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Chief of the Army Staff, General Asim Munir addressing participant of a meeting held to review the preparations regarding the ministerial meeting of the United Nations peacekeeping mission.

PM Kakar says:

SIFC to attract around \$70b foreign investment in 3-5 years

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Friday said that an estimated foreign investment of US\$60 to \$70 billion was expected in the next three to five years under the government's new initiative of Special Investment Facilitation Council

Besides, he said the government had also received pledges and promises of another similar amount of investment.

"Now, we have to design and submit our projects as there is a huge appetite to invest in the country", he said while talking to senior journalists and news anchors here.

tion, the prime minister ment project and there was said the government was no hidden in it. considering various op-

the people.

Reko Dik gold and copper reserves, the prime minister said the country had huge potential of natural resources that would change fate of the people of Pakistan.

"We took the initiative tential and we are going towards the right direction so far as the scientific methods and financial models

the whole of the govern- ment of the country.

tions to provide relief to intervention that has already been initiated and has Citing the example of the overall potential of \$5 the \$700 billion worth of to \$6 trillion.

The prime minister highlighted that Pakistan had huge land that could be used for agriculture purpose and could serve half of the Asian population's food requirements.

He added that the counof SIFC to realize this po- try had also enough water to irrigate the barren land across the country. Likewise, he said IT, tourism and defence production are concerned," he re- had also huge potential that would be tapped for He said the SIFC was socio-economic develop-



KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti distributing awards during the passing out ceremony of Basic Recruit Course of Pakistan Coast Guard.

Interior Minister reiterates resolve for elimination of terrorism from country

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Interior Minister Senator Sarfaraz Bugti Friday while reiterating the resolve for the elimination of terrorism from the country said that all possible measures would be taken for maintaining peace to achieve the goals of development and prosperity of

The minister, while addressing the passing out Ceremony of Pakistan Coast Guard's 43rd Basic Recruit Training Course here, said that valiant nations face difficult situations gallantly and Pakistani nation's unwavering resolve against violence and terrorism could not be

"Terrorists wanted to impose their extremist ideology on 240 million people of Pakistan by violence and acts of intimidation but we will not surrender and encounter all forms and manifestations of violence with courage and unity," he vowed and urged that the entire nation should demonstrate unity in the war against terrorism and bust the nefarious designs of anti-Pakistan forces

Sarfraz Bugti express November 30 ing condolence to the families of Jawans of the Pakistan Army who embraced

martyrdom in the line of duty said, "The entire nation is proud of unmatched sacrifices of valiant armed forces and law enforcement agencies for the safe, secure, and prosperous future of Pakistan.'

'Sacrifices rendered by the Pakistan Army, paramilitary forces, Police, Levies, and people of Pakistan in the war against terrorism will be remembered forever," he maintained.

The interior minister said, "The government envisions Balochistan as the future of Pakistan and a peaceful Balochistan is a beacon of hope for strong Pakistan as this vast province was bestowed with precious natural resources and could attain the status of the jugular vein in the

economy of the country.' Unfortunately, some terrorist elements and their anti-state activities were not only obstructing the development of the province but they were also trying to delude the youth. he noted.

Countdown to Elections: ECP advances delimitation deadline to

SLAMABAD (APP) The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has moved up the deadline for final release of constituency delimitation from December 14 to November 30, with the aim of expediting the scheduling of general elec-

The ECP spokesperson stated that the time needed for constituency delimitation had been shortened to expedite this crucial task.

Prosecutor General Sajid Tareen resigns

Independent Report QUETTA: The Prosecutor General of Balochistan. Sajid Tareen Advocate has tendered his resignation from his post on Friday. According to the sources, Sajid Tareen has sent his resignation to the provincial government. In his written resignation, Mr. Tareen has resigned from his position on account of the existing circumstances

arising from multiple ori-



OUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan and his team attending a meeting chaired by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar regarding stopping smuggling of sugar, petroleum products, urea, agricultural products and other items.

COAS urges peaceful resolution of Kashmir dispute aligned with UNSC resolutions

Gen Munir says Pakistan aspires to create region where peace prevails

Chief of the Army Staff General Asim Munir has urged the United Nations to enable Peacekeeping Missions to be more effective in addressing the complex threats while assuring the safety and security of the

a preparatory meet as the chief guest, held as a precursor to the Peacekeeping Ministerial Meet here

from August 30-31. Co-hosted by Paki-

stan and Japan on the threats being faced by theme of the Safety Peacekeepers. Resolutions and the as a tangible manifestation of its contribuand Security of Peacekeepers the meet was attended by delegates from different countries, senior officials from UN and members of the diplomatic community Islamabad.

Peacekeepers. In his remarks, He was addressing the army chief com-In his remarks, mended the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and highlighted increasing challenges and unprecedented levels of

Directs to take effective steps for prevention:

Caretaker CM expresses deep concern on smuggling of sugar from Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has expressed deep concern over the smuggling of sugar from the province. In a statement issued here on Friday, the caretaker Chief Minister said that the

increase in smuggling of sugar is not only an additional burden on the masses but it is also harmful for the country's economy. Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki directed the con-

cerned authorities to take effective steps for prevention of the smuggling from the province. He also directed that all

concerned institutions

course of action for preven-

tion of the smuggling.

Moreover, he also issued standing directives to the concerned law enforcement agencies and district administration to take wholehearted action against those elements involved in smuggling of sugar.

He also directed to set up an anti-sugar smuggling cell in the Home Department. He said that he is fully aware of the issues being faced by the masses, and as such it would be ensured to resolve them.

Meanwhile, the caretaker Chief Minister appreciated performance of the Frontier Corps Balochistan on taking four trucks load should evolve a coordinated of sugar in custody.

Caretaker govt bound to respect law & judiciary, Murtaza Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Friday said the caretaker government was duty-bound to respect the law and the judiciary, which functioned freely in the country.

"As a responsible government, it is our duty to respect the judiciary and the law. The matter of Pervez Elahi's arrest falls within the jurisdiction of law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and the judiciary,' the minister said while talking to a private channel.

The LEAs obeyed the law, he said, adding the media and the judiciary worked independently in

the country. He said every citizen had freedom of speech and a right to criticize that could not be taken away, but at the same time "we also have the right to present the facts without any fear"

ter said efforts were underway to provide relief to the masses in electricity bills and its details would be announced in the shape of "Our limited tenure and the Constitution and law

allow us to take decisions

To a query, the minis-

in the best interest of the country," he said, vowing that best decisions would be made keeping in view the national interests. The caretaker government would own and stood

by its decisions, he added. Solangi said his inter-

view with the BBC was presented out of context. "I am in contact with them and in my view, it will be appropriate for them to

The Election Commission of Pakistan had expedited the process of delimitation of constituencies, he said while responding to another query.



Affairs Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani meeting with Provincial Caretaker Home Minister Mir Zubair Khan Jamali.

Geelani's anniversary:

Pakistan reaffirms support to people of Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Friday, while paying rich tribute to the life-long dedication of great Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani for justice and freedom, reaffirmed its support to the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). Foreign Of-Spokesperson Mumtaz Zaĥra Baloch, in her weekly press briefing, told the media that Syed

Ali Shah Geelani was a true

voice and face of the

Kashmiris' struggle for

their rights and freedom.

