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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 electric-

ity 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. He assured that the mandated to facilitate holding the general elections as early as possible while ob- steps

obligations.
He said the Constitution called for carrying out the delimitation of constituencies following the population census.

Prime Minister Kakar said without redesigning the forms. government structure, the interim setup was mainly 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 information technology. However, he also spelled

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Ahmed Irfan

stan have huge potential for

cooperation in energy sec-

tor. "We are keen to explore

all options and work to-

gether," reiterated the En-

ergy minister. The increas-

ing energy needs of Paki-

stan present an opportu-

nity of cooperation with

neighboring country Iran which is rich in energy re-

serves. The ambassador

appreciated minister's in-

terest in the regional coop-

eration and affirmed his full

support. He presented his

good office for any assis-

tance needed by the Paki-

Aslam called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Iran, Pakistan have huge

potential for cooperation

in energy sector: Ali Reza

Ambassador of the Islamic marked that Iran and Paki-

ISLAMABAD (INP):

Republic of Iran to Paki-

stan Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam called on

Caretaker Federal Minister

for Power and Petroleum

Muhammad Ali on Mon-

day in Islamabad. Both

sides discussed areas of

mutual interest and promo-

tion of brotherly relations

welcomed the Iranian am-

bassador and expressed his

resolve for further strength-

ening the ties. Ambassador

extended his good wishes

for the minister upon as-

suming new portfolio.

The Energy minister

between two countries.

caretaker government was out the economic reform saying that the imminent included the serving the constitutional privatization of two or more power distribution

> 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 focused on rearranging the of doing the doable and providing a strategic direction to economic planning.

To a question, he said Calling the Special Investment Facilitation Provided a level playing field to contest the general elections without any discrimination.

However, he said in certain instances, political behaviour turned into vandalism and the country's

Imran Khan,

Qureshi's bail

pleas unheard

as cipher judge

goes on leave

SLAMABAD (INP): The

PTI lawyers have reached

the court of Judge Raja

Jawad Abbas for the bail of

PTI Chairman Imran Khan

and Vice-Chairman Shah

Mehmood Qureshi in the

cipher case as the special

court judge who conducts

hearing of cases registered

under the Official Secrets

Safdar and Babar Awan ap-

peared in Judge Abbas's

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

told them that he could

hear the anti-terrorism

court cases as a duty

judge, but he was not au-

thorized to hear cases registered under the Official

IHC bars

authorities from arresting

Imaan before

However, Judge Abbas

veek-long leave.

Secrets Act.

PTI lawyers Salman

Act has gone on leave.

#### PM orders immediate action against power thieves, defaulters

ISLAMABAD (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 hieves 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 nergy mix 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.

President, PM, others express grief

#### **Three Pakistan Navy** personnel martyred in Gwadar helicopter crash

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 and one jawan of the Pakistan 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 the services rendered by the martyrs for their moth-

The president expressed sympathies with the bereaved families and prayed for grant of courage to them to bear this loss with equanimity.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar grief and sorrow over the tragic incident of navy helicopter crash in Gwadar.

Condoling the martyrdom of three personnel of Pakistan Navy, the prime minister prayed to Allah Almighty to grant courage to the bereaved families to bear the loss with equanim-

#### Quran to guide human mind until end of time: Aneeq

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed on Monday said the Quran would continue to serve as the guiding light for the human mind throughout eternity. In a briefing held at the Ministry's Research and Reference Department, he made a significant announcement and also issued directives regarding

During the briefing, the minister expressed the belief that Islam was a comprehensive and all-encompassing religion. the Muslim control today's world.

the upcoming Secrat Con-

portance of addressing contemporary issues and modern challenges while remaining 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 harness the knowledge found within the Quranic sci-

Furthermore, Minister Aneeq highlighted the need for greater Muslim involvement in the fields of modern science and ongoing research. He expressed concern that the Quranic perspective on cosmic control seems distant from the Muslim community in

# 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 Usmar

Laigat under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act.

ISLAMABAD: Italian Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Andreas Ferrarese called on Dr. Gohar Ejaz, the Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce and Industries and Production



meeting regarding power sector in Islamabad

#### IMF rejects Pakistan's power relief plan

ISLAMABAD (INP): The 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 De-

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 Rs15 billion, and dismissed the plan as a result.

