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Sends birthday wishes to PM Shehbaz **President Xi** reaffirms time-tested **Pak-China ties**

PM thanks President Xi for "gracious gesture" of birthday greetings

ISLAMABAD (APP): ing a strategic partnership Chinese President Xi through thick and thin Jinping on Monday sent a marked by mutual trust congratulatory letter to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, extending his warm birthday wishes and reaffirming the promotion of China-Pakistan strategic cooperation and the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The letter received by Prime Minister Shehbaz on his 73rd birthday from President Xi is an extraordinary development in solidifying the diplomatic relationship between both countries, according to a

PM Office press release. Conveying his good wishes to the prime minis-ter, Xi said that Pakistan and China had been enjoy-

changing international scenario.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday thanked Chinese President Xi Jinping for extending the warm wishes on his 73rd birthday.

"I am grateful for this gracious gesture that reflects the iron brotherhood and All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and the People's Republic of China," the prime minister wrote on ĥis X timeline in re-

sponse to a congratulatory letter he received from President Xi



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar addressing an important press conference.

Azam Tarar says Lot of questions still unanswerable in SC



President Asif Ali Zardari, Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmed Al-Malkiy and Chief Minister Punjab and Governor Sindh are cutting cake on the National Day of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), in Islamabad.

President Zardari says Pakistan committed to further strengthening ties with KSA

ISLAMABAD (APP): was attended by the federal ported each other during President Asif Ali Zardari ministers, diplomats, dignion Monday reiterated taries, and civil and military officers. Pakistan's commitment to While extending heartfurther strengthening bilat-

felt felicitations to the Cuseral cooperation with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia todian of the Two Holy (KSA) in the areas of Mosques, King Salman bin economy, trade, defence, Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime culture, education and people-to-people contacts. Minister Mohammed bin The president ex-Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al pressed these views while Saud and the people of addressing the National Saudi Arabia on their Na-Day Reception of KSA, tional Day, the president hosted by Saudi Embassy highlighted that both brothto celebrate the 94th Annierly countries enjoyed ex-

versary of the National Day of the KSA here. The event US envoy meets Nawaz Sharif,

challenging times.

The president exressed deep appreciation for the vision of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and the significant progress achieved by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He remarked that the bold initiatives taken by the Crown Prince would propel the country towards greater progress and prosperity. The president wished Saudi Arabia continued success cellent relations in various on this transformative jourfields and had always supnev



SC's detailed verdict declares PTI eligible for reserved seats **Election authorities denying** major political party recognition infringes electorate's rights: SC

Constitution doesn't prevent any party from fielding candidates; Judgment nullifies ECP's decision to allocate seats to other parties.

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Azhar Rizvi, Shahid 41 were given the chance to Supreme Court on Monday released its detailed verdict on the July 12 or-

der in the reserved seats case, which had declared the PTI a parliamentary party. The 8-5 majority July

order had declared ex-premier Imran Khan's PTI eligible for seats reserved for women and minorities, dealing a major setback to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's ruling coalition.

Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah had announced the majority verdict, which titions was supported by seven other judges: Justices Munib Akhtar, Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Ayesha A Malik, Athar Minallah, Syed Hasan

resubmit their party affili-Waheed and Irfan Saadat ation. Khan. The case had been heard by a 13-member bench — Chief Justice of

The 70-page judgement released today, available on the SC's website, was authored by Justice Shah, Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez who is set to succeed in-Isa and Justice Jamal Khan cumbent CJP Isa as the top Mandokhail had penned a judge in October. The verdict states: minority judgment; Justices Aminuddin Khan and 'When election authorities Naeem Akhtar Afghan in

engage in actions [...] such as unlawfully denying the their ruling had rejected the pleas for reserved seats; recognition of a major poand Justice Yahya Afridi litical party and treating its had also dismissed the nominated candidates as Sunni Ittehad Council's peindependents, they not only compromise the rights Despite the 8-5 split, of these candidates but also all 13 judges had declared significantly infringe upon the PTI a parliamentary the rights of the electorate party as they ruled that out and corrode their own inof a list of 80 MNAs, 39 stitutional legitimacy. belonged to the PTI while

PTI founder files petition against CJP again ISLAMABAD (Online):

PTI founder Imran Khan has filed petition again against Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa under the charges of alleged bias in practice and procedure com-

The petitioner has taken plea filed on Monday that CJP Qazi Faez Isa is biased against PTI and Imran Khan. CJP should not become part of any case against me and my party CJP still thinks the refer ence against him a personal attack. It was told in the petition wife of CJP Qazi Faez Isa has given statement against Imran Khan on severa Lieutenant General rent assignment.



ISLAMABAD (APP): Lieutenant General Muhammad Asim Malik has been appointed as the Director General Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) succeeding current Chief Lieutenant General Nadeem Anjum, and he will assume his new responsibility on September

Asim Malik is currently serving as Adjutant Gen-eral in GHQ who has previously commanded the Infantry Division in Balochistan and the Infan-

try Brigade in Waziristan. He has also received Sword of Honor in his course, whereas apart from this, he has also been posted as Chief Instructor National Defence University (NDU) and Instructor Command and Staff College Quetta.

Lieutenant General Asim is also a graduate of Fort Leavenworth and Royal College of Defence Studies and has also served in the Military Operations Directorate before his cur-

The prime minister

Lt Gen Asim Malik appointed new DG ISI



mittee.

reserved seats judgement Maryam Nawaz LAHOŘE (INP): US Am-

conference.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Monday said that a lot of questions were still answerable in the detailed judgement announced by the Supreme Court in the reserved seats case.

The Pakistan Tehreeklaw. e-Insaf (PTI), he said, had not been a party in the reserved seats case at any forum, including the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), Peshawar High Court (PHC) or the

He said courts were used to give decisions on principles that who had filed the case and what relief was prayed by the petitioner.

Such questions were not answered in the reserved seats case as the announcement of detailed apex court seemed to have judgment in the reserved not examined those as- seats case.

KARACHI (INP): JUI-F

Rehman said that "neither

the constitution nor the law

in Karachi, JUI leader said

that the Parliament and other

institutions have also not

worried, how to save the

for compliance of the con-

stitution," Fazlur Rehman

said. "Bring changes (in con-

stitution), but those changes

that should not reflect

been safe.

country?

Addressing a gathering

He said Pakistan's

"We are not prepared

has been safe in Pakistan.

Neither constitution nor

law safe in country,

says Fazlur Rehman

to render its responsibility under the law. Similarly, he said, that the legislation was the sole prerogative of the Parliament. The judgment had not commented on the

amendments in the election law, he added. The minister said that the review petition had not become ineffective after the

pects, the law minister said bassador in Pakistan while addressing a press Donald Blome on Monday visited Jati Umra in Lahore Azam Tarar said that and met with Punjab Chief independent candidates Minister Maryam Nawaz had joined the Sunni and former prime minister and PML-N President Ittehad Council (SIC) will-

fully and that their move Nawaz Sharif. was irreversible as per the Punjab CM Maryam welcomed the visitor on ar-He said that the ECP rival.

was an independent insti-Matters related to mutution working under contual interest came under disstitutional oath and it had cussion at the meeting. Also in attendance were

Federal Minister Ahsan qbal and Senior Punjab Marriyum Minister Aurangzeb.

> AJK people to observe Sept 25 as black day

MIRPUR-AJK (APP): The

Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) government on Monday called for a Black Day on September 25 to protest the second phase of what they describe as sham elections in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

your specific political According to AJK head Maulana Fazlur interests," JUI leader said. government, Prime Minis-"We have talked with ter Ch. Anwarul Haq's govthe People's Party, they ernment is urging citizens will give us their draft (of across AJK to join mass amends) and we will give protests against these elecours," Fazlur Rehman said. "We will pick mutually tions which they believe go against the wishes of the agreed points from these local population and violate drafts," the JUI leader said international norms. Protests will while referring the constitake place in towns and cities friendly nations are also tutional legislation under throughout AJK including consideration. Pakistan the capital, Muzaffarabad and Mirpur. Participants

People's Party's leader Nayyar Bukhari also talkfrom various sectors of soing with media said that ciety, including traders, the PPP working on a draft lawyers, journalists and of amendments, which will public employees are exbe shared with the JUI and pected to gather for rallies.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf bin Said Ahmed Al-Malilki.