"Today is the second death anniversary of the iconic Kashmiri leader, Syed Ali Shah Geelani. He breathed his last in a longdrawn house arrest on 01 September 2021. In a horrific act, his dead body was snatched by the Indian occupation forces from his family, and hurriedly buried in a graveyard in the absence of his family and friends. His family and friends were not allowed to pay their final respects or bury him in a graveyard of his choice," the spokesperson recalled

The army chief fur-

ther highlighted that Pakistan aspired to create a region where peace prevailed and trade, transit and investment generated prosperity for all the states of south, West and Central Asia.

He also called on Security Council and the UN Secretary General for peaceful reso-Security

Earlier, Under Secretary General for Department of Peace Operations thanked Pakistan for hosting the conference and making invaluable contributions for global

Addressing the participants, Interim Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani recalled lution of the Jammu Pakistan's longstanding and Kashmir dispute commitment to UN in accordance with the peacekeeping, span-Council ning over six decades,

tation of its contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security.

He paid tributes to the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives in the noble cause of peacekeeping, including 171 Paistanis.

He underscored the need to ensure a safe and secure environment for UN peacekeepers who tirelessly safeguard peace around the



ISLAMABAD: Permanent Representative of Pakistan to UN, Munir Akram calls on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Caretaker CM Ali Mardan Domki proceeds for Dubai on private trip

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Mardan Khan Domki has proceeded for Dubai on a

vate tour. During the visit, the caretaker Chief Minister would be inquiring health of his close friend in Ďubai.

This was announced by the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai in an official hand out issued here on Friday.

According to Jan Achakzai, the caretaker Chief Minister would not meet any exile group in Dubai.

It may be mentioned here that a private news agency has claimed that caretaker Chief Minister has gone to Dubai for negotiations with exiled Baloch leaders.

2nd death anniversary of Sardar Attaullah Mengal being observed today

Independent Report QUETTA: The 2nd death anniversary of prominent Baloch nationalist leader and former Chief Minister Balochistan Sardar Attaullah Mengal is being observed today (Saturday).

Marking his death anniversary, a public meeting has been organized by the Balochistan National Party (BNP) in Quetta today. As per the programme, the public meeting is scheduled to be held at Railway hockey ground.

The BNP president Sardar Akhtar Mengal, other leaders of the party and political activists would be participating in the public meeting.

Parvez Elahi rearrested under 3-MPO

Monitoring Desk LAHORE/ISLAMABAD Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf President and former Punjal chief minister Parvez Elahi was rearrested under 3 MPO (Maintenance of Public Order) by the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police shortly after being released by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), according to sources. The seasoned politician would be put under house arrest in Adiala jail for the next 15 days, the sources privy to the matter added.

President approves reconstitution of NEC

ISLAMABAD (APP): caretaker minister for President Dr Arif Alvi on power, industry, commerce Friday approved reconstitution of the National Economic Council (NEC)-a constitutional entity re- Punjab province, minister sponsible for evaluating the for finance, revenue, plancountry's economic condi-ning and development to promote equitable development and regional bal-

The president approved the reconstitution of the 13-member body by exercising Article 156 of the Constitution.

The Council would be led by Prime Minister with chief ministers of all the provinces and representatives of caretaker governments of the federal government and the provincial governments as its members. According to a statement issued by the President House press wing,

and investment S.M. Tanvir would be the member of the Council from would be member of NEC from Sindh province.

Similarly minister for finance, excise, taxation and narcotics Ahmed Rasool Bangash would be member of the Council from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and minister for finance and revenue Amjad Rasheed from Balochistan.

Federal minister for planning, development and special initiatives, minister for communication railway and maritime affairs, and federal minister for power and petroleum would also be part of the NEC.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi exchanging views with Secretary Defence, Lieutenant General (R) Hamood uz Zaman Khan at Naval Headquarter.

Major reshuffle in Balochistan police force:

10 DIGs of six different police ranges and SPs and SSPs of 35 districts transferred

Independent Report QUETTA: As many as 10 Deputy Inspector Generals of Police of six different police ranges and divisions of Balochistan were transferred after the major reshuffle in the provincial police force with immediate effect and until further or-

In addition to this, Superintendent of Police (SPs) and Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs) of 35 districts of the province were also reshuffled until next orders.

According to an official notification issued here by the Central Police Office the other day, DIG Police, Quetta, Aitezaz Ahmed Goraya has been posted as the DIG Counter Terrorism Department Balochistan.

Hayee Baloch, awaiting posting orders, has been posted as DIG Police Ouetta.

Similarly, DIG Police CPO.

The PSP officer, Abdul

Naseerabad, Munir Ahmed Sheikh has been transferred as DIG Police Kalat Range while DIG Telecommunication, Sahibzada Bilal Umar has been transferred and posted as the DIG Naseerabad, and DIG Zhob Range has been transferred as DIG Highways and patrolling. Similarly, the PSP officer, Muhammad Maroof Masood, awaiting posting order, has been posted as the DUG Police Zhob while DIG Police Rakhshan, Nazir Ahmed Kurd has been transferred and posted as the DIG

Loralai. Moreover, DIG Wazir Khan Nasar has been posted as DIG Rakhshan in place of Nazir Kurd and DIG Loralai, Saleem Lehri has been transferred and posted as DIG Telecommunication in place of Sahibzada Bilal.

The DIG Police Kalat Range, Pervez Umrani has been transferred and directed to report in the

Daily Soice of Masse Independent

Saturday September 02, 2023

Continuous decline

The bloodbath at the stock market on Thursday is just another grim reminder of all that is wrong with the economy. The fundamentals continue to worsen — faster than before as the country hurtles towards like exchange rates, growth yet another financial disaster amid political uncertainty.

The fresh losses suffered by this country. Most of the the stock market over the last few days are just one symptom of declining economic conditions exacerbated by electoral uncertainty. The KŠE-100 Index is said by market watchers to have lost almost 1,250 points over concerns of another potential hike in interest rates because of changing expectations regarding inflation as the rupee depreciates and power rates

The already 'fragile' investor sentiment also took a hit after the caretaker finance minister warned of a further hike in electricity and fuel rates, and asserted that the government did not have the fiscal space for subsidies.

During her appearance before a Senate panel on Wednesday, she said there was little choice but to adhere to the IMF programme. Could the stock Conference. World War II market bloodbath have been avoided had she not spoken the as it ascended to the world truth? Experts familiar with the state of the economy are not convinced.

Likewise, the exchange rate is again sliding after a brief respite following the approval of the new \$3bn short-term bailout loan from the IMF. The ruan international currency. This is how 'dollarization' pee is under pressure due to became a popular term in the surging import bill, the in- rently the dollar flight is extending loans to devel- euro has become synonyternational rise of the dollar, and the interbank market endlessly chasing the open market rate of the latter currency to keep the gap below 1.25pc to meet a key IMF goal.

The rupee has lost nearly 26pc of its value since the start of 2023. Again, could turbulence in the foreign exchange market have been prevented had the IMF not imposed its condition to narrow the gap between the interbank and open markets? Not without letting the gap between the two markets widen to an unsustainable level.

Investors have been closely monitoring the country's balance-of-payments position because the next review by the IMF will not happen for a few months, and there is not much clarity over the planned investments from the Gulf nations. That means foreign capital inflows will remain subdued, at least over the next several months, which would prolong the pressure on the rupee.

