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PM orders inquiry, crackdown on human traffickers

Announces day of mourning over death of Pakistanis in Greece shipwreck incident

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister cident. Muhammad Shehbaz a day of mourning on June 19 over the death of Pakistani nationals who lost their lives after a ship carnationals along with other tee would submit its rerying migrants sank off the coast of Greece on June casualties are being still as-

"Tomorrow, the national flag will fly on half-mast and special prayers would ceased," PM Office Media Wing said in a press statement issued in the Urdu language

Lik, imag occur preased to constitute an inquiry committee," the notification said.

holes and lapses in the legal/enforcement mechanism in Pakistan that exposed precise. Urdu language.

to another notification of minister has constituted a

inquiry into the tragic in- Umrani, DIG Azad taken so far and to take

Greece resulting in the as its members. deaths of Pakistani/AJK nationals. The number of port within one week. ister, while expressing his grief over the incident and also taking a serious note

Moreover, according headed by its chairman man trafficking in this Director National Police the PM Office, the prime Bureau Ehsan Sadiq and Additional Secretary Minhigh-level four-member istry of Foreign Affairs tasked to analyze similar (Africa) Javed Ahmad past incidents and action

capsized off the coast of sion, FIA Faisal Nisar Ch.

The inquiry commit-

According to the noticertained. The prime min-fication, the inquiry committee would ascertain facts of the Greece boat tragedy, identify loop-The committee will be lives to the vagaries of huparticular case and similar incidents in the past.

The committee is

Jammu and Kashmir Po- stock of the existing legal "In an unfortunate in- lice Region Poonch Sardar framework, enforcement Sharif on Sunday an- cident on 14th June, 2023, Zaheer Ahmad and Joint measures (in the country) nounced the observance of a boat carrying migrants Secretary Interior Divi- and international coordination to prevent, control and punish human smuggling and to prepare shortand long-term recommendations (including legislation, enforcement measures, awareness campaigns and improvement of national and international coordination) to apprehend agents, facilitators, masterminds, rackets and for the eradication of the menace of human traf-

> Online adds: Chief secretary Azad Jammu and Kashmir had also tasked a focal person to contact Pakistan embassy and Greek authorities in Greece regarding the latest information over the casualties and

According to the latest media reports, at least 78 people died after an overcrowded vessel went down on Wednesday.

A total of 104 passengers were rescued and sent to Kalamata, Greece.

The people rescued so far included 43 Egyptian nationals, 47 Syrian nationals, 12 Pakistani nationals, and two Palestinians, the Hellenic Coast Guard were quoted by international media outlets. Eight of those

Planning Minister Ahasan

Iqbal shooting down the

concerns of ally party PPP

about federal budget for fis-

cal year 2023-24, clarified

that the budget was ap-

proved by the consensus of

Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif always included al-

PMLN government came

into power along with it

sallies, there were two

ways in front of the PML-

N leadership, saving poli-

lies in his decisions.

Ahsan Iqbal said that

Ahsan said when the

the allies.



ISLAMABAD: Ms. MarriyumAurangzeb, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting addressing the NASFF's high achievers who are leaving for Australia to participate in the National Amateur Film Festival Award.

Info Minister terms screen tourism as best way to propagate Pak narrative

ISLAMABAD (APP): Min-York Academy, Australia. ister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday said that the revival and expansion of Pakistan's film industry were vital to project the national narrative through screen tourism.

'Screen tourism presents an opportunity to spread the narrative of Pakistan, as seen in the successful examples of Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Iran, where budding film industries have thrived", she said while addressing 25 high achievers of the National Amateur Film Festival Award bound to leave for Australia on Monday. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has sponsored these 25 students

He alleged that 'change'

of 2018 has become a night-

mare for Pakistan. "Terror-

ism was eradicated from

Pakistan under the leader-

ship of Nawaz Sharif but

the journey of progress

from Pakistan was ended

under conspiracy. PML-N

gave CPEC as a gift to the

country but a clumsy, inex-

perienced worker was

given a certificate of trust-

'inexperienced worker' was

made the country's prime

minister and that person had

Planning minister said

worthiness," he said.

The government was to promote Pakistan's narrative, focusing on heritage,

youth engagement, and

tourism through screen

tourism, she maintained.

The minister said it was Pakistan's entertainment industry, which currently

enjoyed tax exemptions. 'Over the next decade, I foresee a revival of the industry that will allow it to compete with neighbouring countries and even international markets," she said adding that the high achievers had the potential to make a significant impact in this field.

