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PM calls for collective efforts to achieve development goals

Govt to dole out maximum funds for youth empowerment; Calls 1973 Constitution a binding force for the nation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Munir, Chairman of the Prime Minister Shehbaz Higher Education Com-Sharif on Wednesday said that youth empowerment and the united efforts by the politicians and the national institutions, were inevitable to put the country on the course to progress.

"If we resolve to change Pakistan, it will not be too far when the country will emerge as a great nation. Today's Pakistan and its prevailing circumstances necessitate politicians and national institutions to serve the country unitedly while observing their constitutional limits.

If we do so, history will remember us forever otherwise the future generations will never forgive us," he said addressing the National Youth Conven-

Staff General Syed Asim

mission, teachers, vicechancellors and students from across the country.

He said it was the government's responsibility to equip the youth with modern education, technology and skills to enable them to change the country's fate and bring about a 'revolution' of progress and prosperity.

He said the country's youth had immense potential as for the last three years, Pakistani students were among the top achievers of the foreign scholar-

Calling the 1973 Constitution a binding force for the nation, he said Pakistani nation also showed unity when the country carried out the nuclear tests in The Convention was 1998 to make its defence attended by federal minis- impregnable, setting ters, Chief of the Army aside the serious chal-

province, had attained a

significant honor through

his election and that his

achievement would inspire

timism that Israr Khan

would continue to bring

honor to the country with

his future achievements.

that former Prime Minis-

ter Mohtarma Benazir

Bhutto Shaheed was the

first Asian woman to serve

He expressed the op-

The president recalled

other young people.



ISLAMABAD: President Elect of Oxford Union. Israr Khan Kakar, calls on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Youth empowerment, key to Pakistan's bright future: President Zardari

ISLAMABAD (APP): resident of Balochistan President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday said that the youth had significant potential and could greatly elevate country's reputation if given appropriate opportunities.

In a conversation with Asrar Khan Kakar, the newly elected President of the Oxford Union Society, the president extended his congratulations on his election to the coveted posi-

The president high- as President of the Oxford lighted that Asrar Kakar, a Union.

Attaullah Tarar says

PTI founder meddles in military affairs with demand for Faiz Hameed's open trial

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday said PTI founder had meddled in the affairs of Pakistan Army by demanding an open trial for ex-Spy Chief.

The minister, in a news statement, regretted that the PTI founder had made multiple attempts to make the matter related to Faiz

Hameed controversial. Instead of giving statements in defense of Faiz Hameed, the PTI founder should better made his position clear in the 190 million pounds case, Tarar said, adding his controversial statements showed that he was suffering from "serious ers.

anxiety and uncertainty' The minister said the to accept that the issue of Faiz Hameed was internal matter of the Army, which proved that the ex-spy

chief was his "asset" He said it seemed that the PTI chief was in mental disarray as sometime he called Faiz Hameed an "asset or a hero", while on some occasion took completely an otherwise stance.

In the Faiz Hameed case, he said it appeared that the PTI founder had no qualms about using people for his own personal interests. The minister said the PTI founder was expert in ditching his own well wish-



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir distributing laptops among the high achievers during National Youth Convention held in Islamabad.

Army chief reiterates resolve to win war against terrorism

Says a strong bond between people, govt, and military is guarantee of Pakistan's security and development; People who had built narrative of Pakistan's default are

found nowhere today; Youth most expensive asset of Pakistan, no one to be allowed to waste it; State's responsible to protect nation from social media's adverse effects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Wednesday at bay from the malicious said the youth of the country was the biggest and most valuable capital that would not be allowed to waste under any circum-

Addressing the Youth Convention here, the Chief f Army Staff said that knowledge distinguished a person from others, whereas seeing the sparkle in the eyes of young people made one believe that the future of Pakistan was in safe hands.

BBC exposes fake videos fueling false claims of anti Hindu attacks in Bangladesh

ISLAMABAD (INP): A BBC investigation has uncovered that many recent online videos and posts claiming attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh following the ouster of Sheikh Hasina are fabricated and largely spread by right-wing Hindu influencers, mainly from India, with ulterior

These videos, depicting burning buildings and distressed individuals. have been circulated with false claims of a "genocide" against Hindus by "Islamic extremists." However, the BBC Urdu's verification process revealed that most of these videos are either doctored or entirely unrelated to events in Bangladesh.

For example, one vivideo claimed that a Hindu temple Chittagong was set on fire by Muslim extremists. The BBC found that the fire actually occurred at an office of the Awami League, not a temple. which remained undamaged. Another post falsely alleged that the home of Bangladeshi cricketer Liton Das was torched by Muslims; in reality, the house belonged to a Muslim Member of

The Army Chief said it Libya, Syria, Kashmir, and was the responsibility of the state to keep the masses implications of social media-induced confusion and

A strong relationship between the people, the government and the army was the guarantee of Pakistan's security and development, he said, adding, "Those who were creating the narrative of Pakistan's default, where are they to-

"If you want to know the importance of a free state, ask the people of nation.

Gaza. As Muslims we are forbidden from despair," the COAS said. The Chief of Army

Staff told the youth that life was a test, and read the Qur'anic verse, "Do people think that they will be left alone for saying, 'We be-lieve,' and they will not be tested?" At the end of the speech, the Army Chief recited this poem of Allama Iqbal addressing the youth:

The destiny of nations is in the hands of individuals Every individual is the star of the destiny of the



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal addressing a conference on "Empowering a Digital Pakistan" organizing by Institute of Regional Studies & COPAIR.

Ahsan for catching up with pace of digital revolution for national development

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday stressed the urgent need to keep pace with the global digital revolution to achieve development across all sec-

tors and put the country on a sustainable growth trajec-"The world is advancing at the speed of elec-

trons. We cannot afford to lag behind, as in the next 22 years, we will be evaluating our development in the context of our 100 years of independence," he stated while addressing the opening session of the conference titled "Empowering a Digital Pakistan.

Citing historical examples, the minister noted that nations embracing glo-

ISLAMABAD (APP): bal changes achieved progress and prosperity, while those that ignored these changes faced fail-

He highlighted that the world was now undergoing a digital revolution after the industrial revolution. "In the industrial era, the big used to eat the small; in the digital world, the fast eats the slow, regardless of size," he remarked.

"Today, Pakistan stands at a defining mo-Pakistan ment. The future of a nation or an individual hinges on the choices made. These choices determine the destiny of that person or nation," he said

Ahsan Iqbal explained that if the choices were wrong, one could not blame others for their circum-

Chairman Senate calls for unity between provinces,

federal government HYDERABAD (APP): The Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani emphasized the importance of Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai's teachings, highlighting his message of peace, love and compassion. He said that Shah Latif advocated for women's rights even in his

Talking to the media after visiting the shrine on the occasion of the 281st Urs of Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai on Wednesday, Gillani said that following Shah Latif's message could help resolve many of today's issues. He stressed the need to spread this message far and wide.

Responding to a ques tion about making Bhit Shah a tehsil or district, the Chairman Senate stated that the decision lies with the provincial assembly. He suggested that the assembly should pass a resolution and discuss the matter with the Chief Minister of Sindh, I am confident that he would do something in

In response to a question about the differences between the provinces and the federal government, he said that considering the political situation, we should work together, this is not the time to have dif-

EC denotifies **Balochistan Home Minister** Ziaullah Lango

QUETTA (Online): Election Tribunal has denotified home minister Balochistan Mir Ziaullah Langau besides ordering re-election in 7 disputed polling stations of PP-36 Balochistan Assembly (BA).

The EC has declared portfolio held by home minister Balochistan null and void.