The main question is: can the caretakers stop the economic decline? With their limited mandate and powers, it looks unlikely. The current state of the economy demands made some reprehensible tough decisions that a temporary set-up is not capable of liefs. These rumours are

The rupee will keep shed- in the mohalla kindle the fire ding value, inflation will remain elevated, and stocks will continue to suffer mounting losses unless the prevailing election uncertainty ends, and a stable new elected government takes over with the mandate to take difficult decisions. Meanwhile, we continue our journey towards a bigger economic disaster.

Inflation and desperation



Faisal Bari

While the debate on whether or not inflation and foreign currency and debt pressure will continue, and what effect they will have on aggregates and solvency, is important, the real impact will be felt by the people of impact is being felt by the lower- to middle-income groups. We really have to start thinking about what can be done by the state and society to help adress their issues.

Over the last couple of years, the number of people, working in the organisations I am, or have been associated with, and who have started asking for help, has increased manifold. Where previstricted to the lowest rung and given one does not people being asked as is still below some thresh-

level salaries have started asking for help to pay school fees, electricity bills (especially when the amount increases unexpectedly and significantly, as of late), health-related emergency bills, and sometimes even to cover regular gaps between salaries and household expenses

In recent months, a

number of riders who

have delivered food or

other goods at our house

have later called, since they had my mobile number, to ask for help. It always surprises me. I do not know the person in question. He may have just delivered food or a parcel once to our house, but feels that he can call on me for help. On the one hand, it tells of the desperation that people are feeling. Though they are working, and working full-time or even more, they cannot make ends meet and have to ask strangers for help. On the other hand, it does put the other side in an embarrassing position. It might be possible to help ously this was usually re- a few people a few times,

of the salary scales, now people even with mid-possible to know whose need is higher, so this just leads to a lot of embarrassment for both sides.

The issue is not restricted to riders. You take a ride on a rickshaw or other transport service, and many drivers ask for help. You park your car at a parking area, the attendant asks for help. You go to a grocery store, the sales staff asks for help.

people asking for help at traffic signals. We are talking of people who are employed full-time and are working hard. But they can now no longer make ends meet. Inflation has made it impossible for them to live within the salaries they are getting.
One wonders what

This is different from

kind of social and psychological impact this will have. Clearly, it is not easy for people to ask for financial help from those they hardly know. Many feel, quite visibly, embarrassed, and find it demeaning. But they are forced to ask as they do not have other options. How can

this not create trauma?

well. It is hard to say no. It is harder to say no when you know the needs of the people are very genuine and inflation has made life very hard for most of them. But it is also not possible to help all who ask. This will impact us socially and psychologi-

cally as well.

At the state level, we need to increase the amount that is allocated for social protection programmes substantially. Every recipient should get a lot more, given inflation. But, and equally importantly, if not more, we need to expand the programmes and the net as well. We need to expand programmes for schooling and health coverage, as people have a tendency to cut down on educational and health expenses when times get tough; we need to add unemployment benefits to protect people who are losing jobs in these times, or are entering the workforce and are not able to find jobs; and we need to add income supplement programmes for those who might be working full-time and It is hard for the more, but whose income

The minimum wage in Punjab is Rs32,000 per month. Many people, especially in the private sector, work below this level. Even though Rs32,000 might not be a livable wage, it could still be a threshold for providing support to the working

Given government's financial constraints, the immediate question in such discussions is: where will the money for additional support come from? And the mostly likely answer is that the government does not have the money, and so programmes for the needy will not be expanded and/ or increased in number. But the truth lies elsewhere. We know that we provide massive subsidies to the rich in general, and to various interest groups in particular. If the state was actually serious about finding money, and if their priority was relief for the needy, finding money would not be an issue. Sadly, it is not a priority for the state. Can society organise

to help the financially dissome time to come.

the need for personalised appeals, which is hard for both sides to bear, are not required? Individually, people give a lot. But this effort is unorganised, and many remain in need. Could we do better? We need organisations, from local to the national level, that people can trust before any such thing can be organised. We are far from that, and it is not possible to create these quickly.

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These are hard times, indeed. Too many people are hurting too much. This will not only leave economic scars, it will leave social and psychological scars as well. The state is still not giving help to the people. It is not a high enough priority. Short of general unrest, there seems nothing that will move this state in the right direction. But general unrest and its high cost are difficult to predict. Society is not organised enough to manage help and relief well The situation does not look good. Economic conditions will not improve quickly, so the pressure will keep mounting for

Are we moving away from the dollar?



Hassan Baig

The dollar got the status of a reserve currency after the aftermath of World War II by the 1944 Bretton Woods brought fortunes for some countries, especially the US throne as a superpower and its currency got the status of a reserve currency. The international financial system orchestrated soon after the formation of the powerful UN, a system that runs through the IMF and the World Bank, revolves around the dollar as facing headwinds, as alternative currencies like digital currency, the euro or the yuan are advancing to stop the world's total reliance on

threat to the US dollar. Countries like Russia, India and Pakistan are making efforts to promote trade by paying in their own currencies. These currencyswap agreements provide a mechanism to pay for goods and services to their trading partners in their repective national currencies. Barter trade is also taking place in sanctions-hit countries like Iran to bypass the process of payment in dol-

Pakistan, facing a dollar shortage, recently entered into a cost-effective oil deal with Russia to import crude oil by paying in a third currency like the Chinese yuan. The BRICS countries have already agreed to promote trade by using their national currencies or the Chinese yuan for international pay-

Significantly, China has become the lender of oping countries like Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Pakistan or African countries in vuan instead of dollar. Russia is also replicating the Chinese model, espe-

The Chinese yuan is cially after the boycott of After the yuan, the Indian rencies like the Chinese tres of economic power, as considered the biggest Russian products by rupee is also entering the yuan, Indian rupee or Rusthis century is considered America and the EU countries in the backdrop of the Ukraine war.

The importance of China's role in conflict resolution in the long drawn case of Iran and Saudi Arabia cannot be understated. That will pave the way to a successful launch of the BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) project in the Middle East, connecting it through CPEC/Gwadar. China's triumph or success means the promotion of trade in the yuan and not dollars in the future Global trade is taking

new twists and turns, with China and India already starting currency-swap agreements with other countries to pay in their own currencies. BRICS too has member states promoting trade in their own national currencies. Bilateral, multilateral and preferential trade agreements are also promoting last resort after the IMF trade in their regional curour economic lexicon. Cur- and the World Bank, and is rencies. For example, the and regrouping....it has mous with the dollar in terms of its use and utility in the euro zone, as a lot of trade there is taking place in the euro instead of the dollar: that is significant.

market through currencyswap agreements by India with other countries.

