said promoting public private partnership in the country could curtail government expenditures and improve performance of the projects.

He stressed the need to further promote public private partnership with respect to the construction of motorways and highways across the country.

Chairing a high level meeting of Public Private Partnership Authority (PPPA), the prime minster said with infrastructure development, the connectivity of different areas of the

Caretaker Minister for Re-

ligious Affairs and Interfaith

Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed on Monday said the Quran

would continue to serve as

the guiding light for the hu-

man mind throughout eter-

Ministry's Research and

Reference Department, he

made a significant an-

nouncement and also issued

directives regarding the up-

coming Secrat Conference.

minister expressed the be-

lief that Islam was a comprehensive and all-encom-

During the briefing, the

In a briefing held at the

proved, thus strengthening the national integration.

He directed the rel-

evant authorities to present a comprehensive plan with respect to the East-West connectivity to provide better access between Western and Eastern areas of the country. He said additional opportunities were required with respect to the promotion of public private partnership.

During the meeting, it was informed that projects worth Rs 646 billion were launched in the last two years under public private partnership.

Direct savings of Rs

temporary issues and mod-

ern challenges while re-

maining firmly rooted in the

teachings of Islam. He stated that their love for

religion was unwavering,

but to provide guidance to

the world, they must har-

ness the knowledge found

within the Quranic sciences.

ter Aneeq highlighted the

need for greater Muslim in-

volvement in the fields of

modern science and ongo-

ing research. He expressed

concern that the Quranic

perspective on cosmic con-

trol seems distant from the

Furthermore, Minis-

Quran to guide

human mind until

end of time: Aneeq

ISLAMABAD (APP): portance of addressing con-

ISLAMABAD (APP): country would be im- 150 billion were ensured in terms of government subsidies through the approved projects of public private partnership, the meeting was told.

The meeting was fur-ther informed that Sialkot-Motorway Kharian Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway, Kharian-Rawalpindi Motorway, Karachi Circular Railways and outsourcing of Islamabad International Airport were among the top Public Private Partnership Authority projects. "Education, information technology and export sectors are also among the priorities,"

Pakistan Navy siezed 9.5 tons of

narcotics at sea KARACHI (APP): The

Pakistan Navy and Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in an intelligence-based joint counter-narcotics operation on Monday seized 9.5 tons of narcotics and over 10 thousand bottles of Liquor at sea. The apprehended drugs were stowed in hidden compartments of a fishing boat that was successfully intercepted by a Pakistan Navy Ship, a Pakistan Navy news release said. The estimated value of seized narcotics is US \$ 112 million in the international market. The seized drugs were subsequently handed over to the Anti-Narcotics Force for further legal pro-

sing religion. Muslim community in He stressed the imtoday's world.

QUETTA: President Civil Secretariat Officer Association Balochistan Abdul Malik Kakar meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan

Perform duties of Anti-Rape Crisis Cells 18 districts get police surgeons & medical legal officers

Independent Report OUETTA: In all 34 police surgeons and medical legal officers have been posted in the government hospitals of 18 districts Balochistan province. 18 districts of

This was announced in an official notification is-Health Department, Government of Balochistan

perform their duties of Anti-Rape Crisis Cells under Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act 2021. with immediate effect and until further orders.

The doctors would also be responsible to presued here by the Provincial pare reports on medical legal investigations in the crimes, accidents and post-According to the noti- mortem, adding the notifification, the police sur- cation mentioned.

Iran, Pakistan have huge potential for cooperation in energy sector: Ali Reza

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan Dr. Reza Amiri cooperation in energy sec-Moghaddam called on tor. "We are keen to explore Caretaker Federal Minister all options and work tofor Power and Petroleum Muhammad Ali on Monday in Islamabad. Both sides discussed areas of mutual interest and promotion of brotherly relations between two countries.

welcomed the Iranian ambassador and expressed his resolve for further strengthening the ties. Ambassador extended his good wishes for the minister upon assuming new portfolio.

Muhammad Ali remarked that Iran and Pakistan have huge potential for gether," reiterated the Energy minister. The increasing energy needs of Pakistan present an opportunity of cooperation with neighboring country Iran which is rich in energy re-The Energy minister serves. The ambassador appreciated minister's interest in the regional cooperation and affirmed his full support. He presented his good office for any assis-

tance needed by the Paki-

Admiral (retd) Asif Sandila calls on PM

ISLAMABAD (APP) Admiral Muhammad Asif Sandila called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday and discussed matters relating to mutual interests.

Asif Sandila congratulated the prime minister on assuming the charge of his office and expressed best wishes for him.

PM Kakar appreciated the services of 'Moawin Foundation' which was working for the welfare of marginalized segments of rural areas under the leadership of Asia

SCBA to host farewell dinner in honour of outgoing CJP on Sept 13

ISLAMABAD, (INP): The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) will host a farewell dinner in honour of outgoing Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Umar Ata Bandial on September

The valedictory dinner will be attended by the Supreme Court judges, retired judges, and senior law

Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial is retiring on September 16.

