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New International Rishta **Profiles**

ECP asks KP CM to de-notify ministers, aides with political affiliation

By Javed Aziz Khan

remove ministers, advisers Vice-Premier He Lifeng. and special assistants who have political affiliation.

A letter was sent by the ECP to caretaker Chief Minister Azam Khan on Monday to de-notify the ministers, advisers and special assistants involved in politics, so that holding of free and fair elections could be ensured.

"The caretaker government has a special role in assisting the ECP to ensure that a level playing field is provided for all the relevant stakeholders, contesting candidates of all political parties to enable them to exercise their capabilities for the good of voters, without fear or favour and without let or hindrance of any sort," stated the letter by the ECP to Chief Minister Azam Khan.

It added that a care- and expressed the optimism FY2024, the central bank taker government, including that inflation would drop expects that average infla-

Continued on page 9

Govt allies given two days to name caretaker PM

> News Desk/ our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: All parties in the coalition government have been given a deadline of two days to name the caretaker prime minister in consultation with their leaderships.

A consultative meeting of the leaders of government coalition parties was held at the Parliament House in which PPP, PMLN, Muslim League-Q, Jamhoori Watan Party and other parties participated.

Sources say that Naveed Qamar, Khursheed Shah, Ayaz Sadiq, Saad Rafiq, Man-Bugti attended the meeting.

Pakistan, China sign six accords for **CPEC** phase-II

PM says second phase of CPEC to focus on B2B investment in agriculture, North-South growth corridor, info-tech sectors, special economic zones; addresses documents signing ceremony in Chinese vice PM's presence; Hilal-e-Pakistan conferred on visiting dignitary; pacts signed on JCC on CPEC, industrial workers exchange programme, feasibility study of realignment of KKH phase-II, ML-1 projects; Chinese vice premier meets Pak Army chief

By Muhammad Anis

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said Pakistan and China are entering the second phase of CPEC now, which will feature B2B investment in agriculture and information technology to enable Pakistan to export its products according to the Chinese standards and requirements.

He was speaking at a ceremony, held at the PESHAWAR: The Election Prime Minister's House on Commission of Pakistan Monday for the signing of (ECP) has sent a letter to six important documents the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa between the two countries, caretaker chief minister to in the presence of Chinese

Continued on page 4

By Erum Zaidi

KARACHI: The State Bank of

Pakistan on Monday left its

key rate on hold at 22 percent

many because the Interna-

to decline over the course of

the coming months, despite

rising energy prices. "For

News Desk/APP

sparked tensions between

to ease price pressures.

SBP holds interest

rate at 22pc, sees

decline in inflation

FY2024 GDP growth likely to be

2-3pc; average inflation to be

between 20pc and 22pc

gradually in the months to tion would be between 20

tain the status quo in the ment with the IMF did not

policy rate, which surprised call for more rate increases.

tion is projected to continue action," Ahmad said.

Holy Quran desecrated

outside Sweden

parliament

OIC condemns incident; Bilawal raises

issue with Danish counterpart

the Holy Quran alight outside Holy Quran on fire, as they

The SBP decided to main- adding that Pakistan's agree-

Xi says CPEC to give impetus to Pakistan's socioeconomic uplift, regional connectivity

Chinese president says Beijing will always stand firmly with Pakistan despite any change in international landscape

BELJING: Chinese Presi- and further build the Chiard, sustainable and livelihood-enhancing outcomes

Stocks climb 2pc to

20-month peak on

economic optimism

See Business I

and 22 percent," he said,

Before

dent Xi Jinping said Monday na-Pakistan Economic Cor-China will work with Paki- ridor (CPEC) into an exemstan to aim for high-stand- plary project of high-quality

Continued on page 9

Judge says wife tough but didn't beat up child maid

psychological problems; doctors say maid still in critical condition; eight more sections added to FIR

in light of medicomotu action

The central bank raising LAHORE/ISLAMABAD: Civil tional Monetary Fund had interest rates hasn't been called for further tightening mentioned anywhere by the Judge Asim Hafeez, the hus-IMF. "They advised aggresband of the woman accused In a press conference, sive monetary policy stance of torturing 14-year-old the urban parts of Sindh. Jameel Ahmad, the Governor for the central bank, thus domestic worker Rizwana, of the SBP, stated that infla- we will follow this course of has said that the way they were being subjected to a brutal media trial, it was better they were slaughtered. On the Continued on page 4 other hand, the girl remains in critical condition.

said the maid was employed people." at their house for Rs10,000 and claimed she had gone to her parents at her own feet. "The way we are being brutally tried by the media, it family's face, reputation, peace of mind and honour Salwan Momika and Sal- have been ruined in society," STOCKHOLM: Two men set wan Najem set pages of the he added.

He said the question was

Continued on page 4

Admits wife's

legal report; petition filed with SC for suo

News Desk/Shakeel Anjum



theNewsInternational

ISLAMABAD: (Clockwise) Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng witnessing the MoU signing regarding cooperation between the two countries in various fields at the PM House, Monday; President Arif Alvi confers Hilal-e-Pakistan award on Mr He at the President House; Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif speaks to the visiting leader during a meeting at the PM House; Chinese vice premier exchanging views with Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir.

MQM-P warns it will reject Karachi's head count if it's less than 30m

By our correspondent

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan chief Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Monday said that his party

members, Dr Siddiqui said at | him in his personal capacity Toshakhana criminal case. a press conference on Monday that under a conspiracy the population of Karachi and Hyderabad was undercounted.

He said the MQM had

CCI being convened to approve 2023 census results

— See page 12

repeatedly informed the federal government and other relevant authorities in a timely fashion about the irregularities being committed in the census drive. He said the MQM had waged a struggle at every level to

Owing to MQM's hard gave its nod to the Pakistan imprisonment for anyone work, six million people in Karachi were enumerated after they were left uncounted by the census officials, said Siddiqui, adding, "Questions should be In an interview to a news asked how come the census website, Civil Judge Asim drive was going to be con-Hafeez accused Rizwana's cluded on April 8 without parents of being greedy and counting these six million

He said that every person living in the provincial capital should be properly counted in the census as the city generates huge revenue is better we are slaughtered. to run the entire country. Because of the media, our Latest technology should be employed for population counting of Karachi.

Dr Siddiqui demanded a commission to probe the issue of phenomenal rise in zoor Kakar and Shah Zain parliament in Stockholm on had done at a protest outside that if he and his wife were the population of rural Sindh Monday, an AFP reporter Stockholm's main mosque in proved innocent by the in the latest census. He said All the political parties saw, at a protest similar late June — sparking outrage court, then who would repair MQM has sent letters to all were given a deadline of two to previous ones that have and condemnation across the hurt caused to their the relevant quarters for

Continued on page 4

Toshakhana case

Imran turns to SC for stay

Trial court summons PTI chief today, rejects request for delay in recording his statement; IHC to hear Imran's plea on 3rd

Sohail Khan/ APP

and the people of Karachi ISLAMABAD: Additional the Toshakhana case trial another court and seeking would never accept the pop- District and Sessions Judge stayed at all costs. ulation count of the city if (ADSJ) Humayun Dilawar Coordination Committee Imran Khan and summoned lenging the maintainability of

By Khalid Iqbal/ in the Toshakhana case on The court also fixed Tuesday (today) at 9:00am. other cases pertaining to the Imran is striving to get shifting of criminal cases to

Meanwhile, the Islama- date for hearing. The court declared less than 30 million | Monday rejected a request for bad High Court (IHC) has also sought a report from respite to record Section 342 fixed Imran Khan's appeal for the FIA on Facebook posts Accompanied by MQM's statement of PTI Chairman a hearing on August 3, chal- of the trial court's judge.

Continued on page 4

to stay the trial on the same

Disclosing sensitive information

NA also passes Army bill proposing 5-year jail

Law minister says insertions, provisions in bill not applicable to civilians; bill bars any person under Army Act from engaging in politics for two years after retirement, release, resignation, discharge, removal or dismissal from service; six other bills also passed

By our correspondent

2023, which, on becoming mation regarding security ensure a fair census drive in ISLAMABAD: The National an Act of the Parliament, of the country or the army. Assembly (NA) on Monday would seek up to five-year

Army (Amendment) Bill, who discloses sensitive infor-

Continued on page 4

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SYED RAMISH RIZVI

WRITTEN BY

JAHANZEB QAMAR

PRESENTATION

Continued on page 9 | Sweden and Middle Eastern 'Dust to development' moot to boost mining sector: Musadik

Says smart industrial clusters to be built in Balochistan where raw minerals would be extracted, converted into export items; mining rules to be harmonised to make foreign

investment easier; puts financial value of Pakistan's minerals at a whopping \$6.1 trillion

ISLAMABAD: Minister of would eventually extricate State for Petroleum, Musadik Pakistan from the quagmire Malik, on Monday, termed the of economic challenges. forthcoming mineral conference "Dust to Development" as a journey of prosperity that

The financial value Continued on page 4

Ogra hikes LPG prices by Rs24/kg

Continued on page 4

By Israr Khan

ISLAMABAD: The government announced on Monday a 13.45 per cent or Rs23.9/kg increase in liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) prices for domestic and commercial consumers for August 2023 compared to the previous month. According to a notifica-

tion issued by the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra), the price per kilogram of LPG would be raised KHAR: The death toll from to Rs201 in August, up from the suicide attack, which

almost half of the victims chil-Continued on page 4 dren, police said Monday.

Death toll from Bajaur blast rises to 54

Islamic State claims responsibility; spokeswoman for EU foreign policy chief Joseph Borrell says blast was 'an attempt to weaken democracy'; KP CM, Peshawar corps commander, FC IG, JI chief, others visit Bajaur; Grand Imam of Al-Azhar condemns Bajaur explosion

By Hasbanullah/ AFP

Rs177/kg in July 2023. LPG is occurred at the workers conreached 54," Shaukat Abbas, widely used in Pakistan for vention of Jamiat Ulema-e- a senior official with the cooking purposes in areas Islam-Fazl (JUIF) in Bajaur counter-terrorism departwithout access to piped tribal district the previous ment, said adding that 23 natural gas, as well as for day, has risen to 54, with victims were under the age

Bajaur attack — Editorial on page 7

Continued on page 4

"The death toll has now



Bilawal condoles with Fazl over Bajaur massacre

By our correspondent

SLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Monday visited the residence of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief and Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) President Maulana Fazlur Rehman and offered his condolences on the terror incident in the JUI-F workers' convention in the Khar area of Bajaur in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The PPP chairman, ac-

companied by Sindh Chief | child from Lahore General Lines have arrested three fenders. Minister Syed Murad Ali | Hospital. Shah, also condoled with Maulana Abdul Ghafoor | Iqbal, a resident of Pakpat- and Rehman on Monday. ple died, whereas 1,183 were Haideri, Maulana Ataur tan, told Kot Lakhpat Police AVLS also recovered injured in 1,137 road acci-Rehman, Maulana Asad that his wife along with his Rs2.8 million and 34 bikes dents in all districts of Pun-Akram Durrani and offered | pital. She along with other pects would conduct rob- Out of these, 615 people Fateha for the departed

The PPP chairman said that he can feel the pain of the relatives and friends of the innocent citizens who lost their lives, adding that the PPP stands with the JUIF leadership and workers in this hour of grief and sorrow. He further said the terror act in Bajaur is a futile effort to disturb the peace in the country.

Justice Safdar retires

By our correspondent LAHORE: Justice Safdar

Saleem Shahid of the Lahore High Court retired on Monday after reaching superannuation, having served the higher judiciary for over two years. He was elevated to the High Court from the district judiciary on May 7, 2021.

The simple farewell ceremony held in his honour was participated by Chief Justice Muhammad Ameer Bhatti and fellow judges who presented a bouquet to Justice Shahid. Lahore High Court Registrar Irfan Ahmad Saeed was present.

After his retirement, the strength of Lahore High Court judges is now 40 against the constitu-

Events to mark CPEC's 10-year begin today

Chinese consulate says project showcases China's commitment to development in Pakistan

tion Initiative' kicks off on ship and partnership. August 1 (today) in connections in Pakistan.

tute of International Rela- added. tions and Media Research

prise. In a statement, Chinese reached between leaders of how China-driven investment tribute to the development Shiren said that China-Pak- tinue to build on past achieve- development in the province and beyond," they said.

By our correspondent

child was missing. When

2023, without further delay.

commerce and banks, etc.

the high inflationary days.

becoming poorer by the day.

istan Economic Corridor is ments and upgrade the devel- of Punjab, a land that houses LAHORE: First time four-day emplary hallmark of the deep- added. 'CPEC Punjab Media Delega- ening China-Pakistan friend-

CPEC projects' visiting CPEC. Chinese Vice Premier exclusive insight how energy gressive that will upgrade sites will be Lahore Orange He Lifeng, in the capacity of & and transport infrastruc- the development of the Metro Train, Sahiwal Coal- special representative of ture are making public life CPEC, consolidate and Fired Power Plant, Faisal- President Xi Jinping, pays his easier for all and sundry. abad M3 Industrial Park, official visit to Pakistan for Matari-Lahore Transmission the CPEC anniversary cele- Media Delegation will also ative partnership, advance Meanwhile, the delegation new opportunity for both ing people how market and closer China-Pakistan comwill also visit Challenge fac- sides to further implement business dynamics make munity with a shared future tory run by Chinese enter- the important consensus their awesome strides and in the new era and con-Consul General Lahore Zhao the two countries, and to con- profile enthuses growth and and prosperity of the region

Woman booked for

kidnapping 4-year-old child

LAHORE: An unidentified THREE BIKE THIEVES under investigations cases.

woman was booked for kid- ARRESTED: Anti-Vehicle pending cases and action

napping a four-year-old Lifting Staff (AVLS) Civil against the proclaimed of-

The complainant M thony Maseeh, Sami Maseeh DENTS: Around eight peo-

nephew Ahmad visited hos- from their custody. The sus- jab during the last 24 hours.

women was sitting in wait- bery bids in different dis- with serious injuries were

ing area. She went inside tricts including Lahore, said shifted to different hospitals.

she inquired from the agat Malik held a meeting situated at Eden Canal Vil-

nearby women, they told with AVLS officers. SP las near Thokar Niaz Beg.

that a woman who had in- Admin CIA Imran Karamat The fire-fighters extin-

troduced herself as your sis- Bukhari, SP AVLS Rana guished the fire. No loss of

ter-in-law had taken the Zahid and other officers life or injury was reported

Workers demand 35pc pay raise

LAHORE: All Pakistan Federation of POWER BILLS: Leaders of the unions

Trade Unions has demanded 35 percent of the national and multinational compa-

raise in wages with effect from July 1, nies affiliated to the industrial labour

(APFTU), the workers demanded this mediately stop the non-productive ex-

raise for those employed in industries, penditure of billions of rupees in the

ers would be compelled to launch and the policy of providing free electric

protest in case their pay is not raised ur- ity to Wapda officers and employees

gently. The meeting was also addressed should end. If the hike in gas bills was

by Akbar Ali Khan, Osama Tariq, Nosher not withdrawn and measures were not

Khan, Salahuddin Ayubi, Hassan Munir taken to control unemployment the

manded the Punjab government take ur- relief in gas and electricity bills.

Khurshid Ahmad, General Secretary making a flag with Rs400 million on Au-

In a meeting held at Bakhtiar Labour gency meeting here against inflation and

emergency room for a while DSP AVLS Civil Lines Malik VALUABLES

child with her. The burqa- participated the meeting, in the incident.

and when she returned, the Abdul Ghafoor.

By our correspondent

All Pakistan Federation of Trade Unions

APFTU, addressing the workers de-

gent measures to ease the economic and

He warned the government the work-

Hall, here on Monday under the aegis of unemployment.

a CCTV footage.

clad woman was spotted in Malik during the meeting is

bike lifters identified as An- EIGHT DIE IN ACCI-

Meanwhile, SSP CIA Li- incident of fire in a house

other representatives of the federation.

DEMAND FOR RELIEF IN GAS.

union on Monday conducted an emer-

They demanded the government im-

worst economic situation. Instead of

gust 14, the poor should be given some

An effective strategy should be for-

Institute of International graded development dynam- space. "This year marks the ten- ics in Punjab in true letter and year development of the spirit offering the people an ments, future is more pro-

brations, which provides a unleash fresh outlook inform- the building of an even

sued orders to expedite

Valuables were gutted in an

the shining example and ex- opment of the CPEC," he more than more than 100 million people," they added

They said that being a part Relations and Media Re- of swirl of CPEC's 10 years "Being the key component search (IIRMR) Chairman celebrations underpinned by tion with ongoing ripple of se- and signature project of the Muhammad Mehdi and Presi- visit of Chinese Vice Premier ries of CPEC 10-year celebra- Belt and Road Initiative dent Yasir Habib Khan jointly He Lifeng, 'CPEC Punjab 10launched by China in 2013, said that CPEC 10-year Pun- years Media Delegation' will Activity that will last till CPEC has showcased China's jab Media Delegation" is a let the world understand August 4 is being organised unswerving commitment and step to inculcate a sense fresh depth of friendship bein collaboration with Chinese unflinching support to the de- about game-changing impacts tween China and Pakistan Consulate Lahore and Insti- velopment of Pakistan," he of CPEC projects that up- which is beyond time and

"Built on past achievedeepen the China-Pakistan "CPEC 10-year Punjab all-weather strategic cooper-

Pakistan's economic crisis requires politicians to sit together for talks: Chaudhry Sarwar

Chaudhry Sarwar said that the expenses of the officers living in palatial houses and the innumerable vehicles used for their protocol pile up a burden on the oppressed and poor peo-

He said this while attending different receptions held in his honour on his arrival in Manchester City. The events were attended by UK parliamentarians Yasmin Qureshi and Richard Bergen, Lord Mayor of Manchester Yasmin Dar, Kashmir Movement leader Raja Najabat Hussain, FemPower chief Zara Dean and Prince Hayat, president of UICFU UK. Besides, the representatives of political, social, religious and business community and a large number of Pakistanis from different cities of the UK also participated.

social sufferings of the workers during mulated in consultation with all stakeholders before the industry gets stuck. The former Punjab gov-It has become difficult for the work- Instead of putting an unbearable burden emor said Pakistan is going ers to make both ends meet while and of taxes on the poor and the salaried through the worst economic the rich are becoming richer and poor class, a fair tax system should be introconditions but the rulers are taking more loans to pay Electricity theft should be stopped back older ones.

He further said Pakistan is rich in natural resources, so there is a need to benefit from them. Later, a dinner was hosted by FemPower Chairperson Zara Dean and her husband Naveed Dean.

By our correspondent

LAHORE: Former Punjab governor and first Muslim parliamentarian in the United Kingdom on Monday said that Pakistan's economic crisis requires all political parties and their leaders to sit together and resolve the political chaos through dialogue.

Sheikhupura respectively.

The minister said that fa-



Minister warns doctors not to advise patients to have tests from private labs or purchase medicines from market

By our correspondent

-Photo by Akmal Bhatti

Jamal Nasir said that in line able for diagnosis. with the vision of Punjab including laboratories in the these laboratories. Directions

market adding that two doc- lic health facilities, proposing ended at Narowal and

cilities for all important and necessary medical tests were available in the laboratories at government hospitals. Therefore, the doctor should not ask patients to buy their medicines from open market or bear expenditure for labo-

LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Primary and should prescribe only such parking of Lahore's all gov-Secondary Healthcare Dr tests, which were unavoid- ernment-run hospitals to the

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, regard SOPs have been noti- said that providing the best the caretaker government fied in order to improve the health and education faciliwas focusing on improve- quality and enhance reliabil- ties to the people is the govment of treatment facilities ity of diagnostic tests by ernment's priority. government hospitals. He have been issued to display health insurance programme, said this while addressing a the SOPs prominently in the best healthcare should be meeting of the CEOs of the laboratories to ensure strict provided to eligible patients, District Health Authorities on compliance by the relevant adding that quality of facilistaff, he added.

stringent action against doc- SPENT ON 28 HOSPI- the public health facilities. tors of government hospitals TALS: On the instructions of who advised patients to have Caretaker Chief Minister missioners to pay special atdiagnostic tests from private Mohsin Naqvi, the health de-tention on improving the laboratories or purchase pre- partment has prepared a plan health and education sectors scribed medicine from open for the improvement of pub- in districts. major hospitals across the cation for DHQ hospital.

mentation of the plan.

The meeting reviewed and staff in hospitals.

ratory tests, the minister measures to improve healthcare in public hospitals and He said that the doctors decided to hand over the Lahore Parking Company He informed that in this (LPC). The chief secretary

He said that under the ties should inspire patients to The minister warned of RS15 BILLION TO BE opt for medical treatment in He asked the deputy com-

The chief secretary appre-

tors involved in such prac- to spend Rs15 billion on the ciated Deputy Commissioner tices have already been sus- infrastructure and provision Khanewal Waseem Hamid of medical equipment in 28 Sindhu for getting ISO certifi He ordered that the

During a meeting held at deputy commissioners and the Civil Secretariat on Mon- assistant commissioners as day, the officials of the heads of district and tehsil Health Department briefed health councils should per-Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar form their duties in an active Zaman regarding the imple- manner and ensure 100 percent attendance of doctors

Punjab boards announce Matric result

By our correspondent

LAHORE: All the nine Boards SULT REMAINS 100PC: A of Intermediate & Secondary whopping 75 percent students Education (BISE) declared of 14 Daanish Schools affilithe results of Secondary ated with Lahore BISE have School Certificate (Matric) 1st scored A+ grade while 17 per-Annual Examinations 2023 on cent have scored A grades.

Education Agha Muhammad year 2023 remained 100pc in Ali Abbas announced the re- Daanish Schools. Sidra Shabsults, in a press conference at bir, student of Centre of Exthe BISE Lahore office, who cellence DG Khan Girls, was flanked by Chairman La-scored overall 1st position in hore Board Dr Mirza Habib Ali DG Khan Board by scoring and others.

230,915 candidates partici- peared in the Lahore Board pated in Lahore Board exam exam in which 905 students out of which 172,204 candi- scored A+ and 192 students dates got success thus 74.57 scored A grades. Daanish was the pass percentage. Sim- School Rahim Yar Khan stuilarly, the pass percentage in dent Kinza Tariq got 1082 other BISEs is Faisalabad marks and topped the Daan-81.76, DG Khan 86.37, Ba- ish Schools. Whereas 73 perhawalpur 82.70, Gujranwala cent students of 12 Centres of 80.82, Multan Rawalpindi 77.20, Sahiwal scored A+ and A grades.

78.76 and Sargodha 82.82pc. DAANISH SCHOOLS RE-According to a press re-

Special Secretary Higher lease, overall results for the 1088. As per details, 1,200 stu-As per the results, around dents of Daanish Schools ap-85.00, Excellence located Punjab

announce strike from Saturday

LPG distributors

By our correspondent

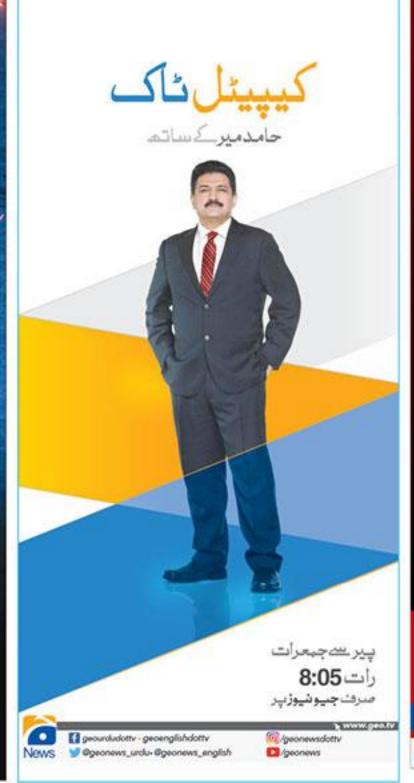
LAHORE: The Liquefied Pe-

troleum Gas (LPG) distributors have announced observing a two-day strike from August 05 (Saturday) against what they call a mafia involve in black-marketing of fuel and importers. Market insiders, however, are skeptics over LPG distributers claiming that many of them are responsible for the price-hike of fuel. They are also blamed for selling substandard cylinders responsible for tragic incidents causing loss of lives and property.

The office-bearers of LPG Distributors Association said on Monday that their token strike proved successful and they would now observe shutter-down strike across country.









Bajaur terror attack

draws condemnation

from across Muslim world

OIC secretary-general, Saudi, UAE, Qatar, Iran and

Egypt's foreign ministries condemn the incident; offer

condolences to bereaved families

in Bajaur on Sunday has ment, denounced the attack expressed its sincere condo-

Muslim nations as well as the Kingdom stood in full expressed its strong con-

the heads of the Muslim solidarity with Pakistan and demnation of the explosion.

pathised with the bereaved dolences and sympathy to ated Qatar's firm position

and leaving over 200 injured. the Arab States of the Gulf, dolences on behalf of the

The blast went off when Jassim Muhammad Al-Bu- government and the people

Cooperation (OIC) Secre- rejected all forms of vio- its firm stance toward its

Taha, in a statement, con- rorism, which aimed to forms of violence. "Egypt,

demned the terror attack destabilise security and government and people,

in the strongest terms and stability and were incon- expressed their sincere con-

offered his sincere condo- sistent with human values dolences and sympathy to

The secretary-general reiterated its permanent injured," the Egyptian for-

cannot derail the demo-

cratic process and elec-

reaffirmed the OIC's soli-rejection of all forms of vio-eign ministry said.

gathered under a tent in the bombing, saying that the and people of Pakistan.

Council was firm.

geted the Jamiat Ulema-e- people of Pakistan, wishing motives and reasons.

The suicide blast tar- the government, and the terrorism, regardless of the

The leadership of the the world, expressing that

Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) workers' the injured a speedy recov-

and terrorism anywhere in people.

By Sher Ali Khalti

attack that killed 44 people

the heinous act and sym-

convention in Khyber Pakh- ery.

Organisation of Islamic

tunkhwa's (KP) Bajaur dis-

trict, killing 44 JUIF workers

der with Afghanistan.

world bodies condemned its people.

lim world.

darity with Pakistan in its lence and terrorism aimed

efforts to combat extremism at undermining security and

Meanwhile, the Saudi human values and princi-

The ministry offered con- of Foreign Affairs reiter-

The Secretary-General of Kan'ani strongly condemned

He said the Council the bombing and renewed

Similarly, in a statement, of Pakistan in this painful

the terrorist attack and a speedy recovery for all the

the Cooperation Council for the attack and offered con-

the families of the victims, on rejecting violence and

stability in contravention of

The State of Qatar also

In a statement, the Ministry

The Iranian foreign min-

Besides Kuwait, the State

of Egypt also condemned

the government and people

istry spokesman Nasser

Observes serious discrepancies in initial rates of medical services communicated to patients at time of admissions, in final billing; issues directives regarding price and tariff list to all public and private hospitals, clinics, pathological laboratories and diagnostic centres to clearly mention rates of each and every test, surgery, room charges and doctors' visits in their lists

By M. Waqar Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: Realising the disperson, the letter added. crepancies in rates for medical charge, Islamabad Healthcare tariff lists with the authority Regulatory Authority (IHRA) within five working days. has directed all the public and

of medical services that are their lists. communicated to the patients ties in the capital.

available the reception counters ities for medical treatment. and should be provided to the patients and their attendants cial said this is the first step to pected dengue patients.

Talking to The News, offiprivate healthcare facilities cials at the IHRA said they have and tariff lists of all the health- price and tariff list to all the care services at their reception public and private hospitals, counters so that patients could clinics, pathological laboratowhether to avail healthcare ser- ries and diagnostic centers and vices from a particular health asked to them to clearly men-"IHRA has observed serious test, procedure, surgery, room

at the time of admissions mention the charges of ICU the capital, the IHRA official and in the final billing, which per day, charges of ventilator, added. It is worth mentioning causes serious discomfort and all the diagnostics, visits of the here that on the intervention of financial implications for the doctors, procedures performed IHRA, of the leading diagnostic patients and their attendants", by them as well as equipment center, Islamabad Diagnostic IHRA said in its letter to all the and consumables they are using Center (IDC) has offered sigpublic and private health facili- for the treatment", an IHRA nificant discount on MRI scans The letter, whose copy is authority officials said similar deserving patients as no pubavailable with The News, fur-directives have been issued lic health facility is offering ther states that all the health- to diagnostic labs and radio- MRI facility in the capital at care facilities should ensure logical centers in the capital, the moment. The healthcare that price or tariff list of all saying this would help patients authority is also trying to fix the the healthcare services is duly in selecting the healthcare facil- maximum price of some basic

on demand. The list should be ensure quality health services legible and readable for every on affordable prices and rates to the people, adding that it The IHRA further directed would also help them in fixing services conveyed to patients all the healthcare establish- a maximum price for some and actual bills at time of dis- ments to share their price or of the medical services and treatments being offered by the healthcare facilities in the

capital. "At the moment, every to ensure availability of price sent the directives regarding healthcare facility is charging exorbitantly for the healthcare services they are offering to the people. When people complain of the high cost of the treatment and services, they are asked to tion the rates of each and every go to some public facility or charitable organisation. This discrepancies in the initial rates charges, doctors' visits etc in is not acceptable anymore. We have decided to rationalise the "We have asked them to cost of treatment at least in official said. The healthcare in the night for the needy and tests including Dengue NS1 To a query, an IHRA offi- Antigen and CBC for the sus-

SC orders audit of Royal Palm Club within a month

By our correspondent

try Club be completed within a regarding the affairs of the club. month. The court also instructed with the federal government.

A three-member bench of the try Club implementation case. one-sided manner. The hearing was adjourned for club's lawyer, Naeem Bukhari.

lease and other matters.

Chief Justice Umer Ata Bandial No. 9. said that the club is a national properly managed, tarnishing further remarked that the venue is intended to provide facilities sonal gain.

retary of the Ministry of Inter-Pro-them. vincial Coordination to take the issues concerning the lease and it a matter of personal ego.

the management of the club month. had already hired an internal further addressed.

we cannot become a party to this heard by another bench.

matter. The parliament should make legislation on this," the ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court CJP remarked, and he inquired on Monday ordered that the audit whether the club's management of the Royal Palm Golf and Coun- had contacted the government

The Additional Secretary of the Capital Development Author- the Ministry of Inter-Provincial ity (CDA) to resolve the issues Coordination informed the court concerning the lease of the club that it had prepared a draft for

However, Naeem Bukhari apex court, led by Chief Justice counsel for the club, requested LAHORE: The suicide and terrorism. Umer Ata Bandial, presided over the court to review the draft, the Royal Palm Golf and Coun- claiming that it was prepared in a and left over 200 injured foreign ministry, in a state- ples. The UAE ministry also He informed the court that drawn strong condemna- and reaffirmed the King- lences and sympathy to the

a month upon the request of the two sponsors had approached tions from across the Mus-dom's rejection of violence Pakistani government and the club and stated that the con-The court ordered the com- tract was awarded to the lowest pletion of the club's audit within bidder. The chief justice, howa month and directed the CDA to ever, pointed out that the court settle issues related to the club's had a list of categories with 15 companies, and the contract was During the proceedings, awarded to the company ranked "Let the audit be completed

asset, but its affairs have not been and if the learned counsel has any objections, he should bring them its reputation. The chief justice before the court," the CJP told the club's lawyer. In response to a court query

to the public rather than for per- Naeem Bukhari said that there are currently over 1,100 members He ordered the additional sec- in the club, and he is also one of more than 400 JUIF workers daiwi, also condemned the of Iran to the government

Meanwhile, the Additional town of Khar, near the bor-position of the Cooperation matter seriously and resolve the Secretary of the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination outstanding dues without making assured the court that the matter concerning the club's affairs | tary-General Hissein Brahim | lence, extremism and ter- categorical rejection of all The chief justice said that would be resolved within a

When the court summoned audit company and directed it to the audit report of the club within complete the club's audit report two weeks, Naeem Bukhari lences to the victims' fami- and principles. within two weeks. He ordered informed the court that he would lies and to the government the report to be submitted to the be leaving abroad for a month. In and people of Pakistan, the UAE foreign ministry affliction, and to the famicourt so that the matter could be response, the Chief Justice smiled | wishing a speedy recovery also strongly condemned lies of the victims, wishing and remarked that after one for the injured. "It's a commercial deal, and month, the instant case would be

detained near US Consulate in Kolkata **News Desk**

EW DELHI: A Pakistani woman was detained in Kolkata after she was found roaming aimlessly near the US Consulate in Ho Chi Minh Sarani, police said on Monday.

According to the Indian allowed to leave after she was of the Kolkata Police's Special Task Force (STF) and Special Branch jointly questioned her.

India in December 2021. She We are verifying her claims," a police officer said. The till January 2024, he said.

Rabbani warns against extention of caretaker govt tenure

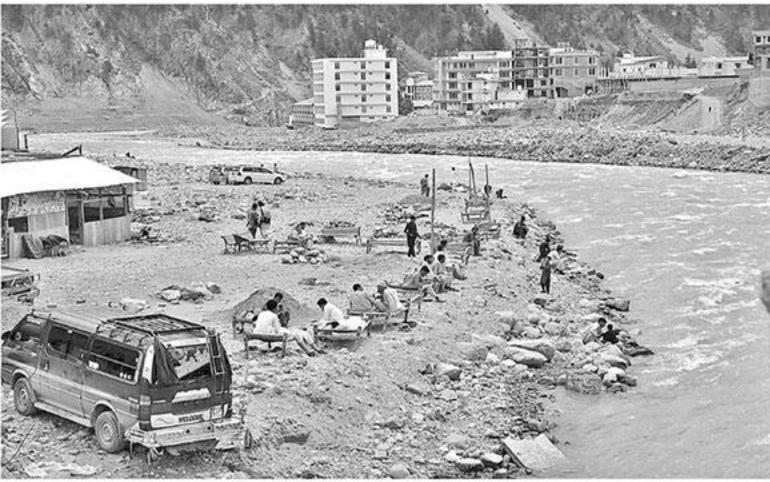
media, the woman, in her ISLAMABAD: Senator tions shall be held in late 20s, was questioned for Mian Raza Rabbani warned accordance with the Conmore than an hour and then that any extension in the stitution either within 60 Lady Reading Hospital here tenure of the caretaker set days or 90 days after the on Monday to inquire after detained in the early hours of up would have disastrous assembly completes its the blast victims. He was Saturday, they said. Officers effects on the democratic term," asserted the seasystem, Constitution and soned politician.

the federation. "We spotted her roaming | Senate also condemned up under any pretext, be it | lana Salahuddin and Senator aimlessly on the CCTVs. We the suicide attack on the economic, security or ter- Maulana Faiz Mohammad. questioned her and found that | Workers Convention of JUI rorism will have disastrous | Wasi the JUIF would continue she was a beautician who got | F and said that increase in effects on the democratic | its struggle till the eradication married to a local and came to | terrorist activities initially system, said Rabbani. was aimed at law enforcetold us why she was there. ment agencies, but a politi- attacks are nothing new tranquility and development.

JUIF to rid country of all curses: minister **Bureau Report**

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Housing Maulana Abdul Wasi has condemned the Bajaur terrorist attack and said the JUIF would continue to render sacrifices to rid the country of terrorism like it rid the nation of "the curse of Imraniat".