In another significant development, the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries – possessing almost 41 per cent share of international population and market – have agreed to expand their bloc by allowing other developing countries to become members. There are about 40 countries showing an interest in joining the bloc; 22 out of these 40 countries have formally applied for

membership.
BRICS has allowed six countries to become full members by January 1 next year. These countries include Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia and Argentina. Chinese President Xi Jinping, who has long pushed for the expansion of the BRICS group, said: "The world is undergoing major shifts, division entered a new period of turbulence and transformation." The BRICS countries are committed to promoting trade in their naadopting major strong cur- undercurrents of new cen- - Courtesy TheNews

sian ruble for payments to the 'Asian Century' so far their trading partners in the

Crypto currency or digital currency is another reality check on the dollar as an international currency. Although, there are myriad complex security issues for its acceptability as an international currency, that is the way forward. No one can stop the ideas of the modern technological web of time. Currency in itself has a long history – starting with hard metal coins of gold or silver to paperback to now crypto or digital currency. The time has come to promote trade and business by using the digital mode of payment. This can be done by maintaining crypto accounts, just like we are accustomed to maintaining bank accounts in banks by

There is every possibility and probability that huge future development America's influence as a takes place. Another superpower may prolong the dollar's hegemony as an international currency for for the dollar's replacesome time. But that can-ment with crypto or intertional currencies or by not stop the currents and national digital currency. -

way of depositing or with-

drawing our paperback

as economic prowess is concerned. It is enough to say that the dollar king may still have some time to rule over the world, but there are now problems that could put an end to its rule. The dollar flight is facing headwinds slowing down its pace and speed. The dollar's hegemony may erode with time, as new centres of economic powers are emerging on the world scene

The international monetary system dominated by the dollar may lose its ground, especially if international conflicts like the Ukraine war, Taiwan and the South-China Sea, and the Middle East are not successfully resolved. The new cold war with China is already creating ripples in international relations, and may create a lot of supply chain issues affecting international trade in case such a Covid-19 like situation may create further ground

Torching churches



the dollar.

Jan-e-Alam Khaki

There is great anguish felt by many people in Pakistan regarding the ugly incident at Jaranwala. As was reported, a mob torched several churches, ransacked Christian homes and vandalised a graveyard in this area. The apparent provocation was alleged blasphemy committed by a Christian. This provided an excuse to local preachers to incite people and unleash a reign of terror on churches and the homes of this particular faith community, whose contributions, particularly in the field of education, are immense. Many leaders in our country feel proud of graduating from schools run by the Chris-

tian community. It may be noted that all such events often start with rumours. Somebody sees or pretends to have seen a person, even an illiterate person, desecrate a page or a few verses or statement about Muslim holy personalities or bespread to create a big fuss and then, religious leaders by making announcements on loudspeakers to invite people to 'punish' the

ʻguilty' Öne may ask what advice the Quran gives about addressing rumours. "If a wicked person comes to you with any news, ascertain the truth, lest ye harm people unwittingly, and afterwards become full of repentance for what ve have done" (49:6), says the Holy Book.

If someone leaves a couple of torn pages at

person has abused the Quran, should Muslims punish this person or burn down his house?

another verse, which again

Let us consider yet

refers to rumour-spreading and gives a 'policy statement' — to use a modern term — or a set of 'SOPs' when it comes to news (or fake news) relating to public safety. It says: "When there comes to them some matter concerning (public) safety or fear, they divulge it. If they had only referred to the Messenger [PBUH], or to those charged with authority among them, the proper investigators would have tested it from them (direct). Were it not for the Grace and Mercy of Allah unto you, all but a few of you would have followed Satan"

See how the Quran deals with a major problem in the context of pre-modern Arabia! Mischief-mongering has long been part and parcel of human society, and the revelation rightly addresses it in the most common-sense way. The government can insist on making such Quranic verses key policy guidelines while tackling such events. Today, fake news has become such a nuisance that many, unfortunately, even profit from deliberately spreading it. First, the Quran advises not to create fasaad (corruption) in the world with excuses. Second, even if news or a rumour reaches someone, they should not jump to conclusions, but investigate the allegations through those who are responsible for

such things Just imagine if a rumour like the one in Jaranwala proves to be false, what benefit would the alleged perpetrator get by doing such a senseless thing, unless there is an agenda behind it? Some people do such things to make a statement in a cer-

someone's door, and then tain sensational way beraises a hue and cry that this cause they have an agenda, such as Islamophobia. But we now have a new twist to the story. The Punjab police chief says that a "network of hostile intelligence agencies" was allegedly involved in the recent incidents of blasphemy across the country. Does it change the consequences we have already faced in terms of loss — both material loss, and more importantly, the loss of trust between communities? Even if the news is correct, does it change the

> Reflecting on these human instincts, the Quran says: "Did not Allah check one set of people by means of another, there would surely have been pulled monasteries, churches, synagogues, and mosques, in which the name of Allah is commemorated in abundant measure.

substance of the event?

(22:40).Other than what many learned authors have proposed where long-term suggestions go, I, for one, argue that these things cannot be dealt with by only postfacto actions, but through sustained pre-emptive actions; through civic engagement that teaches humanism, pluralism and cosmopolitanism. We need to treat all as equal citizens, worthy of respect. This may be done through re-education, both public and formal apart from legal measures. Re-education, because our current approach to education - both secular and religious - encourages an exclusive rather than inclusive approach. Let us show practically that 'Islam is a peaceful religion'. In a Muslim-majority society like ours, let us demonstrate people are safe from the harm of our hands and tongues, as our Prophet (PBUH) expected from his faithful fol-

lowers. Let us say "Assalam

Alaikum" (peace be upon

you) to all with the heart, not

from the lips as a mere ritual!

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

When caretaker finance minister Dr Shamshad Akhtar said that the 'interim' government wasn't empowered to provide meaningful relief to the working masses ravaged by exorbitant electricity bills, she inadvertently acknowledged some truths about who runs Pakistan.

Ours is one of the most opaquely governed countries in the world. But present circumstances have clarified there is no democratic 'transition' happening here. Only by clearly naming the hydra-headed monster that rules us do we provide ourselves an opportunity to turn popular rage into something resembling a mass movement for change. The establishment: It can be argued that more ordinary Pakistanis than ever are now clear that the military establishment is the ultimate arbiter of power in Pakistan. The way in which the PDM regime was propped up, Imran Khan and PTI cut to size, the continuing impunity over enforced disappearances,

criminalisation of independent dissenting voices (like Ali Wazir and Imaan Mazari) and the mockery made of the Constitution during and after the formation of the caretaker government illuminates who pulls

the strings. But the establishment is not a monolith. There is substantial factional struggle for power and resources within it, and this includes elements in the media, judiciary and mainstream political parties. Fi-

nally, and arguably most importantly, establishment's corporate footprint is now so large that millions are consciously or otherwise part of its economic empire, which include border trade, land/resource grabs, and business ventures in sectors as diverse as real estate and fertiliser. IMF and bilateral donors: Dr Akhtar let the proverbial cat out of the bag when she said that the caretakers' primary task is to ensure that the IMF's most recent list of conditionalities is implemented. Unfortunately, too many 'experts' insist that the IMF and other donors are wise and the brown sahibs who directly occupy formal seats of government are exclusively responsible for

our economic crisis. But even in the power sector's case, the evidence is clear: the IMF and World Bank foisted the same IPPs on the country in the 1990s which suck dollars from the exchequer to this day. And, of course, the IMF has no qualms about jacking up electricity prices on the masses. Our own rich and powerful are certainly part of the problem because they refuse to pay direct tax on their incomes, but donors are far from blameless for the trials and tribulations of Pakistanis. Next is the widely expected hike which will take the price of petrol beyond Rs300.

Business-landed power: From real estate moguls to sugar cartels to construction companies, Pakistani business elites are amongst the most insular and self-interested anywhere. Gone are the days that our businessmen thought of themselves as contributing to a larger project of economic independence from global elites. Today, the vast majority of business segments choose to become subcontractors of MNCs, destroy nature and dispossess the poor, and/ or favour unregulated flows of capital in and out

Who runs Pakistan?

