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dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Islamabad

Vol. XIV No. 177 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Friday August 02, 2024, Muharram 26, 1446 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

Haniyeh's martyrdom in Tehran a flagrant violation of **International laws: PM Shahbaz**

the attack that led to The prime minismartyrdom of Ismail ter was chairing a ter said Netanyahu tion, he said, had shed in Palestine baric acts. sparked widespread continued for last condemnation nine months claimacross the world ining lives of many incountries from the in the strongest words.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ismail Haniyeh's over this barbar-Prime Minister children and grand-Muhammad Shehbaz children had also terrorism and ex-Sharif on Thursday strongly denounced martyred, he added.

The prime minister children and grand-terrorism and ex-tremism is highly condemnable."

The prime minister is now over this barbar-ism," he said. "Such terrorism and ex-tremism is highly condemnable."

Haniyeh, chief of meeting on the situ- was out to destroy Hamas Political Bu- ation of Palestine Palestine. Despite reau, in Tehran, which was attended clear verdicts of the terming it a barbaric by the parliamentar- International Court act that was a fla- ians representing of Justice (ICJ) and grant violation of in-the government's al-ternational laws and lied political parties. United Nations, Isrules. The extrater-ritorial assassina-said that the blood-stopped from its bar-

cluding Pakistan, nocent Palestinians West such as Ire-Turkiye, Russia, everyday. Over land and Spain who Iran, China and Ma-40,000 Palestinians had openly suplaysia which had deincluding thousands ported the Palestinnounced the attack of children had been ian cause and its



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari speaking to a delegation of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry, comprising of businessmen and office-bearers of 40 regional business associations, led by Gohar Eiaz, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President for viable solution to rising energy costs

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Asif Ali Zardari has called for finding a winwin solution to address the issue of rising energy costs in the country. He proposed that the Federation of Pakistan collaborate with a smaller reforming the energy sector Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) should form a committee and work with the President's office to develop a viable solution to the issue of paying capacity charges to Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

The President gave these remarks while talking to a delegation of FPCCI comprising of businessmen and office-bearers of 40 business costs.

associations, led by Dr

announced that the exports President's office would committee from the to bring down energy business community to find a win-win solution for the Government, the people, the business community and IPPs. He urged the for evolving a consensus solution so that out. He said that he was aware of the problems being faced by Pakistani businesses, that were in a high input, energy, and fuel

Gohar Gohar Ejaz, at Aiwan-e- highlighted that rising Sadr today.

Talking to the delegation, the President energy costs were overburdening the people, industry, agriculture and sector. He emphasised the need for

Gohar Ejaz requested the President to intervene in the matter and play his role in resolving the issues faced by Pakistan's industries and none of stakeholders lose businesses due to high electricity prices. The President assured the delegation of his support in coming up with a "triple-whammy" due to solution to their problems and taking up the matter with relevant quarters.

Govt negotiators have no answer to our questions: Hafiz

ISLAMABAD (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Hafiz Naeem has said that the government negotiators have no answer to our questions. Talking to media Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman said the government should receive the price of the electricity not additional taxes. "The people are paying price of the contracts made by the government". "We have asked them to show us the agreements with the



RAWALPINDI: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman addressing a press conference in Liaquat Bagh sit-in in the city.

IPPs", he said. "We will not lift the burden of the incompetence of the government," JI leader said. "The rulers should surrender their luxuries, free petrol and free electricity," JI chief demanded.

"If anyone want to drive car, run his own private

car. The nation will not pay for carrying your children to school and shopping of your wife," he said. Hafiz Naeem said, they have hiked their administra-

tive expenses by 25 percent while the salaried class being overburdened, which has already paid billions in taxes.
"Taxes not being imposed over the feudal. They don't pay sugarcane price to farmer and mint money by creating sugar crisis.

Hafiz Naeem said. He said, these people running governments since 1994. "The IPPs business was also launched in 1994," he said. He demanded to cancel contracts of the lo-

cal IPPs after forensic audit. "The government people saying that the proposals are good but unacceptable." he said. He alleged of 1,000 billion corruption within the FBR. "The officers should be given cars not above than 1300 CC, it is not a big deal, but they don't prepare to accept it," JI leader said. "What happen if they will surrender 3000 to 4000 CC cars", he questioned.

Later when the PTI

PTI allowed to hold power show in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (INP): The district administration has allowed Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) to hold power show in Islamabad on Au-

As per details, the state counsel informed Islamabad High Court regarding the permission of a public gathering in the fed-

eral capital. The development came after a contempt plea was filed in Islamabad High Court (IHC) against the suspension of No Objection Certificate (NOC) for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Islamabad power

The plea was filed by the Coordinator of Tehreek-e-Tahafuz-e-Aein Khanzaada Hussain against the suspension of the NOC for Tarnol Jalsa.

The petition urged the court to initiate contempt of court proceedings against the officials as the NOC was cancelled despite the court

According to the petition, the Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad on July 4 had informed the court that an NOC was issued to

leader Amir Mughal was taking the officials to the power show site, he was arrested by police outside the DC Office, the petitioner added.



Govt, allied parties urge world to address genocide of Palestinians

Nation to observe day of mourning today to show solidarity with Palestinians; Funeral prayers in absentia after Friday prayer; special resolution in parliament to express solidarity with Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government allied parties on Thursday decided gust 2 (Friday) in solidarity with the Palestinian brothers and sisters and to condemn the Israeli statesponsored terrorism in Pal-

A consultative meeting of the allied parties on the deteriorating situation in Palestine, in a joint declaration, also announced that the funeral prayer in absentia for Ismail Haniveh, chief of Hamas Political Bureau, who was assassinated in Tehran on Wednesday, would be offered by the nation after Friday prayers.

was presided over by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, that the nation would ob- also decided to present a serve a day of mourning resolution in the Parliament across the country on Au- to express full solidarity with the people of Pales-

> The participants of the meeting strongly condemned the ongoing Israeli brutalities in Palestine for last nine months, and expressed full solidarity with the Palestinian brothers and

> They also expressed deep sorrow and grief over the martyrdom of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh.

They were of the view that the Hamas leader's assassination incident was a conspiracy to sabotage the efforts to get stopped the

PM reaffirms Govt's desire

ISLAMABAD (APP): Commonwealth Secretary-Gen-

eral Patricia Scotland, leading a five-member delegation,

met with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the

Prime Minister House on Thursday. The prime minister

welcomed Secretary-General Scotland on her first offi-

cial visit to Pakistan. Appreciating the Commonwealth's

consistent support for Pakistan's socio-economic and

democratic institutions, the prime minister reaffirmed the

government's desire to work with the Commonwealth

on issues of common interest, particularly on youth

counted for two-thirds of Pakistan's population, the

prime minister said that providing modern education

and technical training to the youth was one of the government's

highest priorities. He highlighted the various initiatives taken

by the Prime Minister's Youth Programme and reiterated the

government's commitment to working with the CW to help

Pakistan's youth by enhancing access and opportuni-

ties for them in today's high-tech global economy.

empowerment, good governance and climate change. Noting that young people below the age of 30 ac-

The meeting, which ongoing Israeli atrocities on the Palestinians and establish peace in the region. Such incidents destroyed the world peace. The prime minister

> termed the ongoing Israeli state-sponsored terrorism in Palestine a tragedy for the Muslim Ummah. The meeting demanded

to ensure immediate provision of humanitarian aid to the unarmed Palestinians. It was decided that Pa-

kistan would continue to provide relief goods, besides taking effective measures for the medical assistance of the oppressed Palestinian brothers and sisters. It was further decided that the injured Palestinians would be brought to Pakistan for treatment.

