Simultaneously published from Quetta, Gwadar, Hub, Karachi, Islamabad

Member APNS & CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vol. XXV No. 11, Safar 14, 1445 AH Friday September 01, 2023 Pages 12, Price Rs.15

Govt to come up with solution for inflated electricity bills: PM

Says caretaker Govt trying to resolve electricity bills issue without defiance of IMF agreements

ISLAMABAD (APP): WAPDA were using free power theft, high circular Prime Minister Anwaar- electricity units and their Haq Kakar Thursday said the government minutely ized, especially of the looked into the problem of higher grade officers some inflated electricity bills and of them were getting huge would come up with a solution within next 48 hours.

Talking to senior journalists and news anchors here on the current challenging economic conditions, he said the government was considering various options to provide relief to the

The people had protested against increased electricity bills and the government realized their problems, he added.

To a question, he clarified that the Pakistan army, navy and air force were not using a single free unit of electricity and their bills were paid from the allocated financial budget.

While employees of serious issues of line losses,

usage would be rationalquantity of free electricity,

He said perception should not be that the government would take any strict measures causing difficulties for the people.

He pointed out that the power sector had been a very challenging issue since the 1990s and the governments of that time signed agreements with independent power producers to overcome loadshedding which proved costly for

Over the years, he said, the generation and transmission system of electricity was flawed and the government had to deal with

QUETTA: Administrator Quetta Metropolitan Corporation Jabbar Baloch

and others meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali

greenback's demand

and rising risks asso-

ciated with financing

the country's current

over Rs15 in the inter-

bank market since the

formation of the care-

taker government

which is tasked with

overseeing at least one review of the In-

ternational Monetary

Fund (IMF) \$3 billion

standby arrangement;

and steering the coun-

try through to a na-

tional election that is

in theory due to take

place by November.

The rupee has lost

account deficit.

debt, use of expensive imported fuel and capacity payments to electricity

These issues cannot be ignored by just closing eyes. We need to diagnose treatment for the disease.

He made it clear that the government would fulfill its agreements with the international financial institu-

He lamented that the country was faced with economic stagnation and there was less investment in sectors like manufacturing, real estate and stock exchange, and the trend was to only take up profit from certain businesses.

He said the caretaker government was formed for the continuity of constitutional order, and was deal ing with economic and se



Anchors and Journalists in a meeting at the Prime Minister's House

Govt of Balochistan disappointed over "making politics on issue of missing persons"

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan has expressed strong disappointment over what it termed making politics constantly on the issue of missing persons.

In a statement issued here on Thursday night, the government strictly advises against using the sensitive issue of missing persons for political benefit.

This very statement of the government has come in response to some political parties which have raised the issue of missing persons during their election campaign and blamed that government is responsible for these disappearances.

In the statement, the government strongly contradicted these allegations and expresses its firm resolve to trace all the miss-

Moreover, the govern-

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Caretaker Interior Minis-

ter Sarfraz Bugti on the di-

rections of Prime Minister

Anwar ul Haq Kakar on

Thursday sought a brief-

ing from provincial govern-

ments on the stoppage of

ing anti-smuggling mea-

sures here. Secretary Inte-

The minister was

rior Abdullah Khan country.

smuggling of goods.

zero tolerance policy for making the matter political. It was also stated that the issue of missing persons is mostly used as vote gaining method by the political parties, which otherwise become a controversial topic during the election

However, the government made it clear that it has not received any substantial complaint about the missing persons.

Moreover, the government exposes the propaganda regarding missing persons for India, human rights industry, leftist groups and racial nationalists are responsible.

It was stated that the objective behind this propaganda is nothing but to exert pressure on the incumbent caretaker government ing persons and recover and law enforcement agen-

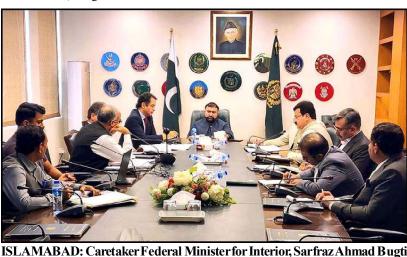
According to the last

ment emphasizes on its report of Balochistan Missing Persons Commission, a total of 9,231 complaints have been received to the commission. Out of them, 5,574 cases have been solved and 3,743 missing persons have been recov-

It was also told by the BMPC that bodies of 241 missing persons have been recovered while 974 persons are in custody. 616 missing who have been declared as missing are also imprisoned, the statement mentioned.

In addition to this cases of 2,207 missing persons were pending with BMPC till November 30,

Under the given situation, the Balochistan government urged all the stakeholders to give priority to welfare and safety of the affected persons instead of taking political advantage



chairing meeting regarding anti smuggling measures.

Federal Investigation

Agency (FIA) Mohsin

Hassan Butt and officials

from the Federal Board of

Revenue (FBR), ministries

and provincial offices par-

stressed the need to make

curb the smuggling of fer-

tilizers and sugar from the

ticipated in the meeting.

Minister

chairing a meeting regard- a comprehensive plan to

Caretakers jack up petrol price by over Rs. 14 to take it past 300-mark that has increased the

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: As the nation grapples with high electricity bills, the caretaker government late Thursday jacked up the petrol and diesel prices by over Rs14.

The Finance Division said the hike was due to the "increasing trend of petroleum prices in the international market and exchange rate varia-

The local currency is at an all-time low following an easing in import restrictions

calls on ISLAMABAD (APP)

Caretaker Federal Minister for National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, Dr Nadeem Jan called on President Dr Arif Alvi here on Thursday and discussed matters relating to national health in the country

Health minister

The president emphasized special focus on issues of breast cancer, growing population and mental health in the country. President Alvi and the

minster discussed the proposals regarding nutrition rehabilitation of differently abled persons, and menta and physical weakness among the children.

The president stressed the need to provide consultation facilities to improve mental health in the coun

He said the basic treat ment of mental health could be provided with the help of modern technology, Artificial Intelligence and Chatbot.

Court allows Imran Khan to talk to his sons

ISLAMABAD (Online): Special court established under secret act has allowed PTI chairman Imran Khan to talk to his sons by tele-

Chairman PTI filed petition in the cour through his counsels Umair Niazi and Shiraz Ahmad seeking permission to talk to his sons Qasim and Suleman.

The petitioner took the plea in the petition that he wants to talk to his sons Qasim and Suleman by telephone or through

whatsapp. Judge Abul Hasna Zulqarnain of special cour accepted the plea besides issuing directives to make arrangements for telephonic talks between chairman PTI

Bugti seeks briefing to Pakistan's total foreign reserves cope smuggling of goods reach at \$ 13.17 b Sumbul, Director General

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan stood at US\$ 13,171.1 million while reserves held by the central bank reached \$ 7,849.3 million. The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that SBP's reserves decreased by \$81 million to \$7,849.3 million on account of debt repayments during the week

ended on August 25, 2023.

Required amount transferred in QPC bank account: Commitment of caretaker CM about financial assistance of ailing & late journalists fulfilled: Jan Achakzai

QUETTA: The commitment made by caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki about financial assistance for treatment of two ailing media persons and the bereaved family of a deceased media person has been fulfilled. This was announced by the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan

Achakzai in an official statement issued here on Thursday. According to Jan Achakzai, the promise made by the caretaker Chief Minister for financial assistance of two journalists and the family of a late media person has been fulfilled. The caretaker Information Minister recalled that the caretaker Chief Minister had taken notice of the treatment of two media persons and financial assistance being faced by family of a late journalist. Jan Achakzai further told that the required amount has been transferred in bank account of Quetta Press Club.

He said that the amount would be spent on medical treatment of two ailing iournalists and financial assistance of the family of late media person.

The caretaker Provincial Minister Information maintained that the provincial government is serious in resoling the issues of media persons besides having firm belief on the freedom of press.



QUETTA: Caretaker Home Minister Mir Muhammad Zubair Khan Jamali being briefed by Director Levies Abdul Ghaffor Magsi. DG Levies Naseebullah Kakar is also present

9 soldiers martyred, 5 injured in suicide attack in Bannu

ISPR says "such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve", vows to eliminate menace of terrorism

RAWALPINDI (APP): Nine soldiers of Pakistan Army on Thursday embraced martyrdom after a motorcycle-borne suicide bomber exploded himself while targeting a military convoy in general area Jani Khel of Bannu District in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Among the nine soldiers Naib Subedar Sanobar Ali also embraced shahadat (martyrdom), while five soldiers were injured, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release

The area was cordoned by the security forces and sanitization was being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area.

"Security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," the ISPR said.

Reacting to the terrorist incident, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said that he was "heartbroken" by the loss of nine "valiant soldiers" to a cowardly terrorist act that injured many.

'Such acts are utterly reprehensible. thoughts are with the families of the martyred and injured. Pakistan stands resolute against such terror," the interim premier



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, Dr Nadeem Jan, calls on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Depletion of water table has turned serious in Balochistan especially in Quetta city, says Governor

Independent Report OUETTA: The Governor speaking to the Managing Balochistan, Malik Abdul Director Water and Sanita-Wali Khan Kakar has ex- tion Authority (WASA), pressed deep concern over the depleting underground water table in the province saying that the situation has turned serious especially in

Ouetta city. He said that if we didn't take prompt steps for overcoming the shortage of water in Ouetta, then we may face numerous issues in near future.

He said that it should be kept in mind that we would be needing help and guidance of international organizations to grip the depleting water table in the Hamid Rana, who called on him here on Thursday. The Governor was

equally concerned over use of clean drinking water for the plants and saplings in the developed era even and that we don't have the capability of reuse of used He noted with content-

ment that WASA is working on several small projects on use of the recycled water, which would surely yield positive results. However, there is a need to expand such projects.

Joint venture under Public-Private Partnership: BMRL and PMC ink Rs. 3 bn agreement for mining and production of fluoride

Independent Report

QUETTA: An agreement of worth Rs. 3 billion was signed between Balochistan Mineral Resource Limited (BMRL), Government of Balochistan and a private company, Platinum Mining Company (Pvt) Limited here on Thursday. The Rs. 3 billion joint venture has been signed under

the Public Private Partnership for mining and production of fluoride in Mekhtar area of Loralai district.



in which the Advisor to Chief Minister for Mines and Mineral Development, Umar Muhammad Hassani was also present. The head of BMRL, Saeed Sarparah signed on behalf of BMRL and provincial government while the Chief Executive Officer of PMC Private Limited and President Lasbela Chamber of Commerce signed on behalf of

Speaking on the occasion, the Advisor for Mines and Mineral Development said that the caretaker provincial government is taking all necessary steps for ensuring provision of desired facilities to the foreign investors in the mining and mineral sectors in Balochistan

Solangi takes notice of alleged torture, arrest of senior journalist from Swat

ISLAMABAD (APP): Care- investigation into the incitaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has taken notice of the alleged torture and arrest of Fayyaz Zafar, a senior journalist from

Discussing the incident

with relevant authorities, he

of conducting an impartial

The caretaker federal minister of information has sought a report of the torture and arrest of Fayyaz Zafar, said a press release.

He asserted that the authority of the office must emphasized the importance not be employed to stifle the



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

<u>Caretaker Minister Home visits Levies Directorate:</u> **Services of Levies force for** restoring peace valuable, maintains Zubair Jamali He said that the mar-

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Captain (Retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali has stated that the services of Levies force for restoring peace in the province are valuable. He expressed the hope

that the Levies force would continue to perform their duties regarding protection of life and property of the masses in the same manner. The caretaker Minister was speaking on occasion of the visit of Balochistan

Levies Force directorate on

Thursday. He maintained that it is top priority of the present government to restore law and order in the province. No stone should be left unturned in protection of

tyrs of Levies force are our heroes, who rendered sacrifice of their lives in the line

Appreciating performance of the Levies, the Minister said that it is because of the sacrifices of Levies and other law enforcement agencies that law and order situation has been improved in the prov-

The Director General Levies force briefed the caretaker Minister about overall performance and functioning of the force besides its strength and other related matters.

He informed that special attention is being given on discipline in the force. He said that the Levies officers and personnel are determined to protect the life life and property of the and property of the

Need stressed to tread path of IIOJK leader Syed Ali Gilani

LAHORE (APP): Experts on Thursday stressed the need to keep treading the path of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (ÎIOJK) iconic leader Syed Ali Gilani till freedom from India is achieved.

Talking to APP in connection with the second martyrdom day of Kashmiri iconic leader, Syed Ali Gilani, the experts said that the rising human rights violations and arrests of political leadership in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir must be highlighted at international forums like the United Nations (UN), European Union (EU) and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). They stressed the need to exert pressure on Indian government to stop excessive use of force to crush the indigenous ongoing political movement in the occupied valley. It is worth mentioning here that the first day of September of year 2023 is significant for the fact that it is not just the second death anniversary, but also the second year in the history of Kashmir freedom struggle without Syed Ali Shah Geelani, a name that needs no

Talking to APP, Lt. Gen. ® Abdul Qayyum highlighted the resolve of Kashmiris in their quest for freedom, observing a dichotomy in the global discourse, where human rights rhetoric sometimes takes a back seat to selfinterest. Lt. Gen. Qayyum noted that Pakistan is grappling with a hybrid war. He expressed confidence in the Pakistan Army's resilience against adversaries and highlighted attempts of enemies to tarnish its image through false propaganda. Kashmiris' resistance against Indian illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir has been going on for the last over seven decades. Many prominent Hurriyat leaders have played an important role in carryng forward this movement, he added.

Lt. Gen. Ashraf Saleem, while talking to APP exressed his concerns about India's attempts to control Pakistan's water resources, adding another layer of complexity to the Kashmir issue. Undoubtedly, veteran leader Syed Ali Gilani is the tallest personality in the resistance history of Jammu and Kashmir and the icon of Kashmir freedom movement, he said adding that Gilani embraced martyrdom on 01 September 2021 in Indian police custody at his residence in Srinagar, where he was kept under continued house detention by the Indian authorities for over a decade.

ter unveiling the new political map backed by legis-

lation, the government has

urged the general public to

avoid the use and dissemi-

nation of unofficial or in-

correct maps of the coun-

try as any such offense is

punishable by a jail term or

served that the general pub-

lic was not fully aware of

the importance and usage of

Pakistan's new political

map which was a carto-

graphic representation of a

country showing its administrative and political

Mapping (Amendment) Act, 2020 has imposed

stringent penalties for the

printing, display, and use of

unofficial or incorrect maps

of the country, according to

printing, displaying, dis-

semination of or use of an

incorrect and unofficial map

of Pakistan and any viola-

The law prevents the

an official document.

The Surveying and

boundaries.

The authorities ob-



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting on economy.



QUETTA: Former Provincial Minister Muhammad Khan Lehri meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Akhundzada asks students to focus on their studies instead of political slogans

By Rafiullah Mandokhail emony

ZHOB: The launching ceremony of the 'Treasure of English Grammar' book pinned by an ADA (Associate Degree in Arts) student Ali Khan Sherani held at Government Boys' Degree college Zhob here.

Commissioner Zhob Division Saeed Ahmed Umrani presided over the book launching ceremony while Chairman District Council Haji Muhammad Khan Kibzai was the chief guest on the occasion.

Director BUITEMS Dr. Abdul Salam Lodhi, principal Degree college Syed Amin Shah Akhundzada, DSP Zhob, ex tehsil Nazim Sardar Amirullah Kibzai, Deputy Divisional Director Educa-Abdul Latif Mandokhail, journalist Rafiullah Mandokhail, professors lecturers and college in the city and up college students in a large grade the Degree college to thanked all the guests for number attended the cer- post-graduate college keep- their participation.

Addressing the participants, Chairman Haji Muhammad Kibzai congratulated the young writer his efforts.