Meanwhile in rural Pakistan, landed classes remain deeply entrenched. They control thanas, katcheris and patwaris, deploy patriarchal violence and manipulate poll outcomes. Finally, big and even medium trader-merchant segments remain power players. They not only dodge taxes, but also represent a deep-seated historical sensibility that accords more political and economic importance to trade over manufacturing industry.
Religious right: The

establishment's historical

patronage of the religious right is old news; various factions now have independent, organic roots. The Taliban are wreaking havoc in the tribal districts and other parts of KP, while there are any number of sectarian-militant organisations that operate in Gilgit-Baltistan, Balochistan and other parts of the country, empowered by formal legislation (like anti-Shia/blasphemy bills). The TLP is back in favour with the deep state; Jaranwala appears to be only the tip of a very large iceberg. The religious right is powerful at an ideational level and also a major source of social mobility. It is thus a major plank of the contemporary hegemonic order, and as the economic situation continues to worsen, is the most likely contender for popular mobilisation outside of the mainstream parties. The people: Is there any hope for the mass of working people beyond ideologies of hate? There could be; however, this requires otherwise courageous but divided progressive segments to demonstrate vision and maturity. Those who rule us will continue to preside over an ever-worsening downward spiral, so the space for a meaningful popular alternative to an increasingly volatile and conflict-ridden status quo is there to be taken. -- Cour-

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Independent Report Punjab; Muhammad Balighur Rehman chaired a meeting regarding Consortium on Drugs and Narcotics here at Governor House Lahore today. The proceedings of the previous meetings of the consortium and recommendations for the future were finalized in the meeting. He directed vicechancellors/rectors of public and private sector universities to take steps in light of the decisions taken in the meeting and

of the universities. Talking on this Rahman said that youth is committee under Drug and

implement the final

favourable educational vice-chancellors should take strict measures to prevent the use of drugs in Governor universities. He said that the Vice Chancellors should strive to create an recommendations of the consortium in letter and spirit for prevention of drug abuse in the premises

the most valuable asset and Narcotics Consortium in future of the country. He universities. The Punjab said that it is very Governor said that the important to provide a university security staff should maintain close environment to the young liaison with the law generation. He said that enforcement agencies to prevent the supply of drugs in the universities. emphasized that the World Anti-Drugs and Narcotics Days, which highlight the environment for their harmful effects of drugs students, staff, and faculty and tobacco, should be that is free from drug use. observed in all the He said that the Vice universities. He said Chancellors should take awareness campaigns measures to provide a safe, should be launched on healthy and conducive social media through academic environment to organizing and undertaking the students, teachers and various activities such as other employees of the dramas, documentaries,



LAHORE: Chancellor/Governor Punjab; Muhammad Balighur Rehman chaired a meeting regarding Consortium on Drugs and Narcotics here at

GDA urges suspension | of Sindh LGs for transparent elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): Commissioner's letters The Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) delegation, during their meeting with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday, pressed for the unbiased suspension of Sindh Local Governments (LG) and the District administrators to ensure transparency in the Services could assume the general

During a consultative meeting chaired by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja, the delegation urged the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to suspend Sindh Local Governments (LG) and appoint administrators to ensure transparency in the general

The GDA delegation emphasized importance of adhering to Election Commission's directives for transferring and appointing provincial officers. They noted that despite the Chief Election information.

Ministers, the transfers have not been carried out. They also proposed the appointment of

unbiased Returning Officers, and if feasible, of Commissioners and Officers from Federal role of Returning Officers. After completing all these arrangements, the Election Schedule should be

announced. delegation expressed unwavering support for the Election Commission's emphasizing transparent process hinges on proper delimitation Consequently, delimitation should align with the latest census data, and elections should follow the updated boundaries. They also recommended

revising the electoral rolls

to guarantee accurate and

up-to-date



GILGIT: Famous Cyclist and traveler Saqib Rehman presenting National flag and shield to Governor Gilgit-Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah at

Lady Reading hospital stands with KP people in all testing times

PESHAWAR (APP): devastating earthquake, Standing with the people 2010 floods or cases of of Khyber Pakthunkhwa in all testing times, Lady Reading Hospital (LRH) Peshawar is a unique healthcare facility providing best healthcare services to all patients despite limited financial resources, laboratories and

From Chitral to DI Khan and Kohistan to Waziristan districts, LRH has accommodated all kinds of patients of the 39 districts of Khyber Pakthunkhwa including seven merged districts by providing the much needed healthcare services to them irrespective of their financial status, colour and

Whether it was 2005 Presidents.

terrorism, the LRH's doctors, nurses and paramedics rosed to the occasion by treating hundreds of thousands of patients since its establishment in 1927.

Besides treating patients of many ailments including kidney, liver, chest, heart, acute medical and surgical diseases, the colonial era hospital had entertained an influx of coronavirus patients while several of its doctors, nurses and paramedics laid

down lives in line of duty. Named after wife of British Viceroy Lord Reading in 1927, the hospital has a golden history visited by former

ANF recovers 45 kg drugs in six operations

RAWALPINDI (APP) Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations managed to recover 45 kg of drugs and arrested five accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday.

He informed that in an operation, 500 ecstasy tablets were recovered Election from the possession of an accused arrested near Peshawar. The accused, a resident of Nowshera confessed to supplying drugs to the university

In another operation, kg hashish and 5 kg crystal were recovered from vehicle intercepted near Motorway Toll Plaza Peshawar. Two suspects who were trying to smuggle drugs from Peshawar to Punjab were arrested during the

10 each schools for boys, girls to be made model schools

FAISALABAD (APP) Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Nayyer Sheikh ordered transforming 10 government schools each for boys and girls as model schools in the district.

He also directed for maintaining the best cleanliness atmosphere, educational administrative matters in other schools.

He was presiding over a meeting of officers of the District Education Authority and school heads here on Friday.

He strictly directed for making the school model by renovation, paints, cleanliness of wash rooms, repair of doors and windows, upgradation of labs, purchase of furniture.

Transgender wounded in armed attack

PESHAWAR (APP): Some unknown assailants on Friday injured transgender with a gun shot in jurisdiction of Faqirabad police station, said the police. As soon as the information was received, local immediately arrived at the scene, collected important

evidence and rushed the injured transgender identified as Tahir alias Kaljay resident of Mardan to Lady Reading Hospital (LRH) where his condition was stated stable. In order to track down the accused involved in the incident, the CCTV footage installed in the surrounding area was obtained.

03

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali chairs meeting on various aspects including commercialization of universities, making links with industries and imparting education to students equipped with modern technology.

KP educational institutions increases fee to meet their expenses

educational institutions across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have increased the fees to meet

Looking at the documents of the several universities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, they have increased their fees. The fees of Islamia College University Peshawar, Jamia Peshawar, KMU and Agricultural University have been increased.

The Islamia College administration has also increased the hostel fees by Rs. 3000, the document revealed. The pre-medical fee has been increased from Rs. 45000 to Rs. 49465 on open merit in Islamia

Management Authority

(PDMA) Director General

İmran Qureshi on Friday

said that relief measures

were going on in the flood

affected areas of the

province. In a statement, he

said more than 595 villages

were evacuated completely

or partially during August

17 to 31, while more than

1,000 rescue personnel

participated in round-the-

The DG elaborated

clock relief operations.