Naqvi visits Saudi Embassy on National Day of Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Monday visited the Saudi Embassy on the occasion of National Day of Saudi Arabia in the other challenges.

He was received by the Mohsin Naqvi empha-sized that Every Muslim holds Saudi Arabia in spe-Ambassador of Saudi Arabia on his arrival. Interior Minister met with the Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Ahmed Al-Maliki. cial esteem. He said that Saudi Arabia has consistently supported Pakistan

The Interior Minister congratulated Ambassador Al-Maliki on Saudi Arabia's National Day and friendship

dor for their cooperation brotherly country. Latest article in Israeli newspaper further exposed Imran's links with

Israel

better way. news had further exposed

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan Jew-Jewish sentiments as his children were with them and he Addressing his first had supported Zac Goldsmith against Pakistani Sadiq press conference after assuming charge as parlia-Khan in London mayoral mentary secretary, Daniyal elections.

Chaudhary said that Israeli He lamented that whennewspaper Jerusalem Post ever Pakistan was on the path through an article written of stability, the anti-Pakistan by Harry Richer has once lobbies became active to weaken it. Daniyal Chaudhary said that the aragain exposed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Chairman Imran Khan's ticle had connection with the lobbyist firms hired by Imran Khan on behest of In-

Barrister Daniyal said that in the article, the newsdia in the US to weaken Papaper had clearly stated that kistan. He said that the ob-Imran Khan was the only jective of Imran Khan was leader in Muslim Ummah to run a defamation campaign who could play a central against Pakistan in international media and get legisla-tion done against Pakistan in role" in changing both public opinion and military policy" in Pakistan towards the US Parliament.

whether during floods, earthquakes, economic or Their support has been unparalleled

through thick and thin, and every Pakistani takes pride in our historic

Saudi Ambassador said that Saudia Arabia highly values its relations with Pakistan as Pakistan is our

PM reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to collaborate with KSA to promote peace, stability, development in region

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to a strong and enduring friendship with Saudi Arabia, pledging to work together to promote peace, stability and development in the region.

This friendship is built on mutual respect, cooperation, and shared values that have withstood the test of time, the prime minister said in a video message on the occasion of the National Day of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

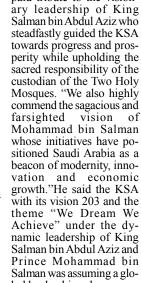
The message was aired at the National Day Reception of KSA, hosted by Saudi Embassy to celebrate and the 94th Anniversary of the National Day of the KSA. He said the bilateral re-

lation was unique and went

beyond common interstate interactions, as the countries had consistently supporting paid tribute to the visioneach other in times of need standing in solidarity during natural disasters and crisis, reflecting the depth of the fraternal bond that exist between the two countries.

"The people of Pakistan join me in acknowledging from the core of our hearts, the Kingdom's generosity in helping stabilize Pakistan's economic situation from time to time." He said "on behalf of the government and the people

of Pakistan, I warmly congratulate the custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman, as well as the brotherly people of KSA on the joyous occasion of their 94th national bal leadership role.





PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, GB, SAFRON and President PMLN Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engr. Amir Muqam addressing a press conference.

Addressing a press-

Poor governance, law & order in KP increase people's problems: Muqam

PESHAWAR (APP): Fed- not improve in KP, the imeral Minister for States and position of Governor Rule Frontier Regions, Gilgit may be considered as a last Baltistan and Kashmir Afresort for the sake of fairs, Engr Amir Muqam people. here Monday categorically conference here, Engr Amir stated that the deteriorating governance and law & order situation in Khyber

Muqam, who is also the Provincial President of the Pakhtunkhwa have nega-Pakistan Muslim Leaguetively impacted the lives of N, maintained that Goverpeople besides marred denor Rule was a constituvelopment works. tional provision that

He strongly indicated that if the situation does

grim situation in KP becomes uncontrollable. Expressing his deep concern over the deteriorating law and order situation, particularly in the southern districts and merged of Khyber areas Pakthunkhwa,

\Engr Amir Muqam referred to the recent IED blast in Malam Jabba Swat district that resulted in the death would be considered as a of one policeman and injulast option if the ongoing ries to four others.



KARACHI: Warmly welcomed by Pakistan Navy officers and sailors upon arrival of Qatar Emiri Naval Forces Ship (QENS) ALKHOR visited Karachi for exercise ASAD AL BHAR-111.

expressed good wishes for the Saudi Royal Family and the people of Saudi Arabia. He thanked the Saudi Government and ambassa-

ish lobbies.

Zionist connection.

diplomatic enclave.

Jewish lobbies: Daniyal Chaudhary ISLAMABAD (APP):

Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Daniyal Chaudhary said on Monday that the recent article published in Israeli

He said that Zionist lobbies believe that Imran Khan and his party could represent Israel in Islamic world in a

He remarked that Imran was already representing

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OPINION

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Fancy tax scheme

Governments propose, bureaucrats dispose - often relegating 'plans' to an existing pile of schemes gathering dust. The 'drastic measures' suggested by the country's tax bureaucracy to strengthen 'enforcement and compliance' are no different from similar, discarded strategies to boost revenue collection. To begin with, the new tax enforcement mechanism goes against the very objective of broadening the tax net and documenting the economy, as it is squeezing middle-class taxpayers further while letting tax evaders off the hook.

That is not surprising, since the new measure perpetuates a tax policy that burdens compliant taxpayers, instead of bringing tax evaders into the net. The enforcement scheme. approved by the prime minister, stops those who do not pay their income tax from purchasing assets such as cars, immovable property and financial instruments, and from opening bank accounts. However, it does not propose any step to abolish the category of non-filers that exists only in Pakistan. Likewise, FBR proposes penalising unregistered and non-compliant businesses manufacturers, retailers, wholesalers, etc — hoping that the new steps against non-filers and non-compliant businesses will force them to eventually become taxpayers. The scheme divides active taxpayers into two distinct classes: those who declare their annual income as less than Rs10m, and those who report an income power plants, managed by above this threshold. The proposed tax enforcement and as those bestowed on pricompliance project assumes, vately owned ones. 'Circu-lar debt' is the outcome of payments be discharged by without any evidence though. that every taxpayer falling in the first category must have underreported their incomes and should be treated as tax thieves and at par with those who do not file their taxes. Thus, they are also liable to face the same restrictions when they go shopping for cars and immovable property or invest their money in financial instruments, unless they can becoming increasingly explain their 'source of income'. They, nevertheless, are allowed to maintain bank accounts. However, no questions will be ^{power sector consumes} 30pc, while industry uses asked of those whose declare an annual income that is greater than Rs10m. For them, everything will be kosher. More importantly, the power for self-consumpmechanism increases the discretionary powers of the taxmen and opens new avenues of corruption for them, while simultaneously overriding the provisions contained in the laws to pacity. selectively and randomly audit the accounts of a certain percentage of taxpayers every year to detect underreporting of incomes. Similarly, the tax laws also provide for punitive actions against those who under-declare their incomes in their annual tax statements or do not pay taxes at all. If there are any legal loopholes, those should be plugged forthwith. We do not need new fancy mechanisms or schemes to tax those who do of gas utilities. The not pay their taxes or punish negatively affect the gas those who steal taxes. What we need is an equitable and just tax Essentially, we will be system, an efficient and honest machinery, and, above all, strong political will to broaden the base and boost revenues.

Maleeha Lodhi At a time when the country is facing mounting economic, political and security challenges, the government has been expending most of its energy on either

countering the opposition or trying to arbitrarily amend the Constitution This has become a fatal distraction from governance. It is also counterproductive. Far from weakening the opposition, it is injecting reater resolve in opposition ranks to push back against the government's actions

On the constitutional amendment, the government beat a hasty retreat as it failed to muster the necessary parliamentary numbers for the sweeping nanges it sought.