The minister recalled that Pakistan's film industry faced a significant set-

2000, causing its growth to Marriyum Aurangzeb stagnate. However, since said that incentives for the 2000, the industry has exfilm industry were included perienced a boost, although in the 2018 budget, and afits progress has been hinter coming into power again last year, the coali-tion government estab-lished a dedicated film di-vision in the ministry. dered by the absence of cinemas and affordability issues, which limited access high time to invest in for the general public, she The film sector cur-rently enjoyed zero taxamaintained. The minister said the government introduced a film policy in 2017 to address these chal-

> She said that extensive research and consultations with relevant stakeholders and experts were conducted to develop this comprehensive policy. Lessons, she added, were learned from countries with flourishing film industries or successful revivals,

providing valuable in-

emptions for individuals and production houses. Import of equipment for film and drama production had also been tax exempted, she said. The minister disclosed

tion, with income tax ex-

that the corporate entities providing funds for film production can claim CSR tax credits from the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), making it a significant incentive.



Maulana Tahir Ashrafi addressing a press conference at Begumpura.

were to be stopped from

leaving the country for

some job opportunities in

other countries. He de-

manded the prime minister

and the interior minister

should take action against

those involved in sending

Pakistani citizens abroad

illegally. He also appealed

the chief justice of Pakistan

to take suo moto notice of

such events. He also ex-

press condolences to those

who lost their lives in a bus

accident near Kallar Kahar.

tinued in the country

throughout the year, but

what happened on May 9

was first incident of its

kind. "Does anyone in an-

PPP has strong roots

in masses that would win

complete the mission of

former prime ministers

people and downtrodden

Elections should be held

as per constitution: Kaira

Minister (SAPM) Qamar the general elections and

He said protests con-

Ashrafi urges political dialogue for stability in country

LAHORE (APP): Special in a boat, which capsized Representative on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East and Central Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi called upon political parties on Sunday to hold dialogue for restoring stability and peace in the

Addressing a press conference at Baitul Aman here, he said investors were ready to come to Pakistan, but they wanted peace in the country. He said it was good that Pakistan's relations with Russia and other countries were improving. He said the supremacy of the law required everyone to avoid playing with the Constitution. The ulema of the country did not approve of political fights, he added.

Expressing his grief ger ever insult their marover the loss of human lives tyrs," he questioned.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Special Assistant to Prime

Zaman Kaira Sunday said

that the general elections in

the country should be held

according to the Constitu-

tion and not on the will and

whims of a single party as

PPP believes in democratic norms. "Any political

party achieved people's

mandate in free and trans-

parent election would have

all the right to form govern-

ment and address the country's problems", he

PM orders action against ISLAMABAD (INP): Expressing condolences to the bereaved families of passennear Greece, he said peace would have to be restored in Pakistan if the youth

gers who lost their lives in the ill-fated Kallar Kahar bus accident, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed his deep anguish over the occurrence of repeated traffic accidents near the Salt Range on motorway. "My sympathies and prayers are for those families who have lost their dear ones in this painful accident," he said in a

Motorway authorities should ensure that vehicles plying on Motorways have the required fitness and compatibility, besides, the drivers meet all the driving requirements, he

The prime minister observed that with strict implementation of rules and regulations, traveling could be made safer.

BLF Commander Nawaz Rind killed outside Pakistan

RAWALPINDI (Online): Nawaz Ali Rind, the commander of the banned militant outfit Baloch Liberation Front (BLF), was killed in an internal fight outside Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and

Benazir Bhutto Shaheed, he Rind, who belonged to Awaran district of He said the PPP be-Balochistan and a leading lieves in services to people, BLF member since 2014, not abusive politics, addwas involved in several ating, PPP is not fighting tacks on security forces. He against any political party was killed mysteriously at but against poverty and in-flation. PPP government a neighbouring country. After Gulzar Imam had always worked for poor

alias Shambe's arrest, there has been a split in the militant groups operating in



Budget approved with allies

consensus: Ahsan Iqbal

PML-N decides to address

Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain has said that Pakistan did not need any enemy in the presence of Pa-(PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, as he had been playing with the country's in-

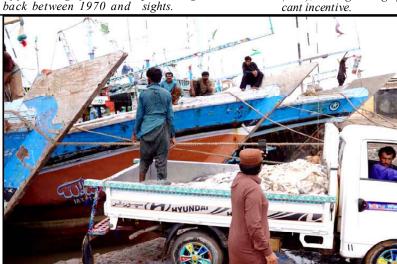
He was talking to the media after inaugurating Sui gas supply to Manih Road Noorpura here on Sunday. He said Pakistan was on the verge of bankruptcy when the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)

terests continuously.