The meeting also de- ability of international laws cided that Palestinian medical students would be adgenerations. mitted to medical colleges in Pakistan with financial support to continue their

The participants were sponsored terrorism in Palestine, Israel was violating the resolutions of the

education.

United Nations, the decisions of the International Court of Justice and international laws, while the world community remained a silent spectator.

They asked the international community to Movement (MQM), Pakiadopt a clear stand against the Israeli brutalities, as Pakistan Muslim League otherwise it would be a Zia and National Party at-

and institutions for future

ABC Certified

The meeting also urged the international community, including the United Nations to break their silence and immediately get of the view that with the stopped the ongoing genoongoing genocide and state- cide of the oppressed Palestinians by the Zionist forces and bring Israel to justice for war crimes.

Leaders and senior representatives of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), Muttahida Qaumi stan Muslim League-Q, question mark against vi- tended the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Provincial Minister for Education Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani in a group photo with Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong and others participants on the eve of inaugural ceremony of "she power" project at Chinese Embassy.

28 die as rains batter several parts of KP, Punjab

24 dead in rain-related incidents across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; At least four killed, seven wounded as rain breaks 44-year record in Lahore

PESHAWAR (INP): At least 24 people have been killed and 17 others injured in different rain-related inlast three days.

According to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority, 73 houses were completely damaged while 71 were partially damaged due to rains in Kohat, Peshawar, DI Khan, Hazara and Malakand divisions.

Flash floods and house collapses were also reported in Hangu, Haripur, Mansehra, Lower Dir, Charsadda, Mohmand, Bajaur, and Abbottabad. The report added that landslides were also reported in Abbottabad.

four citizens, including a girl, lost their lives and 7 others were wounded in cidents in Khyber separate incidents of elec-Pakhtunkhwa during the trocution and roof collapse after Lahore was hit by heavy monsoon rainfalls that broke a 44-year record on Thursday.

The second-largest city of Pakistan was lashed by almost 360 millimetres of rain which flooded hospitals, interrupted power and submerged streets in the metropolis home to 13 million, the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD)

Today's rain broke a previous record of 332 millimetres over three hours in July 1980. The heavy downpours

Meanwhile at least resulted in several casualties and damages to the properties and paralysing infrastructure in different parts of the provincial

capital. A youth was electrocuted near an electricity pole in Nishat Colony, whereas, a 14-year-old boy was drowned in rainwater in Kot Lakhpat area, rescue officials told Geo News. Moreover, another man was killed by electrocution due to an exposed ire in Defence Phase VII.

A girl was killed and five others sustained injuries in a roof collapse incident at a house in Nishtar Colony. In another incident, a wooden roof collapsed near Shaukat Khanum Chowk, leaving two citizens



LAHORE: Rescue crew pushes a stuck car from the floodwaters after a drain system failure during historic rains that break a 44-year record in Provincial Capital.

Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. As part of reform agenda, privatization process of **DISCOs has begun: Tarar**

ISLAMABAD: Secretary-General Commonwealth

Patricia Scotland calls on Prime Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said, as part

of the present government's reform agenda, the process of privatization of DISCOs has been started after an amendment in the State Owned Enterprises Act.

Addressing a press onference along with Muttahida Qaumi Movement leader Mustafa Kamal here Thursday, the information minister said that he pointed out that inefficiency and corruption of DISCOs span over several decades. Therefore, he said it was decided to bring competent and professional people from the private sector to run the DISCOs free from any

He said a delegation of MQM Pakistan comprising Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and Mustafa

political interference.

Kamal met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and matters related to electricity bills and IPP issue were discussed.

The minister appreciated the MQM for always showing responsibility and constructive approach towards resolving national issues and played a positive role in the reforms agenda. He said that he was grateful to the Muttahida Qaumi Movement for raising its voice on this issue.

Attaullah Tarar said that the matter of electricity tariff was the issue of the entire nation and a collective approach was needed to overcome this issue. "When the PML-N government came to power in 2013, it ended 18-hour load shedding," the min-ister said, adding at that time Punjab and Federal Governments had installed the cheapest power

Daily Soice of Masse Independent

Haniyeh's murder

The shocking assassination of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh early on Wednesday in Tehran has plunged the entire Middle East into the unknown, with the threat of a regional conflagration increas-

The Palestinian leader was in Tehran to attend the inauguration of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. While Israel has not accepted responsibility for this grievous provocation, there can be little doubt who is responsible. Only a few hours before Haniyeh's killing, the Israelis had bombed a Hezbollah stronghold in Beirut, apparently to target a top commander.

Following Haniyeh's murder, an Israeli minister 'celebrated' this grim achievement on the social media platform X. The Israelis are playing with fire, and their brinkmanship can push the entire region into a catastrophic maelstrom.

With the assassination, Tel Aviv has thrown the gauntlet at Tehran, and it will be very difficult for Iran not to respond to this grave provocation on its soil. Israel has struck one of Iran's closest allies in the heart of the 'axis of resistance'. Tehran needs to conduct a thorough internal investigation to determine just how such a high-profile individual was targeted. This would not be the first time Israel is believed to have struck inside Iran. Top Iranian nuclear scientists and generals have been targeted in similar fashion.

However, whatever the investigation reveals, security was ostensibly lax, and the Iranians should have strengthened their defences considering the string of previous assassinations. Yet retribution is almost certain. The Iranian supreme leader — who has the final say on all major policy decisions — has asserted, with reference to the Haniyeh killing, that it is "our duty to avenge his

Condemnation of the killing has been pouring in from various quarters. Iran's brothers in arms in the 'axis of resistance' — Hezbollah, the Houthis – have slammed the crime, while Russia has dubbed it an "unacceptable political murder". China, on the other hand, has said it is "deeply concerned" while Pakistan has criticised "Israeli adventurism".

The fact that they have been unable to crush Hamas in Gaza over the last nearly 10 months has led Benjamin Netanyahu and his cabal to destabilise the wider Middle East, violating the sovereignty of Syria, Lebanon and Iran. The only way out of this crisis — and the window for peaceful resolution appears to be closing fast — is for an immediate halt to the massacre in Gaza.

Of course, with the Haniyeh assassination, the prospects of a ceasefire appear to have been buried for the foreseeable future. The US can still prevail upon Israel to wind down its murderous campaign. But in an election year, this will be highly unlikely as both contenders compete for the blessings of the Zionist lobby in Washington. The Middle East will surely be on tenterhooks for the next few days.

Raining athletes

ton who still believes

that the Olympic motto

- Together') carries any

Coliseum, albeit with an

increasing number of

been held in white coun-

tries — in Western Eu-

rope, the US, Canada,

and Australia. Four Sum-

mer Games have been

hosted in yellow coun-

tries (all in East Asia),

three have been hosted

in Eastern Europe, and

two in Latin America.

Black Africa has yet to

Olympian George Poage

won two bronze medals

in the St Louis Olympics,

120 years ago. In Berlin

1936, Jesse Owens won

four gold medals. Hitler

chose not to meet

Owens. In 1960, an

Ethiopian Abebe Bikila

(the son of a shepherd)

startled the world by

winning the marathon

longer a badge of nation-

ality, nor gender a divi-

sor of sex. (Some liberal

Parisians were shocked

at the tableau of drag

queens performing a

parody of Leonardo da

Vinci's Last Supper.) One

needed the stamina of an

Olympian to watch the

opening ceremony (it

spanned four hours) un-

til its shimmering finale at

the Eiffel Tower, where

the Canadian chanteuse

Celine Dion sang Edith

Piaf's signature L'Hymne

about 10,500 rain-sodden

Today, colour is no

Tokyo 1964.