Justice Abdullah Baloch of Election Tribunal Balochistan High Court during the hearing of the petition nullified the portfolio of home minister held

JUI-F candidate Mir Saeed Langau rival candidate of Mir Zia Ullah Langau in PP-36 Balochistan Assembly had filed election petition in election tribunal.

Akram Shah advocate had persuaded the election petition filed by Mir Saeed . Langau while Salim Lashari advocate appeared on behalf of Mir Zia Langau.

Amid security concerns **Schools in Islamabad** to remain closed today

Independent Report SLAMABAD: In view of the prevailing situation, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad has decided to keep schools closed on Au-

The decision has been made to ensure the safety and security of children All government and private schools in Islamabad will remain closed tomor-

The authorities have taken this precautionary measure to avoid any untoward incident

35 Pakistani pilgrims killed after bus overturns in Iran

least thirty-five Pakistani pilgrims have been killed and fifteen others critically injured in a bus accident in Iranian city of Yazd.

According to initial reports, the accident occurred due to failure of brakes. Injured have been shifted to near-by hospi-

Most of the passengers belong to Larkana, Ghotki

and other cities of Sindh. President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have expressed deep grief and sorrow over loss of precious lives in the tragic bus accident of Pakistani Zaireen

The President and the Prime Minister commiserated with the bereaved families and prayed for the departed souls.

The President directed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to bring the bodies

TEHRAN (Online): At to Pakistan and provide timely aid to the injured.

President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday expressed his deep grief over the death of Pakistani pilgrims in a bus accident that took place in Iran.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed his deep grief over the loss of lives in a bus accident carrying Pakistani pilgrims in Yazd city of Iran.

"Deeply saddened by the loss of lives at a bus accident of Pakistani Zaireen near Yazd in Iran. My thoughts are with the bereaved families. May the injured recover at the earliest," he said in a statement.

The prime minister directed Pakistan's embassy in Tehran to extend all possible assistance to the affected families and ensure medical treatment of the injured.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir presenting gift to a child during national youth convention at Pak china friendship centre, in the Federal Capital.

Imran demands open trial of Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed

RAWALPINDI (Online): PTI founder Imran Khan while demanding open trial of Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed has said his and Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed matter is not

internal affair of army.
"the facts will come before the world due to open trial, he said this in an informal talks with the journalists in Adiala jail Wednesday. Terming Gen (Retd) Faiz zero from hero after re-

tirement he said Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed issue is no't issue of national security. It is local issue. I demand army chief to conduct open trial of Gen (Retd) Faiz because facts will come before the world due to open trial. But I know they will conduct closed doors trial instead of open trial. All the cases against me have collapsed. Neither

any contact nor any link remained between him and Gen (Retd) Faiz after his retirement. When some one retires he becomes free.

May 9 conspiracy started with my arrest. Ascertain it who gave orders of my arrest. I know who issued my arrest orders. No 1 Badshah who controls Rangers is super king. However he avoided to mention name. Gen (Retd) Faez could give me what benefit after

his retirement. They are fools who say that Gen (Retd) Faiz has given me any benefit. I am former civilian prime minister. Pakistan image will be tarnished if they take me to military court,



Gilani addressing to media persons after laying wreath on the grave of Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai on the occasion of his 281st Urs celebration.

New Toshakhana case

IHC dismisses petition filed by PTI founder, Bushra against their arrest

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has dismissed the petition filed by PTI founder Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi against their arrest in new Toshakhana case declaring it infructuous.

he remarked.

The court has advised to adopt legal way of filing bail after arrest petition in Accountability Court

The petition filed by Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi against their arrest in new Toshakhana case came up for hearing before IHC bench comprising Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeh and Justice Babar Sattar

Wednesday. Suleman Safdar counsel for PTI founder appeared

in the court. NAB prosecutor said Toshakhana reference has

been filed. Now they have powers to file bail after arrest plea in the court.

Suleman Safdar said court has already said call up notices were vague They are conducting second proceedings in Toshakhana gifts case. When questions of fundamental rights were before the court then how could they file this refer-The court inquired IO

Sahb had you gone.

Investigating Officer (IO) said he had gone and they had filed reply. Suleman Safdar said to-

ay we have four cases. The court inquired has

reference been filed. NAB prosecutor told

the court yes reference has been filed. Suleman Safdar said NAB should talk about call up notice. That was a fact notice

Govt advertisement rates to be increased soon: Info Secy

Federal Secretary Information, Ambreen Jan assured the APNS Executive Committee that the long pending Govt advertisement rates will be increased as

Ms Ambreen Jan Secretary Information and PIO, Mr. Mobasher Hasan attended the meeting of Executive Committee of the APNS held at Islamabad presided over by its President Ms. Nazafreen Saigol Lakhani. APNS Secretary General Sarmad Ali apprised the Secretary Information about the problems being faced by the newspaper industry due to non implementation of the de-

cision of the Prime Minis- advertisements, non payannounced at the end of his advertisement rates. He highlighted the issues faced by the print media related to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting includ-

ter, Mian Shahbaz Sharif ment of current and old outstanding dues, streamlining first tenure to increase govt of ABC, renewal of newspapers' registration and functioning of the Press Registrar office. The APNS suggested that to resolve the issue of non payment ing constant decline in the of current dues, a revolving fund be established at the quantum of government

Information Ministry for payment to newspapers on behalf of sponsoring departments. The members of the executive committee apprised the Secretary Information about the problems faced by them including non implementation of regional quota, problems in transfer of declarations af-

ter demise of the publisher and establishment of PID office regional Bahawalpur. The Secretary Information assured the Executive Committee that the Ministry of Information has moved a summary for rate increase to the Finance Ministry which would be processed shortly.

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

Troubled tribunals

It is unlikely that the public will get timely closure on the many controversies raging over the Feb 8 general election. The tribunals appointed under the Elections Act of 2017 to settle election-related disputes will not be able to meet their 180-day deadline, it has emerged in a report released by the Free and Fair Election Network.

Fafen has highlighted that, so far, only 7pc of the 377 petitions have been resolved, with Balochistan's tribunals alone in achieving a doubledigit disposal rate of 17pc. Sindh, KP and Punjab lag far behind with disposal rates of 7pc, 4pc and 0.5pc, respectively, while the tribunal appointed for Islamabad's seats has yet to dispose of a single case. Punjab, where the most challenges have been filed, still has only two tribunals functioning out of the eight sanctioned, mainly because of the Election Commission of Pakistan's refusal to honour the Lahore High Court's decisions about who should head them

The nation saw the post-polls fiascos play out on their television screens and has awaited answers about what exactly went wrong. It may be recalled that, in a replay of the ECP's results transmission system's failure in 2018, this time, too, a new and improved results consolidation system had failed to function, and the announcement of the results was put off without any explanation from the Com-

While these delays were happening, many candidates and their supporters saw their victories magically turn into defeats and vice versa. Complaints flooded in from across the country of results being finalised behind closed doors after kicking out those who had contested the elections. Many new controversies emerged post-Feb 9 that threw both the credibility of these elections and the ECP's impartiality into further doubt.

From supposedly 'final' results being retracted, revised, and then reissued, to recounts being done without candidates being informed, to glaring discrepancies in the results issued to candidates and the results endorsed by the authorities — so much was so obviously wrong that it defied understanding how these gross irregularities would be upheld.

This is where the election tribunals, acting as third-party arbiters between the disputing candidates, were supposed to provide closure. They should have done so within the mandated six-month period, which would have helped the system selfcorrect as soon as possible. Alas, it seems that these disputes will continue to linger for the foreseeable future, weakening an already struggling democracy.