He was speaking to media during a visit to the accompanied by a delegation of parliamentarians from Any extension in the Balochistan including MNAs The former chairman tenure of the caretaker set | Maulana Mahmud Shah, Mauof all curses from the country He said such terrorist and make it a home of peace, cal party has been targeted as during the last elections. The JUIF rendered great sac-



KALAM: Tourists enjoying along the Swat River here on Monday. —APP photo

Plea by wife of Moonis

LHC judge recuses himself from case

By our correspondent

LAHORE: Justice Farooq (ECL). Haider of the Lahore High

Citing personal reasons, children lived there. Court on Monday recused the judge refused to hear

the inclusion of her name Tehreem contended that in the Exit Control List she was a dual nationality wanted to visit her children holder of Britain and her in the United Kingdom but

himself from hearing a peti- the petition and referred placed on the ECL as polit- had nothing to do with the tion by Tehreem Elahi, wife it to the chief justice for ical victimization as the politics of her husband and of former federal minister fixing it before any other government turned hostile baseless cases being made Moonis Elahi, challenging judge. In the petition, against her husband.

She pleaded that she was unable to travel due She said her name was to the ECL. She said she

Record-breaking mountaineer Kristin Harila ready for normal life

SLAMABAD: Newly minted world record-breaker Kristin Harila is done with 8,000-metre mountains and ready for a "normal life" after achieving her goal of giving women a rare role model in extreme climbing.

gian and her Nepali guide Tenjin "Lama" Sherpa became the fastest people

The 37-year-old Norwe-

pleted the feat in three tain challenges. months and one day, surpassing Nepal-born British on Sunday evening, after mountains. adventurer Nirmal Purja's waking up in K2 base camp record, set in 2019, of six the same morning and fly-disappointed last year when We kept each other safe." months and six days.

"I haven't been thinking helicopter. too much about the record. about the male-dominated months. climbing sphere.

men. And I think that if it's tired like I'm falling asleep,"

have some profiles, and we first shower in weeks. need to go someplace." have summited the world's enjoy good weather and 14 "super peaks" that rise friends. And sometimes I'm celebrate at the top.



Together, they com- financial backing for moun-

For me, I wanted to change completing a summit every next year. Of course, I have firms for their poor record something," Harila said 6.5 days for the past three regretted it a little bit!" she of sponsoring women ath-"It can be very, very

More than 40 people really good days and just from five hours to 14.

above 8,000 meters (26,250 really sick, throw up a lot, feet), only a few of them and have a bad stomach."

her level and, having started this year, and we had to climbing in 2019, marked go down," she said, having by dogged determination. been wary of avalanche She gave up her job with risks and dwindling oxygen a chain of furniture stores supplies. and sold her apartment to partly fund the expedition, share the record with Lama, for which she later secured who has been a guide since some funding from brands the age of 16, fearing that including watch and back- one of them would get sick pack manufacturers.

She set out to achieve the challenge. to summit the world's 14 because none in the market the record last year but highest mountains after fitted her slender female suffered a crushing setback first mountain, it wasn't reaching the top of mighty frame, hopes her success when Chinese visas for the planned at all. I didn't know K2 in Pakistan's Himalayas will help more women last two mountains took him. He didn't speak much secure the attention and months to come through. English, like a few words.

> the record was to repeat Nepali, and yet we under-Harila said in Islamabad the ascent of 12 of the stood each other perfectly,"

"Of course, I was very ing back part of the way by we didn't get the permit, but I decided immediately, the back in Norway, where She was exhausted after it's okay, I'm doing it again she aims to call out sports

"If you go and look at challenging, And sometimes tions this year compounded approach to life. history, it's been all about I'm just so tired. I feel super the effort, with K2 blanketed with deep snow that, thing has been to be away going to change, we need to she said after enjoying her together with a bottleneck so much from my family, of climbers, almost tripled like missing Christmas and "Sometimes you have the final stage of the ascent birthdays. And all these hol-

"When I realise that we Harila's rise to promi- mit, I cry a little bit ... But boyfriend, then get kids, get Harila, who had a nence has been rapid com- we also knew that it was a married. I'm finished with custom-made down suit pared to other climbers at very tough condition there 8,000 meters," she said.

Harila was thrilled to or injured before the end of

"When we met on the The only way to break And I speak a few words of

> she said. "He was just amazing.

Now she intends to setletes. She'll also pick up Harsher weather condi- running and take a slower

"For me, the hardest idays we had, my grandma There was little time to died, and I couldn't be there," she said.

"I'm going home to have are going to reach the sum- a normal life, live with my

with general elections TTP had targeted the PPP rifices for the well-being of woman's Indian visa is valid | round the corner. and ANP to hinder their the country and would con-"Such terrorist attacks elections campaign. tinue to do so, he said.

Directorate General Immigration & Passports TENDER NOTICE

PURCHASE OF CORRUGATED BOXES & SECURITY PACKING TAPES

Sealed tenders are invited from the NTN/GST registered firms for purchase of Corrugated Boxes & Security Packing Tapes. Tender document containing complete specifications, Terms and Conditions of this tender can be obtained from the office of the undersigned, on payment of Rs.2000/in the form of pay Order/ Demand Draft/ Banker Cheque or in the form of cash (non-refundable) in favor of Director General Immigration & Passports by presenting request at company letter head.

Terms and conditions:

- All interested bidders are invited to attend the pre bid conference scheduled on Monday August 7, 2023 at 2 P.M in the conference room of Directorate General I&P, Islamabad.
 - Taxes shall be deducted as per applicable relevant laws
- Taxes will be deducted as per applicable relevant laws.
- GST/NTN certificates should be provided with the tender.
- A bid security equal to Rs. 440,000/- shall be provided with the tender in the form of call deposit from any scheduled bank in favor of Directorate General Immigration & Passports.
- Single Stage two Envelop Procedure will be adopted. Technical and Financial proposals should be submitted in separate envelopes with the fact being clearly marked on each. Financial proposals of only technically qualified firms shall be opened.
- The sealed tender should reach office of the undersigned on or before August 18, 2023, at 11:00 hours
- viii. Tender shall be opened on the August 18, 2023 at 11:30 hours in presence of the interested tenderer or their authorized representatives. Incomplete tender shall not be entertained.
- Directorate General Immigration & Passports reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders as per PPRA rules clause 33 prior to acceptance of bids.
- This advertisement is available on PPRA's website i.e. www.ppra.org.pk and DG I&P's website i.e. www.dgip.gov.pk

PID(I) 644-23

Manager (Logistics)

Directorate General of Immigration & Passports (HQ) Sector G-8/1, Mauve Area, Islamabad. 051-9107078

phase of CPEC, which would relationship, including CPEC

Pakistan, China sign six accords for CPEC Continued from page 1 tries are entering the second several aspects of the bilateral

Chinese Vice-Premier He dum of understanding (MoU) and initiatives. on establishing an export exchange mechanism within nese President Xi Jinping for China's firm support for Pakithe framework of CPEC; a pro- sending his special envoy to stan's prosperity and developtocol of phytosanitary require- Pakistan and showing solidar- ment. He underlined that the

nical committee to promote the remarked. strategic ML-1 project.

Commission, was related of both countries. to establishing an experts the framework of CPEC.

nese Charge D'Affaires Pang this country," the PM said. Chunxue to export dried chillies from Pakistan to China.

feasibility study. The prime minister objectives.

expressed pleasure over the ping, and implementation was the two countries. started within no time.

changes in the Pakistan Army

Supreme Court judgment.

be applicable to civilians.

2023 and the National Commis-

Bill, 2023.

and the Army Act.

legal manner.

PPP Senator Mian Raza concerned.

resolving this controversy in a the country.

MQM-P

NA also passes Army bill

commission, determine terms nation, discharge, removal or

'Today we can claim that help promote investment, and bilateral economic and under CPEC, more than \$25 progress and prosperity not financial cooperation. Welbillion investment took place only for Pakistan but also for coming He Lifeng, PM Shehbaz in power, road, hydel power the entire region. The second congratulated him on being that she must have been tough found. A 5 cm wound was two more people succumbed to KP Chief Secretary Nadeem north and west of the country. and public transport. Today, phase, he also said, would promoted to the vice-premier but she told him that she had marked near the right eye we signed certain important focus on high-quality devel- of China in March this year. documents, which will further opment, envisaging a growth enhance cooperation and help corridor, with completion of port for Pakistan's economic domestic worker, who has been bruise on nose were found; 4 remained closed to mourn the chief minister. begin the second phase of special economic zones, indus- development, the prime minis-CPEC under a new model," the trial and green corridors, and ter observed that as strategic the Lahore General Hospital, is and 3 cm swelling on the lower to rest in their ancestral graveprime minister said. openness and connectivity. Lifeng, along with a delega- of "North and South" would stood by each other in difficult

He hoped that this corridor the two countries had always tion, is visiting Islamabad to expand to include the entire times, as was evidenced by Chiattend the 10th-anniversary region and different parts of nese support to Pakistan in the mation report (FIR) against countries signed six documents said that CPEC is going to turn demic and devastating floods on the Joint Cooperation Com- around Pakistan's economy in Pakistan. mittee on CPEC; a memoran- through multiple programmes

of the 21st conference of a tech-ther strengthening of ties," he to Pakistan.

Minister for Planning and absolutely ready to contrib- trade and investment ties with opment and Reforms Com- highlighted the importance of enhance Pakistan's agro and mission Vice Chairman signed ML-1 and the Karachi Circular food exports to China. The the document on the joint Railway. The prime minister prime minister also hosted cooperation committee of expressed the hope that both a luncheon in honour of He

The third document was the vision of our Pakistan's investiture ceremony held er's lawyer had raised an objec-justice. signed by Secretary, Ministry founding father Quaid-e-Azam at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, here on tion against the trial court's Zafar Hassan, and the Chi- mote prosperity and peace in to the Chinese dignitary to hon- the case against him.

Member Planning of CPEC projects in Pakistan, the attended by Prime Minister | the court but the judge refused ing trial before the District and National Highway Author- two sides agreed on the central- Shehbaz Sharif and other civil to accept them. ity Asim Amin and Chunxue ity of the project for Pakistan's and military leaders. According signed the fourth document on socioeconomic development to the Foreign Office, the visit- trar's office to send the matter stayed till the IHC issues its the realignment of the Karako- and expressed their firm com- ing dignitary will be in Pakistan of posts to the cybercrime wing final decision on his pending ram Highway Phase-II project mitment to continue working from July 30 to August 1 (Tues- of FIA and sought a report on applications. together for realising its shared day).

Shehbaz said the two countwo sides exchanged views on relations in all fields.

Child maid

Continued from page 1

family's reputation? Asim Hafeez admitted his wife's psychological problems, saying swelling and fracture were partners and trusted friends, still critical, doctors said.

In his remarks, Vice Pre-

334 to the FIR. and China's National Devel- of shared prosperity. He also veyed China's willingness to on the right side and 2 cm on to the victim girl.

Imran

never beaten the maid. On the while, on the left, a deep under treatment for 7 days in cm swelling on the upper lip deaths. The deceased were laid added about eight sections and on the waist. Her both legs are parts of district amid touching sub-sections to the first infor- fractured along with swelling. Meanwhile, a petition has

the left side of the cranium, and

6 cm swelling on the backside

of skull, while multiple wounds

the cranium.

showing broken bones, deep suo motu action on the bruwounds of torture and heavy tal torture of a teenage maid help," Fazal Aman, who was added. mier He Lifeng conveyed Pres- | bruises found on different parts | by the wife of a civil judge of | near the tent when the bomb Shehbaz also thanked Chi- ident Xi Jinping's message of of her servant Rizwana's body. Islamabad. Advocate Mudas-Earlier, the Hummak sir Chaudhry pleaded in his Police had lodged FIR (No petition that the brutal torture 154/23) on July 25 under sec- of 13-year-old Rizwana by the site, along with ball bear- tyrs and 89 injured. He said the Peshawar for treatment. ments for export of dry chillies ity for people-to-people friend- Pakistan-China friendship was tions 506, 342 and 328 of the her employer had exposed a ings and steel bolts from the from Pakistan to China and a ship and showing to the world unique and had withstood the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) grave violation of fundamental suicide vest. document on the final report that both countries were bound vicissitude of time due to deep against people involved in the rights. He said the victim girl matic channels an MoU on the This friendship will continue and strategic partner, China have now added sections woman. He argued that the device. industrial workers exchange and will not tolerate any kind would continue its existing and sub-sections including incident needed a fair and free programme as well as minutes of obstacle in the way of fur- economic and financial support 324/337 A-I/337 A-II/337 A-III/ investigation but it appeared 337F(I)/337F(V)/337L(II) and impossible under the prevailing circumstances. He urged According to the medico-le- the apex court to take a suo

Meanwhile, President Dr | Chief Justice Aamer Farooq was decided by it. However,

The order said the petition- was granted by the IHC chief | 40 people dead on the spot. In his petition before the

Sessions Judge, Islamabad,

Further hearing of the cases contended that a decision on "the Monetary Policy Commitwould take place on August 3. the jurisdiction of the court tee [MPC] of the SBP considers Meanwhile, the PTI chair- was necessary before the trial | the market developments, infla-

The petition for leave to Shaheen met Chief Justice of appeal was filed by Barrister Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial in approved a new \$3 billion following a press conference a downward path. Gohar Khan under Article courtroom No 1, requesting for

185(3) of the Constitution an early hearing on the petition. against the July 27 order passed The chief justice, however, told by the IHC chief justice on the the lawyers, "Let this be submitted first, then they may file The PTI chairman submit- an appeal for an early hearing.

Ogra hikes

criminal revision petition.

Court to suspend the ongoing

the next date.

automotive fuel. In the previous month, domes- of Rs413 per cylinder. The law minister said the tic cylinders were priced at

for an 11.8kg cylinder amounts amounting to Rs24,384.8/ton or The JUIF parliamentarian to Rs1,598.8. Prior to the Rs288/cylinder. Additionally, According to Section 55-C. Shahida Akhtar Ali, however, imposition of an 18pc general consumers are taxed with an

Musadik Continued from page 1

lithium and iron and export the and Federal Bureau of Statisadded.

country, multiplying the advan-The House offered Fateha of Pakistan's minerals and added that thousands of the country, according to local of freedom of expression". tions in Sweden."—AFP pinnings of raising and main- Federal Urdu University of for the departed souls of amounted to \$6.1 trillion, sur- people would get jobs through media. Swedish police have It also called on UN Secre-

that disclosure of information sion for Human Development Maulana Muhammad Anwar | ister said while addressing a rules complexities in Pakistan, | not for the activities conducted he said that tangible actions during the events. He said that 'Dust to Devel- would be taken in order to bills to standing committees Maulana Fazlur Rehman and ment of a new era of mining in ment. In this regard, the gov-JUIF's parliamentary leader in Pakistan as its scope was not ernment had churned out a response by Sweden and Dencerns following backlash over according to APP. The Pakistan Sovereign bill the National Assembly Maulana limited to mining but smelting One Window Operation, which mark to a spate of Holy Quran incidents that saw the Holy

Furthermore, he said that by-products of these minerals the mining rules and regulafrom its raw soil," the minister tions would be harmonized both countries to prevent while noting his country was deep concern on the recent Unveiling the mining vision to make foreign investment | "expressed his disappointment situation since World War II". the Holy Quran in Denmark of the government, he said smooth and easier. "We are that no measures were taken in Swedish and Danish envoys and other European countries. sequences if the government | would be built in Balochistan tape with red carpet, which will | ber, Jeddah-based body said in of Middle Eastern nations. where raw minerals from the be set for foreign investors," he | a statement after the opening

The government would meeting on the issue. would get the chance of com- the export items generated ment in the mining sector with concerned authorities claim- the 57 member states of the sentiments of Muslims across He expressed gratitude to ing into power on the basis of through the utilization of these a red carpet, Musadik said and ing freedom of expression organisation ahead of the meet- the world. Also emphasised the

Bajaur blast Continued from page 1

were marked on 10 cm area of of 18. Anwarul Haq, deputy On the right arm, 10 cm | commissioner for the district, confirmed the toll. On Monday their injuries.

lip were noted along with 10 | yards following well-attended

went off, said. On Monday, blood-stained

Pieces of human flesh could on the feasibility study of rea- in a great and unique relation- fraternal ties between the peo-| brutal torture on the teenage was fighting for her life at a | still be seen, blasted 30 metres. Inspector. General, Coun- Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) lignment of KKH Phase-II. Both ship. "We are all-weather ples of the two nations. He reit- domestic servant for unknown hospital due to the serious inju- (100 feet) from the stage where ter-Terrorism Department, to donate blood to the victims sides also signed through diplo-friends and iron brothers. erated that as an iron brother reasons. The Islamabad Police ries received by the accused the bomber detonated his said that the JUIF's convention of the Bajaur blast. The rescue

> emonies, including for two young cousins aged 16 and 17. "It was not easy for us to

till the question of jurisdiction | losing my own courage.'

of the boys.

On Sunday, the JUIF was holding a convention of its workers at Shandai Morr in proceedings of the trial court | attack took place, leaving over | police had arrested three sus- | and contradictory to the teach-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

caretaker Chief Minister Azam of National Food Security, Muhammad Ali Jinnah to pro- Monday. The award was given | judge and prayed for shifting apex court, the PTI chairman | Khan, Peshawar Corps Com- bility for the Monday's blast. struggle against this act of terhas appealed for a stay against | mander Lt-Gen Hassan Azhar "A suicide attacker from the rorism. He condoled with the Hayat, Inspector General of Islamic State... detonated his families of victims and prayed Frontier Corps, Jamaat-e-Islami explosive jacket in the middle for quick recovery of the head Sirajul Haq and others of a crowd" in Khar, the jihad-injured.

ann

Continued from page 1

SBL

visited Bajaur to inquire after ist group's news arm Amag the health of the injured at the said in a statement Monday. in Khar.

In Bajaur, the atmosphere Appreciating China's sup- other hand, the condition of scratch and 3 cm swelling and was gloomy and bazaars Khan also accompanied the religious party while support-

> Speaking at a gathering the military. in the Civil Colony in Khar. caretaker Chief Minister Azam eign policy chief Joseph Borrell those injured in the blast. He

injured were being provided the best medical facilities.

which was a suicide attack. Claiming that the group

gal report, two deep wounds motu notice of the matter so lift two coffins. This tragedy behind the act of subversion Imam of al-Azhar and Chair-Development Ahsan Iqbal ute to President Xi's vision Pakistan, the vice premier con- were found in the head, 4 cm that justice could be delivered has shattered our family," said had been identified, he said man of the Muslim Council Najib Ullah, the brother of one that there was a specific target of Elders, Sheikh Ahmed "Our women are pro- evidence had been collected demned the Bajaur attack on ted that it was prayed before | foundly shocked and devas- from the site. The official said Sunday that claimed the lives the IHC that the proceedings tated. When I see the mothers the police had identified the of 54 people. Continued from page 1 by the trial court may be stayed of the victims, I find myself terrorists during preliminary

> Khar town when a suicide Bajaur, Nazir Khan, said the explosion, terming it violative pects after the bombing. Meanwhile, the Islamic and Shariat,

State group claimed responsi-

District Headquarters Hospital Last year, IS said it was behind attacks against religious Members of the caretaker scholars affiliated with JUI-F. KP cabinet, including Matiul- which has a huge network of lah Marwat, Dr Riaz Anwar, mosques and schools in the Aslam Chaudhry and Inspector The jihadist group accuses the General of Police Akhtar Hayat JUI-F of hypocrisy for being a ing secular governments and A spokeswoman for EU for-

Our correspondent adds

The volunteers of civil defence and locals of Timer-Shaukat Abbas, Additional gara turned up at the District started at 2pm and the blast teams shifted more than 18 Thousands of mourners took place at around 4:10pm. critically injured to the DHQ

attended the first funeral cer- He said ball-bearings were whereas five injured were found at the spot of the blast, shifted to Peshawar from Tim-Meanwhile, the Grand of the bombing. Many pieces of El Tayeb, has strongly con-

In his condemnation, investigations, adding that they the Grand Imam of al-Azhar, were now waiting for the foren- Sheikh Ahmed El Tayeb, said Chairman of the Muslim Coun-District Police Officer of cil of Elders slams the Bajaur ings of all religons, holy books

El Tayeb called for a global

market to operate in an orderly cross \$10 billion by the end of

The former prime minister | monetary policy decisions, tion outlook, and the country's external sector developments,"

bailout for the country's strug-because the country's external perilously close to a debt little commercial debt. default. The monetary policy Rs24,485/ton or Rs287.7 per were kept in close proximity \$3.3 billion, said Ismail Iqbal percent year-over-year in May, Furthermore, Ogra has the IMF. "We keep a careful cials. Out of the \$21 billion price index inflation moder-

forex market." He said that the SBP is \$11.3 billion.

Therefore, it is important to

fulfil the genuine requirements economic uncertainty has of the importers while con- decreased since the last meettinuing to put an emphasis on ing, whereas near-term exterexports, he said.

lifted by the central bank, and improvement. banks will now decide whether

committee meeting was the repayments for this fiscal year ity at modest levels, while the first since that time. The SBP, are slightly less than \$24.5 bil-current account deficit is anticaccording to Ahmad, would lion. This includes principal ipated to decline to a range of see to it that the interbank and repayment of around \$21 bil- 0.5-1.0 percent of GDP. open market exchange rates lion and interest payments of to one another as required by Securities, citing the SBP offi- the growth in the consumer

Shahida Akhtar Ali, however, heating, power generation and calculated a producer price eye on all developments in the principal repayments, the SBP ated in June but remained high expects a rollover of around at 29.4 percent. The SBP sees Pakistan has successfully the first half of FY24, before requirement that the average managed to have an agree- falling below 20 percent in the development tasks and for is or has been subject to this ring those to the standing com- | will see an increase of Rs282, prising a marketing margin of | difference between the inter- ment for the rollover of \$5.3 second half. "This outlook, other operational and institu- Act and has remained posted, mittees concerned. "We cannot bringing its cost to Rs2,374, Rs17,000/ton, distribution mar- bank and open market rate billion while another \$6 bil- nevertheless, is subject to tional matters in the light of employed, seconded or tasked support legislation in this way | while the commercial cylinder gin of Rs10,000/ton, and trans- | does not exceed 1.25 percent, | lion is expected to be rollover. risks arising from domestic or otherwise attached on sensi- when government's coalition (45.4 kg) will become costlier portation margin of Rs8,000/ as well as any other conditions. Out of the remaining \$10 bil- and external shocks such as Clarifying misunderstand- tive duties, shall not take part parties are not being taken into by Rs1,083, priced at Rs9,132. ton, resulting in a total margin outlined in the agreement with lion, the \$1.5 billion principal adverse climate events, and the IMF. "The market deter- amount has been repaid in global commodity price volatil-The current LPG price mines the exchange rate, and July, and \$8.5 billion will have ity," it said. we are not required to influ- to be repaid further. The SBP tion on consumers, with taxes | ence it. As a regulator, we expects inflows to be close suggested that further mon-Ogra has determined the applied both at the producer don't set a specific target for to double this \$8.5 billion in etary tightening might be The Section 55-B of the bill legislation was discussed at producer price of LPG, assum- price and the consumer level the exchange rate. The rupee FY2024. There are multilat- required to reduce inflationary The House also passed six says if any person commits length in a meeting of the fed- ing a composition of 40pc (tax on marketing and distri- appreciated following the eral and commercial inflows pressures. Pakistan had also other bills including the Can- any offence under the Preven- eral cabinet having representa- propane and 60pc butane, to bution). This ultimately leads staff-level agreement with the expected during this quarter agreed to change its stance on IMF, but it then declined due (July-September), according to monetary policy in the coming to demand for the dollars," he the SBP. The foreign exchange months till inflation is clearly

this fiscal year. The MPC noted that the

nal sector challenges have According to the governor, been largely addressed and import restrictions have been investor confidence has shown The MPC stressed main-According to him, the coun- or not to facilitate their clients taining an appropriately tight try is on track to achieve its based on their credit risks. The monetary policy stance with medium-term inflation target governor stated that there are positive real interest rates on no plans for a debt restructur- forward-looking basis to keep

The IMF earlier this month ing during an analysts' briefing inflation and its expectation on The MPC has forecast real gling economy that had been debt is mostly made up of very GDP growth for FY2024 in the range of 2-3 percent, backed by The country's external debt a recovery in economic activ-

> From a record high of 38 inflation fall gradually during

The IMF's country report said. "As a result, depending on reserves held by the central on the decline. The IMF prethe state of the market, it can bank, which currently stand dicted an average inflation rate

Holy Quran to international law, and this said that he had informed them Continued from page 1 during the meeting.

the Middle East. The duo also staged a similar protest outside the OIC said Taha would lead on July 20. Swedish police Union to urge officials there "to Swedish Government has been tages manifold. The mining granted a permit for the pro- take the necessary measures to very clear in its rejection of the

into one general rule in order | Holy Quran desecration and in "the most serious security incidents of desecration of

Underlining the mining to hold public gatherings and on combating Islamophobia. outrage across the Middle East. try. Swedish Prime Minister received a call from Danish Secretary-general His- Ulf Kristersson said a similar Foreign Minister Lars Lokke sein Brahim Taha called on process was already underway, Rasmussen, and raised our

He warned of grave con- that smart industrial clusters replacing the culture of red this regard so far", the 57-mem- have been summoned to a slew. While acknowledging the Dan-Swedish Foreign Minister the Muslim world and condemsession of an extraordinary Tobias Billstrom said that he nation of these abhorrent acts. had been in contact with sev- I stressed the need for stopping "It is unfortunate that the eral of his counterparts among Islamophobic acts that hurt the

leads to a lack of respect for about the process for granting religions," Taha said in remarks permits for public gatherings in Sweden and that police made After the meeting ended, such decisions independently. Billstrom added that he Iraq's embassy in Stockholm a delegation to the European had also reiterated that "the

sector has great potential for test by campaigners hoping to prevent the recurrence of such Islamophobic acts carried out job creation, the minister said | see the Holy Quran banned in criminal acts under the pretext by individuals at demonstra-Arts, Sciences and Technology, various people, including passing the total net worth of the new mining vision of the previously stressed that they tary-General Antonio Guterres Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto grant permits only for people to appoint a special rapporteur Zardari Monday said he received

a call from Danish Foreign Min-On Sunday, neighbouring ister Lars Lokke Rasmussen, Denmark said it would explore and raised deep concern on the The Organisation of Islamic legal means of stopping pro-recent incidents of desecration with the Official Secrets Act which seeks to send introduced sorrow with the JUIF chief opment' was the commence- facilitate foreign direct invest- Cooperation on Monday voiced tests involving the burning of of the Holy Quran in Denmark "disappointment" with the holy texts, citing security con- and other European countries. In a tweet on social media Ahmad Khan protested passage will provide for establishment Asad Mehmood over the loss of and exports as well. "We will was being chaired by the prime burnings that have sparked Quran desecrated in the counplatform Twitter, he said, "I

to repeat these acts contrary bers. In a statement, Billstrom mony and religious tolerance."

ish government's outreach to

Meanwhile, police have cm swelling with a dark bruise funeral prayers held in various. Khan said that he was person-said the blast was "an attempt ally supervising treatment to to weaken democracy". "I was confronted with said the provincial government from Timergara: A five-yearcelebrations of CPEC. The two the world. The prime minister aftermath of the Covid-19 pan-| the wife of the civil judge after been filed with the Supreme | a devastating sight – lifeless shared the grief of bereaved old child, who had sustained receiving a medico-legal report. Court Lahore Registry seeking | bodies scattered on the ground families. Targeting innocent injuries in the Bajaur blast, while people cried out for people was a heinous act, he succumbed to his wounds at Chakdara on way to hospital in Assistant Commissioner, Peshawar, rescue officials said. Khar, Mohibullah Yousafzai, They said Musa, 5, son of Noor told reporters that the admin- Muhammad, breathed his last shoes and prayer caps littered istration had registered 46 mar- while he was being shifted to

CPEC. The second document, projects would be successfully Lifeng and the accompanying signed by Ahsan Iqbal and executed to make Pakistan delegation. Vice Chairman of the National stand on its feet through the Development and Reforms hard work and untiring efforts Arif Alvi conferred Pakistan's issued a written order regard- the IHC had not even been exchange mechanism within is President Xi Jinping's model Pakistan), on Chinese Vice hakhana criminal case.

signing of documents and Council of China He Lifeng Syed Asim Munir, Chief of

Continued from page 1 the House after it was passed by the upper house of Parlia-The bill, which envisages ment on July 27. The Section 26-B of the bill Act, 1952, however, would stops any person subject to be applicable to serving and the Army Act from engaging in retired officers and personnel any kind of political activities of Pakistan Army, including for two years from the date inter alia, the power to grant of retirement, release, resig-

of conditions of service, carry dismissal from service. out welfare activities, national However, a person who ings on the media regarding in political activity of any kind confidence," she said. new provisions in the bill, Law during a period of five years Minister Senator Azam Nazeer from the date of retirement, bill is must for economic and | Rs2,002, and commercial cylin-structure imposes double taxa-Tarar said the insertions and release, resignation, dismissal financial life of the country add- | ders at Rs8,049.

provisions in the bill would not or removal from service. tonments (Amendment) Bill, tion of Electronic Crimes Act tion from all the coalition par- | be Rs130,802/ton. This price to higher LPG prices for con-2023; The Defence Housing (Peca), 2016 with the mala fide ties. "I was also informed by includes an excise duty of sumers. Authority Islamabad (Amend- intention to undermine, ridi- the finance minister that lead- Rs85/ton, while excluding the ment) Bill, 2023; The Fed-cule, or scandalise the armed ers of other parties were also petroleum levy of Rs4,660/ton. ducer prices of LPG are suberal Urdu University of Arts, forces of Pakistan shall be pun-taken into confidence about Consequently, the total cost jected to an 18 per cent GST, move both ways. We want the at \$8.2 billion, are expected to of 25.9 percent for FY2024. Sciences and Technology, ished in the manner prescribed the legislation," he said. Islamabad (Amendment) Bill, in the Peca Law.

sion for Human Development a person subject to the Army opposed suspension of rules | sales tax (GST), the producer 18pc GST of Rs6,300/ton or (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Act, who ridicules, scandalises, to consider the Pakistan Sover-| price would be Rs135,471/ton, Rs74.34 per 11.8kg cylinder Board of Investment (Amend-brings into hatred or otherwise eign Wealth Fund Bill, 2023 and | resulting in a price of Rs1,598.6 on the marketing/distribution ment) Bill, 2023 and the Paki- attempts to lower the armed two other bills without refer- per cylinder. The additional margin of Rs35,000 per ton. stan Sovereign Wealth Fund forces of Pakistan or any part ring those to the concerned thereof in the estimation of standing committees. "We can-The Pakistan Army others shall be punished with not support legislation in this (Amendment) Bill, 2023 seeks imprisonment which may way when government's coalito amend provisions of the extend to two years or fine tion parties are not being taken Pakistan Army Act, 1952 so as both. The Pakistan Sovereign into confidence," she said. to provide the structural under- Wealth Fund Bill, 2023; The The bill, already okayed by Islamabad (Amendment) Bill, those martyred in a terrorist corporate giants such as Apple, government. the Senate last week, provides 2023 and the National Commis- attack in Bajaur on Sunday. Amazon and Google, the min-

Rabbani and Senator Mushtag of the bill in haste while the for- of Pakistan Sovereign Wealth precious lives of their workers extract minerals like copper, minister. mer also staged a walkout from Fund to contribute to sustain- in the Bajaur blast.

forthcoming general polls in

results of the latest census delay. drive and said that delimitation carried out afresh on the basis Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal ince.

Welcoming the prime min-

Shehbaz said Pakistan was ister's vision for deepening

second-highest civil award, ing the hearing of a case against noted in the said order, and, "It is the Chinese model; it Hilal-i-Pakistan (Crescent of the maintainability of Tos- consequently, no stay of the and will emulate it under Premier He Lifeng during an our his role in the promotion of at the steady development of and China. The ceremony was judge were presented before the apex court that the ongo-

Also, Chinese Vice Pre-Vice Premier of the State mier He Lifeng met General thanked the Chinese vice-pre-separately called on Prime Min-Army Staff (COAS), here on mier for visiting Pakistan to ister Shehbaz Sharif and both Monday. During the meeting, He recalled that 10 years ago, sary of CPEC celebrations con- defence cooperation were | the Toshakhana case until a ted the number to Imran's plea CPEC was signed between stituted a fresh starting point to discussed, the Inter-Services | decision on his pending pleas, against the IHC order. the then prime minister Nawaz further expand the initiative as Public Relations (ISPR) said including the question of juris-Sharif and President Xi Jin- envisaged by the leadership of in a statement. Both reiterated diction, before the IHC. the desire to further enhance During the meeting, the and strengthen the bilateral

> able economic development through the management of its funds and assets to achieve their optimal use according to the best international standards, policies and practices to

maximize their value future generation. JUIF parliamentarian opposed suspension of rules to consider the Pakistan Sover-

ing the draft of the proposed

against the interests of the (Amendment) Bill, 2023 were led the Fateha. The chair also press conference here. country or army would be dealt passed after suspending rules, expressed deep grief and

tics for listening to the view-Continued from page 1 of census results before the point of MQM in this regard.

He said it was the MQM's failed to announce valid results The MQM chief hoped that demand that general polls of the latest census campaign. soil would be extracted and added. the federal government would should be held in the coun- He said genuine representa- converted into export items.

Continued from page 1 11.8 kg cylinder.

of Rs1,886.3/11.8kg cylinder. The revised prices would The marketing/ distribution/ eign Wealth Fund Bill, 2023 and affect different cylinder sizes. transportation margin has been making sure it will abide by the two other bills without refer- The 11.8 kg domestic cylinder set at Rs35,000 per ton, com-

In this calculation, the pro-

It said the Facebook posts the recording of his statement Expressing satisfaction bilateral ties between Pakistan associated with the trial court's under Section 342. He prayed The IHC directed the regis- Humayun Dilawar, should be

man requested the Supreme could start its proceedings. Meanwhile, it was learnt celebrate 10 years of CPEC. agreed that the 10th anniver- matters of mutual interest and proceedings against him in that the apex court had allot- he stated.

> On Monday, Barrister Gohar Khan along with Shoaib of 5-7 percent.

GST on 135,471/ton would be

soon formally announce the try transparently without any tives of the people of Sindh | The minister emphasized that welcome every foreign investof the constituencies should be Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, a fair census drive in the prov- mineral resources would bring announced tax incentives for continue to provide licences ing and sent a letter to all mem-need to promote interfaith harsignificant benefits to the investors as well -APP

Man killed, wife

injured for 'honour'

NCSW signs MoU to tackle GBV and women with disabilities

Our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The National Commisgender-based violence (GBV) by signing address this pressing issue. a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Monday.

over the past three years, with 4,000 in-their dedication. cidents reported in the first half of 2020 during COVID-19 lockdowns.

uation, the NCSW joined forces with unique needs and circumstances of STEP and other organisations, includ- women with disabilities in Pakistan. sion on the Status of Women (NCSW) ing the United Nations Population took a significant step in combating Fund (UNFPA), to develop a strategy to preliminary findings from the "Accessi-

The MOU emphasises the inclusion all relevant stakeholders and institu-facilitated by Shabana Arif from NCSW and mainstreaming of women with distions to eliminate such discrimination and Dilshad Pari from UNFPA aimed to abilities in their efforts. The move as soon as possible. He cited the councreate comprehensive guidelines for comes after a recent report by the Na- try's endorsement of the United National Commission of Human Rights tions Convention on the Rights of Per-(NCHR) revealed a staggering 63,000 sons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in pressed gratitude to all participants for cases of GBV reported in the country 2008, ratified in 2011, as evidence of their active involvement and reaffirmed

a transformative consultation session disabilities in Pakistan. The MoU The report highlights that 80 per that engaged diverse stakeholders from signed by NCSW, STEP, UNFPA, and cent of these cases were related to do- government bodies, law enforcement others signifies a promising collaboramestic violence, with approximately 47 agencies, human rights organisations, tion towards addressing gender-based per cent involving domestic rape, with and media representatives. The session violence and supporting women with married women experiencing sexual aimed to develop guidelines for GBV disabilities.

abuse. In response to this alarming sit-referral pathways tailored to meet the

Zehra Kamal, a GBV expert, shared bility Assessment Study of GBV Service NCSW Secretary Khawaja Imran Providers," providing insights for effec-Raza emphasised the commitment of tive solutions. The consultation session GBV referral pathways.

