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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. Replying to a ques-

of Pakistan Coast Guard.

taker Interior Minister Sena-

tor Sarfaraz Bugti Friday

while reiterating the resolve

for the elimination of ter-

rorism from the country

said that all possible mea-sures would be taken for

maintaining peace to

achieve the goals of devel-

opment and prosperity of the

dressing the passing out Cer-

emony of Pakistan Coast

Guard's 43rd Basic Recruit

Training Course here, said

that valiant nations face dif-

ficult situations gallantly and

Pakistani nation's unwaver-

ing resolve against violence

and terrorism could not be

The minister, while ad-

Interior Minister reiterates

resolve for elimination of

terrorism from country

KARACHI (APP): Care- entire nation should dem-

said the government was no hidden in it. considering various op-

the people.

Citing the example of the overall potential of \$5 the \$700 billion worth of to \$6 trillion. Reko Dik gold and copper reserves, the prime minister said the country had huge potential of natural change fate of the people of Pakistan.

"We took the initiative tential and we are going tofar as the scientific methods and financial models

the whole of the govern- ment of the country.

KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti

distributing awards during the passing out ceremony of Basic Recruit Course

onstrate unity in the war

against terrorism and bust

the nefarious designs of anti-

condolence to the families of

Jawans of the Pakistan

Army who embraced mar-

tyrdom in the line of duty

said, "The entire nation is

proud of unmatched sacri-

fices of valiant armed forces

and law enforcement agen-

cies for the safe, secure, and

prosperous future of Paki-

the Pakistan Army, para-mili-

tary forces, Police, Levies,

and people of Pakistan in the

war against terrorism will

be remembered forever," he

"Sacrifices rendered by

Sarfraz Bugti expressing

Pakistan forces

tion, the prime minister ment project and there was

tions to provide relief to intervention that has already been initiated and has

The prime minister highlighted that Pakistan had huge land that could be used for agriculture purresources that would pose 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 wards the right direction so across the country. Likewise, he said IT, tourism and defence production are concerned," he remarked.

had also huge potential that would be tapped for He said the SIFC was socio-economic develop-

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on

Friday approved reconstitution of the National Economic Council (NEC)-a constitutional entity responsible for evaluating the country's economic condition and devising strategies to promote equitable development and regional bal-

Chief of the Army Staff

General Asim Munir

has urged the United

Nations to enable

Peacekeeping Mis-

sions to be more effec-

tive 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

Ministerial Meet here

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

Peacekeeping

Peacekeepers

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,

caretaker minister for power, industry, commerce and investment S.M. Tanvir would be the member of the Council from Punjab province, minister for finance, revenue, planning and development Muhammad Yunus Dhagha would be member of NEC from Sindh province.

and Security of Peace-

keepers the meet was

attended by delegates

from different coun-

tries, senior officials

from UN and mem-

community

Islamabad.

He was addressing the army chief com-

President approves

reconstitution of NEC

bers of the diplomatic

In his remarks,

mended the role of the

United Nations in the

maintenance of inter-

national peace and

highlighted increasing

challenges and unprecedented levels of

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

Caretaker govt bound to respect law & judiciary, Murtaza Solangi ISLAMABAD (APP): To a query, the minis-

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 talk-

ing 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

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

allow us to take decisions

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

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



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

WHO Country head calls on Health Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Al Mandhari, WHO Re-World 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 a 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

gional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean have expressed their happiness about your appointment, he said WHO has stood by Pakistan in every difficult hour. The services of the World Health Organization in dealing with the outbreak of Coronavirus are commend-

"We appreciate WHO's support in polio eradication efforts," Dr. Nadeem Jan said. "My mission is to ensure massive reforms in the health sector in the short term. Without the development of health and education, social development cannot be attained,' said the Health Minister.

stan and Japan on the threats being faced by theme of the Safety Peacekeepers. Resolutions and the as a tangible manifestation of the Safety Peacekeepers.

The army chief further 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 resolution of the Jammu Pakistan's longstanding and Kashmir dispute commitment to UN

COAS urges peaceful resolution of Kashmir

dispute aligned with UNSC resolutions

Gen Munir says Pakistan aspires to create region where peace prevails

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 in accordance with the peacekeeping, span-Security 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: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting regarding smuggling control at border areas.