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

cover this fiscal gap of Rs.15 bills for power consumers

Once the new plan is shared with the global lender, the Finance Ministry and IMF authorities will head into talks again. Pakistan has assured the IMF that providing re-

partment said Monday. lief for inflated power bills will not result in a budget deficit, sources added. The IMF was re-

quested 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

tricity bills, with a reduction of Rs3000 for users consuming 300 units.

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-

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 Reports suggest that programme.

#### Pakistan-KSA joint exercise on counter terrorism concludes

provide relief to power con-

sumers on exorbitant elec-



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.

#### PPP responsible for exporting sugar: Ahsan

SIALKOT (INP): Former federal minister and senior leader of Muslim League-N Ahsan Iqbalclaimed that Pakistan People's Party is responsible for exporting sugar.

Speaking on a private TV program, Iqbal has said that the Ministry of Commerce headed by Naveed Qamar, a leader of the PPP granted permission to export sugar. He said former government 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.

#### Sindhi for enhancing Pak-Turkiye cooperation in education, culture

ter 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 Research (NIHCR), Quaid-i-Azam Emre Institute, Turkish Cultural Center.

The minister stated that the fraternal relations between Pakistan and Turkiye were an unpreccannot be compared.

He said that the Muslims of the subcontinent actively participated in the Khilafat Movement and added that the new of their cultural identity.

"We are proud that world. Thousands of and stronger."

ISLAMABAD (APP): years ago, when the world Caretaker Federal Minis- was plunged into darkwas plunged into darkness, the civilization of Mohenjo Daro and Harappa were the cradles of knowledge and wis-

dom" 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 University, and the Yunus 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 edented manifestation of and respects the evergreen brotherhood and love, which 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, generation should be aware tourism, and other matters of mutual interest so that the effectiveness and recour region is home to the ognition of this relationgreat civilizations of the ship may become deeper

#### Finance Minister chairs **ECNEC** meeting ISLAMABAD (Online): Secretaries and other se-Caretaker Federal Minister Affairs and

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Islamic Republic

for Finance, Revenue, Eco-Privatisation Dr. Shamshad Akhtar chaired the meeting 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, Rev-

nior officers from Federal Ministries and Provincial departments participated in the 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 enue Sindh Government, after discussion extended Mr. Amjad Rasheed, Minthe duration of umbrella ister for Finance & Rev-PC-1 of the project to enue Balochistan, Federal

three years

of Iran to Pakistan H.E. Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam informing court ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday ordered called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Power and Petroleum Muhammad Ali. authorities to inform the court before arresting human rights lawyer Imaan Zainab Mazari-Hazir in any case. Imaan and former lawmaker Ali Wazir were

arrested earlier this month. A pair of first information reports (FIR) were registered against the two at Islamabad's Tarnol police station and Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) police station. The arrests were made two days after a rally, with videos circulating on social media showmilitary establishment over enforced disappearances.

public meeting, organised y the Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM). Wazir, a PTM member, and Imaan had both addressed the ing speakers criticising the On August 28, Imaan had received bail in the sedition case but was re-arrested within hours by the

Islamabad police in connec-

tion with a freshly filed ter-

### Daily Soice of Masse, Independent

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 these challenges, recommending that the engineering firms adopt international and national quality standards. The study also emphasises the importance of strong ties between businesses and the government, adding that political instability and unfavourable economic 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 because of its generous incentives, such as tax reductions and a Rs60bn bank credit line for collateral-free loans offered to small and medium entrepreneurs, is yet to be implemented. Already faced with formidable challenges, SMEs are believed to have been affected the most by the ongoing economic slowdown and surging inflation. Numerous units have already closed down because of financial troubles caused by increased costs, and thousands of workers have been fired by others to minimise losses as industries struggle to survive the present crisis.

For long-term economic stability, more exports and greater job creation for millions of individuals entering the labour market each year, Pakistan's policymakers need to immediately focus on addressing the long-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

country needed to avert a debt default.

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 question 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 Courtesy Dawn

Power failure asked to bear the burden of

governance failures - mismanagement of the power sector by successive governments, failure to deal with its inefficiencies, and 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 likely to intensify, not dis-

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.