The first black

host any Olympics.

The majority of the

pic Team.

F.S. Aijazuddin

The opening ceremony of the 2024 Olympics in Paris was like baking a soufflé in the rain. Even French expertise could not make it rise.

The French, defying convention, decided not to hold the inaugural ceremony in a stadium. They used the ('Faster, Higher, Stronger Seine, its ornate bridges and the iconic Eiffel meaning. The Olympics Tower instead. The remain a white man's French should have consulted the British. In 2012, they ignored the black gladiators. Thames. Rain has ruined many a royal regatta.

A century has passed since Parisians last hosted the Olympics. In 1924, 3,089 athletes took part, of them 2,954 men and 135 women. In 2024, there are 11,040 competitors, half of whom are female.

Athletes compete as countries and also as members of National Olympic Committees. This year, there are 206 such NOCs — an insidious ruse by which the IOC will decide which country to admit and which to punish.

The Olympics imitate the power politics of the UN. In 1964, South Africa was exclu-ded for its apartheid against blacks. In 1972, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) was excluded for its racist policies. In 2000, Afghanistan was excluded from Sydney for its misogynist policies.

In both 2016 and 2020, the IOC banned Russian athletes from competing under their national flag because of 'doping violations'. In 2024, Russia and Belarus have been banned over the war in Ukraine. How-ever, their athletes can still compete as 'ind-i-vidual neutral athletes', under a neutral

Meanwhile, Nato and its allied countries à l'Amour. In between, suffer no such strictures. Ukraine — their battle-ground — has sent 140 athletes with their sup-porting team officials tesy Dawn

competitors. Israel mired waved national flags in a in Gaza is fielding 88 nautical armada that cruised slowly down the competitors, the State of Palestine eight. Even the Seine. From its banks, stateless have been adviewers were entertained mitted. The IOC has alby Lady Gaga performing lowed 37 athletes to com-Mon Truc en Plumes in a pete as a Refugee Olymflurry of pink ostrich feathers, reminiscent of It would be a simplethe legendary chanteuse

Mistinguett. Other distractions were a frenetic group of Can Can dancers ending with splits, and a team of spirited dancers splashing mindlessly (like the cast of Friends) in a foun-

Frankly, some of the Summer Olympics have images were horrific multiple ones of a de--ca-pitated Queen Marie Antoinette framed in the windows of a public building, or famous po-rtraits half-submerged in the Seine. The surrealist artist Salvador Dali would have loved these.

To be fair, there is only so much you can do with a river of flowing water, just as a Son et Lumière using the flatfaced pyramids at Giza offers limited options.

Pakistan's lean participation in the Olympics is a triumph of private endeavour over public neglect. In 1960, 1968, and 1984, we won the gold in hockey. For the past three Olympics, we failed even to qualify. As in our poli-(running barefoot). He tics, we no longer play repeated his success in team sports.

This year we have sent seven self-motivated athletes to Paris. The talented javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem (27); the sprinter Faiqa Riaz (24); sharpshooters G.M. Bashir (37), Gulfam Joseph (24), and Kishmala Ta--lat (22); and two minnow swimmers Jeha-nara Nabi (20) and Ahmed Durrani (18). They are old enough to compete, and young enough to succeed in future Olympics.

They owe nothing to the state. Over 245 million Pakistanis owe everything to them — for loving our country, despite what it is. -- Cour-

Parallel tracks

Syed Sheheryar Raza Zaidi

A highly polarised nation is in the throes of one of its most divisive election campaigns. One candidate is on the wrong side of 70 and the other is backed by the incumbent in power. The candidate mentioned first has not only recently survived an assassination attempt, he has also been convicted on charges of a personal nature that he denies. Yet, most signs point to a victory for this candidate, who has already had one crack at power. At the same time, he is the one who many observers believe caused irreparable damage to his country's international relations when he

The irony is that this description of the maverick American presidential candidate Donald Trump can very easily apply to Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan. The two men, despite being geographically apart, seem to be on

similar trajectories.

was in power.

When Imran Khan was in power, he and then president Trump had a public spat on the online platform Twitter. Back then, it appeared that Pakistan would be headed in the direction of fractured relations with the US as long as these two men were at the helm of affairs. Yet, we soon saw Trump and Khan give a display of public bonhomie, with the latter visiting the US at the invitation of the former and coming back to loud fanfare, reminiscent of the time when he had lifted cricket's holy grail.

Those were the good old days as far as the two were concerned. Since then, one of them lost a hotly contested first lost a no-confi- worthy opponent are - Courtesy Dawn

dence vote, leading to his ouster, and then lost' a disputed elecspread public adulation for him. What stuck on both Trump and Khan, however, was the 'antiestablishment' tag largely because both individuals have had a hard time accepting their fate and continue to challenge established calling into question national elections.

almost meteoric rise. Running on the back of his notorious television appeal and the fanfare following of individuals ready to back him despite all odds, forgive him for the gravest of gaffes and overlook all his faults. All because Trump has carefully cultivated an image of himself as the only saviour who can make his nation great again. Compare this with the high regard that the supporters of Imran Khan hold the PTI leader in. An icon for his supporters, Khan may have enjoyed excellent relations with those at the helm of affairs once, but now stands for all things anti-

establishment. As fate would have both found themselves facing various dates in courts, having to defend themselves against charges of misuse of authority, mishandling of state documents/ secrets among others. While legal challenges for opposition leaders is not a new phenomenon in Pakistan, as far as the US is concerned, the barrage of legal challenges faced by Trump is unprecedented. Whether power remains to be such charges have any election to President Joe basis in reality or are an are here to stay is not Biden, while the other attempt to undermine a for argument anymore.

questions best left to the courts to answer.

Yet, what sets tion, despite the wide- Trump, the presidential candidate apart from Pakistan's incarcerated former prime minister notwithstanding the recent favourable court decisions in the latter's case — is his ability to still have his skin in the game. For all of the alleged lobbies in norms, even if it means America working overtime against Donald Trump, the former presi-Donald Trump at dent enj-oys the backthe time of his ascent to ing of a lopsided supower had witnessed an preme court, which has re-cently ruled in favour of a partial immunity for former US presidents in matters associated with it, he related to the exercise built an almost cult-like of their professional duties while in office. who even today are As such, despite being convicted on charges by a court in New York state, Trump is still legally empowered to run for presi-

A lot can be said about the justice system in the US and Pakistan and how Pakistan often finds itself having to face a lot of bad press for the supposedly ineffective way its courts operate. Nothing quite amplifies this like the fate of the two leaders in Pakistan and

One despite being convicted finds himself free to conduct his electioneering, appear on television, take part in debates and ride high on the back of the inflation-hit incumbency of the Democrat presi-

The other finds himself incarcerated for convictions and allegations, kept so far away from the public's eye that he now captures their imagination.

Whether the two men can come back to seen, but that their ideas

Commerce News

Pakistan's huge potential to join G-20 countries: Dar

and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar said on Wednesday that Pakistan has huge potential to join G-20 countries through structural reforms in the country's economy.

The government is structural reforms in the country's economy by capital market and corporate sector regulation for sustainable economic

this while addressing the Breaking Ground Ceremony of the Head

(SECP), along with Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb the corporate sector.

Commission of Pakistan development, he said. journey for evolving
Foreign Minister capital market and
Mohammad Ishaq Dar said corporate sector reforms in corporate sector reforms in achievement. the economy from 2013 to 2017 in the country.