Principal College Syed Amin Shah Akhundzada in his speech described the book as comprehensive as well as informative for English learners. He asked the students to focus on their studies instead of the political slogans. He said over two thousand students are studying in different disciplines in the institution.

The foundation stone of Degree College Zhob was laid in 1962 and the institution got the status of Degree College in 1973, but despite the passage of half a century, problems of the college have not been ad-

ing in mind the increasing population. Director BUITEMS

Dr. Abdul Salam Lodh while speaking at the ceremony appreciated the efforts of the author's hard work. He shed light on the importance of education on modern lines and said the developed nations made progress as they gave priority to modern edu-

The guests gave away prizes and appreciation certificates among the graduating students of ADA, ADS first semester. The young writer Ali Khan Sherani, president college unit Balochistan Professors and Lecturers' Association Saleem Jan Mandokhail, prof. Abdul Ghaffar Sherani, prof Wahid Khan Hariphal, prof He demanded of the Allaullah and prof. Sheikh authorities another degree Ajmal Mandokhail also



on Oct 14 were sold out ternational sale window, reported India media on Wednesday. While there will be another round of general sale for the India-Pakistan match on Sept 3, there is a

a complete sell-out within hours, like it happened on Tuesday for all the Mastercard holders. It couldn't be confirmed as to how many tickets were put online during the pre-sale window for all India matches and the warm-up games but it has been learnt that, after

chance that there would be

tickets on the day were exhausted. ticketing partner — put a booked

the sales opened at 6:00pm

(IST), within an hour, all

"Sold Out" caption on the

may extend up to five years

or a fine of Rs 5 million or

organization or department

involved in printing, dis-

playing, disseminating, us-

ing or circulating incorrect

and unofficial version of

map of Pakistan or any part

of Pakistan in hard or digi-

tal form shall be liable to be

imprisoned for a term

which may extend up to

five years or a fine of five

million rupees or both," ac-

for all the citizens to only

use the official map of Pa-

kistan which was available

at the Survey of Pakistan's

of sovereignty and territo-

rial integrity of a nation. It

also shapes national iden-

tity and a sense of belong-

Pakistan unveiled its

ing among citizens," the

new political map on Au-

gust 4, 2020, in response

document said.

The document called

"It reinforces the idea

cording to the law.

website.

"Any individual, firm,

Cricket Mastercard (credit or debit Council's ticketing partner India and international)," a opened its exclusive pre- Board of Control for Cricket India source privy to the development told Indian media

pre-sale were bought by fans within an hour.

The ICC is allowing only two tickets to be booked per person for all-India games along with the semi-final and the final while The website 'Book for non-India games, four My Show' — the ICC's tickets per person could be

You are late: Pakistan-India World

tion may result in imprist to the Indian provocative

"Today it was only for within an hour after the In- those who owned a

> "Only two tickets per person were allotted and naturally, the tickets put on

"However it is expected that another round will happen on Sept 3. The best part is that the Narendra Modi Stadium has 132,000 capacity, so reasonable number of the tickets could be expected to be put on sale on Sept 3."

of September.

Pathirana-inspired Sri Lanka beat Bangladesh in Asia Cup

Sports Desk KANDY, Sri Lanka: Fast Matheesha Pathirana returned impressive figures of 4-32 to help Sri Lanka to a comprehensive five-wicket win over Bangladesh in the Asia Cup

match on Thursday.
Spinner Maheesh Theekshana struck early before Pathirana joined forces dismiss Bangladesh for 164 in the opener of the Sri Lanka leg of the 50-over tournament, a precursor to October's ODI World Cup in India.

Sadeera Samarawickrama, who made 54, and Charith Asalanka, unbeaten on 62, guided the chase in their key stand of 78 after Sri Lanka

lost their openers early and slipped to 43-3. Samarawickrama registered his fourth ODI halfcentury to raise the noise of the sparse crowd at the scenic venue

He finally fell stumped off spinner Mahedi Hasan and Shakib Al Hasan soon sent back Dhananjaya de Silva, but the left-handed Asalanka pulled the team home in 39 overs with a winning boundary.

Asalanka reached his 50 in 85 balls to play a patient knock on a pitch where run-scoring did not seem easy. Skipper Dasun Shanaka stood unbeaten on

tory with Pathirana, whose yorkers have earned him comparisons to Lasith Malinga, picking up key wickets including skipper Shakib and wicketkeeperbatsman Mushfiqur Rahim

Top-order batsman Najmul Hossain Shanto made 89 to play a lone hand in Bangladesh's innings af ter they elected to bat first but lasted for only 42.4

when he trapped debutant Tanzid Hasan lbw for nought while De Silva soon sent back fellow opener Mohammad Naim for 16. Shanto, who bats a

Theekshana struck first

number three, stood calm after Bangladesh lost their openers and put on key partnerships including a 59 run fourth-wicket stand with Towhid Hridoy, who was next best with 20.

He registered his fourth ODI half-century and hit seven boundaries but the rest of the batting fell flat.

Pathirana got skipper Shakib caught behind for five with wicketkeeper Kusal Mendis taking a div ing catch to his left. Later he returned to

wipe off the tail after Theekshana bowled Shanto with his mystery spin to end the left-hander's 122ball knock. Mehidy Hasan Miraz's

run-out only added to Bangladesh's woes, after a The bowlers set up vic- mix-up with Shanto

ISLAMABAD (APP): Af- onment for a term which move on August 5, 2019, when it unilaterally revoked Article 350 and 35(A) in a bid to change the legal status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir

Pakistan's new official political map is distinct from the previous political map as it contains seven new distinguishing features like the working boundary marked with appropriate annotation. It mentions the status

(IIOJK).

Use of Pakistan's unofficial map a crime punishable by jail term, fine

of IIOJK to be determined through a plebiscite as per relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions; the Line of Control (LoC) marked with the red dotted line shows undefined frontiers; and Junagadh, Manavdar and Jammu & Kashmir in its entirety, including Gilgit-Baltistan, shown in one distinct colour as parts of Pakistan.

The new political map reflects Pakistan's border with India in the Sir Creek region as an international boundary along the eastern bank of the Creek

Pakistan was committed to pursuing a political solution and opposed military interventions to resolve the Kashmir issue in line with the UNSC resolutions. The document ex-

plains that the correct use

of terminologies has great significance or implications in international relations. For example, Persian Gulf or Arabian Gulf, depending on the perspective, holds immense geopolitical importance due to its strategic location. For Iran, using the term "Persian Gulf" is a matter of preserving its national identity and asserting its sovereignty over the region. While, some Arab countries, especially along the Arabian Peninsula, prefer to term it "Arabian Sea" due to their Arab identity, historical connection to the area, and geopolitical rival-

The authorities called for the use of official political map at all levels, including in academia, media, and private and public of-

The map depicts that fices, as it would help keep alive the aspirations of millions of Kashmiri brethren who are currently living in the world's largest jail under an illegal Indian occupation.

"The use of official map will strengthen Pakistan's sovereignty claims, reinforce national identity, and serve as a symbol of national pride. It will also have farreaching repercussions for foreign relations, legal matters and historical disputes bringing positive outcomes for the nation.

Citing the relevant laws from different countries, the document said as per Indian legislation, the dissemination of inaccurate topographic information about the country, including international boundaries can lead to fines ranging from Rs 1 to 10 million and up to 7 years imprisonment.

Similarly, China introduced heavy penalties for using maps conflicting the country's position on Taiwan, Tibet, and certain South China Sea regions.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Caretaker Provincial Advisor Danish Lango meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

PPP CEC to meet next week to decide on elections

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has decided to call next meeting of its Central Executive Committee in Lahore next week to further deliberate on general elections, delimitations and the country's overall political situation.

Media reports said that PPP CEC summit is likely to be held in the first week

However, the final date of the CEC meeting was yet to be finalised by the party

leadership. The meeting will be attended by the top leadership of the party including former president Asif Ali

Zardari, party chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. The meeting would be briefed on party's recent meeting with the Election Commission of Pakistan

say sources.
The CEC will mull over various options including organising All Parties Conference (APC) and engaging with other political parties on delay in polls mat-

(ECP) regarding elections,

ter, they say. Syed Ali Gilani's 2nd martyrdom anniversary to be

ISLAMABAD (APP): The second martyrdom anniversary of veteran Kashmiri Hurriyat leader, Syed Ali Gilani, will be observed tomorrow, Septem-

observed today

According to Kashmir Media Service, Syed Ali Gilani died in Indian captivity on 1st September in 2021 at his residence in Srinagar where he had been kept under continued house arrest for over a decade.

All Parties Hurriyat Conference has called for a march tomorrow towards the Hyderpora graveyard where Syed Ali Gilani is buried. All pro-freedom organizations have supported the call

EXTENSION OF TENDER OPENING

The Notice Inviting Tender of Drip Irrigation System for block plantation published in daily newspaper vide PRQ No. 438/22-08-2023 as well as BPPRA website vide TSE-232408349273 has been extended. The bids now be submitted by 14th September, 2023 at 10:00 am and will be opened on the same day at 11:00 pm.

DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FOREST QUETTA PRQ No.499/31-8-2023 🛃 www.dpr.gob.pk.

CORRIGENDUM

An Advertisement (TSE: 232408346833, 232408346803 232408346853, 2324083346823, and 232408346813) Vide PRQ NO.391/16-08-2023 published in daily Newspaper on 16-08- 2023 by Agricultural Engineering Department Khuzdar. Tender fee will be charged as 1000 Rupees against each TSE. Bid security can be paid through Bank guarantee as well. Performance security of 10% of estimated cost is required for all the TSE.

Phone no: 03365377771 Email: beeburgbaloch5@gmail.com

Agricultural Engineer gricultural Engineering Department Khuzdar

PRQ No.498/31-8-2023 TENDER NOTICE

The S&GAD invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-232408350831

Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB.

Tender Fee Rs.1000/-

Class of Object

1 Clothinig & Liveries (Total Item(s) Count: 28) Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public

Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 9.000.000 in Previous 3 Turn over of at least 4,000,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List, Sales Tax Certificate, The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Registration from Excise Taxation and Narcotics Department Registration from Security Exchange Commission of Pakistan. Samples of the items, as per the approved samples of all the items should be submitted at the time of submission of Bids. Approved sample can be seen at the office of the undersigned within 10 days from the date of publication of NIT. Registration/Certificate from Small Industries Department in Clothing/Liveries. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee, Deposit at Call of 5% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 18 September, 2023 till 11:30 AM

PRQ No.488/31-8-2023

Email: afzalsarparah@gmail.com

through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be

opened on same day at 12:30 PM on EPPS System Address: block

1 civil secretariat Queta Phone no: 0081920280

Jemal Beker played a crucial role in advancing fraternity and brotherhood between the two heirs of civilizations

Addressing the ceremony, Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdula extended

National Peace Award gratitude to the NPJC for acknowledging endeavours to enhance friendship and partnership between the two countries

TUNISIA: Pakistan Ambassador designate to Tunis Javed Ahmed Umrani pre-

senting shield to Honorary Consul General of Tunisia Peshawar (Pakistan)

Ammad Rasheed during business meeting working lunch in honor of Ammad

Rasheed during his visit to the Pakistan Embassy Tunis Ambassador of Tunis

Ethiopian Envoy receives

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The National Peace and

Justice Council (NPJC)

has honoured the Ambas-

sador of the Federal Demo-

cratic Republic of Ethiopia

to Pakistan, Jemal Beker

Abdula, with the National

Peace Award for his dedi-

cated efforts in laying the

foundation and fostering

closer ties between the two

took place during the Na-

tional Peace Seminar which

was held at the Islamabad

Club, said a news release

Abdul Waheed presented

the award to Ambassador

Jemal Beker, lauding his

commitment to strengthen-

ing the bilateral relations

between the Federal Demo-

cratic Republic of Ethiopia

(FDRE) and Pakistan by

bridging the gap between

people, institutions, and

business communities.

NPJC Chairman Mian

The award ceremony

brotherly nations.

on Thursday.

He emphasized peace as a shared value between Ethiopia and Pakistan while highlighting their significant role as major contributors to the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission to ensure peace, stability and prosperity

across the globe. Both nations, he noted played pivotal roles in preserving global peace and security, with their people working hand in hand to

save lives worldwide. The ambassador also paid tribute to Pakistan's brave sacrifices in the pursuit of international peace and security, stating that the nation's unwavering commitment to this cause would forever be remembered.

also noted He He said Ambassador Ethiopia's own contributions, with a considerable number of Ethiopian sol diers sacrificing their lives for international peace and security under the blue helmet of UN peacekeeping missions in different coun-

to (Pakistan) Borhene El Kamel also attended the lunch. Caretaker Sindh govt. should send proposals regarding transfer of officers

ISLAMABAD (Online) Chief Election Commis sioner has written letter to Caretaker Chief Minister (CM) Sindh in which he said that it is regrettable that there is no preparation for the transfer of senior administrative officers in province.

Caretaker Sindh gov ernment should send proposals regarding transfer of officers for approval. It has been said in con

text of letter that Election Commission (EC) had directed the provincial government to transfer senior administrative officers Commissioner, deputy commissioner and additional commissioner.

Chief Election Commissioner said in a letter that Election Commission had also asked for transfer of police officers including RPO's, DPO's and also di rected that neutral officers be appointed to monitor the elections

Chief Election Commissioner said in a letter that Election Commission (EC) did not receive any suggestions from caretaker government of Sindh in this

President for imparting quality training, problem-solving skills to civil servants

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday underscored the need to impart quality training to civil servants and equipping them with essential skills such as problemsolving, fast decision-making, and efficient management of resources to ensure good governance and improve service delivery.

He said that bureaucracy must be more responsive to people's needs and focus on solving problems being faced by the country in different sectors, particularly health, education, and community services.

The president expressed these views while chairing 23rd meeting of the Board of Governors (BOG) of the National

Establishment Division, Inamullah Khan Dharejo, Rector NSPP, Dr Ijaz Munir, and other members sidiary institutions.

making collaborative efforts with different national and international organizations and educational institutions to conduct research and provide quality training to civil servants.

He said that NSPP should consider providing short-term training courses and updating its training modules along modern lines to equip bureaucrats with the latest skills and improve their efficiency and perfor-

The meeting was at- ciency and misconduct as tended by the Secretary per rules, besides taking steps to ensure transpar ency and accountability within NSPP and its sub-

The meeting was During the meeting, the briefed about the implemenpresident urged the need for tation status of the decisions taken in the 22nd meeting of the BOG, besides discussing various administrative and financial matters of NSPP.

> It was informed that the National Development Internship Program (Policy) had been adopted and the process of hiring the internees would be finalized with the assistance of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives

The meeting also agreed to expedite the pro-



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi chairing the 23rd meeting of the Board of Governors of the National School of Public Policy, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Roadmap to climate-change resilient Pakistan requires joint efforts: Sami Saeed

ISLAMABAD (APP): tation due to torrential rains front challenges and seize Caretaker Minister for and flooding in most parts opportunities, describing it Planning, Development and Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Thursday said the roadmap to the climate-change resilient and adaptive future plan for Pakistan required collaboration among all stakeholders, terming it the need of the hour.

Australian High Commissioner

calls on Jilani ISLAMABAD (APP): Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins Thursday

Abbas Jilani and dis-

cussed matters relat-

ing to mutual inter-

During the meet-ing the high commis-sioner briefed the for-

eign minister on Pa-

kistan-Australia

ties in multiple do-

ter emphasized im-

portance of regular

dialogue under exist-

ing mechanisms &

high-level visits to

give impetus to bilat-

The foreign minis-

We will have to work hand in hand to align efforts of all stakeholders including government departments, private enterprises, civil society, academia and development partners," he said while addressing the inaugural session of projects completion cer-emony titled "Optimizing Impact – Investing in Resilient and Adaptive Future of Pakistan

of the country, affecting 33 million people and causing economic losses worth \$30

Following this, the government prepared a 'Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Framework" (4RF framework) that is being implemented.