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

months for fresh delimitation of constituencies, which it said it would complete in mid-December. This followed approval of the new population census, 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 short-duration arrange-

predictably provoked an outcry from several political parties, as well as a spate of legal challenges. Imran 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 Uwhen it issued a schedule turn is also an effort to dis-

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 The election delay 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 detake. 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 closely linked to, China and the Middle Eastern states. It is endowed with unique advantages to function not only as a figurative bridge between these states but also as a land link connect-

Pakistan's geographic and historical linkages are split between a variety of ountries and regions, including Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, and the Middle East. Its location and geostrategic relevance is lematic for strategic plan-

Because Pakistan is 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 vessels were under Houthi attacks in Saudi Arabia and the UAE. It has also been suggested that it is about time for international stakeholders to proportionately share the responsibility for the security of international strategic partnerships.

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 Riyadh.

of Saudi Crown Prince and economic cooperation Mohammed bin Salman, the with Saudi Arabia. China's country has charted an in-dependent path for its Iran and Saudi Arabia and socio-economic transformation and has since departed from its exclusive reliance 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 enhance-Under the leadership ment of Pakistan's defence the Iran-Saudi rapprochement have already removed the bottlenecks of strategic economic and defence cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

rently 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 con- and the Chabahar Port by ducive to contriving alter- seeking convergence with native solutions to its eco- the Gulf states Pakistan nomic development agenda. gridlocked by the US sanc- pressed in this article are tions. In addition to enhancing bilateral trade with

Negotiations are cur- 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 frame-

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 Quad 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 Îran to overcome the divergence with India on the INSTC and China The views expersonal. -- Courtesy TheNews

#### 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 residents and passersby, who thought a bomb had gone off. A man died when a signboard fell on him in Nazimabad. Uncovered sewers have taken scores of lives, including those of two siblings, who fell to their death through a manhole in Malir.

Other common infrastructure hazards include electrocution, especially during the monsoons. Fires at various premises are regular occurrences, often ignited 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 folk and broken infrastructure, such as dilapidated pedestrian bridges without handrails and balustrades, 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 with clips of mugging and theft. A most unexpected passerby in the city was a big cat on Sharea Faisal; it evaded capture for many hours in the haphazard infrastructure of the me-

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

ture and poor urban governance to the notice of the city and provincial lead- are seen waving red flags ership, investment figures at motorists, but an alterset aside for mega projects native plan for travel is 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 re-

quires 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

ross 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 nance, glimpses of which up for the BRT corridor. On University Road, mighty cranes are at work

with dubious safety measures, and often workers 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 goverare 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 lacking 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 cases, the differences beof autonomy and general 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 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 twoway 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

tween teachers' own Sustainable 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 stutime, with members of the dent 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 hin-dering — 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

the special need to focus on building basic infrastructure in these war-

torn regions and placed

particular emphasis on road

infrastructure

He further noted that improving the police

infrastructure in the merged

districts was essential to

ensure peace and security.

girls' education was among

government's top priorities, the chief minister said.

He expressed the willingness of the KP

provincial government to

welcome American cooperation in these

sectors and provide any

with the provincial

government and the public

to carry on the work of

public welfare

necessary assistance. Shante Moore, assured that the US

The promotion of

development.

KP CM, US CG discuss

collaboration for regional

development

PESHAWAR (APP): behind in development for Caretaker Chief Minister decades.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, He also highlighted

Muhammad Azam Khan,

held a meeting on Monday

with the newly appointed

US Consul General, Shante

they discussed mutual

interests and matters

related to cooperation and

collaboration between the

provincial government and

development agencies in

Muhammad Azam Khan stated that the KP

provincial government

viewed cooperation with

the US government and

agencies in different sectors as of great

the US government would

continue to strengthen

cooperation with the

increased cooperation

with friendly nations and

donor agencies in the tribal

areas, which had lagged

He emphasized that

The chief minister government

stressed the need for continue to work closely

breaking of 'Isolation

people from diseases and that it was a matter of

various sectors.

importance.

During the meeting,

Moore, in Peshawar.