He said that SECP 's

ISLAMABAD (APP): Office Building of the Deputy Prime Minister Securities and Exchange team in 2013 fully and Foreign Minister Commission of Pakistan supported the government. vision and executed the government reform vision for SECP and regulation of

here. Deputy Prime Ishaq Dar said that in Minister said today is a very special day on the of PML-N, "We have had Ishaq Dar said that in fully committed to occasion of laying the a huge challenge and foundation stone of resistance faced for Security and Exchange establishing an integrated Pakistan Stock Exchange (SECP) "I still remember (PSX) in the country and that, "We have a huge the government was successful and established the PSX which was a huge

He said that after the new integrated stock exchange

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar delivering remarks at the Ground Breaking Ceremony of the Head Office Building of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan.

were also present.

being

private sector is being fully

supported and facilitated.

discussion was held on data

localisation, and the

participants also gave

taken

K-Electric RE Projects garner local, Int'l interest

ISLAMABAD (APP): K-Electric (KE) completed another significant milestone earlier this year following in its ambitions to enhance its share of renewable approval from NEPRA. energy in its generation mix, envisaged under the company's Power Acquisition Program (PAP). The company announced the receipt of a total of 15 bids for the first of its ambitious renewable energy initiatives of 150 MW solar projects at Winder and Bela, Balochistan, said a press

Aimed at harnessing 30% renewable energy solutions in its fleet by 2030, KE initiated a solar energy project is a huge competitive bidding milestone for KE.

release issued on Thursday.

process for multiple renewable energy projects a successful nod of

This transparent approach is a testament to KE's commitment towards sustainable energy solutions. Over the next 5 years, KE aims to add a total of 1300 MW of renewable energy projects, furthering its commitment to sustainable energy solutions. Syed Moonis Alvi, CEO of KE, expressed his enthusiasm about this development, stating, "Garnering 15 bids

for the first cohort of the

Pak total liquid foreign reserves \$14.39b

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan increased to US\$ 14,391.7 million as of July 26, 2024 while the reserves held by the central bank were recorded as \$ 9,102.2 million.

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that its liquid foreign reserves increased by \$ 75 million to reach \$ 9,102.2 million during the week ended on July 26, 2024.

Meanwhile, foreign reserves held by commercial banks were recorded as \$ 5,289.5 million during the week

of IT on Thursday. Managing Director recommendations regarding Asia Internet Coalition data hosting and data (AIC) Jeff Paine, Google sensitivity. PQEPC briefs Aurangzeb on company's working,

Data regulation,

cybersecurity topmost

priorities: Shaza Fatima

ISLAMABAD (Online):

Minister of State for IT and

Telecommunication Shaza

Fatima Khawaja said that

data regulation and

cybersecurity are the

topmost priorities of the

is committed for the

growth of IT sector, as

taking IT exports up to \$25

Roundtable on Open Data

Flows & Pakistan's Digital

Economy held at Ministry

She was addressing

present government.

billion is our target.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, and Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari on Thursday held a meeting with the delegation of Port Qasim Electric Power Company (PQEPC) which was led by CEO Liang. The delegation briefed the minister about the operations of the power company and

certain issues it faced due

to overdue receivables, a

news release said

confronted issues It said that Power-China was a major stateowned Chinese enterprise and key investor in Pakistan's energy market. The company would continue to work with the Government of Pakistan and play its role in the improvement of power sector. The finance minister welcomed the suggestions made by the delegation and stated that Pakistan acknowledged and appreciated the investment made by POEPC China.

Gold rates up by Rs.1,400 per tola to Rs.254,900 ISLAMABAD (APP):

and Meta representatives The price of per tola of 24 attended the Roundtable karat gold increased by session.Convener Digital Rs.1,400 and was sold at Pakistan Committee Tania Rs. 254,900 on Thursday Aidirus and Secretary IT against its sale at Rs. 253,500 on last trading day. Aisha Humera Chaudhry The price of 10 grams of 24 Shaza Fatima said that karat gold also increased by She said that on the directives of the Ministry of IT & Telecom Prime Minister of Pakistan, on the directives of the Rs. 1,201 to Rs. 218,536 from Rs. 217,335 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs. 200324 from Rs. 199,224, the All Sindh She said that steps are Jewellers Sarafa transforming Pakistan into Association reported. Digital Economy.Detailed

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained stagnant at Rs2,900 and Rs.2,486.28 respectively.

SCCI president visits BFC

SIALKOT (APP): Sialko Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) President Abdul Ghafoor Malik with a three-member delegation visited the Business Facilitation Centre (BFC) and reviewed facilities on

Thursday. On this occasion, Ghafoor Malik expressed satisfaction over the issuance of NOCs to the business community from the BFC. He said the business community was getting benefits from the BFC, adding that the objective of the BFC was to provide services under one roof to businessmen.

Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Pakistan, Jemal Beker Abdula on Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb.

to strengthen bilateral

relations and explore new

collaborations in trade,

finance, education and

acknowledging the mutual

benefits that could be

derived from such initiatives.

According to press release

issued by finance ministry,

reforms,

economic

extended a warm welcome to Ambassador Abdula and provided an overview of

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan. These reforms are part of a broader homegrown agenda aimed at achieving economic stability. The Minister highlighted recent positive developments, including improvements in foreign exchange reserves, stateowned enterprise (SOE) reforms, and advancements in the power sector.

International Rating agencies have started acknowledging economic stability as a result of government's economic decisions, he said adding country's economic The Finance Minister outlook has improved as confirmed by recent Fitch reports and now government aims at the economic reforms achieving economic currently underway in sustainability.



Pak, Ethiopia agree

to foster deeper ties

HYDERABAD: Motorcyclists queue up at PSO, ready to fill their tanks and hit the road with newfound savings after the fuel price drop by

CPI inflation decelerates further to 11.1% in July ISLAMABAD (APP):

during the month of July 2024 as compared to 12.6 percent recorded during June 2024, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported Thursday.

According to PBS data, the CPI based inflation during the same month of last year (July 2023) was recorded at 28.3%

basis, it increased to 2.1% in July 2024 as compared to an increase of 0.5% in the previous month and an increase of 3.5% in July

According to data, The Consumer Price Index CPI inflation Urban, (CPI)-based inflation increased to 13.2% on decelerated to 11.1 percent year-on-year basis in July 2024 as compared to an increase of 14.9% in the previous month and 26.3% in July 2023. On monthon-month basis, it increased to 2.0% in July 2024 as compared to an increase of 0.6% in the previous month and an increase of 3.6% in July

CPI inflation Rural, On month-on-month increased to 8.1% on yearon-year basis in July 2024 as compared to an increase of 9.3% in the previous month and 31.3% in July 2023. On month-on-month basi, it increased to 2.2%.



Committee on Monitoring Sugar Export was presided over by Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain.

Syed Najmi Alam says Livestock deptt should take all possible steps to timely vaccinate animals of cattle owners of Sindh

Independent Report KARACHI: Advisor to Mastoi, Director Marine Chief Minister of Sindh on Livestock and Fisheries Syed Najmi Alam has said that the raiding team conducts raids twice a month through its campaign to catch illegal nets from all the coastal areas of Sindh. However, the Livestock Department should take all possible steps to timely vaccinate the animals of

office on Thursday. In meeting Secretary Livestock and Fisheries Dr. Kazim Hussain Jatoi, Direc-

cattle owners of Sindh. He

expressed this while pre-

siding over two separate

high-level meetings of the

Marine Fisheries and Live-

stock Department in his

Dr. Asim Karim, Director Red Farm Khaliq Ahmad Soomro, Director Coastal Fisheries Ijaz Ahmed Memon, Managing Director Karachi Fish Harbor Safdar Hussain Rizvi, Director General Livestock Sindh Dr. Hizbullah Bhutto, Director General of Sindh Institute of Animal Health Dr. Nazir Hussain Kalhoro, Director General Poultry Production Dr. Manoor Hussain Rana. Director Livestock Animal Breeding Dr. Naubat Khan Khoso, Director Central Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (CVDL) Tando Jam Dr. Madan Lal, Director Poultry Dr. Kabir Ahmed



FAISALABAD: People are carrying coffin of stage actor late Sardar Kamal after offering funeral prayers in the city.