Speakers says

Chaghi, Panjgur potential to Pak-Turkiye cooperation produce thousands of MW renewable electricity

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan's Chaghi and Panjgur districts have the potential to produce thousands of megawatts (MW) of renewable electricity (RE) from wind and solar energy but financial, administrative and political problems are hampering this potential from becoming a reality. These views were expressed by speakers while addressing a consultative conference held in Quetta on Monday.

They highlighted vari-

ous electricity problems faced by the people of Balochistan, such as low levels of access to electricity, high electricity costs and long hours of load-shedding, and said that the most effective option to address these problems is to produce electricity from renewable sources close to where people need it.

They also underscored the fact that Balochistanbased electricity projects in general and renewable energy projects being planned in the province, in particular, get neglected because of the fragile law and order tricity sector.

situation, lack of policy preparation and policy planning at the provincial level and the absence of coordination between the provincial and federal authori-

The conference, titled Balochistan's Renewable Energy Journey: Making accessible, affordable and sustainable power in the Province, was organized by the Institute for Development Studies and Practices (IDSP), a non-governmental organization working in Balochistan since 1998.

It was helped in this endeavour by two Islamabad-based think tanks. Renewables First and Policy Research Insti-tute for Equitable Development (PRIED). Rabia Mirani and

Zubair Khan, two young researchers working with ISDP on a draft renewable energy policy for Balochistan, told the par-ticipants of the conference that the governments as well as the private sector are highly reluctant to invest in the province's elec-

"This reluctance owes to many factors including extremely low recovery of electricity bills, especially from the owners of agricul-tural tube-wells, and the requirement to lay very long transmission and distribution networks to take electricity to the highly dis-

persed and sparse provin-cial population," they said. Ammar Qaseem, a re-searcher associated with Renewables First, briefed the conference on how the federal government's planning document for the energy sector, Indicative Generation Capacity Expansion Plan (IGCEP), is made and how its low focus on renewable energy is hurting Balochistan's interests.

'Not a single renewable energy project from Balochistan has been included in the latest edition of IGCEP. This means that no renewable energy project will be installed in Balochistan in the next ten years unless the makers of IGCEP change their policy focus and prioritize renewable energy over other sources of energy," he said.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting on Public Private Partnership Authority.

Introductory meeting with high ups: Jamali directs to make short & long term plans for effective policing

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Captain (Retd) Zubair Jamali has stressed the need to make short and long term planning for successful and effective polic-

era to ensure information technology based policing in the province so as to achieve the desired goals of law and order. He stressed adding moreover, we would also have to take steps for welfare of the masses and make the police their friendly. The caretaker Minister Home was in an introductory meeting with the Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Deputy Inspector General of Police and Superintendents of Police here on Monday.

Also present on the occasion were the Additional Chief Secretary Home, Saleh Muhammad

Nasar, Commissioner Ouetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat, Special Secretary Home, Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Additional Secretary Home and other concerned high ups. The meeting was briefed about the law and He said that it is re- order situation in different quirement of the present areas of the province. In addition to this, the meeting was also briefed about the special steps taken and being taken on chehlum of Hazra Imran Hussain (RA).

Addressing the meeting, the Minister said that we have to deliver the services to the masses. He exhorted the law enforcement agencies to perform their duties as service.

In order to bring improvement in the policing, we have to use modern techniques of modern era, he stressed adding moreover, we would also have to take steps for welfare of the masses and make the po lice their friendly.



QUETTA: Quetta Administrator, Jabbar Baloch addresses to members of Metropolitan Corporation Tanzeemi Ittehad after successful negotiations with them during their protest, in Quetta.

Jan Jamali saddened over loss of precious lives in heli crash

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali has expressed sorrow over the loss of precious lives in helicopter crash in Gwadar. In a statement issued

here on Monday, the Speaker expressed heartfelt condolence and sympathy with the bereaved families of the martyrs.

He prayed for the departed souls and the heirs that may Allah Almighty give them patience to bear the tragic loss of lives of

their dear ones.
Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali said that the country is surviving just because of the sacrifices of the brave soldiers of the nation.

CG Japan, President PJCA condole demise of former judge

QUETTA (APP): Consul General of Japan Syed Nadeem Alam Shah and President of Pakistan Japan Cultural Association Quetta Syed Feroze Alam Shah on Monday condoled the demise of former Judge International Court of Law Hague, Justice (retired) Ali Nawaz

Expressing deep grief and sorrow over the death of the former judge, they said Pakistan has lost an expert jurist, thinker and

Sardar Ejaz Jaffar exhorts PHE officers to ensure supply of clean water to people ter was speaking during the schemes of the department

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for

Public Health Engineering (PHE), Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Khan Jaffar has emphasized that it is responsibility of the concerned officers of department to ensure supply of clean water to the masses with good intention and honesty.

He said that the officers would perform their duties with honesty would be respectable to him and honourable. No relaxation would be given to the officers to be indulged in illegal and negative acts at all. The caretaker Minisbriefing about performance of the PHE and other related matters. The Secretary PHE.