In January this year, Pakistan successfully managed to secure pledges of US\$10 billion from donors committed during the International Conference on 'Climate Resilient Pakistan' jointly hosted by Pakistan and the UN in Geneva, the Planning Ministry informed.

Speaking at the event, the minister linked national Last year, Pakistan development with the abilfaced unprecedented devas- ity to embrace change, con-

as a necessity, not an op-

He was of the view that

impact investing' offered a framework to create a prosperous society leaving no one behind, protecting the earth's planet and paving way for the coming generations' better future. Sami Saeed stressed the

need for investing to build a resilient nation, enhancing its ability to absorb shocks and recover swiftly from challenges.

With its rich history and diverse potential, the minister said Pakistan time and again exhibited its capacity to endure and evolve. However, he said, as the nation confronted 21st-century complexities from climate change to technological disruption – its

IHC imposes

Rs 25,000

fine on IGP

Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Islamabad High

Court (IHC) on Thursday

imposed a fine of Rs

25,000 on the Inspector

General of Police (IGP)

Islamabad in a case seek-

ing removal of Dr

Shireen Mazari's name

from the Exit Control List

Mehmood Jahangiri, in a

three-page order, ob-

served that the IGP had

been directed on August

2, to file comments

within one week but the

same were not submitted.

Similarly, the IGP did not

submit answer to the no-

tices issued on August 10,

and then August 29.

Therefore, the court was

imposing fine worth Rs

25,000 on him, and

asked him to pay the

said amount to the peti-

tioner before the next

hearing.

approach to development must evolve as well. "We must pursue smart, sustainable growth that considers the long-term well-being of our citizens and the health of our environment.'

The minister further added that Pakistan had become an epicenter of climate change, ranking among the top ten countries most vulnerable to its devastating effects. Despite being a negli-

gible contributor to global warming, he said the cost of climate change to Pakistan was substantial and continuously increasing as the country faced serious economic challenges.

Given the growing and cross-cutting challenges climate change posed, the government had prioritized adaptation and building resil-

Furthermore, he said a number of interventions were being implemented to incentivize farmers for transition to climate-smart water and land management practices.

"We are implementing a long-term agriculture growth strategy with a focus on productivity improvement, climate resilience, and physical expansion, "he added.
The minister empha-

sized investing in stateof-the-art early warning systems, gathering and utilizing data-driven insights to analyze climate patterns and potential di-

He asked for strengthening disaster risk governance by establishing clear policies, institutional frameworks, and coordination mechanisms



ISLAMABAD: A view of the banners along the Constitution Avenue on the death anniversary of Syed Ali Shah Geelani, in Federal Capital.

DC reviews doorstep services, issues instructions to develop mobile app

ISLAMABAD (APP): zens. The app would allow Deputy Commissioner Irfan Nawaz Memon on Thursday chaired a review meeting which was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (East) Usman Ashraf, Assistant Commissioners, Facilitation Centre staff, and other

stakeholders. The staff of the facilitation centre gave a briefing on their performance, highlighting the challenges and the steps taken to address

the issues. The meeting also discussed ways to further im-

prove the services of the facilitation centre, including the development of a mobile application. Additional

Deputy Commissioner East issued necessary instructions to the staff of the Facilitation Centre to develop a mobile application for the convenience of citi- ing time for citizens.

variety of services, such as birth and death registration, property tax payment, and issuance of domicile certifi-

The Deputy Commissioner also directed the staff to improve the efficiency of the Facilitation Centre by streamlining the processes and reducing the waiting time for citizens. He stressed the impor-

tance of providing quality services to the citizens of Islamabad and making their lives easier.

The meeting was a productive session that resulted in a number of posi-

tive outcomes. The development of a mobile application will

make it easier for citizens to access doorstep services, and the streamlining of processes will reduce the wait-

IHC extends stay order against Imaan Mazari's arrest

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday extended its stay order against the arrest of Advocate Imaan Mazari and shifting her to out of the Federal Capital in any case registered after August 20. Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb heard the case filed by Imaan Mazari seeking details of cases registered against her across the country.

At the outset of hearing, the officials of Intecourt that one case had been registered against the petitioner in the capital, while the Federal Government could not give directions to the provinces to provide the details in that regard. Miangul Justice

rior Ministry informed the

Hassan said that the court had only sought the information. The Assistant Attorney General prayed the court to give some time in that regard as they received the order a bit late.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the closed shops at Aabpara Market during the protest by the Traders Action Committe of Aabpara Market against the unjust price hike of the electricity and unbearable inflation.



ISLAMABAD: Australian High Commissioner, Neil Hawkins in a meeting with Federal Minister for Law and Justice Ahmad Irfan Aslam.

British High Commissioner gifts state-of-the-art airport security scanners to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): British High Commissioner Jane Marriott CMG OBE Thursday handover two airport security scanners to Pakistan during a ceremony held at Karachi Airport.

British High Commissioner Jane Marriott CMG-OBE addressing the cerscanners here in Karachi, a demonstration of UK support for security at Pakistan's airports.

"We all want travellers to fly safely and securely, this new technology means passengers can fly with greater confidence from Pakistan. Aviation plays a vital role in growing trade between the UK and Pakistan and enabling the diaspora to travel. Making flying safer brings the UK and Pakistan even closer

together", she added. 'I want to thank the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority for arranging today's ceremony and for the excellent cooperation we have on both aviation security and safety is-

With over 1.6 million people of Pakistani heri-tage in the UK making up every part of British society, we have a special and ever-growing special bond,

she concluded. It is pertinent to mention here that the Hundreds of thousands of people emony said "I'm delighted travel between the UK and to handover these state-of- Pakistan every year, proof the-art airport security of the hugely significant UK-Pakistan people-topeople relationship. Air links are of vital importance for trade between the UK and Pakistan and the

diaspora. funding £164,000 (60 million Rupees) has provided two state-of-the-art screening units for Karachi and Lahore airports to detect illicit items in passenger

This technology will help to protect both British and Pakistani nationals travelling from Pakistan to the UK and elsewhere. This is one small part of the UK's ongoing aviation work with Pakistan, which is helping to raise safety and security stan-

AIOU announces admissions for BA, **B.Ed** programmes ISLAMABAD (APP):

Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on Thursday announced to initiate admissions for the second phase of semester Autumn 2023 from Friday (Sept 1)

Programs offered in this phase included Associate degree in Arts (BA General), Associate degree in Commerce (B.Com), Associate degree in Educa-(ODL) tion, BS programmes, 1.5, 2.5 and 4-year B.Ed programmes, Postgraduate diploma and

certificate courses, said a news release. The admission forms and prospectus of all the programmes are available on the university website.

Admission forms for the Associate Degree programs (BA, B.Com) and B.Ed program are now available at University's Regional Offices and SWIFT Centers

throughout the country. All the necessary in formation is available in the prospectus and the deadline for admissions is October 17. Candidates may call the university helpline at 051-111 112 468 for further informa-

Malaysia HC organizes flag hosting ceremony to celebrate National Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): cess stories Malaysia has The Malaysia High Commission in Pakistan on Thursday organized a flag hosting ceremony to celebrate Malaysia's 66th National Day. During the event, Malaysia's High Commissioner to Pakistan, Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, extended his warmest conatulations and felicitations to Malaysians living in Pa- which is deeply-rooted in kistan. "As Malaysians living abroad, we should be ues, mutual respect among

as a progressive dynamic country" he added.

The High Commissioner said, Malaysia values

its unity in diversity blessed with a rich tapestry of cultures, languages, and traditions. "As we progress into the future, we have forged a strong sense of nationhood our aspiration, shared val-

achieved since independence



ISLAMABAD: Visitor take interest in exhibition

numbers.

The case was then adtitled "Theater of Absurdities" at Tanzara Gallery. journed till September 6 Islamabad police to address security issues in markets, parks

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police would address critical security concerns in markets as well as public parks and review the proposal for the installation of surveillance cameras there.

In a recent gathering, CPO Safe City/Traffic Shoaib Janbaz met with IT experts from the Islamabad Capital Police and officials from the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to address critical security concerns in public parks and markets.

The primary focus was on the efficient identification of stolen or lost mo-

According to the police spokesperson, meeting's objectives encompassed devising robust strategies to trace mobile phones linked to thefts and criminal activities through

IMEI numbers, alongside

revamping outdated recording systems. Notably, the IT experts emphasized their ability to differentiate between original and altered IMEI numbers, even if an individual attempts to change it and use the de-

During the meeting, CDA officials underscored bile phones using IMEI the necessity of collabora-

vice elsewhere.

tion with Islamabad Capital Police to modernize public parks. Suggestions included the installation of surveillance cameras in public parks, market areas, and both internal and external roads. Monitoring would be conducted through the Safe City Command and Control Center. Furthermore, there was a proposal to place emergency buttons in

poorly lit areas. Additionally, CPO Safe City/Traffic proposed the incorporation of identification card records for individuals visiting public parks into the new system

ISLAMABAD: Workers of Capital Development Authority are planting plant sapling on green belt along the Constitution Avenue in Federal Capitalac.

Pakistan Polio Programme launches next phase of female polio worker initiative

Women healthcare workers from the Pakistan Polio Programme met Melinda French Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, in a virtual roundtable to share updates and launch the next phase of the 'Female Frontline Worker Co-Design Initia-

Participants shared their experiences from this initiative, which aims to systematically listen to and learn from female frontline workers to help solve final barriers to ending polio in Pakistan. They also shared their ideas and aspirations for the future, after Pakistan has successfully achieved this national goal, a news release on Thursday

"My self-confidence porate them into upcoming

ISLAMABAD (APP): has grown from participating in this initiative because it is so meaningful that the Polio Programme has taken the time to listen to our experiences and ideas, and that some of the solutions we proposed are being adopted to improve campaigns as well as our work experience," said one frontline worker.

"I'm so motivated to hear that we'll be supported by the programme in building up other skill sets so we can be ready for other opportunities after

Pakistan's National **Emergency Operations** Centre for Polio Eradication (NEOC) has approved select co-designed solutions from this process and will incor-

immunization campaigns, community engagement efforts, and other day-to-day operations this year.

Examples of approved recommendations include a revitalized training package on key topics requested by frontline workers, improved campaign tools and materials, and communications strategies that highlight the value of female polio workers.

In addition to implementing co-designed solutions to accelerate programmatic progress, the Pakistan Polio Programme will begin the next phase of this initiative by "upskilling" female polio workers in other capacities and helping them prepare for potential future opportunities after polio eradication. The Minister of Na-

tional Health Services Regulation & Coordination, Dr Nadeem Jan, also expressed Government of Pakistan's commitment to supporting female polio health workers, including in

exploring future livelihood

pathways for a post-polio

'Polio health workers have served Pakistan with incomparable dedication. Whether braving extreme weather conditions or navigating volatile security situ-"It is our duty to not only

ations, they have remained steadfast in their commitment," Dr. Jan said, adding, appreciate their invaluable services but also ensure that this excellent workforce ery child can receive lifecontinues to contribute to the country after polio

This is why the new

phase of the Female Frontline Workers Initiative is very important for us to build their capacities in different areas and ensure they have good job opportunities in the future.

French Gates praised the initiative's progress and the programme's commitment to supporting female workers through the next phase of this work. "These women are the heart of the eradication programme and ensuring their expertise and solutions are at the centre of eradication efforts is criti-

cal," she said. 'This initiative will not only help ensure that evsaving vaccines, but it will also give these women important skills and training to support other health ef-

forts, and to pursue economic opportunities in the French Gates also rein-

forced the foundation's longstanding commitment to ending polio in Pakistan and to working in partnership with the country to improve health and wellbeing nationwide.

The virtual roundtable served as a follow-up to French Gates's first meeting with female health workers in Pakistan last year. It was moderated by Anita Zaidi, President of Gender Equality at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and also included Dr Shumaila Rasool, a member of the programme's National Gender Working Group and the Sindh Emergency Operations Center core team.

Daily soice of Masse Independent

Friday September 01, 2023

Beyond reason

The violation of fundamental rights — including the right to due process, to freedom of association and speech — across the country, is now beyond farce. There is not even the pretence of adhering to the weeping episodes. He has law, only a relentless determi- difficulty waking up early nation to erase all dissent his concentration. He has through whatever means can be conjured up to illegally deprive recalcitrant individuals of their liberty, and to silence

Consider the travails of lawyer and vocal critic of enforced disappearances, Imaan Hazir tions in primary care. The Mazari. Her 'original sin', a fiery speech made at a PTM rally in Islamabad, has been used oped by the Ministry of Planning, Development & to file three FIRs against her. She was first arrested on multiple charges, including sedition, rioting and dacoity, etc by law-enforcement personnel who reportedly barged into her residence in the early hours without an arrest warrant.

Granted post-arrest bail in one case, Ms Mazari was kept in custody until she obtained bail in the second one as well. Shortly after her release, she was rearrested outside the prison gates — this time on farfetched allegations of 'terror financing' — an arrest that her lawyer has claimed violated the and a scary demagogue by his detractors. There are Islamabad High Court's orders.

Outspoken PTM leader Ali least of which is the divide Wazir, arrested alongside Ms between those seeking ci-Mazari, is yet to be granted bail. The former South Waziristan MNA was an exception earlier for having been divide between those seekkept behind bars on various ing greater Islamization, according to their own sectarpretexts for over two years, in interpretations of Islam, despite being acquitted and erant homeland of Muslims granted bail several times. But run as a normal democracy. post May 9, there is a sinister predictability to the pattern of repeated incarceration at the veen the rich and the poor. street violence by the Patient of democracy as desirable. But it is important to repleasure of the authorities.

Ms Mazari's mother, former PTI MNA Shireen Mazari, was subjected to the same until she announced she was leaving her party. Many other PTI leaders — including Shehryar Afridi, arrested an outrageous 10 times — have been made to go through this 'revolving door imprisonment', which makes a mockery of the courts. Those turning their backs on the half years now, at least, the party 'won' their freedom.

While PTI's lawyers are preoccupied with defending Imran Khan, the legal troubles of rate volatility began in May other party leaders — not to 2021 and has continued unabated since then. The mention ordinary PTI supportdollar had moved around
150 to the rupee for two ers — are getting scant attention. Several of them are in the Less than 30 months later, security establishment's custody and facing trials in military courts.

The Punjab caretaker government informed the Lahore two and a half years for it High Court that the detainees to double again from May 2021 till the present. are not allowed to meet their families or legal counsel of slation as measured by the their choice. Are these foreign enemy agents or citizens of after May 2021, and rose Pakistan?

The flagrant abuse of power along the way. being witnessed today leaves Pakistan looking like a country virtually unmoored from the and a half years now, punctuated with brief moments universal principles of justice of what seems like stabilon which its Constitution and its international human rights over such a long period? obligations are based. One a simple exercise. This gets wonders whether the centres a bit technical, so let me of power are cognisant of how this affects the country's global standing. Or is that not a priority in these times? As for the caretakers, pleading helplessness is not an option. They called Net Domestic Assets are complicit.

Closing the mental health gap



Asma Humayun

"A 50-year-old man presented with myalgia, headache, loss of energy and appetite. He has lost seven kilograms in the last five months. He is sad with in the morning and has lost two handicapped children, ages seven and five, both completely blind. He is always thinking about them."