22 brands of mineral water declared harmful for human consumption

Independent Report KARACHI: As many as 22 brands of mineral water have been declared harmful for human consumption. Among the mineral waters which have been declared harmful for human consumption are Fiji, BRO -H 20, Koh Noor, Rayaal Silver, Smart, Aqua Qismat, Asha Premium, Drinking Water, Buxton, Cliff Water, Health Drinking Water, Crystal Pure Life, Dream Pure, Neo Health Drinking Water, Oriel, Faraz Water,

Water, Splash Water, Still. Starlite Water, Vivo Water Plus Premium Drinking and Masafi. Director General Sindh Food Authority Muzamil Halepoto has directed the management of the said mineral water to withdraw their products from the market within seven days. He said that action would be taken under the Sindh Food Authority Act against those who didn't follow the orders of Sindh Food Authority. He said that no one would be allowed to play with the health Premium Safa, Pure Refined Water, Smart Indus Pure of the people.



PESHAWAR: Opposition members and MPAs KPAssembly are participating in the dinner hosted by

Governor KP expresses concern over worsen law and order situation, developmental schemes in province

alert during rains: Bharth

LAHORE (APP): The various parts of the city

Punjab government has put and inspected the water

members

Pakhtunkhwa, Karim Kundi has expressed concern over the worsening law and order situation and neglected developmental schemes in the province.

Friday August 02, 2024

The Governor hosted dinner in honor of the opposition members of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly at the Governor's House on Vednesday night. The dinner was

3 people die,

seven injured

in rain-related

incidents

LAHORE (APP): Heavy

rain in several parts of the

provincial capital on

Thursday resulted in loss

of three lives and injuries

Rescue-1122 spokesman,

the roof of a house in a

suburban village near Baba

Bulleh Shah Interchange at

collapsed, which resulted

in one death and injuries to

collapsed at Shaukat

Khanum Chowk, in which

two people suffered

According to a

to seven people.

Gajjumata

five people.

Another

Leader of the Opposition in the Khyber in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Parliamentary leader of PPP Ahmed Karim Kundi, Arbab Usman of ANP, Malik Tariq Awan of PML-N, Rehana Ismail of JUI-F and others. During the event, the

including Dr. Ibadullah,

opposition

discussions focused on the current political, economic, and law and order situation C&W staff put on high

all the field formation of

Communication and Works

(C&W) Department on

high alert during the rains

with an aim to avert any

difficult situation by storm

water. The engineering and

field staff under the

supervision of executive

engineers remained in the

field while visiting the

important roads, public

buildings, particularly

hospitals in Lahore and

Communication and Works

The Minister for

across the province.

The Opposition members expressed grave concerns over the deteriorating security situation in the province, highlighting the recent incidents of terrorism, extortion, kidnapping for ransom, and general unrest

in Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan and the merged district of Kurram Parachinar. They voiced their disappointment that

disposal operations. He

issued instructions to the

officers of C & W to visit

province specifically of

Lahore and check their

rooftop, emergencies and

wards to estimate the

affected portions of the

buildings. Moreover, the

minister directed the staff

to ensure the timely repair

of affected portions of

officers to submit their

detailed reports in regard

He also directed

hospitals of the

current administration for failing to include any projects for the province in the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP). They pledged that in the future, all political parties in the province would collaborate to prepare and present projects for the PSDP ensuring their approval by the provincial government the federal government.

Kundi expresses condolence over demise of people due to rains

They criticized the

PESHAWAR Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives and property caused by recent rains in the province.

Governor The conveyed profound grief over the loss of 24 precious lives due to the rains and floods. He extended heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the families of the deceased. Governor Kundi prayed for the departed souls, patience and strength for the

Minister welcomes WHO collaboration on health initiatives

AHORE (APP): Puniab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique has the prevalence of hepatitis expressed gratitude for the in Punjab. "Teamwork is ongoing collaboration with the World Health outcomes from our policies, various health projects.

these remarks during a meeting with a WHO delegation at the Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute province. (PKLI) on Thursday.

Highlighting provincial government's commitment to enhancing healthcare services, the minister stated, "Under the leadership of Punjab Chief Sharif, we are striving to provide better health facilities to the people." He emphasized that raising Health Department.

public awareness is crucial for significantly reducing Organisation (WHO) on and improving the health system is our top priority, The minister made he added. He also se remarks during a mentioned that the scope of hepatitis screening has been expanded throughout the

He noted the growing challenge of controlling Pakistan's population and stressed the importance of intensifying screenings for Hepatitis B and C. Dr. Meg Darthy, HIV Global Minister Maryam Nawaz Director from WHO, reaffirmed organization's commitment

to supporting the Punjab



PESHAWAR: UNICEF Chief Field Officer Mr. Radolslaw Rzehak giving shield to a participant during the Launching ceremony of Global Breastfeeding Month at a local hotel in Provincial

CS inspects drainage work during heavy rain

LAHORE (APP): During the heavy rainfall, Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman visited different areas of the city including Services Hospital, Lakshmi Chowk, Qartaba Chowk and reviewed arrangements for draining rainwater.

At Services Hospital, chief secretary inspected the emergency and other wards and issued necessary instructions for immediate drainage of rainwater. He directed the Managing Director of

of water from the hospital. He also inspected the situation caused by the downpour on Lakshmi Chowk, Qartaba Chowk, Railway Road, Circular Road and other major points. He directed that special measures should be taken for smooth flow of traffic during the rains. He asked the administrative officers to remain in the

field and check the underpasses and disposal stations. He said that the relevant departments should be on alert to deal WASA to install more with any situation due to pumps for early disposal rain. Commissioner Lahore.

International News

Sohaib Ahmad Bharth, with effects of rain to the

after Thursday rain, visited public buildings.

Calls for revenge at Iran funeral | for Hamas chief Haniyeh

Monitoring Desk TEHRAN: Iran held funeral processions on Thursday amidst calls for revenge after the killing of Hamas political chief Ismail

Haniyeh in a strike in

Tehran blamed on Israel. Islamic Republic's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei led prayers for Haniyeh ahead of his burial in Qatar, having earlier threatened a 'harsh punishment" for his killing. În Tehran's city centre, thousands of mourning crowds carrying posters of Haniyeh and Palestinian flags gathered for the ceremony at Tehran University before a procession, according to an AFP corre-

spondent. announced the day before by Iran's Revolutionary Guards, who said he and his bodyguard were killed in a strike on their accommodation in the Iranian capital at 2am on Wednesday. It came just hours af-

Fuad Shukr in a retaliatory strike on the Lebanese capital Beirut, sending fears of estine" a wider regional conflict soaring in the fallout from the Israel-Hamas conflict in Gaza. Israel has declined to

Iran's state TV Haniyeh and his bodyguards covered in Palestinian flags during the ceremony attended by senior Iranian officials. President Masoud Pezeshkian and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps chief, General Hossein Salami, were

Haniyeh had been vis-Tehran for Haniyeh's death was Pezeshkian's inauguration crowds. ceremony on Tuesday.