LAHORE

Flood relief activities

continue: PDMA

Disaster

PESHAWAR (APP): The 13000 on self-finance, the fee has been increased from Rs. 98000 to Rs. 1,11000. After the increase of Rs. 5000 in pre-engineering, the fee has become Rs. 47000, the expenses of the has become Rs. 47000, universities, documents reveal here on Friday. the increase of Rs. 5000 per semester in the 4-year per semester in the 4-year BS program also, says the document available to this

agency.
The fee for MPhil has been increased by Rs. 5,000 and the fee for Ph.D. has been increased by Rs. 7,000 per semester. University

Peshawar has also increased the fees of BS, Masters, MPhil and PhD by 10 to 13 percent.
A 10% additional fee

was also charged from the students admitted to the University Agriculture and Khyber Medical University has also issued a declaration Pre-medical fee has by increasing the been increased by Rs. examination fees as well.

that more than 3,000 life

jackets were distributed in

the affected districts and

108 medical camps were

set up to provide medical

facilities to the affectees.

Around 16 ambulances

were alerted in the affected

areas for emergency

response, he added and

said that more than 42,000

patients were provided

treatment facilities in the

medical camps. Apart from

medical, 181 relief camps

were also established in the

affected districts

meeting under the in the global ranking, Chairmanship of the Governor Haji Ghulam Ali Governor regarding the said. financial resources of the universities of the research

here on Friday. In the meeting, various aspects including commercialization of universities, making links with industries and

of financial deficit was held

discussed in detail. Universities will have the research to face future challenges, the Governor Ghulam Ali said.

should try to include the

BRT service temporarily

suspended

in Peshawar

PESHAWAR (Online):

BRT service has been

suspended in Peshawar

temporarily. According to spokesperson of BRT

Trans Peshawar, IT

system of BRT is being

updated while repair work is being done in the corridor. Due to which all

BRT services will remain

closed on corridor and all

feeder routes. According to

spokesperson, the service

will be restored once the

Former Chief Minister and

President of Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

Chaudhary Pervez Elahi has blamed PML-N for the

recent wave of inflation in

the country. Talking to the

media in the courtroom,

Pervez Elahi said that

PML-N leadership fled to London after sinking the

country's fleet. Whenever

the PML-N has come they

inflation. Chaudhary

Parvez Elahi further said

have

increased the

repair work is completed.

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali said that commercialization and universities must pay getting the universities out special attention to modern

Ending financial problems

of universities my first

and market-based research to face future challenges. Ending the financial problems of the universities is their first

priority, the Governor

said. It is very sad to see

students equipped with situation of the modern technology were universities, despite the government assistance, all Universities will have the government to pay special attention to universities of the province modern and market-based are suffering from a financial deficit, Haji

'We all have to The Vice-Chancellor jointly play a role to get University of Engineering

priority: Governor PESHAWAR (APP): The universities of the province these difficulties and move towards improvement and most of the responsibility falls on the vice chancellors and management of the university to minimize the costs and increase the

resources," he added. Find alternative ways to create links with industries commercialize research so that universities can stand on their own feet, the Governor said, while addressing a meeting held imparting education to the current financial regarding financial students equipped with situation of the resources of universities, research commercialization and bringing universities out of financial deficit.

In the meeting, Caretaker Provincial Education Minister Dr. Muhammad Qasim Jan, Vice Chancellor of the the universities out of and Technology Peshawar



KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman addresses to media persons during press conference held at Idara-e-Noor-ul-Haq in Karachi.

KP Minister presides over introductory meeting of Excise Department

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Finance and Excise Taxation and Narcotics Control Ahmed Rasool Bangash has said that the Excise Department is playing a key role in the revenue of the province. Special measures will be taken to further improve the performance of the Excise Department. He expressed these views while presiding over an introductory meeting of department Directorate General Excise on Friday. It should be noted that this was Ahmed Rasool Bangash's first meeting of Excise Department after assuming the portfolio of minister

PESHAWAR (Online): Excise Akmal Khan Khattak and other excise officers participated in the

meeting.

The meeting was given a detailed briefing about the administrative affairs of the Excise Department, revenue recovery and ongoing reforms in the department. On this occasion, the caretaker minister for Finance and Excise said that the excise department has a key position in the revenue of the province, special measures will be taken to improve the efficiency of excise in all districts, while all the officers to meet the revenue target by June. Work with honesty and diligence, the process of reward and punishment



are holding protest demonstration for demanding justice for 10-years old housemaid Fatima Fariro, at Hyderabad press club.

CS inaugurates **Roberts Club building** LAHORE (APP): Chief with the modern era.

Secretary (CS) Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman on Friday visited the Punjab Police Special Branch Headquarters (Roberts Club) and unveiled the plaque of the Cannon Block restored to its original historic form.

Inspector General (IG) of Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar and Additional IG Special Branch Zulfiqar Hameed welcomed the Chief Secretary.

Stressing the need to further improve the service delivery through the use of Information Technology, the Chief Secretary said that the government institutions must keep pace

He said that all possible resources are being provided to enhance efficiency departments.He remarked that the IG Punjab and Additional IG Special Branch deserve accolades for the restoration and conservation of the historic building of Roberts Club.

The Chief Secretary mentioned that the Special Branch is the eyes and ears of the Punjab government and the police for ensuring good governance and reining in organized crime. He further said that

the role of the Special Branch important in maintaining law and order.



BHITSHAH: Sindh Caretaker Minister for Culture and Tourism, Syed Dr.

Junaid Shah and Muhammad Umar Soomro, Sindh Caretaker Minister for

Religious Affairs are witnessing performance of folk artists during a

ceremony on the occasion of 280th Urs Celebration of Shah Abdul Latif

Zubair Ali, has said that the popularity graph of the Jamiat Ülema-e-Islam (JUI) was witnessing an upward trend with each passing day and the trust people imposed in our services would never be

shattered. Talking to a gathering at Tablighi Markaz, Samdo Garhi, and Bashir Abad here wherein 57 families from various political parties announced joining JUI, he said the problems of the masses would be addressed

PESHAWAR (APP): at their doorstep. He said Mayor Peshawar, Haji open courts were being conducted on a daily basis to address people's grievances.

On the occasion, JUI leaders Maulana Abdul Jalil Jan, Siddiqur Rehman Paracha, Saadat Afridi, Mufti Ameen, Chairman Ullah, Zahid representatives of various union councils were also present.

Haji Zubair Ali said that the popularity of JUI was evident from the fact that people in large



RATODERO: Students of Government Boys Primary School are studying under open sky, as the only one classroom built for 200 more students, which is in the worst condition in the school, they are demanding to build more classrooms in the school, they also demanded basic facilities including furniture, fans, electricity, and cold water, at Pir Bahar Shah village in Ratodero.

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PM directs authorities to curb smuggling of sugar, petroleum products

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Friday directed the customs authorities and law enforcement agencies to strictly curb the smuggling of sugar, petroleum products, urea, agricultural products and other items

He was chairing a high level meeting for stopping smuggling in Pakistan.