The case above was reported by a doctor in Lower Dir last week after being trained to identify common mental disorders and offer pharmacological and psychosocial interventraining is part of a comprehensive, evidence-based and scalable model devel-

tion with the health department, KP, and the International Medical Corps, over 50 primary care doctors and clinical psychologists have been trained in five districts across KP thus far. The trained staff is now connected to a web portal through a mobile applica-Peshawar, like other major tion, which allows them to confidentially send in data and seek supervision from experienced mental health

specialists.

Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) guidelines, is recommended by the World Health Organisation as a key strategy to integrate mental health at the primary healthcare level to overcome the gigantic treatment gap that exists in countries ike Pakistan. Consider: there are an

estimated 1.5 million people in Lower Dir. It is estimated that 300,000 (20 per cent) of them are likely to suffer from a common mental disorder. Like 26 other districts in KP, there is no qualified psychiatrist in Lower Dir. In a few of

these districts, there are either self-proclaimed psychiatrists with no formal qualification, or those with minimal qualification (diploma/MCPS) after one or two years of training at most, and practising mainly in the private sector. KP has 37 districts.

urban centres, has high specialist resources with at least a dozen qualified psychiatrists in the public sector and an even higher num-The intervention, deber in the private sector. signed to build the capac-Then there are nine other ity of healthcare providers districts that have a teachby implementing Mental ing hospital with at least two qualified psychiatrists. These districts can be said to have a moderate level of specialist resources. As far as clinical psychologists in the public sector are concerned, there are no posts teaching outside hospitals. The indigenous burden of mental disorders in KP is compounded by security-related conflicts, economic crisis and climate hazards. The districts of Chitral and Kurram, for instance, are a troubling example of where high rates of suicide have been reported. Some parts of the

problems for residents to safely commute for accessing healthcare. The recent chairlift scare in Battagram is likely to induce severe post-traumatic reactions for affected families. But with a severe dearth of specialist resources and no existing services for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) within the community, the only options for residents brave enough to seek help is to front the expenses and travel hundreds of miles for medical consultation in major cities, or resort to faith

and faith healers. It is not just the dearth of services but also the quality of care that is a concern. In our recent training workshops, it was evident that psychiatric practice, even in tertiary care hospitals, centres on a cursory biomedical approach. Án average consultation lasts a few minutes, followed by a prescription heavily dictated by irrational polypharmacy. As is the case in the rest of the country, a powerful pharmaceutical industry seems to be subsidising these worrying

cult terrain, which creates clinics, both in the public nabis and alcohol, neither tesy Dawn

and private sector, are overwhelmingly marked by throngs of despondent families, aspiring for scientific care but unlikely to get any. One example is the widespread practice of prescribbenzodiazepines

(sleeping tablets), which are highly addictive. There is no regulatory system to check these practices. A particularly worrying case is that of a well-established institution in the province which offers in-patient care to a large number of patients supervised by unqualified staff—the ethics of which is highly disputable. Across the province,

the concept of psychological care barely exists. International humanitarian agencies have been investing in MHPSS services over the last few decades. These initiatives are project-based and time-limited, thereby unable to sustain or create any meaningful impact. Psychologists serving in these projects face job insecurity and few opportunities for supervision to strengthen their skills. Despite an alarming rise in the use of illicit substances, including methamphetamine

doctors nor psychologists are equipped to respond with basic psychosocial interventions. Worryingly, this gap is steadily being filled by unreliable commercial, often criminal, detoxification services.

Our experience of working with primary care physicians in KP showed that, depending on their parent institution, their knowledge and skills about mental disorders varies greatly. It is also not uncommon to find doctors who have graduated from Russia, China or Afghanistan with limited clinical skills. This is particularly challenging, unless the role of psychiatrists in the teaching units is redefined.

The MHPSS plan by the MoPDSI is designed to offer evidence-based trainings on a large scale, provide ongoing supervision to the trained doctors and collect valuable relevant data. This can help change the landscape of mental healthcare in the province. To scale up this intervention, a strong coordinating mechanism is needed where all available resources can be utilised in Psychiatric outpatient crystals (ice), opioids, can- a meaningfulway. -- Cour-

Frand national bargain, anyone?



Husain Haqqani

Pakistan is dangerously polarized. Pakistanis are divided between supporters and opponents of a charismatic leader deemed a messiah by his followers other critical divisions within society as well, not vilian supremacy and those more accepting of an expanded role for the military.Moreover, there is a longstanding ideological and those aspiring for a tol-Ethnic cleavages between and within Pakistan's provinces have also existed for tarian control. After the as deeming the breakdown

Given these cleavages, how likely is it that Pakistan can maintain its already weak semblance of democratic order before the powers that be proclaim that the rules of the political game need to be rewritten?

The last time the country witnessed similar polarization was in 1977. Then, after the March 1977 general election, opponents of the incumbent prime minister, Zulfikar Åli Bhutto, took to the streets to demand his resignation amid assertions of election rigging. These protests escalated into a violent campaign for an Islamic government, which in turn led to the imposition of martial law by General Ziaul

General Zia built upon the demands in the street for 'Nizam-e-Mustafa' to rule the country for the next ten years claiming that he was Islamizing the country's legal it was his initial two or military role in politics. three years in power that might offer a key to underization threatens democstanding how political racy, even as it might add irreconciliation can actually lead to greater authori-

(PNA) had brought the country to a standstill for months, Zia argued that Pakistan needed breathing space without politics. In other words, the military was managing affairs of the state as a stop-gap arrangement so that the overheated political space could cool

Much has changed in

province comprise a diffi-

Pakistan since 1977, of course. Some might argue that what worked 46 years ago cannot work again. The media and social media environments are vastly different today, as is the national view of the military's role as the final arbiter of the country's destiny. But it is important to remember that chaos and polarization are not effective tools for keeping the military out of politics. If anything, the failure of civilian institutions to function for whatever reason, and the inability of politicians to compromise, paves the and political system. But way for a greater not lesser

> to a single politician's popularity, is not the same

maxim that describes democracy as a system wherein 'the majority has its way, and the minority gets its say.' If the majority has a tendency to be intolerant of the minority's right to have its say, as has often been the case in Pakistan, half of democracy's essence is denied. Once the minority figures out a way to deny the majority's right to have its way, the end of democracy arrives. Today. Pakistan seems to be witnessing both prongs of failure of democracy at work.

Democracy requires a civil opposition as much as a government limited by norms and rules, and Pakistan currently has neither. The judiciary is unable to resolve disputes because it is also polarized and has become politicized over the decades. Past experience suggests that recent developments have, at best, prolonged hybrid rule or, at worst, paved the way for another extra-constitutional intervention. Either way, the prospect of full democracy has been indefinitely postponed due to the polarized environ-

As a political system, democracy functions best

mind everyone of the old in an environment of com- nal truth) and Baatil (eterpromise and mutual respect. It requires adherence to the ethic of sport. Many parties and individuals contend for popular support, the winners form the government, and the losers sit in opposition, but only until the next round. Unfortunately, Pakistani politics functions under the ethic of war. One side sets out to vanquish the other and losers are seen as having no rights.

Democratic contestation for power should involve securing votes on the basis of contending policy ideas, not just appealing to sentiments of an emotive

If one side wants high taxes on the rich, for example, and the other seeks reduction in taxes across the board as a way of expanding economic activity, there is room for compromise and negotiation. But if political actors paint politics as a battle between good and evil, in which they represent good and the other side evil, then differences become irreconcilable.

The idea, drawn

nal falsehood) Pakistan's political sphere has made compromise impossible and has contributed to the diminished democratic space. But the current march to catastrophe is not inevitable. A grand national bargain, involving all political forces and the all-powerful army. could strengthen constitutional democracy.

The bargain would involve some consensus on three crucial areas – economics, foreign relations. and national security - and agreement on political rules of the game. Politicians would have to accede to working with one another instead of looking for covert deals to undermine each other.

The honourable gentleman/lady from the other side' would have to be the preferred mode of address within parliament, instead of 'traitor, 'crook,' 'thief,' or 'dacoit' at rallies.

Cooperation would have to replace confrontation and polarization. But will it happen soon enough to avoid the disasfrom religion, of political ter that awaits Pakistani confrontation being a democracy? -- Courtesy battle between Haq (eter-TheNews

Inflation and devaluation



Khurram Husain

For more than two and a country has been seeing relentless and unending pressure on the exchange rate and the price level. The present bout of exchange 2021 and has continued years until that month. its value doubled versus the rupee, and still the pressure is refusing to subside. It took 10 years for the dollar to double in value from 75 to 150 rupees, from 2008 till 2019. It took less than

As the same time, in-Consumer Price Index skvrocketed only a few months relentlessly till our time, with a few interruptions

The question to ask is: what is driving this relentless surge for almost two ity? Why this persistent surge in pressure on prices

To find the answer, do explain it first. Take the money supply projections contained in the IMF staff reports of April 2021, February 2022 and September 2022. Take the overall broad money supply, called M2, as well as the aggregates (NDA) and the Net Foreign Assets (NFA), and put the

projections into an excel sheet. Underneath each of these projections, take the data reported by the State Bank for the same period, and calculate the difference between reality and projec-

The projection represents the path to stability. It tells us how the money supply and its aggregates need to move in order for the mounting external sector pressures on the economy to be dissipated. The real figures, reported by the State Bank, tell you what actually happened in reality. The difference – reality minus the projection tells you how far the

economy moved from its

projected path to stability. When you do this exercise, you will notice something. Overall, broad money growth remains more or less within a narrow band of where it is supposed to be. So farso good. But notice how the compositional aggregates are moving relative to where they are supposed to be. The IMF projected a certain level of money supply growth in each staff report. But in its projections, the bulk of the growth was supposed to come from rising NFAs, with NDAs either growing slowly (as per the April 2021 projection) or contracting slightly (as per

the February 2022 projec-

In reality, the exact opposite happened. If you plot the difference (reality minus projection) you will notice that NFAs are falling sharply while NDAs are rising. This is the diametric opposite of what was envisioned in the projected path to stability. And this divergence not only continues in both periods covered by the April 2021 and February 2022 staff reports, it also aggravates. By the time of the September 2023 staff report, the difference between where we are supposed to be by programme end (Q4FY23)

and where we actually

were is so large that it is difficult to fathom how it is going to be rectified. Now, look at the staff

report for the latest Standby Arrangement. You will notice that the projections for the monetary aggregates do not even envision a path back to stability. All they do is arrest the deterioration. The previous three staff reports envisioned NFAs becoming positive within a quarter or two. In the SBA, they remain negative throughout the programme period. All that the government is being asked to do is to go into a holding pattern, arresting further deterioration in the money aggregates. This is the crux of the

matter. Serious malfunctions on the balance of payments and fiscal accounts are throwing the monetary aggregates far from their projected path to stability. This malignant movement in the monetary aggregates, in turn, is fuelling inflation and exchange rate pressure. Endless rounds of devaluation are failing to arrest or dissipate the pressure, because the underlying movements keep producing more pressure even after every devaluation. TIt will take years, but it can still be done. The State Bank will have to build reserves by starving the interbank market of dollars, while the state will have to mobilise a massive tax effort the likes of which it has not done in decades. Or a fresh exogenous event that results in a new shower of foreign exchange coming

upon us appears. In the meantime, to get a sense of where things are moving, keep an eye on the broad money, NFAs and NDAs as they shape up, and see whether they are trending towards or away from the projection in the SBA. And best of luck to everyone! The scale of what is coming should not be underestimated. -Courtesy Dawn



F.S. Aijazuddin

It began with Adam. John Milton blamed him for the world's woes in this fierv opening to his epic poem Paradise Lost: "Of Man's First Disobedience, and the Fruit/Of that Forbidden Tree, whose mortal taste/ Brought Death into the World, and all our woe.'

With woes, disobedience came with some compensating virtues. The playwright Oscar Wilde contended that "Disobedience ... is man's original virtue. It is through disobedience that progress has been made [,] and rebellion". A recent rebel — Ed-

ward Snowden of WikiLeaks fame — argued: "Sometimes to do the right thing, you have to break a law [.] You have to make sure that what you're risking, what you're bringing onto yourself, does not serve as a detriment to anyone else In Pakistan, disobedi-

ence is the fourth injunction, omitted from our national motto. Disobedience has become the new norm whether to the laws of God. to the Constitution, to man-made laws, Rules of Business, or to the orders of a superior.

In October 2021, the then chief of army staff Gen Oamar Bajwa announced the transfer of Gen Faiz Hameed from the post of DG ISI to commander Peshawar Corps. The appointment was notified by the ISPR on Oct 6 (No PR-165/2021-ISPR). Prime minister Imran Khan (it is said at the transferee's behest) held the COAS's order in abevance. Six weeks later, in November, Gen

Hameed obeyed his chief's orders and left the ISI. To some, such independence of action constituted disobedience to a higher institutional authority.

On disobedience

principal secretary to the president, Waqar Ahmed, questioned the orders signed by his employer for reversion to the Establishment Division. The dislodged principal secretary retaliated with a confidential letter, which, though marked 'For the Eyes of the President', somehow leaked into the media. In it, he complained: "The decision to surrender my services isn't based on justice." He urged the president to 'initiate an investigation into the matter through the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) or any relevant agency to uncover any misconduct", adding, with misplaced bravado, that he was "prepared to testify before the Supreme Court or any other court".

As if that disobedience was not bitter enough for the beleaguered president, Ms Humaira Ahmad, identified by the president as the replacement principal secretary, declined his offer even before orders for her transfer had been processed. President Arif Alvi will complete his five-year term on Sept 9, 2023. All too conscious of the shelf life of his constitutional powers, he invited the chief election commissioner, Sikandar Sultan Raja, to meet him for consultation on the next election date. The CEC declined, fobbing him off with the humiliating rebuff that in his "considered view, participation in the meeting would be of scant consequence".

However, the CEC did find the time the following day to meet the US ambassador Donald Blome to hear him pontificate on "the United States' support for free and fair elections conducted in accordance with Pakistan's laws and Constitution". Perhaps His Excel-

lency detects a faint pulse in our Constitution and something still twitching in the laws of Pakistan that the Pakistani public no longer discerns. For them, More recently, the the Constitution is no more than a perforated filigree of a once noble intent. Our laws, after 76 years of abuse and misuse, have become a discoloured Rubik's cube, manipulated by legislators, politicians and lawyers alike to yield mean-

ings of their choice. Disobedience is now endemic in Pakistan. Traffic rules are disobeyed. Tax laws are disobeyed. Jail manuals are disobeyed. Rules of Business are disobeyed. Orders in civilian ink and military khaki are disobeyed. Judicial orders, even up to the eminence of the Supreme Court, are disobeyed. And now, we see the tra-vesty of our president — the constitutional symbol of 240 million Pakis-tanis — reduced to the level of an ineffective supplicant, like "an old Arab prematurely blind, whom the caravan has left behind". Two hundred and fifty years ago, in April 1774, the British parliamentarian Edmund Burke warned his myopic colleagues in Westminster: "Reflect how you are to govern a people, who think they ought to be free [.] Your scheme ... yields nothing but discontent, disorder, disobedience"

In today's stygian gloom, where churches are desecrated, the homes of our Christian brethren torched and Bibles burned, it might serve as a palliative to recall St Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians in the New Testament: "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience." Those who arrogate to themselves control of the destiny of 240m Pakistanis should not ignore these words. They do so — at our peril. -Courtesy Dawn

Madad terms quality education key to development of nation

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi, on Thursday, terming quality education as key to the develor. opment of any nation assured that the government will take every possible measure to further enhance the quality of teaching and research in universities.

The federal minister was chairing a meeting with vicechancellors of public sector universities of Sindh at the Higher Education Commission's Regional Office Karachi. Chairman HEC Dr Mukhtar Ahmed was also present at the occasion.