#### 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

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 various sectors. He said

Chamber were present 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 countries present in the utilized conference and expressed will play a significant role in the promotion of trade and tourism relations between Pakistan and ASEAN countries. He said ASEAN countries in unique position in the world in terms of its natural relationship and creating scenery, cultural heritage, and hospitality. He said way for mutual growth and that the landscapes of our prosperity.

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

Private Institutions on the

directives of the provincial

minister, has written a

Commissioner Malir to

on the incident in the

secretariat Faisalabad so

that the people could be

provided speedy and free

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

He said that regional

district

Principal's indecent viral video

Minister directs to seal

unregistered school

unregistered private school's principal, has unregistered private school

directed to seal and take until the matter is

located in Gulshan e directed to take legal action

Ghazanfar says:

IRD launched at

regional office of

Federal Ombudsman

The private school is administration has been

letter

(APP):

legal action against the investigated.

Interim Sindh Minister for

Education Rana Hussain

while taking notice of an

indecent viral video of an

incident in the school.

Hadeed area of the city.

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

an exclusive meeting here,

he said that Federal

Ombudsman had launched

IRD program during April

Talking to APP during

Syed Ghazanfar Mehdi.

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 ambassadors of ASEAN countries should be for development of Pakistan's hope that this conference tourism sector and with their support and guidance, better policies should be formulated to improve basic infrastructure and attract foreign tourists. He that Pakistan has vast further said that new business opportunities for avenues of trade and economic cooperation can various sectors including be explored within the tourism, agriculture, and export of halal products. He said that Pakistan has a reflects the importance we

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

extended heartfelt sympathies to the heirs

of two officers and a

jawan who embraced

LHC orders

to produce

Parvez Elahi

on Sept 5

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

a notice to the inspector

general of police Islamabad

for September 8 and sought

explanation over the arrest

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

petitions at different

**Under-training** 

police officers

delegation

visits PSCA

delegation comprising

police officers, undergoing

training at the Chung

Training Centre, visited the

Punjab Safe Cities

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 e-

told that the PSCA

electronic data analysis

centre has provided digital

evidence in more than

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

be extended to the whole

The delegation was

The police officers

challenging system.

20,000 cases.

of Punjab.

here

Authority

Monday.

AHORE (APP):

ntervals during the day.

The court heard the

of Parvez Elahi.

police officials.

The court also issued

Justice Muhammad

tomorrow (Tuesday).

AHORE (APP): The

In a message, he

helicopter crash

Gwadar.

martyrdom.



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** LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the Shahdara flyovers and the Nawaz Sharif Interchange Bedian Road underpass projects to assess the

 $Shah\, dara$ 

During his visit to the

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

vehicles

#### Situation in GB is completely peaceful

GILGIT (APP): The misleading public opinion situation in Gilgit-through fake news and Baltistan is completely 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

According to the statement, anti-national measures with and evil elements are trying cooperation of to give a negative colour to the peaceful protest by some religious parties in

Gilgit-Baltistan.

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 stakeholders for the development and development of the region,

#### Heavy quantity of

The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) seized a and warned that they would



Latest

the UK and the European

Union (EU) countries, a

state-of-the-art screening

Authority (CAA) sources

told APP on Monday that

the system has been

installed with the

cooperation of the UK

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

Last month, Pakistan

government.

The Civil Aviation

system has been installed

Allama

International Airport.

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

conference on Global Health Security Agenda

Hospital' at Lahore airport Pakistan and this was for the first time that this kind of international conference was being arranged in Pakistan in which public Coordination Dr Nadeem health experts from all over Jan said on Monday that integrated strategy had world been formulated to protect participate. He recalled

lemics. prestige that Pakistan He was addressing the would host such und-breaking ceremony international conference. of the 'Isolation Hospital' He was of the view Íqbal that by organising such international conference in International Airport, Pakistan, it would pave the The minister said that 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 surveillance Lahore and discussed various issues related to pharma sector. The meeting decided to create a comprehensive strategy to

The health minister He announced that a emphasised the need for quality of medicines as per international standards in

increase exports of pharma

drugs as Pakistan's pharma

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** Chief stock of sugar was PESHAWAR: Khyber available in the province, Secretary

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

He gave the instruction while presiding over a meeting of the provincial task force on anti-smuggling 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.