A representative from STEP ex-STEP's dedication to advocating for the The collaborative effort resulted in rights and well-being of women with

Hamid Abbasi to contest election from PP-17

RAWALPINDI: Information Secretary of PMLN district Rawalpindi Hamid Abbasi food to address malnutrition. election from constituency She explained that food PP-17 of Rawalpindi, says a

On this occasion, former demanded of the Pakistan Shazia said the govern- Muslim League-N leadership

Khurrum Sher made Karachi PTI chief again

By our correspondent

Karachi: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's and killed her husband in a firing in-admitted to an intensive care ward of (PTI) parliamentary party leader in the cident in the Pehlwan Goth area of the JPMC. Provincial Assembly of Sindh, Khurrum Gulistan-e-Jauhar on the night be-Sher Zaman, has been re-appointed PTI tween Sunday and Monday. Karachi President by the party's Chairman Imran Khan.

With his second full term as a member a slum near Pahlwan Goth Bari Imam restaurant in Pehlwan Goth. of the PA from Karachi coming to an end, Bargah within the limits of the Gulis-Zaman assumes the role of PTI Karachi | tan-e-Jauhar police station by his the house of Zahra's mother where president, reads a press release issued by brother-in-law Abbas Hussain for ho- the couple had gone on her invitathe PTI on Monday.

Khan for entrusting him with the responsi- Zahra Batool, in the incident. bility of running the party's affairs in the city, Zaman pledged his unwavering loyalty | reached the scene and shifted the cato the party's vision and ideology. He also reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening the party's organisation in Karachi and Abbas was a rickshaw driver who hind. Safdar fell into the nullah after to ensuring the victory of all PTI candidates in the next general elections.

Zaman said that besides forming a robust cabinet of the PTI's Karachi chapter, woman had married a month ago daughter and the deceased man was his key priorities include the release of without the permission of the her son-in-law. She also named her the party's incarcerated workers and supporters.

woman's family.

of honour and fled the scene.

By our correspondent

woman while the man was shot twice in his back and neck. The condition KARACHI: A man injured his sister of the woman is also critical as she is

Safdar hailed from Jalalpur Pirwala in Multan district, while his wife Police said Mohammad Safdar, 26, hailed from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

son of Fazal Karim, was shot dead in The deceased was employed at a The firing incident took place at nour. The suspect also injured his 20- tion. Late at night, Hussain suddenly Expressing his gratitude to PTI chief year-old sister and Safdar's wife, came home and was infuriated to see

his sister and brother-in-law. He took

Police and rescue workers out a pistol and shot both of them. Safdar ran towards a nullah besualties to Jinnah Postgraduate Med-hind the house in a bid to save his ical Centre (JPMC). Police said life, but the suspect fired from becommitted the shooting in the name being shot and died.

Zahra's mother told the police The deceased man and the injured that the injured woman was her son Hussain as the killer. Police said A bullet hit the left eye of the they were searching for the suspect.

Cino-Pak academia level linkages get boost

ISLAMABAD: The cooperation in the realm of education, be it university-to-university linkages, academia-industry collaboration or the number of Pakistani students studying in China, are all reflective of Attaché of Pakistani Embassy in China.

PASS" Pakistan Theme Day | carry out the survey. China-Pakistan Education Cotries have laid the ground- Nawaz Ali. work for partnerships in the Gwadar Pro reported. — INP | a development programme the occasion.

Survey being held to register women living below poverty line: Shazia Marri

By Aftab Ahmed

HYDERABAD: A survey is Currently, a total of 617 Dy-

Talking to the media dur- on a quarterly basis. education sector. The number ing the visit, she said the Pak-

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY

e-Bidding System

CORRIGENDUM-I

INVITATION OF PROPOSALS FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

THROUGH NHA e-BIDDING SYSTEM

03x PERIODIC MAINTENANCE WORKS

ON MOTORWAY M-4 (CENTRAL ZONE REGION)

CONTRACT NO. PM-2022-23-M4-04,

PM-2022-23-M4-05 & PM-2022-23-M4-06

Reference: Notice for Invitation of Proposals for Pre-Qualification through NHA e-Bidding

System for the subject procurement of Periodic Maintenance Works on Motorway M-4 of

Central Zone published in National Dailies dated July 16, 2023 vide PIDNo.PID(I)296/23 and the

 With reference to above referred Invitation of PQ Notice, it is informed to all concerned that the deadline for submission and opening of e-Applications through NHA e-Bidding System

DIRECTOR (COORD) CENTRAL ZONE

National Highway Authority Shahour Interchange, Thokar Niaz Baig, Multan Road, Lahore

Tel:042-99232565, Fax: 042-99232557, Email: dir-coord-cz@nha.gov.pk Websites: www.ebidding.nha.gov.pk, www.ppra.org.pk

All other terms and conditions of above referred Notice shall remain same.

(Enhanced Version) for the subject procurement works is extended up to August 18, 2023

till 1100 Hours (e-Applications Submission) and will be opened on the same day at 1130

same was also uploaded on websites of NHA & PPRA

Hours (e-Applications Opening) respectively.

شفاف ، تيز اور جديد

had been provided nutritious has announced to contest

being carried out to register under the programme was press release. the confidence and stability of women living below the provided to women and chilthe unique ties between Pak- poverty line so that more dedren up to the age of two chairmen of various union istan and China," said Ms. serving women could be in- years, and it produced good councils of Rawalpindi an-Afifa Shajia Awais, Education | cluded in the Benazir Income results on the health of the | nounced their support and Support Program (BISP). mothers and their children.

At the 2023 "Shared Aspi- namic Registry Centres are ment had distributed Rs70 to give ticket to Hamid Abrations, Beyond Khunjerab functioning countrywide to billion among the flood vic- basi. He stated this while tims in a timely manner and it | talking to various UCs chair-Federal Minister for was working continuously men in a meeting. operation Promotion Confer- Poverty Alleviation and So- for the rehabilitation of the ence held by Pakistan China cial Security Shazia Atta flood victims. She said the Centre at SCO Demonstration | Marri said this on Monday as government had also ex-Area, Afifa Shajia Awais noted she visited the Benazir Develtended the scope of the Bethat the growing economic opment Centre established in nazir Kafalat Programme and ties between the two coun- the Rural Health Centre Jam through it nine million families were being given Rs8,750

Sanghar Deputy Commisof Pakistani students studying istan Peoples Party had al-sioner Muhammad Ishaq in China stands at a good ways organised programmes Gad, District Health Officer 26,000 and 25 per cent of for the welfare of the poor Dr Faiz Muhammad Marri, them are recipients of differ class. She said 770,000 preg-Regional Director PPHI Fida ent types of scholarships of | nant women, newborns and Hussain Lashari and other offered by the Chinese govt, lactating women registered in ficers were also present on

MECHANICAL COMPLEX TENDER NOTICE NO. HMC - 54/2023

Scaled tenders are invited on FOR HMC basis from suppliers registered with income tax / sales tax departments for supply of following foundry items(s)

S.#	Description	Qty.	Case No.
1	Ferro Silicon Powder	03 Lot	FFW-23-008-010 (FOR)
2	Ferro Silicon Lumps	03 Lot	FFW-23-011-013 (FOR)
3	Ferro Manganese H/C	03 Lot	FFW-23-014-016 (FOR)
4	Magnesite Sand	03 Lot	FFW-23-017-019 (FOR)

Bids prepared in accordance with the instructions in the bidding documents, must reach at Admin Block (Addressed to CFO Office), HMC Taxila on or before Closing date 17-08-2023 at 1400 Hrs. for opening on the same day at 1430 Hrs at Admin Bidding documents, containing detailed Terms & Conditions etc.

are available in Department of Supply Chain Management (Details are Available on HMC Website). This advertisement is also available on HMC & PPRA websites www.hmc.com.pk & www.ppra.org.pk HMC reserves the right to accept or reject all bids and to

annul the tendering process at any stage prior to award the Contract / Purchase Order

Supply Chain Management, HMC, Taxila. Board (PABX): +92 51-9314181-5, 051-9314262, Ext. 618, Email: procurement.hmc@gmail.com, director.scm@hmc.com.pk

A Public Sector Organization Invites Pre-Qualification

PREQUALIFICATION NOTICE NO.02/2023

registered with FBR and PEC in following categories:

applications from contractors/ firms & consultants

i) Civil, Electrical, Mechanical, HVAC & Furnishing Contractors/firms.

i) Civil Work Consultants

Survey

Design of Highways and Landing Strips

Sikandar Abdul Karin

c. Hydraulic Design

 d. Master Planning & Infrastructure Design e. Environmental Design

Offshore/Marine Structures

9- Deep Foundations & Soil Stabilization

Pre-Engineered Structure Design/Light Gauge Structure/Pre-Fabricated Structure Design, Etc.

Enlistment documents for relevant works can be purchased @ Rs. 3000/- per form (non-refundable) in the form of bank draft in favour of Director Finance. These documents can be obtained till 29-09-2023 by 1600 hrs during office hours from Monday to Friday, Duly filled Documents must reach at under mentioned address by TCS or registered post only on or before 13-10-2023 by 1300 hrs. Applications received later than given date shall not be entertained. Competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any application which shall not be challengeable anywhere.

Manager (CMD) Al-Noor Plaza, Khanna Dak Sohan, Near Expressway P.O.Box 1998, Islamabad. 051-2612047

<u>IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH AT KARACHI</u>

SUIT NO. 1855 OF 2020

Rafig Hail Usman Son of (late) Haji Usman, Resident of 64/1, 14th

Shahnaz Rafiq wife of Rafiq Haji Usman, Resident of 64/1, 14thi Lane

Shahwaiz Raflq Son of Rafiq Haji Usman, Resident of 64/1, 14th Lane

Sherizan Rafiq Daughter of Rafiq Haji Usman and wife of Saad lobal

Resident of 23/1, Main Khayaban-e-Muhafiz, Phase VI, DHA, Karachi. Shahmeer Rafiq Son of Rafiq Haji Usman, Resident of 64/1, 14th Lane,

Hajra Begum W/o Haroon Ahmed (Late) Resident of 64/1, 14th Lane

Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan, State Life Building

Karachi Development Authority, Through its Director General, 1st Floor

Sindh Building Control Authority, Through its Director General, Civic

Director Master Planning Department, Karachi Development Authority

(KDA), Civic Centre, University Road, Block-14, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi

Defence Housing Authority (Islamabad), Through its Administrator

Defence Mall, Jinnah Avenue, Phase I, Defence Housing, Islamabad. Ministry Works Society, Office situated in Pakistan Barracks, Opposite

Whereas the Plaintiff above named has instituted a suit against you for

DECLARATION, PERMANENT INJUNCTION, RENDITION OF ACCOUNTS.

You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person, or by a pleader

instructed, and able to answer all material questions relating to the suit or who shall be accompanied by some person able to answer all such questions on

29th day of August 2023 at 09:30 a,m. to answer the claim; and you are

directed to produce on that day all the documents upon which you intend to

reply in support of your defence and file your Written Statement on or before

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned the

Registrar of Assurances, Karachi, Block-F, City Courts, Karachi.

Centre, University Road, Block-14, Gulshan-e-Igbal, Karachi

Sindh High Court, Near Passport Office, Saddar, Karachi,

RECOVERY OF MONEY, POSSESSION AND DAMAGES)

suit will be heard and determined in your absence

(The Defendants No. 1 to 6, 8 to 12, 14 & 17)

Off Khayaban-e-Badban, DNA Phase VI, Karachi

Off Khayaban-e-Badban, DHA, Phase VI, Karachi.

Off Khayaban-e-Badban, DHA Phase VI, Karachi.

Off Khayaban-e-Badban, DHA Phase VI, Karachi.

off I.I. Chundrigar Road, Karachi.

Civic Centre, Gulshan-e-Igbal, Karachi.

Lane, Off Khayaban-e-Badban, DNA, Phase VI, Karachi.



MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY

e-Bidding System

شفاف، تيز اور جديد

CORRIGENDUM-I

INVITATION OF PROPOSALS FOR PRE-OUALIFICATION THROUGH NHA e-BIDDING SYSTEM

05x PERIODIC MAINTENANCE WORKS (CENTRAL ZONE REGION)

CONTRACT NO. PM-2022-23-PN-01, PM-2022-23-PN-02, PM-2022-23-PN-03, PM-2022-23-PN-04 & PM-2022-23-PN-05

Reference: Notice for Invitation of Proposals for Pre-Qualification through NHA e-Bidding System for the subject procurement of Periodic Maintenance Works of Central Zone published in National Dailies dated July 18, 2023 vide PIDNO.PID(I)372/23 and the same was also published on websites of NHA & PPRA.

- With reference to above referred Invitation of PQ Notice, it is informed to all concerned that the deadline for submission and opening of e-Applications through NHA e-Bidding System (Enhanced Version) for the subject procurement works is extended up to August 18, 2023 till 1100 Hours (e-Applications Submission) and will be opened on the same day at 1130 Hours (e-Applications Opening) respectively.
- All other terms and conditions of above referred Notice shall remain same.

DIRECTOR (COORD) CENTRAL ZONE

National Highway Authority

Shahpur Interchange, Thokar Niaz Baig, Multan Road, Lahore Tel:042-99232565, Fax: 042-99232557, Email: dir-coord-cz@nha.gov.pk Websites: www.ebidding.nha.gov.pk, www.ppra.org.pk

PID(I)655/23

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INVITATION TO E-BID THROUGH SAP-ARIBA DISCOVERY

Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) is the largest Exploration & Production Company listed on Pakistan and London Stock Exchange. Details about the company can be obtained from website http://www.ogdcl.com. Bids are invited through SAP-Ariba Discovery for the service/material given below under competitive bidding procedure as per Public Procurement Regulatory Authority

(hh	RAJTules.			
#	TENDER ENQUIRY NO.	DESCRIPTION	BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME	BID OPENING DATE & TIMI
1-	OGDCL-SCM- SERVICES-CB- LOG-213898048- 2023	Shifting of OGDCL RIG SK-750 from Qadirpur-31 TO KAL-01	17-08-2023 At 10:30 Hrs.	17-08-2023 At 11:00 Hrs.

- Vendors not having Ariba Network ID are requested to register themselves on SAP Ariba Portal by clicking on the link supplier.ariba.com to access and participate in OGDCL tenders.
- downloaded from SAP-Ariba RFP by clicking on the link discovery.ariba.com/profile/ AN01562899621. Original Bid Bonds as per RFP/Tender Document shall be submitted at the reception of OGDCL

Complete Tender document(s) along with Scope of Work / TOR / Clarifications can be viewed and

- House, Jinnah Avenue, Blue Area, Islamabad, Pakistan on or before bid submission date and time mentioned above. OGDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all
- the bids as per Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Rule-33. EXTENSION

TENDER

ENQUIRY NO.

PnP-60-420-

212647527-

2023

ATA-2023 Jobs at

UCH (I) and (II) Plants

Balochistan Province.

Reference to our Press Tender Notice published in national newspapers on 08.07.2023, it is notified that the bids submission/opening date is extended as follows: DESCRIPTION FROM TO OGDCL-SCM- Hiring of Services DATE: 07-08-2023 DATE: 01-08-2023 SERVICES-CB- for Execution of

SUBMISSION: 10:30 Hrs

OPENING: 11:00 Hrs

SUBMISSION: 10:30 Hrs

OPENING: 11:00 Hrs

Bid submission/opening time and all other terms & conditions shall remain unchanged. Bidders are requested to contact In-Charge Supply Chain Management (SCM) Services at Phone #+92-51-92002-3750 for further queries / information.

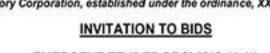
This Tender Notice is also available on PPRA website www.ppra.org.pk and OGDCL website **GENERAL MANAGER**



IRFAN MAHMOOD SHAIKH, GENERAL MANAGER (MR&S) PNSC, Building, First Floor, M.T Khan Road, Karachi.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court on this 31st day of July 2023. BY ORDER ASSISTANT REGISTRAR D-II





EMERGENT TENDER PROVISIO 13 (1)

INTERNATIONAL TENDER FOR PROCUREMENT OF ULTRASONIC THICKNESS GAUGING SERVICES FOR PNSC MANAGED VESSEL M. T. LAHORE

Tender No MRD/18787/UT-GAUG/LHR/231 1. Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC), invites bids for

Procurement of Ultrasonic Thickness Gauging Services for PNSC Managed Vessel M.T. LAHORE, as per clause-36(a) Read with Provisio 13 (1) of PPRA 2004. Procurement Notice (PN) for the subject Project/Services which appeared in Print Media, PPRA & PNSC websites.

PNSC has reserved the funds for the services planned during the financial year 2023-24. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for the PNSC MANAGED VESSEL M. T. "LAHORE" -ULTRASONIC THICKNESS GAUGING

. Bidding Documents, may be obtained free of cost from the address stated below during office hours 09:00 am to 04:00 pm (PKT) from Monday to Friday or can be downloaded from PNSC website www.pnsc.com.pk till August 10th, 2023.

. Bidding documents duly filled-in signed & stamped, shall be protected E-mail received on utgauging@pnsc.com.pk latest by 12:00 Noon (PKT) & 07:00 (GMT), on August 11th, 2023 which will be opened on the same day at 12:30 pm (PKT) & 07:30 (GMT), in Conference Room, 15 Floor, PNSC Building, in the presence of bidders who wish to

5. PNSC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids as per

Cell # +92 300 0224326, Dir: 021 99204016 (313) Email: irfan.mahmood@pnsc.com.pk (for query only) & estankers@pnsc.com.pkWebsite: www.pnsc.com.pk

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY

e-Bidding System شفاف، تيز اور جديد

CORRIGENDUM-I

INVITATION OF PROPOSALS FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION THROUGH NHA e-BIDDING SYSTEM 09x PERIODIC MAINTENANCE WORKS

(CENTRAL ZONE REGION) Contract No. PM-2022-23-PS-06, PM-2022-23-PS-07, PM-2022-23-PS-08, PM-2022-23-PS-09,

PM-2022-23-PS-10, PM-2022-23-PS-11, PM-2022-23-PS-12, PM-2022-23-PS-13 & PM-2022-23-PS-14

Reference: Notice for Invitation of Proposals for Pre-Qualification through NHA e-Bidding System for the subject procurement of Periodic Maintenance Works of Central Zone Region published in National Dailies dated July 23, 2023 vide PIDNO.PID(I)496/23 and the same was also uploaded on websites of NHA & PPRA.

- 1. With reference to above referred Invitation of PQ Notice, it is informed to all concerned that the deadline for submission and opening of e-Applications through NHA e-Bidding System (Enhanced Version) for the subject procurement works is extended up to August 23, 2023 till 1000 Hours (e-Applications Submission) and will be opened on the same day at 1030 Hours (e-Applications Opening) respectively.
- All other terms and conditions of above referred Notice shall remain same. DIRECTOR (COORD) CENTRAL ZONE

National Highway Authority Shahpur Interchange, Thokar Niaz Baig, Multan Road, Lahore

Tel:042-99232565, Fax: 042-99232557, Email: dir-coord-cz@nha.gov.pk Websites: www.ebidding.nha.gov.pk, www.ppra.org.pk

PID(I)656/23

Why are Hollywood actors on strike?

David Arditi

or the first time since 960, actors and screenwriters are on strike at the same time.

As with many of the other strikes that have rippled across the United States over the past three years, this walkout is over demands for better pay and restrictions on their employers' use of technology to replace paid work.

The actors' strike began on July 14, 2023, after their union, SAG-AFTRA, voted to end negotiations with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which represents the major production studios. The main concerns of the union which represents 160,000 actors and people in other creative professions - center around compensation on streaming platforms, such as Netflix and Amazon Prime, and artificial intelligence.

Screenwriters, who have been on strike since May 2, have similar concerns.

The two strikes have halted U.S. TV and movie production. Premieres are being canceled, and Emmy-nominated actors aren't campaigning for those prestigious TV awards.

Ever since Louis Le Prince filmed the first movie, 'Roundhay

Garden Scene', in 1888, actors have earned a living through their work being shown on screens small and large.

The first hit shows on TV aired in the mid-1940s, but actors initially earned far less from television than movies. Around 1960, with the advent of hits like 'Leave It to Beaver'. 'Beverly Hillbillies' and 'Bonanza', TV became very profitable. TV's growing prestige and economic heft gave television actors newfound power at the contract negotiating table.

Actors demanded that their craft be compensated for TV shows about as highly as for their film appearances. Led by future President Ronald Reagan and Charlton Heston - who went on to serve as a National Rifle Association president - the Screen Actors Guild went on strike on March 7, 1960. Among that union's top demands: health care coverage and residuals for movies aired on television, reruns and syndication. Residuals are a form of roy-

alty paid to actors when movies and TV shows air on television after their initial run. That can include reruns, syndication and the broadcasting of movies on television.

The actors union's strike, which coincided then as today with a screenwriters strike, successfully negotiated a contract

with executives that resolved the residuals conflict and secured health care coverage for its members.

That contract applied to broadcasting and, years later, cable TV.

But it doesn't work for streaming, because streamed shows aren't scheduled. Whereas 'Friends', a sitcom that initially aired on NBC, is available today on Max, formerly HBO Max, through syndication, and its acbook, 'Streaming Culture', streaming has fundamentally changed the production and consumption of both TV and film while blurring the lines between them.

People consume different types of media through subscriptions and streaming technology than they do while watching broadcast TV and cable television. Actors and writers are concerned that their compensation hasn't kept

als pay a flat rate for foreign and domestic streams. A streaming original film or TV show earns a set amount for residuals in its domestic market and second set amount for foreign markets. This fee doesn't change based on popularity or the number of times a production is streamed.

But streaming has changed more than residuals for actors and writers. It has also transformed how TV shows are made.

Many TV seasons have

Although residuals and the number of episodes have until now been negotiable, perhaps the strike's biggest issue is the studios' use of artificial intelligence. Actors fear studios will use AI to replace actors in the future. Without a contract that says otherwise, once a studio films an actor, it can potentially use the actor's likeness in perpetuity

tors receive relevant residuals, 'Orange Is the New Black' originated on Netflix. Because it never runs on a different platform via syndication, the actors in its cast earn paltry residuals in comparison - even though viewers are still watching the show's seven seasons.

Hwang Dong-hyuk, the creator of 'Squid Game', forfeited all residuals when he cut a deal with Netflix. It earned Netflix nearly US\$1 billion, but Hwang got none of that bounty.

As I explained in my 2021

up with this transformation.

And the actors who are on strike argue that the formulas in place since 1960 to calculate residuals don't work anymore.

Residuals paid for roles in broadcast TV shows are based on the popularity of those programs, with actors earning far more for hits like 'Grey's Anatomy' and 'NCIS' than for duds. Hit shows can have a second life on streaming platforms and result in actors getting paid again for that earlier work.

In contrast, streaming residu-

grown shorter since streaming became the norm, falling from 20 or more episodes to 10 or fewer per season.

That's because streamers started making shows with lower budgets, as it costs less to produce fewer episodes. The studios also cut costs by hiring fewer writers.

Since actors are typically paid per episode in which they perform, their salaries have dropped by virtue of having fewer appearances in even the most popular shows.

The gaps between seasons have also grown longer and more unpredictable. Every season of the nine-year run of 'Seinfeld' on NBC began in the fall and ended the next spring, then picked up again the next fall.

Streaming shows are far less predictable.

Amazon Prime's 'The Marvelous Mrs Maisel' paused for more than two years between seasons 3 and 4.

The same streamer aired the first season of 'Lord of the Rings: Power of the Rings', in September 2022, but Season 2 won't be released until late 2024.

As gaps between seasons grow, some actors are having a harder and harder time making ends meet.

Another change has to do with the question of whether particular shows will keep going. In conventional broadcast or cable television, networks determine whether they will renew a show during the period known as "sweeps," at the end of a TV season. Since streaming television has no defined seasons, these decisions can drag on.

This can leave actors and writers in limbo. And their contracts often stop them from working on other shows between seasons.

Although residuals and the number of episodes have until now been negotiable, perhaps the strike's biggest issue is the studios' use of artificial intelli-

Actors fear studios will use AI to replace actors in the future. Without a contract that says otherwise, once a studio films an actor, it can potentially use the actor's likeness in perpetuity. This means a background actor could be shot for one episode of a TV show and continue to be seen in the background for seasons without pay.

That hasn't happened yet, but many actors are certain it will.

Actors object to the possibility that studios will seek to "own our likeness in perpetuity, including after we're dead, use us in their movies without any consent, without any compensation to our performers, especially background performers," said actor Shaan Sharma, best known for his role on "The Chosen." "It's inhumane. It is dystopian."

Until now, actors and writers say, the studios have refused to negotiate over AI with actors or writers. But both unions see AI as a threat to their members' livelihoods, a point SAG-AFTRA President Fran Drescher made on MSNBC.

Excerpted: 'Actors are Demanding that Hollywood Catch Up with Technological Changes in a Sequel to a 1960 Strike. Courtesy: Counterpunch.org

From rhetoric to reality

Raza Hussain Qazi



steroids" by the UN secretary-general. The calamity left a third of Pakistan under water and caused widespread devastation, besides killing over 1,700 people, displacing 7.9 million and causing \$30 billion worth of damage to the economy. Over 1.5 million hectares of crops were wiped out; more than 2.0 million homes were partially damaged or completely destroyed, and

the flood waters. The unprecedented devastation happened during the most turbulent times when Pakistan's economy was already struggling because of debt repayments, political uncertainty, a balanceof-payments crisis, and the rising inflation fuelled by pressures such as post-Covid-19 supply chain disruptions

over 1.0 million livestock perished in

and the war in Ukraine. The situation in Pakistan in the early phases could not get sufficient coverage in the international media. The response by the global humanitarian actors largely remained lukewarm, distant and insufficient. In many ways, the support which was pledged in the consecutive emergency appeals is far from actual realization.

Millions of men and women and infants and children affected by the floods are still struggling with displacement, and lack of access to safe water, adequate food, shelter, health, and essentials. On the top of that, the ever-rising inflation in the country has further exacerbated the ordeal of the affected communities that are now experiencing acute food insecurity.

Affected women and children in Sindh and Balochistan face a heightened risk of malnutrition, dehydration, and water-borne diseases. Similarly, hundreds of thousands of children (especially girls) are at high risk of being permanent school dropouts.

Last year, the Global North diaspora, a few international non-governmental organizations, and welfare networks were seen at the forefront of the humanitarian response, carrying out most of the charity work and voicing concerns about the flood situation in Pakistan. It was also quite

Capital suggestion

Dr Farrukh Saleem

surprising to see that a few international organizations outperformed institutional donors. Some welfare organizations were quick to reach the people in dire need and worked hard in the affected areas.

munities across the country have yet nities are still in the relief and recovery again shown resilience and generosity and worked on a self-help basis to support the flood-relief response. The active role of the locals in charity has been a hallmark of Pakistani society in times of natural disasters. Yet, the country needs a well-coordinated strategy to cope with such a mammoth climate catastrophe.

Even though the government has worked hard to ease the suffering of flood victims, it has failed to establish a well-integrated mechanism among the

Millions of people affected by the 2022 floods are still struggling with displacement and lack of access to safe water, adequate food, shelter and health

key stakeholders: humanitarian actors, donors, civil society, diaspora, government and vulnerable communities.

For the past 20 years, the country has consistently ranked among the top 10 most vulnerable countries on the Climate Risk Index. The catastrophic floods have further exposed the vulnerability of communities to climate change. Against this backdrop, it is significant to conduct a meaningful stocktake for mid-course correction.

What makes the international humanitarian architecture response and institutional donors fall short of meeting the real needs on the ground? Do we have any coordination gaps that need to be addressed at various levels? The Pakistani diaspora played a proactive and crucial role and a few INGOs were leading the response, so what makes these networks so effective? What have we learned from the 2010 and 2022 floods in terms of policy and plans?

We are witnessing the onset of El Nino, the infamous climate pattern that poses renewed threats to the world at large and vulnerable nations in particu-

Last chance?

lar. It is known for unleashing heat surge and moistures that could trigger extreme weather events. There is a strong likelihood that we may experience something unprecedented - similar to the 2022 floods. The timing could There is no doubt that affected com- not be direr when the affected commuphase while families are waiting for government support to rebuild their lost homes and livelihoods.

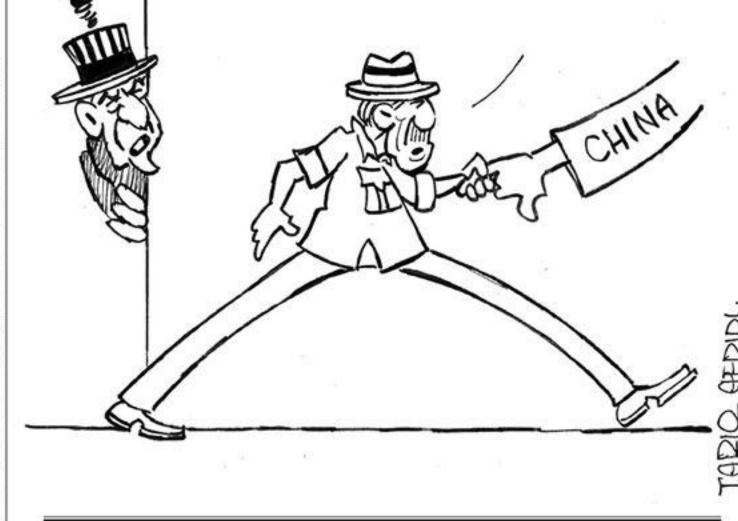
The impending situation calls for robust initiatives on building resilience which can ensure that vulnerable communities are less exposed to the ravages of looming climate shocks and better prepared whenever disasters strike. The most critical is the country's National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

The development will arrange crucial finance to fund adaptation projects that can help build ecosystem resilience through nature-based solutions (NBS) on the ground. This needs to be complemented by a national loss-anddamage framework backed by an inclusive and informed assessment of the Loss and Damage across the communities. The local loss-and-damage lens needs to be focused on resilient infrastructure, agriculture, early warning

systems, and industry. Drawing lessons from the floods and realizing the insufficiency of the international humanitarian response, we need to find long-term solutions to the challenges if Pakistan is to 'build back better'. Similarly, there is a need to work together on climate emergency and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under a new unified strategy with harmonized plans, policies and projects to deliver significant progress on both agendas more effectively.

The dire situation demands that world leaders apply a far-reaching, forward-looking, action-oriented and comprehensive response to the global challenge of climate change. It is high time the UN, humanitarian actors, institutional donors and multilateral development banks included climate considerations into their strategies, policies, and plans. Climate disasters are not going away, so the most vulnerable and impacted want 'rhetoric' to translate into 'reality'.

The writer is a climate governance expert and works for global development organizations in the areas of research, advisory, policy analysis and legislative reforms.



Electoral reforms

Khalid Bhatti

joint session of

parliament



(Amendment) Bill 2023 last week. Through this bill, the coalition government has made 54 amendments in the Election Act 2017, most of which are aimed at ensuring timely compila-

tion and announcement of election

results. These time limits have been set for the presiding officer to transmit the election results to the Election Commission of Pakistan and the returning officer. According to the new law, the presiding officer shall immediately take a snapshot of the result of the count and as soon as connectivity is available - and it is practicable – send it electronically or through other appropriate technologies to the ECP and the returning officer before sending the origi-

nal documents under Section 90. In case of internet unavailability, the presiding officer (PO) will personally deliver the actual result. To ensure timely declaration of results, the bill proposes a deadline of 2am on the day following the election for the presiding officer to announce the results. If there is any delay, a concrete reason must be provided. The final results must be declared by 10am the next day.

Delimitation of constituencies will be finalized four months before the election schedule, and constituencies will be based on an equal number of registered voters with a maximum five per cent difference in voter count. Complaints regarding demarcations can be made within 30 days, and the ECP is required to publish polling staff details on their website.

Polling staff will not be allowed to perform duty in their tehsil during elections. The candidates can challenge the deployment of the polling staff within 10 days.

The bill says that officials of lawenforcement agencies shall be posted for security duties outside the polling stations but - in case of any emergencies - may be called inside by the PO to restore order and peaceful polling. Under the bill, the contesting candidates may use their existing bank accounts for election expenses.

Section 230 of the Election Act has been amended to give more powers to interim governments to take decisions regarding the econ-

omy. The bill empowers caretaker governments to take actions or decisions regarding the existing bilateral or multilateral agreements or projects already initiated under the Public Private Partnership Authority Act 2017, the inter-governmental commercial transactions Act 2022 and the Privatization Commission Ordi-

These amendments will help conduct free, fair and transparent elections. But other important issues have been left unattended. Nothing has been done to stop or even minimize the role of money in elections. Elections have become expensive, and little has been done to provide an atmosphere in which poor peasants, women, and sections of the working class can exercise

Free, fair, transparent and open elections strengthen the democratic process and help establish confidence in democracy. We need to further strengthen election procedures to encourage participation in elections

their democratic right without any fear, repression, pressures and undue influence.

The important question here is whether these amendments will be able to stop rigging and manipulation of results. The example of the 2018 elections showed that electoral reforms alone cannot stop political engineering, manipulation and rigging.

Despite electoral reforms, the 2018 elections were tarnished by allegations of rigging and manipulation of the results. The Result Transmission System (RTS) was down, or at least it was not used by a majority of presiding officers (POs) in about 85,000 polling stations across Pakistan. The failure of the RTS on election night raised many questions. The PPP, PML-N, JUI-F, MQM-P and other parties rejected the results and leveled allegations of rigging.

There is no doubt that conducting free, fair, transparent and clean elections is the basic responsibility of the ECP, but political parties have an important role to play as well. The ECP alone cannot conduct clean and fair elections with out the support of political parties as well as national and provincial

administrations. Democratic governments gain legitimacy through free, fair and transparent elections. The will of the people expressed freely through authentic elections is the foundation for the authority of a democratic government. Transparency in the election process - from campaigning to election results - is a must for credible elections.

Free, fair, transparent and open elections strengthen the democratic process and help establish confidence in democracy. We need to further strengthen election procedures - from the casting of votes to the counting and consolidation of results - to encourage participation in and support for the electoral system. Transparency is essential to the electoral process because it eliminates the appearance of impropriety and limits the possibility

of electoral fraud. A transparent election process does not simply depend on voter registration, free campaigning, monitors, transparent procedures and secret ballots; it must also be able to deal promptly and effectively with different types of complaints that will inevitably arise - everything from the denial of voter registration to an individual who attempts to suppress voter turnout.

The ECP needs to develop an efficient and reliable mechanism to address the complaints of voters and candidates on polling day. Timely intervention could solve many problems that occur during polling.

A number of factors have under mined the integrity of Pakistan's electoral process over time. Allegations of widespread electoral fraud and manipulation have eroded confidence in the electoral system and rule of law. The other problem is that electoral politics is confined within a small circle of elite politicians. Elitist electoral politics has already sidelined the working class and even the middle class from participating in elections. Military regimes introduced

electoral politics that is based on clan, caste, sect, tribe, religion, power and money; political leaders and parties followed this path and encouraged this form of politics. This kind of politics needs to be discouraged.

The writer is a freelance journalist.

or a staggering 73 years, ever since our joining the IMF in 1950, we have been in and out of the IMF Emergency Ward not once, not twice, but a mind-boggling 22 times. Yes, you read that right – almost once every three years during our entire existence as a nation.