In the brainstorming session on the improvement of the quality of higher education, vice chancellors of universities spoke in length on the performance of their universities, financial and other issues being faced and measures taken to deal with them and also presented suggestions for enhancement of quality of teaching and research in the higher education institutions.

Madad Ali Sindhi, addressing the occasion said that Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar has directed him to visit educational institutions to look into their issues and take measures for their resolution.

The minister said that he had conducted visits to schools in Islamabad and issued directives for resolving issues and now he was having a meeting with vice-chancellors of universities of Sindh.

All the issues including quality of education and shortage of resources were discussed in detail in the meeting

Inviting suggestions from the vice-chancellors for improvements in higher education institutions, he said that universities were the highest places of learning and it was his basic responsibility to resolve the issues being confronted by them.

Chairman HEC, speaking at the occasion, said that universities in the country had complete autonomy in administrative and educational affairs but concepts of responsibility and accountability were also attached to it. HEC is responsible for setting and ensuring minimum standards for education and research in higher education institutes and providing guidance and resources for the purpose while it was also ensured that universities get their share in resources on the basis of prescribed criteria.

He said that universities could forward their recommendations for updating the curriculum and HEC would extend cooperation in this regard.

Vice-chancellors of different universities suggested that measures should be taken for the training of newly inducted teachers, improving teaching methodology, starting foundation semester for new students, establishing academia-industry linkage, focusing on ethical education. technology transfer, exchange programs of academia and scholars with foreign universities and preventing external pressures on university administration.



KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi chairing a meeting with vice chancellors of public sector universities of Sindh at Higher Education Commission's

Sheikh Saad Nomani performs Qirat at **Governor's House**

LAHORE (APP): Sheikh Saad Nomani, the miracle reciter of the Holy Quran from Madina, performed Oirat (recitation of the Holy Ouran) at the historic Darbar Hall of the Governor's House, here on Thursday.

Visiting Lahore on the invitation of Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman, Sheikh Saad Nomani is of Pakistani descent and lives in the Holy city of Madina where he teaches at the Masjid-e-Nabvi. He has the unique ability to render recitation in the manner of 99 world

renowned qaris. Sheikh Qari Saad Nomani recited Holy Quran in the manner of different Qurra at the Darbar Hall and mesmerized the audience with his miraculous recitation of the Quran. The audience listened to the qiraat with rapt attention.

fairs and Human Rights

Muhammad Umar Soomro has said that a summary

would be moved soon to the

Caretaker Sindh Chief

Minister for live streaming

of the proceedings of all

streamline the court pro-

ceedings with detailed in-

formation of the cases be-

ing heard in all courts of the

province, he said while ad-

dressing a ceremony orga-

nized by District Bar As-

sociation Hyderabad here

the main objective of run-

ning court proceedings

online was to resolve the

problems of litigants at the

earliest and save precious

He said that the Sindh

Government was trying its

best to resolve genuine is-

The minister said that

on Thursday.

time for lawyers.

The move would help

courts of the province.

Qari Ahmed Mian Thanvi, Hafiz Abdul Wahab Muhammad Umer Makki, Mufti Intikhab Alam Nooru, former MPA Majid Zahoor, renowned Qurra and Naat Khawan were conspicuous among the au-

The Governor Punjab welcomed Sheikh Qari Saad Nomani to the corridors of Governor's House, adding his presence was a moment of honor and blessedness.

Sheikh Saad Nomani stressed the need to introduce Quranic education to the children at an early age, adding that Quran is the path to success and redemption in this world and the life hereafter.

Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman presented souvenirs to Sheikh Qari Saad Nomani at the end of the ceremony.

run court proceedings ami

nounced the provision of

books and laptops to the

lawyers of Hyderabad.

About the issues being

faced by the lawyers com-

munity, the minister as-

sured that all genuine issues

will be resolved on prior-

ity. Earlier, the President of the District Bar Associa-

tion Khuda Bux Leghari,

Naeem Ahmed Qureshi and

other office bearers warmly

welcomed the honourable

guest and presented him

with traditional gifts of

pressed gratitude to the

minister who graced the event as a chief guest and

said that the Law Minister

was not only his mentor

but a trendsetter personal-

Khuda Bux Leghari ex-

Topi and Ajrak.

Umar Soomro also an-

Summary for live streaming

of court proceedings to be

moved to CM: Law minister

HYDERABAD (APP): sues of the lawyer frater-

Provincial Caretaker Min- nity and providing facilities

ister for Law, Religious Af- to them so that they could

PRCS provides cash assistance to landslide victims of Muzaffarabad

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): Following the tragic incident of a landslide in Damishi Abhiyal, Muzaffarabad district, the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) once again showcased its unwavering dedication to promptly assisting and aiding those affected

Following the directions from Chairman PRCS Sardar Shahid Ahmed Muhammad Laghari, Ubaidullah Khan, the Secretary General of PRCS, presented a cheque amounting to PKR 760,000 to Mr. Ejaz Raza, Chairman PRCS AJK Chapter, to provide assistance to the victims and their families.

In light of this, a sum of PKR 40,000 per family will be distributed among the 19 householders from the impacted community. These funds are intended to support the victims in recovering and rebuilding their lives and homes after the devastating incident in

Damishi Abhiyal. Speaking on the occasion Chairman of Pakistan

Red Crescent Society National Headquarters Islamabad Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari Said that PRCS will continue its support to the most vulnerable segment of societies without any discrimination.

Moreover, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari also expressed deep sorrow over the losses caused by the landslide tragedy and also assured that the National Headquarters Islamabad will continue to provide full support to the Azad Kashmir branch and other branches so that, immediate and timely assistance can be provided to the victims as a result of any disaster throughout Paki-

"PRCS remains dedicated to its humanitarian mission, providing assistance and relief during times of crisis, and ensuring that no one is left without support", added Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari.

The Chairman PRCS AJK Chapter extends heartfelt gratitude to the National Headquarters

Islamabad and Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari for their invaluable support in aiding the victims of the devastating land sliding incident.

The Chairman PRCS AJK acknowledges the unity and collaborative effort that underline the mission of PRCS in alleviating human suffering and helping communities rebuild.

Previously recognizing the distress faced by families due to this tragedy, Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari directed immediate measures to extend aid to the affected community

It's important to note that the unfortunate landslide incident at Union Council Patreend resulted in the complete destruction of 12 houses and partial damage to 7 houses. Additionally, over a hundred people were displaced.

In response, PRCS NHQ promptly dispatched relief supplies to assist the affected families.



KARACHI: Malaysian Counsel General in Karachi Herman Hardynata Ahmad cuts the cake along with others during event to mark the 66th National Day of Malaysia, in Provincial Capital.

LAHORE: Punjab Governor, Muhammad Balighur Rehman presenting gifts to Pakistani-born renowned reciter of Holy Quran and teacher (Madris) at Masjid Nabawi (PBUH) Al-Sheikh Qari Saad Nomani after a meeting at Governor House

Minister launches tour packages for families

for Tourism, Museum, and which would cost Rs 3000 Archaeology, Syed Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel here per person, Takht Bahi has also arranged various which would cost Rs 1000 recreational events includ-Thursday launched tour packages under Khyber Paakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority for families and females.

Planning KPCTA, Hayat Ali Shah, GM Culture, Sajjad Hameed and Commandant

per person and Khanpur Lake Tour would cost Rs 3500 per person.

Addressing the ceremony, the minister said

He appreciated the efforts of KPCTA to promote General that KPCTA would also tourism and facilitate visi-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cul- start a bus service enabling tors and said that the hosture and Tourism Authority tourists to visit and enjoy pitality of KP people in (KPCTA), Barkatullah the beauty of famous tour-well known in the world. Marwat, General Manager ist destinations of KP and He also highlighted the historic places of Peshawar City. He said that the city tour would include visit of

PESHAWAR (APP): Pro-vincial Caretaker Minister ages include the City Tour places. Ghatri and other famous places. He said that KPCTA

recreational events including paragliding, boating, and jet skiing for visitors on Khanpur Lake.

steps of KPCTA to boost tourism and said that the government would provide

May-9 cases: **ATC** extends physical remand of 86 PTI leaders, workers

LAHORE (APP): An antiterrorism court (ATC) on Thursday extended physical remand of Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) leaders and workers for another five days in two cases related to May-9 violence, after the addition of new offences.

Earlier, the police produced 77 accused, including former MNA Aalia Hamza, fashion designer Khadija Shah, Sanam Javed and Tayyaba Ambreen, before ATC Judge Abher Gul Khan on expiry of their fresh physical remand following the addition of new offences in a case of attacking the Jinnah House (the corps commander's house in Lahore). The investigation officer requested the court to extend the physical remand of the accused as investigation related to new

offences

in the Capital of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

MUZAFFERABAD: People burn tyer during pro-

test by Awami Action Committee against unjust price hike of electricity and unbearable inflation

Police arrests four suspects, narcotics recovered

HYDERABAD (APP) The Hyderabad police arrested Four suspects in various raids, seized narcot ics, and banned cancer-causing tobacco chew from their

The police spokesper son informed on Thursday that Baldia police apprehended Muhammad Khan Koree and Asad Ali Somroo from Ghummanabad, seizing 20 liters of raw liquor.

In another operation Shafi Muhammad Magsi, a suspect near Nana Baba graveyard, was arrested and 200 packets of Indian gutka 130 packets of mainpuri were confiscated. However, the suspect's two accomplices Javed Magsi and Rizwan Magsi

managed to escape.

Moreover, Canton ment police arrested a suspect Ali Nawaz on charges of selling hashish.

Chairman MTI Policy Board visits KTH

PESHAWAR (APP): Medical Teaching Institute (MTI) Policy Board Chairman, Prof. Dr. Zia-ul-Islam on Thursday visited Khyber Teaching Hospital (KTH) Peshawar and attended a meeting about the institution's current infrastructural and human

by Prof. Dr. Azer Rashid, KP Policy Board Member. Chairman Board of Governors (BoG) KTH, Prof. Dr. Nadeem Khawar welcomed him and highlighted the current infrastructural and human

The meeting was also attended by Management Dean KMC, Prof. Dr. Mahmud Aurangzeb, Dean Khyber College of Dentistry (KCD) Prof. Dr. Syed Nasir Shah, Prof. Dr.

Muhammad Ayaz Khan,

Chairman BoG KTH gave a briefing regarding key milestones including a Strategic Plan of five years from 2021 to 2025, Employee Service Regulation 2022, Grading Structure, Clinical and Non-Clinical Department Policies, Faculty Rationalization, Development of Sub-Specialties, Renovation of

He also shed light on the enhancement of the Research and Learning Culture of KMC and KCD. He said that a new OPD building to facilitate about 3000 patients on a daily basis has

Governor condoles PID Dera role for over demise of disseminating accurate information lauded

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali Thursday expressed profound grief and sorrow over the demise of senior journalist, founder and Chief Editor of Daily Sarhad, Hafeez Ulfat. In his condolence mes-

sage, the governor expressed sympathy and solidarity with members of the bereaved family. The governor prayed

Hafeez Ulfat

for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage for the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss with for-

CEO KP-EZDMC inaugurates tree plantation drive in Hattar

PESHAWAR (APP): The Chief Executive Officer

Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC), Javed Igbal Khattak Thursday inaugurated tree plantation drives in Hattar Economic Zone and Hattar Special Economic Zone (SEZ). More than 500 saplings have already been planted so far in the plantation drive in both zones. The CEO also inaugu-

rated the information desk in Hattar EZ in collaboration with the University of Haripur for the development of linkages between academia and industry, accompanied by Chief Zones Management (CZM), Fakhar-e-Alam Sahibzada and Chief General Operations (CGO).

DERA ISMAIL KHAN He was of the view (APP): Vice Chancellor that accurate information Gomal University Profesand proper awareness sor Dr Shakibullah on about development Thursday lauded the role of projects and services of the Press Information Destate institutions helped partment (PID) Regional Office, here, for disseminating accurate and timely information to the masses. During his visit, the VC

took around different sections of the PID where he was briefed about its role and other relevant matters In-charge PID mmad Fazlur by In-cha Muhammad Rehman. Speaking on the occa-

sion, he said that the re-vival of the PID office was a welcome initiative for the journalists of Dera Ismail Khan, Tank, South Waziristan, Lakki Marwat and Bannu districts besides local newspapers operating in those areas to get timely information and news about public welfare projects of the government.

promote an atmosphere of trust between the government and the masses which was a key to achieving progress on this front, he added. General Secretary of Dera Press Club Iqbal Bhatti, Senior Journalist Mohammad Rehan and Public Relation Officer

Gomal University Raja

Alam Zaib were also

present on the occasion. Professor Shakibullah said that it was a matter of pride and heartening that a number of Gomal University graduates had proved their mettle through hard work, dedication and competency, effectively contributing their valuable services in various departments in the country and abroad.



THATA: Villagers of Coastal belt near Keti bandar district Thatta sits with tool kits and NFIs kits, during distribution of Emergency kits for survival in disaster, by Welfare Foundation with collaboration with IOM (International Organization for Migration, a part of UN).

Sethi House, Namak all the needed assistance Tourism Police were also present at the inaugurating Mandi, Museum, Ghor and cooperation to visitors

MULTAN: View of business activities seen closed while market gives desert look during the shutter down strike called by trader community against inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills, in Multan.

'Encroachments a serious problem in Karachi'; says Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that encroachments are a serious problem in Karachi and KMC is also affected by it.

The land department has been directed to take action against people wherever they are occupying KMC land without legal documents and KMC is not getting revenue from that place, he said this while presiding over a meeting of Land Department officials on Thursday.

On this occasion, Municipal Commissioner Syed Afzal Zaidi and Mayor used for washing area.

Karachi's spokesperson for Political Affairs Karamullah Waqasi were also present. Mayor Karachi Barris-

ter Murtaza Wahab said that all the records related to the acquisition of lease and revenue recovery have been brought from the land department. According to the preliminary information, the most important information has been found regarding Cattle Colony Landhi, where about seven hundred and fifty or eight hundred acres of land belongs to Cattle Colony and about 250 acres of land is

Tourism Bus Tours launched to boost tourism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Minister for Information and Tourism, Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah KakaKhel Thursday said that efforts were underway to enhance tourism in the province, focusing on improving the security situation. He made these remarks during the inauguration of the Tourism

Bus Tour service. He mentioned that tours of Peshawar, Khanpur Dam, and Takht-e-Bhai had commenced, allowing tourists to explore various attractions

via a tour bus. The cost of the Peshawar city tour is Rs 32,000, Takht-e-Bhai is Rs 1,000, and Khanpur Dam is Rs 3,500. The minister also highlighted the historical significance of Peshawar and the ongoing work to attract tourists by preserving Buddhist sites and ancient relics. The government also focused on addressing issues related to inflation, petrol prices, and electricity bills through discussions held with the federal government for funding allocation.

resource development.

He was accompanied institution's resource development.

Medical Director and Dr. Zafar Afridi Hospital Director, Nursing Director, Asmat Pasha and Director Finance, Abdul Waheed.

Stories Building at

been developed

Dr Umar Saif unveils \$10bln IT exports plan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr Umar Saif on Thursday unveiled the roadmap to achieve the annual target of \$10 billion IT exports through four major

Speaking as a chief guest at the 23rd ITCN Asia 2023 "Declaring Pakistan The Regional ICT Hub," he said the annual IT export could be increased to \$3.5 billion from the present level of \$2.6 billion by providing confidence to the IT companies to retain their exports income in special accounts of local banks.

Special forex accounts and online banking platforms were necessary for the IT companies to invest in the core infrastructure for purchasing essential software services and hardware equipment, he added.

The minister said the ministry, through a partnership with the private sector, would train 100,000 software developers to enhance the exports by \$2 billion per annum, which would translate the export values to \$5.5 billion. In that regard, he said, various training programmes and boot camps would be organized to build the capacity of university graduates in accordance with in-demand skills of the IT industry.