The delay will only mean that the legitimacy of the coalition government will continue to remain in doubt, which will undermine its authority and allow political instability to continue to fester.

Tragically, the systems that were meant to act as a check and balance on our institutions and ensure compliance with the constitutional order keep failing us constantly.

Poking the bear

Mahir Ali

Thursday August 22, 2024

Twenty-Four years ago, just months into his first term as Russia's second post-Soviet president, Vladimir Putin was pictured partying at a dacha in Sochi while his nation coped with the loss of a been nuclear-powered subma- muddled. It serves as a rine during naval exercises; all of its 118 personnel perished in the disaster. The vessel was called Kursk

Russian media had few who would keep Rusqualms about calling out official incompetence He has failed several and presidential indiffer- times in that respect over ence. Fast forward to the years, but it is not officially tolerated press or TV outlets can be expected to seriously fault the authorities for this month's swift foray into Russian territory by barely resisted incursion occurred in the Kursk oblast.

with anyone familiar with the key events of World War II. The most formidable clash of tanks in history entailed a monumental loss of life — upwards of a million, by mainly remembered as a turning point when, following a hard-won triumph in the Battle of Red Army turned the tide against the Nazi invaders. Less than two years later, it was at the gates of Berlin.

More than 80 years later, both sides in the un- chips in future PoW exnecessary conflict try to tar each other with the Nazi tag; both rely to some extent on far-right forces within their military structures. But whatever the follies and fallacies of Moscow and Kyiv, this is not World War II, and it's crucial to all humanity that it does not turn into World War III. That threat still can-

part of the world, but it is not imminent. However, the consequences of the Ukrainian advance into Russian territory remain unclear, and the republic does not meamessaging from Kyiv about its motivation has somewhat temporary morale booster for Ukrainians, no doubt, as well as a slap in the face for Putin's pretensions as Back in 2000, the Mr Security — someone

2024, and none of the clear whether the present embarrassment will suffice as a potential tipping point. Ukrainian president has said that the successful attack on Ukrainian troops. The Russian soil was intended as a negotiating tactic — presumably to persuade Putin that the The region's name border is vulnerable in

sians safe from all foes.

should also resonate both directions, so his insistence on retaining large chunks of Ukraine as part of any peace deal is untenable. However, Volodymyr Zelensky and his aides have also talked about creating a some accounts — but buffer zone, and exthe Battle of Kursk is pressed the hope that some of the Russian troops on the front line in eastern Ukraine might be withdrawn to Kursk, Stalingrad, the Soviet which was poorly defended by inexperienced young conscripts, hundreds of whom are now in Ukrainian custody, possibly intended to serve as bargaining

Might that work, or will Putin's instinct be to exact revenge, for which Ukrainian civilians may pay the biggest price? Putin's tendency is to prefer revanchism over compromise. Russia's apparent inability thus far to meaningfully resist the Ukrainian military in not be discounted, al- 80 years that foreign in a fool's paradise. though the flashpoint forces have advanced so Courtesy Dawn

might be in a different far into its territory should serve as an even bigger reminder than his one-time Yevgeny Prigozhin's revolt last year that Putin's sure up to its projected illusions. There is good reason, no doubt, to resent the Nato encirclement of Russia, which has been proceeding for decades, but that hardly justifies the decision to invade Ukraine, let alone pretend that the coveted territory ought never to have been separated from the 'motherland'.

Without delving

into history, suffice it to

say that Putin's ill-con-

sidered gambit returned

to bite him on the back-

side, whereas it remains to be seen whether Zelensky's gamble will pay any dividends. The conflict needs to end, but neither Ukraine and its Western allies nor Russia are inclined to contemplate the kind of compromises that would facilitate such an outcome echoes of Gaza, arguably. US sources suggest that Kyiv's Kursk initiative derailed talks in Qatar towards an agreement on not targeting energy facilities: chiefly power plants in Ukraine and oil refineries in Russia, but including nuclear facilities. That information adds to the absurdity of Zelensky's apparent assumption that the Kursk advance would sufficiently rattle Putin into making concessions. The Russian president, evidently intending to deny all responsibility (as usual) if what comes next does not fit

submarine incident. What might come next in this sordid conflict remains to be seen. But anyone who expects Putin to come to his senses in the face of ter-Kursk — the first time in ritorial blackmail is living

his narrative, flew off to

Azerbaijan on a sched-

uled visit. Echoes of the

'Doing okay'

Arooj Waheed Dar

Persistently high inflation in Pakistan is eroding the purchasing power of the poorest, limiting access to basic facilities. The World Bank estimates that poverty will remain around 40 per cent, with 10 million people at risk of falling below the poverty line due to potential economic shocks. Despite this, social protection programmes receive minimal attention, with Pakistan allocating less than one per cent of GDP to social assistance, thus offering little relief to the

government's limited fiscal space and competing priorities, it is clear that investment in social sectors is likely to remain low. Therefore, the government must focus on creating a conducive environment for social deorganisations (SDOs) to step in and address these gaps.

Index of the Centre for Asian Philanthropy and Society examines the regulatory and societal environment in which private capital is directed ranks countries in four categories based on its findings: 'doing well', 'doing better', 'doing okay', and 'not doing enough' (from best to worst). According to the DGI 2024 report, which surveyed 122 SDOs in SDPI, the country is classified as 'doing okay', cern. indicating unfavourable regulatory environment. This classification represents a

decline from its 'doing better' status in 2020. The report highlights a drastic increase in the regulatory burden for SDOs between 2020 and 2024. This period

impacts on marginalised

communities in Pakistan

burden for SDOs during this critical period, further hurdles were put up with primary focus on heightened scrutiny of political funding and rig-orous monitoring of financial flows to NGOs under the pretext of preventing money laundering and terrorism financ-

The report shows that in Pakistan, the process for obtaining clearances and registering an SDO takes an average of 360 days, significantly longer than the Asian average of 123 days. Once registered, additional complex laws comply with FATF rehinder the smooth functioning of SDOs, creating disincentives for philanthropic work. In terms of finances,

SDOs are facing growing difficulties in transferring and receiving foreign funds. This issue is compounded by a decline in local funding due The Doing Good to reduced purchasing power, which limits individuals' capacity to do-Consequently, SDOs are struggling to meet their financial needs and to expand their covtowards philanthropy. It erage. The absence of inclaiming tax incentives for corporate donors exacerbates the situation.

Furthermore, the procedures for accessing government procurements are reported to be highly complex. Pakistan through the Non-transparency remains a significant con-

The proportion of SDOs receiving government contracts has noticeably declined between 2020 and 2024, alongside a sharp decrease in the perceived transparency of the procurement process. During 2020 to 2024, the percentage of SDOs that political agendas aside coincides with severe viewed the procurement and create a conducive process as transparent environment for SDOs to dropped from 48pc to address these deficien-

shocks, and the Russia- percentage of SDOs that Ukraine war. Instead of found it easy to win goveasing the regulatory ernment contracts fell from 30pc to 6pc, and those finding it easy to access procurement information decreased from 64pc to 11pc.

> Unfortunately, it is not the first time in Pakistan that political agendas have taken precedence over social welfare and public well-being. As with many other decisions, the move to increase regulatory burdens on SDOs appears largely driven by the desire to undermine a particular political party. The PTI foreign funding case, coupled with Pak-istan's efforts to quirements, led to tighter controls on foreign funding, not just for political parties but also for NGOs. Along with decreased funding for NGOs, this has created rent-seeking opportunities, as most government contracts are awarded to well-connected SDOs.