Evidence collected through int'l legal help remained not acceptable after NAB amendment: CJP

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial has nelp remained not acceptable after NAB amendment.

CJP gave these remarks while presiding over 3-member bench of Supreme Court (SC) during hearing of Chairman PTI petition against NAB amendment Friday.

Justice Ijaz úl Ahsan and Justice Mansoor Ali Shah are the part of this During the hearing of

the case CJP asked Haris that he wanted to ask Makhdom Ali Khan a ques-

He observed we saw a thing in amendment law a

Cipher missing case: IK allowed to meet lawyers

ISLAMABAD (Online): Imran Khan's lawyer team has been allowed to meet former Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan, who was arrested in cipher missing

Judge Abu Al Hasnat Muhammad Zulqarnain heard requests for meeting with Chairman PTI in Jail in special court of Official Secret Act.

According to details court has allowed a team of lawyers to meet Chairman PTI. Salman Safdar, Ali Ejaz Battar, Naeem Panjota, Intizar Panjota and Umair Niazi have been allowed to meet Imran Khan.

Court said that health dignity and security of Chairman PTI are being considered. I would allow everyone but we have to consider his security as

PS to President Waqar Ahmad relinquishes charge 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 Alv secretary

had requested the federal government that federal Humaira Ahmad be appointed as principal secretary in place of Wagar Ahmad. But she had refused to serve as principal secretary in Aiwan-e-Sadr.

ISLAMABAD (Online): day before. The status of sign was given from seat evidence collected through which was not accepted. Mutual Legal Co operation The clause related to assets remarked evidence collected (MLC) had been eliminated is there in section 9 of NAB. through international legal . Now NAB itself will have It has been defined as corto seek legal services which ruption in section 9

> CJP remarked you had said a day before that reports of properties have come from foreign countries in addition to MLA. The evidence received through this source are not acceptable as per law. You were to fight on these things in parliament but you left and

went away. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah while addressing PTI counsel remarked. were you to resign from seat you would have vacated it for some one else.

Khawaja Haris said re- means.

The CJP remarked what was the value of any asset in the past. This can be speculated. Some property dealer can say this property carried what value some years before. NAB should bring some concrete evidence. The real value of assets has not come before.

Khawaja Haris argued amnesty scheme was not protecting the property acquired through unfair means. NAB amendment had protected the assets accumulated through illegal

Air Chief reaffirms PAF's commitment to fostering robust partnership with Turkish Air Force



Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu on Friday expressed his gratitude to the Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, for extending a warm invitation to attend Graduation and Flag Detachment Ceremony and reaffirmed Pakistan Air Force's commitment to fostering a robust partnership with the Turkish Air Force. Consequent to a spe-

cial invitation by the Turkish Presidency, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu made a landmark visit to Turkiye to attend the prestigious Graduation and Flag Detachment Ceremony, as Guest of Honour, which was held at Turkish Air Force Academy, a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) news re-

The ceremony was Deputy Prime Minister of the State of Qatar, Dr Khalid Bin Mohammad Al- Force.

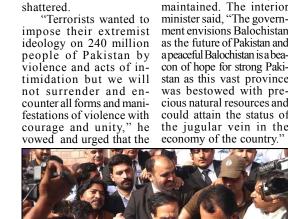
lease said.

Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Colonel General Zakir Hasanov along with senior military commanders and high level state officials from across the world. The Graduation and

Flag Detachment Ceremony, held at the Turkish Air Force Academy, is a moment of immense pride and accomplishment for the graduating cadets, as they mark the culmination of their rigorous training and embark on their journey as officers of the Turkish Air

The presence of Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu as the Guest of Honour adds to the significance of this event and underscores the deep-rooted camaraderie between the two air forces.

During the event, the chief of the air staff interalso attended by Minister of State for Defence & dignitaries including General Ziya Cemal KADIOGLU. Commander of Turkish Air



LAHORE: Former Chief Minister Punjab and Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President, Chaudhary Pervaiz Ilahi leaving after court case hearing, at High Court in Lahore.

Countdown to Elections: **ECP** advances delimitation deadline to November 30

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

Parvez Elahi rearrested under 3-MPO

Monitoring Desk AHORE/ISLAMABAD Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf President and former Punjab 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

Earlier on Friday the Lahore High Court (LHC) ordered the anti-graft watchdog to release Elahi. The former provincial chief executive had filed a petition against NAB's move to arrest him in a corruption case. LHC Justice Amiad Rafig announced the verdict after Elahi was presented before the court.

the next 15 days, the sources

privy to the matter added.