During the meeting, he was briefed on the situation of smuggling of different items across the country, especially in the border areas, and about the steps taken for stopping the

The meeting was told that 10 additional check posts of law enforcement agencies were notified to smuggling in

involved in smuggling in the gling

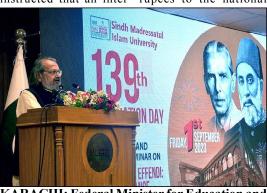
He directed strong departmental action against the officers involved in smuggling in Balochistan and award of exemplary punishment to them.

He said the smuggling of petroleum products was reducing revenue and putting pressure on the country's foreign exchange

He said he would chair a weekly meeting to review the performance of institutions and to curb the menace of smuggling. He ordered that the

border markets with Iran should be made more viable so that trade could be done with proper documents.

He said smuggling was The prime minister causing a loss of billions of instructed that an inter rupees to the national



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi addressing the Seminar on 139th Foundation Day of Sindh Madressatul Islam University.

PM reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to further strengthen Iranian ties

Govt to continue to strengthen ties with Britain: Kakar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday underscoring the close fraternal relations between Pakistan and Iran, reaffirmed the country's strong commitment to further strengthen and deepen

The prime minister, in a meeting with Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Reza Amiri Moghaddam, who called on him, stressed the need to focus on enhancing nomic and security do- connectivity.

mains. He highlighted that the recent inauguration of Mand-Pishin border marketplace would not only contribute to the economic uplift of the border areas but also serve as a manifestation of the collective commitment to work for the betterment of the two

He noted that President Raisi's policy of 'Neighborhood First' was fully aligned with Pakistan's vision for recooperation in the eco- gional development and



LONDON: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori meeting with former Prime Minister Mian Nawaz

DG NAB Balochistan pledges to prosecute resource theft culprits

QUETTA (APP): Director kistan. General of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in Balochistan Zafar Iqbal on Friday pledged to hold accountable and bring to justice those who have the protection of people's plundered the province's rights

Speaking at an open forum, the head of NAB Balochistan affirmed that corruption would not be tolerated, emphasizing the protection of people's

rights.
'The Bureau is diligently carrying out its duties in compliance with the dressed as per the directives laws and the constitution of of Chairman NAB Lt. Gen. the Islamic Republic of Pa- (retd) Nazir Ahmed.

Addressing a "Khuli Ketchery", the head of NAB Balochistan affirmed that corruption would not be tolerated, emphasizing

The Bureau is diligently carrying out its duties in compliance with the laws and the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pa-

The chief attentively listened to the people's con-cerns, assuring them that their issues were being ad-

Sanjrani leads productive meeting on IPC's future

ISLAMABAD (INP): IPC's operations and effi-Chairman Senate and President International Parliamentarians Congress (IPC) Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Friday presided over an important held here to chart the course of IPC's future, saw discussions on several crucial matters that are set to shape the organization's trajectory.

Key among the topics deliberated were:

Enhancing IPC's Efficiency: The meeting included an update on discussions between IPC Secretary General Sitara Ayaz and IPU President Mr. Duarte Pacheco regarding

dent IPC: The future election process for the President of IPC was a central point of discussion, along with the definition of roles and responsibilities for the executive posi-

Construction of the building of IPC Permanent Headquarter: Plans and funding for the construction of a permanent IPC Headquarter were discussed, marking a significant step towards the organization's continued growth.

Proposed Organogram

agency report should be economy and it was critical prepared about the officers to end the problem of smug-

> The PM was told that smuggling was reduced by 40 percent due to the untiring efforts of law enforcement institutions. He was apprised of the strategy of the law enforcement departments against smug-gling. Caretaker Federal Minister for Trade Gohar Ejaz, Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Minister for Petroleum Muhammad Ali, Advisor to the PM Ahmed Cheema, federal secretaries, Federal Board of Revenue chairman and high level officers of law enforcement agencies attended the meeting. Provincial chief secretaries of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and

PS to President Waqar Ahmad relinquishes charge

Balochistan and Inspector

General of Police attended

the meeting through video

ISLAMABAD (Online): Principal secretary to president Waqar Ahmad has relinquished charge of his office in Aiwan-e-Sadr.
He has reported to establishment division for his

next responsibility. President Arif Alvi had requested the federal government that federal secretary Humaira Ahmad

be appointed as principal secretary in place of Waqar Ahmad. But she had refused to serve as principal secretary in Aiwan-e-Sadr.
According to media report later federal secretaries were asked to perform

duty in Aiwan-e-Sadr but no federal secretary nodded yes to work as principal secretary to president.

GDA assures full support to EĈP's delimitation

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) has assured of extending full support to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in its new delimitation plan and high lighted that delimitation is the foundation of transparent elections. The assurance was made during a consultation meeting of GDA delegation with the Election Commission chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja. Members Election Commission, Secretary ECP and other senior officers also attended the meeting. From the Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA), Ms. Fehmida Marza, Dr. Safdar Ali

PTI's Aon announces to quit party, politics

Abbasi.

MULTAN (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Sena-tor Aon Abbas Buppi denouncing the May 09 incidents has announced to quit

party and politics. In a video message re-leased on Friday, May 9 would be remembered as black day in history of the country when enraged PT activist attack public properties and military installa-

The PTI South Punjab President said that Pakistan's military and people can't be separated

through any conspiracy. Aon Abbas Buppi had served as the managing director of the Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal.

I should be mentioned here that scores of PTI leaders have left the party and some of them have even bid farewell to politics for good, over the May 9 vandalism and arson against certain private and public properties as well as military installations, including the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi and the Jinnah House in Lahore.

districts of Balochistan the SSP Naseerabad dis-

QUETTA: Balochistan trict. province got first Police Service of Pakistan (PSP) was serving as AIG IT in CPO prior to her latest female officer posted as the posting, her husband, Dr. Sami Malik, was posted as the AIG General in CPO. senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) in a district. According to an offi-

Sindh province.

cial notification issued here Needless to mention here is that this is for the by the Central Police Office, the PSP officer of first time that two husband Grade-18, Faryal Fareed and wife PSP officers have been posted in two districts has been posted as the SSP of Balochistan. These dis-Jaffarabad district. tricts i.e., Naseerabad and Moreover. spouse, also a PSP officer. Jaffarabad are situated at Dr. Muhammad Sami the border of Balochistan-



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani and President International Parliamentarians Congress (IPC) presiding over a meeting regarding Course of IPCs Future held at Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPs) in Islamabad.

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Iran, Reza Amiri Moghaddam, Ambassador of the European Union Dr. Riina Kionka and British High Commissioner Jane Marriott separately meeting with caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

NPMC Reviews Prices of Essential Commodities

ISLAMABAD (Online): The National Price Moni-Committee (NPMC) reviewed the prices of essential commodities on Friday and directed the relevant stakeholders to maintain food prices to provide relief to the common man.

The NPMC meeting was chaired by the Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed. Chief Economist, Dr Nadeem Javaid moderated the meeting. Meeting was attended by the Chief Statistician from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), representatives from all provinces, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Ministry of Food Security & Industries, and other relevant stakeholders.

Since the interim government came into power, the Prime Minister has focused on providing maximum relief to the common man. In this regard, several steps are being taken. The meeting observed that the prices of a few commodities increased last week, leading to the decision to hold NPMC meetings on a weekly basis to monitor prices and provide relief to the masses. "Immediate measures need to be taken to control abnormal gaps in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and wholesale price index (WPI)," remarked the Caretaker Planning Minister, Sami Saeed, during the NPMC meeting. During the meeting, PBS officials presented the price and inflation data, while representatives from Punjab, KP, Sindh,

and Balochistan apprised the

While interacting with

officers and troops de-

ployed in the area, COAS

emphasized. "The Army.