According to the report, the majority of SDOs believe that the removal of this undue regulatory burden can significantly enhance their performance, allowing them to better cater centives and hurdles in to the needs of an increasingly deprived population. Moreover, a single oversight department should be established to streamline the process and reduce procedural delays and red

> While philanthropy is ubiquitous in Pakistan, much of it is informal and unrecorded. Regulating these activities is crucial to ensure comprehensive coverage and to prevent duplication.

With negligible public spending in social sectors, it is essential for the government to set due to Covid-19, climatic 10pc. Additionally, the cies. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Minister expresses gratitude for € 91.1 million German support for Pakistan

Cheema on Wednesday, Cheema and German and other senior officials. expressed his gratitude for Federal Minister for Ahad Khan Cheema the € 91.1 million German support for Pakistan's Economic Cooperation and Development Mrs. Svenja support for Pakistan's post-flood, climate- Schulze. resilient reconstruction.

long-standing partnership between the two countries since 1961 encompassing development assistance of € 4 billion from the Federal Republic of Germany, said a press release issued here.

Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Government of Federal total Republic of Germany ance of called on the Minister for Khan Cheema along with the delegation comprising bilateral

ISLAMABAD (APP): The meeting between of German Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Affairs, Ahad Khan Affairs, Ahad Khan Affairs, Ahad Khan Ambassador to Pakistan, Ahad Khan Cheema welcomed the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation

> on their visit to Pakistan. Government of Federal

highlighted growth, lient reconstruction.

Ms. Svenja Schulze,
He also appreciated
Federal Minister for members of her delegation and human resource

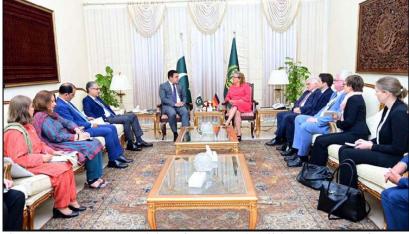
He appreciated the areas for driving the Republic of Germany for Government. He further called on the Minister for being a valuable emphasized that the reforms Economic Affairs, Ahad development partner and are being undertaken within specifically highlighted its the framework agreed with economic the IMF.

sugar.

German assistance and support extended to Pakistan for attaining the GSP+ status. Minister revenue generation, export-led increased agriculture modality, development as key priority economic agenda of the



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatisation, Board of Investment & Communications Abdul Aleem Khan presided 222nd meeting of Privatisation Commission Board.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Cheema exchanging views with Svenja Schulze, German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development during meeting held in Islamabad.

Pakistan to introduce new currency notes

ISLAMABAD (INP): be issued by December The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) decided to replace Committee on Finance currency notes with chaired by Senator Farooq denominations ranging from Rs 10 to Rs 5,000. According to details, SBP Governor Jameel Ahmed told the Senate Standing Committee on Finance that the central bank will soon permission from the federal cabinet to introduce the currency note, plastic new currency note. He said notes made from polymeric that new currency note material will also be issued. denominations of Rs 10, "Plastic currency will be Rs 20, Rs 50, Rs 100, Rs used in the future if it 500, Rs 1000, and Rs 5000 having all new features will

2024. The Senate Standing H Naik was also briefed by the SBP governor that

phased out, but replaced with a new design. The SBP governor said that besides paper "Plastic currency will be proves to be more durable than paper currency.

contrary to rumors, the Rs

5,000 note will not be

Gold rates **up by Rs.300** per tola to Rs.261,000

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.300 and was sold at Rs.261,000 on Wednesday compared to its sale at Rs. 260,700 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.257 to Rs. 223,765 from Rs. 223,508 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.205,118 from Rs.204,882, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

sugar exporting ISLAMABAD (APP): Commerce Jam Kamal Minister for Industries and Khan also attended the Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Wednesday During the meeting,

SAB recommends

100,000MT of

chaired a meeting of the Sugar Advisory Board They reviewed the availability of sugar stocks and prices in the country. (SAB) which recommended exporting highlighted that there is 100,000 metric tons of surplus sugar in the country adding that there

In this regard the final approval for sugar export will be given by the **Economic Coordination** Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet, said a news

Rana Tanveer said that sugar exports will be carried out following the terms and conditions set by

mill price of sugar.

will be no hike in the ex-

OICCI highlights private sector's role in mitigating climate change

Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) has launched an insightful report titled "Pakistan's Pakistan's Challenges". Commenting on the report, OICCI President Rehan Shaikh stated, "Given the climate strategy, including climate vulnerabilities threatening

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan, business growth The Overseas Investors can no longer come at the cost of the environment. We need to link returns on private sector investments with sustainability and Climate Crossroads: Private consider the green transition Sector Solutions to as a pathway to creating

Climate new jobs and livelihoods. The underscores key elements of Pakistan's climate action plans.

Jam, German Minister Svenja Schulze forge stronger economic ties Minister Jam Kamal responded by highlighting ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for lauded Germany's

Commerce Jam Kamal leadership in promoting Khan on Wednesday met sustainability through Cooperation

Development, Svenja Schulze, in Islamabad to Bakistan's ongoing efforts bolster economic and trade to improve labor standards relations between the two nations.

The meeting focused on advancing economic German support for collaboration, with a particular emphasis on sustainable business practices and labor comply with these new standards, said a press regulations. release issued here.

Shipping activity at **Port Oasim**

KARACHI Shipping activity was report at the port where four ships, MSC Positano, Agios Dimitrios, Horizon-I and Madison Eagle carrying Container, LPG and Coal, berthed at Container Terminals, Engro Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Tuesday. Meanwhile three more ships, Gaschem Mosel. Epic Burano and New Apex are also arrived at outeranchorage of the Port Qasim on today morning.

with Germany's Federal initiatives like the German Minister for Economic Supply Chain Due

and sustainability in its textile industry, and he sought capacity-building and technical assistance to help Pakistani SMEs

Minister Schulze Jam Kamal.

the long-standing historical relationship between Germany and Pakistan, which has spanned many

omic Supply Chain Due decades.
and Diligence Act.
She noted that many yenja He highlighted German companies are operating successfully in Pakistan, particularly in environmental the textile sector, and praised the robust business ties between the two countries.

Minister Schulze also emphasized the importance of women's empowerment across all sectors, a priority she shared with Minister

'UAE investors seek joint ventures with PFC'

LAHORE (APP): The UAE investors have shown keen interest in forming joint ventures with the Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) to tap into the global market by meeting international standards.

According to a message received here Wednesday from the UAE, a delegation led by CEO PFC Mian Kashif Ashfaq was visiting gulf states and holding meetings with their counterparts.

collaboration between the UAE investors and the PFC was seen as a strategic move to capitalize on the growing demand for highquality worldwide, particularly in

export markets. Pakistan's furniture industry, known for its craftsmanship and traditional designs, has significant potential to expand globally if aligned with modern production techniques and international quality standards.

Chairperson BISP discusses Nashonuma program with Sindh Health Minster

Independent Report

KARACHI: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, Wednesday, emphasized the role of the Nashonuma Programme in addressing health and nutrition challenges among poor and deserving women and children in Pakistan.

The BISP Chairperson, in a meeting with Sindh Minister for Health and Population Welfare, Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho here, had a detailed discussion on the BISP Nashonuma Programme and collaboration of BISP and provincial

of the program. Senator Rubina Khalid

highlighted that the program was aimed at improving the nutritional status of pregnant women and children under two years of age. The initiative was designed to prevent stunting, improve weight gain during pregnancy, reduce anemia and micronutrient deficiencies, and raise awareness about maternal and early child health, she added.

Senator Khalid also discussed the program's pilot targeting adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 in

health departments to fur- Oambar Shahdadkot and the

Thursday August 22, 2024

Pechuho commended the efforts of BISP, particularly the Nashonuma Programme, and briefed the Chairperson BISP about initiatives of the Sindh government in the health sector.