which would last until the start of the sugar crushing season in mid-November provided that smuggling and hoarding of the commodity controlled. currency smuggling, 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



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

Shahdara flyovers, Mohsin Nagvi closely examined the to

facilitate traffic flow from Gujranwala. emphasized the need to

elevate the service road to improve traffic management and provided necessary directives to the Director General Lahore Development Authority (LDA) and the contractor

projects within the specified time frame. This project would permanently resolve traffic issues at entry and exit points of the provincial metropolis, he Commissioner/ DG

LDA Mohammad Ali Randhawa, chief engineer LDA and contractor briefed that work on the Shahdara flyovers projects continues round the clock to achieve timely completion, which will significantly improve daily traffic flow for 300,000

#### PESHAWAR: US Consul General Mr. Shante 'Gutka' seized Moore meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhawa FAISALABAD (APP) Governor Haji GhulamAli at Governor House. Minister performs ground

LAHORE

Caretaker Federal Minister

for National Health

Services, Regulations and

Allama

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



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

schemes on an emergency 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

giving a briefing said that there are 7991 water supply schemes in the

# The advisor directed the up-gradation and

#### screening system installed at Lahore airport LAHORE (APP): In an important development in connection with the start of flights from Pakistan to

on the occasion.



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

#### disputes under IRD 2022 which had provided tangible results. Therefore, whereas 127 cases were this mechanism was also 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** Secretary Local 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.

board New directors has been formed for the improvement of the of the company.

company's affairs and capacity of the company will also increase Amin Owaisi directed

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

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

projects and completion within the stipulated time period. Waseem Marwat while

Director Technical

#### **Bordering areas**

#### Dr Jamal directs twin cities administration to expedite anti-dengue surveillance

ISLAMABAD (APP): tractor till the third party caretaker Provincial Min-validation of the work done and outdoor settings and ister for Primary and Secondary Health Dr Jamal Nasir on Monday directed the officials of Rawalpindi/ Islamabad administration to conduct anti-dengue activities on bordering areas of twin cities through joint operations three to four days a week. Presiding over a meeting to review anti-dengue arrangements along with Commissioner Rawalpindi Laiqat Ali Chatta, he said that anti-dengue activities must not be compromised due to campaign started today.

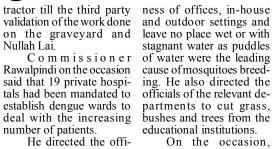
Dr Jamal said that Rawalpindi's graveyards had been outsourced, adding Director General Rawalpindi Development Authority would not disburse payment to the con- cials to ensure the cleanli-

said that 19 private hospitals had been mandated to establish dengue wards to deal with the increasing number of patients.

He directed the officials of Health Care Commission to visit the private hospitals and ensure setting up of dengue wards.

Laiqat further directed the officials to expedite anti-dengue surveillance and ensure strict compliance to anti dengue SOPs

Board, Brigadier Salman meeting directed the offi-



health official briefed the meeting that around 272 dengue cases had been reported in the district so far out of which 232 discharged after treatment while 40 confirmed patients were under treatment in public hospitals. He informed that Station Commander indoor and outdoor surveil-Rawalpindi Cantonment lance was being carried out regularly while during indoor while taking part in the surveillance, the anti-dengue teams had checked around 4.6 million houses



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister Jamal Shah chairing 59th meeting of Governing Body of Iqbal Academy Pakistan at National Heritage and Culture Division.

#### **Underprivileged class** Zong 4G & Sehat Kahani to offer complimentary medical consultations

ISLAMABAD (APP): tament to our commitment Zong 4G, the leading telecom company in Pakistan, and Seĥat Kahani, a pioneering digital healthcare platform, have extended their partnership to provide free medical consultations on the Sehat Kahani app to underprivileged people.

The exclusive partnership aims to combine the said the company was comstrength of technology and mitted to supporting telecommunications to provide users with up to 10,000 free medical consultations, improved healthcare access across Pakistan, said a news release. Users of the Sehat Kahani retail app and Zong 4G subscribers can avail the

free consultations using the promo code 'ZONGSEHAT.' "This is a testament to both organizations' shared commitment to prioritize the health and well-being of Pakistan's

"Our partnership with Sehat Kahani is a tes-

to making health inclusive for all strata of the society. Our connectivity is no only empowering people but it is ensuring, the services like health and education are accessible for everyone," said the spokesperson of Zong 4G.

