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Election Commission to decide polls date: PM

We have no intention to prolong tenure of the caretaker government; Action against smuggling would continue and the writ of the state would be established

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Monday said Election Commission would decide about the date for the upcoming elections.

In an interview with a private television, he said Parliament had passed a law according to which Election Commission had the power to announce the date for new elections.

Speculation regarding the elections should end as these would be held according to the prevalent law, he said adding, "We have no intention to prolong tenure of the caretaker govern-

He said as a student of history of Pakistan, he would express gratitude to Quaid-e-Azam for protect-ing rights of the Muslim minority and saving it from the domination of majority.

After seeing the atti-tude of bigger states against

the minorities, he said he actions and implementing could see that it would have been difficult to protect the religious and cultural identity of Muslims if Quaid had not secured an independent state for Muslims.

He said he admired Ouaid-e-Azam for his constitutionalism, all- inclusiveness and for protection of rights of minorities.

The prime minister assured that action against smuggling would continue and the writ of the state would be established.

"We are taking these actions so that the new government with its mandate can easily continue our work for public interest."

He said the apex committee of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) included current military leadership, thus making the council a strong constitutional and legal body which was taking firm

The caretaker federal and provincial governments had good coordination which was helpful in implementing decisions, he

He said the SIFC was focusing on economic revival and on sectors of agriculture and mineral extrac-

Work would be done on major plans of investment so that they could be at an advanced stage when the next government would take over, he told.

He said Pakistan had multifaceted relations with Afghanistan and had regular discussions with it on issues of trade, terrorism, security and regional connectivity.

Both sides were talking with the realization that neighbors could not be changed, he added.

President, law minister hold consultation on general elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interim Federal Minister for Law and Justice Ahmed Irfan Aslam on Monday called on President Dr Arif Alvi here

In the meeting, they held a consultation on the general elections in the country, a President House statement said. The meeting between the government and the president is part of the ongoing consultation regarding the general

One soldier martyred in **IED** attack on forces in Warsak, ISPR

Consequently, Lance

Naik Abdur Rehman, 29 years, resident of District

Bannu embraced Shahadat,

while three soldiers got in-

jured. This cowardly terror-

ist act also resulted in in-

jury of three innocent civil-

ians. Sanitization of the area

is being carried out in the

area to eliminate the terror-

ists and their facilitators. Security Forces of Pa-

kistan are determined to

eliminate the menace of

terrorism and such sacri-

fices of our brave soldiers

as well as valiant civilian

brethren, further strengthen our resolve.

Dr Kausar

Malik sworn

in as interim

federal minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Dr Kauser Abdullah Malik, a

noted agricultural scientist

and educationist on Mon-

day took oath for the office

of the caretaker federal min-

ister. President Dr Arif Alvi

administered the oath of

office to Dr Kausar at a cer-

emony held at the Aiwan-

e-Sadr. Earlier on Septem-

ber 9, the president ap-

pointed Dr Kausar Abdullah

Malik as the federal minis-

ter in the caretaker federal

cabinet. He had made the

appointment on the advice

of the caretaker prime min-

ister under Article 224 (1a)

of the Constitution.

resolution of the issue on RAWALPINDI (Online): On 11 September 23, an Improvised Explosive De-vice (IED) exploded on a Afghan forces not only damaged infrastructure but they put at stake the lives of people.
She held unprovoked vehicle of Security Forces in general area Warsak, firing has encouraged terrorist elements. We welcomed Peshawar District.

Afghan people openheartedly for several decades. She underlined that Afghan ministry of foreign affairs offered improper comments about Pakistan

Pakistan will not allow Afghan forces resorted to to misuse Afghan Transit



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister,

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar exchanging views with Najy

Benhassaine, Country Director World Bank dur-

FO savs: Pakistan will not allow

Afghan Transit trade

agreement to be misused

ing meeting held in Islamabad.

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan while expressing concern over Afghan au-

thorities statement has said

we wonder on giving such

statement despite knowing

structure within our terri-

tory is not acceptable. Con-

struction of structure in our

territory is against our sov-

ereignty" this was said by

Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson, Mumtaz

Zahra Baloch here Monday.

She went on to say

"Construction of any

KHAIRPUR: A large numbers of supporters of Peoples Party (PPP) gather for warmly welcome of the Peoples Party Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Bibi Asifa Bhutto Zardari upon his

Anti-power theft crackdown: 194 arrested with recovery of Rs 27.251 mln so far

ISLAMABAD (APP): The caretaker government during its ongoing countrywide crackdown against power theft has so far recovered Rs 27.251 million and arrested 194 electricity

As per the Electricity Anti-Theft Campaign Statistics (Progressive) issued by the Ministry of Energy (Power Division) on Monday, some 8.737 million units of electricity theft costing Rs 352.404 has been detected across the country since start of the drive on September 7, with registration of 1,529 first information reports (FIRs).

About 715 cases have been registered against the Rs 1.190 million.

power thieves by the Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO), with arrest of 79 accused and recovery of Rs 10.316 mil-Likewise, the lion. Gujranwala Electric Power Company (GEPCO) has got registered 15 cases and held six persons, besides the recovery of Rs 795,000.

The Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has also got registered 61 cases of power theft, with the arrest of one accused and recovery of Rs 1.020 million, while the Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) got registered nine cases against the accused and recovered



KARACHI: Caretaker CM Sindh Maqbool Baqar talking to media persons after laying floral wrath at the mausoleum of the founder of Nation Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah to mark his death anniversary as The 75th death anniversary of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was observed throughout the country with reverence and solemnity.

CM Bagar says:

Govt promotes tech improvements, upgradation to improve agriculture sector

taker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (retd) Maqbool competitiveness of Sindh's agriculture sector, including Baqar has said that his priority is centered on promoting continuous technological improvements and upgradation to increase the competitiveness of the agriculture sector, including

the sugar industry.

He said that the Government of Pakistan recently established a highpowered 'Special Investment Facilitation Council' to attract investments from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in the fields of Defence, Agriculture, Minerals, IT, and En-

The caretaker CM said that as a member of SIFC's Apex Committee, he was determined to focus on

the sugar industry. He I am also a firm believer in fostering cross-sectoral collaborations for improving the lives of our population which has been struggling with soaring inflation in a

stagnant economy.
This he said while speaking at the Inauguration Session of the 55th Annual Convention of Pakistan Society of Sugar Technologists organized at a lo-cal hotel. The CM was wel-comed by Mr. Zahid Mahmood Qureshi President of Pakistan Society of Sugar Technologists (PSST) Mr. Zahid Qureshi, sugar industry and professional

KARACHI (INP): Care- boost the productivity and overarching purpose of sharing and disseminating knowledge among sugar technologists. He appreciated the Society for conducting workshops.

, seminars, and annual conventions for imparting knowledge and new ideas pertaining to the sugar industry among the members

of society. The caretaker CM said that our sugar industry has expanded substantially over the years with 33 sugar mills in the province. During the 2022-23 season, sugarcane was grown in a crop area of about 290,000 hectares Justice Baqar said and added that a total of 16.8 million metric tons of sugarcane was crushed and He said that the PSST about 1.75 million metric



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior, Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti and Caretaker Federal Minister for Water Resources, Ahmad Irfan Aslam chairing a meeting regarding the restoration of Kachi Canal, in Islamabad.

"Bano Qabil" initiative will greatly benefit talented students in getting acquainted with latest technology: Haris

Independent Report KARACHI: The caretaker Minister for Home and Prison Brig. ® Haris Nawaz has observed that the 'Bano Oabil" initiative will greatly benefit talented students in getting acquainted with the latest technology and kick-starting their careers while also preparing them for self-employment, thus making them financially independent. This he said while attending Convocation of first Batch of 1500 graduates of "Bano Qabil-1", and launching of "Bano Qabil-2", an Al-Khidmat Karachi's youth empowerment program at Bagh-e-Jinnah, Shara-e-Quaideen Karachi.