PESHAWAR: Renowned Social Activist Ashraf Khan meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi.

Kp govt committed to revitalize Higher Education **Sector: Secretary HED**

PESHAWAR Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is fully committed to address the challenges faced by the higher education sector, Dr. Zia Ul Haq vice particularly within the chancellor KMU, which is province's universities.

This was said by Capt ® Kamran Afridi, Secretary of the Higher Education Department, Govt. of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during a special meeting held here at Khyber Medical University

Secretary Kamran Afridi highlighted actively working on short, the first mid and long-term September.

(APP): strategies to uplift the

He praised the efforts of the Higher Education operating on an emergency basis to address these challenges.

"The progress made by the Task Force so far is commendable," said Secretary HED Kamran "It is expected that

the Task Force will finalize its recommendations by the end of this month. which will be presented to that the government is the Chief Minister KP in

ther enhance the outreach integration of immunization facilities through collaboration with the health depart-

Dr. Azra Fazal

The Sindh minister expressed her support for future collaborations between BISP and the People's Primary Healthcare Initiative (PPHI) to further enhance the program's reach and effectiveness

Minister inspects development work at Kohat

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Aftab Alam Afridi Advocate

Wednesday inspected the ongoing scheme after completing the asphalt work on Shekhan Road in Kohat.

directed the timely completion of work of shoulders of the said without compromising on the quality and quantity of

work. He also asked the party leadership and the general people to keep a vigil eye on the quality of the ongoing development works in their respective areas and report immediately where any defect or corruption is seen, so that action is taken against such elements and stop the

Aftab declared that the national exchequer is the sacred trust of the people and it will be spent purely on the betterment of masses.

waste of money.



port Programme (BISP) call on Minister of Health Sindh Azra Fazal Pechuho at Sindh Secretariat Karachi.

Governor KP contacts Pak envoy in Iran; expresses grief over tragic bus accident

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday expressed grief and sorrow over the traffic incident at Yazd city in Iran which claimed the lives of 28 Pakistani zaireen and injured 23 persons.

The Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has contacted Pakistani Ambassador Muhammad Mudassar Tipu in Iran regarding the tragic bus accident in Yazd.

emphasized the need for pilgrims in Yazd.

providing all possible assistance to the victims. Ambassador Tipu assured that every effort would be made to support the affected individuals, despite the accident site

being 700 kilometers away

from the consulate, said

Governor Kundi. He said that the Pakistani Ambassador is personally overseeing the relief operations.

Governor expressed deep sorrow Governor over the deaths of Pakistani

Minister reviews registration process for Himat Card

RAWALPINDI (APP): Provincial Minister for Social Welfare and Baitul-Mal, Sohail Shaukat Butt visited various parts of Rawalpindi Division to review registration of CM Punjab Himat Card package persons with disabilities

According to the details, the minister accompanied by MPAs Malik Iftikhar Ahmed, Imran Ilyas, Mansoor Afsar and Zaib-un- Nisa Awan visited registration points established in Sir Syed Chowk (Rawalpindi), Taxila and Murree.

Syed Chowk, the minister directed the concerned teams to encourage the PWDs for maximizing registration for the Himat

reviewed thoroughly the process of registration and verification. He said that the beneficiaries of the facility must be registered and verified by the Social Welfare's application.

Talking to the media the occasion, he highlighted that CM Maryam Nawaz was actively working for the During his visit to Sir welfare of PWDs.

Two killed, 7 injured in roof collapse in Bannu

BANNU (APP): Two women were killed and seven others sustained injuries while buried under the debris due to roof collapse in Khorgai Musakhel, area of Domel, Bannu. According to a private news channel, the incident took place when a roof of the house collapsed due to a lightning strike.

The rescue team reached the snot immediately after the incident was reported. The injured were shifted to Khalifa Gul Nawaz Hospital, Bannu.

Free medical camps setup in Kacha

HYDERABAD (APP):On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad, Shahriyar Gul Memon, the Health Department and Livestock Depart ment have set up free medical camps in various vil lages of Kacha.

Health Department has set up medical camps in villages Hamza Jatoi, Pir Syed Nizam Shah, and other villages to provide free medical treatment to the people, while the Livestock Department has set up camps for the vaccination of animals.

Commissioner's visit, to villages, the villagers had requested medical camps, which has now been setup.

SHC summons all accused in Murtaza Bhutto murder case on Oct 01

KARACHI (Online): Sindh High Court (SHC) has summoned on October 01 all the accused in Mir Murtaza Durrani. Bhutto murder case.

According to report the appeal filed by Noor Muhammad domestic servant of Mir Murtaza Bhutto and government challenging the acquittal of the accused persons came up for hearing before the court. It was said in the peti-

tion that former police officer Wajid Durrani is indisposed and he cannot appear in the court.

Counsel for Shoaib Saddal requested for ex-

The court granted exemption for one day each to Shoaib Saddal and Wajid

Ibrahim Saif ud Din advocate counsel for the petitioner while opposing applications said this case is pending hearing since long which may be completed

The court has ordered all the accused to appear before it on October 1.

It may be mentioned Murtaza Bhutto was killed in alleged police encounter on September 20, 1996. Two cases were registered with reference to this incident. Trial court acquitted



KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Munam Zafar addresses to media persons during press conference, at Idara Noor-ul-Haq in Karachi.

PWPA seminar highlights CM's vision to empower women

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan' chapter Women was Punjab Protection Authority launched at the (PWPA) organised a seminar at Punjab University (PU) on Wednesday to spread awareness regarding Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz's vision to empower women.

Prominent participants included PWPA Chairperson Hina Parvez Butt and Executive Chief Officer (CEO) 'I Am The Code', Lady Marieme were present at the event.

university's Social Work Department, marking the formal beginning of the initiative in Pakistan. The Maryam chairperson,

speaking at the event, said its was a significant towards promoting digital literacy and gender equality in Pakistan. initiative aims to empower women and girls by providing them with digital During the event, literacy and coding 'I Am The Code skills," she added.

International News

12 killed in fresh Israeli strike on school shelter

Monitoring Desk

GAZA STRIP: Ğaza's civil defence agency said an Israeli strike on a schoolturned-shelter killed at least 12 people on Tuesday, while the Israeli military said it struck a Hamas command centre.

'Our crews retrieved 12 martyrs from the Mustafa Hafiz school, which was bombed by the Israeli occupation west of Gaza City," agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal told

Thousands of displaced Palestinians had sought refuge in the school, he said, amid the ongoing war in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli military

said the school was targeted

because it housed a command-and-control centre. Bassal had earlier given a toll of seven dead and 15 wounded in the strike, which he said had hit the second floor of the school building. The school was reduced to rubble, with

scores of Palestinian men

children, fleeing the site after the strike.

In recent weeks, the Israeli military has struck several schools across Palestinian fighters. Gaza, primarily in Gaza City, accusing them of housing Hamas command centres, which the Palestinian group denies.

Earlier this month, the military had struck the Al-Tabieen School in Gaza City, which according to the civil defence agency killed 93 Palestinians, while the military said 31 fighters Tens of thousands of

displaced people have taken refuge in schools since the war broke out on October 7 after Hamas attacked southern Israel. Israel's retaliatory military offensive has killed at least 40,173 people in Gaza, according to the territory's health ministry. Most of the dead in Gaza are women and children, according to the UN human

The Israeli military

the bodies of six prisoners from a tunnel in Gaza's southern area of Khan Yunis after a battle with

The prisoners were Yagev Buchshtab, Alexander Dancyg, Yoram Metzger, Popplewell, Chaim Perry, previously announced dead, and Avraham Munder, whose kibbutz of Nir Oz near Gaza announced his death earlier in the day.