The spokesperson sustainability causes and would continue to develop and provide innovative solutions that could help create a more sustainable future for all.

"Zong 4G's support has made it possible for an accelerated growth in the number of consultations that Sehat Kahani has provided in the past and we are confident that we will be able to help those in need even more with the latest collaboration," said Founder & CEO of Sehat Kahani Dr Sara Saeed



ISLAMABAD: A view of the accidental cars at Srinagar Highway in Federal Capital.

#### **Gulzar thanks Pakistan** for observing Gilani's martyrdom anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) senior vice Chairman Ghulam Ahmed Gulzar has said the way Kashmiris observed Syed Ali Gillani's 2nd martyrdom anniversary and paid rich tributes to pioneer of freedom movement time and again proved that he will remain always alive in the hearts and minds of Kashmiri and Pakistani people. Ghulam Ahmed Gulzar in a statement in Srinagar said, "It also demonstrates the love which great leader command because of his sincerely, steadfastness and bravery. Mission of this legendary

leader will be accomplished at any cost." While thanking Kashmiris and Pakistanis all over the world for observing the 2nd martyrdom anniversary with solemn commitment, enthusiasm and great passion he said that Gilani will be regarded as protagonist of freedom movement who has championed the cause of Kashmir in every nook

and corner with his blood. He saluted the people of IIOJK ,Azad Kashmir, Pakistan and Kashmiri and Pakistani diaspora for arranging different programs on large scale for highlighting the services of veteran leader and exposing Indian hypocrisy.

#### | call on Anwaar ISLAMABAD (APP): Muttahida Qaumi Move-ment (MQM) leaders Mustafa Kamal and Anis

**MQM** leaders

Qaimkhani called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday and discussed matters relating to mutual interests.

During the meeting, both leaders discussed the problems of Karachi with the prime minister and thanked him for taking steps to resolve those issues, a press release issued by the PM Office Media Wing said.

#### Sanjram expresses sorrow over tragic crash of helicopter in Gwadar

ISLAMABAD The Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Monday expressed deep sorrow on the sad inciden of Naval Helicopter crash in Gwadar, which resulted in lost of precious lives.

The chairman Senate in a condolence message extended his heartfelt sympathies to the families of the martyrs and offered prayers that Allah Alnighty to elevate the ranks of those who lost their lives in the crash and grants patience to their loved ones.

Sanjrani saluted the courageous sons who laid down their lives while performing their duties.

#### Police get three days physical remand of Ali Wazir

ISLAMABAD (APP) The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) of Islamabad on Monday granted three-day physical remand of former Member of the National Assembly Ali Wazir to police in a case of alleged financing to terrorists.

ATC Judge Raja Jawad Abbas heard the case wherein Ali Wazir was produced before the court.

The prosecution prayed to the court to grant physical remand of Ali Wazir for investigation into the charges against him. He also read out the contents of the first information report (FIR) registered against



Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

#### Pakistan's Coastal NCB urges attention to depleting marine resources

ISLAMABAD (APP): The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-Pakistan) Monday organised the 22nd meeting of the National Coordinating Body (NCB) of the coast to discuss issues and depleting coastal resources, especially in the wake of climatic impacts, calling for the need to create more marine protected areas in Pakistan. The NCB meeting was a key feature of one of IUCN's long-running Mangroves for the Future Programme that ended in

ISLAMABAD (APP): All

Parties Hurriyat Confer-

ence (APHČ) leaders

Khawaja Firdous, Syed

Bashir Andrabi and

Muhammad Shafi Lone

have expressed concern

over the plight of illegally

detained Hurriyat leader

languishing in different jails

Media Service, the APHC

leaders in a joint statement

issued in Srinagar lamented

that the Modi's government

is using illegal and crude

tactics to prevent Kashmiri

Hurriyat leaders from the

According to Kashmir

of India and the territory.

in partnership with organizations such as Engro Foundation, Monaco Foundation and other funding sources, a news release said.