The training initiative would even provide jobs to thousands of graduates in the country who would support themselves and their families, he added.

Presently, our higher educational institutes produce 35,000 to 40,000 graduates every year in different disciplines, and merely 10 percent are employable

Dr Umar Saif further said that Pakistanis were the second largest online workforce community in the world, however, revenues earned by them were reflected in remittances of overseas Pakistanis because of the unavailability of the international payment gateway, Paypal.

The facilitation of freelancers through a global pay-

ment gateway and easy account facility would also enhance exports by another \$2 billion, he added.

The freelancers, he said, were being empowered with training in different skills, but an ecosystem and workstations were equally vital for them to enhance their contribution to exports of IT and IT-enabled services.

He said the government, in collaboration with the private sector, would create space on 5,000 points in different cities for freelancers.

'Besides, the tax rate on the income of freelancers is extremely high, which should be equalized to the tax rate of the IT industry at 0.25%. Hence, the rising trend of the Gig economy can also be facilitated in Pakistan.

Regarding the telecom sector, the minister vowed the launch of 5G technology which would be made possible through the auction of 300 MHz in consultation with all stakeholders. Also, the capacity of the spectrum would also be increased to double from the present level to meet the demand of the customers, he added.

Dr Umar Saif said a special financing facility should be proposed for mobile phone manufacturers to enhance the production of mobile phone handsets with enhanced



KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif along with others cutting ribbon at the opening of "ITCN Asia 2023", International IT & Telecom Show at Expo Centre.



FAISALABAD: A view of the hustle of bikers at fuel station after the news of the price hike of petroleum products in City.

Rupee sheds Rs1.09 against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Thursday witnessed a Rs1.09 dévaluation against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs305.53 against the previous day's closing of Rs304.44.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs322 and Rs325 respec-

The price of the Euro increased by Rs1.93 paisa to close at Rs 332.70 against the last day's closing of Rs330.77, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen went up by 02 paisa and stood at Rs2.09, whereas an increase of Rs3.14 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs387.97 as compared to the last closing of Rs384.83.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 30 paisa each to close at Rs83.18 and Rs81.45 respectively.



Commerce & Industry (FCCI) Dr. Khurram Tariq addressing a press conference at FCCI Complex.

SECP holds a roundtable on strategic direction of insurance sector of Pakistan

The Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) organized a roundtable to firm up the strategic direction of the Insurance Sector of Pakistan with the chairpersons of the boards and chief executive officers (CEOs) of all insurance companies.

The session was titled "Journey to an insured Pakistan", said a press release issued here on Thursday.

The roundtable was a single-day event, divided into two sessions i.e. one with the professionals of non-life industry and the other with the professionals of life industry.

The roundtable was aimed at fostering an open and collaborative environment between stakeholders to work together to shape the future of the insurance

SECP Chairman, Akif Saeed in his welcome address highlighted the importance of the strategic plans to improve insurance penetration in Pakistan and cited

ISLAMABAD (APP): international models where successful execution of longterm strategies steered the insurance sector's growth, adaptability, and responsiveness to evolving needs and market conditions.

Furthermore, while underscoring the potential of insurance in Pakistan, he also pointed to the importance of the creation of a shared strategic direction to overcome the underlying challenges. Caretaker Minister for Finance Shamshad Akhtar being a chief guest at the event appreciated the efforts of the SECP in initiating the formulation of the five-year roadmap.

She emphasized the importance and role of insurance in Pakistan, a country prone to natural disasters and societal vulnerabilities. She also highlighted the role of the insurance sector in propelling economic growth by channelling funds into productive ventures, contributing to job creation, promoting longterm financial planning and supporting debt and capi-

APTMA to volve strategies for boosting trade volume

ISLAMABAD (APP): All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) on Thursday deliberated on strategies to enhance trade opportunities for the textile sector.

In a significant move to address the challenges faced by Pakistan's textile industry, the APTA delegation, led by its chairman, held a meeting with Dr Gohar Ejaz, the Caretaker Federal Minister for press release issued here. During the meeting, the delegation engaged in a comprehensive discussion with the minister regarding the critical issues plaguing the textile indus-

One of the major issues highlighted by the delegation was the energy tariff, which they emphasized should be regionally competitive to ensure the sustainable operation of textile mills and to effectively compete in the global market. The discussion also centred on finding viable solutions to propel the textile industry towards its optimal potential.

In response, Dr Gohar Eiaz. the Caretaker Federal Minister, expressed his keen interest in practical solutions that could boost trade volume within the textile sector.

Saqib Rafiq appointed Chairman **RWMC**

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Caretaker Cabinet of the Punjab Government with the approval of the Election Commission of Pakistan appointed President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) Saqib Rafiq Chairman of Rawalpindi Waste Management Company

According to RCCI spokesman, the appointment had been made for three years.

As per the notification the non-executive board members are Danyal Chaudhry, Raja Abdul Hanif, Zia Ullah Shah. Abdul Basit Javed and Shahram Bin Shahzad.



President & CEO of Mobilink Bank Ghazanfar Azaam and Chief Branch Manager Mobilink Bank Attaur Rehman signing MoUs different departments for provision of special discount to their customers and employees.

Tahir Bhatti takes charge as ZTBL President

ISLAMABAD (APP): Tahir Yaqoob Bhatti on Thursday took over as President/Chief Executive Officer of Zarai Taraqiati Bank Ltd (ZTBL).

Tahir Bhatti is a high profile healer with own si

profile banker with experience of over 35 years in almost all major areas of banking with large and mid-tier financial institutions, according to news release. He has been part of se-

nior management teams of Askari Bank, Allied Bank Ltd and Faysal Bank. Prior to joining ZTBL,

Bhatti served as President/ CEO of Punjab Provincial Cooperative Bank Ltd, the oldest financial institution in country dealing in agri-Bhatti is an MBA from

Institute of Business Administration (IBA) Lahore and M.Com from Hailey College of Commerce Lahore. He is also a qualified DCMA (Gold Medal-



tor from IBA Karachi and remained on Board of Faysal Asset Management Ltd, ABL Asset Management and Board of Studies of Punjab University for Commerce education.

During his illustrious banking career, Bhatti got various professional trainings and courses, both local and international, with top-notched institutions, including 'High Impact Leadership Program' at Columbia Business School, New York, USA

PFC delegation left for Russia to explore investment opportunities

ISLAMABAD (APP): A tween two great nations. high-level delegation of Pa-Commerce and Industries and Production, said a (PFC) led by its Chief Ex-both the Russian and Pakiecutive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq Thursday left for Russia with the primary objective of exploring investment opportunities, fostering joint ventures and collaboration within the furniture industry.

In a press statement CEO PFC said that the council is a representative body of the country's vibrant furniture sector, and has taken this initiative with the intention of promoting economic collaboration and mutual growth be-

Recognizing stani furniture industries this delegation seeks to facilitate partnerships that will not only enhance trade

but also foster cultural ex-

change and strengthen the

enduring friendship be-

tween Pakistan and Russia.

diplomatic ties that bind both countries, he added. He said as we move forward, he believes that such collaborative efforts will not only contribute to the economic well-being of both countries but will also act as a testament to the



Baigh expressing his views regarding electricity bills, taxes and problems faced by business community and masses.

Pakistan-KSA affirm strong bilateral trade ties, mutual cooperation pointment and conveyed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ambassador of Saudi Arabia in Pakistan Nawaf Saeed Al-Malikey met the Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce and Industries and Production, Dr. Gohar Ejaz here on Thurs-

Both the dignitaries affirmed strong bilateral trade, ties and mutual cooperation between the two brotherly countries, according to a press release issued here.

During the meeting, Ambassador Nawaf extended congratulations to Dr Gohar on his recent ap-

warm regards from Saudi Arabia's Custodian of Two Holy Mosques and Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Dr Gohar discussed the

strong historical ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, expressing gratitude for Saudi Arabia's consistent support of Pakistan's economic stability and

The minister com-nded the Saudi mended leadership's visionary approach and assured Ambassador Nawaf of Pakistan's unwavering partnership and

The Ambassador emphasized the fraternal bond between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, characterized by mutual trust and cooperation on various bilateral and regional matters of common concern.

The Ambassador also praised the Minister's efforts to enhance the country's trade prospects.

The meeting also saw the Minister welcoming Ambassador Nawaf to Commerce, where a souvenir was presented as a gesture of goodwill.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali addressing during his visit to FPCCI Regional Office.

Gold rates increase by Rs.3,400 to Rs 239,800 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.3,400 on Thursday and was sold at Rs.239,800 as compared to its sale at Rs. 235,400 the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.2,915 to Rs.205,590 from Rs. 202,675 whereas the rate of 10 gram 22 karat went up to Rs.188,457 from Rs. 185,785, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price per tola silver increased by Rs.50 and was sold at Rs.2,900 whereas that of ten gram silver went up by Rs.42.87 to Rs.2,486.28.

The price of gold in the international market, however, increased by \$7 to \$1,945 from \$1,938, the Association reported.

ICCI calls for focusing on agriculture sector to boost its exports to over USD 10 billion ISLAMABAD (APP): ing to a delegation of the

President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari on Thursday said that despite being an agricultural country, Pakistan had to import agricultural commodities worth over USD 5 billion per an-

However, by focusing on better development of the sector, Pakistan can increase the exports of the agricultural sector by over USD 10 billion per annum, which will help revive the economy He said that the Fruits

& Vegetable Market of Islamabad was located at an important place as it supplied fruits & vegetables to twin cities, KPK, Azad Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan and many other areas.

develop the market on modern lines that would help promote business activities and exports of this

He said this while talk-

Market Committee of I-11/ 4 Fruits and Vegetables Market that visited ICCI led by its Chairman Sajid Abbasi.

Safdar Siddique Vice Chairman, Naeem Azam Khan, Agha Siraj Durrani, Ch. Ilyas, Sohail Chaudhry and others were in the del-Ahsan Bakhtawari

briefed the Chairman Market Committee about the key issues of the traders of Fruits & Vegetable Market, I-11/4, Islamabad and stressed for their early so-

Speaking on the occasion, Sajjid Abbasi, Chairman, Market Committee, Fruits & Vegetables Market said that he was a public representative and the Market Committee would The president urged to be used in the best interests of the people and the traders. He said that all possible efforts would be made for the better development of the fruits & veg-

Experts stress long-term structural reforms for sustainable energy pricing

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's current electricity and energy crisis stems from structural inadequacies, and prioritization of short-term relief blinding remedial measures for the root causes, experts on Thursday agreed at seminar titled "From Conundrum to Catastrophe: Understand-

ing the Dynamics of Elec-

tricity Price Increase".

The seminar was organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Pakistan Renewable Energy Coalition here to deliberate solutions for the energy pricing crisis in the country.

Speaking at the session, Dr Khaqan Najeeb, stressed on addressing immediate challenges and supplementing the core challenges in energy sector with longterm policies, said a press release issued here.

He emphasized that indigenous gas resources ating clean energy transition could help stabilize energy prices as a medium-term

solution. He further said re-pro-

filing Pakistan's public debt, including debts related to Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to address IMF demands and involving experts in negotiations and policy formation.

Dr Khalid Waleed, Research Fellow SDPI, highlighted that over 45% of electricity went to residential needs, highlighting high consumption for unproductive tasks and stressed on boosting share of industries for efficient power

He said that balancing the shock of current electricity price hikes demanded a holistic strategy which must include timely meter readings, granting targeted subsidies through BISP and removing subsidies, Demand-side management including and simplifying government charges in

He stressed on accelerand Just Energy Transition Partnerships, addressing transmission system inadequacies, cultivating responsible consumption behavior and integrated policy approaches as long-term solutions. Sadia Dada, Chief Mar-

keting and Communications

Officer, K-Electric remarked that subsidies in electricity had significantly contributed to the prevailing crisis and balancing energy prices was pivotal. She urged that FBR to redirect tax net aim toward

retailers rather than electricity consumers to alleviate the burden on low-income consumers.

The focus should be on gradual subsidy reform for fiscal prudence, broadening the tax base beyond energy consumer, and targeted resource allocation as multifaceted approach to ensure sustainable energy pricing and equitable relief for all sectors of society.

Dr. Fiaz Chaudhry, Director LUMS Energy Institute mentioned that a major reason behind Pakistan's current energy crisis was constant capacity addition, contributing to the capacity payment crisis.

He further mentioned that energy efficiency and demand side management had been lacking in the policy landscape of Pakistan, which could have provided a short-term relief.

Osama Rizvi urged the government to adopt measures to safeguard against the global energy inflation crisis. He suggested adoption

of hedging against inflationary and external shocks, expanding the country's strategic energy storage capacity, energy import substitution and boosting refinery capacity.

Senior Research Economist PIDE, Afia Malik stressed ensuring transparency in government charges by introducing linear tariffs and taxes, allocating targeted subsidies as social protection. and phasing out cross-sectoral subsidies.

In parallel, she proposed structural reforms advocating for empowering DESCOs via inclusive poli-

cies, fostering stakeholder collaboration, and bolstering financial viability of DESCOs through Stock Exchange listing.
Mustafa Amjad, Pro-

gram Manager, Renewables

First highlighted that the

government could save rupees 8.6 billion by optimizing energy projects. He added that strengthening collaboration between

DESCOs and CPPA could ensure affordable energy. The government must also incentivize of phase-

out fossil fuel energy projects and modernizing transmission to resolve current energy pricing Ubaid ur Rehman Zia, Lead Energy Unit, SDPI

highlighted that one of the reasons behind this hike in electricity prices was conditionality of International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s stand-by arrangement program which called for financial stability of the energy sector through rationalization of tariff and removal

according to the industry

consultant, estimates Iran's

oil production increased in

August to 3.15 million bar-

rels per day (bpd), the high-

est since 2018, with crude

oil and condensate exports

recover its pre-sanctions oil production," said SVB's Sara Vakhshouri.

contacted by Reuters had

in talks with Iran over a

potential agreement in

which five U.S. citizens

would be released by Iran

and \$6 billion in Iranian

funds in South Korea would

be unfrozen. White House

National Security Adviser

Jake Sullivan has declined

similar estimates

"Iran is on the path to

Three other trackers

The United States is

at just under 2 million bpd.

SVB International, a

Iran's oil output,

exports rise as

Washington, Tehran talk

put and exports jumped in

August despite U.S. sanc-

tions, according to consult-

ants and companies that

track tanker shipments, as

Tehran sells to buyers in-

higher exports appear to be

the result of Iran's success

in evading U.S. sanctions

and Washington's discre-

tion in enforcing them as the

two countries seek better

sought to limit Iran's oil

exports since Donald

Trump exited a 2015

nuclear accord in 2018 and

re-imposed sanctions aimed

at curbing revenues to Iran's

government. But the ex-

ports have risen during

President Joe Biden's term,

Monitoring Desk

UNITED NATIONS: The

United Nations Security

Council voted on Thursday

to extend a long-running

The U.N. Interim

Force in Lebanon

(UNIFIL) - established in

1978 - patrols Lebanon's

southern border with Israel.

The mandate for the opera-

tion is renewed annually,

and its current authoriza-

tion was due to expire on

with China a top buyer, to offer a timeline on a deal.

France, US compromise

to renew UN peacekeeping

mission in Lebanon

The United States has

Analysts said the

cluding China.

US approves first arms to Taiwan under foreign aid programme

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden's administration has for the first time approved direct US military aid to Taiwan unassistance der an programme aimed at foreign governments, officials said on Wednesday, as worries grow over China.