Their families had been informed following intelligence analysis, the military said in a statement, later adding that the bodies were found on Monday night in a tunnel.

"During the operation, the forces located a tunnel shaft about 10 metres (yards) deep leading to an underground tunnel route where the bodies were found," the military said. The rescue was carried out after prolonged combat in a built-up area and in multistory buildings" against fighters, some of whom were killed, it added.

said on Tuesday it retrieved

Palestinians carry their children as they flee after an Israeli strike on a school housing displaced people, in the Rimal neighbourhood of central Gaza City.

Blinken ends latest Mideast visit without a cease-fire, warning 'time is of the essence'

Monitoring Desk

DOHA: U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken ended his ninth visit to the Middle East since the war in Gaza began without securing any major breakthrough for a cease-fire deal, warning on Tuesday that "time is of the essence" even as Hamas and Israel signaled that challenges re-

After meetings in fellow mediating countries Egypt and Qatar, Blinken said that because Israel has essence

accepted a proposal to bridge gaps with the militant group, the focus turns to doing everything possible to "get Hamas on board" and ensure both sides agree to key details on implementation.
"Our message is

simple. It's clear and it's urgent," he told reporters before leaving Qatar. "We need to get a cease-fire and hostage agreement over the finish line, and we need to do it now. Time is of the

Moscow sees one of Ukraine's largest drone attacks as fighting rages in Kursk and eastern Ukraine

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Moscow came under one of the largest attacks yet by Ukrainian drones since the start of fighting in 2022, Russian authorities reported Wednesday, saying they destroyed all of those headed toward the capital. The drone attacks come as Ukrainian forces are continuing to push into Russia's western Kursk

'This was one of the biggest attempts of all time to attack Moscow using drones," Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyanin said on his Telegram channel. He said strong defenses around the capital made it possible to shoot down all the drones before they hit their intended targets.

Ukrainian drones overnight, including 11 over the Moscow region. Some Russian social media channels shared videos of drones apparently being destroyed by air defense systems, which then set off car alarms. Alexander Bogomaz, the governor of the Bryansk region, which borders Ukraine, reported a "mass" attack on his region but said that all 23 drones

Kyiv says its forces under heavy Russian attack in east Ukraine **Monitoring Desk**

KYIV: Ukraine's military said its forces had come under multiple Russian attacks over the course of Tuesday on the Toretsk and Pokrovsk fronts in eastern Ukraine. In a statement, the military said Russian forces attacked Ukrainian positions around Toretsk, including the settlement of Niu-York, but did not say what the outcome of that fight was. Earlier, Russia said its forces had taken control of Niu-York, but Reuters was unable to in-

Serial killer in Kenya Monitoring Desk

NAIROBI: Kenyan police

Kenyan capital.

certainty' for Gazans, says UN official JERUSALEM: În war-ravaged Gaza, death appears to

Death 'the only

be the "only certainty" for 2.4 million Palestinians with no way to escape Israel's relentless bombardment, a UN official said Tuesday, recounting the growing desperation across the territory. "It does feel like people are waiting for death. Death seems to be the only certainty in this situation," Louise Wateridge, a spokeswoman for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, also known as UNRWA, told AFP from Gaza.

For the past two weeks, Wateridge has been in the Gaza Strip, witnessing the humanitarian crisis, fear of death and spread of disease as the war rages on. "Nowhere in the Gaza

Wateridge said from the Nuseirat area of central Gaza—a regular target of Israel's aerial assaults. Since fighting broke

out in October, Israeli forces have pounded the besieged territory from the air, land and sea, reducing much of it to rubble. Now in its eleventh month, the war has created

an acute humanitarian crisis, with hundreds of thousands of people, most of whom have been displaced several times, running out of basic food and clean drinking water.

"We are facing unprecedented challenges when it comes to the spread of disease, when it comes to hygiene. Part of this is because of the Israeli im-Strip is safe, absolutely nowhere is safe. It's absoposed siege on the Gaza

Pro-Palestine protesters breach Democratic convention fence in Chicago

Monitoring Desk CHICAGO: Thousands of mostly peaceful pro-Palestinian protesters marched in Chicago on the opening day of the Democratic National Convention on Monday, in a show of anger against the Biden administration's support for Israel in the Gaza conflict.

After hours of peaceful demonstrations, several protesters broke through part of the perimeter security fence, drawing riot police to the site, a witness

Police in blue helmets with shields and carrying black batons prevented them from getting to the inner cordon.

Biden did not directly address the security lapse in his hour-long speech, but he said "Those protesters out in the street, they have a point. A lot of innocent people are being killed, on both sides" of the Israel-Hamas conflict.

Witnesses saw four people detained and placed

in handcuffs. Chicago police confirmed at a press conference that arrests were made but did not say how

ahead of the fence breach, as protesters reached a neighborhood park on Chicago's West Side and paused to amplify their calls for a ceasefire. Amid the noise, the crowd turned its frustration

Chanting intensified

toward Vice President Kamala Harris, referring to the Democratic candidate as 'Killer Kamala". Still, the umbrella group "March on the DNC" drew fewer sup-

porters than expected to a park outside the convention arena, hours before President Joe Biden was to address the gathering.
They started a one-

mile march near where Democratic delegates will nominate Harris as their candidate to face Republican Donald Trump in November's presidential

and women, many holding Lebanon says five killed in fresh Israel strikes

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Lebanon's health ministry said early Wednesday that Israeli strikes in the country's east killed one person and wounded 20 others, hours after it said four people were killed in the south. The strikes came more than 24 hours after Israel carried out similar raids deep inside east Lebanon and as tensions mounted in the wake of the Israeli killing of a top

Hezbollah commander. "Israeli enemy strikes on the Bekaa" valley killed one person "and wounded 20 others", the health ministry said in an updated toll. The statement said

one person was in critical condition while "eight children and a pregnant woman moderately wounded". A Hezbollah source, requesting anonymity, said several strikes hit east Lebanon near the city of Baalbek, including the Gaza war began in October.

village of Nabi Sheet, without specifying what was A source from a local

hospital told AFP that five children no older than 10, all from the same family, were among the wounded. The strikes around midnight came after similar raids in the Bekaa re-

gion on Monday evening

that Israel said targeted

"Hezbollah weapons storage facilities". They also came as Hezbollah said four of its fighters had been killed, after the health ministry said Tuesday that four people died in Israeli strikes in the southern border village of

The Iran-backed Hezbollah, an ally of Palestinian armed group Hamas, has traded neardaily cross-border fire with Israeli forces since the

Afghan Taliban dismiss 280 men without beards from security forces **Monitoring Desk**

KABUL: The Taliban's morality ministry has dismissed more than 280 members of the security force for failure to grow a beard and have detained more than 13,000 people in Afghanistan for "immoral acts" in the past year, officials said on Tuesday.

The Ministry for the Prevention of Vice and Propagation of Virtue said in its annual operations update that around half of those detained had been let go after 24 hours. It did not break down the type of the alleged offences or gender of the detainees. Mohibullah Mokhlis, Director of Planning and Legislation at the ministry, told a press conference officials had destroyed 21,328 musical in-

struments in the past year.