Earlier this month, the PML-N government and its allies made a frantic attempt to push a controversial constitutional package through parliament in a poitically motivated move. It ept the contents of the amendment under wraps, allowed no debate, yet expected lawmakers to

lindly support what they had not even seen. The aim of the judicial

dermine the independence of the superior judiciary and subordinate it to the executive. Members of the legal fraternity rightly condemned this as an assault on the Constitution. The proposed establishment of constitutional court packed with judges and headed by a judge chosen by the prime minister will denude the Supreme Court of its jurisdiction in constitutional cases Another provision

was designed to ensure the continuance of Qazi Faez Isa, who is due to retire in October, as chief justice. The move came after a series of clashes between the government and judiciary and official frustration with judgments seen as advantaging the opposition. But for all its frenetic efforts, the government faced a setback and was compelled to 'postpone' tabling the constitutional amendment for lack of the needed two-thirds majority. But it is now set to defy the Supreme Court order on reserved seats.

the Meanwhile government's efforts to

re-engineering was to un- emplified by the restricfuture

Fatal distraction

tions and obstacles placed in the path of the party's ceedings have been reduced to theatrical displays of public rally in Islamabad and arrests of several of its unseemly conduct and slanging matches between leaders. Its Lahore jalsa encountered similar impedithe treasury and opposiments. This was only the tion benches. Instead of latest coercive measure debating the issues that contaken against PTI, which front the country and over the past year has inworry the public, parliavolved innumerable cases mentarians on both sides of against its leaders. the aisle seek to demonise Aggression, however, each other. Talk of a dialogue between the govern-

begets aggression. The opposition sought to resist ment and opposition has such actions by becoming remained just that — talk more combative. PTI lawabout talks, with neither makers are adamant on conside showing any serioustinuing their protests in ness parliament and outside. ments in parliament by The PML-N-led government has failed to see it

government leaders about a has more to lose from unredialogue have not led to any mitting confrontational outreach to the opposition. For their part, PTI leaders politics. The political calm needed for the country to have reiterated they will solve its fundamental probonly talk to the establishlems is obviously being ment as they see the govupended by escalation in ernment lacking any power political tensions. This has or legitimacy. In any case, the constitutional amendfuelled uncertainty and left the public in a state of dement attempt, vigorously opposed by PTI, only widspondency. No surprise. then, that a recent opinion ened the government-opposurvey conducted by Ipsos sition divide. found 89 per cent of people

All this has familiar felt the country was headed echoes of the past - a govin the wrong direction. Nine ernment unwilling to engage contain Imran Khan's PTI out of 10 Pakistanis lacked with the opposition, jailing have continued. It was ex- confidence in the country's opposition leaders, trying

Every so often, state-

to steamroll legislation and Parliamentary proa desperate opposition in constant protest mode against a backdrop of economic gloom, weak governance and ubiquitous establishment pulling the strings from behind the scenes. This seems like the rerun of an old movie. But

it doesn't minimise the risks for the country's stability. The risks are even greater than in the past because of the intensely polarised state of the country and unprecedented confluence of challenges. The economic chal-

lenge is, of course, the most consequential. The government might think that with the IMF expected to soon approve a \$7 billion bailout package, the worst of the country's economic troubles will be over. But the real task lies ahead to implement a tough Fund programme and take other difficult measures to stabilise an economy that is not yet out of the woods.

What the government seems unwilling to acknowledge is that political turmoil and uncertainty puts any sustainable economic recovery at risk. It also makes it harder to implement necessary but

unpopular measures. An economic rebound can only be sustained by building a high level of confidence which requires a stable and predictable political environment

The country's deteriorating internal security situation also merits greater attention from the government. In the first eight months of the year, 75' eople were reportedly killed in violent incidents. August was a particularly deadly month, with over 100 people killed in a fresh wave of militant attacks in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. On one day alone — Aug 26 — terror-ist violence claimed the lives of over 50 people across Balochistan as militants stormed police stations, executed passengers on a bus, blocked roads and blew up railway tracks.

This should have prompted an urgent meeting of the National Security Committee. But the government did not convene one, while the interior minister made the astonishing claim that only one SHO (station house police officer) was enough to handle terrorism in the province. -- Courtesy Dawn

Resolving power sector woes

Shahid Kardar

The task of the country' population has been reduced b keeping power sector entities afloat, by bearing unaffordable tariffs. And yet the sector's financial viability remains in doubt. How did we get here? The reasons include incompetence, misgovernance and unadulterated theft. The terms were poorly negotiated with investors

Agreements with private IPPs were drafted with limited professional input, stained by issues of patronage and lack of transparency. The issues include currency mismatch — payments to them were denominated in dollars against revenue streams in rupees generous concessions (for example, sovereign guaranteed returns on equity of 15 per cent in dollar terms and income tax exemptions during the contracted period), and the government covering all risks.

What's more bizarre is nat government-owned textile units and the shift offgrid by some with their own non-professionals, were espower arrangements. Sluggish growth and subdued demand necessitated that these fundamental issues raising the rate per unit for abling the operation of effi-

that have rendered the recovery from fewer coneconomy uncompetitive and thus a huge constraint to sustainable growth

Examples of incompetence include the slow pace of expansion of transmission and distribution (T&D) systems compared with the installed capacity of generation. Their capacity today is merely 22,000 MW (add to it the Lahore-Matari transmission line operating at 40pc of its designed capacity), resulting in 50pc of the generation facility being unutilised but still receiving capacity payment. This liability has become excruciating, with the idle capacity payment increased from 60pc to 85pc under the 2015 po

The currency mismatch has induced tariff increases following the sharp adjustment in the rupee' value — from the rate when agreements were signed and higher interest rates. This contributed to reduced demand, for reasons including the closure of several sumers, a subject of wideshould be renegotiated for spread debate, if not anger. the remaining, with lending The burden is made more banks (contract period, inpainful by taxes of almost voicing currency considering Opc of the electricity price. that even local resources are The result is that being priced in foreign curwhereas capacity utilisation rency, the dollar-indexed rate costs are 30-35pc globally, of return on equity, etc.). ours are now 62-70pc. More Public sector Gencos being importantly, 50pc of capacdollar-based and dollar-inity payments are to governdexed, the government canment-owned generation not expect to negotiate difplants. Of the remainder, ferent terms for privately 35pc goes to Chinese-imowned IPPs. In fact, the govported, coal-fired, dollar-inernment should take the endexed projects, with the unit tire associated debt onto its cost much higher than that balance sheet to be serviced of local coal-based plants. through general revenues, Other sectoral issues have instead of burdening the been over-invoicing by IPPs, economy's competitiveness with the Central Power Purthrough high tariffs. chasing Agency looking the other way, supplemented by Nepra's lack of regulathe tenure of the contracts tory oversight. Several public sector Gencos are old and

of IPPs set up under the 1994 policy was a poor one. The sustainable choice is to outdated plants, resulting in persuade them — the coninefficient fuel consumptracted period having been tion, with low utilisation completed and the debt paid off — that generated (2.7pc in the case of energy would be procured Jamshoro) but with a bloated idle workforce. in rupees. and only if it is To address the issues,

at competitive rates The units established under the 2002 and 2006 the starting point should be

cient units. The terms remaining contracted period of roughly two to three years, with their debt obligations discharged. Thereafter, their contracts should be renegotiated along the lines proposed for the 1994 policy

However, for Chinese IPPs launched in 2016-17 (guaranteed 20pc in dollars), a different treatment will be required as they would resist any revision in the contracts, arguing that their contracts factored in the lessons learned from the projects commissioned under the 1994 and 2002 policies. Two possible options could be: a) extend the contract period, and b) the re-The decision to extend lease of some capacity to be freely traded in the market. Finally, taxes on bills should be lowered, employing several other options to control the fiscal deficit. These interventions will enable, in the medium (three to five years) term, full exploitation of rapid technological developments

To this end, several reforms are required in service delivery, including: a simplification of the tarif structure, which is littered with several bands for each consumer category and encumbered by a host of cross-subsidies; b) examining the potential to outsource Discos' manage ment and installation of smart meters (the prepaid variety) to tackle the 17pc technical and distribution losses, corruption, consumer theft of electricity and the weak effort to col lect bills amounting to some Rs600 billion (factors constraining this option, especially the singlebuyer, single-seller in the value-chain, were discussed in the 'Privatisation of Discos' in these columns); c) pricing energy on a marginal cost basis to stimulate demand and contribute to capacity pay ments (the scope will depend on the transmission system's capacity); d) forcing public sector defaulters to pay up or get discon-These efforts should nected; e) withdrawing concessional electricity provisions; and f) adopting transformer-based loadshedding, instead of the

the Gencos commissioned by the public sector. The old ones should be quickly phased out, thereby not only minimising the payout on capacities but also en-

Unsustainable demand

Waqas Bin Najib tion to manage risks than the electricity sector.