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 previously this was usually re- a few people a few times, stricted to the lowest rung and given one does not people being asked as is still below some thresh-

of the salary scales, now people even with mid-possible to know whose 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 ex-

In recent months, a

number of riders who

have delivered food or

other goods at our house

penses

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

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. This is different from

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 kind of social and psycho-

logical 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 psychologically 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-dollar; that is significant.

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

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 national currencies or by not stop the currents and national digital currency. adopting 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 way of depositing or with-

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 inter-

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?

Let us consider yet

another verse, which again 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 com-

> substance of the event? 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.

munities? Even if the news

is correct, does it change the

(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 indepen-

dent 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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Punjab Governor says: VCs should take strict measures to prevent the use of drugs in universities

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 implement the final recommendations of the consortium in letter and spirit for prevention of drug abuse in the premises

Talking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Rahman said that youth is committee under Drug and

of the universities.

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 chancellors should ensure establish

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



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

> 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. patients

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.

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

Ending financial problems of universities my first priority: Governor PESHAWAR (APP): The universities of the province these difficulties and move

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 commercialization and getting the universities out of financial deficit was held here on Friday.

In the meeting, various aspects including commercialization of universities, making links with industries and students equipped with situation of the modern technology were universities, despite the discussed in detail.

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

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

Pervez says:

PML-N is

responsible for current

inflation

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

that now IMF has also said

repair work is completed.

The Vice-Chancellor jointly play a role to get University of Engineering should try to include the

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Ghulam Ali said that universities must pay special attention to modern 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 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

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

Director General

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 will be strictly enforced.



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.

JUI popularity graph witnesses upward trend: Mayor

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

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

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 numbers were joining.

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 increased the have inflation. Chaudhary Parvez Elahi further said

LAHORE



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.

PM directs authorities to curb smuggling of sugar, petroleum products

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

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

prepared about the officers involved in smuggling in the gling.

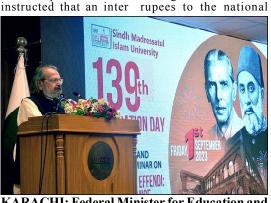
He directed strong departmental action against the officers involved in smuggling in Balochistan and award of exemplary punishment to them.

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

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



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

Sanjrani leads productive meeting on IPC's future

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 tions.

Key among the topics deliberated were:

Enhancing IPC's Efficluded an update on discusand IPU President Mr. continued growth. Duarte Pacheco regarding

ISLAMABAD (INP): IPC's operations and effi-

Election of the President 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 ciency: The meeting in- of a permanent IPC Headquarter were discussed. sions between IPC Secre- marking a significant step tary General Sitara Ayaz towards the organization's

Proposed Organogram



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.

Iranian CC condemns Holy Quran desecration, calls for global solidarity

By M. Ilyas ISLAMABAD: Cultural Consulate of Islamic Republic of Iran Islamabad organized a conference in collaboration with Majlis Wahdat Muslimeen. Dr, Raza Amiri Moqadam, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was the Chief guest of the conference, Speakers strongly condemned the government-sponsored desecration of the Holy Quran in

At the beginning of the conference, Mr. Ehsan Khazaei, cultural consular embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said that insulting the Holy Quran should stop now, it is possible only with the unity

of Muslims. The guest Ayat Ullah Dr. Ahmed Madhakiri, a member of Majlis Khabargan Rahbri Iran, who came specially for this conference from Iran, also addressed. He thanked the Cultural Consulate Em-

ing this grand Honor and Magnificence of the Quran Conference

Appreciated the protest against sacrilege and suggested that this subject should be taught exclusively in all universities under the title of philosophy of sanctification and that the Holy Ouran is a Holy book of Muslims and therefore all Muslims should unite for sanctification of the Holy Ouran.

Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Raza Amiri Moqaddam, said in his speech that all the Muslims of the world are shocked by this shameful act and two billion Muslims of the world should not stay silent on insulting the Holy Quran.