Russia downed 45

were destroyed.

dependently verify that. escapes from police custody

launched a major manhunt on Tuesday after a man they claim has confessed to murdering and dismembering 42 women escaped from a Nairobi police cell, along

with several other detainees. Collins Jumaisi, 33, described by police as a "vampire, a psychopath", was arrested last month after the horrific discovery of mutilated bodies in a garbage dump in a slum in the

Those involved in smuggling will not be allowed to cause harm to national economy: PM

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif while directing to make more effective and speed up the steps against smuggling has said those involved in smuggling will not be allowed at all to cause harm to national

"use of modern technology to stem smuggling be ensured. The vehicles of transporters used in smuggling be confiscated and legal proceedings initiated against them beside facilitators and elements involved therein, he said this while chairing review meeting for prevention of smuggling in the country

smuggling has gone down gold, tea, clothes, comdue to effective actions by

the respective institutions. FBR, interior minisshould forge more better vention of Sugar and Urea, cooperation among them. .

A comprehensive strategy be worked out and presented for better opportunities of jobs to the people living in border areas, he stressed.

All the institutions should accelerate their efforts for complete elimination of smuggling, he

The meeting was briefed that a comprehensive campaign is underway under the Ministry of Inof petroleum products, It is good omen that cigarettes, mobile phones, modities, vehicle tires and Trade.

formed that a web portal try and other institutions has been launched for prewhile preparation of a mechanism for identification of non-custom paid vehicles and their mapping also in final stages.

The meeting was apprised that fifty-four joint check posts have been established under the directives of the Prime Minis-

ter to curb smuggling.
Similarly, 212 vehicles of Afghan Transit Trade fleet, which were feared to be used in smuggling, have been identified and banned. terior to check smuggling Bank guarantee has been made compulsory instead of only insurance guarantee for the Afghan Transit



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Health Dr Mukhtar Bharath chairs meeting regarding M pox.

ADPC National Workshop on iCARE Innovations Fund concludes successfully

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), in collaboration with the World Bank, successfully held a National Workshop on the iCARE Innovations Fund in Islamabad.

The event marked a significant milestone in advancing climate adaptation and resilience efforts in Pakistan under the Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CARE) for South Asia project, a news release said.

brought together over 80 ners, international organiza- tegrated water resources climate resilience.

demic institutions. Participants engaged in discussions on the progress and potential of innovative a crucial component of the CARE project aimed at enhancing climate resilience across South Asia.

During the event, three kev innovators—Inara Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Asian Institute of Technol-

Climate Change Fund to protect Islamabad's envi-

on tackling climate change,

with discussions on

Islamabad's growing water

support to address the wa-

ter problem, while Islamic

Relief expressed readiness

to collaborate with CDA's

development partners, in-

cluding the World Bank and

The meeting focused

to

CDA offered technical

meet

tions, civil society, and aca-management, and climate

information analytics. Lt. Gen ® Nadeem Ahmed, Advisor of the CARE project, emphasized projects funded by the iCARE Innovations Fund, the importance of knowledge exchange during his edge exchange during his opening remarks. He high-lighted the role of the iCARE Innovations Fund in fostering innovative solutions to address Pakistan's pressing climate challenges.

The workshop fearelease said. ogy (AIT), and University tured two panel discus-workshop of Agriculture Faisalabad—sions on the sustainability presented their pioneering and scalability of climate representatives from various government departments, development partments, development partments, development partments, development partments are representatives from various work. These projects focus on critical areas such as climinovations and to explore the role of multi-partner collaboration in promoting

CDA, Islamic Relief Pakistan collaborate to tackle climate change

ronment.

projects

needs.

ISLAMABAD (APP): and the establishment of the Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, on Wednesday met with Country Director Islamic Relief Pakistan, Asif Shirazi, to discuss joint efforts in addressing climate change and developing Islamabad.

Randhawa praised Islamic Relief's contributions to Pakistan's development since 1992, particularly in environmental initiatives.

He highlighted CDA's efforts in plantation drives, especially in Margalla Hills, Bank.

International Development LHC imposes fine on NAB for filing unnecessary

application against Pervaiz LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has im-

posed fine amounting to Rs 2 lac on NAB for filing unnecessary application against former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab in the court.

A two members bench of LHC presided over by Justice Tariq Salim Sheikh took up for hearing the petition related to provision of NAB inquiry record to Pervaiz Elahi Wednesday

The court slapped fine amounting to Rs. 2 lac on NAB for filing unnecessary application against Pervaiz

Court dismissed NAB application declaring it unnecessary. The court remarked NAB application is tantamount to waste the time of court.

It is pertinent to mention here that NAB while challenging Accountability Court (AC) decision regarding provision of record of NAB inquiry to Pervaiz Elahi had taken plea inquiry record cannot be provided as per NAB

PTA blames submarine cable fault for recent internet disruptions

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has claimed that a fault in a submarine cable is the primary reason behind the recent internet disruptions experienced across the country.

In a briefing to the Standing Committee on Information Technology, PTA Chairman Hafiz Rahman explained that a fault in one of the seven fiber optic cables bringing 7.5 terabits of data into Pakistan has caused the service disruptions. He stated that this particular cable is expected to be repaired by August 27.

Hearing of 190mln pounds scandal reference adjourned

RAWALPINDI (Online): The hearing of 190 million pounds scandal reference has been adjourned without any proceedings till August

Judge Nasir Javed Rana of Accountability Court (AC) heard the reference Wednesday. PTI founder and Bushra Bibi were presented in the cour Wednesday. The counsels for PTI founder and Bushra Bibi could not appear in the



ISLAMABAD: Labourers are busy in construction work of a bridge at Islamabad highway during development work, in the Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding country wide anti smuggling drive.

NDMA conducts first **National Industrial Disaster Preparedness & Response drills**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The scored the need for a National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) successfully conducted the first of its kind two-day National Industrial Disaster Preparedness & Response Exercise at NDMA headquarters. Chairman NDMA Lt General Inam Haider Malik inaugurated the Exercises. The prime objective of National SimEx on Industrial Hazards was to highlight the importance of effective management through proactive decisionmaking and timely implementation of on-ground measures to minimize the impact of industrial incidents, a news release said. The exercise under-

strengthened coordination mechanism to ensure timely preparedness efforts and foster collaboration between government entities and industrial partners. Participants included Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs), rescue agencies, and key players from the chemical and petroleum, oil& gas industries including Lucky Core Industries Limited, Sitara Chemical Industries Limited, Ittehad Chemicals Limited. NIMIR Industrial Chemicals Limited, Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited, Fatima Fertilizer Company Limited, Engro Fertilizer Company Limited, Pak-Arab

Chief Commissioner suspends PTI's NOC for public gathering Islamabad.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The chief commissioner on Wednesday suspended the NOC issued to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for holding a public gathering in the capital due to the security concerns following recommendations from Federal law enforcement

The notification issued here stated that a highlevel meeting was held to review the security situation chaired by the Chief Commissioner and was attended by the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad and the Deputy Commissioner (DC) During the meeting, the NOC issued by the DC

on July 31st was reviewed. The IG Islamabad raised security concerns due to various upcoming events in the city.

The notification highlighted that a religious group called for a protest in front of the Supreme Court on August 22, and security was deployed for the Bangladesh cricket team currently in Islamabad

Additionally, the IG emphasized the security of foreign embassies in the Refinery Company Limited. Attock Refinery Limited, Pakistan Refinery Limited, Cynergyico Pakistan Limited, Sui Southern Gas Company Limited and Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Company Limited.

Senior representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Industries & Production, and Ministry of Defence Production also attended the twoday exercise, highlighting the event's significance and the collective commitment to enhancing industrial disaster preparedness and response capabilities. Participants lauded the efforts of NDMA and remarked this SimEx as a sig-nificant step towards building a resilient framework for industrial disaster management in Pakistan, ensuring that all stakeholders are wellprepared to handle potential emergencies effectively.