Pakistan's energy problems are broader than those in the electricity sector. Our domestic tive industry is the elecnatural gas reserves are tric grid interconnection depleting. We import liquefied natural gas (LNG) to meet the country's increasing demand.

The demand for natural gas, like electricity, is unsustainable. Households account for 35 per cent of the country's total gas consumption. The only 15pc for various processes. The fertiliser industry consumes 8pc of the total.

Some industries use natural gas to generate tion. These captive power voltage grid station. industries, around 1,200 in number, account for 11pc of gas consumption. This equals 10,000 GWh of annual electricity consumption and roughly 3,000 MW of power ca-

Transitioning this industry to the power grid will improve the electricity consumer mix, reduce transmission and distribution losses, and help lower electricity costs. The power sector can see a positive annual impact of over Rs350 billion. An estimated one per cent reduction in the average transmission and distribution (T&D) loss nection costs. and improved revenue can tries already have a grid reduce the average power tariff by 10pc.

However, like electric utilities, the industry is also a critical consumer industry's transition will consumer mix and intransferring the issues of the electricity sector to the gas sector. If the transition is planned coryears rectly, the gas sector could be in a better posi-

landscape to manage its impact. The government's gas allocation policy sig-In terms of implenificantly affects their fimentation, the main challenge for shifting the capnancial viability. With reduced industrial con-

sumption, losses will increase if the gas is redifor independently operating industries. It is estirected to domestic consumers. The policy should mated that about 40pc of captive industries, partarget lowering domestic ticularly larger ones, do gas consumption and not have a grid connectransitioning the residention. To shift these industial sector to LPG, a more tries, they must be conefficient alternative. Any surplus gas should be alnected to the grid. Industry must provide land located to the power and and pay the interconnecprocessing industries tion cost, which varies rather than the residential depending on the consumers industry's size. Smaller Natural gas pri-cing industries (less than 5 will play a cr--ucial role

MW) will need an 11 kV in managing the tran-sifeeder connection requirtion and reducing losses for ing substations, while gas utilities. Currently, larger industries will rethe industry subsidi-ses quire a dedicated highdomestic gas consumption while paying for impor-ted LNG. Like the Electric utilities must assess the capacity electricity sector, the gas of their T&D networks to sector faces a 'circular debt' build-up due to unsupply power to indus-

tries moving to the elecrecovered service costs. tric grid. They must also The gas tariff should guarantee a reliable and be based on the actual cost high-quality electricity of service. Therefore, it is supply, free from outages critical to move to a pricor fluctuations, especially ing model based on the for the continuous pro-Weighted Average Cost of cess industry, which can-Gas, which covers the tonot afford interruptions. tal cost of gas procure-This will necessitate imment, including domestic proved asset management and imported LNG. Some and operations. Utilities provinces with sufficient should also provide comgas reserves have opposed pact grid station options the WACOG so far. Howto minimise the land reever, in a policy framequirement and interconwork aiming for uniform national pricing for all en-Most captive indusergy sources (petroleum, electricity, natural gas), it connection, so they can is logical to implement

be immediately shifted if WACOG pricing for natugrid capacity is available. ral gas. Without a planned However, a transition plan must be developed in transition, improved gas consultation with the inallocation, and change in dustries, especially those gas pricing, the industry's transition from gas to the that do not have existing electric grid will not be connections. Building the interconnections and enbeneficial. Policymakers hancing the transmission should consider all factors and develop a plan to imand distribution grids will require careful planning prove service delivery to and may take up to two citizens, lower the industry's energy costs,

Gas utilities must and stimulate economic growth. -- Courtesy Dawn also adapt to the changing

policies, mostly by Pakistanis, should be persuaded to accept upfront a significant percentage - not the nical inadequacies and gov-

be complemented by adequate and timely investments to address the tech-

in renewable energy op-

tions.

difficult.

Climate under siege

Himachal Pradesh

felt the impact, with land-

slides triggered by the re-

lentless rains. Entire vil-

cue efforts hampered by

treacherous conditions.

month, raising fears of

Bangladesh is already

its low-lying geography,

large parts of the country.

ported to have been af-

fected, with many resi-

homes and seek refuge in

vast swathes of agricul-

about food security in the

months ahead. The

Bangladeshi government,

along with international

clock to provide relief,

but the scale of the disas-

spared the effects of ex-

treme weather either,

with the months of July

and August bringing with

them historic flooding and

the onslaught of Ty-

ticularly in the north-

ern and central regions,

has been the worst in

rivers like the Yangtze

The flooding, par-

phoon Doksuri.

China was not

ter was overwhelming.

Millions were re-

Meanwhile,

the

additional inundation.

heatwaves in almost every corner of the world, heavy rains and floods shocked the global community. This is becoming a pattern.

The recent past witnessed an unprecedented series of extreme weather events across South Asia and neighbouring regions, with devastating impacts on lives, infrastructure, and economies. A powerful monsoon system wreaked havoc, triggering catastrophic floods, landslides, and storms across India, Bangladesh, China, and Pakistan

and it was no surprise Not too long ago, a that it was severely afthunderstorm-laden monfected by this year's soon swept into southern monsoons. Incessant Sindh after causing sigrains caused the major nificant damage in India's rivers Guj-arat and Rajasthan Brahmaputra, Ganges, regions. The monsoon, and Meghna - to overwhich has been unusually flow, leading to wideintense this season spread flooding across brought with it torrential rains, strong winds, and widespread flooding. Major cities were inundated, with low-lying areas subdents forced to flee their merged and infrastructure damaged.

We saw people being displaced due to rising water levels, with power outages and road blockages hampering rescue and relief efforts. An emergency was declared in parts of the country, as the authorities urged residents to stay indoors. The disaster follows a broader pattern of extreme weather that has gripped the region. Lately too, heavy rainfall has been predicted in certain areas in the week ahead. In India, the

monsoon's fury and torrential rains, especially in Gujarat and Rajasthan, also led to flash floods that engulfed villages and towns, resulting in sig-nificant loss of life and property, with thousands rendered homeless. Emergency services were stretched to their limit, and Yellow River swelling to dangerous levels. In some areas, entire cities were submerged, affected populations was leading to massive evacuations.

The extreme weather and Uttarakhand, too, events in South Asia and China are stark reminders of the growing impact of climate change. Scientists have long warned that lages were buried under mud and debris, with resglobal warming is leading to more intense and unpredictable weather patterns, with monsoons be-Further rains were also forecast for the current coming more erratic and storms more powerful. The consequences are devastating for countries in the region, many of prone to flooding due to which are densely populated and heavily reliant

on agriculture. As the region grapples with the re--cent disasters, the urgency for robust climate adaptation strategies is clear. Governments must prioritise investing in resilient infrastructure, strengthening early warning systems, and enhancing community-level disaster preparedness to better withstand extreme weather events.