The objective of Bano Qabil program is to empower youth of the city by providing them advanced IT skills free of cost, and helping them to establish a promising career. The number of campuses for the said program

flood-affected road infrastructure restoration work.

has been increased from 12 to 25 and 30000 students will graduate under the Bano Qabil-2 program. Haris Nawaz appreciated the efforts of the organizers for initiating such a useful program for the youths of the society. "The non-governmental and welfare organizations have performed exemplary in the fields of education as a commitment towards the development of the country and its people and still more targeted efforts are needed in this regard", he added. The Home Minister said that all possible support will be extended to the youth of the province as the young generation is the future of this country. He added that strong action against crimes and criminals in Karachi is underway, and the operation against the dacoits and their facilitators will start soon in the Katcha areas of

the province.

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Communication and Chairman NHA Captain (Retd) Muhammad Khurram

Agha paid a detailed visit to Balochistan to review the ongoing development projects and progress of

Death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam observed

ISLAMABAD (Online): The 75th death anniversary of father of the nation, Q u a i d - e - A z a m Muhammad Ali Jinnah was observed with due solemnity Monday.

In this connection. Quran Khawani and Fateha Khawani will be held at the Mazar-e-Quaid in Karachi.

President Dr Arif Alvi has reiterated commitment to make Pakistan a modern Islamic welfare state in accordance with the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali

In his message on the occasion of death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam, he said we will have to follow the golden principles of the founding father for the development of Pakistan. He said there is a need to work for the welfare of women, youth and weaker segments of the society. The President said attention must be focused on providing education and eradication poverty to make Pakistan a great country

rah Mooney called on Kamran Tessori on Monday.

RAWALPINDI (APP): and selling them at higher Caretaker Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare, Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir on Monday warned of strict action against the hoarders of medicine revealing that the government had launched a mobile application for providing accurate information to the citizens about the availability of medicine in

Quality Control Board, the minister further said that the mobile application responsible for the artificial shortage of medicine by illegally stocking the drugs medicines.

prices. He said that the citizens could install the mobile application 'Drug Shortage Report' from the Google Play Store and could

SC tested several times over constitutional matters in Feb 2023, says CJP

commencement of the new judicial year on Monday, Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial said that the court was tested several times in February 2023 with matters pertaining to the Constitution of Pakistan. He added that he did not want to repeat all that has happened but it is reflected in part in the decision for the audio leaks case.

Commenting on his differences with incoming CJP Qazi Faez Isa, Justice Bandial maintained that the latter was an admirable man. The media is the eyes and ears of society, said the CJP, but, he added, incorrect reports were published about him. He referred to the use of his phrases "good to see you" and "short and sweet" and said they were taken out of context. He doesn't hold this against the media he added media, he added.

The outgoing CJP elections.

ISLAMABAD (INP): said that this might be his Speaking for the last time at a ceremony marking the at a ceremony marking the tice, and mentioned that the ongoing political situation has also affected judicial

performance. Commenting on the performance of the apex court, CJP Bandial said that the SC disposed of 23,000 cases in the past year, breaking a previous record of disposing of 18,000 ases in one year.

He added that he had wished to reduce the number of pending cases by 50,000 but managed to address only 2,000 cases from

the backlog. Justice Bandial took office as CJP in February 2022 and is due to retire on September 16, 2023. The Supreme Court has been marred with controversies this year against the backdrop of a political crisis which has garnered the attention of international media and much uncertainty surrounding the next general



ISLAMABAD: President, Dr. Arif Alvi administrating the oath of office to Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik as Caretaker Federal Minister during oath taking ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad.

Responsible journalism need of the hour: Solangi

for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday appreciated the services of court reporters in providing awareness of legal matters and important court decisions to the

During a meeting with a delegation of the Press Association of the Supreme Court of Pakistan which met with him here, the minister said the main objective of the media was to convey correct information to the general public. He stressed that responsible journalism was need of the hour which could help the society move forward in the right direc-

The role of court reporters in journalism, he said, was very important.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Court reporting was a tech-Caretaker Federal Minister nical field and like lawyers, nical field and like lawyers, journalists covering court proceedings should be well versed in law, he added.

Covering the Supreme Court's proceedings was equally important and sensitive, and the court reporters were doing the job very efficiently, the minister remarked.

Solangi said the caretaker government fully believed in freedom of press and it would solve the problems of journalists working in the field.

The minister congratulated the newly elected office-bearers of the Press Association of the Supreme Court, including President Tayyab Baloch, General Secretary Azam Gul, Information Secretary Shahryar Shoaib Bukhari and others.



Dr Jamal warns strict action against medicine hoarders

Addressing a meeting of the Provincial Drugs would also point out those

inform the government about the shortage, nonavailability, or overpricing of any drugs in the market through the App. Dr. Jamal Nasir directed that the prescribed

parameters and standards set for chemist shops should strictly be followed and SOPs regarding temperature, light and dust should be implemented in letter and spirit at chemists' shops and pharmacies to maintain the quality of

Daily Aoice of Masse, Independent

Vulnerable Chitral

The Chitral region of KP has been in the headlines of late due to the Sept 6 deadly cross-border incursion in which a large band of TTP militants reportedly crossed over and attacked Pakistani positions before being pushed back into Afghanistan.

Though the authorities have not given any numbers, the raiders were reported to be in the 'hundreds'. The interim foreign minister insists this was an "isolated incident" and that the Afghan Taliban rulers did not sanction the attack, while the Foreign Office has repeated the mantra that Pakistan's concerns have been communicated to the relevant quarters in Kabul. State functionaries may be giving the impression that all is well in the region, but more information is needed on the exact details of the attack, while the local people need to be reassured that their lives and properties will be protected by the state. Chitral lies in a strategically sensitive area, bordering Afghanistan and with only the Wakhan Corridor separating it from Tajikistan. China's Xinjiang region is also in the vicinity.

This makes it an attractive location for transnational jihadists looking to expand their operations, even though Chitral itself has largely been shielded from terrorist activity.

Moreover, the region is culturally, linguistically and ethnically distinct from the rest of KP. While Swat and erstwhile Fata suffered the most during earlier waves of terrorism, Chitral managed to weather the storm. The area where the incursion took place is close to the traditional lands of the Kalash people, and Chitral also has a significant

Therefore, the state needs to beef up security in the area, as the banned TTP and sectarian militants thrive on targeting minority communities. While there have been reports of small-scale infiltration from Afghanistan, the last major incursion occurred in 2011 when reportedly a very large number of terrorists staged attacks, leading to several fatalities among security men.

Simply expecting the Afghan Taliban to 'do more' may not be enough, especially when there is speculation that some Taliban factions may actually be encouraging attacks within Pakistan.

The best option is for the military to provide iron-clad security to all vulnerable border regions. and ensure that no groups are again able to violate

A jirga in Chitral has asked the army chief to visit the area, and called upon the authorities to fence the border with Afghanistan. Reports indicate that the Afghan Taliban had started relocating TTP fighters from the border area; the process must be sped up so that this ever-present threat on the country's frontiers is neutralised. The terrorist threat on the borders must be handled proactively. In the past, the country has suffered immensely by allowing malevolent actors to establish fiefdoms on Pakistani territory. This mistake must never be repeated.