The State Department informed Congress on Tuesday of the \$80 million package, which is small compared with recent sales to Taiwan but marks the first assistance to Taipei under the Foreign Military Financing programme, which generally involves grants or loans to sovereign coun-

The move is sure to anger China. For five decades, the United States has officially recognised only Beijing although Congress, under the Taiwan Relations Act, re-

quires the supply of weap-ons to the self-governing democracy for its defense.

Successive US administrations have done so through sales rather than direct aid to Taiwan, with formal statements speaking in the tone of business transactions with the island's de-facto embassy in Washington. The State Department insisted that the first-ever aid under the programme did not imply any recognition of the sovereignty of Taiwan.

Consistent with the Taiwan Relations Act and our longstanding One China policy, which has not changed, the United States makes available to Taiwan defense articles and services necessary to enable it to maintain a sufficient selfdefense capability," a State Department spokesperson

said. "The United States has

Group of Chinese nationals arrested on suspicion of running an online love

scam syndicate that ensnared hundreds of victims in China, in Indonesia's

going through a serious in-

stitutional, political, eco-

according to the statement

ficer flanked by a group of a

dozen army colonels, mem-

bers of the elite Republican

Guard, regular soldiers and

others. The elections and

not meet the conditions for

a transparent, credible and

inclusive ballot so much

hoped for by the people of

Gabon", the statement said.

sponsible and unpredict-

able governance, resulting in

a continuing deterioration in

social cohesion, with the

risk of leading the country

in chaos. "We—the Com-

mittee for the Transition

and Restoration of Institu-

tions (CTRI) on behalf of

the people of Gabon and as

guarantors of the institu-

'Added to this is irre-

It was read by an of-

nomic and social crisis,

read on state TV.

Military topples

Gabon president

after disputed polls

ers in the oil-rich central Af-

rican state of Gabon an-

nounced on Wednesday

they had seized power fol-

lowing disputed elections in

which President Ali Bongo

Ondimba, in power since

2009, had been declared

family has ruled Gabon for

over 55 years, was placed

under house arrest and one

of his sons arrested for trea-

son, the coup leaders said.

Bongo, in a video from an

unidentified location, ap-

pealed to "all friends that

we have all over the

world... to make noise" on

his behalf. In a dramatic

pre-dawn address, a group of officers declared "all the

institutions of the republic"

had been dissolved, the

election results cancelled

A worried-looking

Bongo, 64, whose

an abiding interest in peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, which is critical to regional and global security and prosperity."

Friday September 01, 2023

Taiwan's defense ministry expressed gratitude. "The aid will help in regional peace and stability, said in a short statement.

The State Department did not formally announce the aid or give details, but a person familiar with the notice said the assistance would involve support to improve awareness at sea.

The assistance needs approval from Congress, which is virtually certain as lawmakers from both parties widely support Tai-

Representative Mike McCaul, the Republican chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and frequent critic of Biden's for

Ukraine has

developed a

long-range

weapon, claims

Zelenskyy

Monitoring Desk

XYIV: Ukrainian President

Volodymyr Zelenskyy said

Thursday his country has

developed a weapon that

hit a target 700 kilometers

(400 miles) away, in an ap-

parent reference to the pre-

vious day's strike on an air-

Telegram channel the

weapon was produced by

Ukraine's Ministry of Stra-

tegic Industries but gave no

other details. On Wednes-

day, a four-hour wave of

drones that Moscow blamed

on Ukraine hit an airport near

Russia's border with Esto-

nia and Latvia, damaging four

Il-76 military transport

planes, according to local re-

ports. The airport is in

Russia's Pskov region, about

700 kilometers (400 miles)

north of the Ukrainian.

Zelenskyy said on his

port in western Russia.



Department of the Korean People's Army (KPA) in an undisclosed location in North Korea in this picture released by North Korea's Korean Central News

'scorched earth' nuclear strike drill

Monitoring Desk

SEOUL: North Korea said lated "scorched-earth" ing its neighbour as it acpreemptive nuclear attack.

unit fired two ballistic missiles while conducting a "nuclear strike mission", the General Staff of the Korean People's Army (KPA) said in a statement published on Thursday by state newswire KCNA.

South Korean and Japanese ing in to occupy "the authorities said the two whole territory of the authorities said the two short-range missiles travelled a distance of about 360-400 kilometres (225-250 miles) at a maximum altitude of 50 kilometres (30 miles) before landing in the water between the Korean Peninsula and Japan.

South including military headquarters before sweep-

southern half". KCNA said: "The

KPA staged a tactical nuclear strike drill simulat-ing scorched-earth strikes at major command centres and operational airfields of the ROK [Republic of Korea] military gangsters on

newspaper ran pictures of leader Kim Jong-un looking at battleplans and pointing to a blurred map with a long stick, while senior army officers listened

China's Xi the United States on language about the freedom of movement of U.N. troops.

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: Chinese

likely to skip a summit of G20 leaders in India next week, sources familiar with the matter in India and China told Reuters. Two Indian officials, one diplomat based in China

and one official working for the government of another G20 country said Premier Li Qiang is expected to represent Beijing at the Sept. 9-10 meeting in New Delhi. Spokespersons for the Indian and Chinese foreign ministries did not respond to requests for comment. Li is also likely to attend a summit of East and Southeast Asian leaders in Jakarta, In-

likely to skip G20 summit in India

President Xi Jinping is

The French-drafted text was adopted with 13 votes in favor and abstentions by Russia and China. A planned Wednesday vote was delayed as France, the United States and the United Arab Emirates ar- said.

Kremlin says Prigozhin plane may have been downed on purpose from Moscow crashed

Monitoring Desk north of Moscow killing all MOSCOW: The Kremlin 10 people on board on Aug 23, including two other top

ferent versions are being considered, including the version — you know what we are talking about let's say, a deliberate atrocity," Dmitry Peskov told reporters when asked about the investigation.

sions yet about what ex-

jet on which Prigozhin was

peacekeeping mission in Lebanon for another year Lebanese government. after a compromise was reached between France and

gued over language on U.N.

in the resolution that spells

France kept language

freedom of movement.

out that peacekeepers should coordinate with the But in a compromise with the U.S. and the UAE, France added back in text from last year's council

resolution - which it had deleted - that demands all parties allow "announced and unannounced patrols" by U.N. troops.
"The ability of the UNIFIL personnel to carry out their responsibilities,

independent of any restrictions, is essential," U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, told the council. "And we've had long-

standing concerns regarding the actions by some actors to obstruct the mission's freedom of movement," she

said on Wednesday that investigators were considering the possibility that the plane carrying mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin was downed on purpose, first explicit acknowledgement that he may have been assassi-

"It is obvious that difspokesman

Asked if the International Civil Aviation Organisation would investigate the crash, Peskov said that the circumstances made it different, though he cautioned that investigators had made no formal conclu-

actly took place. "Let's wait for the results of our Russian investigation," Peskov said.

The private Embraer travelling to St Petersburg

The cause is still unclear, but villagers near the scene said they heard a bang and then saw the jet plummet to the ground. The plane crashed exactly two months since Prigozhin took control of

Wagner figures, Prigozhin's

four body guards and a crew

the southern city of Rostov in late June, the opening salvo of a mutiny which shook the foundations of President Vladimir Putin's

Russia has informed Brazil's aircraft investigation authority that it will not probe the crash of the Brazilian-made Embraer jet under international rules "at the moment", the Brazilian agency said.

Asked about that report, Peskov said: "First of all, the investigation is under way, the Investigative Committee is engaged in this." "In this case there can be no talk of any international aspect, Peskov said.

US, Indonesia and 5 other nations hold war

Monitoring Desk AKARTA: Soldiers from the U.S., Indonesia and five

other nations began annual training exercises Thursday on Indonesia's main island of Java while China's increasing aggression is raising concern. American and Indone-

diplomatic influence in the region.

Brunei, Brazil, Canada, Germany, India, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, South Korea, and East Timor also sent observers to the twoweek exercises in Baluran,

The commanding general of U.S. Army Pacific, Gen. Charles Flynn, said the 19 nations involved in the training are a powerful demonstration of multilateral solidarity to safeguard a free and open Indo-Pacific

"Super Garuda Shield 2023 builds on last year's tremendous success, Flynn said in a statement released by the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta on Tuesday, "This joint, multinational training exercise displays our collective commitment and like-minded unity, allowing for a stable, secure, and more peaceful, free and open Indo-Pacific.'

The statement said at least 2,100 U.S. and 1,900 Indonesian forces will enhance interoperability capabilities through training and cultural exchanges that includes a command and control simulation, an amphibious exercise, airborne op-

North Korea simulates invasion in

t had conducted a simunuclear strike on South Korea and rehearsed invadcused Seoul and Washington of planning their own

The North's missile

Assessments

The reports contained unusual detail about Pyongyang's war strategy, revealing that the drill simulated repelling a sudden invasion, then launching a nuclear counterattack against key targets in the

Wednesday night."
The Rodong Sinmun

to his orders.

Over 1,000 flights cancelled as hurricane makes landfall in Florida

Monitoring Desk

ΓAMPA: Airlines in the United States cancelled more than 1,000 flights on Wednesday as Hurricane Idalia slammed into the Big Bend region of Florida, but the storm's power ebbed as it headed toward Georgia. Southwest Airlines cancelled more than 220 flights, while Delta Air Lines cancelled 157 flights, as of 12pm ET, according to flight-tracking website Flightaware.com.About 2,000 flights were also delayed. Airports at Tampa, Clearwater and Talla-hassee shut down operations and were monitoring the status of the storm.

Drawing strength from the Gulf of Mexico's warm waters, Idalia un-

leashed destructive winds and torrential downpours that were forecast to cause coastal flooding up to 16 feet (5 m) deep along the state's Gulf Coast.

Idalia grew from a tropical storm into a hurricane early on Tuesday, a day after passing west of Cuba, where it damaged homes, knocked out power, flooded villages and prompted mass evacuations.
"With Tampa Airport

closing at midnight on Tuesday, we cancelled everything there through at least afternoon today and we're awaiting a decision from the airport as to when it will re-open to commercial service



A girl and her mother wade through floodwaters after evacuating their home in Tarpon Springs, Florida, when Hurricane Idalia made landfall.

tions' protection. and the borders closed. UN says number of people killed, injured or kidnapped in Haiti rose 14% in recent months BATAM: Dozens of Chi

Monitoring Desk SAN JUAN: The U.N. said Thursday that 1,860 people were reported killed, injured or kidnapped in Haiti from April to June, a 14% increase compared with the first three months

of the year.

The surge in gang violence remains centered in the capital of Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas, with nearly 300 people alone killed or injured by snipers in the slum of Cite Soleil, according to a human rights report released by the U.N. Integrated Office in Haiti, known as BINUH.

The report was released a day after the U.S. Embassy in Haiti urged U.S. citizens to leave the Caribbean country "as soon as possible" given the ongoing insecurity and infra-structure challenges.

Among those killed police officers and more ward

than 460 gang members, the majority of those by lynching, followed by police shootings, the U.N. said. At least 230 suspected gang members have died as a result of a violent civilian uprising dubbed "bwa kale" that began in April and targets suspected criminals.

Another 298 people were kidnapped during that period, a 24% drop compared with the previous quarter. Almost half of the kidnappings occurred in the Artibonite region north of Port-au-Prince, which has seen a rise in gang violence

and killings. Gangs also continue to use rape and mutilation to instill fear and punish those living in areas controlled by rivals, the U.N. said. At least 49 women in Cite Soleil were raped in April as they tried to escape gang violence, with from April to June were 13 seven of them killed after-

Indonesia arrests 88 Chinese nationals over love scams **Monitoring Desk**

nese nationals were arrested in Indonesia on suspicion of running an online love scam syndicate that ensnared hundreds of victims in China, police said on Wednesday

Acting on a tip-off from their Chinese counterparts, Indonesian police arrested 83 men and five women at an industrial park in Batam city in Riau Islands province on Tuesday

Police said the syndi cate blackmailed hundreds of victims in China, many of whom were public offi

"We are investigating if there are any Indonesians among the victims. If there are none, the scammers will be deported immediately, Riau Islands police spokesman Zahwani Pandra Arsyad said on Wednesday

The alleged scammers pretended to have romantic feelings for their victims during video calls.



People pose with soldiers as they celebrate in support of the putschists in a

Japan PM tells fisheries minister to apologise for calling Fukushima wastewater 'contaminated'

Monitoring Desk TOKYO: Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida ordered his fisheries minister to apologise on Thursday for referring to treated radioactive water being released from the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant as 'contaminated" and told him to retract his remark.

Fisheries minister Tetsuro Nomura was heard calling the treated radioactive water "contaminated" when speaking to reporters earlier in the day following a meeting with Kishida.

He said his discussions with the premier involved "the evaluation of

the contaminated water' after its release into the Pa-Nomura later apologised and retracted the comment but said he would not resign over it, the Jiji news service reported.

Japan is calling the water it is releasing into the ocean "ALPS treated water" to differentiate it from the contaminated water held in tanks around the wrecked plant site.ALPS stands for Advanced Liquid Processing System", a system aimed at removing most radioactive elements from the water except for tritium before it is released into the ocean as

"treated" water Switzerland drafts tighter rules to combat money laundering

Monitoring Desk ZURICH: Switzerland said on Wednesday it had drafted new rules to tighten perceived cracks in its money laundering regulations, holding lawyers and consultants accountable for

reporting risks and step-

entities, such as trusts. The new rules, drafted by the Swiss government, will be presented to parliament in 2024 following consultation. Switzerland, whose banks make it the world's biggest manager of offshore wealth, has long sought to fight its old im-

age as a place for criminals to stash ill-gotten gains. It routinely exchanges bank account information with over 100 countries.

But it has faced international pressure to shed more light onto the shadowy world of corporate ownership, where many companies and entities like trusts cloak the identity of real beneficiaries.

If the new rules are accepted, lawyers, accountants and other company consultants who set up trusts, or holding companies, or arrange real estate

have signalled the possibility of diplomatic action to urge China to lift its ban. Norway will close its embassy in Mali, citing

US ambassador

to Japan visits

Fukushima

Monitoring Desk

SOMA: The U.S. ambas-

sador to Japan, Rahm

Emanuel, visited the

Fukushima region on

Thursday and told report-

ers he expected the U.S. to

support Japan should

China's ban on Japanese

seafood develop into a dis-

pute at the World Trade

treated radioactive water

from the wrecked

Fukushima nuclear power

plant into the Pacific Ocean

last Thursday, prompting China, Japan's biggest trade

partner, to impose a ban on

. Japanese aquatic products.

Japanese officials

Japan started releasing

Organisation (WTO).

the security situation **Monitoring Desk**

COPENHAGEN: Norway announced Thursday that it will close its embassy in Mali, saying the withdrawal of a U.N. peacekeeping force from the West African nation "will have consequences for the security of Norwegian and other diplomatic missions and international organizations." In June, Mali Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop demanded that U.N. peacekeepers who have been grappling with an Islamic in-

drills amid China concerns

a coastal town in East Java

sian soldiers have held the live-fire Super Garuda Shield drills since 2009, and Australia, Japan and Singapore joined last year. The United Kingdom and French forces are participating in this year's exercises, with a total of about 5,000 personnel. China sees the expanded drills as a threat, accusing the U.S. of building an Indo-Pacific alliance similar to NATO to limit China's growing military and

Foreign minister stresses safe, secure environment for UN peacekeepers

ISLAMABAD Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani on Thursday said ensuring a safe and secure environment for United Nations peacekeepers who tirelessly maintain peace around the globe should be the foremost priority. Addressing the 2023 UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Preparatory Meeting on "Safety and Security of Peacekeepers" here, the foreign minister said Pakistan's participation in UN peacekeeping, spanning over six decades, was a tangible manifestation of its contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security, in line with the UN

He said legal frameworks and adequate accountability mechanisms were paramount for peacekeeper safety. "We must stand firm in holding accountable the perpetrators individuals and groups that harm or threaten UN peace-

keepers is also essential, he said adding "Our peacekeepers deserve the best care including mental health support. Standardized training, first aid provisions, and enhanced medical facilities are crucial for that".