Session judge injured in gun attack

ISLAMABAD (APP): session judge of Kohistan Farid Khan, sustained bullet injuries after being shot by unknown assailants over personal enmity, police reported on Wednesday.

According to a private news channel, the incident occurred outside a mosque in his ancestral village, Chhoher Sharif, where he was targeted and shot twice in the legs.

He was immediately shifted to a nearby hospi



International Airport to review M-pox arrangements.

Crackdown on illegal petrol agencies in ICT; 2 arrested, 9 sealed

The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has launched a crackdown on illegal petrol agencies operating in residential areas in the Federal Capital and sealed nine agencies besides arresting two ac-

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon urged the residents to report such agencies and avoid buying petrol from them, said the spokesman of ICT admin-

In a recent crackdown, the Islamabad administramissioner (AC) Saddar sources.

ISLAMABAD (APP): zone Maheen Hassan, took action against illegal petrol agencies operating in sectors G-13 and G-14 areas. Nine illegal agencies were sealed, and two individuals were arrested for running unauthorized petrol distribution operations.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Islamabad has emphasized the need to take firm action against these illegal agencies to ensure public safety.

The DC also urged citizens to report any such agencies operating in their residential areas and to refrain from purchasing tion, led by Assistant Competrol from unregistered

Court dismisses bail pleas of accused in **APPC's corruption scam** ISLAMABAD (APP): A were members of the pro-

special court on Wednesday dismissed the bail petitions of three accused involved in a multimillion rupees corruption scam of Associated Press of Pakistan Corporation (APPC), the state run news agency.

Special Judge Central heard the post-arrest bail petitions of three accused including Project Director Muhammad Ghawas Khan, former Deputy Director Musawar Imran and Ex-Chief Computer Engineer Saad Mudassar.

During the hearing, APP's Legal Advisor Sardar Yaqoob Mastoi argued that all the accused

curement committee and they submitted 60 cheques to Accountant General Pakistan Revenues (AGPR) through forged signatures. The lawyer said that 124 million rupees of the taxpayers were looted by the accused through corrupt practices in government institution.

The advocate argued that the lower court had terminated the bails of the accused but they managed to escape. The three accused have caused millions of rupees in losses to the national news organization through corruption, he maintained

Svedaal grieves over sad demise of Raza's sister ISLAMABAD (APP):

Deputy Chairman Senate Sardar Syedaal Khan Nasar, on Wednesday, expressed deep grief over the sad demise of the sister of former Chairman Senate, Mian Raza Rabbani.

In a message, he said The sudden death of the deceased is a great shock to Former Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani and is an irreparable loss for the family

The Deputy Chair-man prayed to Allah Almighty to grant the deceased high ranks in Jannah and to bestow patience upon the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

SC serves notice in accused bail case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Wednesday served notices in a bail petition of an accused in Jinnah House Lahore attack case.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, hearing the case questioned that what the allegation was on accuse Hammad Nazeer and If he was present on crime scene and whether any CCTV footage were produced in this regard. The petitioner's lawyer argued that his client was accused of injuring a police personnel with the hit of a stick. However, the medical report said that the said personnel get injuries with the hit of a stone.

Gross human rights violation in IIOJK, Palestine trial of conscience of modern world: Ayaz Sadiq ISLAMABAD (APP): quires global efforts."

Speaker NA Sardar Ayaz gross human rights violations in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK)) and Palestine is the trial of the conscience of the modern world. "Severe Human Rights violations in IIOJK and Palestine warrant immediate attention of the civilized world" he expressed these views during his meeting with the President of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko in

Minsk, Belarus today. He said that resolving the Kashmir issue as per resolutions of the United Nations Security Council is pivotal for regional peace and stability, and an immediate ceasefire in Gaza is also essential for ending the Palestinian Genocide, according to a news release eived here.

He said that Pakistan is the least contributor to climate change but the most severely affected Nation due to the devastating impact of climate change.

He added, "The issue of global climate change re-

While highlighting the Sadiq Wednesday said that friendly ties between both nations, he said that Pakistan and Belarus enjoy cordial ties based on shared

interests. He expressed his resolve to strengthen relations between both nations further. The Speaker added, "Pakistan is blessed with vast potential in energy and

Ayaz Sadiq also said that Pakistan-Belarus Bilateral Relations are characterized by mutual respect. He further underscored that Pakistan-Belarus ties would expand through collaboration in economic, industrial, and agriculture sectors. During the meeting, matters related to enhancing bilateral relations, including trade and parliamentary relations, were deliberated in detail.

Both sides also exressed determination to further strengthen bilateral relations. The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko remarked that Belarus attached great importance to its close ties with Pakistan.



Industrial Disaster Preparedness & Response Exercise at NDMA HQs.

Govt decides not to abolish **National Health Ministry**

ISLAMABAD (INP): The government has decided not to abolish the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination, sources said on Wednesday

According to sources, some departments under the ministry will be merged instead and the ministry will be right-sized.

Sources revealed that the ministry will coordinate with international organizations and provinces to improve healthcare services. The government is also considering transferring employees of merged departments to other depart-The National Emer-

gency Health Services will be merged with the National Health Institute and the Sheikh Zaved Hospital in Lahore will be handed over to the Punjab government, sources added. Sources further said

that the government is also

considering handing over Rawalpindi's under-construction hospital to the Punjab government. However, no decision has been made yet about the future of medical centers in Islamabad.

Some services in Islamabad's hospitals will be outsourced. The Malaria Directorate will be made a part of the Common Management Unit, sources added. The government's right-sizing committee has not yet finalized its report, which will cover five ministries, including the Ministry of National Health

Services. Earlier, PM Shehbaz decided to abolish five federal ministries and sought a plan from the relevant min-

They added that the relevant ministries had started working on providing recommendations as directed by PM Shehbaz to abolish the same.



LAHORE: Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) Chairman, Lt. Gen. (Retd) Sajjad Ghani presenting a five million rupees cheque to Arshad Nadeem, Javelin Throw Olympian Gold Medalist during ceremony held at Wapda House in Lahore.

WAPDA presents cash award of Rs. 5 million to its athlete Arshad Nadeem

21, 2024: WAPDA presented a cash award of Rs. 5 million to its athlete Arshad Nadeem on his historic performance in Paris Olympics 2024. Chairman WAPDA Engr Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd), who is also Patron-in-Chief of WAPDA Sports Board presented the cash award to Arshad Nadeem in a ceremony arranged by WAPDA Sports Board in his honour at WAPDA Auditorium, WAPDA House Wednesday.

Cash awards were also given to WAPDA's Nooh Dastagir on winning gold medal for Pakistan in the Strongman Games 2024 held at Uzbekistan; and Sybil Sohail, Veronika Sohail and Twinkle Sohail on winning gold medals in the Classic Powerlifting Championship 2024 held at South Africa.

A large number of renowned sportspersons, Member (Finance), Member (Wa-

LAHORE (NNI): August ter), Member (Power), Secretary WAPDA/GM (Admin) and President WAPDA Sports Board attended the ceremony. Congratulating him on winning the first-ever

Olympic gold medal in ath-

letics for Pakistan, the

Chairman said that Arshad

Nadeem has made the na-

tion proud. Nations and their sports rise and fall together, which is why, WAPDA has been making significant contribution for promotion of sports in Pakistan for more than half a century. Representing Pakistan in international events, sportspersons have been bringing laurels to the

county. They won 44 gold medals, 15 silver medals and 22 bronze medals in individual and team events at various international championships, which included Commonwealth Games, Islamic Solidarity WAPDA Games, Asian Games, etc. during the last two years, the Chairman further said