Undoing exclusion

women goes down by ap-

proximately 4.5 hours

once they become moth-

ers. This translates into

widening pay gaps over

the years, simultaneously isolating women from

across provinces: statis-

tics from ASER 2021 show

that learning outcomes re-

main poorest for Sindh,

closely followed by

Balochistan. This finding

is mirrored in LFS 2021

which shows that 56pc

people in Balochistan,

and 46pc people in Sindh

cannot read a simple sen-

tence in any language

with understanding. Ac-

cording to Unicef, 52pc of

the poorest children in

Sindh (58pc girls) are out

of school; meanwhile in

Balochistan, 78pc girls are out of school. Within

provinces, an urban pre-

mium exists that favours

those living in urban ar-

incident at Battagram

highlights the hypocrisy

of living in a country

where on the one hand,

inadequate infrastructure

in poorer districts puts

lives of school-going chil-

dren at great risk; in con-

trast, you have cities like

Lahore where multiple

projects have been aimed

at reducing commute time

to the motorway. This bi-

furcation has increased

the incidence of rural-ur-

ban migration, thereby re-

sulting in a concentration

of population in major cit-

ies. Using LFS 2021, we

can see that around 58pc

moved to Punjab in search

tion, and employment op-

groups based on circum-

stances that are beyond

one's control is an impedi-

disincentivises individu-

als from investing in en-

trepreneurship and hu-

man capital formation. In

a country where around

Favouring certain

portunities.

The recent cable car

IOp is also blatant

leadership positions.



Arooj Waheed Dar

Lack of equal opportunities and innovation has suffocated the growth capacity of Pakistan, limiting investment to buying and selling of real estate and dollars by the elite. Inequality of opportunity (IOp) evident across provinces, gender, religion, and the rural-urban spectrum presents itself as a major impediment to growth in Pakistan. This IOp largely stems from poor governance and exclusive institutions that have over time perpetuated the culture of elite capture. It is an endemic situation that mars society by curtailing social mobility, thereby killing all incentive for develop-

IOp across gender keeps women at the sidelines, excluding them from work and education prospects. Statistics from the World Bank show that of the 22 million outof-school children in Pakistan, 12m are girls. Of those going to school, learning outcomes remain poorer for girls compared to boys due to lack of focus. Access to work opportunities also remains disproportionate for women.

The Labour Force of all migrants have Survey [LFS] 2021 shows that female labour force of better health, educaparticipation stands at a depressing 21.4pc; of this, around 94pc women are employed in the informal sector. Owing to cultural norms, female workforce participation goes down as household unpaid care responsibilities mount. Using the Pakistan Social And Living Standards Measurement Survey 2014-15, we can see that on average, the number of

weekly hours worked by of opportunities becomes a major cause of brain drain.

The goal should be

to 'enable' marginalised groups, rather than to aid them unsustainably. This includes policies such as incentivising work-fromhome models by providing tax breaks to bus-i--nesses that facilitate it. This will make empl-oy-m-ent opportunities accessible to women and to persons living in indigenous regions. Remote learning opportunities also need to be created so that equitable education levels can be ensured for all. The biggest challenge in this regard will be to over--come the great digital divide which can be ach--ieved through public-private partnership. Ov--ercoming the digital divide is also crucial to allow us to fully reap the benefits of artificial intel-lige-n--ce, such as for education and health endeavours.

Additionally, financial inclusion needs to be ensured by creating incentives for women to open bank accounts and by making credit facilities readily available for marginalised groups. For this, it is vital to formalise the undocumented sector; however, it should not be done under the purview of raising taxes, but rather to support entrepreneurship by facilitating, counselling, and encouraging new business ventures. Instead of directing tax breaks and subsidies towards the same old cronies, subsidies should be given as a reward for innovation to new and emerging businesses. In conjunction, an impartial mechanism for registration of trademarks and copyrights should be enment to growth. It sured. Lastly, social programmes need to be expanded to ensure decent basic standards of living. In short, inclusivity is key to 31pc of university graduachieving SDGs by ates are unemployed, lack 2030. -- Courtesy Dawn

Unfriendly fats



Zarrar Khuhro

I'm one of those people who scoff at health trends, especially when a new dietary villain is found every other day. That's because I remember when butter was bad for you and the magic bullet solution was touted to be margarine. Then they flipped on that without so much as an 'oops' and then we were told that margarine was the devil's spread and to be avoided. Then it was eggs that humans have eaten for millennia but which were now the devil's droppings and a surefire way to give yourself a heart attack. From full-fat milk to desi ghee, everything that received the alarmist treatment ended up being endorsed as actually good for you, considering the alternatives.

So, when my wife, who devours such news with the same gusto as I devour nihari, sent me an article about the dangers of trans-fatty acids (or trans-fats as they're usually called) my first instinct was to dismiss this as yet more of that 'West-centric wellness eat clean live love pray hippy-dippy' grift that's so virally popular these days.

But, to my infinite regret and a few dozen 'see told you so's', it turns out that not only are transfats as dangerous as they're made out to be, they are also very much a desi problem, and not an upper-class elite desi problem but one that affects the masses more than it does others.

Trans-fats are found in just about everything we like to eat, from deepfried street food like samosas to breakfast ce-

reals, bakery goods, cookies, chocolates and proculprit seems to be parlike Vanaspati ghee and other refined oils, along with margarine and bakery shortenings, all used in food preparation in Pakistan. In fact, in the WHO's Eastern Mediterranean region, Pakistan accounts for the second highest consumption of transfats, amounting to six per cent of our daily energy intake, while the recommended 'safe' level is meant to be less than 1pc.

The consequences are deadly and can be seen all around us. Pakistan has one of the highest incidences of diabetes in the world, with an estimated 27pc of adults suffering from this disease. Then there's heart disease, which is already a top killer in Pakistan, along with obesity and a variety of cancers — all of which are also on the rise across the country, with many going undiagnosed until it's too late.

There's more: take a look at the wall-chalkings in any town or city in Pakistan and you'll see advertisements of treatments for increasing male potency (or 'strength' as the Urdu euphemism puts it) plastered everywhere. It's no surprise then that excessive consumption of saturated fat is also linked to erectile dysfunction and trans-fats in particular are closely linked to male infertility. If that doesn't get your attention, I don't know

The cost isn't just to our health — every incidence of disease means yet more financial burden on those afflicted this is especially worrisome considering how overburdened how stretched housemedicines required to increasing in price and many are already beyond

the reach of most people. Take diabetes alone: if cessed foods. The main we continue as we are, the number of diabetics tially hydrogenated oils in Pakistan will likely reach 62 million by 2045. That would mean a staggering burden on those suffering; note that the International Diabetes Federation estimated that in 2021, the cost of treating diabetes in Pakistan was \$2,640m.

So, what can be done? One approach is of course to spread awareness in the hope of inducing behavioural change, but this can't be the main thrust as most people will continue the way they always have, and consume what they are already consuming, simply out of a lack of access to alternatives.

That leaves legislation and enforcement, and some progress has been made on this front: in 2020 the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority imposed a limit of 5pc on trans-fatty acids in Vanaspati ghee, and then three years later set a limit of 2pc in Vanaspati ghee, margarine, bakery wares, biscuits and rusks etc. However, as always, enforcement is an issue and the industry has also successfully approached the courts to buy time. Moreover, this only covers the organised sector and cannot thus include the vast majority of the sources of trans-fats, such as street food and so on. I realise that flagging a concern like this at a time of severe and deepening national crisis may seem a bit odd, but this is a literal time bomb that the whole nation is sitting on and, as with so many issues, it is a crisis that disproportionately affects those in a lower socioeconomic strahealthcare system is and tum. The well-to-do not only have access to more hold finances are. The information, but also have the fiscal ability to use treat these illnesses are alternatives. The poor, as usual, are on their own. --Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Dr Shamshad chairs a meeting on STZs, SEZs

ISLAMABAD (INP): STZA, Chairman CDA Federal Minister for and senior officers from Finance, Revenue, Finance, FBR, and STZA Economic Affairs, and Privatization Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, presided over a meeting to review and rationalize the progress and incentives provided by STZs and SEZs in Islamabad Monday.