The FM maintained that addressing challenges, including language barriers and administrative obstacles, should also be one of our top priorities.

He said the spectre of the threat posed by Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) to peacekeepers' security needs a commensurate response. "We must intensify pre-deployment training; equip our peacekeepers with cutting-edge technology; and augment their capabilities for countering the IED threat."

The minister highlighted that leveraging technology was vital to ensure the safety and security of peacekeepers. "The Strategy for the Digital Transformation

ISLAMABAD: Iranian Deputy Minister for Economics and Finance calls on

remarked that the top court

had proposed a solution to

the ECP in the verdict that

could file a constitutional

petition if it could not hold

elections in said time pe-

thority to take the election

schedule beyond the time

limit of 90 days as it was

Constitution, and the insti-

Justice Munib Akhtar announced the verdict after tution concerned should approach the court if there affordable calling and data packages to pilgrims during

were any difficulty in

ECP's lawyer Sajeel Swati

said that he wanted to sub-

mit more relevant docu-

ments in light of the court's

order. The Commission had

been empowered to fix a

date for the general elections

after amendments in sec-

tions 57 and 58, he said and

prayed the court to grant

one-week time for case

preparation. The lawyer said that the Constitution

entrusted the responsibil-

ity to the ECP to holding

fair elections in the coun-

try. The elections were not

possible due to the incident

of May 9, he added.

Giving arguments, the

implementation of it.

its mandate, he added.

The ECP had no au-

Justice Munib said that

the Acting Secretary Ministry of Economic Affairs

SC dismisses review plea

against order for elections in

90 days of assembly dissolution

Bandial and comprising no one could violate the

The Supreme Court of Pa-

kistan on Thursday dis-

missed a review petition of

the Election Commission

of Pakistan (ECP) against

the verdict for holding elec-

tions within 90 days of the

dissolution of Punjab As-

bench headed by Chief Jus-

tice of Pakistan Umar Ata

Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan and

hearing arguments from the

proceedings, the CJP said

that the top court would act

whenever the constitution

was violated. The review

appeal could not be ac-

cented in current circum-

stances and therefore, it

was being terminated, he

served that previously, the

ECP was of the view that it

could hold elections if funds

and security were provided,

but now it was saying that

the polls were not possible

due to some certain rea-

Justice Munib Akhter

The chief justice ob-

During the course of

respondents

The three-member SC

Medical care for peace- of UN Peacekeeping under- distribution of the burdens scores the need to enhance situational awareness, counter disinformation, and optimise the use of technology. By doing so, we empower our peacekeepers to make informed decisions and fulfil their mandates more effectively.

Jalil Abbas Jilani said while Pakistan was proudly contributing over 4,000 troops to various ongoing JN peacekeeping missions, the attention should also be focused on the realm of peacebuilding. "Just as we have established a state-ofthe-art facility for the training of peacekeepers – the Centre of International Peace and Stability (CIPS), where we are gathered for this meeting - we also hope to collaborate with the UN Secretariat and our international partners to create an Institute for Peacebuilding,' he remarked.

He also urged the finance contributing partners to embrace a more equitable

Aneeq says

Efforts afoot to

introduce short

& long-term

Hajj packages

ISLAMABAD (APP)

Minister for Religious Af-

fairs and Interfaith Har-

mony Aneeq Ahmed has

said efforts are being made

to introduce short and long-

term Hajj packages under

Chairing a meeting in

the government Haj

Islamabad, he said propos-

als would be sought from

Pakistani cellular compa-

their stay in Saudi Arabia.

code will be introduced to

prevent missing of luggage.

EU Ambassador

calls on

Ahmed Irfan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Eu-

ropean Union Ambassador

Dr. Riina Kionka on Thurs-

ister for Law and Justice

Ahmed Irfan Aslam and dis-

cussed mutual interest is

tated Ahmed Irfan Aslam on

assuming the charge of the

federal minister, said a news

Pakistan had always given importance to its bilateral

relations with the European

Union and GSP Plus sta-

Royal Navy Ship

visits Pakistan for

bilateral exercise

KARACHI (APP): The

Royal Navy Ship HMS

release.

The ambassador felici-

The minister said that

day called on Federal Min-

The Minister said a OR



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Planning and Development Muhammad Sami Saeed in a group photo during the launch of Annual Corporate Report 2022 of NDRMF project "Optimizing Impact-Investing in Resilient and Adaptive Future of Pakistan".

PM directs maximum facilitation of overseas Pakistanis at airports

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday directed the Immigration and Customs authorities to extend maximum facilities to overseas Pakistanis at airports.

associated with peacekeep-

peacekeepers, he said were

universal in their impact,

and it was imperative that

the financial responsibilities reflected this shared endeav-

our for global peace and se-

curity. "Open and construc-

tive dialogue between TCCs

and FCCs is essential to har-

monize our efforts, ensur-

ing that resources are allo-

cated efficiently and fairly.

Transparency in financial

commitments and decision-

making processes is key to

building trust and enhanc-

ing mission efficacy," he added.

The challenges faced by

ing missions

The overseas Pakistanis are a valuable asset for the country and their services for economic stability are laudable," the prime minister said chairing a meeting to discuss the matters related to the national economy.

In the meeting, the prime minister was apprised of the current economic indicators as well as the present situation. The meeting held con-

sultation to devise a strategy to curb smuggling of different items besides reviewing the progress in the barter trade with Iran.

The representatives of the business community assured the government of their all-out support for re-vival of the national economy

A detailed discussion was also held regarding the dollar appreciation as well as the steps to curb the illegal business of the foreign xchange.

Caretaker Ministers Dr Shamshad Akhtar, Gohar Ejaz, Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti and Murtaza Solangi, Advisor to PM Ahad Cheema, State Bank Governor Jameel Ahmed, Federal Board of Revenue Chairman Malik Amjad Zubaii Tiwana, federal secretaries and senior officials attended the meeting

Pak, Iran for enhancing economic, trade ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Iranian Deputy Minister for Economics and Finance Reza Bakhshi Thursday called on Acting Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs Humair Karim and discussed cooperation between Pakistan and Iran, with a focus on enhancing economic ties for the mutual benefit of both countries.

Karim extended a warm welcome to Bakhshi and underscored Pakistan's commitment to ment the decisions made nurturing the historic and during the 21st JEC and nies for the provision of amicable relations shared

ing countries. He expressed Pakistan's desire to strengthen these relations further, fostering increased trade and economic oppor

The acting secretary appreciated the substantial progress achieved following the 21st Joint Economic Committee (JEC) meeting held between Pakistan and Iran in August 2022. Both sides agreed to hold bilateral talks and follow-up meetings to impleprepare for the 22nd JEC



Kionka calls on Federal Minister for Law and Justice Ahmad Irfan Aslam.

Tahafuz Khatm-e-Nabuwwat conference held in Quetta

Independent Report

QUETTA: Tahafuz Rhatm-e-Nabuwwat (SAW) conference was held here at the spacious Railway Hockey ground here on Thursday evening.

The conference organized

sided over the conference. ers and senior members of ence.

the AMTKN besides a large number of other people participated in the conference.

Among prominent them were the Naib Ameer of the Majlis, Khawaja Aziz Ahmed, spokesman of PDM and leader of JUI Hafiz Hamdullah and oth

The speakers including Maulana Pir Nasiruddin Khakwani, Khawaja Aziz, Hafiz Hamdullah and oth-The other office bear- ers addressed the confer-

Anti-malaria spray drive launched to control diseases in Lasbela

QUETTA (APP):On special directive of Caretaker Balochsitan Minister Prince Ahmad Ali Ahmadzai, Lasbela district Health Department launched the indoor residual anti-malaria spray campaign with the aim to control diseases in

the area on Thursday. Chairman Municipal Committee Othal, Waseem Khas Khail, District Supply Chain Officer Amjad Ali Shah visited various places of Othal city and reviewed the performance of Hari mosquito spray teams.

On the occasion of the visit, District Health Officer Lasbela Dr. Abdul Hameed Baloch said that by doing the current spraying, the breeding of mosquitoes could be controlled for six months. This will manage various diseases in the area. especially malaria and mosquito-borne diseases, he said and added that the launch of IRS in Lasbella

was positive step as it was

everyone's primary respon-

sibility to keep the environ-

stopped from going to Dubai LAHORE (Online): Zain Qureshi son of PTI leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi has been stopped from go-ing to Dubai at Lahore air-

According to FIA sources Zain Qureshi was interrogated for six hours at Lahore airport and then he

BHC asks candidates claiming to have paid illegal gratification for jobs to submit affidavit

Independent Report

OUETTA: Balochistan High Court has asked the candidates who claim to have paid or have been asked to pay illegal gratification by the government officials, or anyone else on their behalf, to submit affidavit in this regard.

The Court also directed to Director General Public Relations to publish a notice for information of general public in the national and local daily newspapers and anyone either candidate himself / herself or his / her / their relatives aware or witnessed the payment or demand of any illegal means shall submit their affidavit before the Registrar of this court.

The Registrar was also directed to compile a list of those individuals and receive the affidavit (s) for the court's perusal

CEO of Islamic Relief meets Chairman Senate

ISLAMABAD (APP) Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Thursday appreciated Islamic Relief's unwavering commitment to humanitarian efforts in Pakistan, particularly in the wake of the floods that wreaked havoc across the country.

Chairman Senate during a meeting with CEO of Islamic Relief Raja Waseem Ahmed emphasized the need for collaborative initiatives that address the unique challenges faced by these regions

The chairman highlighted importance of focusing on the most vulnerable regions of Pakistan, urging a concentrated effort in impoverished areas such as Balochistan, said a news release issued here.

PIA accounts frozen again

KARACHI (Online): Federal Board of Revenue has frozen 13 bank accounts of line (PIA) in Thursday.

Pakistan International Air-According to a media report, FIBR officials said that action was taken on non-payment of federal ex-

cise duty of Rs.8 billion. The bank account linked to Ayata will also be

Officials further said that it has been decided to register a case against the PIA officials for not submitting the (Federal Excise Duty) FED. The dues were not submitted, even though the accounts were opened last month.

Zain Qureshi

According to sources names of several PTI leaders were included in stop list after May 9 incident. Zain Qureshi was stopped from going to Dubai due to inclusion of his name in

was sent back.

The Court comprising Mr. Justice Kamran Khan Mulakhail and Mr. Justice

Iqbal Ahmed Kasi passed the order in a petition filed by one Bayazid Khan versus Secretary Secondary Education, Balochistan and As per the court judgment, after hearing the

learned counsel for the applicatns, the petitioner and keeping in view the issue raised in this petition, all these applications are accepted and the petition is directed to amend the petition by arraying the applicants / interveners as respondents and applicant / intervener Muhammad Naeem as petitioner to the Suffice to observe here

that this petition was admitted for regular hearing,

when this news became talk of the town that vacancies in the Government departments in general and in the Education department in particular are offered to be sold out against illegal gratification and even during course of hearing of this petition along with connected petitions, a number of litigants are appearing before the court and lamently complaining about the issue, therefore, it appears that the recruitment process in the public sector departments are neither

transparent nor impartial. Even today some of the individuals were ready to file their affidavit and to sear on oath, that their relatives off springs / siblings have been asked to arrange payment for appointment on the subject posts



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Minister Communication visits NHMP, pledges support to improve traffic safety

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Caretaker Federal Minister for Communications Shahid Ashraf Tarar visited the National Highways and Motorway Police (NH&MP) headquarters here on Thursday and pledged to extend maximum support and cooperation to the force to improve traffic safety.

The minister was given a briefing on the NH&MP's working strategy and the challenges. He said that he was impressed with the force's efforts to reduce traffic accidents and pledged to make sure that the NH&MP has the resources it needs to continue its work efficiently.

Tarar also made several suggestions for improving traffic safety, including making anti-dozing devices mandatory for drivers of public service vehicles, increasing the rates of traffic violation fines, and solving the shortage of manpower in the NH&MP. The minister said that

he would work to increase the salaries of NH&MP employees, who are currently underpaid compared to other law enforcement agencies.

Tarar's visit to the NH&MP headquarters was a positive sign for the force and its efforts to improve traffic safety in the country



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

Steps afoot to provide health facilities to patients in BMCH: Dr. Nadir

cal measures were being taken to provide health facilities to patients in the 10 spital.

He expressed these views while talking to media persons here. The MS said that steps

nad been taken to make functional tube-well on an emergency basis and water supply was started in the nospital, nursing, doctors' hostels, including the operation theatre.

The people were reuested to take special care f cleanliness in the hospital, wait for their turn for X-ray, ECG and lab tests and cooperate with hospital staff, he said.

OUETTA (APP): Medical that with team work, the Superintendent (MS) of problems of the hospital Bolan Medical Complex would be solved and the Hospital (BMCH), Dr. cleanliness and security of Nadir Khan Achakzai the hospital and attendance Thursday said that practiof the paramedical staff to be ensured for maintaining

> 'My door is always open for doctors, nursing staff, pharmacists, paramedical staff and other supporting staff to solve their legal problems", the MS He said that in addition

quality of treatment in the

hospital.

to emergency in the hospital, in the OPD, specialist doctors were busy serving the public with TB, Hepatitis, AIDS, HIV, treatment and medicines were being provided under other projects including leishmaniasis treatment saving that vaccination process was going on at Corona Vaccination Center.

Gwadar Safe City Project on upward trajectory

UK Ship HMS LANCASTER arrives at Karachi

GWADAR (INP): In a sig- Pro that the project, which nificant development, the Gwadar Safe City Project (Phase I) has seen substantial progress with the establishment of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and the submission of technical and financial feasibility reports, all under the framework of the Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan 2025. With an estimated cost of Rs 3.325.6 million, the Gwadar Safe City Project (Phase I) is being spearheaded by the Ministry of Homes and Tribal Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Technology under the Government of Balochistan

Key aspects of the project include the installation of optical fiber cables spanning up to 190 kilometers and the placement of multipurpose cameras at 411 locations.

 $Abdul\,Razzaq,\,Gwadar$ Development Authority's Deputy Director of Town Planning, informed Gwadar It aims to cover the en-

has been long overdue for completion, is now expected to be expedited.

tirety of Gwadar City, encompassing vital buildings, roads, neighborhoods, the airport, bus stands, parking areas, educational institutions, health centers, and other government infrastructure. An official from the Ministry of Homes and Tribal Affairs also shared with Gwadar Pro that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in January 2022 between the Chief Operating Officer of the Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) and the Project Director of

As per the agreement, a technical team from PSCA will visit the Gwadar Safe City project to assist the installation of Safe Cities Cameras, Networking and Communication, and the establishment of a Com-

by Aalmi Majlis-e-Tahafuz Khatm-e-Nabuawwat (AMTKN). The central Ameer of AMTKN, Maulana Pir Nasiruddin Khakwani pre-

LANCASTER with embarked helicopter, visited Karachi and conducted bilateral exercise WHITE STAR IV with Pakistan Navy on Thurs-

Upon arrival at Karachi Port, Royal Navy Ship was warmly received by senior officials of Pakistan Navy and British High Commission, a Pakistan Navy news release

On completion of the port visit, Pakistan Navy Ships TAIMUR, ASLAT, Pakistan Navy Maritime Patrol Aircraft, helicop ters and Pakistan Air Force (PAF) fighters carried out two-day bilateral exercise with Royal Navy Ship and helicopter.