It is time to confront the uncomfortable truth: our own doctors treating our economy either do not have the political will to nurse the patient back to health or, worse yet, they are incompetent. And now, here we are, back in the dreaded Emergency Ward, still shamelessly preoccupied with petty zero-sum political games. A prime example of this reckless behaviour can be observed in the PML-N's nomination of Ishaq Dar as the caretaker prime minister and the PPP's re-

jection of it being 'fake news'. It's high

time we face the harsh reality and de-

mand real, decisive action to rescue

well be our last chance. Do our decision-makers look serious?

We cannot continue to treat the IMF satisfy anyone's immediate political needs without addressing the underlying issues that keep landing us in this dire situation. We need to see a united front that prioritizes the nation's interests over partisan interests. It is high time for a paradigm shift in the way we approach our economic challenges. We have reached a crossroads, and the decisions made in the next three to six months will define our economic trajectory for years to come.

The necessary condition is political stability. But political stability on its own cannot take us out of the Emergency Ward. The sufficient condition is a defined, evidence-based economic policy - devoid of any political biases or considerations. To break free from this crippling cycle, we must undertake a resolute and decisive four-step plan. First, achieve a unanimous consensus within the ruling elite. Second, unhesitatingly enlist economic expertise from outside the government to guide the government in getting out of the Emergency Ward. Third, fortify our eco-

our ailing economy. This could very nomic institutions, ensuring they possess the strength and resilience to weather any future storm. Lastly, and most crucially, adopt an unyielding Emergency Ward as a revolving door to commitment to an evidence-based economic policy, one that rests on concrete data and sound analysis. There is no room for half-hearted measures or political expediency. The path to salvation lies in unwavering determination and bold action. In conclusion, we cannot afford to

squander this opportunity. This is our last chance to avert the recurring nightmare of economic instability. It is time to rise above political gamesmanship. The path to economic redemption requires a united effort. Our destiny as a nation is in our hands, and we must act now before it's too late. Together, we can build a thriving economy, ensuring a brighter future for generations to come. Do our leaders possess the necessary political will and capacity to finally terminate their zero-sum games, partisan bickering, and rhetorical attacks? Only time will reveal the answer.

The writer is a columnist based in Islamabad. He tweets @saleemfarrukh and can be reached at: farrukh15@hotmail.com

THENEWS

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Tuesday, August 1, 2023

Bajaur attack

Pifty-four lives lost, nearly a hundred injured, a party attacked, a region reeling – once again – under terror. The story is two days old but also decades old now for a country that has paid in blood for terror that just doesn't go away, terror that has been a direct consequence of decades of bad policymaking. The police say that the Sunday attack on a JUI-F political convention in Bajaur was a suicide bomb, the JUI-F Khar tehsil head, general secretary Nawagai tehsil and district secretary information among those who lost their lives. This is the fourth suicide attack in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in July, but the previous three targeted security personnel - and were likely TTP attacks. This is where our terror threat gets complicated, and dangerous. Sunday's bombing has been claimed by the Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP), a branch of the Islamic State which centres itself in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In Afghanistan, the ISKP has taken on the Afghan Taliban, seeing them as not 'strict enough' in their enforcement of religious edicts. The group has been thought to have targeted a number of individuals in Afghanistan. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa IGP Hayat Khan has said that there were threats in the Bajaur area for quite some time due to the presence of the ISKP, and the area administration had refused to give permission for the JUI-F rally due to the threats, but the local leadership insisted on holding it. The ISKP has not hidden its targeting of the JUI-F, criticizing the party for being close to the Afghan Taliban and the Pakistan government.

It may not eventually matter which group has carried out the attack. Pakistan is facing a threat from multiple extremist militants - the TTP and the ISKP the more virulent forms of terrorism we are dealing with. No matter which militant group carried it out, this attack or any attack is obviously spurred by hatred. Whatever the different tactics various militant groups may adopt, they are united by a common ideology of hate that brings in everyone from minorities to right-wing politicians and the security forces. No one is safe from their wrath. This is why the government needs to stop treating different militant groups in different ways. With the ISKP posing an even bigger danger - if that is possible - than the TTP, the Pakistani state has to come up with a strategy fast. This is particularly so since the IS as a militant group has a modus operandi quite different to that of the TTP being more diffused, and preferring to have a decentralized structure with individual units and sometimes even lone wolves acting under its name.

For their part, the Afghan Taliban have condemned the Bajaur blast. What we need now on that front is clear and complete cooperation for the Afghans as far as terrorism goes. And on our front, we need a complete buyin for the National Action Plan that has been waiting to be fully implemented in the country – no ifs and buts. The IS, more than any previous militant group, relies on attracting support through social media and other forms of propaganda. We need to counter this message. At the same time, a stronger intelligence effort is needed to disrupt the ISKP all over the country – while not forgetting the TTP in the process. This has to be a multiple-pronged approach. With the examples of countries like Syria and Iraq showing how the IS is a group that can rapidly multiply if it is allowed to operate unchecked, we really cannot afford any coplanceny here.

Varsity horrors

rom student suppression to harassment to drug issues, Pakistani universities seem to have everything but education and academic freedom down pat. Just a few days back, Islamia University Bahawalpur (IUB) made headlines – not for academic achievement or faculty dedication but for drug sale and sexual exploitation. Some university officials, including the chief security officer, have allegedly been caught involved in the sale of narcotics. Horrific though it was, this was just the beginning. According to investigation officers, the security officer also had sexually explicit photos and videos on his mobile phone. A special report by the police further clarified that it was in fact a group of teachers that was involved in the sexual exploitation of female teachers and students at the university.

How are our country's students supposed to feel safe, protected and academically and creatively challenged in an environment where they are either policed for their political and social thoughts or exploited or peddled drugs – by the very people that are supposed to teach them, nurture them, mentor them? In a conservative society like Pakistan, girls already have to deal with yearlong battles to convince their parents to let them study beyond basic college degrees. Incidents like this will make more parents sceptical of sending their girls to colleges and universities. The alarmingly growing popularity of drugs among our students has been a cause for concern for some time now. Ideally, teachers should guide students to stay away from substance abuse. This is what makes the IUB scandal even more shocking that some teachers were involved in the sale of drugs Add to that the revelation that these teachers were also reportedly arranging 'indecent' parties and authorities should employ stricter checks in the teacher recruitment process.

The case of IUB proves that the alarm about drugs on campus is very real and very dangerous. We have even heard of drugs being popular among high school and middle school students. The parliamentary committee which is looking into this must do a thorough and honest job. We do not know how many students are already addicted to crystal meth or other synthetic drugs. What we do know is that one of the best ways to counter drug use is to provide plenty of education to young people about their ill effects. Iceland, which had a huge alcohol and drug abuse problem, was able to become a country with an almost zero drug presence at educational institutions by taking measures that introduced the youth to a host of healthy activities which could occupy their time. Setting up sports camps and introducing more community entertainment, art, drama, and literature could help young people use up their energy in ways other than drug abuse.

Unchecked power in a university

hat happens when you put a man in charge of a university, grant him virtually unchecked power over staff and faculty who in turn have unchecked power over students, vest him with signing authority for everything from checks to official leaves, quash all forms of student representation, and then hand him a loosely phrased security policy that empowers him to create a campus force that deploys surveillance cameras willy-nilly?

It creates the perfect preconditions for all manner of exploitation of 18-25year-old students at the hands of administrators, faculty, staff, and anyone else who wishes to partake. You get blackmail, harassment, sexual exploitation, drug use, and human trafficking in all their permutations. You create the conditions that were necessary for incidents like the one at Balochistan University, Islamia University Bahawalpur (IUB), and who knows how many others.

On occasions when these matters come out in the national limelight, as they did most recently at IUB, the playbook goes something like this: the all-powerful vice-chancellor (VC), the (usually) man without whose permission a bird cannot flap its wings on campus, will clutch his pearls and proclaim his shock and ignorance of all that has transpired under his nose. Then, the public is offered a lollipop: the investigative committee which always (as far as I can remember) comprises all men most, if not all, his own

When that does not quell the public's outrage and it becomes clear that an external investigation can no longer be avoided, the counter-accusations start flying. Once again, the press conference held by the VC of IUB a few days ago was a textbook example. Deny the accusations entirely and demand public circulation of evidence that would identify and further traumatize victims. Claim that an investigation would bring dishonour onto victims (not the perpetrators) while contradicting the initial denial. Claim a conspiracy to defame the VC / the institution is underway. Claim that these accusations are somehow an elaborate attempt to defame institutions. Claim a conspiracy to defame the Islamic tradition of the university. Check, check, check, check, and check!

Once accusations fly from both sides and the water is muddied enough, wait for public anger to abate. What is new this time around is that the VC IUB seems to be going beyond his press conference and is attempting to run a sustained defensive public campaign. On July 27, students held a protest against blackmail and harassment outside Islamabad Press Club and the VC had the gall to sneak a puppet into the speaker list that repeated his talking points.

VCs are still reliant on accreditation and regulatory bodies and – for public universities - various ministries, departments of education, and HEC / provincial HECs for finances and authorizations. However, as I noted at the outset, within the confined world of their universities, they are the masters of their universe. Sub-



Dr Ayesha Razzaque

The writer (she/her) has a PhD in Education.

sequently, when a long-running scandal of this magnitude gets unearthed, there can really only be two options: either the man at the top was party to it and colluded or he is completely incompetent. Yes, with great power comes great responsibility - claims of ignorance and innocence can no longer be on the menu.

What is wrong with the power structure within our universities that allows these crimes in which students are at the receiving end to recur? Only one group of stakeholders has neither power, influence, nor visibility into the decision-making in universities: students. Is it any wonder then that any time facts emerge about exploitation within universities, students are the victims? Beyond end-of-semester

Two VC applicants brought up student unions and student representation as a nuisance that complicates their job. I do wonder though what their views on democracy are

course survey forms that accreditation frameworks require universities to collect, students have virtually no vote, no representation, and no voice (not even observer status) at any level in any university matter.

Put aside the fact that the committees, internal or external, constituted to investigate allegations often prove to be black holes where investigations are sent to be stretched out, delayed until the public's attention moves on to other things and dies with no tangible outcome. The constitution of these investigative committees still does not include any representation from the victim group (students) but from all quarters that are vested in not rocking the boat and perpetuating the status quo: faculty, administration, and bureaucrats – usually all men.

A few weeks ago, Minister of Defence Khawaja Asif called university VCs dacoits while speaking on the floor of the National Assembly. It took little more than a day for 22 VCs to band together and issue a public letter expressing their righteous outrage at the minister's inartful choice of words. I would expect that a scandal in which hundreds of students were victimized would elicit at least similar if not more outrage, but all we have heard so far are crickets. Does tribal / fraternal allegiance trump principle?

Who does the typical inaction and sweeping the matter under the proverbial rug serve? Does it serve students? Does it serve the parents of young adults attending universities, particularly those from out-of-town who have to live in university hostel accommo-

dations, and especially parents of young women who think twice as hard before sending off their daughters? It is a setback to the cause of education in communities that are already struggling for access more than those in major cities, but it does save everyone's hides.

What is obvious is that no one is looking out for the interests of students. Even now the VC of IUB wants to explain away the episode as a politically motivated attack on himself to deny him another tenure as VC. Hundreds of students have been victimized but, in his mind, this is still all about him and should not come in the way of him being rewarded.

In the coming weeks, I will contribute another op-ed that will analyze some written materials that demonstrate what candidates for the position of VC consider their most urgent problems and priorities and the depth (or lack) of their reflections to address them.

For now, I want to note that almost none of the nearly 200 VCs that applied for the open positions at three prominent universities in the capital considered harassment and drug use pressing enough issues to warrant mentions in their proposed 'institutional plans' for universities they had applied for. This was even more conspicuous given that one of those universities has a well-known drug problem. Many applicants are presently VCs at campuses that are widely known to be grappling with the same problems. An applicant from the University of Balochistan, where women students also suffered at the hands of hidden cameras, did not find it worth acknowledging as an issue either.

Only three of the nearly 200 applicants acknowledged the drug epidemic as a problem. Only one recognized that there is a need for "full participation in governmental drives like plantation, drug abuse, eliminating gender discrimination and harassment". However, even this applicant thought these were problems to be addressed by government intervention in which universities would just be passive participants. This is even stranger considering many of the applicants claimed to have served on 'anti-drug', 'anti-harassment' committees at their present institutions.

Most saw campus discipline as their top priority to be addressed by 'controlling' students. Two applicants brought up student unions and student representation as a nuisance that complicates their job. I do wonder though what their views on democracy are. Do they think dictators have the right idea when they discard elected representatives because they make their 'jobs' difficult?

What is missing is a check on the unchecked individual powers of the VC and the combined power of the administrative machinery. Student representation, which is being universally opposed tooth and nail by university administrators, is the check that can add that necessary balance. Surely, not all university administrators, staff, and faculty are predators but enough of them are where we cannot leave young people's wellbeing up to blind faith in the goodness of other people.

THE HOLY QURAN

Fight them! Allah will chastise them at your hands, and He will lay them low and give you victory over them, and He will heal the breasts of folk who are believers.

Surah At-Taubah - 9, Verse - 14

Imperial doctrine

Ron Jacobs

iving in the United States means living in a

nation whose rulers have always been intent on expanding their wealth and their reach. This fact of history has created a legacy of death, destruction, and theft. It has also enabled a majority of the citizens in the nation to benefit from these crimes; a fact which has encouraged them to ignore the sources of their relative well-being. Of course, the dynamic involved in the creation of this collaborative populace is one that involves an ever more sophisticated system of propaganda. It is a system which plays on the arrogance

and racism of the population and can be seen most graphically in the treatment of the indigenous peoples of northern America and the enslavement (and the legacy thereof) of Africans and their descendants. Similarly, this attitude is transmitted overseas via military aggression, trade deals and treaties. Perhaps the most obvious example of the latter is the 1923 doctrine named after President James Monroe. Known as the Monroe Doctrine and originally made policy in Monroe's annual letter to Congress, it claims the Western hemisphere as Washington's own.

Over the years, the doctrine was only occasionally challenged by foreign powers. One such period where this occurred with perhaps greater frequency than any other time since the war known as the Spanish-American war was the time of the Cold War. This was a period when the United States dominated many places around the globe – from Europe to Asia to Latin America. It was also a period that featured the rise of national liberation struggles in the nations of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The movements waging those struggles often contained a strong Marxist element. Consequently, they were usually supported by the Soviet Union, the one superpower opposed to US imperialism. The fact of Moscow's communist-inspired government and its support for these movements convinced those in power in Washington, DC that Moscow wanted to take over the world. A closer truth was that Washington's new imperial prowess was being threatened by the anti-colonial struggle in Europe's former colonies and neither the Pentagon or the State Department was going to let that struggle proceed without a

So, the struggles for freedom from colonialism across the world after World War Two were reframed as a battle against the Soviet Union and its totalitarian regime. Washington's forces were now supporting its European colonialist allies against the people fighting for independence in numerous countries around the world. Furthermore, the regimes the US were supporting were authoritarian and brutal.

As most people know, Washington's military would outdo the rest of its allies in terms of brutality in Korea and Vietnam. However, it is the regimes Washington supported in Latin America that were probably the most vicious against their own people. Often fascist in philosophy, those regimes, from Nicaragua to Argentina; from Brazil to Guatemala and El Salvador, utilized paramilitary death squads, torture and genocide to maintain the status quo demanded by Washington and its cohorts of capital.

Excerpted: 'The Cold War, Latin America and Washington, DC. Courtesy: Counterpunch.org



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Wrong approach

The government has approved a hike in the power tariff by up to Rs7.50 per unit. Is this a pragmatic approach to meet the losses in our power sector? Surely not. It is unwise to increasingly put the burden of line losses and theft on those who are diligently paying their electricity bills.

This approach only ensures that power theft is left mostly unchecked and thus encourages the practice. Instead, the authorities should crack down on electricity theft and equip the power infrastructure with more modern technologies in order to minimize line losses.

Engr Bilal Ahmed

Food insecurity

Pakistan's current rank on the Global Hunger Index (GHI) is quite disturbing. In the GHI 2022, Pakistan is ranked at 99 out of 121 countries. Political conflict among the elites, climate change, and the Covid-19 pandemic have left millions vulnerable to food shortages. Meanwhile, the luxuries enjoyed by the bureaucracy and the politicians are growing beyond measure, corruption is at its zenith and the country is trapped in tug-of-war between different political parties.

Urgent action and longterm planning is needed to address accessibility, affordability and boost domestic food production. One solution could be to increase access to

education, particularly for

girls. Educating girls has been

shown to improve food security by reducing the number of child marriages and increasing the number of women who are able to enter the workforce. Another solution could be to invest in small-scale agriculture and provide farmers with the resources they need to grow crops and raise livestock. This could include providing access to seeds, fertiland training sustainable farming practices. Unzila Tahir Huda

Transferred units

I observed many times that at year end the utilities companies like Pesco and SNGPL cheat many citizens by replacing their utility metres on their own. The citizen is only informed about this change when he finds 'Replaced' written on one of his following utility bills. The 'new' meter that is installed often already has units consumed on it and the next month the affected person suddenly gets an inflated bill that they have to pay in five days.

I request the government to issue clear rules for such utility metre replacements. Citizens should be informed in writing and in advance on which date the change will take place, why the metre is being changed and by whom. Pictures of the new metre with its initial reading, should be included in the next bill to prove that no extra units of some other customer are being transferred.

Engr Shahryar Khan Baseer

Heinous act

The case of 13-year-old Rizwana, who was subjected to physical abuse while working as a housemaid at the home of a judge, is an appalling violation of basic human rights. It is incumbent upon us, as a society, to stand up against such abuse of power and ensure justice prevails. Rizwana's harrowing experience sheds light on the vulnerability of domestic workers, often toiling under precarious conditions with little protection. To have endured violence at the home of someone entrusted with upholding the law, exacer-

bates the urgency of the matter. This incident calls for immediate action and a thorough investigation to ensure that no one is above the law. The perpetrator, regardless of their social standing, must be held accountable for their heinous actions. Moreover, it is high time we strengthen the rights and protections given to domestic workers in order to safeguard against such abuses in the future.

> Muzamil Hussain Karachi

Crime in the capital

Mobile, purse and car theft is on the rise around Islamabad these days. I believe inflation is a main cause of this rise in crime as it has left many people unable to make ends meet legally. Will the relevant authorities take notice of this issue and solve it as soon as possible?

Engr Asim Nawab

Terrorism has damaged our country socially, economically and politically. The attack on a JUI-F convention in Bajaur means that terror has once again taken many lives and left scores wounded. The resurgence of terrorist attacks has not happened overnight. Years of irrational policies, lack of national unity among political parties and institutions and, above all, the miscalculation vis-à-vis the Afghan Taliban regime have helped reinvigorate the TTP. Curbing the terrorism menace will require a multi-pronged approach, including ensuring national unity and rejuvenating the NAP.

Resurgence

Muhammad Bashir Malakand

Multifaceted fix Improving the quality of life in Karachi will require a multifaceted approach. Improving infrastructure is a key component, as it can help reduce traffic congestion, improve access to basic services and create more efficient systems for

waste management. It is also important to address social issues, such as poverty and inequality, which exacerbate the city's problems. Encouraging community involvement can help build a sense of ownership and pride in the city, which can lead to greater investment in its future.

Taha Ahmed

Towards progress

This letter refers to the article 'Progress, CPEC and the Constitution' (July 30, 2023, TNS) by Abdul Rauf Shakoori and Dr Ikramul Haq. The article presents a comprehensive analysis of Pakistan's economic challenges and the significance of adhering to the constitution for progress.

The country's dependency on imports and reliance on foreign investment call for prudent economic management and adherence to constitutional principles. To secure a prosperous future, addressing these issues and maintaining constitutional

Address inflation

Sajjad Rizvi

for our country. Since the ma-

Inflation is a serious problem

jority of our people belong to the low-income group the constant rise in prices of essential goods hits us particularly hard. The main factors behind inflation include overpopulation which causes an excess of demand over supply and bad government policies that lead to hoarding, smuggling and black marketing of essential goods.

The global rise in commodity prices also plays a role but our government has little control over this. However, the former factors must be addressed.

Nida Muneer



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Our Client has contracted to purchase Flat No. 02 First Floor, measuring 900 sqft Plot No. 16-C, 25th Street Tauheed Commercial, Phase V, DHA Karachi, from Mr. Ikram Uddin S/O Ihsan Ul Haq CNIC: 42301-0616383-1 R/O Karachi free from all dues charges etc. Any person bank, authority having any claim, objection should notify us or Sub Registrar-I, Clifton Town Karachi within 03 days otherwise transfer will be complete favouring our client. HALLMARK Estate 65-C, 27th Tauheed Commercial Street Phase V, DHA. 0300-3568814 (050601)

ed.(050602-B)



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HUB: The construction work of causeway crossing road that was completely destroyed by floods is underway here on Monday. —PPI photo

India may escalate violence in HOJ&K ahead of elections, says AJK president

By Syed Abbas Gardezi

AJK's founding president should be ensured. Ghazi Millat Sardar Muham-20th death anniversary.

Addressing a special brutality in Kashmir. event, Barrister Sultan said

The president AJK said personality who not only led expose the Modi govern- ter Sultan said.

the freedom movement but ment's nefarious designs in also represented Kashmiris the region, the AJK president ISLAMABAD: President at the United Nations. He voiced his apprehension Azad Jammu & Kashmir directed that displaying the of escalation in violence Barrister Sultan Mahmood portrait of Ghazi Millat in all before the general elections Chaudhry paid tribute to the the offices of Azad Kashmir in India.

records of barbarism and Modi will further increase that Sardar Muhammad need that Kashmiris on this voters," the president said,

Ibrahim Khan would always side of the ceasefire line adding that the BJP governbe remembered for his role should devote their ener- ment would go to any extent in the freedom movement gies to highlight the Kashmir to win the next elections. and selfless service to the cause and expose India's people of Azad Jammu and nefarious designs before the tions, the shameless Modi

"As the date for election The AJK president noted in India is drawing nearer, mad Ibrahim Khan on his that India had broken all there is a likelihood that the atrocities in Occupied He said there is a dire Kashmir to woo the Hindu

"In order to win the elecgovernment won't even Urging the Kashmiri hesitate in orchestrating the that Sardar Muhammad Ibra- expatriate community to judicial murder of Kashmiri him Khan was a dynamic redouble their efforts to leader Yasin Malik," Barris-

Timely completion of KP Cities Improvement Project stressed

PESHAWAR: A joint delega- Kohat, Mardan, Swat and has emphasized the impor- as well. tance of maintaining quality (KPCIP).

from AIIB Ghufran Syed, financial, administrative, is implementing various proheld a progress review and operational aspects of jects in the cities including meeting here on Monday.

cal Mian Shakeel Ahmad, tabad. and Director Finance Qazi Races attended the meeting. the delegation on the pro-management systems.

officers from Peshawar, ject.

Each City Implemenand ensuring early comple- tation Unit provided a tance of completing each tion of projects under the detailed briefing on the sta-project within the stipulated Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cit- tus of all ongoing, proposed, time-frame to ensure that the

The Project Manage- public on time. The delegation, led by ment Unit team, led by the

The chief executive gress of work for each pro-

Following the briefing. tion from the Asian Devel- Abbottabad water and the senior project officer opment Bank (ADB) and sanitation companies and emphasized that there the Asian Infrastructure construction supervision should be no compromise Investment Bank (AIIB) consultants were present when it comes to the quality

He stressed the impories Improvement Project and recommended projects. benefits reach to the general

The provincial govern Senior Project Officer Umar project director, briefed the ment with financial assis-Ali Shah and representative delegation on the technical, tance from the ADB and AIIB the projects being carried modernization of water and KPCIP Project Director out in five division cities sanitation delivery system Syed Zafar Ali, Director of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa so that people have access Compliance Amir Alam - Peshawar, Mardan, Min- to clean drinking water and Khan, Director Techni- gora, Kohat, and Abbot- the cities have a sustainable environment-friendly waste-The consultants updated water treatment and waste

PM neither rejects nor selects caretaker PM candidate: Marriyum **By Mumtaz Alvi**

ISLAMABAD: Rebutting the media reports, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif neither has selected nor rejected any candidate for the slot of caretaker premier.

account, the information minand speculations published in

Taking to her Twitter

caretaker prime minister." The caretaker prime minconstitution, she mentioned. on Monday. She reiterated that Prime Minsuitable candidate and seek After consulting the allies, will consult the Leader of the Opposition for a decision on

Cop martyred, robber killed in encounter

By our correspondent

the Constitution.

TAKHTBHAI: A cop was martyred and an alleged robfire between the police and the armed criminals here on

who, all of a sudden, opened provinces. fire on the police. As a result, Khan sustained bullet injuries. proposed breastfeeding law mendations of the World baby feed industry.

advises federal govt to pass breastfeeding law 35,000 children die annually of

diseases due to baby feed products

Health ministry

and Young Child Nutrition istry official claimed. Act, 2023' despite strong

try", an official of the NHS, country. the matter in accordance with R&C told The News.

> the so-called council of the Pakistan. baby feed industry tried to

Speakers at seminar express zero

Services, Regulations and olution and federal parlia- decision. Coordination (NHS,R&C) ment as well as other proister said, "Contrary to reports | has recommended the fed- vincial assemblies should ince to approve the legislaeral government follow the pass the similar laws to tion while the federal legissome sections of the media lead of the Sindh Assembly, prevent our children from lation on the protection and .. Prime Minister Shehbaz which recently passed the death, disease and misery promotion of breastfeeding Sharif has not yet selected or Sindh Protection and Procaused by the breast milk by the Ministry of National rejected any candidate for the motion of Breast-Feeding substitutes", the health min-Health Services covers sim-

ister will be appointed as per pressure from the baby informed the PM Office Assembly. Similarly, legislathe procedure laid down in the | feed industry, officials said regarding the deaths of tions in other provinces are 35,000 children every year also at different stages of "The federal health min- due to diarrhoea and other approval so there is no variister Shehbaz Sharif would istry has advised the fed- diseases as they remain ation in the national and consult all the coalition parties | eral_government_to_follow_deprived_of_mothers' feed_provincial legislations", the in the government for the most | the lead of Sindh Assembly, due to aggressive and official maintained. which recently passed the unethical marketing of the guidance from PMLN leader | breast feeding protection baby feed industry, adding of the so-called Baby Food Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. act as per World Health that these diseases cause and Nutrition Council Assembly's (WHA) resolu- loss of US\$ 3.2 billion eco- (BFNC), the health minisshe noted, the Prime Minister | tion despite strong pressure nomic loss to the national try official informed the PM from the baby feed indus- exchequer annually to the Office that indiscriminate

Food and Nutrition Coun- wasting and deaths among and obesity in Pakistan. cil (BNFC), claimed that infants and neonates in

The Saro Shah police had nance 2002 and Rules 2009 feeding, which is not hap-law approved by the fedbarricaded the road for check- on the agenda of Coun- pening due to aggressive eral government before it is ing the vehicles. The police cil of Common Interests and unethical marketing presented in the provincial signalled two masked motor- (CCI)' for Harmonization of the formula milk com- assembly but their prescyclists to stop for checking of Local Codes across all panies", the official added. sure was rejected by the "The Prime Minister's highlighted that all the leg- and adding urged the fedpolice head-constable Farooq | Office, on the BNFC's let- islations at the federal and eral government not to get Khan embraced martyrdom ter, sought the health min-provincial levels have been influenced by the baseless

and we clearly told the PM Health Assembly (WHA) Office that the law passed resolution (A69/7) and har-ISLAMABAD: The Min- by the Sindh Assembly is in monized as per the Council istry of National Health accordance with WHA res- of Common Interests (CCI)

"Sindh is the first provilar points and is ready for He said they had presentation in the National

> Contrary to the claims sale and use of Breast Milk

"Only 48 percent of Substitutes (BMS) without The health ministry mothers exclusively feed the prescription of doctors official, who requested their children in Pakistan is one of the main reasons anonymity, quoting a letter for the first six months, for infant and under-five written to Prime Minister which is resulting in severe mortality, as well as high Shehbaz Sharif by the Baby malnutrition, stunting, level of wasting, stunting The health ministry official pointed out the Our children need to be baby feed industry even ber killed in an exchange of mislead the prime minister breastfed for at least two tried to exert pressure on and requested to bring the years along with age-ap- Sindh Health Minister Dr Protection of Breastfeed- propriate complimentary Azra Pechuho to make ing & Child Nutrition Ordi- homemade nutritious amendments to the draft

The health ministry official provincial health minister while head-constable Majid istry's comments on the modified as per the recom- claims and tactics of the

Residents protest closure of Orakzai hospital

By our correspondent

KALAYA: The tribespeople facing great hardships. on Monday staged a protest facility forthwith.

Addressing the proremained closed for the last increased manifold.

one month. ment inked by the govern- ize the hospital within three ment with a non-govern- days or else the tribespeomental organization ended ple would stage more proon June 26 last due to which tests.

the hospital was shut and the local people were now

The speakers coma hospital in the upper part Health Department nor the there was zero tolerance and urged the government hospital functional to pro- government was regularly efforts in strengthening the residents of Ghiljo tehsil. They said that peo- Hazara division for that.

testers, Malik Qasim Gul, ple were now taking their Shakil Khan and others said patients to Kohat, Hangu ficking in Person Act 2018 were fulfilled. that the Tehsil Headquar- and Peshawar due to was arranged by the Labour ters Hospital in Ghiljo had which their expenses had

The speakers asked the and Industry. They said that the agree- government to operational-

tolerance for child labour By our correspondent

rally against the closure of plained that neither the inar here on Monday said nationally. of Orakzai tribal district NGO was ready to make the for the child labour and the alists to contribute their child labour.

missioner Human Rights Plus, is once again going human rights treaties and Qureshi gave a detailed years of age. Muhammad Abid said due to r eview the progress end to child labour is one presentation on the Anti to multiple reasons includ- in this regard in November of them. ing the poverty, the Paki- this year and it was high

to operationalize the health vide health facilities to the monitoring the commercial national economy and that export-based economy labour and his department. Swati president of the Hariand industrial concerns of was only possible when the more strong, an uninter- was regularly monitoring pur Chamber of Commerce international commitments rupted access of Pakistani the commercial and indus- and Industry, Sajid Naseem The seminar titled Traf- pertaining to human rights products to European trial concerns. The official said the directly linked to the exten- industrialists to extend spoke and assured that Department here the Hari- European Union has sion of GSP plus status their cooperation in fulfill- the business and industrial

markets is imperative and

stan's role in ending the time for the manufacturing Faizullah said that during audience about the causes scourge of child labour has industry to help Pakistan the last one year at least 85 of Trafficking in Person, HARIPUR: Speakers at sem- been under question inter- continued to avail the sta- cases of child labour were impacts on children and tus of GSP plus by helping reported and prosecuted in society. He urged the industri- the government to end the the Labour Court.

He said that there was members Executive Coun-

Syed Safdar Zaman Shah

He said for making the zero tolerance for the child cil SAARC Chamber, Tayab and Fida Khan were prom-The official urged the inent among those who pur Chamber of Commerce allowed Pakistani products from the European Union ment of international obli- community were abiding by in the European markets by that requires Pakistan to gations. Assistant Director the law and literally refused Additional Deputy Com- granting the status of GSP honour the international Labour Tariq Mehmood hiring the children below 18

They pledged every sup-Trafficking in Person Act port to the department in Deputy Director Labour 2018 and oriented the curbing the child labour.

'Dar qualifies to become caretaker PM'

By Muhammad Saleh Zaafir

SLAMABAD: Constitutional expert Amjad Pervez says that Federal Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, who is also Leader of the House in Senate, qualifies for the slot of caretaker prime minister as per provisions of the constitution if he is appointed by the leaders of the house and opposition of the National Assembly.

The constitutional expert says that Senator Dar is, however, not required to quit his Senate membership if he is appointed caretaker prime minister. By way of explanation, Pervez points to when former Senate chairman Muhammadmian Soomro became caretaker prime minister - on November 15, 2007 – after conduct-Senate chairman.

Caretaker cabinet members possess the same isters, chief ministers and ministers they replace. The caretaker prime minister the bureaucracy - in consultation with the ECP. The only legal restriction

on the caretaker administration is that the caretaker prime minister, chief ministers, ministers, their spouses and their children are not to finance and a lengthy discountry while repatriating tive incentives such as tax through PPPs. These part-development. Invest in vocation conducted under the SIFC has had a promising panies. To rectify this situ- and land lease options. caretaker government. Per-| start but faces an extremely ation, we must proactively vez shares Article 224-A(1B) | challenging uphill task. The identify and prioritize sec-business. Streamline admin- and rewards. of the constitution, which SIFC's success undeniably tors boasting high export istrative processes and the caretaker prime minister | tifaceted 10-step approach. and the caretaker chief minister and their immediate stability. Ensuring political family members shall not be stability will be essential eligible to contest the imme- to instill confidence and diately following elections attract long-term foreign placed on industries where to such assemblies....In this investments. clause, 'immediate family members' means spouse investments. Our existing unique opportunities. and children."

appointed to the positions in Pakistan, shielding them create a favorable invest-fidence. should be neutral and have from competition. As a ment climate. This includes no known affiliation with result, these entities assem- simplifying regulations, partnerships (PPPs). Foster investors seeking efficient growth and development. any political party.

The 18th and 20th Amendments to the constitution have made the selection of the caretaker prime minister, chief ministers and federal and provincial ministers more consultative and transparent. The president is required to appoint a caretaker prime minister that Gwadar city and port context had begun in June Beijing had agreed to export Proposed by Premier Li." in consultation with the would be further developed 2016 on the Gwadar Spetechnology for a 160km/hour and the leader of the opposi- \$1.62 billion with the aim of was planned to be built on Pakistan. tion. Caretaker ministers are linking northern Pakistan a 2,292-acre site adjacent to appointed by the president and western China to prob- the port. on the advice of the prime ably the deepest seaport on is not required. The same is true for the provincial care-

taker cabinet. If the prime minister and the leader of the opposition cannot agree on a caretaker prime minister within three | Belt and Road cooperation. days of the dissolution of Committee tasked with celebration event held in number of early harvests. making the decision. The committee should comprise or Senate with equal representation from the government and the opposition. The members will be nominated by the prime minister and the leader of the opposition. The committee must finalize its decision within three days.

would have six members military courts. instead of eight.

If there are fewer than petitioners, filed an applica- country. five members of the oppo-tion in the Supreme Court

within two days.

position until the caretaker for the events of May 9 and contemptuous record of past judicial history and tions. replacement is appointed. 10 2023.

Asad Majeed not to seek extension in service as FS

Can be considered for Permanent Representative post at UN Geneva Headquarters; caretaker govt will appoint new FS

By our correspondent

on completion of his innings. Minister Sindh Syed Murad permanent representative wouldn't become vacant "Neither I have been offered Ali Shah and MOS for For- (PR) in the Geneva head- during its tenure. The

The CPEC anniversary In a brief chat with The nese President Xi Jinping, gium and European Union, post, the sources hinted.

Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, from where Khalil Hashmi government, the sources

ernment has decided not at appointing him as FS Sources told this scribe to appoint a new Foreign but it changed its mind, the

Nations is also vacant by the upcoming caretaker

Special Secretary for For-Representative of the Chi- United States, Japan, Bel- Asad could be offered the eign Affairs Dr Syrus Sajjad Qazi is viewed as favourite In another significant for the slot. The incumbent

paign aims to immunize nearly 8

Financial irregularities of Rs5bn detected in FBR

News Desk

found in warehouses.

smuggled vehicles, smart- in Karachi and Quetta. sides of the border and the large launch its latest vaccination

were left in warehouses and ISLAMABAD: Financial spoiled. A loss of Rs807.1 irregularities worth Rs 5 bil- million has incurred due to lion have been revealed in non-auction of 300 seized the Federal Board of Reve- vehicles and 46,982 smartnue (Customs), Geo News phones worth Rs18.86 million rupees were also not has been a loss of Rs3.52 drinks were also destroyed billion, while irregularities, and the staff sold 3 vehicles misappropriation and theft worth Rs Rs24m for Rs13m. of Rs1.45 billion have been According to the report, goods worth Rs9.1m were The report said that also stolen from warehouses

phones and food items

ECP asks KP CM to de-notify ministers, aides

Continued from page 1 case of Shahid Khattak who

cabinet members and other cal activities," the letter said. relevant functionaries, can

2(g) of the Election Act 2017. isters, advisers and special rent interim cabinet were

"Regrettably it has come assistants and other func-

was found involved in politi-

It continued that the min-

It asked the KP CM to

Govt allies given two days to

eligible to contest the elec- pute resolution process. The profits to their parent combreaks, investment grants, nerships can fund and mantional training programs to days to name the caretaker agreed to continue the consulage major infrastructure enhance the skill set of the prime minister. It was decided tation for the formation of Step 4: Ease of doing projects while sharing risks local workforce. A skilled that all the political parties caretaker setup and decided to labor force will not only should give names within two re-convene the advisory meet-Step 7: Investor outreach attract foreign investors but days in consultation with the ing of the allies on the setup. It reads as: "members of the hinges on its resolute adop- potential. By offering tar- implement electronic plat- and promotion. Proac- also contribute to increased party leadership. Sources say should be noted that the term caretaker cabinets including tion of a strategic and mul-geted support and incenforms for business registively engage with potential productivity and economic that there was no consultation of the current assembly ends on the dissolution of provin- on August 12.

According to sources, the allies

Naqvi wants judicial commission to probe

Continued from page 12

Continued from page 12 facility, which was part of to roll over its \$6.3 billion to transport oil and gas from and Karachi to the Xinjiang

The petitioner, Mashkoor Hussain, through his counsel Additional Chief Secretary Nadeem Sarwar, pleaded that Interior, Special Secretary the massive scandal reported Higher Education, DIG Inter- by the media with shocking nal Accountability Branch, details had created a deep Director FIA and others. sense of insecurity and fear Co-Convenor Secretary among the parents and stu-Mines, Babar Aman Babar, dents. The petitioner said the joined the meeting through culprits, allegedly involving the chief security officer and Meanwhile, a citizen has some bigshots, were being filed a petition at the Lahore patronized by influential High Court (LHC) seeking figures in government and a judicial inquiry into the bureaucracy and the police drug and sex abuse scandal investigation was also being involving the female stu- compromised. The petitioner

into the scandal.

Pakistan is out of choppy

already formalised the cur- ment of facility up to RMB rency and more countries 40 billion. The minister of were planning to do so. He finance expressed the hope lel internationally acceptable the two countries in terms

the leadership of Prime all other forums.—APP

said it would become a paral- that cooperation between currency and congratulated of economic and diplothe BOC deputy governor in matic ties would reach new heights. He said both the He said that the BOC countries were helping each deputy governor shared other on all international that Pakistan was already and domestic issues in the

Continued from page 12 Minister Shehbaz Sharif, he had proposed enhance-

during the pendency of this Fourthly, the petitioner present Petition and Con-

> The petitioner requested this full court) for the adju-

According to the report, auctioned. Other goods due to non-collection of full worth more than Rs420 tax on imported goods, there million including food and

with political affiliation

only provide an objective ister in question resigned environment if it did not from his portfolio when the involve itself in politics and Election Commission took election campaigns in viola- cognisance of the matter. tion of Sections (1)(d) and "This attitude of some min-

to the notice of the Election tionaries is against the very Commission through media spirit of the caretaker govand other sources that some ernment, the Constitution ministers, advisers and spe- and Election Act 2017," the cial assistants in the cur- letter added. appointed on the basis of de-notify all such cabinet

their political affiliations. As members immediately, an example, this manifesta- adding the matter may be tion was clearly visible in the accorded top priority.

name caretaker PM Continued from page 1 cial assemblies in the meeting.

Step 10: Monitoring and

Bahawalpur varsity scandal

video link.

the larger \$2.5 billion Gwa- debt. While both sides had southern Pakistan's Gwadar Uygur Region in China and dar-Nawabshah segment of decided to launch a \$10 bil- Port to Kashgar city, north- beyond by overland routes. gyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanidents of Islamia University, requested a judicial inquiry Bahawalpur.

waters: Dar

SC moved for setting up full court to hear pleas against military trial of May 9 suspects He submitted that it is which has consciously and no judgment of a court has and most humbly submitted in this regard rejecting such categorical undertaking of

sition in parliament or under Order 33, Rule 6, read generic reason and as well ment in this present petition above or by full courts. will make the final decision petitions, concerns the constatements have been made the petitioner contended. stitutionality and legality of by politicians and sitting

Xi pointed out that CPEC impetus to the economic and future in the new era. eight members of the outgo- is an important pioneer- social development of Paki-

this present government, judicial practice. Firstly,

Stressing that China and to carry forward the iron- countries and the broader last visit to China under UN General Assembly and ing National Assembly and/ ing project of the Belt and stan and laid a good founda- Pakistan will continue to clad friendship, coordinate region.

obvious and apparent that deliberately violated vari- ever been subverted or not that this court may kindly request and even otherwise, the learned attorney general Ahsan, former Chief Justice this present petition as well ous judgments and orders implemented by the Paki- consider the reasons stated the petitioners categorically should be converted into an The same procedure is of Pakistan Justice Jawaad as the connected petitions of this court arising out of stani state including mili- by the aforementioned two distance themselves from interim order restraining the used for the appointment of S Khwaja, PTI Chairman is one of the most important the holding of the elections tary dictators. Secondly, in judges for the constitution the government's request initiation and continuation a caretaker chief minister Imran Khan, Karamat Ali cases in Pakistan's judicial of the Punjab Assembly (i.e., the past matters of major of a full court as their inten- for a full court as it has been of any trial of any detained by a provincial governor. and others had challenged history as it is a matter of which have shockingly still constitutional importance tion and resolve for an expe-made obviously for malafide civilian accused persons In this case, the committee the trial of civilians in the grave public importance and not been implemented). It and complexity, including ditious adjudication of this reasons. would determine the future appears that this present cases involving the consti- present controversy cannot Karamat Ali, one of the of fundamental rights in this government and state offi- tutionality of military trials, be doubted," he contended. submitted that the vested nected petitions", he added. cials will also subvert the have been heard by larger

The petitioner submitted rights of accused persons "Therefore, for this implementation of any judg- benches of 9 judges and that the learned attorney may be affected by any that the court may allow the general has already made delay in these proceedings. petitioners to raise further fewer than four in a provin- with Order XI, Supreme for the specific reasons, it on the same contemptuous The third reason, the a categorical statement (as "As a response to this objec- grounds in support of this cial assembly, they will all Court Rules 1980, read with is humbly requested that a arguments questioning the petitioner submitted that recorded in Order dated: tion, it is humbly submitted present application during be members of the Commit- Article 187(1) of the Consti- full court for this purpose constitution of this bench. even two members who 21.07.2023) that no accused that the learned attorney the hearing of this present tution for the constitution may be constituted," the "Therefore, only a judgment are (and were) hearing this person is being charged general has already made application. He prayed that Constitutional experts of a full court filed through petitioner submitted. He of the full court can counter present petition as well as with either a sentence of a categorical statement (as this court may graciously explain that if the commit- his counsel advocate Faisal contended that one of the any future contemptuous the connected petitions death or a lengthy sentence. recorded in Order dated: refer this present petition as

without prior permission of includes all judges willing

"In view of this categor- dication on the fundamental

tee also fails to agree on a Siddiqi. The petitioner sub- primary reasons for the attempt to sabotage any have suggested to the Chief "Therefore, any short delay 21.07.2023) that no military well as the connected petiname, the matter is referred mitted that the subject mat-request for the constitu-judgment passed in this Justice of Pakistan to con-will not have irreversible trial of any detained civil-tions to the Chief Justice of to the Election Commission | ter of this present petition, tion of a full court is that present Petition as well as stitute a full court for this consequences on this pres- ian has commenced and the Pakistan, for the constituof Pakistan (ECP), which as well as the connected it is shocking that various the connected petitions," present controversy i.e., Jus- ent controversy," the peti- same shall not be started tion of a full court (which tice Yahya Afridi through an tioner submitted. He further submitted that this court", the petitioner and available to be a part of The petitioner submit- order dated: 23.06.2023 and During the appointment | the trial of civilian accused ministers questioning the ted that the second reason Justice Mansoor Ali Shah the government's request submitted. process, the incumbent persons by Court Martial/ legitimacy of this present (interconnected with the through an order dated: for a full court has been prime minister/chief min-military courts under the bench and especially con-above first reason) is that 22.06.2023, passed in these rejected and as a response ical statement, this request and complex constitutional ister continues in his/her Pakistan Army Act, 1952, sidering the past consistent two lessons be drawn from present and connected peti- to this objection, he sub- for the constitution of a full and legal questions raised in mitted that this bench has court is being made with the this present petition and in

"It is most respectfully yet to pass a formal order further request that such the connected petitions.

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Sec- an extension nor I am keen eign Affairs Hina Rabbani quarters of the United replacement would be made retary Dr Asad Majeed Khan to obtain one," he said. will not seek an extension in service as he is attaining celebrations were also who has served as the coun- has been designated to be said. superannuation on the 17th attended by visiting Special try's ambassador to the ambassador to China. Dr News on Monday evening Vice-Premier of the State could be considered for an on the 10th anniversary of Council of China, He Lifeng, ambassadorial assignment step, the outgoing gov- government earlier hinted CPEC celebrations, he said host Prime Minister Shehbaz on a contractual basis. for Finance and Revenue that he would like to hang his Sharif, Foreign Minister Bilgloves in a smooth manner awal Bhutto Zardari, Chief that the slot of Pakistan's Secretary since the office sources added.

US-Taliban talks focus on economy, human rights, anti-drug trafficking

News Desk

WASHINGTON/KABUL: The US officials told Afghanistan's Taliban that Washington was open to technical talks on economic ing the 2008 elections, he stability and discussions on combating narreturned to his position as cotics trafficking, the US State Department said on Monday following two days of talks

Taliban officials raised the lifting of travel powers and responsibilities and other restrictions on Taliban leaders and as the elected prime min- the return of Afghan central bank assets held abroad, the Kabul administration said.

The US side repeated concerns about "deteriorating" human rights and called anew and provincial chief min- on the Taliban to reverse bans on girls' secisters have full authority ondary education and womens' employment to appoint persons of their and for the release of detained Americans, the choice to key positions in State Department said in a statement.

Step 1: Ensure political

FDI model is deeply flawed.

understanding valued at \$46

Afghanistan, Pakistan close to eradicating Continued from page 12 the circulation of WPV1 on both On Tuesday, Pakistan will

Khar.

the Taliban backed a WHO vacci- population movement between campaign to eliminate the highly nation campaign in Afghanistan, the two countries," Jafari stated. contagious virus in a country the south and other regions of sion. the country who had not received the Afghan vaccination program people, have been from seven around 65,000 "front-line workhas also increased the number polio-endemic districts in the ers" to administer polio drops to detection and response, Jafari tricts nationwide.

coming months," said the senior endemic districts," Jafari said. He outs. The global polio eradication WHO official.

with Pakistan will continue to be momentum of recent success and and Yemen as areas where outessential throughout 2023 given continues to strive for zero polio." breaks are difficult to control.

Emphasis should be tions in Pakistan.

Continued from page 12 ble and distribute substand- reducing bureaucratic red collaboration between the operations and logistics.

ard products within the tape, and offering attrac- public and private sectors

enabling the polio program to He said that the "last mile" had where the disease paralyzed resume nationwide immuniza- always proven to be the most approximately 20,000 children in tions later that year. It has since challenging phase of any national the early 1990s. A polio program reached millions of children in effort to interrupt polio transmis- spokesperson told VOA the cam-Since January 2021, all million children under five across immunizations for at least four reported cases in Pakistan, a 61 districts in two phases. He said years, Jafari noted. He added that country of about 230 million the government had deployed

of site testing for poliovirus in southern area of Khyber Pakh- the targeted population. wastewater, allowing timely tunkhwa province out of 171 dis-"The quality of vaccination virus in wastewater samples in servative rural areas that the vaccampaigns has improved remark- other Pakistani districts, circula- cines cause sterility in children, ably since late 2022 in the east tion has yet to be established out- coupled with deadly militant region of Afghanistan, and if such side the seven endemic districts. attacks on vaccinators, have set quality campaigns are sustained. "This is the result of very effec- back the mission. Anti-state milendemic transmission in the tive outbreak responses in each itants allege polio vaccinators region will be interrupted in the affected district outside the seven gather intelligence on their hide-

Pakistan has repeatedly come close to eradicating polio, but Despite detections of polio- long-running propaganda in con-

added that the polio program in programme identifies Pakistan, "Cross-border coordination Pakistan was "capitalizing on the Afghanistan, parts of Somalia,

SIFC — the battle ahead for Pakistan's economic revival

from existing and potential

tives for investments in trations and approvals. A investors through targeted these areas, we can foster business-friendly environ- marketing campaigns, roadgrowth and competitive- ment will encourage foreign shows, and investment sem- feedback. Continuously investors to set up opera- inars. Highlight the coun- monitor the investment

try's strengths and potential climate, gather feedback Step 5: Investor protec- sectors for growth. Pakistan holds a competi- tion and dispute resolution. Step 8: Infrastructure investors, and be responsive Step 2: Export oriented tive advantage or possesses Strengthen investor protec- development. Improve and to their needs. By diligently tion measures and establish upgrade critical infrastruc- following this 10-step pro-Step 3: Policy reforms efficient mechanisms for ture, including transportacess, the SIFC can create There are no legal qualifi- Presently, we extend invi- and incentives. The govern- dispute resolution. A fair tion networks, energy sup- an attractive and conducive cations for appointment, but | tations to foreign entities ment must initiate compre- and transparent legal sys- ply, and digital connectivity. environment that encourit is understood that those to establish their presence hensive policy reforms to tem will boost investor con- A well-developed infrastruc- ages foreign investors to ture will make Pakistan an invest in Pakistan, ulti-Step 6: Public-private attractive destination for mately driving economic

CPEC — an engine for Pakistan's economic turnaround

the Iran-Pakistan gas pipe- lion high-speed rail project western China's Xinjiang Xinjiang borders Mongolia, In 2015, it was announced line. Construction in this linking Karachi to Peshawar, Uygur autonomous region. Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyr-

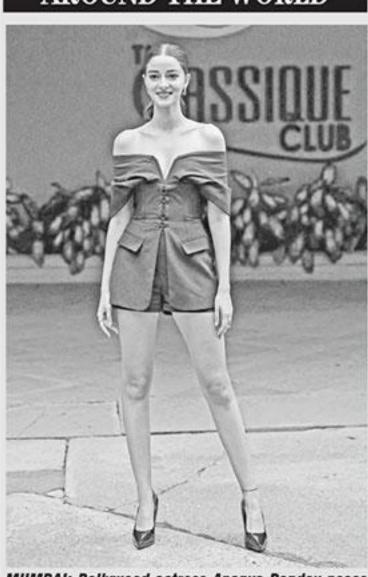
The Encyclopedia Bri-stan, Pakistan and India. The incumbent prime minister under CPEC at a cost of cial Economic Zone, which high-speed railway train to tannica maintained: "The ancient Silk Road also runs goal of the CPEC is both to through its territory. This Earlier, in its April 22, transform Pakistan's econ- aims to reduce the time and 2015 edition, the China Daily omy—by modernizing its cost of transporting goods

During Prime Minister had written: "The China-Pa-road, rail, air, and energy and energy such as natural minister; in this case, con- the planet. The port was also Shehbaz Sharif's visit to kistan Economic Corridor is transportation systems— gas to China by circumventsultation between the prime deemed to be the site of a China in November 2022, a 3,000-kilometer network of and to connect the deep-sea ing the Strait of Malacca and minister and the opposition | floating liquefied natural gas Pakistan requested China roads, railways and pipelines Pakistani ports of Gwadar the South China Sea.' Xi says CPEC to give impetus to Pakistan's socioeconomic uplift Continued from page 1 Road Cooperation. Since its tion for regional connectivity improve overall planning and development and security,

launch in 2013, China and and integration, he said, add- expand and deepen coopera- pursue the cooperation of Pakistan have been advanc- ing that it is a vivid testament tion, Xi said no matter how higher standards, broader Xi made the remarks in ing CPEC under the principle to the all-weather friendship the international landscape scope and greater depth, the National Assembly, a congratulatory message of extensive consultation, between China and Pakistan, may change. China will and take the China-Pakistan advance. they will each forward two to the Decade of China-Pa- joint contribution and shared and provides an important always stand firmly with all-weather strategic coopnames to a Parliamentary kistan Economic Corridor benefits, and have achieved a underpinning for building an Pakistan. Xi added China erative partnership to new even closer China-Pakistan and Pakistan will continue heights, so as to make even This has added new community with a shared to work hand in hand and greater contribution to peace benefiting from RMB, add- world for like the United forge ahead in solidarity and prosperity in the two ing that during his (Dar's) Nations Security Council,

August 1, 2023

AROUND THE WORLD



MUMBAI: Bollywood actress Ananya Panday poses for a photograph during a promotional event for the upcoming Indian Hindi-language comedy-drama film 'Dream Girl 2' here on Monday. —AFP wirephoto

Myanmar junta extends state of emergency, signalling poll delay

YANGON: Myanmar's junta extended the country's state of emergency by six months on Monday, signalling a delay to elections they had pledged to hold as the military battles anti-coup fighters across the country.

The Southeast Asian nation has been ravaged by deadly violence since a coup deposed Aung San Suu Kyi's government more than two years ago, unleashing a bloody crackdown on dissent that has sparked fighting across swathes of the nation while tanking the economy. Junta chief Min Aung Hlaing acknowledged that much

of the nation is not under full military control, according The junta-stacked National Defence and Security

Council (NDSC) agreed to prolong the state of emergency that was declared when the generals toppled Aung

San Suu Kyi's government. —AFP

UN reports 11 killed as clashes rock Lebanon Palestinian camp

SIDON, Lebanon: Three days of fighting in south Lebanon's Ain al-Helweh Palestinian refugee camp have left at least 11 dead and dozens wounded, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees said on Monday.

Clashes broke out over the weekend between members of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's secular Fatah movement and Islamist fighters based in the camp. Lebanon's largest located in the coastal city of Sidon.

Renewed gunfire and shelling on Monday shook the camp, said an AFP correspondent in Sidon, sending frightened residents fleeing.

"According to reports, 11 were killed and another 40 were injured, including one staff member" of UNRWA said Dorothee Klaus, the UN agency's director in Leba-

Beijing on alert as heavy rains batter northern China

BELJING: Heavy rains battered northern China on Monday, washing away cars and inundating subway stations, with millions of people in Beijing and its surrounding areas warned by authorities to stay at home.

Deadly storm Doksuri has swept northwards over the country since Friday, when it hit southern Fujian province after scything through the Philippines as a typhoon.

Hundreds of bus services in the capital were suspended, according to state news agency Xinhua, while the city government issued the highest flood warning for the suburban Dashihe River.

Chen Hong, a resident of the southern Fengtai district, shared footage with AFP that showed a parked van half-submerged in fast-flowing brown water on Monday morning as the rain continued to fall. —AFP

Six killed in Zelensky's hometown as Moscow bolsters onslaught

KYIV, Ukraine: A missile strike on a residential building killed six and wounded dozens in Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's hometown on Monday, as Russia said it stepped up strikes against military facilities in response to attacks on its territory, including Moscow.

Two missiles landed close to the centre of the central Ukrainian city of Kryvyi Rig just after 9:00 am (0600 GMT), Ukrainian Interior Minister Igor Klymenko wrote

Among the dead was a 10-year-old girl and her 45-yearold mother, while 75 people were injured, Klymenko and

One of the strikes hit a large nine-storey residential apartment block, punching a huge hole in the facade that destroyed flats on several floors and sparked a fire. -

Trump property manager in court over secret docs case

MIAMI: The property manager of Donald Trump's Florida estate made his first court appearance on Monday to face charges he helped the former president conceal top secret government documents.

Carlos De Oliveira, 56, who is accused of conspiring to obstruct justice, destroying evidence and making false statements, was released pending trial on a bond

De Oliveira, who was wearing a navy blue suit, did not enter a plea because he has not yet retained a local

He listened attentively as federal magistrate judge Edwin Torres read the charges against him at a brief hearing in Miami. —AFP

Passenger falls from cruise ship near Singapore SINGAPORE: A search operation was launched on Mon-

day after a passenger fell overboard from a cruise ship on its way to Singapore, authorities said. The passenger fell off the Spectrum of the Seas in the

Singapore Strait en route to the city-state, Singapore's Maritime and Port Authority said. The authority said its Maritime Rescue Coordination

Centre was leading a search and rescue operation to find the missing passenger. The crew of the Cyprus-flagged ship was "supporting

with investigations", the centre said.

The ship's operator, Royal Caribbean International said crew members had immediately launched an effort

to find the missing passenger. —AFP

MORLD

Unesco recommends putting Venice on heritage danger list

PARIS: The UN's cultural significant negative visual agency Unesco on Monday impact". recommended that Venice be added to its list of world effects of human induced and heritage in danger, saying the natural changes are causing Italian authorities needed to deterioration and damage to step up efforts to secure the build structures and urban historic city and its surround- areas," it added.

mendation that Venice risked progress" by Italy in address-"irreversible" damage due ing these issues and this was to a string of issues ranging further "hindered by a lack of from climate change to mass overall joint strategic vision". tourism. The recommendation will now go to a meeting pared for adoption by the of Unesco's World Heritage World Heritage Committee tember for adoption.

and mass tourism threaten

"Some of these long-stand- stakeholders." ing issues have already led rise buildings risk "having ber 10-25.—AFP

"Moreover, the combined

It said that overall, there Unesco said in its recom- was a "lack of significant A draft resolution pre-

Committee in Riyadh in Sep-said there had not been "a significant level of progress in "The effects of the con- addressing the persistent and tinuing deterioration due to complex issues" and added human intervention, includ- measures proposed by Italy ing continuing development, were "still insufficient and the impacts of climate change need to be further developed".

Unesco said it hoped to cause irreversible changes inscription on the danger list to the outstanding universal "will result in greater dedicavalue of the property," said tion and mobilisation of local, national and international

The World Heritage Comto the deterioration of the mittee, which oversees the inherent characteristics of the awarding of the coveted property and its attributes," World Heritage label to sites Unesco said, warning that around the world, is due to developments including high meet in Riyadh from Septem-

Biden advisers admit violations in US surveillance programme

day acknowledged violations a court warrant. of controversial surveillance

panel assembled by the White ers. House recommended reforms gence Surveillance Act.

But it said the tool, estab- used. lished in the wake of intelable to national security.

FBI, to conduct electronic US person queries," the board surveillance – including look- found. —AFP

powers allowing US agen- faces strong resistance An independent advisory US citizens as well as foreign-

The presidential board to the powers, known as Sec-recommended reforms and transport. tion 702 of the Foreign Intelli- a "revitalized system" to improve how the protocol is

ligence failures during the cency, a lack of proper proce-September 11, 2001 terrorist dures, and the sheer volume" attacks, remains indispens- of surveillance led to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Section 702 allows intel- "inappropriate use of Section ligence agencies, such as the 702 authorities, specifically

Only four nations doing enough to stub out smoking: WHO

GENEVA: Only four countries - Brazil, Mauritius, the people, or 71 percent of the Netherlands and Turkiye - world's population, were have adopted all the anti-to- now protected by at least bacco measures recom- one tobacco control meamended in the fight against sure - five times more than the "deadly scourge" of in 2007. smoking, the World Health

health agency urged coun- 2007 to 17.0 percent in 2021. tries to scale up their use ing enforcing advertising now, the WHO said. bans, plastering health warnings on cigarette packages, and more people are being raising tobacco taxes and protected from the harms of providing assistance to those tobacco," WHO chief Tedros who want to quit.

Netherlands had now joined tion was eager to support Brazil and Turkiye in imple- national efforts to "protect menting all of its recom- their people from this deadly mended measures.

WHO said 5.6 billion

reduce tobacco use, includ- million additional smokers | France's rural areas. —AFP

"Slowly but surely, more Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, It said Mauritius and the adding that his organisascourge". -AFP

'AI can run Twitter, Meta more efficiently than Musk, Zuckerberg' PARIS: At a time when two planning and even package

of the world's most powerful design. tech titans are looking to have

than both Elon Musk and she said.

Mark Zuckerberg. dor, believes that more CEOs sions based on patterns and can shrink and some of the just like her will soon crop up algorithms. This could poten- a sphalt can be replanted with ing techniques around the world as AI blends tially lead to more efficient greenery.

into businesses. never asks for a raise or the notion of two powerful takes a vacation', Mika boasts tech bosses having a cage

ing communication, strategy forms. —Agencies

and Meta far more efficiently for positive change in society.'

and objective operations for As an employee who these companies. In reality space for profit-making', helping and not a solution for improv-

'Both Musk and Zucker-

Redesigning public temperature often soars the first to get an official first CHO, Jane Gilbert, was In Abu Dhabi, where the alent of 120 degrees Fahr- that naming hurricanes or County in 2021, coordinattemperature recently soared enheit, some buildings put wildfires helps alert people ing efforts like tree planting, that she is a 'game-changer fight is purely hypothetical to 50 degrees Celsius (122 a modern spin on ancient to an emergency, naming adding cool roofs and pave-Fahrenheit), the city is test-techniques for staying cool. heat waves can help make ments, and retrofitting low-in-

will rely on allies rather than some increased growth in the when Allied forces fought is obeying the same set of a major expansion of its own region," he said. forces to counter any Chinese Tensions between Beijing Guadalcanal.

US general has told AFP. Beijing enjoys "very clear" Taiwan, China's disputed might be "frustrated" with that - an affront to many of advantages in the region, claims over a swathe of the the United States, following our allies and partners in the said Major General Joseph South China Sea and a tug-of- a recent visit he made to the region," Ryan added. Ryan, commander of the war for influence in the South archipelago. 12,000-strong 25th Infantry Pacific. Division on Oahu, Hawaii.

ing military defences, its part of its territory and has tionship with the Solomons China's activities through WASHINGTON: Advisers to ing at emails -- on non-Ameri- long-range rocket missile vowed to take it, by force if remains complicated today, direct engagement. President Joe Biden on Mon-cans abroad without need for capability and the ease with necessary. which it can position forces However, Section 702 and equipment in the Pacific.

cies to spy on non-Americans against being renewed in of conflict, the United States minimum, become a regional back," he said. around the world – but said Congress when it expires in and its allies would have to hegemon in Southeast Asia, sies over searches enveloping or the territories of multiple global aspirations". nations, requiring their per-

> sion of US military presence gest army. in the region," Ryan said while "Unfortunately, compla- in Darwin at the weekend for Solomon Islands, which "careful" about its relation- who value their sovereignty cise Talisman Sabre.

> > partnership, opportunities said, despite a shared history right" to operate in the region, -AFP

French

gendarme kills

man wielding

VENICE: Tourists taking a gondola ride across a canal here on Monday. —AFP wirephoto

US general says allies key

to counter China in Pacific

military risk in the Pacific, a and Washington have flared

He cited China's expand- ocratic island of Taiwan as not surprised that our rela- alliances over trying to shape

"I don't see a major expan- by some measures, the big- uatu and Kiribati.

defence pact with China, was said. "What I do see is increased "complicated", the general

Ryan said he could under-

in recent years over self-ruled stand why the Solomons direct proclivity not to do

because we were there, we But Ryan said this may be fought hard there, and now tion in the Talisman Sabre "only the first issue in a larger there are some challenges exercise demonstrated the By contrast, in the event campaign" by China to "at a there and we haven't been US commitment to its part-

The United States

According to the US after a 30-year hiatus. Three States and China. mission as well as the mobil- Defence Department, China months later, it opened an isation of air, land and sea has the world's largest navy, embassy in Tonga. US embas- them to act in their best the third-largest air force, and sies are also planned for Van- interests and to consider

multinational military exer- last year signed a secretive ship with China, the general in the region -- like Australia

SYDNEY: The United States for partnership and perhaps dating back to World War II he said, "as long as everybody the Japanese on the island of international norms that have been set since World War II".

"But they've shown a

The United States "I was struck by the lack Indo-Pacific Strategy, China claims the dem- of development there so I am released last year, prioritised

He denied Washington the tool is too vital to aban- December due to controver- traverse international waters but certainly to enhance their restored its embassy in Sol- was asking Pacific countries omon Islands in February to choose between the United

> "We're simply asking that the US wants to partner Solomon Islands is a sov- with them, and other free The US relationship with ereign nation but it should be and independent nations and New Zealand - want to Beijing, too, had "every partner with them," he said.

One in two people will develop a mental health disorder in their lifetime, finds study

Japanese sword PARIS: A French gendarme, Monday shot dead a man Queensland and Harvard initiative. armed with a Japanese sword | Medical School has found weapon, a source close to the develop a mental health disorder in their lifetime.

The gendarme arrived in the northern French town of from UQ's Queensland Brain the population developing at in mental health services with Isbergues with a colleague to | Institute, Professor Ronald least one disorder by the age a particular focus on young The health agency said find a man who threatened Kessler from Harvard Medical of 75. Organisation said on Mon- the global rate of the prev- them with the long-bladed School, and their colleagues alence of smoking had weapon outside his home, from 27 other countries, mental health disorders typ- to detect and treat common In a fresh report, the UN dropped from 22.8 percent in regional newspaper La Voix analyzed data from more ically first emerge in child-mental disorders promptly, du Nord said. Gendarmes than 150,000 adults across 29 hood, adolescence or young and be optimized to suit Without this decline, are police-style units often countries between 2001 and adulthood. of recognised measures to there would have been 300 used for law enforcement in 2022, taken from the largest

WASHINGTON: A global face-to-face interviews - the with a median age of onset called out to settle a fight study co-led by research- World Health Organisation's of 19 for men and 20 for between neighbours, on ers from The University of World Mental Health Survey women," Professor McGrath

who refused to give up his one in two people will McGrath said the results science to understand why demonstrate the high prev- these disorders develop." alence of mental health dis-Professor John McGrath orders, with 50 per cent of investment was also needed

The research also found

ever coordinated series of onset was at 15 years old, sler said. - Agencies

said. "This lends weight to the Lead author Professor need to invest in basic neuro-

Professor Kessler said

"Services need to be able patients in these critical parts "The peak age of first of their lives," Professor Kes-

Eight creative ways that cities are redesigning for extreme heat

the planet. July will likely back at night to let hot air used in traditional Islamic follow: July 3 was the hot- escape, strategically placed architecture. test day ever recorded, until walls that help channel the July 4 broke the record a breeze and shade benches, dents cool day later-followed by a tie and misting devices that on July 5 and another new spray water. record on July 6. In the US, millions of Americans are currently under heat alerts.

Shrinking roads

When the Dutch city of can make those areas at least ations was available for only connects other building own-Arnhem created a new plan 10 degrees Fahrenheit hot- 320 of the victims). The city's ers with discounted paint and to tackle extreme heat, part ter. Some cities are studying Office of Heat Response and free labor. New technology, a cage fight, you'd surely think berg's impact extends beyond of the strategy involved where more trees are needed. Mitigation, which opened in like the whitest white paint that life can't get any crazier. their respective companies. rethinking roads. The more using tools like American 2021, focuses in part on out-developed by researchers at But the 'world's first robot They have demonstrated that pavement covers a neigh- Forests' Tree Equity Score. reach to unhoused residents, Purdue University, can help CEO', hints that artificial intel- entrepreneurship and tech- bourhood, the bigger the Then they're embarking on connecting people with free even more. ligence (AI) could run Twitter nology can be powerful tools urban "heat island" effect, large-scale tree-planting proj-rides to cooling centres that since roads absorb heat from ects. Dallas and Phoenix, for are open throughout the cers the sun during the day and example, have prioritized summer. 'AI can process vast release it at night. The city is adding trees to the paths that Mika, who heads up the amounts of data optimise evaluating which roads are students take to walk to ele-Colombian spirits firm Dicta- processes and make deci- underused, so traffic lanes mentary school.

it more comfortable to be Al Bahar Towers, for exam- more obvious.

Planting tress

LONDON: June was the outside in the heat. One park ple, is covered with shades hottest month on record for includes shades that roll inspired by latticed screens streets white

Low-income neighbour- 178 were homeless (the num- City offers free coatings for hoods tend to have fewer ber may have been larger, some buildings, including trees—and the lack of shade since data about living situ- low-income housing, and Naming heatwaves

Seville, Spain, last summer, officers," recognising that Revisiting ancient cool- with temperatures over the the growing risk of extreme Celsius equivalent of 110 heat means that cities need a In Abu Dhabi, where the degrees Fahrenheit, it was new focus on resilience. The beyond the Celsius equiv- name: Zoe. In the same way appointed in Miami-Dade on numerous fronts includ- ing the efficiency of their plat- ing features that can make A 25-story high-rise called the threat from extreme heat come housing so it takes less

Painting roofs and

Adding a white coating to a roof can help it reflect as Keeping unhoused resi- much as 90 percent of sunlight, keeping rooms inside Last year, a record 425 around 30 percent cooler people died from heat-related and shrinking the need for causes in Phoenix. At least air-conditioning. New York Hiring chief heat offi-

A growing number of cit-

ies and counties are creating When a heat wave hit new positions for "chief heat energy to cool. —Agencies

中國人民解放军建军九十六周年

Message on the Occasion of the 96th Anniversary of the Founding of the Chinese PLA by Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China

MS. PANG CHUNXUE

9 6 t h anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. We are expecting to celebrate this festive occasion with our Pakistani friends with joy and warmth. China and Pakistan all-weather



strategic cooperative partners. The iron-clad friendship between the two countries has stood the test of time and change of international landscape. The military-to-military relations, in particular, serves as an important pillar and the strong guardian of the China-Pakistan friendship. The two militaries have witnessed fruitful cooperation in recent years in fields as high-level visits, joint training and exercises, anti-pandemic joint efforts, equipment and technology collaboration, constantly enriching the connotation of bilateral strategic cooperation, making important contribution to safeguarding regional peace and stability.

ment, and development is the guarantee of security. Addressing the international security challenges, President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Security Initiative (GSI), which advocates a new path to security featuring dialogue over confrontation, partnership over alliance and win-win over zero-sum. The GSI, together with the Global Development Initiative (GDI) proposed by President Xi, are in line with the trend of the times featuring peace, development and win-win cooperation, and provide new impetus for countries to boost livelihood and development.

As we know, security is the foundation of develop-

When talking about the development, we are more than happy to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and of the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). By the end of 2022, the CPEC has brought a total of \$25.4 billion in direct investment, \$17.55 billion in revenue, \$2.12 billion in taxes, and created 236,000 jobs for Pakistan in total, helping Pakistan add 8,000 MW of electricity, 510km of highways and 886km of the national core transmission network. It has made significant contributions to Pakistan's economic and social development, becoming a distinctive symbol of China-Pakistan cooperation, and a pilot project of the BRI.

Looking ahead, China is ready to work with Pakistan to implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, jointly build the CPEC with high quality, enhance cooperation between the two militaries, and promote implementation of the GDI and GSI in Pakistan, so as to build an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, promoting regional peace and prosperity. 🧰

CHIN-PAK DOSTI ZINDABAD!