Minister for IT & Telecom Dr. Umer Saif,

Minister for Board of Investment Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Advisor to PM on Establishment Mr. Ahad Cheema, Senator Dr. Afnan Ullah Khan, Finance, Secretary Law & Justice,

attended the meeting.

The committee was apprised about the comparative models of STZs and the progress and challenges of existing STZs and SEZs respectively. Moreover, a comprehensive discussion took place on the incentives currently available within STZs and SEZs, with a primary focus on enhancing their effectiveness and relevance to the rapidly evolving technological landscape. It was also shared that out of 8 Areas declared as STZs. 5 are fully functional.



KARACHI: Alarge number of workers, heirs of the martyrs, political and social workers and civil society activists gather during condolence ceremony in connection of the 11th anniversary of Baldia factory fire tragedy arranged by National Trade Union Federation (NTUF) held in Karachi.

Inflation widening gap between rich & poor: Mian Zahid

KARACHI Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and Businessmen All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that the inflation was widening the gulf between the rich and the poor.

In a statement issued on Monday, he said that the unemployment middle class has become continue to rise until there poor, and the people were suffering under the burden of inflation, which was causing economic and social problems

said that the business community cannot invest or plan for the future due to inflation, so this problem should be solved immediately. Inflation was a

significant cause of economic instability, which was an obstacle to domestic and foreign investment, he maintained.

said is no investment in the country, and the solution to unemployment is to promote technical education.



KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for Energy, Ali Muhammad chairing a meeting with the officers of Pakistan State Oil (PSO) held in Karachi.

Govt determined to entice **US-based Pakistani diaspora** to return to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Ministry of sectors to Commerce is delighted to diaspora. announce a fruitful meeting between the Federal Minister of Commerce, Dr. Gohar Ejaz, and a highlevel US delegation to explore avenues for ncreased investment in Pakistan's burgeoning Electric Vehicle (EV), semiconductor, and

Pak remittances recorded an inflow \$2.1b **for August**

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan's foreign worker remittances were recorded at \$2.09 billion for the month of August, the country's central bank said in a statement on Monday.

"During Aug 2023, workers' remittances recorded an inflow of JS\$2.1 billion, witnessing an increase of 3.1 per cent compared to the last month," said the State Bank on Monday.

Worker remittances were slightly up from July, when a figure of 2.02 billion was recorded. The major contributors to Pakistan's remittance are Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, and the United

sectors by the Pakistani During the meeting,

Federal Minister Dr. Gohar Ejaz expressed his unwavering commitment to facilitate investors for development.

the Pakistani diaspora, entice our talented US-residing in the United based Pakistani diaspora to applicability.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) States, is an invaluable asset to the country and underscored importance of bringing them back into the fold of Pakistan's economic progress.Dr. Ejaz stated,

"IT is our first priority, Pakistan's economic and the US diaspora is our asset. We are determined to He emphasized that do whatever it takes to

PEW demands to accelerate operation against smugglers

LAHORE Chairman of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) Brig. (retd) Aslam Khan on Monday said that the operation against hoarders and smugglers of dollars, oil, sugar, and urea is commendable, but it needs to be accelerated.

In a statement issued here, he said if the influential mafia is not eliminated this time, it will destroy the country, adding that the people do not want elections but food and some relief.Aslam Khan said that India has become the fifth largest power in the world while Pakistan has become the fifth largest borrower, and according to the IMF. Pakistan will soon become the fourth

(INP): largest borrower. After the crackdown against the criminal currency mafia, people are buying gold, so its trade should be regularised because 100% of the gold in Pakistan is smuggled, due to which no tax is collected from the jewelers, maintained. Almost every politician, every organisation, and people from every sphere of life have contributed to the destruction of the economy, but now the situation has become very dangerous, and inaction or half-hearted action will result in regrets, he observed. The business leader said that the ruling elite is behind every crisis in the country, but they are never held accountable

Shipping activity at **Port Oasim**

Pakistan's growth. I take full ownership of the

necessary steps required to

achieve this, as was also

requested by Ambassador

Blome."The discussions

held by the US delegation

were marked by a

commitment to advancing

the future of AI, exploring

wide-ranging

KARACHI (APP): Six ships namely, Big Breeze, MSC Shay, Express Athens, Navois Lapis, Banglar Agrogoti and PVT Elena carrying Container, Palm oil and Chemicals, berthed at Container Terminal, Liquid Terminal and Engro Terminal respectively during last 24

Meanwhile three more ships, PVT Flora, Acadia Park and Limra with Palm oil, Chemicals and LPG are also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim during the same period.A total of 09 ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, Express Athens, Navois Lapis and Ullswater sailed out to sea on Friday.

Govt making efforts to compete country' products internationally: Minister ISLAMABAD (APP): country is capable of

Industries, and Production the government was various steps to take the making all-out efforts to economy forward including make Pakistani products agriculture which is benefit of the country's trading community.

The agricultural, industrial and textile sectors will play an important role in increasing exports, and reducing imports and would achieve sustainable economic growth in the country in coming years, he said while talking to a private news channel.He hoped that the country, he added.

Minister for Commerce, meeting its economic and social needs, adding, that Dr Gohar Ejaz assured that the government is taking compete with their rivals considered the backbone of internationally for the our economy. Replying to a question, he replied that continuity of policy is also very important and new governments need to carry the policies made by the previous governments.

It is high time that all the political parties must set aside their political differences and work jointly for the economic development of the



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs and Privatization, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar exchanging views with Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan during meeting held at Finance Division in Islamabad.

ICCI President says: Use of technology, innovation must for development of agri

ISLAMABAD (INP): Cooperation Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that there is a need to bring technology and development agriculture in Pakistan

and to increase the export Despite being an

agricultural country, the possibilities annual import of goods regrettable.

President Islamabad international agencies and donors should be done for the development of agriculture. He expressed these

views while talking to the innovation for the head of World Food and Agriculture Organization Pakistan, Florence Rolle, who met him yesterday of the agricultural sector. along with a delegation. On this occasion, the cooperation between the worth billions of dollars two institutions were discussed.

Governor directs GIT to furnish detail report regarding varsities

Pakhtunkhwa, Ghulam Ali has directed the Chairman, Governor Inspection Team (GIT) for furnishing a detailed report regarding the academic programme, financial resources, staff, and number of students in the public sector universities and to present it to him.

directives during a meeting with the Chairman GIT, Dr Saad Sikandar Khan here in the Governor's House on

During the meeting, the Chairman GIT informed the Governor regarding the overall performance of the concern and that the organization, financial & situation of the public administrative universities is hurting him.

(APP): irregularities in different Khyber universities, and inquiries Haji conducted on the ted the complaints filed by the students and general

During the meeting, they also discussed matters relating to surplus staff and less number of students in the universities.

lic sector universities
to present it to him.
He issued these
Speaking on the occasion, Governor
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said that offices are sacred trust of the county and nation, saying performing duties with honesty should be the mission of all of us.

He said that the prevailing financial problems universities are a matter of



HYDERABAD: Leaders and workers of HDA Labor Union (CBA) hold a sit in protest after suspend water supply from the filter plants at Jamshoro road filter plant against non-payment of their salaries and pensions as water supply is suspended in Qasimabad and Latifabad area of the City.