Distinguished experts in the meeting included representatives from the government line departments, coastal agencies, Pakistan Navy, as well as from civil society organizations and academia. Stakeholders emphasized the urgent necessity of designating marine and coastal areas as Protected Areas. "Presently, less than 1% of the coast 2018, and has thereafter enjoys protection, and Pa-been supported by IUCN kistan, as a dedicated CBD

They said Kashmiri

leaders have been illegally

arrested and imprisoned for

demanding their rights and

urged the international

community to take notice

of the plight of Kashmiri

leaders and help in their

immediate release. The

Hurriyat leaders said the

Indian troops have been

committing atrocities on the

innocent people in occupied

Jammu and Kashmir for the

Concern expressed over

Kashmiri detainees'

plight in jails

signatory, needs to declare at least 30% of its coast as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) under the 30x30 agenda," said Country Representative of IUCN, Mahmood Akhtar Cheema.

In pursuit of this urgent need for MPA declaration, the NCB platform. through its IUCN-MFFprogramme, established a dedicated sub-committee which identified coastal and marine areas suitable for MPA designation including Ras Malan, off Pasni, Kalamat Hor. Chama Island, Miani Hor, and Jewani, explained the Inspec tor General of Forests.

#### **IHC stops** arrest of Imaan Mazari

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Monday conditioned arrest of Advocate Imaan Mazari with informing the court in any other

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb heard the case seeking provision of cases detains against Advocate Imaan Mazari.

Additional Attorney General Munwar Dogal said that the details had been sought from the prodirection of this court.



ISLAMABAD: Women activists from Jamaat-e-Islami take part in a prohijab rally on the eve of "International Hijab Day" outside National Press Club in Federal Capital.

#### Int'l workshop on "Advances in Nuclear Medicine & its **Applications" from Sept 19** ISLAMABAD (APP):

OIC Ministerial Sanding Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) in collaboration with Pakistan Nuclear Society (PNS) and Pakistan Society of Nuclear Medicine (PŠNM) has planned to arrange an International Workshop on "Advances in Nuclear Medicine and its Applications" from September 19-20. According to the COMSTECH, the international and local experts of nuclear medicine and its applications will present lectures during the workshop while local faculty and researchers will share their research findings

as contributed talks. The theme of the workshop would be on the changing horizons of Nuclear Medicine, incorporating the translation of basic laboratory research to clinical practice, establishment of clinical and technical standards, and the translation ofmoleculartechnological advances in diagnostic and therapeutic nuclear medicine.

Nuclear technology has transformed health sector by advancements in diagnostic and therapeutic modalities for non-communicable pathologies. Hybrid imaging, especially PET-CT has alto-

gether changed the diagnostic horizon, especially in the management of cancer patients. However, not only Pakistan but most of the OIC countries are still lagging behind in hybrid imaging facilities, especially PET-CT imaging. The in-dispensable role of PET-CT and hybrid imaging needs to be highlighted for the benefit of various stakeholders and patients. Furthermore, the emergent role of theranostics and advanced radionuclide therapies using alpha and beta emitters has given new insights in cancertreatment paradigms. These rapid advancements in the field of nuclear medicine warrant continual education of referring physicians, oncologists, nuclear physicians, medical physicists and technologists from OIC.

#### 3 killed in a collision between two cars in Gujrat

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least three people including a woman were killed and three others were injured in a collision between two cars near Gujrat Saroki Bridge. According to details, rescue sources said the collision occurred due to overspeeding, a private news channel reported. Police and other rescue workers immediately reached the accident site and recovered the bodies. The accident was so severe that three people died before receiving medical treatment.

#### **IHC** instructs FIA to arrest policemen involved in illegal arrest of citizens

(IHC) on Monday instructed the Federal Inves-Capital Police named in a case pertaining to illegally detaining the citizens in police stations for ransom.

Justice Babar Sattar, who heard the case, was informed by an FIA official that the police personnel were not cooperating for the investigation.