If mitigation efforts are not significantly temporary shelters. The floods also destroyed scaled up, these extreme weather events could betural land, threatening the come even more frequent and severe, making large livelihoods of thousands parts of the world inand raising concerns creasingly uninhabitable. Rising sea levels could inundate coastal cities, displacing millions and leading to unprecedented aid organisations, has migration crises. wo--rked around the

Agricultural systems, already under stress, could collapse, leading to widespread food shortages and economic instability. Without concerted global action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the changes already underway, the future could see a cascade of environmental, social, and economic disasters. The time to act is now, as the cost decades, with major of inaction is far too great. -- Courtesy Dawn

Masood Lohar and conducting rescue operations in flooded arextreme Following eas and providing relief to

ndependent

Tuesday September 24, 2024

Maryam emphasizes CPEC's importance for Pak-China ties

Attends 75th National Day of People's Republic of China

LAHORE (APP): Chief China's 75th National Day, Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif said on Monday the significance of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a vital indicator of the robust and enduring relationship between Pakistan and China.

The CM views CPEC as a crucial development initiative that not only enhances economic ties but also reflects the deep-rooted partnership and mutual cooperation between the two nations. She expressed her views while participating in

the 75th National Day cer-emony of the People's Republic of China, where she met Chinese Consul General Zhao Shirin to convey her congratulations on this significant occasion. The CM expressed greetings on behalf of the Pakistani people, stating, for a bright future. "Our "On the occasion of bond is not merely based

Minister's

eases.

manity.

patients.

commended

Programme Chairman Rana

Mashhood Ahmed Khan

said on Monday that a vig-

orous awareness campaign

was being launched across

the country to spread

awareness about thalas-

semia and hemophilia dis-

During his visit at Sundas Foundation here, he

foundation's work as a shin-

ing example of selflessness

and compassion, adding

that the foundation was

doing great services for hu-

Foundation's dedication to

providing free medical care

and support to deserving

with children undergoing

treatment for thalassemia

and other blood disorders

and distributed gifts among

patients. He termed the

foundation work as a "bea- tal testing.

He praised the Sundas

The chairman also met

Mashhood says:

Youth

the

ment

I extend my warm wishes to the Chinese people." She conveyed that the people of Punjab also send heartfelt congratulations to their Chinese brothers and sisters, expressing pride in attending the event. She lauded the Chi-

nese nation for achieving re-China's indispensable conmarkable heights in development and innovation while extending a hand of friendship to the global community. Maryam Nawaz emphasized that China's greatness lies in its unwavering commitment to

peace, cooperation, and humanitarian well-being. Highlighting the deeprooted friendship between Pakistan and China, she remarked that their relationship was built on trust, respect, and a shared vision for a bright future. "Our scends borders.

on strategic interests; it is a connection of hearts and souls," she asserted. The CM acknowledged China's significant achievements in lifting millions out of poverty and praised its role as a model for the world in technology, infrastructure, and industry. She noted

tribution during global crises, affirming its commitment to providing resources to countries in need As a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, China has consistently promoted peace and development,

exemplified by its Belt and Road Initiative, she said and added that the fruits of China's economic development are benefiting people around the world and that China is emerging as a leader with a vision that tran-

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views

* B

with Abdul Qadir Patel and MPAAsif Khan during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

Governor Kundi attends Bilawal's birthday celebration

politics. fered heartfelt congratulations. He praised Bilawal as Bilawal is actively worka leader for the younger gening towards realizing the

eration and highlighted how true vision of Bhutto Shaheed, focusing on public service and the stabil-

Court proceedings badly hampered as prosecutors' strike continues in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The ecutors were not ready to strike of public prosecutors in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for their demands of raise in salaries, incentives and establishment of the Prosecutor General Office, has entered its fifth day on Monday here badly hampering the court proceedings. In the wake of the

International News

strike, public prosecutors were not appearing before the courts in hearings and police were unable to submit challans. The situation on one hand has badly affected the court proceedings while cated tablets at the site. on the other hand public pros- ing to their problems.

software updated: Azma bukhari LAHORE (APP) Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said that KP Chief Minister Ghandapur's software has been updated in

Ghandapur's

National News

Lahore. Talking to the media at the Lahore High Court, she said that her case was adjourned because the FIA DG was not available. "Falak Javed's indecent remarks reflect her flawed up-

tray themselves as in law takes its course.

Siddique has been caught submitting fake affidavits and forging signatures for three times," she

noted that Advocate Azhar had accompanied the father of Falak Javed, who again discussed her fake video. She said that Falak encouraged other women to follow her lead. Bokhari said that the language used about the Punjab Chief Minister during the Islamabad rally was inappropriate. She questioned why Falak had deleted the fake video if she had done nothing wrong. "The PTI has a team that engages in such ac-tivities," she added.

CM KP directs to expand Sehat Card program

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief the Sehat Card scheme. He Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Ámin Khan Gandapur on Monday chaired a meeting on Sehat Card program and took important decisions aimed at improving healthcare accessibility in the province.

visor Muzzammil Aslam,

administrative secretaries,

officials from the health de-

partment, and representa-

tives from State Life Insur-

ance. Chief Minister agreed

in principle to include life

Independent Report

move, Sindh's top bureau-

Hyder Shah, has suspended

two senior officials over

rampant encroachments

directed concerned officials to prepare a detailed plan for its formal approval at the earliest.

Page 03

He also addressed complaints regarding the lack of heart surgeries at the Peshawar Institute of Cardiology (PIC) due to re-The meeting was at-tended by Health Advisor duced rates under the Sehat Card. Ehtisham Ali, Finance Ad-

He ordered Sehat Card officials to ensure these surgeries continue, assuring that all costs related to heart operations would be borne by the provincial government, leaving no financial burden insurance for citizens under on the patients.



LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Ahmed Khan and Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider alongwith Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren and his wife cutting the cake to celebrate 75th National Day of the People's Republic of China.

Sindh crackdown: **Top officials suspended** over encroachment scandal

Solid Waste Management Board Manzoor Hussain KARACHI: In a surprise Sheikh were promptly suscrat, Chief Secretary Asif pended.

Shah vowed to tackle encroachments head-on, stating: "We will not tolerate any encroachments in the city. The sanitation system will be overhauled to provide better services to citizens.

The suspensions signal a crackdown on inept officials and underscore Shah's commitment to effective governance.

government gathered for the

adoption, which faced last-

minute opposition from

Leaders pledged to bolster the multilateral sys-tem to "keep pace with a

changing world" and to

"protect the needs and in-

The pact outlines 56 "actions," including com-

'We believe there is a

Russia and its allies.

tent crisis.

ment says

Awareness drive on RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force thalassemia to be (ANF) unearthed a fac-tory engaged in the prolaunched across country LAHORE (APP): Prime con of hope" for under privileged individuals suf fering from deadly diseases. Monday. The Sundas Foundation's

unparalleled, he added.

mission was truly admirable, and their commitment to serving humanity was chemical drugs and in-Rana Mashhood aptoxicated tablets manpreciated the foundation's administration for bringing aged to arrest two suspects.

Acting on a tip-off, a raid was conducted in thalassemia and hemo-Danishabad area philia, saying that govern-Peshawar and the facment was committed to tory was sealed while provide all possible facilithe ANF team recovered ties to such institutions as serving the humanity was the motto of their governchemical drugs, intoxicated tablets and other equipment. A thorough search of the factory led He emphasized the to the seizure of a tabimportance of promoting let punching machine, pre-marital thalassemia

testing to prevent the spread of the disease. various equipment "We will work together with the Sundas Foundation to create awareness about thalassemia and the importance of pre-mari-

duction of drugs and in-toxicated tablets, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on He informed that ANF in a successful operation against a factory manufacturing

advance and latest medical equipments to fight with

such as punches, dryers, mixers and scales. During the operation, both the accused were caught red-handed while preparing intoxi-

KARACHI (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi attended a grand celebration in Karachi to mark the birthday of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. The event was well-**ANF** unearths attended by senior party leaders, activists, and disdrug factory tinguished guests.During the celebration, a birthday

tics. Kundi commended Bilawal's commitment to democratic principles and public service, stating that he is successfully carrying forward the legacy of his grandfather, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, and mother, Benazir Bhutto Shaheed. Kundi said that the influence of former President Asif Ali Zardari's political acumen is evident in cake was cut for Bilawal, Bilawal's approach to and Governor Kundi of-

He emphasized that

under his leadership, the PPP has introduced new dimensions to Pakistani poli- ity of democracy

> step back from their demands. President Public Prosecutors Welfare Association, Sangin Shah has said that till acceptance of all their demands and provision of needed facilities to the female prosecutors at all the district court and offices were not ensured, the strike will continue across the province.