Advisor stresses for best project design, durability within limited resources

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to the caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Irrigation, Planning, Development, Communication and Works, Dr Syed Sarfaraz Ali while referring to the engineers and technical staff on Monday said the Rural of a project within less

project of people welfare. He said the newly inducted engineers would be provided the necessary training to make their work praiseworthy.

Talking to newly inducted SDOs at a fiveday training workshop at the Pakistan Academy for Development best design and durability (PARD), he said the engineers who have been possible funds should be imparted training should the prime objective work as the servants of the during executing of a people.



cabinet South Punjab Secretariat Multan.

Caretaker Punjab cabinet decides free journeying for students, senior citizens

Agha directs ACs to

solve problems of

people on priority basis

Independent Report MULTAN: Caretaker

Punjab cabinet in its firstever meeting in the history of the city on Monday extended a big relief to freeing metro and orange line train services for students, senior citizens and differently-abled

The notification of the decision was also issued soon after the constitute a cabinet meeting.

Chaired by Punjab caretaker Chief Minister, Mohsin Naqvi, the meeting among others was attended by ministers, advisors,

CM for quality

treatment

to poor kid

with heart

outside chest

MUZAFFARGARH

(APP): Muzaffargarh DHQ

Hospital witnessed the birth

of a child having a heart

outside of the chest and Chief

Minister Punjab Mohsin

Naqvi ordered quality

heart astonishingly protruded from its tiny chest naturally, left the medical staff utterly bewildered.

the father of the kid, found

himself in a deeply

distressing situation, lacking

the resources required to

ensure the critical medical

The infant, whose

Muhammad Qasim,

treatment for the infant.

chief secretary, IGP, ACS South Punjab and secretaries. The cabinet also

approved Rs 32,000 as minimum wages for labourers and sanctioned recommendations of a committee on admission policy to public medical and dental colleges 2023-

It gave the go-ahead to committee to devise a policy to tackle smog.

The CM ordered to initiate of effective steps to implement the policy on

By Tanveer Ahmed

Soomro

MIRPUR MATHELO: The

action against those who

transfer the quota of urea

from Ghotki district to other

districts is over. According to

the details, a meeting of rev-

enue officers was held under

the chairmanship of Deputy

Commissioner Ghotki Agha

Sher Zaman, in which Addi-

tional Deputy Commis-

sioner Nawab Samir Laghari

along with Assistant Com-

missioners of Ghotki, Mirpur Mathelo, Khangarah, Daharki and

Ubauro and Mukhtiar Kars

(Revenue) participated.

That the quota of the district

to set up an endowment fund with Rs one billion for journalists and their

For the School Adoption Programme, it decided to extend the school landscape in the province besides extension in contractual employees of Violence Against Women Centres (VAWC) in

The appointment of the Chairman and members for the LDA commission was also approved in addition to handing over Haji Abdul Qayyum earliest.

in the district itself, while le-

gal action should be taken

against dealers who hoard or

transfer to other districts. He

said that the assistant com-

missioner has an important

role, therefore all the assis-

tant commissioners should

solve the problems of the

people on priority basis,

visit hospitals and schools

and take effective measures

against hoarders including

tion will be better if the of-

ficers are active, they

should listen carefully to

the common people who

come to the offices and find

out their problems who

He said that the situa-

artificial inflation.

The cabinet decided teaching hospital Sahiwal control from SHC&ME to the P&SHC department. It also approved names for presidential and

Quaid-i-Azam Police

The cabinet in its 25th meeting decided to establish Mental Health Authority under the Punjab Mental Health Amended Act 2014. Earlier, the CM was briefed about the development and road network projects of South Punjab while he directed the department concerned to accomplish these at the

Minor girl drowns in canal

FAISALABAD (APP): A minor girl drowned in Gugera Branch Canal in the area of Jaranwala

Sadar police station. Rescue-1122 spokesman said here on Monday that three-yearold Sonia Yousuf fell into the Gugera Branch Canal near Punj Pulla on Nankana Road and drowned.

Receiving information, divers of Rescue 1122 rushed to the spot and fished out the corpse from the canal which was later on handed over to her relatives for burial after completing

Caretaker CM KP visits **Corps HQ Peshawar**

PESHAWAR (Online): including the revival of Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan along with members of the provincial cabinet visited Corps Headquarters Peshawar on Monday. The dignitaries were briefed about overall security situation, ongoing development projects in Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) and capacity building of police. Corps Commander Peshawar Lt.

The participants development projects

Gen. Hassan Azhar Hayat

and other senior civil and

military officials attended

tourism and mineral exploration in NMDs, which are vital for sustainable peace and growth in the area. The meeting also

reviewed the mechanisms of border management including measures to curtail and curb the smuggling of goods and put forward a comprehensive approach to address the **Participants** issues. underscored the importance of the capacity building of KP Police including Counter Department (CTD) and expressed satisfaction on reiterated the importance the recent achievements of socioeconomic police in thwarting terrorist attacks across the province.



KARACHI: A large number of workers, heirs of the martyrs, political and social workers and civil society activists gather during condolence ceremony in connection of the 11th anniversary of Baldia factory fire tragedy arranged by National Trade Union Federation (NTUF) held in Karachi.

NATCO bus plunges into ravine in Kohistan kills one, injures 43

and 43 others were injured when a tragic bus accident occurred at Shorgrah Lower Kohistan as a Northern Areas Transport Company (NATCO) bus fell into a deep gorge due

to certain reasons.

Rescue 1122 Lower Kohistan and local law enforcement agencies swiftly provided medical assistance to all injured individuals at the accident site. Subsequently, they were transferred to the Basham Hospital for further treatment and later

KOHISTAN (APP): At Ayub Medical Complex least one passenger died (AMC) Abbottabad. The ill-fated bus was en route from Gilgit to Islamabad when the accident occurred. Authorities are working diligently to manage the situation and provide necessary support to the victims and their families.

Due to the substantial number of injured, Rescue 1122 requested additional ambulance services in Lower Kohistan to ensure prompt medical attention for all those affected. Initial reports indicate that the accident has resulted in injuries to approximately n e c e s s a r y most of the injured 40 to 43 indivi-formalities, he added. passengers were shifted to Lower Kohistan. 40 to 43 individuals in

care needed for his newborn. | should be sold at fixed prices have no recommendation. International News

India PM Modi hails Saudi ties after 'historic' route unveiled

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: India hailed its "strategic" partnership with oil-rich Saudi Arabia on Monday, days after unveiling a major trade and transport route linking Europe, the Middle East and India as part of a broad al-

"Together, we made the historic start to establish an economic corridor," Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in New Delhi.

On Saturday, the pair took part alongside other G20 leaders in the unveiling of ambitious plans to create a modern-day Spice Route, boosting trade ties with potentially wideranging geopolitical impli-

Monitoring Desk

BENGHAZHI: A powerful

storm and heavy floods

have killed at least 35

people in eastern Libya

over the last two days with

the death toll expected to

rise as dozens more are

missing, medical sources

dia showed people stranded

on the roofs of their ve-

hicles as Storm Daniel hit

the cities of Benghazi,

Sousse, Al Bayda, Al-Marj and Derna. "We were

asleep, and when we woke

up, we found water besieg-

ing the house. We are inside

and trying to get out,"

Derna resident Ahmed

Mohamed told Reuters by

The missing include

phone on Monday.

spokesman

Footage on social me-

said on Monday.

not only connect the two nectivity between Asia, West Asia and Europe," Modi added, in talks following the end of the twoday Group of 20 leaders' summit he hosted.