Strengthening Time Tested Brotherhood Towards Brighter Future





ugust 1st, 2023 marks the 96th anniversary the founding of Chinese Liberation Army People's (PLA).

A strong military of China is a staunch force for world peace, stability and the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. Continued efforts of China are made to deepen bilateral security cooperation friendly countries Pakistan.

long-lasting relationship time-tested between the PLA Pakistan Armed Forces is a testimony to and a living example of Pakistan-China all-weather strategic partnership which is highly valued and cherished by the two countries and its people. There are three prominent features of the relationship between the PLA and Pakistan Armed Forces.

MUTUALLY ASSURED STRATEGIC TRUST

China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners, and their rock-solid friendship has always maintained strong vitality and resilience. The relationship between the militaries is an important pillar of bilateral relations. This unique relationship has stood the test of the international vicissitudes, forming the rock-solid bedrock of China-Pakistan relations.

The Pakistani military is the pillar of Pakistan as well as a staunch defender and promoter of the China-Pakistan friendship. The PLA highly appreciates Pakistan's support on issues

concerning China's core interests, and is ready to further strengthen high-level exchanges and strategic communication, enrich and expand practical cooperation, and jointly deal with various global challenges.

Under the current circumstances, China and Pakistan have the necessity strengthen strategic communication and coordination, oppose bloc confrontation, safeguard jointly common interests of both sides and regional peace and stability.

This year the PLA and Pakistan Armed Forces are further strengthening high-level strategic communication. General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Syed Asim Munir, Chief of the Army Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi, Chief of the Naval Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of Air Staff have paid successful visit respectively to China.

MUTUALLY COMMITTED

OVERALL COOPERATION JOINT EXERCISES: Recent years, the Chinese PLA and Pakistan Armed Forces have enhanced synergy and interoperability through the various joint training and exercising mechanism. The PLA Army and Pakistan Army have established Joint Anti-Terrorist Exercise (JATE) mechanism under the Shanghai Cooperation Organization regional anti-terrorism structure. The two navies have routinely conducted "Sea Guardians" series joint maritime exercise. The guided-missile destroyer Nanning of the PLA Navy participated in the multina-

tional naval exercise AMAN (Peace)-23 at the invitation of the Pakistan Navy in February 2023. The two air forces have held the "Shaheen (Eagle)" series joint exercise many times. The Chinese PLA and Pakistan Armed Forces are working hand in hand to deepen pragmatic cooperation under these mechanism.

EQUIPMENT COOPERATION: In recent years, Pakistan Army has formally inducted VT4 main battle tank (MBT) into service which is another symbol of the Pakistan-China strategic cooperation and defence collaboration. As the most advanced MBT in the Pakistan Army's inventory, its

induction will boost the strike capabilities of all Pakistan Army formations. Pakistan Navy has newly inducted two Chinese manufactured 054A/P frigates namely the PNS Tippu Sultan and the PNS Shahjahan, which

shows the fulfillment of the enlistment of total 4 frigates of this type. The Type 054A/Ps are being integrated into Pakistan Navy operations, and will be a mainstay of the Pakistan Navy Fleet in the coming years, ensuring the seaward defence and protection of Pakistan's vital sea lines of communication. Last year, Pakistan Air Force officially inducted a new batch of Chinese-built J-10CE fighter jets to its fleet. Induction of J-10CE aircraft has further strengthened PAF as a formidable and potent force well capable of defending the aerial frontiers of Pakistan.

HUMANITARIAN RELIEF: A friend in need is a friend indeed. Chinese people will never forget that Pakistan Air Force rushed to urgent assistance after an unprecedented magnitude-8.0 earthquake hit Wenchuan in 2008 and airlifted all its tents in store to the stricken area. Last year Pakistan suffered severe flooding, causing heavy casualties and proper-

The Chinese PLA Air Force immediately dispatched Y-20 large transport aircrafts to send humanitarian relief materials including 3000 tents to Pakistan. Recently a batch of 216 Pakistani nationals stability. stranded in Sudan had been evacuated to Saudi True Arabia by the Chinese navy Weishanhu, afterwards was taken back home by a Pakistan Air Force C-130 aircraft. All above

vividly demonstrates that both armed forces held the doctrine of serving the people wholeheartedly and are willing to work side by side to fulfil this mission.

rorism.

conduct

and

aid,

the outbreak of

COVID-19

pandemic,

MUTUALLY ENVISIONED

SHARED FUTURE China and Pakistan are now at a new historical stage with a shared future in the new era. More stronger strategic defence and security cooperation between China and Pakistan is an important factor of peace and stability in the region. Both sides are fully committed to injecting new impetus into their all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, tiding over difficulties together and unswervingly supporting each other's core

Next, under the guidance of the two heads of state, the Pakistani Chinese and militaries stand ready to expand practical cooperation in various fields to a new level and inject a new impetus into the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries.

interests on the way forward.

The two militaries agreed to further enhance strategic mutual deepen trust, pragmatic cooperation, continue to improve their capability to jointly cope with various risks and challenges, and join hands to safeguard the common interests of the two countries as well as world and regional peace and

brotherhood measured by the depth of connection that stands firm against the test of time.

May the iron-clad brotherhood between the PLA and Pakistan Armed Forces last forever!

May the cooperation between the two armed forces more prosperous!

Contributing to Building a Human Community with a Shared Future, Safeguarding Regional and Global Peace and Stability

o accomplish national independence and liberation, on 1st August, 1927, the Communist Party of launched the Nanchang Uprising, marking the birth of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA). Over the past 96 years, under the strong leadership of the CPC, the PLA has made indelible historic contribution to the liberation of the Chinese nation, its socialist reform and development drives, and to safeguarding China's sovereignty, security and development interests, maintaining world peace and promoting human progress. The PLA has become a world-renown military of victory, of iron discipline, and of peace. The 96 years have seen remarkable development achievements of the PLA, growing from a poorly-equipped military to a well-equipped military. Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC in 2012, under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thinking on Strengthening the Military, the PLA, remaining true to its original aspiration and founding

mission, has been forging ahead with its great goal of fully transforming itself into a world-class

Looking back, we know well that peace has never been easy; looking into the future, we bear in mind that peace must continue to be safeguarded. Keenly aware of the utmost importance and urgency to safeguard national security, China's military constantly strengthens consciousness potential of dangers, crises and its mission, prepares for the worst, and remains as vigilant and ready as a strained bow for potential combat. When necessary, it will immediately respond, fight and win. In particular, on issues concerning China's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, China's military will take all necessary measures at any cost to safeguard national unity with stronger determination, greater capacity and more

reliable means. The PLA is not only a Great Wall of steel to safeguard China's

opment interests, but a staunch the force to ensure world peace and stability. The development of China's military strength is a guarantee of world peace, and and represents the growth of force of ships, human civilizations progress. which China's military has always been for eign a vanguard force in safeguarding regional and international peace.

China's armed forces engage in the UN peacekeeping operations (UNPKOs) with courage and determination. China is the second largest contributor to both peacekeeping assessment and UN membership fees, and the troop-contributing largest country among the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. Since China's armed forces first participated in the UNPKOs in 1990, China has sent over 50,000 peacekeepers to participate in the UNPKOs in over 20 countries and regions.

China's armed forces actively participate in safeguarding international SLOCs. Since 2008, China has dispatched 44 escort fleets to the Gulf of Aden and the sovereignty, security and develwaters off Somalia and ensured

than more Chinese foreign half of merchant

ships. China's armed forces vigorously promote international and regional counter-terrorism cooper-For ation. China years, has conducted the series of Peace Mission military exercises within framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and hosted the

Great

Wall



International Forum China's military has faithfully Counter-Terimplemented the concept of building a community of common health for mankind China's proposed by President Xi Jinping, armed forces and in an effort to protect the take an active health and life of people all over part in the the world, has deepened cooperinternational ation with foreign militaries including Pakistan army in humanitarian fighting COVID-19, making assistance important contributions to buildand disaster ing a global community of health relief operafor all. tions. Military

Today, the peace and security of the world is still faced with a variety of severe challenges, which the international community must join hands to address. The PLA in the new era will continue to advocate common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, faithfully adhere to the concept of building a human community with a shared future, comprehensively advance international military cooperation. By doing so, the PLA will make greater contribution to building a better world of lasting peace and universal security.

Violent Extremism Bill was drafted by PTI govt: Azam Tarar

Rules out indefinite delay in polls

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar has said the Violent Extremism Bill was drafted by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) govern-

Talking in the Geo News

"However, the current elections will be delayed. government has decided

haste," he added. was an agreement among census authorities have

SC disposes of contempt pleas against Justice Isa, others

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Umer Ata Bandial Monday dismissed as withdrawn a contempt plea filed against the designated Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faez Isa and other members of the Commission constituted for probing the alleged audio

Chief Justice Umer Ata Bandial heard in his chamber | ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister | project implementation. So appeal filed against the objec- | Special Investment Facilita- investment (FDI) is influtions of the registrar office tion Council (SIFC) to attract enced by various factors that to his petition, seeking con- investments and boost eco- attract investors to a partempt of court proceedings nomic growth. The council ticular country. The top-10 against Justice Qazi Faez Isa | aims to unite civilian and mil- drivers behind foreign direct and other members. Rahi itary expertise to instill confi- investment include market an's body was found on the mission is limited to two pleaded for withdrawing his | dence in potential investors. instant contempt petition filed against Justice Isa and others. | ing_investments_from_GCC_and_governance, liberalized | Kharmang district.

Accepting the plea of the countries in key sectors trade policies, skilled workpetitioner, the chief justice such as defence production, force, infrastructure develdisposed of the contempt agriculture, minerals, IT, opment, natural resources petition as withdrawn.

In his contempt petition, initiative has the potential incentives and investment ted that Justice Qazi Faez Isa nomic trajectory and foster trade agreements and techand other two members of the | sustainable development by nological advancement. Audio Leaks Commission had | leveraging the nation's vast violated the court's order that potential. had stayed the proceedings of the commission and con- prevalent challenges hinder- invest in Pakistan: political ducted a hearing on the mat- ing foreign investment, the instability, inconsistent eco-Isa and other two members of investor confidence; facilithe commission.

CCI being convened to approve 2023 census results

Council's outcome will decide the fate of polls

By Ansar Abbasi

minister said every single asked to move for the Council clause, full stop and comma of Common Interests (CCI) October or November this mission of Pakistan. of the bill had been drafted for approval of the 2023 cenyear. during the PTI government's sus results. If the census is approved by the Council, the Constitution clearly envis- also heard talking about the

The prime minister has also News that the meeting of and the federal capital on cate for elections in October said that this kind of legisla- the Council of Common the basis of population in or November on the basis of tion should not be made in Interests is expected to be accordance with the last the 2017 census. convened this week. It may preceding census officially He said that in 2018, there be held on August 2. The published.

published census.

News Analysis

By Farrukh Saleem

SIFC — the battle

ahead for Pakistan's

economic revival

and energy. This visionary and raw materials, tax

of Statistics that the entire could be held on the basis saying. process of the census 2023 of 2017 census when the has been completed. Now it process for the new census and analyses being discussed old child with paralytic polio, nationally adopted parallel this regard. is the constitutional duty of has been completed. If the in politics and media about the only case in the country currency. the government to put the government decides to hold the possibility of delay in in the first seven months of

foster synergy between the

federal and provincial gov-

ernments; and ensure swift

upcoming general elections. itation of constituencies. In case the CCI approves the The process of delimitation programme Aaj Shahzeb ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan census and allows its publi- of constituencies is a few Khanzada Kay Saath, the Bureau of Statistics has been cation, the general elections months long project to be would not be possible in done by the Election Com-

Interestingly, the PMLN Article 51(3) of the 1973 leaders in the past were ages that the seats in the next general elections on the Informed sources in the National Assembly shall be basis of a new population against introducing the bill. Planning Ministry told The allocated to each province census but now they advo-

In January this year, the PMLN leader and Federal The MQM, which is a part Minister for Planning and all the political parties that informed the Planning Min- of the ruling PDM coalition, Development Ahsan Iqbal the next elections would be sistry that the digital census insists that the next general asserted that the general held on the basis of a new 2023 has been completed elections should be held on elections in Pakistan are census. "If the Council of and compilation of the result the basis of the latest pop- only possible after the pop-Common Interests approves has also been done and now ulation census. In a press ulation census and consethe census, constituencies it is ready for the approval conference addressed on quent delimitation of the to one and a half months for of census results. Once the the MQM wants an election Imran Khan himself had infections in their region this phase as recently one of the branch, which he said was Pakistan. However, there is lished as per the Constitu- parent population census. meeting of the Council of neighboring countries could no possibility of an indefinite | tion, the elections are to be The MQM has already said Common Interests (CCI) that | be just months away from | he said was now moving from delay in the elections," he held on the basis of the latest that it is in consultation with the new elections would be interrupting the endemic stability to growth again. its legal and constitutional held only after the process transmission of the crippling told by the Pakistan Bureau on whether the elections was quoted by the media as reported.

> ever, will have a direct impli- constitutional and legal would become a reason to cation on the timing of the requirement for the delim- delay the general elections.

Another body reaches Skardu from Kargil

By Nisar Abbas

Riaz Hanif Rahi advocate's Shehbaz Sharif launched the far so good. Foreign direct SKARDU: Two bodies from the Kargil region of occupied Kashmir, flowing into the Indus River, have reached Skardu in a week's time.

size and growth, economic banks of Indus River near eastern provinces, Nangar-It focuses on attract- stability, political stability the village of Mayardo in har and Kunar, bordering

She was identified as Bil-

qis Bano. banks of Indus River at resulting from significant Kharmang Khas on Mon- disruption of immunization Riaz Hanif Rahi had submit- to transform Pakistan's eco-policies, market access and day was that of Shabbir campaigns during 2021 and Ahmad, a resident of Daras 2022, have left children in the Kargil, who had crossed the region at risk of polio and Here are the top-10 rea- river in a car and reached other vaccine-preventable sons why foreign inves- the other side of the diseases," Jafari said. In a bold bid to overcome tors have been hesitant to border.

ter. Therefore, he had prayed | SIFC seems to have set its nomic policies, energy crisis, | have appealed to the gov-| tinely attacked health volunthe apex court to initiate the sights on addressing obstabureaucratic hurdles, secu-ernments of Pakistan and teers who fanned out across contempt of court proceed- cles head-on through a four-rity concerns, corruption, India through social media the country to administer ings against Justice Qazi Faez | pronged approach: enhance | weak infrastructure, access | to deliver the bodies to them through the ancient route of Continued on page 9 | Kargil.

Naqvi wants judicial commission to probe Bahawalpur varsity scandal LHC moved for investigation

By our correspondent

In response to an investi- secretary. gation committee's findings,

signed on Sep. 6, 2018. The sive inquiry, the case has retary. Inspector General

The CPEC Independent Sharif signed 51 agreements first ship was launched in been transferred from Baha- Police, Additional IG Spe-During the meeting,

anti-harassment cells in all universities, including the na-Pakistan Economic Cor- Gwadar International Air- in Türkiye and Pakistan for LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Islamia University Bahathe Pakistani Navy by Tür- Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi walpur, with female profeskiye's Military Factory and chaired a meeting on Mon-sors appointed as heads of Shipyard Management Inc. day, where the preliminary these cells. Furthermore, a report on the Islamia Univer- dedicated provincial-level established, led by a female

The three-member inves-The agreement for justice of Lahore High Court included Provincial Minister of Higher Education To ensure a comprehen- Mansoor Qadir, Chief Sec-

Continued on page 9



injured person at a hospital; security personnel stand guard at the site of the explosion. —AFP

Afghanistan, Pakistan close to eradicating polio: WHO

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Afghanistan

five cases of polio paralysis in children, which is an increase from two reported infections in 2022.

"Pakistan and Afghanistan have never been this close to reaching the goal of eradicating wild poliovirus (WPV1) concurrently," said Dr. Hamid Jafari, the World Health Organization's director of polio eradication for the eastern Mediterranean region. "And both countries need to reach this goal together — with the full supistrative, and security appafrom the world," Jafari told

VOA in written comments. Out of the 34 Afghan A few days ago, a wom- provinces, poliovirus trans-Pakistan. According to official data, all five WPV1 cases detected this year are in The body found on the Nangarhar. "Immunity gaps,

Before the Taliban's The relatives of Shab- return to power in August bir Ahmed and Bilgis Bano 2021, Islamist militants rouvaccines. In October 2021,

Continued on page 9

Pakistan is out of choppy waters: Dar

Says country now moving from stability to growth again; Bank of China opens its second branch

ISLAMABAD: Minister for over the licence for open- Commercial Bank of China ratings for the country, which witness.

This CCI decision, how-there will be a consequent approved by the CCI, it officials have confirmed a historic movement as six China Embassy. Dar said years ago he had handed that the BOC, Industrial and

Finance and Revenue Sen- ing the bank's first branch (ICBC), China Development ator Mohammad Ishaq Dar to its president, Now, it's Bank and Peoples's Bank of within the provinces can be of CCI. Approval by the Monday, the MQM leader constituencies. "Pakistan and Pakistan have reported on Monday said that Paki- a big coincidence that the China were all great financial changed, which will take one | CCI means the publication | Khalid Maqbool said that Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman | a very small number of polio | stan was out of the turbulent | BOC was opening its second | partners of Pakistan. He said Pakistan had the Election Commission of census is approved and pub- on the basis of fresh trans- decided in the April 2021 year, fueling expectations the rating agencies had upgraded a great privilege for him to been passing through a tur-

> lated the BOC president and appreciation to the Chinese While welcoming the his team for extensive efforts Ministry of Finance, Ministry The government has been experts to get their advice of population census," Iqbal virus, the Voice of America opening of the Bank of China in opening the branch and of Foreign Affairs, Peoples (BOC)'s second branch here, also appreciated coopera- Bank of China and Chinese Pakistani authorities | Dar said Renminbi (RMB) tion by Pakistan authorities | Commercial Banks for sup-There are apprehensions have reported a three-year- would soon become an inter- and the finance ministry in porting Pakistan to over-

The minister also con-Addressing the opening gratulated the Peoples Bank that RMB was going to be matter before the CCI for elections on the basis of the next general elections. 2023 compared to 20 cases ceremony of the Bank of of China deputy governor, internationalised soon, adda new population census. In case the new census is last year. Afghan health China, he said that it was his team and officials of the ing that five countries have

bulent phase during the last The minister congratu- year and extended heartfelt come difficulties.

Dar expressed the hope

Continued on page 9

SC moved for setting up full court to hear pleas against military trial of May 9 suspects

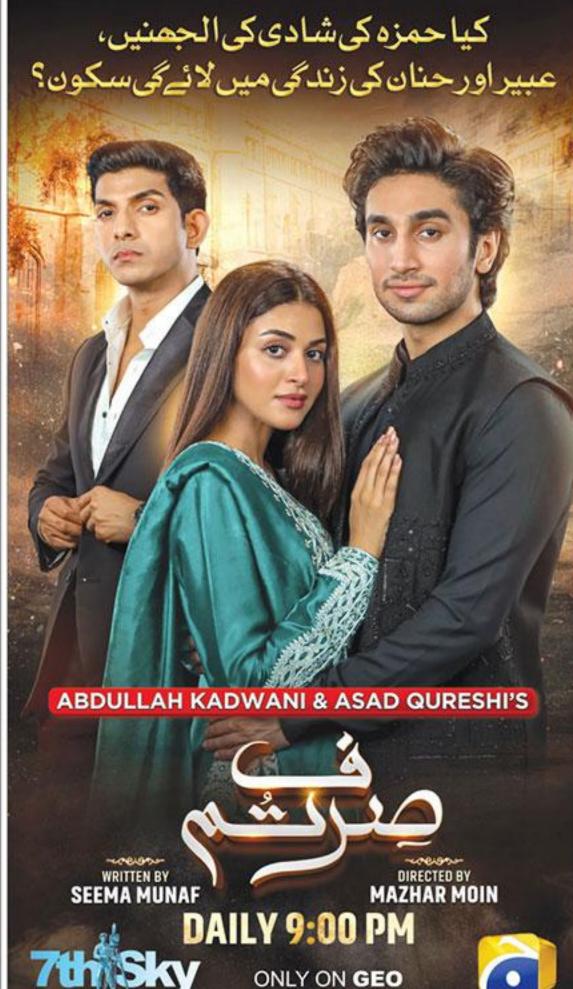
By Schail Khan

day to constitute a full court connected petitions. ratus — if we are to finally | for the ongoing hearing into submission that only a judg- ing today's (Tuesday) hearment of the full court can ing in the instant petitions.

in military courts with the Umer Ata Bandial, is resum- itary courts. Barrister Aitizaz

counter any future contemp- Attorney General Mansoor tuous attempt to sabotage Usman Awan, on the last ISLAMABAD: The Supreme any judgment passed in this hearing, had sought time for port of the political, admin- | Court was requested on Mon- present petition as well as the seeking instructions from the government on the mat-A six-member larger ter of right of appeal to the eradicate wild poliovirus identical petitions, challeng- bench of the apex court, accused persons against ing the trial of May 9 suspects headed by Chief Justice their convictions by the mil-

Continued on page 9



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CPEC — an engine for Pakistan's economic turnaround

Backgrounder By Sabir Shah

Beijing commemorated the opment. 10th anniversary of the Chi-

research shows.

"The CPEC has brought a in Balochistan. total of \$25.4 billion direct Pakistani people."

vide nearly 25 per cent of the electricity supply to Pakistan

power shortages and laying warship, named PNS Tariq, a solid foundation for Paki-LAHORE: As Islamabad and stan's socio-economic devel- day, Turkish media reported. The under-construction | were built simultaneously

tate timely decision making;

ridor (CPEC) on Monday, port is the largest single forthe first phase of this grand eign aid project of China so initiative has so far added far. China has also provided 6,040 megawatts of electricity, a total of 7,000 sets of solar (ASFAT). about 886 kilometers of transpanels for households in mission lines and 510 kilome- Gwadar over the past two range effective sensors and presented. ters of highways in Pakistan, years. Another 10,000 sets | weapon systems, the new of solar panels are under Ambassador Nong Rong, be allocated to poor people

investment to Pakistan, paid on April 20, 2015, when the \$2.12 billion in taxes and visiting Chinese President, created 192,000 jobs for the Xi Jinping, and the then Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Power Producers (IPPs) pro- and memorandums of

Continued on page 9 November 2022.

PNS Tariq to be launched on Wednesday

KARACHI: As part of the at its peak, greatly alleviating MILGEM project, the fourth will be launched on Wednes-

The MILGEM ships

generation corvettes are difwill increase the deterrence The CPEC was launched of Pakistani Navy.

MILGEM ships between for its establishment. Türkiye and Pakistan was August 2021, the second one walpur to Lahore. in May 2022, and the third in

it was decided to create

Equipped with long-sity Bahawalpur scandal was anti-harassment cell will be According to Chinese active preparation and will ficult to track due to their Naqvi announced the formatigation committee, led by low radar cross-section and tion of a judicial commission DIG Special Branch Faisal and expressed his intention Ali Raja, presented its report to formally request the chief in the meeting. Attendees

cial Branch, Secretary Law,

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bail. The counsel submitted that the tended for designs extraneous, in-



Former SBCA chief, ex-Mukhtiarkar arrested in Nasla Tower case

Anti-corruption court revokes their interim bail saying both accused remained fugitives for long period without satisfactory reason

By Yousuf Katpar

The Sindh Building Control Authority's (SBCA) former director general Manzoor Qadir Kaka and Jamshed Town's former Mukhtiarkar were arrested on Monday after an anti-corruption court revoked their interim

bail in the Nasla Tower case. The SBCA's ex-chiefs Kaka and Ashkar Dawar, and 19 other people have been booked by the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) on charges of fraud, criminal breach of trust, forgery and corruption.

Kaka and Jamshed Town's ex-Mukhtiarkar Khair Muhammad Dahri appeared before Special Judge Anti-Corruption (Provincial) Muhammad Ahsan Khan Durrani and moved applications seeking confirmation of the bail granted to them.

The judge announced his order after hearing arguments from the defence and

been filed in the case, in ment that the accused were accused came forward or same relief. which they have been shown unwell and undergoing treat- sent intimation to the inves-

SHC dismisses bail plea of building control authority officials in extortion case

By Jamal Khurshid

The Sindh High Court on Monday dis- charge had not been framed by the and mala fide. missed pre-arrest bail application of trial court. two Sindh Building Control Authority

Preedy police station. According to the court to grant pre-arrest bail to the approsecution, applicants being officials plicants. of the SBCA along with other inspec-

A counsel for the applicants sub- arrest bail. mitted that pre-arrest bail at the ingrounds by the court was only mer- no nexus with the relevant case bail and dismissed their bail applicaited at the stage of confirmation of and/or that incarceration was in-tions.

mained fugitives from the taken into custody and re- force" since, as per the the investigation.

process of the law for a long manded to the prison on ju-record, they were served

investigation was pending and the cluding harassment and humiliation,

The high court observed that the He said that Ovais was posted in trial court had dismissed the bail ap-(SBCA) officials in an extortion case. another district of Karachi and the ac-plications of the applicants observing Syed Ovais Hussain and Ziaur cusation against him was untenable in that they had been nominated in the Rehman were booked by the police for the law. The counsel added that FIR and a specific role had been asallegedly receiving extortion from a Rehman was implicated in the interim cribed thereto as a portion of the exprivate builder within the limits of the charge sheet and requested the high tortion money was admittedly re-

Regarding Rehman's pre-arrest bail, A division bench of the high court the SHC observed that the pertinent tion officers received extortion money headed by Justice Agha Faisal after record imperative for the court to confrom the private builder and threat- hearing the arguments observed that sider the application for pre-arrest bail ened to demolish his project if they the applicants' counsel had been un- had not been provided and under such were not paid the money they had de- able to demonstrate that they de- circumstances, the relief of pre-arrest served the extraordinary relief of pre- bail could not be granted blindly.

The SHC observed that the appli-The SHC observed that there was cants' counsel had been unable to terim stage was the right of the appli- absolutely no attempt by the counsel make out a fit case for grant of the excants and any appreciation of the to articulate that the applicants had traordinary concession of pre-arrest

the prosecution. He ruled as absconders, the judge or- ment in the country and tigating officer informing SBCA's DG, and from the pe- state prosecutor said that that both the accused re- dered that the accused be abroad had no "inspiring him of their inability to join rusal of the prosecution's documentary case, it appeared that under available with the prosecu- Hamza, police said, adding but he managed to flee. A Apparently, he said, they his command, SBCA officials tion clearly showed that that the suspect who man-case has been registered. period without any satisfac- dicial remand. Kaka and several non-bailable war- avoided the "hot period of / the co-accused, without a with the then SBCA DG's aptory reason, and therefore. Dahri were then arrested by rants, besides notices, for the investigation" and pre- forwarding letter and with proval, the area was extheir bail pleas merit no con- ACE officials and taken to proclamation proceedings ferred to surrender before incomplete title documents, tended from 780 to 1,044 under sections 87 and 88 of the court when the other ac- approved the TP NOC on square yards on the basis of The judge observed that the Criminal Procedure cused were granted bail so February 28, 2013, facilitat- the TP NOC, and the accharge sheet has already the defence lawyers' argu- Code, but nobody from the that they could also avail the ing the builder in getting the cused had signed the docubuilding plan illegally ap- mentary record available He said Kaka was the proved.

Since he was the head of the department, he was supposed to refer the matter for proper procedure prior to its presentation for approval and issuance of the TP

The judge said that being the Mukhtiarkar at the time, made entry of the extended lim Society on Monday. plot area without the proper site / revised plan and approval of the master plan department, adding that it was lice station. the entry which provided the extra land.

that the SBCA had nothing through their helpline 15. to do with the allotment of the case with mala fide intention and ulterior motives.

On the other hand, the with the prosecution.

Suspect killed, two others arrested as police intercept gang trying to flee after robbing house

By our correspondent

limits of the Ferozabad po-

Kaka's counsel Barrister they had received informa- house robbed by the sus-Iftikhar Ahmed Shah argued tion about the robbery pects belonged to a female An exchange of fire took investigations are under way. the extra land since the area place between the robbers

The slain robber was Hospital. identified as Imran, alias Ali, and the arrested sus- criminal was also injured evidence pects as Ataullah and during the exchange of fire

aged to flee was Shahid. Police claimed to have

A suspected robber was seized three pistols and killed and two of his com- stolen items, including cash panions arrested while they and mobile phones, from the were trying to flee after rob- possession of the suspects. Dahri allegedly illegally bing a house in Sindhi Mus- Police added that the robbers had arrived at the house Police said four suspects in a black Corolla car that robbed a house within the had also been impounded.

According to police, Ataullah was the mastermind As they were trying to behind robberies committed base for the allotment of flee with the loot, police by the gang and he was tried to intercept them after wanted in various cases. The doctor, police added. Further

Separately, a police conwas under the administra- and police, as a result of stable, Ahsan, son of tive control of the Sindhi which one of the suspects Rehmat Ali, was injured in Muslim Cooperative Hous- was killed and two others an encounter with criminals ing Society. He claimed that were arrested. One suspect, near the Pakistan Bazaar his client was implicated in however, managed to police station. He was shifted to Abbasi Shaheed

Police said a suspected

2019 double murder case may have links with killing of MPA's brother

By our correspondent

The investigators probing the recent target killings of the Abro in Defence Housing Auter's son Sheheryar were shot | going viral. dead in their car on July 26.

It has been revealed that Aslam was nominated in a double murder case in Karachi, the FIR of which was registered on May 25, 2019 at the Gulshan-e-Maymar police

According to the FIR, the firing took place over a land Maymar. The complainant's bar Abro, Mujahid and 10 others were named in the FIR.

Inquiry initiated as family claims two brothers shot by police in fake encounter

By our correspondent

the MPA was nominated, ticity of an encounter with jured. might be connected with the criminals claimed by the pobrother Akram and that lat- dubious due to its video on the injured persons.

Colony SHO had claimed that year-old Noor Muhammad foisted on them.

seem to have resorted to prompted the police to fire at not involved in any crime. thority suspect that a double staging encounters to show the suspects, as a result of

recent killings. Aslam's lice on July 27 has become claimed that they found arms first caught them and then

police had signalled two sus- and 14-year-old Faheem, who pects riding a motorcycle to were brothers, has claimed of the case told the family Monday added a new route After their dismal failure to stop but instead of stopping, that they were young stu-that the children were innobrother and nephew of Sindh | curb the menace of street the suspects opened fire on dents who got an A grade in cent and had no criminal in Karachi. Assembly member Aslam crime in the city, the police the police party. This the matriculation and were record.

The police had also the teenagers and the cops the police.

According to the family, in the footage of the incident, murder case of 2019, in which performance as the authen- which both of them were in- no encounter had taken the children could be seen ister Sharjeel Inam Memon place between the police and being caught and tied up by as saying that the new

took them to a nearby grave- taken notice of the case and | long connecting the Check However, the family of yard where they were shot in the Landhi SP has been Earlier, the Shah Faisal the injured teenagers, 16- their legs and arms were tasked with ascertaining the reality of the encounter.

Electric bus service launched on another route

By our correspondent

The investigation officer | The Sindh government on for the electric bus service

A statement issued on The family said that even | Monday quoted Sindh Information and Transport Minroute of the electric bus Police high-ups have service was 18 kilometres Post No 5 of the Malir Cantonment with the Numaish traffic intersection.

> Memon said the new Safoora Chowrangi, Kamran Chowrangi, Millennium Mall, Dalmia, Liaquat Na-Hospital,

Sharjeel pays tribute to Zardari on 10th **CPEC** anniversary

In a commemorative event marking the 10th anniversary of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, Sindh Information, Transport and Mass Transit Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon paid a heartfelt tribute to the visionary leadership of former president Asif Ali Zardari. In a statement, Memon highlighted the pivotal role

played by Zardari during his presidential tenure, as the early stages of CPEC agreements were set into motion under his guidance. The minister emphasised that it was Zardari who con-

ceptualised the ambitious CPEC project, envisioning it as a vital linkage between the western region of China and the strategic port of Gwadar in Pakistan. Memon acknowledged that it was Zardari's foresight that led to the crucial decision of not relying on debt for

any of the CPEC ventures, and instead, he introduced the innovative concept of "build, operate and transfer", which laid the foundation for the financial framework of the He admired the foresight and leadership skills of

Zardari, acknowledging that a project like CPEC became possible because of his vision. Memon said the nation is grateful to Zardari for providing Pakistan with a game route covered the areas of changer and a project to be proud of.

He also emphasised that Zardari's initiative to implement a project like CPEC has effectively built a strong security fence around Pakistan's economy. The historic Jail | CPEC project has not only bolstered Pakistan's economy Chowrangi and MA Jinnah but also further strengthened the friendship and bilateral relations between Pakistan and China, he pointed out.

Martyred police constable laid to rest

By our correspondent

man, Jahanzeb, was injured. Sunday night in a shoot-out with sus-funeral. Besides Aslam, Sadaruddin, pects while he was patrolling the DHA alias Major, Hasan Abro, Jab- neighbourhood on his motorbike.

floral wreath on his coffin. Sindh IGP He directed the officers present on the Ghulam Nabi Memon, Karachi Addl IGP occasion to complete all the necessary Road. in Gulshan-e- The funeral prayers of teenage police Javed Alam Odho, the South Range DIG, documentation regarding the prevailing constable Adnan Abdul Majeed were of- the District South SSP and other senior privileges for the legal heirs of the maruncle Shah Agha and Mir Asif | fered at the Garden Headquarters on police officers, and family members of tyr at the earliest. were killed in the firing and a | Monday. The PC had been martyred on the martyred constable attended the

> Memon offered his condolences to Colony. the martyr's family, and paid tribute to contingent saluted the martyr and laid a protecting others' lives and properties. Phase VII.

The martyred PC Adnan was 19 years old and a resident of Shah Rasool

After his funeral prayers, he was At the funeral a well-equipped police those who have sacrificed their lives for buried at the graveyard located in DHA



Munda

IIUI rector, AIOU VC may be appointed soon

By Syed Muhammad Askari The step of interviews for

the selection of rector of the summary of three names for tial areas that were deprived disconnected immediately. the post of vice chancellor of | of water supply as a result of the Allama Iqbal Open Uni- a grand operation against il- was dismantled in July versity (AIOU) has been sent | legal water connections.

the IIUL All three candidates | Chief | Engineer

The summary sent to the tives. PM for the post of AIOU VC the AIOU. The summaries for | demolished. the AIOU and the IIUI had ear-

KWSC to resume water supply to residential areas where action against water theft is under way By our correspondent

The Karachi Water and Sew-

Muhammad Tahir Khalili — Chief Operating Officer Town. for the selection of rector of (COO) Asadullah Khan, belong to the IIUI, and the ap- Muhammad Hanif Baloch, tatives, the water corporaproval of the rector's name Chief Engineer Bulk Sikan-tion decided in the meeting may be announced by the dar Zardari and various to restore such connections

The meeting was told that

a timely manner to keep the public informed. The CEO said it had been

International Islamic Univer- erage Corporation (KWSC) decided that all such water sity Islamabad (IIUI) has has decided to resume water connections that did not been completed, while the connections to the residen- have legal approval would be An 84-inch-diameter line

which was being used to The decision was taken at supply water to 81 connec-President Dr Arif Alvi has a KWSC meeting on Sunday tions, the meeting was told. interviewed three candidates that was attended by Chief Of those 81 connections, six Dr Samina Malik, Dr Executive Officer (CEO) were disconnected in New Muhammad Ilyas and Dr Syed Salahuddin Ahmed, Karachi and four in Surjani However, due to formal Water requests of public represen-

elected public representa- leading to residential areas. In a statement, the KWSC

includes three names: Dr ing that the corporation had being taken against illegal Muhammad Ali Shah, former launched a grand operation connections and hydrants VC of the Quaid-i-Azam Uni- against illegal water connec- had no political basis. The versity, Dr Suleman Tahir, VC tions due to the increasing corporation stated that it of the Khawaja Fareed Uni- theft of water in Karachi, and acted in a professional manversity Rahim Yar Khan, and in the first phase of the oper-ner and all its operations Nasir Mehmood, acting VC of ation, illegal hydrants were were done according to the

The KWSC maintained lier been rejected by the pre- | the proceedings of the oper- that it would ensure water mier, following which adver- ation were provided to the supply to areas where there tisements were issued again. print and electronic media in was water shortage.