Senior Hamas figure Khalil al-Hayya, the movement's foreign relations chief, vowed during the funeral ceremony that "Ismail Haniyeh's slogan, 'We will not recognise Ister Israel targeted and killed rael', will remain an immor-

top Hezbollah commander tal slogan" and "we will pursue Israel until it is uprooted from the land of Pal-

Iran's conservative parliamentary speaker Mohammad Ghalibaf said Iran "will cercomment on the Tehran tainly carry out the supreme leader's order [to avenge Haniyeh]". "It is our showed the coffins of duty to respond at the right time and in the right place, he said in a speech with crowds chanting "Death to Israel, Death to America!"

The caskets, with a black-and-white pattern resembling a Palestinian keffiyeh scarf, were borne on a flower-bedecked truck through leafy streets where cooling water mists sprayed the flag-waving

Khamenei, who has the final say in Iran's political affairs, said after Haniyeh's death that it was "our duty to seek revenge for his blood as he was martyred in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran"

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei performs prayer at the funeral of assassinated Hamas chief, Ismail Haniveh, in Tehran, Iran.

South Korea offers humanitarian aid to flood-hit North Korea

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: South Korea on Thursday offered to send aid supplies to North Korea to help the country recover from heavy rains and floods that submerged thousands of homes and huge

swaths of farmland. It's unclear whether North Korea would accept South Korea's proposal for help. Animosity between the war-divided rivals is at its highest in years over the North's growing nuclear ambitions and the South's

United States and Japan to counter the North's threats. South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles inter-Korean affairs, said the South was

willing to swiftly provide supplies to address the "humanitarian difficulties" facing North Korean residents following the recent storms. The ministry in a statement urged North Korea's Red Cross to promptly respond to its calls for discussions to determine the types and amounts of South expansion of combined military exercises with the Korean supplies and how to deliver them.

Khaled Meshaal, who survived Israeli assassination attempt, tipped to succeed Haniyeh

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: Khaled Meshaal, tipped to be the new

Hamas leader, became known around the world in 1997 after Israeli agents injected him with poison in a botched assassination attempt on a street outside his office in Amman, the Jordanian capital. The hit against a senior figure of the Palestinian group, ordered by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, so enraged then-King Jordan's Hussein that he spoke of

hanging the would-be killers and scrapping Jordan's peace treaty with Israel unless the antidote was handed over. Israel did so, and also agreed to free Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, only to assassinate him seven years later in Gaza. Meshaal, 68, became Hamas's political leader in exile the year before Israel tried to eliminate him, a position that enabled him to represent the Palestinian group at meetings with governments around the world.

Israeli strike kills two Al Jazeera journalists **Monitoring Desk**

DOHA: Two Al Jazeera journalists were killed on Wednesday in an Israeli strike in Gaza, the Qatarbased channel reported as the crisis rages in the Palestinian territory.

'Al Jazeera Arabic journalist Ismail Al Ghoul and his cameraman Rami Al Refee have been killed in an Israeli attack on the Gaza Strip," the network reported adding the strike "targeted a car near the Aidia area, west of Gaza City"

UN gravely concerned over Israeli attack on Beirut

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: The UN expressed "grave concern" on Tuesday over an Israeli strike on a densely populated suburb of the Lebanese capital Beirut that killed at least three people and injured 74 others. "As we await further clarity on the circumstances, we again urge the parties to exercise maximum restraint and call on all concerned to avoid any further escalation,' Stephane Dujarric, the spokesman for the UN Secretary-General, said in a statement. "All parties must comply with their obligations under international law.

Trump attacks Harris' racial identity, says she opted to 'turn Black'

Monitoring Desk Trump suggested on Wednesday that Vice President Kamala Harris had decided to "turn Black" for political gain, as he attacked his Democratic White

House rival during a combative interaction with African American journalists in Chicago. The Republican former president's inflammatory comments marked an escalation of the 78-

year-old's vitriol against Harris, whom he falsely accused of having identified as Indian but then, "all of a sudden, she made a turn, and she became a Black person"

Harris, 59, has long identified as Black and graduated from a historically Black university. 'So I don't know, is

she Indian or is she Black?"

Journalists conference. Harris later denounced the attacks as "the same old

show" of "the divisiveness and the disrespect" from The combative re-

marks by Trump, who has been eager to improve his performance with Black voters, are likely to send shockwaves through the 2024 White House contest.

They come as the former president, convicted two months ago of felony fraud related to hush money payments to a porn star, struggles to formulate a new strategy less than 100 days before the election.

Later on Wednesday, he held a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, a battleground state where he narrowly survived an assassination attempt earlier this asked Trump during a month, and continued the heated interview at the Na-

Palestinians detained by Israel subjected to 'torture', says UN

GENEVA: Palestinians detained by Israel during the Gaza conflict have largely been held in secret and in some cases subjected to

Monitoring Desk

treatment that may amount to torture, the United Nations said on Wednesday. Since the October 7 Hamas attacks, thousands of Palestinians — including medics, patients, residents and captured fighters —

have been taken from Gaza to Israel, "usually shackled and blindfolded", the OHCHR UN human rights office said in a report. Thousands more have been detained in the West Bank and Israel, it added.

'They have generally been held in secret, without being given a reason for their detention, access to a lawyer or effective judicial review," OHCHR said.

The report was released the day after Israel's military police questioned

soldiers arrested on suspicion of sexually abusing a Palestinian detainee. At least 53 detainees from Gaza and the West Bank have died in Israeli detention since the Gaza conflict began, the report found.

Testimonies for the report suggested that Israel had subjected prisoners to "a range of appalling acts, such as waterboarding and the release of dogs on detainees", UN rights chief Volker Turk said. The report covers Oc-

tober 7 to June 30. It relies primarily on information gathered through interviews with released Palestinian detainees and other victims and witnesses of violations, OHCHR said. The report said there were "reasonable grounds to believe" that since October 7, Israel and Palestinian armed groups had "committed gross violations and

Protesters in Nigeria demonstrate over high cost of living

Monitoring Desk ABUJA: Police fired tear gas to disperse crowds of protesters in Nigeria's capital city Abuja on Thursday, as thousands rallied against escalating cost of living and governance issues in Africa's most populous nation, according to eyewitness accounts.

Protesters demonstrated in Abuja, the commercial capital Lagos and several other cities to show discontent with economic reforms that have led to rampant inflation and inflicted increasing hardship on ordinary Nigerians. President Bola Tinubu has vowed to pursue the changes that he says are needed to keep the country afloat.

Authorities deployed armed security personnel in an effort to preempt potential violence

In Lagos, armed police watched as protesters marched towards the government house and then proceeded to two locations that were authorised for the protest

Some shopping malls in the city were shut and guarded by a heavy police presence.

Inspired by protests in Kenya in June that led to the government there scrapping some planned tax increases, Nigerians are mobilizing online to demand the reinstatement of subsidies for petrol and electricity, free primary and secondary education and measures to combat insecurity, among other demands

In Abuja, the military mounted roadblocks along the highway leading into town, while some protesters gathered at a stadium.

Ukraine receives first F-16 fighter jets to bolster defenses against Russia, officials tell AP **Monitoring Desk**

NEW YORK: Ukraine has received the first F-16 fighter jets that it has sought for months to fight back against an onslaught of Russian missile strikes, a U.S. official confirmed to The Associated Press.

A Ukrainian lawmaker also confirmed Ukraine had received a small number of F-16 fighter jets. The two officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not permitted to speak on the subject publicly. Ukraine has been pushing its Western allies for F-16s for Ukraine for months, saying they were critically needed to fight back against the onslaught of missiles Russia has fired against it. The F-16 is specialized in suppressing enemv air defenses

PM Sharif vows to revamp Pakistan's economy by emulating Chinese model

Shehbaz Muhammad Sharif on Thursday pledged to revamp Pakistan's economy by emulating China's model, with the objective of achieving similar economic success on a smaller scale.