Law Enforcement Agencies

and the Nation can never be

who have a misbelief that

they can challenge the iron

resolve of the soldiers and

have fought for long and will

continue to fight the men-

ace of Terrorism till the end.

The Nation pays rich trib-

ute to those who have laid

their lives and their sacri-

fices will forever be

COAS was received by

Commander Peshawar

Earlier on arrival.

He further said, "We

writ of the State.'

honoured.

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Min-

ister on Human Rights, Mushaal Hussein Mullick

addressing a seminar on 2nd Martyrdom Anniver-

Faryal becomes first female SSP:

Husband & wife PSP officers

get posting as SSP in border

sary Syed Ali Shah Gillani at Kashmir House.

Chief of the Army Staff, General Asim Munir visit-

ing CMH Bannu to inquire about the health and well-being of the injured soldiers.

COAS visits CMH

Bannu, ISPR

Where nine brave sol- coerced by the cowardly

diers embraced Shahadat tactics of the Terrorists,

RAWALPINDI (Online):

General Syed Asim Munir,

COAS visited visited CMH

Bannu to inquire about the

health and well-being of the

injured soldiers on Friday.

yesterday when a suicide

bomber blasted himself near

Chief of Army Staff

COAS appreciated

military convoy in Jani

was briefed on the ongoing

operations and overall se-

the high morale and un-

flinching resolve of the

troops. "Pakistan Army

will continue to act as a

bulwark against terrorism

to safeguard the nation

from this scourge "COAS

Independent Report

Malik, has been posted as

Khel area.

curity situation.

emphasized

forum on the current pro duction and supply of wheat, sugar, and other essential commodities, which remained satisfactory. The Minister empha sized zero tolerance against hoarders and profiteers, directing the Provincial gov ernments to engage their re spective Commissions Deputy Commissioners and Magistrates against hoarders. The Committee also directed the Provincial government to establish Sasta Bazaars to provide maximum relief to the

> The meeting also high lighted the importance of minimizing the price difference between wholesale and retail items. Relevant stakeholders were directed to reduce this difference to maximize relief for the common

WHO Country head calls on Health Minister

ISLAMABAD Health Organization's (WHO) Representative in Pakistan Dr. Palitha Gunarathna Mahipala called on caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan on Friday and discussed measures taken for the improvement of health sector.

WHO Chief congratulated the Minister for Health on assuming this important responsibility.

The appointment of world-renowned public health expert is a welcome development for the health sector, Dr Palitha said.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and Dr. Ahmed Al Mandhari, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean have expressed their happiness

Kakar pays tribute to Kashmiri leader Giani ISLAMABAD (APP)

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday paid tribute to the Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Geelani for his life-long struggle for freedom and

"My respects to iconic Kashmiri leader, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, on his second death anniversary, the prime minister said on his social media account on X (formerly known as twitter). "In the face of perse-

cution and hardship, his commitment to the Kashmir Cause was unparalleled.

Five killed over old enmity in Attock

ATTOCK (APP): Five persons were gunned down over old enmity in Jatiyal village in Hazro town of Attock district on Friday, police and hospital sources

Police while quoting the family of the victims said that the victims were coming back to their native town after watching a cricket match. The deceased were identified as 28-yearold Afraz Khan, 32-yearold Afzal Sheraz, 26-yearold Liaquat and 28-year-old Ishfaq Sultan.

A passerby minor identified as Hasham also hit with a bullet injury and shifted to the tehsil headquarters hospital in critical condition where he suc cumbed to injuries

Senate body expresses serious concerns over hike in electricity prices

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat Senator Rana Maqbool Ahmad on Friday taking the notice of the hike in electricity prices said that this a National crisis and many cases of suicide on it has been reported lately in the country.
While addressing the

chairman NEPRA, the Senate Committee submit proposal to withdraw all taxes on electricity bills, in particular of the under privileged class. The committee chair

also sought briefing by the Chairman NEPRA on the mechanisms through which rapid increase in electricity rates are applied and send recommendations for its reconsideration. The committee also sought details on the owners of the IPP. The committee was of the view that it is National dilemma and the people of Pakistan are critically suffering due

to severe economic crisis therefore relief should be given to the people. The committee sough

details on the recent cases of casualties and injuries caused by electrocution and domestic substandard electrical wiring in the country and measures adopted to avoid the fatal incident. The committee lamented that scores of cases are pending in the tribunal and no compensation are being made to the effectees. It was briefed that total 164 fatalities in DISCOs have occurred during FY 2022-23 whereas 106 non fatal injuries took place. The com-

posal of pending cases. Earlier in the meeting, the committee discussed at length the details of achievement of each awardee of National Awards 2023 as per their citation. Joint Secretary Awards Cabinet Division, informed the committee.

mittee chair gave recom-

mendations to expedite dis-



Dr. Palitha Mahi Pala called on Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem in his office.

51st meeting BoT Employees GIF held: CS directs to ensure transparent use of Group Insurance Fund

of government employees **Independent Report** QUETTA: The Board of cerned high ups. Trustee of the Provincial Government Employees Group Insurance Fund

Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan in the chair here on The cases of retires civil servants of different departments were presented in the meeting, which was attended by the Secretary Law, Abdul Saboor Khan Kakar, Secretary Finance, Zahid Saleem, Secretary Services and General Administration

Department (S&GAD),

Babar Khan and other con-

(GIF) met with the Chief

It may be mentioned here that it was the 51st meeting of the Board of Trustee held after span of 10 months. Around 3,000 cases of

the employees of different departments were presented in the Board meeting having amount of around 1.25 billion. Addressing the meeting, Chief Secretary said that Group Insurance is right of the employees, and there should be no delav in it. He directed to ensure transparent use of the Group Insurance so that no employee is deprived of one's due right.



pick and drop, at Court road in Quetta.

ANP leaders call for conducting in time free and fair elections

Independent Report QUETTA: The provincial president of Awami National Party (ANP) Balochistan, Asghar Khan Achakzai and other leaders have underlined the need to conduct in-time free and fair elections in the They said that any

other step other than the timely free and fair elections would cost the country too much, therefore, it is necessary to conduct the elections within the stipulated time and thus give democracy a chance to flourish in the country. They said that the

ANP is a peaceful democratic party, which opposes every extreme moves and would continue to do so in future as well.

The ANP provincial leaders also said that we can't allow anyone to play with the sentiments of Pashtoons under the message of Bacha Khan evgarb of religion or nation- erywhere.

They also criticized the record inflation in form of increase in the tariffs of electricity, rates of petrol and petroleum products and other daily used items. The provincial Presi-

dent of ANP and others were addressing the joining ceremony in Chaman Shin Talab Killi Kakozai on Fri-

As many as 220 people led by Haji Mehmood, Muhammad Khan, Haji Abdul Qadir, Haji Hayat Khan, Hafiz Abdullah announced to join the ANP.

Asghar Khan Achakzai, Mabat Kaka, Malik Usman Achakzai, Salahuddin Watanyar, Khan Zaman Kakar, Ubaidullah Abid, Asghar Ali Tareen and other ANP leaders welcomed those joining the party and hoped that they would strive to spread the