The CEO told the meet-clarified that the actions



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Celebrating unity and heritage

scapes, rich history, and cultural diversity, celebrates its National Day on August 1st each year. This day holds great significance for the Swiss people as it commemorates the founding of the Swiss Confederation in 1291 and serves as a reminder of is a testament to the na-

On National Day, Swiss citizens from all corners of the country come together to celebrate their unity and cherishing their heritage. reflect on the principles that have shaped Switzerland into the nation it is today. Festivities and events take place throughout the country, showcasing the vibrant traditions and customs of

different regions. elements of National Day across the mountains, creat- Schwyz, and Unterwalden. ing a mesmerising specta-

Swiss National Anthem, Psalm." This stirring national anthem, with its powerful lyrics and beautiful brings people together, reminding them of their shared values and the importance of unity.

time for cultural festivities, University of Basel was parades, and fireworks. founded (with a faculty of Communities colourful processions showcasing traditional costumes, music, and dance. Local markets and street stalls offer a variety of Swiss delicacies, allowing people to indulge in regional specialities such as raclette, fondue, and Swiss chocolates.

witzerland, a land of beauty of Switzerland, rebreathtaking land- flect on its history, and look forward to a future of continued prosperity and har-

As the bonfires light up the mountains, the Swiss National Anthem echoes through the air, and the vibrant celebrations unfold, National Day in Switzerland their shared heritage and val-tion's unity, diversity, and pride. It is a day that brings people together, reminding them of their shared identity and the significance of

Old Swiss Confederacy

The Old Swiss Confederacy was an alliance among the valley communities of the central Alps. The Confederacy was governed by One of the most iconic nobles and patricians of various cantons who facilitated celebrations is the lighting the management of comof bonfires on mountain- mon interests and ensured tops. This traditional way of peace on mountain trade celebration dates back to routes. The Federal Charter ancient times when bonfires of 1291 is considered the were used as a means of confederacy's founding doccommunication between ument, even though similar villages. Today, these bon- alliances likely existed fires symbolise the unity decades earlier. The docuand strength of the Swiss ment was agreed among the people, as flames flicker rural communes of Uri,

By 1353, the three original cantons had joined with Another cherished tradi- the cantons of Glarus and tion is the singing of the Zug and the Lucerne, ZYrich and Bern city-states to form also known as the "Swiss the "Old Confederacy" of eight states that obtained through the end of the 15th century. The expansion led melody, resonates with the to increased power and Swiss pride and spirit. It wealth for the confederation. By 1460, the confederates controlled most of the territory south and west of the Rhine to the Alps and National Day is also a the Jura mountains, and the organise medicine) establishing a tradition of chemical and medical research. This increased after victories against the Habsburgs (Battle of Sempach, Battle of Nafels), over Charles the Bold of Burgundy during the 1470s, and the success of the Swiss mercenaries.



Day provides an opportu- Swabian War against the nity to reflect on Switzer- Swabian League of Emland's political stability, neu- peror Maximilian I in 1499 trality, and commitment to amounted to de facto indedemocracy. The country's pendence within the Holy long-standing tradition of political neutrality has allowed it to maintain peace joined the Old Swiss Conand stability, even during federacy. times of global conflict. A robust commitment to neutrality, combined with a strong sense of democracy, has contributed to Switzerland's reputation as a beacon of political and social Swiss defeat in the Battle of

stability. not only celebrated within Swiss history. The success the country but also attracts of Zwingli's Reformation in visitors from around the some cantons led to interworld. Tourists have the cantonal religious conflicts chance to experience the in 1529 and 1531 (Wars of festive atmosphere, im- Kappel). It was not until merse themselves in Swiss more than one hundred culture, and witness the years after these internal beauty of the country's wars ended that, in 1648, landscapes.

to celebrate their unity, heritage, and the values that have shaped their nation. It is a time to appreciate the

Furthermore, National The Swiss victory in the Roman Empire In 1501, Basel and Schaffhausen

The Confederacy acquired a reputation of invincibility during these earlier wars, but the expansion of the Confederation suffered a setback in 1515 with the Marignano. This ended the Swiss National Day is so-called "heroic" epoch of under the Peace of West-On this special day, the phalia, European countries Swiss people come together recognised Switzerland's independence from the Holy Roman Empire and its neu-

trality. During the Early Modern





period of Swiss history, the growing authoritarianism of the patriciate families com- the in the wake of the Thirty

peasant war of 1653. In the background to this struggle, conflict between bined with a financial crisis Catholic and Protestant cantons persisted, erupting Years' War led to the Swiss in further violence at the

First War of Villmergen, in 1656, and the Toggenburg War (or Second War of Villmergen), in 1712.

Robust economic growth

Switzerland is known for its strong economy, which is driven by several sectors, including banking, pharmaceuticals, and technology. Switzerland is also famous for its high-quality luxury goods, such as watches, chocolate, and cheese, which are exported worldwide.

A thriving sports hub

Switzerland is a sports-



Skiing is a popular sport in including

loving nation and has pro- Switzerland, and the counduced several world-class try has hosted several interathletes in various sports. national ski competitions, Olympics. Switzerland is also home to one of the world's most prestigious tennis tournaments, the Swiss Indoors, which is held annually in Basel.

Vibrant tourism Switzerland is a popular tourist destination, attracting millions of visitors every year. The country's stunning natural beauty, with its snow-capped mountains, crystal-clear lakes, and picturesque villages, is a major draw for tourists. The country is also known for its excellent ski resorts, hiking trails, and scenic train rides, such as the Glacier Express.

zamast



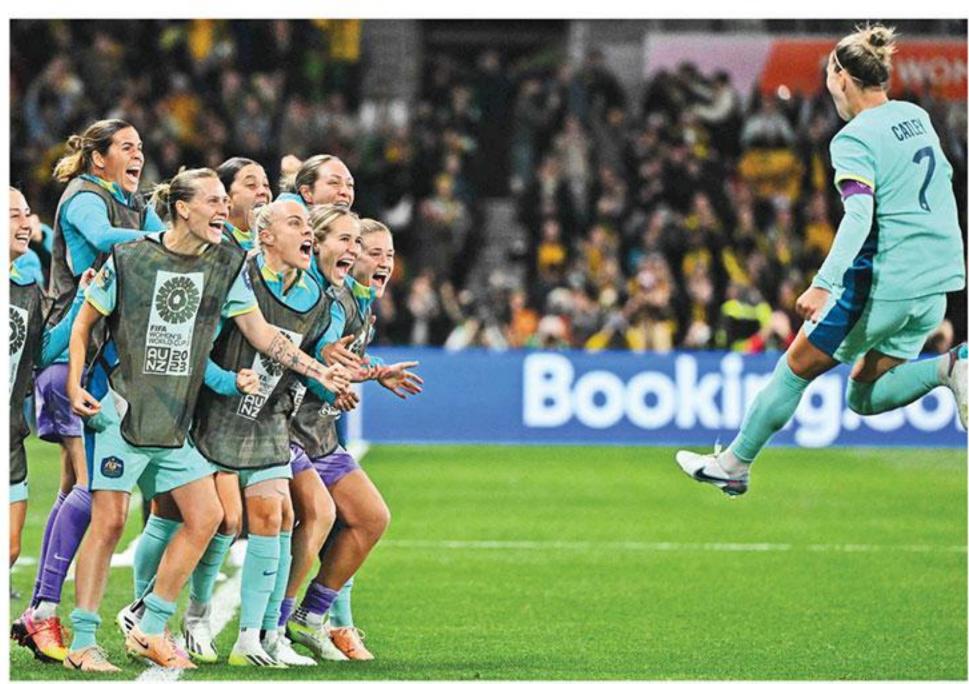
PRECISION AT EVERY LEVEL

SEAMASTER 300 Co-Axial Master Chronometer

Since 1948, the Seamaster has served every kind of ocean adventurer from solo free divers to entire racing yacht crews. Along the way, there have been many amazing editions, including this 41 mm Seamaster 300 in stainless steel with blue dial, matching aluminium bezel and retro-cool recessed hour markers and open numerals. As the name makes clear, it guarantees precision 300M beneath the waves, to deliver deep-sea tech with mid-century style. This year we celebrate the 75th anniversary of our oceangoing icon, with a promise to keep defying the depths and delivering new levels of precision.



NEW ERA WATCHES: Islamabad • G-9 Beverly Centre Karachi • Clifton Centre • Lahore • Hussain Chowk Gulberg III



MELBOURNE: Australia's defender Stephanie Catley (right) celebrates with teammates after scoring her team's fourth goal during their Women's World Cup Group B match against Canada at Melbourne Rectangular Stadium here on Monday —AFP wirephoto

Football authorities mull Pakistan's participation in international events

By Alam Zeb Safi

LAHORE: Pakistan's foot- on home and away basis. ball authorities are busy in events including the 2026

already been held in which senior team. the most important matters

in pipeline and in the next against Cambodia. few days the actual picture will become clear.

authorities is to decide also will be part of the ters. whether there should be a Under-23 line-up and they joint camp for both the sen- will get a few matches but learnt that NC also has been teams recently due to late ior and Under-23 sides or some seniors will be de- in negotiation with FIFA submission of applications there should be separate prived of exposure if Sep- and AFC regarding finances for the purpose. camps and both sides tember window is not capi- for fielding the national should have separate talized on. coaching staff.

will play against Cambodia fall in September so it will also have to host Cambodia preparations for the World in the World Cup Qualifiers be extremely important for for the home leg of the Cup Qualifiers.

PL to clamp

down on

players

harassing refs

On the other hand, Pak-

World Cup Qualifiers' first which the authorities will join the elite side only one the home leg but the provin- the last 16. round matches against have to tackle judiciously is or two days before the first cial government authorities

relating to camps, friendly not utilised and the senior

Pakistan senior team and Asian Cup Qualifiers

showdowns will be played arate camps and coaching major challenge before NC staff for both sides.

If FIFA window in Sepcide how to handle the ture in the 2024 Asian Cup deprive the national team to to meet FIFA's requirecountry's participation in a Qualifiers which will be properly get gelled ahead of ments. handful of international held in September this year. the World Cup Qualifiers. And the biggest issue The diaspora players will hore could act as venue for If September window is dow is very important.

matches, NOCs, finances side is not given a couple of have to field their under-16 showpiece. and other issues have been international matches in and Under-19 teams in their discussed in different ses- that window it will affect its respective SAFF Champi- NC's operation department preparation for the World onships in September. The is also considering applying Some more meetings are Cup Qualifiers first round PFF Normalisation Com- for NOC for getting state's mittee thinks that it would nod for the World Cup Qual-Although there are not be possible to ensure ifiers and other events in around 70 percent of play- the participation in so many time. The big task before the ers of the senior side who events due to financial mat-

on October 12 and 17. The the authorities to have sep- Qualifiers which is another to tackle.

NC will need a venue for

The Punjab Stadium La-The authorities also the technical officials of the

The News has learnt that

NC had to face big issues in getting NOCs for This correspondent has both men's and women's record four-time world cham-

Pakistan's senior team's sides in these events as it management has already As both FIFA window will cost NC a huge money. given its suggestions to NC Moreover Pakistan will relating to the senior team's

cobs added a brisk 20 runs

With this comprehensive

Renegades at TIO Stadium park," Andonovski warned. Tuesday.

Shaheens showcased their ting display included four eagerly anticipating the they are disciplined, organcricketing prowess and se- boundaries and a six, ensur- clash between these formi- ised. We are so focused on this Powered by opener tory at a sparkling rate of will kick off at 1800 local a favourable result."

were revealed on Monday heens chased down the 123- winning the toss, Rohail set the tone early in the greater role to play after apahead of the Premier League | run target in just 15.2 overs, Nazir chose to bowl, and tournament, and fans are pearing as a substitute against campaign kicking off on Au- announcing their presence the Pakistan Shaheens' eagerly looking forward to the Netherlands. Lavelle, who in the 2023 Top End T20 Se- bowlers put up a disciplined more outstanding perform-Left-arm unorthodox continue their campaign in

Scores in brief: Pakistan iour, backed up by stronger | ing unbeaten at 57 off 44 claiming two wickets for 22 Shaheens beat ACT Comets

ACT Comets 122-7, 20 Jacobs 20; Faisal Akram

Pakistan Shaheens 125-

on avoiding Portugal shock in group decider

USA focused

States may need a big win hopes on a knife-edge. against Portugal at the negotiation in order to de- istan Under-23 side will fea- tember is wasted then it will the purpose which will need Women's World Cup on Tuesday to top Group E, but coach light of a raucous 27,706 nament. Vlatko Andonovski has fans who were kicking warned his team to focus on every ball. simply securing their place in

players and sitting areas for | minnows Vietnam 3-0 in their | son. opening game at the tournament and then drawing 1-1 from it." with the Netherlands in a repeat of the 2019 final.

the Dutch at the top of their jury, declared herself fit but me," she said. group, a big win for the remained on the bench as Vietnam could relegate the compensated for her. Americans to second place.

pions is to avoid defeat against tournament debutants Portugal, who have three points, and prevent a shock first-round exit.

The most important thing obviously is getting in the knockout stage first and foremost and that is our main focus right now," Andonovski said at Eden Park in Auckland on Monday. "We don't want to look two, three or four steps forward. If we start thinking too far ahead, our chance may never come."

Portugal beat Vietnam 2-0 last time out, having previously competed well in a 1-0 defeat against the Netherlands in Dunedin.

They also held European champions England to a goalless draw in a friendly just bements for harassing referees | Comets by nine wickets in captain Rohail Nazir, who victory, Pakistan Shaheens | fore the tournament. "It will absolutely not be a walk in the

> They are a great team, Cricket enthusiasts are they are very well coached,

The US coach also hinted Pakistan Shaheens have that Rose Lavelle could have a was struggling for fitness beances from the team as they fore the World Cup, replaced Savannah DeMelo at half-time against the Dutch with her team trailing, and duly set up the equaliser for captain Lindsey Horan.

"Rose is one of the best players in the world and not having her for the full 90 minutes in the first two games obviously impacted the team because coming into this World Cup she was pencilled in as a | WASHINGTON: USA's Coco Gauff returns a shot while practicing with Jessica Pegula donovski said. -AFP

Australia, Nigeria into World Cup last 16 but Canada dumped out MELBOURNE: Co-hosts minute, then made it two Switzerland in Auckland on

Women's World Cup last 16 close-range tap-in. on Monday with Hayley knockout phase.

Olympic champions Canada were dumped out at materialised and Mary They did it in style, their penalty.

big victory putting them ners, meaning they will thrashing of Spain. probably avoid European next round.

land in Brisbane and fin- against Norway. ished second.

huge pressure following a ning win late on. stunning 3-2 loss to Nigeria

yesterday someone asked if they are yet to concede. The holders and favourites this was legacy-defining, a "But we didn't shy away

Raso scoring twice in a 4-0 made four changes at half- match for the first time battering of Canada as Nige- time as coach Bev Priest- with a 3-1 victory over ria joined them in the man attempted to salvage Costa Rica as they their World Cup. But the comeback never a high.

the hands of a fired-up Aus- Fowler bagged Australia's States and England will tralian team who knew they third from a counter-attack look to seal their last-16 had to win in Melbourne to before Steph Catley sealed spots. victory with an injury-time

The 2011 champions last time out. champions England in the were 3-0 up by half-time in Wellington as they romped win to finish on top of That is likely to fall on to a victory that allowed Group E ahead of the Nigeria, who were held 0-0 them to finish top of Group Netherlands, but a shock by already eliminated Ire- C and set up a last-16 tie defeat would almost cer-

Hinata Miyazawa scored Tony Gustavsson's Aus-twice either side of a Riko thing obviously is getting in tralian team came into the Ueki goal, with Mina the knockout stage first and clash with Canada under Tanaka wrapping up a stun-foremost and that is our

AUCKLAND: The United that left their tournament attempts over Spain was so donovski. comprehensive it suggests But rather than wilt, the 11th-ranked Japan may be two, three or four steps for-Matildas thrived, to the de- contenders to win the tour- ward. If we start thinking

> stage with 11 goals, more "In the press conference than any other team, while eliminated Vietnam in the

how to utilise the Septem- leg against Cambodia and will have to vacate a few to win an unprecedented third crossroads moment for this stituted at half-time, is also land only need a draw Several meetings have ber FIFA window for the keeping in view this aspect rooms which could be uti- consecutive World Cup have team, and yes it was," said now the tournament's against China to be sure of the utility of the FIFA win-lized as changing rooms for not yet hit peak form, beating their coach Tony Gustavs-leading scorer with four going through but will be

> of the goals are because of injury. Star striker Sam Kerr, the other players giving me who missed Australia's first the right passes. So it's pole position to get out of Level on four points with two games with a calf in-everybody's goal, not just Group D with England, face Spain, who like Japan

Netherlands against a weak her team-mates more than had already qualified for the they will face Nigeria while Real Madrid's Raso put ish as runners-up in their in Group D meets Australia. But the priority for the them ahead in the ninth group and now play -AFP

Australia surged into the half an hour later with a Saturday. In the other Group C game, Zambia won A shellshocked Canada a Women's World Cup

On Tuesday the United

ended their tournament on

The Americans are pursuing a third World Cup title Japan sent a World Cup in a row but have been far through as Group B win- warning with a clinical 4-0 from their best and were held 1-1 by the Netherlands The USA may need a big

> tainly end their tournament. "The most important

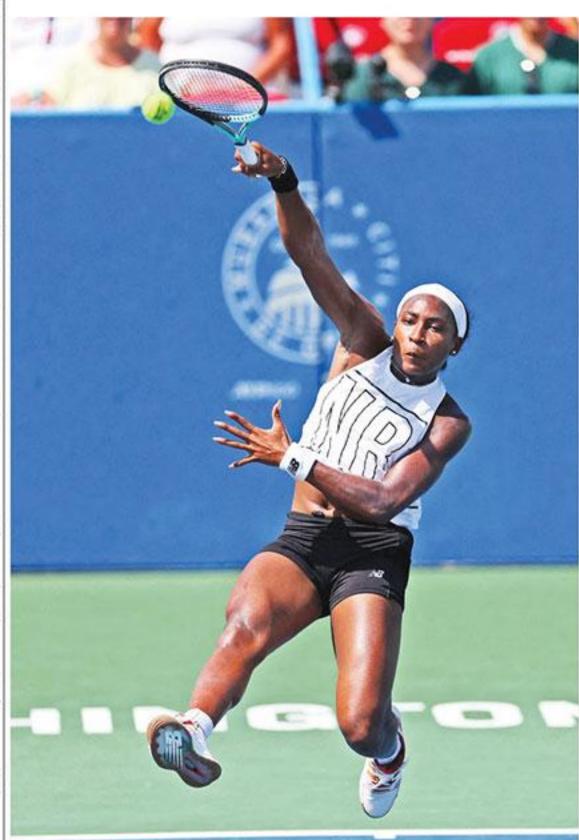
main focus right now," said Their first victory in five their coach, Vlatko An-"We don't want to look

too far ahead, our chance They finish the group may never come." The Dutch face already other match in the group.

Miyazawa, who was sub-Also on Tuesday, Engwithout key midfielder "I never imagined it. All Keira Walsh due to a knee

> Denmark, who are in Haiti.

If England top the group last 16 before this game, fin- the team that comes second



during Day 2 of the Mubadala Citi DC Open at Rock Creek Tennis Center here on Sunday

as part of a raft of measures | Top End T20 Series on Mon-exhibited a scintillating per-now gear up to take on aimed at stamping out bad | day. behaviour on the pitch. ities aim to "reset" the attitude from players and man-

coming season.

gust 11. The new Participant ries with style. Charter empowers referees to take tougher action against unacceptable behav-

Football Association.

Serious and repeat offenders can expect to face increased financial penalties, while referees will be enrounded by two or more

Managers can also expect to be punished if they leave the technical area on the touchline to "enter the pitch to confront any match official at half-time or full-time".

"We want players, man-EVIAN, France: France's teur, and Patricia Meunier Celine Boutier on Sunday Lebouc, a winner of the agers and fans to continue showing their passion, but these new measures have title by winning the Evian onship in California 20 Championship by an im- years ago. been introduced to ensure that the line is not crossed pressive six shots. when it comes to on-field and technical area behaviour," said Premier League chief executive Richard Mas-

FA chief executive Mark has the power to unite and on eight under after a 70. inspire all those that play and watch the game. However, sometimes, this can be negatively impacted by a steps of Catherine Lacoste, wind made it tricky and the small minority of players, who won the 1967 US start (three birdies in the side Paris and was staying coaches and fans. -AFP

Shamyl steers Shaheens to big win in T20 Series scoring 28 runs off 27 deliv-tributed 23 runs off 31 deeries, with two fours and a liveries, while Hanno Ja-

By our correspondent

LONDON: Premier League LAHORE: Pakistan Sha-six. players have been warned heens put on a dominant they face harsher punish- display defeating ACT comfortably knocked off by

English football's author- at the DXC Arena, Pakistan 21 balls. His explosive batagers towards officials in the | cured a resounding victory. ing Pakistan Shaheens' vic- dable teams, and the action | game and making sure we get

A series of measures in- | Shamyl Hussain's brilliant 185. tended to tackle the issue half-century, Pakistan Sha-

Shamvl Hussain, the leftmasterful innings, remain- the standout performer, disciplinary action from the for the run chase.

He paired up effectively 122 for seven. with Basit Ali, hailing from

the last day with a three- ing.

Boutier is the third teenager.

shot lead and she finished

French woman to win a

perfect closing 68.

The remaining runs were off just 17 balls. formance, remaining un-In a thrilling encounter beaten at 39 runs from just

> Earlier in the game, after performance.

handed batter, played a bowler Faisal Akram was the Top End T20 Series. balls. His knock included runs. Sajjad Ali and Arafat by nine wickets. nine exquisite boundaries, Minhas also chipped in with setting a solid foundation a wicket each, restricting overs (Nicholas Broes 37, ACT Comets to a total of Zak Keogh 23, Hanno

ACT Comets' innings 2-22) couraged to issue at least a Dera Murad Jamali, as the were led by Nicholas Broes,

Soaked in champagne,

"This has long been my

"I have watched this

clinched her first major Kraft Nabisco Champi-

The 29-year-old started Boutier could not stop smil-

Brooke Henderson, last Championship for many

on 14 under par after a near biggest dream," she said.

yellow card if they are sur- duo put together a remark- who scored 37 runs off 34 1, 15.2 overs (Shamyl Husable 66-run partnership, balls with the help of two sain 57 not out, Rohail Nazir starter a long time ago," An-Basit Ali played a cameo, boundaries. Zak Keogh con- 39 not out, Basit Ali 28). Boutier storms to first major triumph at Evian Championship

Bullingham added: "Football year's winner, was second years and always dreamed EVIAN, France: France's Celine Boutier kisses her trophy of winning it when I was a after winning the Evian Championship here on Sunday rope's defence in Spain in crowds were already with three wins - including -AFP wirephoto

> "I was nervous going out pected but a real bonus, week with her family, inmajor, following in the foot- but stayed focussed. The Today is just unbelievable." cluding

twin Boutier comes from out- Christie.

Women's Open as an ama- first five holes) was unex- in a house near Evian this me play and it made it extra

"They hardly ever see the rest of the season."

here," she continued. mind off golf and it is sweet start. She birdied the first

ment with them."

Boutier will play in the the short second. final major of the season at September.

Nothing will compare star. sister, to this moment," she added.

No.1 amateur, swiped away enjoy the walk down the "They helped take my the nerves with an brilliant 18th.

special having them all Boutier, a former world order and she could

She sank another long Hataoka, second overnight, the AIG Women's Open at birdie putt at the short fifth slipped to joint third on Walton Heath in England in and, with all her chal- seven under after two weeks' time and she lengers faltering, the lead

Canada's Henderson put to be able to share this mo- from ten feet and holed a up a stout defence but monster putt for a two at never really threatened to win and Japan's Nasa

Boutier is already the can also look forward to a had been stretched to six most decorated French third Solheim Cup for Eu- by the sixth and the record player on the LPGA Tour preparing to salute a new the Drive On Championship

in March - and the two-time A first bogey of the day Solheim Cup player has al-"But I will certainly enjoy at the 13th saw the lead cut ready tasted victory on to four shots, but a birdie at home soil at the 2021 In ideal conditions, the long 15th restored French Open. -AFP

Tuesday

August 1, 2023

RTSINEWS

Karachi Edition

Asian Games our best chance to earn Olympic spot, says Shahnaz

By Khalid Hussain

KARACHI: Back in 1958, Pakistan earned themselves World Cup and Olympic gold once popular sport. a place on the world hockey medallist, who has been remap when they surprised cently brought back by na- in Pakistan because our the Asian Games title in previously invincible India to tional authorities to put the teams won international ti- China later this year? win the Asian Games in sport back on track, and he tles. We have to produce re-Tokyo.

national title for the Pak- istan hockey. istani hockey players, who heights by winning a series winning Cup and Champions Trophy arm for Pakistan hockey. during the next few decades.

ber 8. No. 17 in the world, even be-laments. hind teams who were in the

Such has been the de-tional hockey. cline of Pakistan hockey that

national comeback.

Shahnaz told 'The News' says. later attained dizzying in an interview that a titletriumph

Sixty five years after the stage where many fear that who won the Olympic title in Asian Champions Trophy in historic Tokyo triumph, Pak- it's over," says Shahnaz, one Rome (1960), Mexico City Chennai, India, as an imporistan would be looking to of Pakistan's hockey's great- (1968) and Los Angeles tant event for Pakistan. They begin a latest bid aimed at est legends. "Our pool of (1984), failed to even qualify will begin their campaign their hockey revival by re- players has shrunk as fewer for the last two editions of with a game against gaining the Asian Games youngsters are taking up the the Olympics held in Rio de Malaysia on August 3 folcrown in Hangzhou, China game. There are little or no Janeiro and Tokyo. from September 23 to Octo- opportunities for them to ons in international hockey, teams hardly play any inter- Games," stresses Shahnaz. Pakistan have slumped to national matches," he All continental champi- going to be a really impor-

past counted among world With a complete overhaul of another chance as they will hockey minnows like Wales, the system, we can revive be hosting the Olympic Qual-might not be able to marshal Ireland and Malaysia. Pak- our hockey but it will take a ifiers in Lahore next year. his troops in Chennai beistan have won four World lot of investment and ef- "We will have the home ad- cause of visa delays. Pak-Cup and three Olympic titles forts," adds Shahnaz, who is vantage in Lahore but I still istan are scheduled to leave but they currently do not hoping that the public and think that we should go all for India via Wagah border possess a single interna- private sectors will start tak- out and win the Asian today (Tuesday) but Shahing an interest in reviving na- Games title because the naz is unlikely to accompany

experts fear that the country that Pakistan's hockey play- European teams will also be visa yet so let's see.'

might never make an interers will need to punch above competing in it." their weight in order to Ask Shahnaz Sheikh, a recreate an interest in this currently low on almost

will tell you that there might sults because that will help as favourites in an event fea-It was the first ever inter- still be some hope for Pak- in paving the path for a true turing higher-ranked teams revival of our hockey," he like old rivals India, Korea

in title in China is particularly planning and hard work, of international titles includ- Hangzhou can prove to be important for Pakistan as it Pakistan should be able to ing Olympic Games, World the much-needed shot in the will help them qualify for the take a shot at the coveted Olympic Games to be held in title. "Pakistan hockey is at a Paris next year. Pakistan,

make a living from hockey in Olympics is our biggest tar- hosts India. Once counted as the Pakistan. Our world ranking get and to do that the most undisputed world champi- has slumped. Our national achievable route is the Asian international hockey in the

> ons get direct Olympic tant event for the boys in the "But there is still hope. berths but Pakistan will have lead up to the Asian Games." Qualifiers won't be an easy them. However, he concedes event considering that four

So can Pakistan, a team everything required by a side "Hockey became popular to win a major title, reclaim

They certainly won't start and Malaysia. But Shahnaz is Winning the Asian Games of the view that with proper

He sees the forthcoming lowed by matches against "Qualifying for the Paris Korea, Japan, China and

"Our team hasn't played last eight months. So this is

Unfortunately Shahnaz

"I haven't received my



LONDON: England's captain Ben Stokes jumps to take a catch after the ball flicks the glove of Australia's Steven Smith off the bowling of England's Moeen Ali, but after a review the catch is denied after Stokes appears to not take it cleanly on day five of the fifth Ashes Test at The Oval cricket ground here on Monday —AFP wirephoto

Former captains disagree over domestic structure

By our correspondent

tee in the Pakistan Cricket opinions. Board (PCB), led a highly an-

headquarters. including former captains First-Class cricket. Rashid Latif and Mohammad

The primary focus of the meeting was to discuss and sions took another turn his optimism about the upfinalize the structure of the when the selection of cricket coming season and the poforthcoming domestic sea- balls for the domestic season tential it holds to nurture son, ensuring it aligns with came into focus. All three emerging talent the 2014 constitution.

unfolded, former captains regarding balls in domestic cricket. the inclusion of regional

balls to be used. According to reports, purchased and were non-re- fans nationwide.

By our correspondent

Pakistan will return to Sri Lanka later this

fore they travel to Colombo for the final

Azam's side an opportunity to fine-tune

These three matches will provide Babar

International series in August.

The Pakistanis will tour Sri Lanka to

Misbah advocated for the in-turnable since they were clusion of eight regions in custom-made to order. LAHORE: In a significant de- the upcoming domestic sea-

Hafeez proposed a leaner siasts across the nation. ticipated meeting at the PCB approach, suggesting that by prominent cricket figures, the inclusion of 16 regions in ment on September 6.

Zia, the director of domestic prestigious Quaid-e-Azam glory.

However, as discussions reservations about using eting prowess. differences Duke balls and voiced their

Pakistan to play Afghanistan

in ODI series in Sri Lanka

KARACHI: Just weeks after winning their August with Pakistan playing Nepal at Mul-

month but this time their opponents will in Sri Lanka on 17 August and will train on

19, 20 and 21 August.

two-Test series against the home team, tan Cricket Stadium.

matches in Hambantota on 22 and 24 be- World Cup 2019.

The upcoming domestic velopment for Pakistan son. In contrast, both Mo- cricket season, scheduled to cricket, Misbah-ul-Haq, the hammad Hafeez and Rashid commence on September 1. head of the cricket commit- Latif expressed differing promises to be an exciting spectacle for cricket enthu-

The highly anticipated only six regions should par- Quaid-e-Azam Trophy will The meeting, held to plan ticipate, while Rashid argued mark the season's opening, the upcoming domestic passionately for a larger followed closely by the Pakcricket season, was attended number of teams, proposing istan Cup one-day tourna-

Initially, the season is set He also emphasised the to feature eight regions and Hafeez, the board's COO significance of the Sialkot re- an equal number of depart-Salman Naseer, and Junaid gion's participation in the ments vying for cricketing

As the meeting con-The meeting's discus- cluded, Misbah expressed former cricketers expressed strengthen Pakistan's crick-

With the decisions taken emerged among the three preference for Kookaburra during this crucial meeting, the stage is now set for an However, Junaid Zia in- action-packed and thrilling teams and the type of cricket formed the attendees that domestic cricket season that Duke balls had already been promises to captivate cricket

their combinations ahead of the 50-over

22 Aug – First ODI, Hambantota

26 Aug - Third ODI, Colombo

24 Aug – Second ODI, Hambantota

Pakistan sports should get rid of fake age culture: Razi

By our correspondent

LAHORE: Pakistan's former badminton coach Raziuddin Ahmed has stressed that it's the right time to get rid of the fake age culture in Pakistan's

"I found many players from different sports who possess bogus age certificates. This is a huge obstruction for the upcoming talent which is at the right age of development," Razi told 'The

News' from Islamabad. This evil practice not only is destroying the standard of sports in Pakistan but is also creating a bad image for the level," he said. Razi was also | square at 2-2. worried about the recent objection raised over the age of the recently crowned world 334 all out, with England's re-Hamza Khan by the Egyptian | taking the final wicket. Squash Federation. "In the past Pakistan's squash players Israr Ahmed, Shoukat Abbas and Nasir Igbal also faced similar issues. These athletes lost their careers due to stern action taken against them by three wickets on his way to in-

(WSF)," he said. He said as far as Hamza's case is concerned the ball is Squash Federation (WSF) which has the most advanced medical facilities for age veri-ACC Men's Asia Cup, which begins on 30 The national men's side will assemble birth that does not match solutely unbelievably. Pakistan and Afghanistan have played with their appearance. Their play Afghanistan in three-match One-day four ODIs and Pakistan have won all of them. The two sides last played each other

England win fifth Test to draw Ashes 2-2

LONDON: England beat Australia by 49 runs to win the fifth Test at The Oval on Monday country at international and end the Ashes series all Australia, chasing 384 to

junior squash champion tiring paceman Stuart Broad England did the bulk of the damage when, after a rain

break of more than two hours, they took four Australia wickets for 11 runs in 19 balls. Off-spinner Moeen Ali took Marsh c Bairstow b Ali

the World Squash Federation nings figures of 3-76 and allrounder Chris Woakes ended

in the court of the World leading Ashes bowler, then pol-tribute to the team with two ished off the tail. Australia, as the holders,

fication with forensic DNA but they remain without an ball will be so to take a wicket (EPI)-genomics with best ac- since 2001. "It was absolutely pretty cool." curate results. "There are a wonderful," Broad told Sky

parents repeatedly change ple of wickets, particularly to go, caught by Stokes off Form-B from NADRA until Steve Smith, who has just been Moeen for nine. The two teams will play the first two in the format in the ICC Men's Cricket | their children win national | a wonderful player to play | Earlier, Woakes removed land desperately needed when | items on the agenda list is to junior titles. On the other against all these years. Australia openers David Warner a good-length ball, angled consider Gun & County Club

selves are interested," he said. | was so loud and we just jumped overcast morning and with a -AFP



Australia won the toss win, collapsed from 264-3 to England 1st Innings 283 Australia 1st Innings 295 England 2nd Innings 395 Australia 2nd Innings

Warner c Bairstow b Woakes Khawaja Ibw b Woakes Labuschagne c Crawley b Wood Smith c Crawley b Woakes Head c Root b Ali Carey c Bairstow b Broad Starc c Crawley b Woakes Cummins (c) c Stokes b Ali

wickets is very special.

had already retained the Ashes sion you wonder what your last leave Australia 169-3.

"Woakesy picked up a cou- captain Pat Cummins was next Tests.

Murphy c Bairstow b Broad Josh Hazlewood not out Extras: (b 10, lb 10, nb 2, w 5)27 Total: 94.4 Ov (RR: 3.52)334 Fall of wickets: 1-140, 2-141, 3-169, .60 4-264, 5-274, 6-274, 7-275, 8-294, .72 9-329, 10-334

Bowling: Stuart Broad 20.4-4-62-2,13 James Anderson 14-4-53-0, Chris Woakes 19-4-50-4, Moeen Ali 23-2-76-3, Joe Root 9-0-39-0, Mark Wood 9-0-34-1

Match result: England won by 49 runs Umpires: Wilson, Dharmasena

Broad, England's all-time on the back of that. To con-pitch freshened by rain.