Speaking to a 12member Chinese delegation led by Wang Fukang, the prime minister said that during his recent visit to China, he requested President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Qiang to send experts to Pakistan. "The goal is to model Pakistan's economy after China's. Today, these experts are here, and we're confident that progress will follow

Welcoming the delegation by emphasizing that China and Pakistan were eternal friends, with a friendship that knew no

Minister crucial at this time and expressed hope that it could be shifted to Pakistan. He believes that joint ventures and cooperation would create a win-win situation. He said the delegation's visit was highly reassuring, and expressed hope that it would be both useful and productive for Pakistan.

He anticipated that it would enhance bilateral arrangements in areas such as industry, agriculture, economic zones, and help increase Pakistan's capacity to produce agricultural items in high demand in China. He noted that Pakistan could meet Chinese requirements by exporting high-quality goods and exploring opportunities in mining and minerals, IT, and export zones. He also suggested to Pakistan due to China's

He stated that the federal cabinet has decided to offer free visas to Chinese citizens starting August 14, demonstrating Pakistan's commitment. He emphations were higher than the Himalayas and deeper than the oceans.

The delegation, comprising representatives from 10 different Chinese ministries, was visiting Pakistan to enhance cooperation across various sectors. They will provide input on Chinese investment, the second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and boosting Pakistani exports Additionally, they will review and offer recommendations on IT, agriculture, industry, investment relocating certain industries energy, minerals, special economic zones, and com-



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan Georg Steiner and others cuts the cake during 733rd National Day of Switzerland, at a local hotel in the Federal Capital.

CDA Chairman Danish Envoy discuss Islamabad's development, environmental initiatives

meeting was held between Islamabad into a model Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa and Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan Jakob Linulf on Thursday to discuss various projects aimed at making Islamabad a mod-

Chairman Randhawa taken to make CDA a dynamic institution.

He emphasized the ronment.

ISLAMABAD (APP): A efforts to transform city, with a focus on environmental sustainability.

Ambassador Linulf commended the environment-friendly initiatives undertaken by Chairman Randhawa, particularly the Climate Change Fund and Margalla Hills Fund.

He expressed his suphighlighted the launch of port for these initiatives, new projects and initiatives stating that they will play a crucial role in protecting Islamabad's natural envi-

commitment to the welfare

of lawyers, said a press re-

lease. During the event, the

secretary and president of

SCBA praised the Law and

Interior Ministers for their supportive roles.

Mohsin Raza Naqvi as-

sured full cooperation from

Forging Global Partnerships:

ISLAMABAD (Online): East, Turkey, and the Cenpotential for enhancing

delved into the evolving

geopolitical landscape

with emphasis on enhanc-

ing trade relations and

people-to-people contact

in the said regions. Discus-

Pakistan's strategic and

economic interests in the

Middle East, particularly

with the Kingdom of Saudi

Arabia and the Gulf Co-

operation Council (GCC)

sions

regions, including Russia countries. The session also

and Europe, the Middle emphasized exploring the

committee

highlighted

the government.

Interior Minister Syed

Law Minister Azam

The meeting also touched upon solid waste management, with Chairman Randhawa expressing interest in utilizing Denmark's expertise in this

Furthermore, Chairman Randhawa extended an invitation to Ambassador Linulf to participate in the Margalla Hills plantation drive, which the ambassador gladly accepted.

The drive is expected to receive overwhelming participation.

FGEHA, SCBAP, and **DHA signs MoU for Park Road Housing Project**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA), Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and Defense Housing Authority (DHA) on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the development of Park Road Housing Project.

Federal Ministers Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar (Law and Justice), Riaz Hussain Pirzada (Housing and Works), and Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi (Interior) attended the MoU sign-



ISLAMABAD: People gathered around loading pickup van after a road accident at Islamabad High-

The Standing Committee tral Asian countries.

of the National Assembly

on Foreign Affairs con-

vened today at the Parlia-

ment House in Islamabad,

engaging in a comprehen-

sive session to discuss and

strategize Pakistan's for-

eign relations. The meeting

provided an extensive over-

view by the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs on Pakistan's current diplo-

matic standing and future

outlook with several key

AIOU to begin admissions in BA, B.Ed. from Sept. 1

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University(AIOU) will open admissions for its Feacher Training Programs including the 1.5-year, 2.5year, and 4-year B.Ed programs, starting September

According to AIOU in addition, the university will offer a range of other programs in the second phase of the Fall 2024 semester, including associate Nazeer Tarar expressed degrees (BA/B. Com), Postgraduate Diplomas, and BS

(ODL) programs. Professor Dr. Nasii Mahmood, Vice Chancellor of the university, highlighted the success of the Faculty of Education's teacher training initiatives.

He noted that millions teachers have been trained through these programs, with alumni serving in educational institutions across the country.

"Our trained educators are making a significant impact in schools, colleges and universities nationwide," Dr. Mahmood re-

trade cooperation with

Turkey and the Central

Asian Republics. While

the briefing on Africa and

South America was de-

ferred, the committee ac-

knowledged the need for a

focused diplomatic strat-

egy for these growing re-

tions from the committee

included increasing Paki-

stani scholarships in Euro-

pean countries, addressing

internal processes to curb

illegal emigration.

Key recommenda-

Strategic Deliberations from the National Assembly's Standing **Committee on Foreign Affairs**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has decided to introduce remedial classes on every Saturday to support students who

According to the Education Ministry, this initiative aims to provide additional support to students who require it, ensuring they can catch up with their peers and

Sharing the key details of the initiative, the ministry said that two classes will be conducted each Saturday to focus on language and numeracy skills.

port for students who need extra help.

The objective of these remedial classes is to provide a supportive environment where students can improve their language and numeracy skills, building a strong foundation for future success.

tion and support for students who need it most. It will also improve language and numeracy skills and enhance



A high level delegation of Chinese experts calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad.

UAE envoy calls on **Defence Minister**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al Zaabi called on Minister for Defence and Defence Production and Aviation Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Thursday.

The Minister lauded the vision and efforts of President and Supreme Commander of UAE Armed Forces, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan for development and transformation of UAE, a news release said. Khawaja Muhammad

Asif said: "Pakistani Nationals are playing a productive role in various fields for the progress of UAE. Pakistan will continue to extend its support for UAE in civil and defence sectors."

He expressed that there was a lot potential of cooperation between Armed Forces for enhancement of existing cooperation. Matters pertaining to commercial/civil aviation sector of Pakistan and UAE were also discussed for enhancing scope in aviation sector between both countries.

Court grants post-arrest bail to Rauf Hassan in PECA case

ISLAMABAD (APP): A ent. The accused include lower court on Thursday pion, desk operator and regranted Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI)'s Secretary Information Rauf Hassan and others post-arrest bail in case registered under Prevention of Electronic Crime Act (PECA). The court accepted the bails against surety bonds worth Rs50,000 each.

Duty Magistrate Abbas Shah heard the postarrest bail petitions of the accused. Petitioner's Lawyer Ali Bokhari Advocate argued that on the statement of Ahmed Waqas Janjua an FIR is registered against Rauf Hassan. He said that eight accused were named in the case who have no connection with his cli-

ceptionist etc, he said. The lawyer said that it is alleged that the Rauf Hassan has made a separate social media cell and anti-state campaign was run on his instruction. He said that baseless allegations were leveled against Rauf Hassan.

The lawyer said that nothing is mentioned in FIR regarding section 9 of PECA. FIA's prosecutor Aamer Sheikh said that 12 accused out of 14 are under arrest while two women are on bail. There are four technical reports in the case according to which more than 100 WhatsApp groups were running through which provoking material.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan while addressing climate change symposium at PIPS.