The court asked that whether the arrest warrants of the accused personnel had been issued. The accused must be arrested if they were not joining the investigation process as law was equal for everyone, it

Advocate Kazim, counsel for the Inspector General of Police Islamabad, informed the

ISLAMABAD (APP): court that the IGP had sus-The Islamabad High Court pended four police personnel, including an assistant sub-inspector, who were tigation Agency (FIA) to involved in the raid, and arrest the personnel of proceedings against them were underway at three fo-

The court, however, noted that the senior officials involved in the matter

were not suspended. The contempt of court proceedings, lodging of an first information report and departmental action could be initiated at the same time, it

The court questioned whether the comments had been submitted against the show-cause notice, observing it would hear this matter on next hearing if the Tahir answer was not found satisfactory.

The case was then adjourned.



ISLAMABAD: Guest of honor Ms. Ismat Gul Khattak, Director General Pakistan National Accreditation Council addressing at International Training Course for Assess of the Productivity **Specialists Certification Program.** 

#### AC launch crackdown on price hiking, encroachment, and professional beggars

ISLAMABAD (INP): The launched on the directions Assistant Commissioners of Islamabad have launched a crackdown against price gouging, encroachment, professional beggars and other societal issues in their respective areas.

In a series of operations, they have fined shopkeepers for overcharging, sealed two shops, arrested one person and eight professional beggars, and taken action against illegal clinics and shisha cafes, The ICT spokesman Abdullah Tabasum said on Monday.

of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon. The Assistant Commissioners conducted inspections at 105 places and imposed fines of Rs. 10,000 on shopkeepers who were found overcharging, while two shops were also sealed.

Moreover, one person was arrested for selling prohibited polythene bags and eight professional beggars were also arrested. The action was also taken against illegal clinics and shisha ca-The crackdown was fes

#### **OPF** establishes **OWFDs** at all Intl airports of country ISLAMABAD

The Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) has established One Window Facilitation Desks (OWFDs) at all International Airports of the country to facilitate
Overseas Pakistanis on
Besides additional their arrival from various countries. An official source told APP here on Monday, that OWFDs are located at each terminal (International assistance of Overseas Pakistani passengers round the clock. To a question, he said that courteous and trained officials were dethe provision of high-qual- arrival and departure.

(APP): ity facilitation and assistance to overseas Pakistanis. The existing infra-structure at OWFDs has been upgraded by the previous regime to address the

Besides additional facilities, the service delivery at facilitation counters at various airports has also been improved with added staff/services. He said that arrival/departure) for the necessary assistance to the overseas Pakistanis has been ensured at the time of arriva and departure. Coordination among various agencies/departments functioning is also enputed at OWFDs to ensure sured at the airport for smooth



Sania Saeed and Sarmad Khoosat addressing a press conference about Mobilizing Leadership for the UN High Level Meeting on TB.

#### 16 months' performance of Interior Ministry

(AML) and Counter Financ-

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's governance trajectory observed a major shift in the midst of constitutional, political and economic chaos in last five years but yet achieved county's name cleared from Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list in October 2022, through effective diplomacy and hard work.

The ministry of interior during 16 months coalition government of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) also executed many tasks which bore fruit for the country, the exclusive document available with APP disclosed.

The ministry established Foreign Nationals Security Cells (FNSC) with nationwide reach extending down to district levels, Eight Anti Money Laundering

ing for Terrorism (CFT) Police stations and ten Counter Terrorism Wing (CTW) Police stations for inquiry, investigation and prosecution of cases. The ministry also es-

tablished 4 foreign link offices at Dubai, Špain, UK and Turkey to facilitate immigration process for Pakistani and other nationals and Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Rwanda, Belarus and Slovakia were added in Business visa list. Ministry's wing National Database Registration Authority (NADRA) issued 49,623 CNICs for disabled persons and 133 CNICs for Transgender during this time period beside 28 new NADRA Registration Centers were made operational. Immigration and Passinitially for official and diplomatic categories and 1064 Passports were issued. The ministry also al-

port office of the ministry

started issuing E-Passport

lowed Chines nationals to change their visa categories from business to work and vice versa until the end of 2022. For planning and development of the capital city, the ministry started Blue Line, Green Line and Orange Line Metro Bus Services for commuters while procuring Electric Buses for Metro Bus Service.

For smooth flow of traffic, the ministry also completed a project of Traffic management Solution at Rawal Dam Chowk in a record time period while the construction of Flyover on 7 Avenue was also com-



ISLAMABAD: Senator Professor Sajid Mir, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.