During their talks, the Indian leader and the Saudi crown prince also discussed cooperation in space, semiconductors and manufacturing as well. Indian foreign minis-

try spokesman Arindam Bagchi said the leaders discussed issues, including energy security, trade, investment and defence, without giving further de-

India and Saudi Arabia also discussed the

Storm, floods kill at least

35 people in eastern

Libya - medical sources

Mismari said.

possibility of trading in local currencies and expecountries, but economic diting the negotiations for cooperation, digital con- a free trade agreement between India and the Gulf Cooperation Council of which Saudi Arabia is a

Ausaf Sayeed, a secretary in the Indian foreign ministry, said the two countries signed eight agreements, including a pact to upgrade their hydrocarbon energy partcollaboration in defence nership to a comprehensive energy partnership for renewable, petroleum and strategic reserves.

They also agreed to create a joint task force for \$100 billion in Saudi investment, half of which is earmarked for a delayed refinery project along India's western coast,

Sayeed said. Ship rescues 68 migrants

MARSEILLE: The Ocean Viking, a rescue Heavy floods washed away vehicles, footage broadcast by a eastern Libya's Almostkbal TV showed. The channel also lapsed road between Sousse nounced. and Shahat, the home to the

Greek-founded and UNESCO-listed archaeological site Cyrene. Witnesses said the water level had reached three metres (10 feet) in the coastal city of Derna.

Libva's eastern-based parliament declared three days of mourning. Abdulhamid al-Dbeibah, prime minister of the interim government in Tripoli, also declared three days of mourning in all the affected cities, calling them "disaster areas".

posted pictures of a col-

seven members of the Four major oil ports in Libya, Ras Lanuf, Zueitina, Libyan National Army (LNA), a force led by Brega and Es Sidra, were Khalifa Haftar which conclosed from Saturday trols the eastern part of the evening for three days, two divided country, LNA oil engineers told Reuters. Ahmad

off Libya **Monitoring Desk**

ship chartered by SOS Mediterranee, rescued 68 stranded migrants in international waters off Libya on Sunday, the France-based humanitarian NGO an-"The Ocean Viking

rescued 68 shipwrecked people from a doubledecker wooden boat that left Zouara in Libya last night," the NGO said. "Several of them are

suffering from seasickness and are currently being treated by the medical team of SOS Mediterranee and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) on board the Ocean Viking," it added.

Images published by the NGO on X, formerly Twit-ter, show several dozen migrants crammed into a makeshift boat wearing orange life jackets.



and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman attending their delegation level talks at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, India.

UN rights chief calls for 'urgent reversal' to civilian rule in coup-hit African countries

Monitoring Desk GENEVA: The U.N. human rights chief called on Monday for an "urgent reversal" of military takeovers and return to civilian rule in countries in Africa where coups have driven out elected leaders in recent years as he assailed a multitude of crises across the

Volker Türk's comments set the early tone for the U.N.'s top human rights body as he opened its fall session against the backdrop of conflicts and crises including the plights of migrants from Myanmar to Mali and Mexico.

has no real competitors

if he runs again

Kremlin says Putin

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: If Russian

President Vladimir Putin

decides to run in the 2024

presidential election, no one

will be able to compete with

him, Kremlin spokesman

Dmitry Peskov said on

Monday, Russia's RBC

business news service re-

not vet announced that he

will nominate his candi-

dacy," Peskov was quoted

as saying by RBC.

The president has

But if we assume that

ported.

cade-old crisis in the Sahel In his catch-all address region that stretches at the Human Rights Counacross North Africa, in cil, Türk laid out a litany of countries such as Mali, concerns from "extreme Burkina Faso and Niger, gang violence" in Haiti and he pointed to the impacts 'nonchalance" about the deaths of 2,300 migrants in of climate change and a the Mediterranean this lack of investment in services like education and year, to the 1.2 billion health care as factors that people — half of them chilhave fueled extremism. dren — who now live in 'The unconstitutional acute poverty across the

world.

changes in government that we have seen in the Sahel are not the solution," Türk said. "We need instead an urgent reversal to civilian governance and open spaces where people can participate, influence a company and criticize government Speaking of the deactions or lack of action."

within societies, and between countries. No arrest risk for Putin at Brazil G20: Lula

He criticized incidents

of recent public burnings of

Islam's holy book, the

Quran, as "the latest mani-

festation of this urge to

polarize and fragment — to

create divisions, both

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: Russian leader Vladimir Putin will not the president stands as a be arrested if he attends the candidate, then it is obvi-G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro ous that there can be no real next year, Brazilian President competition for the presi-Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said. dent at this current stage." The Russian president Peskov added that skipped this year's gathering Putin "enjoys the absolute in New Delhi, avoiding possupport of the population". sible political opprobrium and The former KGB agent any risk of criminal detention has dominated Russia, as under an International Crimipresident or prime minister, nal Court (ICC) warrant. Infor more than two decades, dia is not a member of the priding himself on bringing sta-ICC, which issued the warbility to the vast nation after rant in March over accusathe chaos that engulfed it foltions of unlawfully deportlowing the 1991 collapse of ing Ukrainian children, a

war crime.

Sudanese capital **Monitoring Desk** In its statement, the committee revised an earlier toll of

Air strikes kill 46 in

WAD MADANI: Air strikes killed at least 46 people and injured dozens at a Khartoum market, local activists said, one of the deadliest single attacks in Sudan's nearly five months of war. The bombing in the south of Sudan's capital came about a week after another air strike, also in southern Khartoum, killed 20 civilians on Sept 2, according to activists.

The number of victims in Sunday's "Qouro market massacre" had risen to 46 by evening, said the local resistance committee, one of many groups that used to organise pro-democracy protests and now provide assistance during the war.

30 killed. It added there were "dozens wounded" and said casualties continued to pour into the nearby Bashair hospital. "At about 7:15am (0515 GMT), military aircraft bombarded the Qouro market area," the committee said. The hospital had issued an "urgent appeal" for all medical professionals in the area to come and help treat the "increasing number of injured people arriving". A conservative estimate from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project says nearly 7,500 people have been killed in the war that began on April 15 between army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.



U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk (Tuerk) listens to Chen Xu Ambassador of the Permanent Representative Mission of China to the UN in Geneva, prior to the 54th session of the Human Rights Council, at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

Iran, US on verge of prisoner swap under **Qatar-mediated deal**

DUBAI: When \$6 billion of unfrozen Iranian funds are wired to banks in Qatar as early as this week, it will trigger a carefully choreographed sequence that will see as many as five detained US dual nationals leave Iran and a similar number of Iranian prisoners held in the US fly home, accord-

Monitoring Desk

As a first step, Iran on Aug 10 released four US citizens from Tehran's Evin prison into house arrest,

the negotiations.

ing to eight Iranian and other sources familiar with

where they joined a fifth, who was already under house arrest. Later that day US Secretary of State Antony Blinken called the move the first step of a process that would lead to their return home.

They include businessmen Siamak Namazi, 51, and Emad Sharqi, 59, as well as environmentalist Morad Tahbaz, 67, who also holds British nationality, the US administration has said.

The Tahbaz and Shargi families did not respond to requests for comment.

New electricity tariff to be introduced before Oct 31: Energy Minister

KARACHI (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for ernment would find a solu-Energy, Power and Petroleum Muhammad Ali announced on Monday that the revised electricity tariff would be introduced before

While addressing a reduction was made to the prices of solar equipment, ister said some final deci-Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, Caretaker Energy Minister Muhammad Ali said the government is taking indiscriminate action against the electricity and gas thieves.