Rubina emphasizes zero tolerance against misbehavior with women beneficiaries

Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid during her visit to the Peshawar Tehsil

Office on Thursday emphasized that there will be zero tolerance against any misbehavior with the women beneficiaries.

The purpose of the visit was to monitor the arrangements at the office and review the facilities provided for the deserving women receiving Kafaalat and educational stipends. Rubina Khalid engaged with the beneficiaries, listened to their issues, and provided guidance, particularly to the needy and elderly women in the pro-

In her conversation with the media, Senator Rubina Khalid reflected on the vision of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto for the welfare of poor women in Pakistan, which ciety."

I S L A M A B A D led to the establishment of (APP):Chairperson Benazir BISP.

"The program was founded by Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto while she was in exile in Dubai and was implemented by President Asif Ali Zardari in 2008," she recounted.

Highlighting the trans-

parency measures in place, she noted that BISP payment centers were set up following instructions from President Asif Ali Zardari.

Rubina Khalid also announced that President Asif Ali Zardari directed the opening of bank accounts for deserving women to streamline their access to stipends. Stressing the importance of skill development and technical education, she stated, "Empowering women with skills and technical education is crucial for their economic independence and the over-

Support needy students Edu Ministry to start remedial classes on every Saturday

need extra help in language and numeracy skills.

However, the initiative would provide targeted sup-

The benefits of the initiative is to personalize atten-

Pakistan urges Afghanistan to ensure their land isn't used for terrorist activities

ISLAMABAD (Online): Foreign Office says the latest UN Security Council report endorses Pakistan's view that Afghanistan has hideouts and sanctuaries for terrorist groups in-cluding "Fitna al-Khawarij", the banned

At her weekly news briefing in Islamabad today, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Żahra Baloch said the report contains the view that the TTP could transform into an extra regional threat as well as umbrella organization of other terror groups. Mumtaz

Former Info

Secretary

Ismail Patel

passes away

KĀRACHI (APP): Ismail

Patel, a former Information

Secretary who served in se-

nior government positions,

passed away in Karachi on

Thursday after prolonged illness. He was 74. Patel was

buried in a graveyard of the

vife, Anjum and a brother,

Ibrahim, to mourn. Patel,

who was from the first CSS

batch of the Information

Service., had a distinguished

career, including as press

officer at the Pakistan Mis-

sion to the United Nations

Principal Information Of-

ficer (PIO), Press Secretary

to President Ghulam Ishaq

Khan and Director General

extended for

admissions

at IIUI

SLAMABAD (APP)

The International Islamic

University, Islamabad

(IIUI) has announced an

extension to the application

deadline for its fall semes-

ter admissions till Monday, 12th August 2024.

the extension covers all MS

and PhD programs, while BS programs in the Faculty

of Computing and Informa-

tion Technology, Faculty of

Engineering and Technology, BS English, BS Psychology, LLB and BS Inter-

national Relations are not

included in the extended

date. The applicants of the

rest of the BS programs

may apply for admission till Monday, 12th August

can find details on the of-

fered programs, eligibility

criteria, and fee structure on

the university's website,

cms.iiu.edu.pk. For queries,

male applicants can contact

on WhatsApp number 0319-5213192, while fe-

male applicants can contact on 0319-5213193.

IRSA releases

412,600

cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thurs-

day released 412,600

cusecs water from various

rim stations with inflow

According to the data released by IRSA,

water level in River Indus

at Tarbela Dam was

1530.00 feet and was

132.00 feet higher than

its dead level of 1,398

feet. Water inflow and

outflow in the dam was

recorded as 318,000 cusecs and 236,900 cusecs

respectively. The water

level in River Jhelum at

Mangla Dam was 1203.05

feet, which was 155.05

feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The

inflow and outflow of water was recorded 39,700 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs

at Kalabagh, Taunsa,

Guddu and Sukkur was

The release of water

respectively.

of 523,400 cusecs.

Prospective students

According to the IIUI.

External Publicity.

He also served as the

in New York in early 80s.

He leaves behind his

Defence Housing Society.

to take immediate, effective and robust action against the terrorist groups including Fitna al-Kĥawarij. She said the Afghan side should ensure that their land is not used for terrorist activities inside Pakistan. Referring to the kill-

ing of Chief of the Politi-Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, she said targeting inditernational law and glo-

She said it is yet an- in the region.

Baloch urged Afghanistan other demonstration of indiscriminate and disproportionate Israeli aggression that has continued unabated to the detriment of regional and global peace and security.

The spokesperson said Israel must be held accountable for its transgressions and actions. She said Israel's extracal Bureau of Hamas territorial acts have endangered regional security. She urged the viduals inside sovereign backers of Israel to states is a violation of in-prevail on Israel to end its unlawful military opbal norms. Such acts erations in violation of the carry the seeds of further sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries



ISLAMABAD: Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President ECO Science Foundation called on the Federal Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

Sahibzad Khan says: High flood situation can occur in Chenab River, if rainfall continues at same pace

revealed that the high flood level is 1752.00 ft. situation can occur in Chenab River during this monsoon season, if the rain out of the total conservacontinues with the same tion level of 2315.00 ft while pace. "The PMD is closely monitoring the water levels in the reservoirs and sending timely information to all the concerned authorities to take precautionary measures for avoiding any untoward situation", the Director General said during a press conference held here.

Briefing about the current situation of reservoirs. Sahibzad Khan said that the current level of water in the maximum conservation level is 1550.00 ft.

The current water which the P level in Mangla is 1202.15 an advisory.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Di- ft out of the total conservarector General Pakistan tion level of 1242.00 while Meteorological Depart- in Rawal Dam, the current ment (PMD), Mahr water level is 1739.00 ft and Sahibzad Khan Thursday the maximum conservation In Simly Dam, the cur-

> in Khanpur Dam, the water level is 1942.4 ft and the maximum conservation level is 1982.00 ft. The Director General

indicated fewer chances of floods considering the overall rainfall situation so far however, he said, the high flood situation can be developed in Chenab river, if rain continues with same intensity.

He said that after the Tarbela is 1526.89 ft while rain spell of Aug 01-06, there are chances of another rain spell August 07-15 about which the PMD will issue



ISLAMABAD Ayub Jamali Director General of PNCA visiting An exhibition was recently held under the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) to mark the completion of a six-month cal-

FOSPAH striving for gender equality, human dignity: Fauzia Viqar

ISLAMABAD (APP): try where only 23% of

rassment (FOSPAH) Fauzia Viqar on Thursday underlined efforts to create als of gender equality and human dignity. Ms. Fauzia Viqar held

an interactive meeting with the Federal Ombudsperson Secretariat for Protection Harassment against (FOSPAH), said a press release.

The meeting was also Shehzad, Registrar Jamy, Law Officer FOSPAH.

During the meeting Ms. Viqar elaborated upon the need for an institution like FOSPAH in the coun-

Chairperson Federal women were in the Ombudsperson Secretariat workplace and therefor Protection against Ha- fore required increased protection Additionally, Ms.

Jamy explained the mandate a Pakistan, built on the ide- of FOSPAH, namely, eliminating workplace harassment and securing the property rights of women while Shehzad informed the atmediapersons covering the tendees about the imple-Islamabad High Court at mentation powers of FOSPAH. The media partici-

pants raised many pertinent questions about the workings of FOSPAH such as inquiring about the attended by Rehman number of complaints received so far by FOSPAH and Ms. Meher transgendered persons, the availability of a mobile application to facilitate parties and the level of cooperation between FOSPAH and other women-centric