In the last six months. the holy book of Muslims Holy Ouran has been desecrated six times in different western countries, so the scholars of all religions should stop this act of extremism. An exhibition of bassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran for organiz-

New U.S. CG assumes charge in Peshawar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior Foreign Service Officer, Shante Moore has assumed responsibility as the Consul General at the United States Consulate General in Peshawar. "I am delighted to welcome Shante Moore as our new Consul General in Peshawar," said U.S. Am-

He said "We have a dynamic relationship with the people and government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Consul General Moore brings to Peshawar the experience needed to broaden and deepen our partnerships, and advance our shared efforts to build for the future and ensure sustainable economic growth that benefits all members of society" said a news release of the US embassy.

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

> The PM was told that smuggling was reduced by 40 percent due to the untirment institutions. He was apprised of the strategy of the law enforcement departments against smuggling. 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 Balochistan and Inspector General of Police attended

GDA assures full support to ECP's delimitation plan

the meeting through video

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) has assured of extending full support to the Election Commission of akistan (ECP) in its new delimitation plan and highlighted 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

MULTAN (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senator 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 PTI 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.

Islamabad police to use body cams during checking

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police have distributed body cameras among personnel of Dolphin Squads to ensure the secure recording of all interactions between cops and the public.

In a significant

move directed by Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the SSP Safe City has distributed body cameras to Dolphin Squad officials. During the distribution, officials were thoroughly briefed on the proper usage of these de-vices. Police said the primary objective behind introducing body cams is to ensure the secure recording of all interactions between police officials and the public. This initiative aims to reduce crime rates and enhance vigilance over

suspicious individu-

als and activities.

this a National crisis and many cases of suicide on it electrical wiring in the counhas been reported lately in try and measures adopted to avoid the fatal incident. While addressing the

to severe economic crisis

therefore relief should be

details on the recent cases

The committee sought

given to the people.

Senate body expresses

serious concerns over

hike in electricity prices

(INP):

ISLAMABAD

the country.

leged class.

Chairman Senate Standing

Committee on Cabinet Sec-

retariat Senator Rana

Maqbool Ahmad on Friday

taking the notice of the hike

in electricity prices said that

chairman NEPRA, the Sen-

ate Committee submit pro-

posal to withdraw all taxes

on electricity bills, in par-

ticular of the under privi-

also sought briefing by the

Chairman NEPRA on the

mechanisms through which

rapid increase in electricity

rates are applied and send

recommendations for its re-

consideration. The commit-

tee also sought details on

the owners of the IPP. The

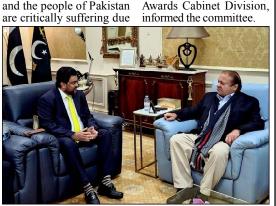
committee was of the view

that it is National dilemma

The committee chair

of casualties and injuries caused by electrocution and domestic substandard 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 committee chair gave recommendations to expedite disposal 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,



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

Aneeg deliberates on new measures introduced for pilgrims' convenience

ISLAMABAD (APP): assure all stakeholders' co ligious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed has deliberated upon various new initiatives aimed at enhancing the experience of pilgrims, including tracking through QR codes, the introduction of a short Hajj package, and provision of internet data services.

ing Session' the other day, said, "Today, we are gathered here to ensure the best possible facilities for our honorable pilgrims. While I don't make grand claims, I

Caretaker Minister for Re- operation in facilitating the comfort of the pilgrims."

The meeting focused on comprehensive training, discipline, and physical fitness for future Hajj pilgrims besides recommending strict actions against doctors issuing fake fitness certificates.

The ministry was ac-He, in a 'Hajj Debrief- tively working to introduce short and long Hajj packages within the Government Hajj Scheme, while also implementing QR codes to minimize complaints of lost items



tage and Culture Jamal Shah talking to media at the inaugural special exhibition of week-long Pakistan Defence Day cultural activities.

Jamal inaugurates week-long **Defence Day cultural activities**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and

Culture Jamal Shah on Friday formally inaugurated a week-long cultural activity being organized in connection with Pakistan Defence Day to be observed on September 6, 2023. In this regard, a special exhibition of warfare artifacts opened here at the Islamabad Museum located at Sir Syed Memorial. The inauguration cer-

emony was also attended by Federal Secretary for National Heritage and Culture Humaira Ahmed and heads

of all attached departments

Talking to the media, the minister highlighted the importance of the participation of children and youth in the mega cultural and literary activities. National Heritage and Culture Division and its attached department have planned a series of cultural activities and events aimed at highlighting the importance of patriotism and sacrifices and inculcating the love and respect of our homeland in the hearts of

our younger generations.

beat heat

Ayubia and other places.