'We are making efforts to control everything. We will try to control the electricity tariff and provide low-cost power to industries from October 31. The inflated bills were received due to electricity theft, whereas, the tariff was hiked due to the increase in USD price.'

The energy minister said that it is impossible to amend the previous agree-

tion without violating the terms. He vowed that lowcost electricity would be provided to the industries in the winter season.

He admitted that no however, the government would formulate a strategy to promote solarisation.

Governor Tessori said that the energy minister has always fulfilled his promises. "I'd also met the premier to discuss the current situation. We are trying the support reviving the national economy.

"The [caretaker] government has a good team which would manage to provide relief to the masses within the IMF agreement. The USD price has dropped below Rs300 and good days are not so far." On Thursday, Care-

taker Minister for Infor-

sultation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was underway for the relief in electricity

Talking to a private sions for the purpose were taken during the last meeting of the Cabinet presided over by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar the other day.

He said the prime minister had directed the relevant stakeholders to hold a consultation with the IMF which was underway.

The minister said the position on the relief in the electricity bills for the masses would be clear within a few days.

He said energy-saving measures were under consideration as multiple factors involved in the prevailing energy crises.



Caretaker Federal Minister for Energy, Muhammad Ali addressing the press conference at governor house Karachi. Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori

CM Bagar urges KE to add cheap power to their system to reduce burden of heavy bills

KARACHI (INP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqar has urged K-Electric to generate cheap electricity by using local fuel, including renewable so that people could heave a sigh of relief in power bills.

He also urged the KE to guide their customers to use such appliances, including fans and LED bulbs which consume less electricity so that their burden of heavy bills could be cur-

This he said while presiding over a meeting of KE to resolve their issues and work out a strategy to provide uninterrupted cheap

electricity to the people of Karachi. The meeting was attended by Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, PSCM Agha Wasif, Secretary Finance Kazim Jatoi, Commissioner Karachi Saleem Rajput, Adl IG Karachi Khadim Rind, Secretary Energy Fayaz Abbasi, KE CEO Monis Alyi.

, Tariq Shah of Energy dept, Shabar Zedi and oth-

The chief minister said that the KE should add local fuel-based electricity in their system so that power tariff could be reduced. The CEO KE Moonis Alvi told the CM that the KE was going to

Australian envoy lauds

Pak efforts for regional

security & Afghan peace

ISLAMABAD (APP): Australian High Commissioner, Neil

Hawkins called on Minister for Defence Lieutenant Gen-

eral ® Anwar Ali Hyder at the Ministry of Defence and

appreciated Pakistan's efforts in maintaining regional

peace and security, especially in the Afghanistan peace

committed to supporting the initiatives on peace, whereas

both the dignitaries discussed peace and security in re-

gional and global contexts, a news release said

of taking specific practical steps in this regard.

The Defence Minister emphasized that Pakistan was

Bilateral cooperation avenues in fields of counter-

rrorism and economics, also came under discussion.

Pointing out enormous scope for strengthening and fur-

ther cementing bilateral defence ties, both sides assured

KARACHI: Sindh Governor, Kamran Khan Tessori

exchanges views with Mayor Karachi, Barrister

Murtaza Wahab during meeting held at Governor

Torkham border closure

prolongs as authorities

fail to sort out clash

add 2172 MW, including 1,182 MW from renewable The KE CEO told the

CM that the tariff hike and power theft have shrunk power consumption by five percent and decreased recoveries by 3.4 percent. At this, the CM said that the ways and means should be explored to generate cheap electricity that the customers could afford to use.

Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab said that the PHL surcharge was applied to all customers across Pakistan to cover markup on loans taken on by Power Holdings Limited -a government entity.

FIA raids illegal **Money Exchange** Dealer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Investigation Agency's commercial bank ing circle on Monday, in continuation of the ongoing campaign against the hoarding of foreign currency, the Federal Investigation Agency's commercial banking circle raided illegal money exchange dealers in Rawalpindi and arrested

four people. The team led by Assistant Director Mehak Gul raided paracha traders in Rawalpindi and arrested four accused involved in illegal currency exchange businesses without having

The FIA team registered a case under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act against Abdur Rahman Parach, Bilal Kaleem, Tauseef Ahmad Muhammad Naveed

Deputy chairman NAB resigns

ISLAMABAD (Online) Deputy chairman NAB Zaĥir Shah has resigned from his office.

After chairman NAB Aftab Sultan, Prosecutor General Asghar Haider, Deputy chairman NAB too has resigned.

Deputy NAB has filed his resignation with chairman NAB. It has been said in the resignation that he does not want to continue his job due to personal reasons. Therefore, his resignation be ac-

Gohar takes no salary, bears all official expenses'

ISLAMĀBAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce and Industry, Dr. Gohar Ejaz has announced that he will not accept any remuneration for his services.

'In an extraordinary act of selflessness and dedi cation, the minister has for gone his salary and bears all expenses related to his official duties, including travel, meals and office hitea sessions," said a press release issued by the Ministry of Commerce on

office, Dr Ejaz also donated one year of income from his personal business for the nation's improvement, a press release added.

Upon assuming the

Foreign mobile phone company found involved in gas theft

LAHORE (Online): Foreign mobile phone company has been found involved in gas theft and a case has been registered against the company in this regard.

According to Sui Northern Gas company action was taken on informa-

tion of gas stealing. This was ascertained later that generator of mobile phone company was running on stolen gas in the area of Kirk.

Minorities enjoy equal rights in Pak: Caretaker PM

Says perpetrators of Jaranwala incident to be brought to justice

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Ministér Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday reiterated that all minorities enjoyed equal rights in Pakistan and assured them of complete protection of their rights and security

The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with a delega-tion of the Christian community that called on him. Caretaker Minister for Human Rights Khalil George and other relevant authorities were also present during the meeting, the PM Office Media Wing said in

a press release.
PM Kakar said that those responsible for the Jaranwala incident would be made an example so that such incidents would not occur in future.

He also asked the minorities to give proposals for the resolution of their issues and problems to the government so that the bly, bishops and pastors.

same could be solved. The caretaker prime minister said that the Constitution of Pakistan ensured equal social, religious and political rights to all citizens without any racial, caste, creed and ethnic discrimination, adding with due respect to each others' faith, a peaceful and prosperous society could be

He also called upon all the segments of society to play their role in the elimiation of extremism.

The delegation welcomed the appointment of Khalil George as Caretaker Minister for Human Rights.

They also thanked the prime minister for visiting and taking immediate measures in the wake of

Jaranwala incident.
The delegation included Ijaz Augustin, a former provincial minister, Asia Ansar, a former Member of the National Assem-



A group photo of Interim Law Minister Umar Soomro along with DIG Security Dr. Maqssood Ahmed and other senior officers.

Sustainable climate resilient health systems urged

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan on Monday said that there is a need to develop sustainable and climate-resilient health systems in the country.

He was presiding over a consultation initiated by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination British High Commission. action highlighting the agenda and objectives of

He said that the climate crisis and the health of citizens are interlinked and have many of the same solutions, especially when it comes to strengthening health systems. Implementing the adaptation and mitigation plans will require dedicated financing, acting now is likely to save money and lives in the long term, Dr. Nadeem Jan

added. Speaking on the occasion Federal Secretary Health Iftikhar Shallwani said that climate change and health are one of the priorities of the Government of Pakistan especially since we faced the COVID-19

floods in 2022. He said both the COVID-19 pandemic and floods are a stark reminder of the intimate and delicate relationship between people, health and climatic changes, which we can only address through a multi-sectoral and multipartner approach.