The litigants when asked said that the demands of the public prosecutors should be accepted by the provincial government as the strike was further add-

bringing. Her parents por

nocent whenever the Lawyer Azhar

and mismanagement in the President's area. During an unsched-uled visit, Shah expressed dismay at the poor state of roads and widespread encroachments. Municipal Commissioner President Noor Hassan Jokhio and Deputy Director Sindh

added.

Azma Bokhari

274 dead, over 1,000 wounded in Israeli strikes on Hezbollah strongholds in Lebanon

Monitoring Desk TYRE: Lebanese Health Minister Firass Abiad said the death toll in Israeli strikes Monday rose to 274, including 21 children, the bloodiest daily toll in nearly a year of cross-border clashes.

The toll stood at "274 dead, including 21 children and 39 women — that's who we know about until now", Abiad told reporters, adding "thousands of families from the targeted areas have been displaced".

The dead also included two rescuers, with 16 other emergency workers wounded, he said, adding that "two ambulances, a fire truck and a medical centre were targeted".

The attacks wounded 1,024 people who were treated in 27 hospitals, Abiad said.

had been wounded "in less than a week" of Israeli at-tacks, he said, after hit "approximately 800 Hezbollah terror targets in

China 'testing us',

says Biden in hot mic

remarks to Quad allies

Hezbollah pagers and southern Lebanon and in walkie-talkies exploded and the area of Bekaa deep inan Israeli strike on Beirut's southern suburbs.

That number accounts for about half of the overall wounded toll of "10.000 to 11.000", he said, referring to nearly one year of crossborder clashes between the Iran-backed Hezbollah group and Israel after the eruption of the Gaza conflict. The conflict began when Hamas attacked Israel, with Hezbollah and other Iran-backed groups around the region drawn

into the violence. The Israeli military said it had struck around 800 Hezbollah targets on Monday.

"Since this morning, the IDF [military] has conducted proactive and extensive aerial strikes against Hezbollah terrorist targets About 5,000 people in Lebanon," a statement said, adding that the strikes

side Lebanese territory' World powers have

implored Israel and Hezbollah to pull back from the brink of all-out war, with the focus of violence shifting sharply in recent days from Israel's southern front with Gaza to its northern border with Lebanon. "We sleep and wake up to bombardment .. that's what our life has become," said Wafaa Ismail, 60, a housewife from the southern Lebanese village of Zawtar. Israeli military spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari told people

in Lebanon to avoid potential targets linked to Hezbollah as strikes would 'go on for the near future"

Hagari said Israel's military "will engage in [more] extensive and precise strikes against terror targets which have been embedded widely throughout Lebanon".

Ukraine says it hit two Russian munitions depots overnight

Monitoring Desk

Russian officials ac-

southern

ΤΟΚΥΟ

doctor

Monitoring Desk WILMINGTON: US President Joe Biden was caught on a hot mic on Saturday telling the leaders of Australia, India and Japan that an aggressive China is "testing us," in remarks that risked undercutting a summit declaration that carefully avoided mentioning Beijing by name.

The comments came as Biden opened a farewell summit in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese

weight to China. In their "China continues to behave aggressively, testing us all across the region, Biden was heard in what were supposed to be behind-closed-doors remarks to the so-called "Quad"

Biden said that while Chinese President Xi KYIV: Ukraine said on Saturday it had hit two Rus-Jinping was focusing on "domestic economic chalsian munition depots overlenges" he was also "looknight, in attacks that illusing to buy himself some trated its growing capabildiplomatic space, in my ity to strike targets deep view, to aggressively purinside Russia. sue China's interest' But he insisted that

grouping is about more than

just providing a counter-

joint statement after the

summit, the four leaders

sions on its borders

knowledged the Ukrainian recent "intense efforts" by attack on one of the de-Washington to reduce tenpots in sions, including a call with Krasnodar region, saying it Xi in April, were helping to was carried out with drones. They introduced prevent conflict. The hot mic blunder local emergency measures

to mitigate the effects of risked undermining careful diplomatic efforts by all the assault. four countries during the A statement summit to insist that their

Ukraine's military general staff said the munitions depots were at Tikhoretsk in Krasnodar region and Oktyabrsky in the western region of Tver. The (Tikhoretsk) fa-

made no direct mention of cility is in the top three China, even as they exlargest munitions storages pressed concern over tenof the occupiers.



NEW YORK: President of Brazil Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva speaks during 'Summit of the Future' on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

Sri Lanka's new **President Dissanayake** promises change

Monitoring Desk

"I pledge ... to dem-COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's onstrate dedication to proleftist leader Anura Kumara tecting and upholding de-mocracy," Dissanayake, Dissanayake took office as president on Monday, 55, said in inauguration repromising change in the ismarks at the president's land nation long led by office, saying he was takpowerful political families ing office at a challenging which is emerging from its time in the Indian Ocean worst economic crisis in nation more than seven decades.

"Our politics needs to Millions of Sri be cleaner, and the people Lankans had voted for the have called for a different political culture," he added. opposition parliamentarian, putting faith in his graftfighting pledge and vow to that change. bolster a fragile economic

Six dead after floods in central Japan: media

(AFP/ status of eight people APP): Heavy rain that trigwas unknown. Heavy rain pounded gered floods and landslides

on a Japanese penisula re-Ishikawa from Saturday, with more than 540 covering from an earthquake this year killed at least six millimetres (21 inches) repeople, local media reported corded in the city of Wajima Monday. Public broadcaster over 72 hours, the heaviest NHK and other outlets said continuous rain since comsix were dead, while a fire parative data became availdepartment official told AFP able. The region is still reelthat one had died and five ing from a magnitude-7.5 quake at the start of the were "in a state of cardiorespiratory arrest", a term year, which toppled buildings, triggered tsunami used in Japan before a feared death can be confirmed by a waves and sparked a major fire. Floodwaters inundated emergency housing built for

The regional government in Ishikawa on the Sea of Japan coast said two were missing and the Dav quake

Tehran ready for nuclear talks in New York 'if other parties are willing', foreign minister says **Monitoring Desk**

TEHRAN: Iran is ready to start nuclear negotiations on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York if "other parties are willing" Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said on Monday in a video published on his Telegram channel. The United States, under then-President Donald Trump, withdrew in 2018 from a nuclear accord signed in 2015 between Iran and six world powers, which restricted Tehran's nuclear programme.

Son of Uganda's president ends 2026 election bid

Monitoring Desk KAMPALA: The son of Uganda's long-serving leader Yoweri Museveni said on Saturday he had abandoned plans to run for presidency at the next election in 2026 urging his supporters to endorse his father instead. President Museveni, who has led the country for 38 years, is widely expected to run for re-election even though those who had lost their homes in the New Year's

he has not yet confirmed his candidacy. "I would like to announce that I will not be on the ballot paper in 2026."

UN adopts pact to tackle volatile future for mankind which begins on Tuesday, dozens of heads of state and

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: UN members adopted a blueprint for the future on Sunday to tackle the myriad wars, environmental threats and technological challenges facing humanity that was hailed by the organisation as "groundbreaking" but panned by critics as unambitious.

terests of current and future generations" facing "persis-Secretary General Antonio Guterres, who cham-pioned the "Pact for The path to a brighter future for all of humanity," the docu-Future" and its components, billed them as "landmark agreements — a stepchange towards more effective, inclusive, networked

multilateralism.³ mitments multilateralism, upholding the UN Charter and peace-As an opener for the annual high-level week of the UN General Assembly, keeping.