"When you make that deci- caught in the slips for 13 to also been asked to appear be-

fingerprinting to forensic Ashes series win in England to win an Ashes Test match is Broad, who on Saturday made connection with the recent Australia's collapse contin- would retire after the match. Committee constituted by the lot of players from different | Sports. "I thought Chris Woakes ued when Woakes and Crawley took up the attack as the 37- | prime minister to decide the sports with their fake date of and Moeen Ali set the tone ab-combined again to dismiss year-old sought to dismiss Mitchell Starc for a duck and Warner for the 18th time in

made the breakthrough Eng- activities. One of the major "Once we got a couple we and Usman Khawaja in a dra- across Warner, nipped off the Bill 2023. The NA Committee take pain to verify this official really started to believe. The matic burst of two wickets for seam and took the outside edge document until they them- crowd were unbelievable. It one run in seven balls on an togive Bairstow a simple catch.

NA body By our correspondent ISLAMABAD: The top officials

Zaka asked to

appear before

of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) have been asked to appear before the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Inter-Provincial Coordina tion (IPC) that will meet to morrow (Wednesday) to take up some important agenda items. PCB Management Committee Chairman Zaka Ashrat has been asked to ensure his presence to brief the committee members regarding the PCB's performance on all fronts including administrative and teams' performances at all levels.

Pakistan Hockey Federa Express quick Mark Wood tion (PHF) President Brig (r) then had Marnus Labuschagne | Khalid Sajjad Khokhar has fore the committee for briefing England pace great Stuart on hockey affairs in special a shock announcement he findings of the High-profile future of the national sport.

Pakistan Squash Federa tion officials have also been re-But it was Woakes who quested to brief on the squash meeting that will be the last before the dissolution of the National Assembly will be chaired by Nawab Sher Waseer.

PSB likely to approve Rs1.5b non-development budget today ment budget that largely strong 285-member contin- Board for the next financial that includes employees' wages. Efforts are on to and status they deserve for

By Abdul Mohi Shah

be Afghanistan.

will meet today (Tuesday) is federations. expected to approve Rs1500 cial year (2023-2024).

portant points that include purposes. approval of a non-develop-

The 28th meeting of the different contingents travel-

budget for the next finan- budget amount, the part of pendent States Games will which also be spent on the also be given go ahead. Board will take up some im- ling abroad for competition PSB Board meeting sched-

million non-development a must before releasing the Commonwealth of Inde- abroad.

"The main item on the are on the cards. uled for Tuesday is to ap- cludes the administrative and coaching centres have Women Sports Board are nur Rehman Mazari, will

Sports Board (PSB) that affiliated and recognised Country's token participa- spend the required amount said. tion in the Commonwealth on Pakistan contingents' Rs1500 million budget employees.

for such related activities The amount also in- Centers including training ployees of the defunct Coordination (IPC) Ehsa-

Pakistan is to field a prove the budget of the expenditures of the Board been working on daily also fighting for recognition chair the Board meeting.

caters the administrative regent to participate in the year. Once the budget is apsalaries and round the year give them a permanent stathe services they rendered.

The other item on the

A good number of em- agenda.' ployees at the different PSB Some of the former em- Minister for Inter-Provincial

ISLAMABAD: The govern- quirements of the PSB as 19th Asian Games to be proved by the Board, the daily expenditures," an offi- tus according to the Pak-

ing body of the Pakistan well doling out grants to the held in China in September. PSB will be in position to cial, when approached, istan People's Party mani-ously without considering "These employees de- for the Board. The time they The Board's approval is Youth Games and second travelling and participation agenda relates to regular- serve permanent status and spend in government servization of the daily-wage that is why the item has ice is expected to get a legal

the service they rendered been included on the cover. President PSB Board

They were sacked previ-

Australia, Nigeria into

World Cup last 16 but Canada dumped out



Karachi Edition BUSINESSNEW



Century Engineering Industries (Pvt.) Ltd. course

Economic meltdown

Wassim Manssouri, interim governor of Lebanon's central bank, speaks during a press conference at the bank's headquarters in Beirut on Monday. First Vice Governor Mansouri is due to take over as interim chief after Lebanese ruling factions failed to appoint a successor to Riad Salameh despite an economic meltdown that has fuelled poverty and frozen depositors out of their savings. Salameh, 73, leaves office after a 30-year tenure, tarnished by the meltdown that has paralysed a once sprawling banking system, as well as corruption charges against him at home and abroad - which he denies. The failure to appoint a new governor reflects wider dysfunction that has left Lebanon with neither a

fully empowered government nor a

president, further hollowing out a

financial collapse. —AFP

state paralysed by the four-year-old



ANALYSIS

Pakistan's imports of Russian crude face port, refinery, currency constraints

KARACHI: Pakistan is unlikely to meet a tar-Reuters reported on Monday, quoting offi- Emirates. cials and analysts.

became Russia's latest customer snapping up discounted crude that has been banned from European markets due to Russia's war on Ukraine. Its first cargo arrived in June and a second is now under negotiation.

It is targeting 100,000 bpd of imports from Russia, compared with the total 154,000 bpd of crude it imported in 2022, in the hopes that will lower its import bill, address a foreign exchange crisis and keep a lid on record high inflation.

However, the benefits are being offset by get for Russian crude to make up two-thirds increased shipping costs and lower quality of its oil imports, despite attractive prices, refined products compared with the fuels

Pakistan will have to increase gasoline The cash-strapped South Asian nation and gasoil imports to make up for the lower output of these fuels from the Russian crude, leading to more dollar outflows and stress on its crisis-hit economy, said Shahbaz Ashraf, chief investment officer at Pakistan-based FRIM Ventures.

> While Islamabad and Moscow have not disclosed pricing details and the extent of discounts, a shortage of Chinese yuan currency to pay for Russian crude poses another hurdle, as it needs the yuan for trade with China, its top trade partner.

Pakistan paid for its first Russian crude a lightering operation, in Oman before headcargo in Chinese yuan. However, Aadil ing to Pakistan, government officials said, Nakhoda, assistant professor at Karachi's unlike direct shipments from the Middle hampered by a shortage of foreign currency produced with crude from Pakistan's main Institute of Business Administration, said it East and limitations at its refineries and ports, suppliers, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab would be better for the country to use a barter deal with Russia than paying with importing Russian oil, said Viktor Katona, yuan, which traders say is in short supply.

> "How will it pay other lenders and how will it finance trade with China if it uses the low yuan reserves to pay for Russian oil?" Nakhoda said.

> Adding to the challenges, transportation costs for Russian crude are higher than for Middle Eastern crudes not only because of the longer distance traveled, but because Pakistan's ports cannot handle the large vessels departing Russia.

Urals crude had to be transferred from a supertanker on to smaller ships, known as

Even with that extra cost, it was worth lead crude analyst at Kpler, as Saudi Arab Light crude is \$10 to \$11 per barrel more expensive for Pakistani refiners than Urals, while lightering operations add around \$2 to \$3 per barrel.

"Pakistani buyers would still be much better off," he said.

However, Urals quality is a deterrent, as Pakistan's refineries cannot get as much gasoline and diesel out of Urals crude as they produce from Saudi and UAE crudes.

Continued on page II

BLACK MARKETEERING

Punjab to lift stocks from sugar mills to curb price hike

By Munawar Hasan

LAHORE: The Punjab government has empowered its administration to begin lifting stocks from the sugar mills in three days to curb black marketeering and price hike of the commodity.

cane commissioner to convey a strategy to control sugar prices. The cornerstone of the provincial government's plan is to start lifting stocks from sugar mills in three days Deputy commissioners of the respective districts will take possession of the stock of sugar, which is in the range of 0.2 million tonnes in the warehouses of about a dozen mills. According to the cane commissioner, sugar mills cannot

A notification was issued on Monday by the provincial

keep the stock of sugar sold for more than 15 days. The supply of confiscated sugar in the market will help stabilise the price. Fixation of sugar price is necessary because sugar mills have jacked up prices from Rs100 per kg to Rs150 per kg and have earned undue and unethical profit of Rs25 billion in just three months

A senior member of Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA) preferred not to comment on the issue of stock lifting etc saying that the matter is subjudice.

A senior official of the provincial Food Department said action being taken against sugar mills is very much in line with the orders of the Lahore High Court. "The LHC has held in order dated 4th May, 2023 that provincial government can fix price of essential commodities. Under the said judgement, Punjab government has started the process of fixation of sugar price," he observed.

According to the notification issued on July 31, 2023 there are reports of unprecedented increase in the prices of sugar. Sugar prices rose from Rs 100 per kg in the month of April, 2023 to Rs155 per kg in the last week of July, 2023. There is no plausible reason for this price-hike as the mills completed crushing of sugarcane in the month of March 2023 and sugar was sold In the month of April at Rs99 per kg after accounting for the cost of production and profit margin of sugar mills etc.

As per the cane commissioner, the factors of price-hike were analysed and it was found out that, primarily, hoarding and speculation in the business of sugar were responsible for this price-hike. The deputy commissioners / additional cane commissioners were directed to verify stocks lying at the sugar mills.

This stock-counting and gathering of data, done on June 22, 2023, revealed that sugar had been sold by the sugar mills; however, it was not lifted by the dealers / buyers and

Continued on page II

OGDCL registers 'significant' oil, gas production boost during July

By our correspondent

KARACHI: The Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) on Monday notified a significant increase in oil and gas production from four of its wells located in Sindh.

In a notice to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), the company shared its production boost during July 2023, attributing the enhancement to the use of "cutting-edge technologies".

OGDCL posted a total increase of 1865 BPO oil and 15.9 MMSCFD from four of its wells in different parts of Sindh.

According to details, the company registered an increase in production at Nim East-1, an exploratory well in a joint venture with OGDCL as operator (95 percent) and Government Holdings (Private) Limited (GHPL) (5 percent), located in District Tando Allah Yar, Sindh Province

"After injecting it into the system through a 6"-12.5 Km pipeline, the well resulted in an additional production of 585 BPO oil, 7.4 MM-SCFD gas, and 32 NITD LPG. The gas is being injected into Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGCL) network with effect from July 20 2023 and remained under observation till July 28, 2023," the notice read.

OGDCL said installation of an electrical submersible pump in its 100 percent owned Pasakhi Oil Field, Well -11, situated in District Hyderabad, Sindh resulted in an incremental impact of 1010 BPO oil.

"The well is currently producing 1810 BPD oil and still under observation for optimum flow rates. The enhanced production from the well commenced with effect from July 28, 2023.

The company also reported a production boost at Chak 2-1, an already producing exploratory well in a joint venture with OGDCL as operator (62.5 percent), GHPL (22.5 percent) and Orient Petroleum Inc. (OPI) (15 percent) located in District Sanghar, Sindh

"Rigless intervention with additional perforations resulted in an increment of 140 BPO oil, 4.7 MMSCFD gas, and 11 MTD LPG," it

The gas is being injected into SSGCL network with effect from July 20, 2023 and remained under observation till July 28, 2023. The production also increased at Chak-V

Dim South-3, an on-production development cum exploratory well located in Chak-5 Dim South Block, District Sanghar, with OGDCL 100 percent working interest. Rigless intervention with new perforations

resulted in incremental production of 130 BPO oil, 3.8 MMSCFD gas, and 8 MTD LPG. The gas is being injected into SSGCL network with effect from July 24, 2023 and remained under observation till July 28, 2023," the letter stated.

OGDCL was incorporated on 23 October 1997 under the Companies Ordinance, 1984 (now the Companies Act, 2017). The Company was established to undertake exploration and development of oil and gas resources, including production and sale of oil and gas and related activities formerly carried on by Oil and Gas Development Corporation, which was established in 1961.

REGULATORY CONCERNS

OMAP calls out OGRA chief for favouring big OMCs

By Khalid Mustafa

tion of Pakistan (OMAP) on Monday critideaf ears. cised the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authorketing companies.

Musadik Malik and Secretary Petroleum of interest.

Despite the fact that OGRA chairman sonal gains," the letter alleged. raised a genuine issue of the oil marketing sector with the Sindh government, he sent millions and millions of rupees due to your a copy of the letter to OCAC, a non-legal continued support, and any prudent mind and non-representative concern, while is thus constrained to conclude that you, completely ignoring OMAP.

had, time and again, drawn OGRA chair- members of OMAP," the letter said. man's attention verbally as well as in writing, that OMAP, Oil Marketing Association and acknowledge OMAP's role as a repreof Pakistan, is the only legally established sentative body that represents the and recognised representative body duly registered with the Directorate General of

Trade Organization, Ministry of Commerce as per applicable law," the letter read. ISLAMABAD: The Oil Marketing Associa- However, all such concerns have fallen on

OMAP is the representative body of the ity (OGRA) OGRA chairman for extending petroleum industry in Pakistan. OGRA asall out support to Oil Companies' Advisory sured OMAP in the last meeting that it Council (OCAC) - forum of the big oil mar- would reduce the role of OCAC and accord equal importance to OMAP. However, In a strongly worded letter to OGRA the recent incident contradicts that com-Chairman Masroor Khan, OMAP Chairman mitment and raises serious questions Tariq Wazir Ali pinpointed the deplorable about the equitable treatment of both orattitude of the regulator's chief towards ganisations by the OGRA chairman, who, the emerging OMCs in all vital issues, and being the regulator, is mandated to ensure his all the time support to OCAC. The let- a level-playing field through his impartialter was copied to Federal State Minister ity, non-biasedness thus to avoid conflict

"The OGRA chairman and his team's Wazir Ali also highlighted the partisan repeated efforts to accord recognition to attitude of OMAP, when it came to the let- OCAC are not only malafide rather may be ter OGRA wrote to the Singh government. tantamount to criminal intentions for per-

"More importantly, OCAC is grabbing hailing from an OMC, are involved in dis-"Emerging oil marketing companies criminating against emerging OMCs being

It is essential for OGRA to recognise

■ FUEL SELF-RELIANCE

Govt all set to approve brownfield refining policy this week

By Tanveer Malik

KARACHI: The government is departure. likely to approve a policy this fineries and enhance their ca- demand for petroleum prod- minimising FO. pacity and efficiency, industry ucts, which include supplies officials said on Monday.

'brownfield refining policy', has refining policy states. been pending for several term ends next week.

said, requesting anonymity.

already approved a "greenfield (GDP). refining policy" to set up new up the refinery.

brownfield refinery policy has ing furnace oil (FO). been lingering on for the last Continued on page II | several months, with the gov- technology, or process would local refineries.

months and the government annual foreign exchange savwants to finalise it before its ings of more than \$1 billion and are to provide an enabling en-"The government has com- local crude and condensate per tainability of the existing remunicated its intention to ap- day. They also generate more fineries and to attract foreign prove the policy to the local oil than 100,000 direct and indirect investment in new refinery sector and we expect it to be employment opportunities and projects. approved this week," an official make a substantial contribu-The present government has and gross domestic product increase in self-reliance in pe-

deep-conversion refinery in the oil refining policy, all existing ence on imports of refined country. Under this refining refineries are encouraged to products by incentivising inpolicy, a memorandum of un- upgrade/modernise/expand vestment in up-gradation and derstanding (MoU) has been (upgrade) to produce environ- modernisation of existing resigned by state-owned enter- ment friendly fuels as per Euro- fineries. prises with a foreign firm to set V specifications and to max-Sources said that the gasoline and diesel by minimis- ing policy would attract \$4 to

ernment now showing commit- be on project-to-project basis ment to approve it before its by the concerned refineries to ensure that the final finished Local refineries are meeting products meet the notified week to upgrade its existing re- 55 percent of Pakistan's annual Euro-V specification, while

This upgrade could include for defence needs and essential addition or integration of The policy, known as the transportation, the draft of the petrochemical production, whether individually or jointly Domestic refineries make by the existing refineries.

The objectives of this policy process about 70,000 barrels of vironment for long-term sus-

This should help achieve ention to the national exchequer ergy security through gradual troleum refining capacity of the According to the draft of the country and reduce depend-

Sources said that the apimise production of motor proval of the brownfield refin-\$5 billion in investment for up-The selection of equipment, grades and modernisation of

Net change 957.60 Percentage change 2.03

Closing 48,034.60 Opening

47,077.00

Total turnover 491.874mln Market capitalisation

Rs7,231trln

Intraday high 48,126.50 Intraday low 47,372.54

MAJOR GAINERS 188 MAJOR LOSERS

% Change KSE-30 Index 17,196.56 **KSE-All Share Index** 32,027.29

2.31 % Change

Stocks climb 2pc to 20-month peak on economic optimism

By our correspondent

to reach a 20-month high level at the benchmark index, as in- be attributed to news that Pakistan lion shares to 491.874 million shares the bullish close. vestors cheered reports of a \$10 billion has taken a significant step towards from 455.106 million shares. The tradgreenfield refinery project in Baluchis- commencing the construction of the ing value rose to Rs17.884 billion from in Unilever Foods shares, which rose +7.15 percent and +4.94 percent, retan, 28 projects approval under the \$10 bn greenfield refinery project in Rs17.879 billion. Market capital ex- by Rs1,050 to Rs23,850 per share, fol- spectively. Special Investment Facilitation Coun- Baluchistan that will be jointly devel- panded to Rs7.231 trillion from lowed by Nestle Pakistan, which incil, and different other positive eco-oped with Saudi Aramco by reaching Rs7.098 trillion. Out of 358 companies creased by Rs60 to 6.950 per share. A volume leader with 49.335 million nomic indicators, traders said.

Index closed higher by 957.60 points vestment in the project," he said. or 2.03 percent to 48,034,60 points the last session.

48,000 points mark after 20 months.

mained at 48,126.50 points while the ment provided further stimulus to the lowest level of the day was recorded market. at 47,372.54 points.

Nabeel Haroon, an analyst at by 387.88 points or 2.31 percent to positive outcome of Govt resolve to cap stocks once again led the way tocks rose 2 percent on Monday was observed at the exchange. "This positivity in the market can

(PSX) benchmark KSE 100-share Saudi Arabia for its \$3 billion equity in-changed.

The highest index of the day re- offered to Gulf countries for invest- crude oil prices."

The KSE-30 index also increased day, surging FX reserves and likely

points.

News that Pakistan's new Special Habib Corp said, "Stocks closed to Rs725.21 per share. against 47,077.00 points recorded in Investment Facilitation Council record higher in the earnings season

policy rate announcement later Mon- eral Summit.

Topline Securities, said a bull session 17,196.56 points against 16,808.68 settle Rs1.6 trillion gas circular debt with OGDC recording a substantial with state-owned enterprises corpogain of +7.5 percent. PPL followed Traded shares increased by 36 mil-rate dividends played a catalyst role in closely with a rise of +6.7 percent, The highest increase was recorded bust performance, achieving gains of

Brokerage Arif Habib Ltd said the (SIFC), a hybrid civil-military forum, rally at PSX led by blue chip oil and KSE-100 continued its upward trajec-included Cnergyico PK, Pak Petro KSE 100-share index crossed has in principle approved 28 projects banking scrips on reports of higher tory, crossing the 48k mark, driven by leum, Oil & Gas Dev., P.T.C.L., B.O. worth billions of dollars that would be banking spreads and surging global expectations of additional investments Punjab, Pak Refinery, Habib Bank and from Saudi Arabia and positive senti- Telecard Limited. He said speculations on SBP key ment surrounding the Pakistan Min-

while HBL and PSO also showed ro-WorldCall Telecom remained the

an EPC agreement with a Chinese active in the session, 188 closed in significant decline was noted in shares which closed lower by 3 paisas The Pakistan Stock Exchange's company, crucial requirement set by green, 144 in red and 26 remained un- Sanofi-Aventis, which fell by Rs30.40 to Rs1.36 per share. It was followed by to Rs720 per share, followed by Pak K-Electric Ltd. with 39.447 million Analyst Ahsan Mehanti at Arif Services, which decreased by Rs24.79 shares, which closed higher by 12 paisas to Rs2.42 per share. Other significant turnover stocks

Shares' turnover in the future con-

tracts decreased to 105,291 million

During the trading session, large-shares from 263.337 million shares.

RAW MATERIAL CONSTRAINTS

Pak Suzuki shuts down motorcycle plant for 15 days

By Shahid Shah

KARACHI: Pak Suzuki Motor Co Ltd

released to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Monday.

According to the company secretary, the motorcycle plant will remain non-op-15, 2023, due to the shortage of inventory

However, the automobile plant will continue its operations.

was extended from the previous month.

Since July of the previous year, the company has been afflicted by a persistent lack of raw materials, principally as (PSMC) has once again been forced to a result of difficulties importing these halt its operations, this time shutting crucial components due to a reduction in down its motorcycle plant for a period of the nation's foreign exchange reserves.

There are other automakers suffering The decision came as a result of the similar interruptions besides Pak Suzuki. persistent shortage of raw materials, Due to the shortage of essential raw mawhich was communicated in a statement terials, both Honda Atlas Cars and Indus Motor Company, which manufactures Toyota cars in Pakistan, have had several shutdowns recently.

This scarcity has even affected autoerational from July 31, 2023, to August motive parts manufacturers, forcing them to temporarily halt their own production lines.

These closures have an effect that goes well beyond the affected busi-This recent shutdown follows a previnesses. Due to the interruption in raw ous closure earlier in July, where both material imports brought on by postthe motorcycle and automobile plants poned credit letter openings, the whole were shut down till July 19. The closure automotive industry has been struggling with unproductive days.

Due to the interruption in raw material imports brought on by postponed credit letter openings, the whole automotive industry has been struggling with unproductive days

This has led to reduced operational capacities and an overall decrease in productivity across multiple sectors of the

The news of Pak Suzuki's latest shutdown has sparked concerns among employees, stakeholders, and the general public alike. The motorcycle plant, a significant division within the company, is a major employer in the country. The closure will undoubtedly have a considerable impact on both the company's workforce and the overall economy.

According to one analyst, the closure of the motorbike manufacturing plant serves as a sharp reminder of the larger problems plaguing Pakistan's automotive

In order to address the underlying causes of the raw material scarcity and put permanent solutions into place to avert further disruptions, he said stakeholders and governments must collaborate.

SBP extends deadline for banks to buy dollars from interbank

By our correspondent

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has extended the deadline for banks to buy US dollars from the interbank market for settlement of card-based crosstransactions using international payment schemes until Delar said.

The guidelines had previously been valid until July 31, 2023.

Dealers said the State Bank of Pakistan's decision to allow commercial banks to buy US dollars from the interbank market to settle overseas payments made by their clients using credit cards will help reduce demand-side pressure on the exchange companies and keep the rupee stable in the open mar-

This will also help narrow the exchange rate between interbank and kerb mar-

According to dealers, before the directives were announced on May 31, 2023, banks bought an average of \$8 to \$10 million per day from the exchange companies to setcard-based

cross-border transactions with international payment systems like Visa, MasterCard, etc. For the first time,

IMF has put a condition (structural benchmark) PKR USD parity manage currency in line with market

As per country report, average premium between the interbank and open market rate will be no more than 1.25 percent during any consecutive 5 business day period.

This is a good condition to keep currency in line with market forces.



ABERDEEN: The picture shows a section of the BP ETAP (Eastern Trough Area Project) oil platform in the North Sea, Scotland. The UK government said on Monday it would issue "hundreds" of new oil and gas licences in the North Sea to secure energy reserves while still aiming for net zero carbon emissions by 2050. —AFP

COMMENT

Informal workers

By Mansoor Ahmad

LAHORE: Workers are the major victims of informality. The imposition of minimum wage on the informal sector, is almost impossible as informal businesses operate outside the purview of formal institutions. Thus, monitoring and enforcing minimum wage laws can be difficult.

In Pakistan, where the informal sector is equivalent to the formal sector, this straight away means depriving at least 50 percent of the workforce of official minimum wage. In high inflation that is currently prevailing in Pakistan, it is challenging for workers drawing official minimum wage to pull

Those drawing almost half the minimum wage live in misery. Another drawback for informal workers is that they work for long hours instead of the usual 8 hours duty that formal workers perform. Formal workers are entitled to overtime, which normally is denied to informal workers.

Informality often arises due to various factors such as limited access to formal employment opportunities, excessive regulations, high taxes, and bureaucratic hurdles that deter individuals and businesses from operating within the formal sector. Informal activities can include street vending, unregistered small businesses, cash transactions, and under the table employment arrangements.

The reasons for informality can vary depending

on the specific context, but some common drivers include the lack of opportunities that forces individuals to engage in informal activities or limited

access to education and skills development. Informal workers though appreciate the flexibility and autonomy that comes with operating outside formal regulations, allowing them to adapt quickly to changing market conditions. Informal businesses may avoid taxes, licensing fees, and regulatory compliance costs, which can make it more cost-effective to operate informally.

In most cases, the enforcement of formal regulations are very weak, making it easier for informal businesses to operate without facing significant penalties. High levels of corruption and excessive bureaucratic red tape in formal institutions also drive individuals a nd businesses toward informal-

As for government officials benefiting from informality, it is important to note that informality can have both positive and negative implications for those in power. Government officials may exploit informal businesses and workers by extorting bribes in exchange for overlooking their informal status or providing unofficial protection.

Informal workers and businesses, often representing a significant portion of the population, can become a vote bank for politicians who promise to protect their interests and refrain from imposing strict regulations.

In some cases, governments may adopt more lenient tax collection policies for informal businesses, hoping to encourage them to transition to the formal sector gradually. All this is visible in

Traders and agriculturist have a large vote bank. The nominal turnover tax on traders has been in vogue for 25 years without inducing them

The informal sector escapes taxation, resulting in a loss of potential government revenue. Informal workers typically lack access to social protection benefits like healthcare, pensions, and unemployment benefits, putting a strain on social welfare systems. The presence of a large informal sector can hinder overall economic growth and produc-

The state may try to address informality by implementing measures that encourage businesses to formalise, such as simplifying registration processes, reducing bureaucracy, providing access to credit, and offering incentives. However, imposing a minimum wage directly on the informal sector that operates as openly as in Pakistan would require careful planning and consideration of the sector's unique characteristics and challenges. In practice, it is often more feasible to focus on measures that encourage formalisation rather than trying to directly impose formal labour standards on the informal sector.

Continued from page I

chief executive of the state-run refiner, told Reuters.

tion is to blend Urals with Middle exceeding 50% Ural in the blend,"

from Urals crude has to be mixed with diesel and kerosene to meet specifications for local use while the remainder is exported, but the

for Pakistan, Mir said. PRL has no plans to upgrade its refinery to process fuel oil into

Kpler's Katona expects Pak-In the end, OMAP urged OGRA | istan's liquidity issues and techni-

cal challenges to weigh on its appetite for Russian crude. "Russian imports into Pakistan

Punjab to lift...

Continued from page I shall communicate to the Deputy (PRL) at least two months to fully the occupiers of sugar factories al- Commissioner of the concerned tively believes in engaging in con- ity, operations, and sustainability, o process its first cargo of 100,000 lowed these stocks to be kept at district the futures contracts for metric tons (730,000 barrels) of their warehouses. These sold but sugar. No buyer shall keep and no authorities. If such practice of members are now constrained to Urals crude as it needs to be un-lifted stocks, were being traded occupier of sugar factory shall favouring a non-legal entity OCAC believe that OGRA chief's past and blended with Middle East crude to to jack up prices of sugar and allow to be kept sugar bought continues, OMAP would be com- present deep connections with the offset the high output of fuel oil fleece the public through undue through futures contract in the warehouse of the factory for more

According to notification, the than -15 days. This order shall come into extraordinary increase in the prices of sugar warrants that such force immediately and shall resold but unlifted stocks be main in force till 30th November, Eastern imported crude while not brought in the market to stabilise 2023." On the other hand, a sugar

its prices.

Therefore, Abdul Rauf, Com- dealer was of the view that the The residual fuel produced missioner, Punjab, in exercise of step being taken by cane commisthe powers conferred vide govern- sioner would only widen the gap ment of the Punjab, Food Depart- between demand and supply. He ment Notification No. SO (F-III)2- feared that mills would now be 10/2022, dated 28-07-2023 do able to completely dictate the deal was still commercially viable hereby order the occupiers of the price after lifting of pipeline sugar mills and the buyers of sugar stocks.

Every occupier of sugar factory prices.

He doubted that any tangible "The buyers of sugar who action against the mills was possibought sugar, more than 15 days ble in three days. A sugar truck before the issuance of this order, takes three days for stock delivery shall lift the said sugar from the to main cities, which means sugar warehouse of the sugar mills is going to get short on retail and within three days. No occupier of wholesale levels very soon. sugar factory shall be allowed to

After failing to check sugar will not grow into anything bigger keep sugar mentioned in sub-para-smuggling, government wants to BRIEFS

Rupee ends weaker

By our correspondent

KARACHI: The rupee ended weaker against the dollar in the interbank market on Monday on a high demand for the US currency from importers. The local unit closed at 286.64 per dollar, compared with

the previous close of 286.45. However, in the open market, the rupee remained flat,

closing at 291 per dollar.

Due to the increased demand for dollars for import and dividend payments, dealers said that the rupee remained under pressure.

The economy is adjusting to the demands of the new International Monetary Fund's deal as the rupee declines in the interbank market following the opening of imports, according to dealers.

"December should close around the 295/\$ level whereas in June the rupee could close around the 310/\$ level," said Komal Mansoor, head of research at Tresmark.

"Our projections are derived from 3 key metrics: an undervalued rupee on REER [real effective exchange rate] basis, an implied rate of 298 and 306 on forward premiums basis and elevated interest rates in Pakistan that would discourage hoarding dollars. But these projections are subject to adequate reserves, political stability, and continuation of IMF programme," Mansoor said.

Gold drops Rs2,500/tola

By our correspondent

KARACHI: Gold prices in the local market dropped by Rs2,500 per tola on Monday.

According to All Sindh Saraf Jewellers Association, gold rates in the local market moved down to Rs222,200 per tola. Similarly, the 10-gram gold price also decreased by Rs2,143 to Rs190,501.

Gold rates decreased by \$16 to \$1,959 per ounce in the international market.

Silver rates increased by Rs50 to Rs2,800 per tola. The price of 10-gram silver also increased by Rs42.86 to Rs2,400.54.

PYMA opposes power tariff hike

By our correspondent

KARACHI: Pakistan Yarn Merchants Association (PYMA) has opposed a recent increase in electricity tariffs, declaring the move as devastating for businesses and industries, a statement said on Monday.

Sohail Nisar, senior vice chairman at PYMA, appealed to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Energy Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan, urging them to reconsider the decision and revoke the hike in electricity rates.

He also called for implementing policies that would reduce the cost of doing business and industries.

"It's already very difficult to do business and run the industries due to high production costs. Now, with an additional increase of Rs7.50 rupees in electricity tariffs, it will further burden the economy and lead to its downfall," Nisar

He was view of the view that the government was taking anti-business and anti-industry measures, which eroded the trust of the business community.

PYMA office-bearer pointed out that the country's revenues were continuously declining, and even foreign buyers hesitated to place orders with Pakistani exporters due to concerns about timely delivery of goods.

Nestle half-year profits jump 43pc

By our correspondent

KARACHI: Nestle Pakistan Ltd reported a 43% increase in its half-year earnings on Monday due to an increase in rev-

The company reported a net profit of Rs10.985 billion for the six-month period that ended June 30, up from Rs7.695 billion during the same period last year. Earnings per share came in at Rs242.25, compared with earnings per share of Rs169.68 a year ago.

The company also announced an interim cash dividend of Rs121 per share for this period.

The company said its revenue for the six-month period rose to Rs101.430 billion, compared with Rs80.442 billion a year earlier. The cost of sales also increased to Rs67.031 billion from Rs54.279 billion.

For the quarter that ended June 30, the company announced a net profit of Rs5.324 billion, up from Rs3.242 billion during the same quarter last year. EPS for the quarter was recorded at Rs117.40 compared with Rs71.51 during the same period last year.

The company said the increase in revenue is mainly a result of broad growth across its products, complemented by a favourable portfolio mix, demand-generating activities and

pricing management initiatives. A focus on the localisation of raw and packaging materials, boosting exports and tighter control on fixed costs by the company also led to an improvement in the operating profit despite headwinds of high inflation and limited foreign exchange availability for imports among others.

SECP issues motor insurance study

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has published a diagnostic study on motor third-party insurance in the country to present an in-depth overview of the legal framework applicable to the insurance, a statement said on Monday. The study is also aimed at presenting current state of

motor insurance, impediments in implementation and enforcement, recent initiatives taken by SECP, and a way forward containing recommendations. It would serve as a starting point for discussion and collaborative action planning on the implementation of motor third-party insurance among key stakeholders, including central and provincial authorities, SECP, and the insurance sector, SECP said.

As per the study, motor insurance coverage in Pakistan is merely 3 percent, which is way lower compared to other major countries within the region.

The current status of motor third-party insurance in Pakistan demands immediate attention. To increase motor insurance coverage and implement existing mandatory motor third-party insurance, the study provided policy recommendations for a multifaceted reform agenda. The initiation point has to be effective implementation of the existing laws while at the same time galvanising the process of amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act of 1939, according to SECP. The study can be accessed at SECP's website.

MCB partners with Visa By our correspondent

LAHORE: MCB Bank has made a strategic partnership with

Visa to accelerate development and adoption of digital payment solutions by leveraging cutting-edge technology and a shared vision of enhancing overall customer experience, a statement said on Monday. The collaboration aims to create better payment experi-

ences, empowering customers to transact conveniently and offer enhanced accessibility to make payments effortlessly, both domestically and internationally through a series of new technological solutions. Commenting on the partnership, Shoaib Mumtaz, presi-

dent and CEO, MCB Bank, expressed, "At MCB Bank, we are continuously developing financial solutions, using stateof-the-art technology, to serve our customers better. Our customers deserve seamless, secure and user-friendly digital banking services."

OMAP calls out...

Continued from page I interests of its members and ac- attitude was denting the profitabilstructive dialogue with regulatory emerging OMCs. OMAP, and its pelled to explore alternative av- OCAC / oil Industry are aimed at | from the Russian oil, Zahid Mir, | and unjustified profits.

cymakers' attention. with OGRA, it was conclusively icy decision makers. agreed that matters relating to laycan, ICIP shall be handled/con- nies have repeatedly expressed trolled/managed by OGRA instead their genuine concerns and sought Mir said. of OCAC. Such demand was raised fair treatment from OGRA regardby OMAP in view of the rising con- ing lay-can allocations and related cems of transparency and fairness operations. However, the recent in lay-can allocations and related support and projection extended by operations. But OGRA instead is ex- OGRA to OCAC, despite the nontending all support and projection transparent and biased decisionto OCAC.

having extensive control in OCAC, consider forming its own strategy to higher quality fuels, he added. are raising eyebrows," the letter address the issues at hand. pointed out. Such biased and nontransparent decisions in oil import chairman to reconsider his apoperations with OGRA's support, proach and impartially address the could attract a watchdog's atten- concerns of both big and emerging tion, which would be disastrous for OMCs to ensure a fair and sustainthe trouble-ridden oil marketing able oil marketing sector, vital for the country's oil supply chain.

enues to bring this issue to the poli-disparaging the image of emerging OMCs by levelling false propaganda In recent meetings of OMAP against such OMCs before the pol-OMAP and its member compa-

making process, has raised serious "Non-transparent decisions of apprehensions. This alliance has OCAC in allowing lay-cans to OMCs left OMAP with no choice but to

Pakistan's...

The letter said that such partisan | It will take Pakistan Refinery Ltd

"Our optimum processing solu-

than one cargo per month," he graph (I) above beyond three days, get political mileage from sugar said. —News Desk