The Government of with the support of the Pakistan through the Ministry of Climate Change The minister said that the and Environmental Coordigovernment of Pakistan has nation, produced a developed a framework of multisectoral National Adaptation Plan through a consultative process. This document was approved by the cabinet in August 2023 'Our commitment extends to the implementation and enhancement of the National Adaptation Plan, shared the Secretary of

> The consolation is aimed at raising a collaborative alliance between the government, development partners, academia, and key stakeholders. The event will unveil a Framework of Action for Climate-Resilient Health Systems and facilitate discussions on strategies, partnerships, and funding mechanisms to build a robust healthcare system, resilient to the challenges of climate change.



KARACHI: Members of All Sindh Dengue Employees are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, held at Karachi press club.

Addressing industrialists issues top priority, Abdul Rasheed HYDERABAD (APP):

The Sindh Ministry of Industries and Commerce was taking serious measures to address the issues of industrialists on a priority basis. Traders and industrialists were playing a crucial role in improving the national economy and providing employment to millions of people, the Sindh government was taking steps to promote industrial areas, said Secretary Industries and Commerce Sindh, Abdul Rasheed Solangi on Monday.

He made these remarks while addressing industrialists at a reception ceremony hosted by the Kotri Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), held in Kotri

During the reception, Khalil Ahmed Baloch, Patron and senior member of tained

the Kotri Association of Trade and Industry, highlighted the issues facing the Kotri industrial zone.

He pointed out that there had been a longstanding water shortage issue in the Kotri industrial zone due to the deteriorating water supply pumps and motors that have been in use for over 40 years and are now completely nonfunctional. He emphasized the

immediate need to upgrade the water supply system to ensure uninterrupted industrial activities.

Baloch also mentioned the absence of a fire brigade vehicle at the Kotri site for the past 10 years, which has posed significant risks during incidents, he added requests made to relevant authorities were not enter-

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a preparatory meeting regarding Hajj 2024, in Islamabad.

Ejaz Qureshi re-elected as President of Asian **Ombudsman Association**

ISLAMABAD (APP): ombudsmanship and the Wafaqi Mohtasib Ejaz ultimate goals of good gov-Ahmad Qureshi was re-ernance and the rule of law elected unopposed as President of the Asian Ombuds-

various positions in the AOA resenting more than two Board of Directors were held in the 17th Meeting of the General Assembly.

In addition to the election of Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi as AOA President, the General Assembly elected Heads of Ombudsman Institutions in Azerbaijan, Hong Kong and Iran as Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Association respectively.

Heads of Ombudsman Institutions in China, Japan, Korea, Tatarstan and Turkiye were elected as members of the Board of Directors, a press release issued by the Ombudsman

Office here said. Following his election, Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi thanked the General Assembly for expressing conpromoting the cause of society.

in Asia and beyond.

The Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA) at man Association is a major Kazan (Republic of non-political, independent Tatarstan) on Monday. and professional body of The elections to the international character repthirds of the world popula tion. Its current membership is 46 ombudsman institutions from the Asian

The Association's permanent secretariat is hosted by the Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat at Islamabad The Association was established following the first Asian Ombuds man Conference held on April 15-16, 1996 at

Islamabad. The General Assembly meeting was followed by an International Conference on the "Effective Practices of Ombudsman: National Features and Universal Approaches", which was attended by a large number of international delegations and representafidence and trust in tives of international bod-Pakistan's contribution in ies, academia and the civil



PESHAWAR: Pakistani security officers examine a damaged vehicle at the site of a roadside bombing in Peshawar, Pakistan. 5 FC officials among 8 injured in blast on Peshawar's Warsak Road.

Key headway in country's politics expected in next 10 days: Sh. Rashid

RAWALPINDI (INP): Former interior minister and chief of Awami Muslim League (AML), Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said on Monday that important headway in the politics of country were expected in next 10 days as important decision would be made

during this time. Taking to social media website X (former Twitter), he said the real problem of the country was poverty and economy, and not poli-

Sheikh Rashid said, "Those who assumed power to give relief to the poor masses had moved out of the country. They got their cases closed in 16 months, plundered national wealth and pushed the ful and luxurious life.

masses to the edge of di-

He said those who had come to save the state destroyed it because people were the state. They (past rulers) played havoc with the lives of people in 16 months

"There will be no stability in the country if the people are not prosperous, he said.

The AML chief said. "If industry and businesses do not run, economic condition of the country will not improve. If the poor would not have access to basic necessities of life, how they would make both ends

"People sitting in London are leading a peace-

Several Karachi SHOs blacklisted

KARACHI (INP): In the wake of significant changes within the Sindh Police, the authorities decided to blacklist over 65 Station House officers (SHOs) from different police sta-

tions across Karachi. According to the details, lists have been prepared at the Karachi Police Headquarters where the performance of all officers and personnel in each district has been reviewed.

After the review of the performance report, the higher authorities decided to blacklist over 65 police station chiefs across all three zones in Karachi.

Officials stated that action will be taken against police station chiefs who are found to be involved with smuggling mafia, organized crime, and other illegal activities.

Last week, Sindh police conducted an operation at Karachi's Bilal colony and arrested four suspected individuals.

President condoles with family of soldiers martyred

ISLAMABAD (APP) President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday contacted the family members of the soldiers martyred in Jani Khel suicide attack via telephone and offered condolences to

During the telephonic conversation, the president paid rich tribute to the maryrs who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the country's security, said a press release issued by the resident House press

President Alvi shared ympathies with the fammembers of Naeb Subedar Sanoober Ali, Haladar Aftab Ahmed, and Havaldar Muhammad Arif. He also condoled the

family members of

Havaldar Muhammad

Imran, Sepoy Ahmed Ali,

Shahabuddin led Pakistan and Hafiz Asmatullah Yaqoobi from Gumrak (Customs), Qari Meraj of the border security forces. and Mulavi Takal represented Afghanistan in the Both sides discussed the border security situation and the Afghan officials alleged that Pakistani border forces started firing on

border.

House in Karachi.

KHYBER (INP): Torkham

border could not be opened

for the general public and

business activities on the

sixth consecutive day on

Sunday as Pakistani and

Afghan border security of-

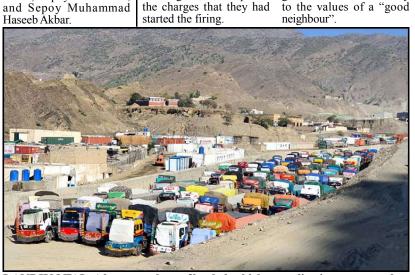
ficials could not sort out the

Sources said both

Following agreements signed by both sides, the Afghanistan was bound to update Pakistan regarding establishment of new structure within a range of one hundred metres of the border. The Pakistan officials said they had no objection to the rebuilding of old post or security building.

sides met after an exchange The Ministry of For-eign Affairs (MoFA) said of fire on Wednesday last which led to closure of the that the closure of the Khyber Rifles Com-Torkham crossing and firmandant Asim Kiyani, Lt Col Ahmad Mujtaba of ing on Afghan security forces by Pakistan is Chitral Scouts, Lt Col against good neighborly re-Zainul Abideen and Maj

In response to a demand by the Afghan officials regarding reopening of the Torkham border, the Pakistani officials categorically said that a decision would be made after consultations with "higher authorities." The border is closed for the last six days creating plethora of problems for the traders and others as well. A statement is-Sept 6 while the establishsued by the Afghan foreign ment of new security post ministry expressed concern and old one was underway. over the closure of Torkham The Afghan side dispelled gate and termed it contrary to the values of a "good neighbour



LANDIKOTAL: A large numbers of loaded vehicles standing in a queue as they are waiting for the reopening of Pak Afghan Torkham Border, in Landikotal.