Iran walls off part of border with Afghanistan: state media

Monitoring Desk TEHRAN: Iran's military has built a wall along more than 10 kilometres of its eastern border with Afghanistan, the main entry point for immigrants, local

media reported Monday. "More than kilometres of walls have been built on the border and another 50 kilometres are ready to be walled off," ISNA news agency said, citing General Nozar Nemati, deputy commander of army ground

Iran shares a more than 900km border with Afghanistan, and the Islamic republic hosts one of the largest refugee populations in the world. This comprises

mostly well-integrated Afghans who arrived over the past 40 years after fleeing conflict in their home coun-

The flow of Afghan immigrants has increased since the Taliban took over in August 2021 after US forces withdrew. Tehran has not given

official figures for the number of Afghan immigrants,

but member of parliament Abolfazl Torabi has estimated their number at "between six and seven million'

The authorities have recently increased pressure on "illegal" refugees, regularly announcing expulsions through the eastern border.

'By blocking the border, we want to control the country's entries and exits" and "better increase the security of border areas", General Nemati said.

In September, Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni said Iran would employ other methods including barbed wire and water-filled ditches in addition to the wall to block the border.

On September 13, the spokesman for the parliamentary National Security Committee, Ebrahim Rezaei, said police plan to "expel more than two million illegal citizens in the near future"

According to the official IRNA news agency, Afghanis represent "more than 90 percent of foreign nationals" in Iran.

'I am ready to commit to

Daily **Independent**, Islamabad

Tuesday September 24, 2024

Belief in Finality of Prophethood fundamental component of every Muslim's faith: Ch Salik Hussain

ISLAMABAD (APP): ers of religion are the es-Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Monday said that belief in the Finality of Prophethood was a fundamental component of every Muslim's faith.

Addressing a gathering of religious scholars, he called for early release of the detailed verdict of the Mubarak Sani case.

Salik underscored the crucial role of religious leaders, stating, "The true lead- nation.

tual guides, not those who take up arms against the poses, urging that efforts be

based in the stressed that for securing the future of the younger generation, the government, institutions, and religious scholars must work together. He expressed confidence that a unified government had initiated message of peace, solidar-

consultations with religious ity and harmony from relischolars and leaders from gious scholars would have other faiths to eliminate tera far-reaching impact on the rorism. "With the help of scholars and other religious

The minister also leaders, we can overcome teemed scholars and spiri- warned against the misuse these challenges," Salik added.

He commended the religious scholars and saints for rejecting the narratives of extremists and terrorists. calling for an end to the exploitation of religion for terrorist activities

He also shared that the He remarked, "Anyone or any group that takes up arms against the state is a terrorist, and we must unite as a nation to eradicate the scourge of terrorism.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious affairs and inter-faith Harmony Chaudhary Salik Hussain meeting with religious scholars.

KSA symbol of strength, progress: Ayaz Sadiq

ISLAMABAD (APP): Shura Council Dr. Abdullah Speaker of the National As- Al-Sheikh and the nation of sembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, said on Monday that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a symbol of strength and progress around the world

In a statement on the 94th National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, he said, 'On behalf of the National Assembly and the people of Pakistan, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on this joyous occasion."""Saudi Arabia's contributions to global peace, economic development, and the preservation of Islamic heritage are recognized and appreciated worldwide" he added.

He expressed special greetings to King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, contributions to socio-economic development within the region and the Muslim Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Speaker of world are commendable.

Adviser Law says:

Pakistan set to become first

parliament to recognize climate

Saudi Arabia commending their exemplary leadership and vision Ayaz Sadiq empha-sized Saudi Arabia's vital role as the custodian of the Holy Cities of Mecca and

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) while dismissing the petition Medina, expressing proagainst imposition of regufound gratitude for the Kingdom's hospitality to-wards millions of Muslim latory duty on raw material has remarked we will not interfere in the fiscal policy pilgrims each year. He acof the government. knowledged the importance Justice Mansoor Ali of this sacred responsibility, highlighting the

latory duty. This is policy Kingdom's commitment to ensuring a safe and enrichmatter of federation. This ing pilgrimage experience has to be resolved by the for all. Reflecting on Saudi federal government upon Arabia's achievements over the past 94 years, the Speaker said the Kingdom what material regulatory duty has to be imposed.

He gave these remarks while hearing the appeal pleas against imposition of regulatory duty on the raw

We will not interfere in financial policy, Court remarks material imported from other countries for the petitioner said there is another raw material of this packing of cloth. The counsel for the petitioner remarked impos-

SC rejects petition against

imposition of regulatory

duty on raw material

ing regulatory duty on the raw material used for packing is discriminatory treatment.

Justice Ayesha Malik Shah remarked federal govremarked our job is not to ernment can impose regusee financial policy. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah remarked federal government can impose regulatory duty. This is policy matter of federation. This has to be resolved by fed-

eral government regulatory duty has to imposed on what material.

IRSA releases 218,800

cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 218,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 142,500 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1537.16 feet and was 139.16 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 83,400 cusecs and 130,000

cusecs respectively.

nature upon which regulatory duty has not been imposed. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah remarked "ok then import that material upon which there is no regulatory

The counsel for the

duty. We will not interfere in financial policy. SC as court cannot hold talks regarding regulatory duty. The court dismissed the appeal against high court decision. Earlier

Sindh High Court had rejected petition against imposition of regulatory duty on raw material.

Land record in capital to be digitalized on Punjab's pattern: DC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), Irfan Nawaz Memon on Monday announced that the Capital administration had decided to digitalize the sale and purchase of property and land record across the federal capital on the pattern of Punjab.

marks while chairing a meet-

ing here. However, the Deputy Commissioner lauded the district administration's decision to make all stamp papers online to facilitate the citi-

The meeting was at-tended by officers of Punjab Land Revenue Authority who briefed the deputy commissioner on Online Registration Sys-

He made these re-

tem.

"This will be the first ter input from the legal urliament in the world to community and other

Chairperson Benazir In- stan. come Support Programme

Redressal of public grievances top priority; says IGP Islamabad

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, held a Khuli Katchery at the Central Police Office Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

During the katchery, he listened to the issues of citizens and police officers and ssued directives on the spot for their resolution.

He said that resolving citizens' issues on merit is our top priority. Negligence and carelessness in duties will not be tolerated. Any citizen facing any issue related to the police can come to the Khuli Katchery. My office is always open for my citizens, the IGP said.

IG Islamabad further directed the concerned officers to resolve the citizen griev-ances on merit within the stipulated time frame and report back to the Central Police Office

He directed all SDPOs and SHOs to adhere to the designated office hours and prioritize resolving citizens' issues.

On this occasion, the IG Islamabad said that the Islamabad Police are taking various measures for the facilitation of citizens. The daily holding of Khuli Katchery helps in resolving issues on a priority basis, he added. Moreover, all zonal officers and SHOs are directed to meet citizens during the

designated office hours and resolve their issues promptly and on merit.

Senator Rubina Khalid urges youth to spearhead transformative change ISLAMABAD (APP): Pashtun society and Paki-

Death anniversary of Urdu poet Tabish Dehlvi observed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Addressing the gather-The 20th death anniversary of eminent Urdu poet and

broadcaster Tabish Dehlvi

was observed on Monday.

9,1911 as Syed Masood-ul-

Hasan Tabish "Dehlvi" to

Munshi Zakaullah, he is

regarded as one of the lead-

ing classical poets in Urdu

He started his career

Born on November

Barrister Aqeel Malik, on Monday said that inclusion of climate change as a constitutional right was the landmark step in the 26th Constitutional Amendment. In addition, the 26th Amendment will play a crucial role in strengthening the judicial system, he said while speaking to a private news channel.

and April.

ernment employees.

change as constitutional right held involving the Law ISLAMABAD (APP): Adviser to the Prime Min-Minister, Information ister on Law and Justice, Minister, and coalition partners to ensure broad consensus, he added.