NPMC Reviews Prices of Essential Commodities

The National Price Monitoring 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.

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.

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

Kakar pays tribute to 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 justice. "My respects to iconic Kashmiri leader, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, on his second death anniver sary, the prime minister said on his social media account on X (formerly known as twitter).

"In the face of persecution 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-year old Afraz Khan, 32-year old Afzal Sheraz, 26-year old Liaquat and 28-year-old Ishfaq Ŝultan.

DC Islamabad chairs review meeting on anti dengue campaign

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon on Friday chaired a review meeting on the anti-dengue campaign in the city. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioners District Health Officer, Assistant Commissioners Magistrates, and other stakeholders. The DC said that dengue was not a dangerous disease, but it was important to take precautionary measures to prevent it. He directed the authorities to improve sanitation arrangements in different areas of the city and ensure that garbage is not collected at any place, including workshops and tire shops.

Tourists throng to Murree to

ISLAMABAD (APP): A large number of tourists from twin cities Islamabad and Rawalpindi on Friday thronged to Murree and other hilly resorts to enjoy cold weather and beat the scorching heat that has gripped various parts of the country. Talking to APP, Anita Ahsan, a resident of G-11, said that the intensive heat wave forced people of twin cities to visit hilly areas including Pathriyata, Nathia Gali

the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), representatives from all provinces, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Ministry of Food Security & Industries, and

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

other relevant stakeholders.

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 forum on the current production.



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

COAS visits CMH Bannu, ISPR

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.

Where nine brave soldiers embraced Shahadat yesterday when a suicide bomber blasted himself near military convoy in Jani Khel area. Chief of Army Staff

was briefed on the ongoing operations and overall security situation.

COAS appreciated the high morale and unflinching resolve of the troops. "Pakistan Army will continue to act as a bulwark against terrorism to safeguard the nation from this scourge "COAS emphasized.

ployed in the area, COAS emphasized, "The Army, Law Enforcement Agencies and the Nation can never be coerced by the cowardly tactics of the Terrorists, who have a misbelief that they can challenge the iron resolve of the soldiers and writ of the State.' He further said, "We have fought for long and will

While interacting with

officers and troops de-

ute to those who have laid their lives and their sacrifices will forever be honoured. Earlier on arrival,

continue to fight the men-

ace of Terrorism till the end.

The Nation pays rich trib-

COAS was received by Commander Peshawar Corps.



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Human Rights, Mushaal Hussein Mullick addressing a seminar on 2nd Martyrdom Anniversary Syed Ali Shah Gillani at Kashmir House.

Mushaal Mullick says Geelani's thoughts will continue to serve as beacon of hope for Kashmiris

Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick on Friday paid glowing tributes to veteran Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Geelani, calling him a role model for the future generations. Addressing three different seminars in connection with the second death anniversary of great Hurriyat leader, Mullick said the late Geelani dedicated his entire life and sac-

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Special Assistant to the

sacred cause of Kashmir freedom struggle without budging an inch from his principled position till he breathed his last. The SAPM stated that history testified that those who influenced human thoughts, their life was dedicated to some cause and they rendered sacrifices for freedom, always remained alive.

Therefore, she said, personalities like Hazra Baba Bulleh Shah and Sved Ali Geelani did not die and they just disappeared rificed everything for the physically.

Leopard spotted in QAU, varsity warns students, faculty to be watchful

ISLAMABAD (APP): A a team of the Board paid a common Asian Leopard visit to the QAU to conthe apex predator of the firm the presence of the Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP) on Friday was spotted near the Earth Sciences Department might have descended from building early in the morning that rang the alarm bells for the varsity administration that advised its students and faculty to remain watchful.

The Islamabad Wild- formed were informed by the University administration and Building.

An IWMB official

told APP that the leopard the hills of the national park to drink water and probably returned to its natural environment afterwards. The Board official in-

that life Management Board University's security staff (IWMB) and Islamabad at 0830 hours observed the Capital Territory Police movement of the wildcat near the Earth Sciences



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani and President International Parliamen-

tarians Congress (IPC) presiding over a meeting regarding Course of IPCs Future held at Pakistan