Saleh Muhammad Baloch briefed the Minister in de-

occasion were the Additional Secretary PHE, Abdul Qadeer, Chief Engineer and other senior officials of the department.

Sardar Ejaz Jaffar said that he has served as Secretary of the department, so he knew well all affairs of the department. He announced to visit

the water supply

on and off. He asserted that if he found element of personal interest of the officers in the projects of water supply, action would be taken against them.

He on the occasion di-Also present on the sion were the Addi-al Secretary PHE, Khairwah and other adjoining areas besides providing water to Bakhtiarabad and Bhag from Pat Feeder canal under the Phase-I of Kachhi

> He also directed to enforce billing and collection system immediately so as to ensure maximum re-

PRESENTATION



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for PHE Sardar Ahmed Jaffar being briefed by Secretary PHE Saleh Muhammad Baloch about departmental

Sindhi for enhancing in education, culture

Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi Monday emphasized enhancing cooperation between Pakistan and Turkiye in the fields of culture and education. He was speaking during the event titled 'One Hundred Years of Magnitude: Pak-Turk Affinity,' organized by the National Institute for Historical and Cultural Research (NIHCR), Quaid-i-Azam University, and the Yunus Emre Institute, Turkish Cultural Center.

The minister stated that the fraternal relations between Pakistan and Turkiye were an unprecedented manifestation of brotherhood and love, which cannot be compared. He said that the Mus-

lims of the subcontinent actively participated in the Khilafat Movement and added that the new generation should be aware of their cultural identity.

"We are proud that our region is home to the this relationship may be-

ISLAMABAD (APP): world. Thousands of years ago, when the world was plunged into darkness, the civilization of Mohenjo Daro and Harappa were the cradles of knowledge and

wisdom" he said. Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Jamal Shah while addressing the event said that a talented and creative mind was the hallmark of any nation. It is through the promotion of literature and art that nations come closer to each other and the intimacy between them increases.

The guest of honor, Ambassador of Turkiye, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Picaci said that Turkiye values and respects the evergreen relationship with Pakistan. In every field of life, both of them have supported each other wholeheartedly.

He said, "We should increase cooperation in education, health, tourism, and other matters of mutual interest so that the effectiveness and recognition of great civilizations of the come deeper and stronger.'

Advisor for Irrigation vows to play role to resolve problems of masses

Independent Report OUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister for Irrigation, Mir Danish Langove has assured that he would play wholehearted role for resolving the basic issues of general public taking deep

He said that he and other members of the interim cabinet are well aware of the issues being faced by the people, and as such he is committed to play their part in resolving them.

This and similar other views were expressed by the Advisor to Chief Minister while speaking to different delegations who called on him here at his office on Monday.

The members of delegations greeted Mir Danish Langove on becoming Advisor to the interim Chief

He said that although the duration of interim government is brief, however, he is firm to resolve the issues of common men remaining in the mandate

The Advisor further said that development of irrigation has priority in production sector. He said that he doesn't claim to bring revolution in the Irrigation department, but assure that he would play his role in maintaining quality of work in all development projects, he maintained



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Education Minister Qadir Bakhsh meeting with Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai

Raids dairy farms; **Quetta administration** recovers adulterated milk and 50 bottles of oxytocin

Independent Report QUETTA: The Quetta disadministration launched crackdown against the adulterated milk at the dairy farms located in vari-

ous parts of the city. The Assistant Commissioner Sadar Flt. Lieutenant (Retd) Khalid Shams raised different dairy farms along with the high ups of Balochistan Food Author-

ity (BFA). During the raids, the

team seized around 100 liters powdered milk and discarded it. around 50 bottles of prohibited chemical oxytocin were also recovered. A person using the

same was arrested and Rs. 50 fine was also charged. Meanwhile, the administration and BFA team also visited different areas to check the plantation of different vegetables and crops through use of con-

taminated sewer water.



OUETTA: Senator Danesh Kumar meeting with Caretaker Finance Minister Amjad Rasheed and Advisor to Chief Minister Danish Lango

Finance Minister chairs ECNEC meeting

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs and Privatisation Dr. Shamshad of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC), today. Mr. Sami Saeed, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Mr. Shahid Ashraf Tarar, Minister for Communications, Maritime Affairs & Railways, Mr. Muhammad Ali, Minister for Power & Petroleum, Mr. Ahmad Rasool Bangash Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Excise & Taxation KPK, Mr. Muhammad Younas Dhaga Minister for Finance, Revenue Sindh Government, Mr. Amjad Rasheed, Min-

Balochistan, Federal Secretaries and other senior officers from Federal Ministries and Provincial departments participated in the Akhtar chaired the meeting meeting. The ECNEC considered and approved project of Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination titled "Emergency Plan for Polio Eradication(3rd revised)" at a cost of USD 1784.93 million including grant from GPEI partners of USD 1197.93 million, Islamic Development Bank loan of USD 552 million and AFD loan of USD 35 million. The project will supply polio eradication vaccines all over Pakistan and will be executed by WHO and UNICEF. The ECNEC after discussion extended the duration of umbrella PC-1 of the project to