In response to a question, he said that that Maulana Fazlur Rehman requested additional time to ensure broad consultation, which was agreed upon.

Consultations regarding the age-related provisions are ongoing, with a final decision expected af-

(BISP), Senator Rubina ing, Rubina Khalid empha-Khalid Monday urged the sized the vital role of youth youth to spearhead trans- in revitalizing Pashtun formative change in the country.

She was speaking, as a chief guest, at the Pashtun Culture Day celebrations at Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science Technology and (SZABIST), Islamabad.

Accompanied by Head of Campus, Khusraw Khan, Chairperson BISP urged students to spearhead transformative change in honor, and respect.

NIM Islamabad delegation visits Safe **City Islamabad**

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: The Mid-Career Management Course delegation from National Institute of Management (NIM) Islamabad visited Safe City Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

He said that the delegation visits the command and control center, the data hub unit, modern technology-equipped cameras, and the Police operations cen-ter hall. They were fully briefed about the procedures and advantages of this project.

Furthermore, the delegation was informed that Safe City Islamabad is playing a significant role in various departments through modern techniques, including the Police Operations Center, Emergency Control Center, Data Hub Unit, Dispatch Control Center, E-Challan System, and the "Pucar-15" helpline.

The delegation was

culture's foundational pillars: respect for elders. She also advised the students to utilize social media responsibly for fostering constructive dialogue and community engagement and harnessing education to promote inclusivity, social cohesion, and national

also apprised of the func-

tionality and benefits of the

Safe City cameras in the

city. The modern cameras

of Safe City are playing a

and Control Center.

cessful visit.

as a newsreader with All progress. "Pashtun culture's essence lies in its values of tion.

Tamgha-i-Imtiaz by the

literature.

He died on September

Intl day of Sign languages

crucial role in ensuring the ISLAMABAD (APP): The International Day of safety of the city and preventing crimes and safe-Sign Languages is being celguarding the lives and property of citizens. 42% of ebrated globally on Moncrimes are resolved through day to raise awareness the Safe City Command about the importance of sign language and advocate for the cultural identity of Face recognition cameras have been installed at

the deaf community. The United Nations the entry and exit points of the city which are playing General Assembly estaban important role in identilished the day in 2018 to fying suspicious elements, promote and protect the he maintained. The delegarights of people with hearing impairments. This tion also met with Director General (DG) Safe City year's theme, "Sign up for Shakir Hussain Dawar and Sign Language Rights,' acknowledged the modern urges world leaders to offitechnical system of the cially recognize and pro-Islamabad Police and its mote sign language rights benefits. The delegation exwithin their respective countries. The World Fedpressed special gratitude to DG Safe City Islamabad eration of the Deaf (WFD) and his team for this suchas called on government officials to sign this year.

grant constitutional recogstakeholders, he said.

nition to climate change," he "This was the right approach as all stakeholdsaid. He further noted that the amendment has been ers will now have a chance unfairly criticized, with its to provide their feedback. true meaning misunder-We expect recommendations from the legal commustood and the government's nity within a week, and afreal intent misinterpreted. 'He said that work on ter reaching a consensus the 26th amendment has with the opposition, we been ongoing since March aim to present the amendment in the first week of

Several meetings were October," he added.

Housing ministry rebuts media report on 45% hike in rental ceiling

ISLAMABAD (APP): media on the basis of which The Ministry of Housing the story has been reand Works Monday rebutported.

ted as "entirely incorrect Earlier, it was clarified and misleading" a news item from the office of the Pubpublished in a section of lic Relations Officer at the press regarding a 45% hike ministry that the said docuin the rental ceiling for govment was not true. The Estate Office un-

Referring to a media der the ministry is curreport "Govt employees rently conducting a survey get 45pc rent bump", the of market rent rates of resispokesperson said that the dential accommodations at Ministry of Housing and six specified stations in-Works had issued no such Islamabad, cluding Rawalpindi, Lahore, office memorandum. It said that there was Karachi, Peshawar and

a fictitious and artificially Quetta that is not final yet generated office memoranand nothing has been notidum circulating on social fied so far.

Qatar Emiri Naval Forces delegation offering Fateha at Mazar-e-Quaid during visit to Karachi.

COMSTECH-Mauritania to collaborate through joint S&T **Capacity Building Program** Agency for Scientific Re-

ISLAMABAD COMSTECH- the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation has announced research fellowships for students, scholars and institutions in Mauritania in order to strengthen the ties and build scientific capacity in Mauritania.

According to an offitwo countries. Under the cial source, these research COMSTECH-Mauritania fellowships have been announced by the COMSTECH and National

stage scientists/engineers in search and Innovation, Mauritania to enable them Mauritania under the Joint to spend six months at a Science and Technology relevant center of excellence Capacity Building Program. in many listed institutions COMSTECH shares a of OIC member states, eslong-standing brotherly repecially Pakistan. The purlationship with Mauritania pose of these fellowships is and this program will furto enhance the research and ther strengthen the scientific development capacity of cooperation between the promising researchers and engineers from Mauritania at the beginning of their re-Program, Research Fellow- search career, helping them ships will be offered to to foster linkages for further young researchers and early collaboration in their fields.

World-class Green-Tech Hub will transform Pakistan's energy into landscape: Romina Khurshid Alam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Co- position the country as a mental sustainability and ordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has announced that the first Green-Tech Hub (G-TH) will be launched soon as an state-of-the-art facility to transform Pakistan's energy landscape and reducing its carbon footprints by fostering green technologies, renewable energy solutions and eco-friendly innovations in the country.

Addressing a webinar on 'Creation of G-TH' as a chief guest, organised by the Paklaunch.com in collaboration with the climate change & environmental coordination ministry, the PM's coordinator further said that the G-TH, an initiative backed by the Government of Pakistan in collaboration with private sector stakeholders, academic institutions, and international green regional leader in sustainable innovation, according to a press statement issued on said Monday.

During her address, she also revealed that efforts are also being made by the climate change & environmental coordination ministry to showcase highly innovative and impactful projects at the Pakistan Pavilion during the two-week UN-led gloclimate summit (COP29) The climate summit is

scheduled to begin from Nov. 11 in Baku, Azerbaijan, which is expected be attended by 40,000 to 50,000 delegations from over 192 countries "Showcasing the initia-

tives at the upcoming UNled global climate conference aims to attract potential global and local investors to finance the projects to help technology leaders, aims to Pakistan achieve its environ-

climate resilience goals, Romina Khurshid Alam

The global leaders at this year's annual global climate conference, which is the second largest gathering of head of states, international leaders and civil society members after UN General Assembly (UNGA), will strive to finalise the first enhanced transparency framework and establish a new collective quantified goal on climate finance, among other critical issues of adaptation, mitigation, transfer of technology and technical know-how. "We hope GTH would act as a strategic connector, linking Pakistani innovators around the globe with global investors to leverage climate finance for these innovative



ments for these climate resilience projects. Besides, MoCC&EC would facilitate alignment of these climate tech projects with Pakistan's both adaptation and mitigation priorities," Romina Khurshid Remarked. She emphasised that the future of technology is green, and the G-TH would represent projects showcased at the the best of what Pakistan Pakistan Pavilion during the has to offer in terms of tal-COP29 meeting and attract ent, ambition, and innova-

tion. "We are proud to be part of this journey and look forward to seeing the breakthroughs that emerge from this center in future," The PM's coordinator remarked.

Ms Alam said, "The hub will serve as an incubator for green startups, a research center for advanced technologies, and a collaboration space for innovators and entrepreneurs focused on addressing environmental challenges."

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bal



India Radio in 1941 and continued working with Radio Pakistan after parti-Tabish received many awards in his lifetime and was finally decorated with the coveted award of

government of Pakistan in 1998.

23 in 2004 in Karachi.

observed