SHEIKHUPURA (APP): coalition government took over the country through a no-confidence move against Imran Khan

The minister claimed that Imran Khan looted the national kitty ruthkistan Tehreek-e-Insaf lessly and caused irreparable damage to the country, adding that the PTI chief broke all records of obtaining the foreign loans.

Rana Tanveer said Imran Khan dubbed others as 'dacoits and thieves', but his crony Farah Gogi looted the national wealth with great impunity and shifted it abroad.



THATTA: Fishermen are anchoring on shore as they are returning to their homes after fishing at Keti Bandar Beach after removed ban on fishing on subsided of Cyclone Biporjoy, in Thatta.

CTD arrests 'terrorist' in DG Khan

LAHORE (APP): The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Punjab, during an operation in Dera Ghazi Khan, arrested an alleged terrorist, who's a member of ı banned outfit.

According to the spokesman, the CTD DG Khan received information from a reliable source that an active member of proscribed organisation, Baloch Liberation Army, Muhammad Rashid Bashmani, was present in the area and was sharing controversial content against the government and the law-enforcement agencies through the social media. A team of CTD police station Sadar reached the spot and arrested the terror ist, the spokesman said and added that police also registered a case against the terrorist and started investigation.

Terrorist commander among three killed in Dara Adam Khel IBO ISLAMABAD (APP): dent of Bazi Khel, Dara

The security forces in a Adam Khel) and Anas alias successful intelligence Ali (Resident of Nangarhar based operation on Sunday killed the most hell wanted terrorist comand two of his group members in Dara Adam

According to the security sources, on the night of June 16th and 17th, security forces in a highly planned intelligencebased operation killed a most wanted Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terrorist commander Zafar Khan alias Zafari son of Adam Khel whereas two of his members identified as Hasan Khan son of volved in 26 grenade at-

Afghanistan) were sent to

The intelligence agenmander Zafar alias Zafari cies and security forces hunt down terrorists by adopting unconventional operational procedures based on corroborated intelligence. The slain terrorist

Zafri was a resident of village Malan in Dara Adam Khel and reached Peshawar from Nangarhar province of Afghanistan on 22nd May 2023.

Terrorist Zafri was Ghulam Siddique in Dara also a former member of Tehreek-e-Taliban Afghanistan (TTA) and was in-Mohammad Imran (Resi- tacks in Pakistan.

Pakistan activating 'Plan-B' as stalemate with IMF talks persists

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Shehbaz government is reportedly moving ahead with the 'Plan B' (The arrangement referred to by both Finance Minster Ishaq dar and his deputy dr Aysha Gahus

pasha on several occasiojns) under which it is requesting the friendly nations to plug the up to \$4 billion financial gap as the negotiations with the IMF (International Monetary Fund) aren't going nowhere.

the IMF With programme set to expire on June 30, the government believes it can meet all the financial needs, sources say, if the countries like China, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia agree for addi-

tional deposits. Earlier, Dar had said after presenting the 2023-24 budget that the government was working on a Plan B if the IMF did not release the pending

He had, however, avoided explaining or sharing any details, saying, "Plan-B is always there" He stated that the features of the plan could not be talked about in public and again reiterated that Pakistan would not default.

Separately, the finance minister had also said that those behind the running the "Reimagining Pakistan" movement should stop frightening the people with the notion that the country would soon default, just hours after Miftah Ismail

claimed that the budget was not sustainable. About geopolitics, Dar

had told the Senate Standing Committee on Finance that external forces were attempting to undermine Pakistan's economic stability by forcing it into a situation similar to that of Sri Lanka and subsequently negotiating with the IMF. He made it clear that

Pakistan would not bow down to the IMF's demands of the IMF, which has raised objections to the country's budget proposals for the next financial

Pakistan was a sovereign country and would not accept everything the IMF demanded, but rather aim to achieve the country's eco-

nomic targets and priorities, he added.

Pakistan has activated the Plan B comes as Associ- tries deeply indebted. ated Press in a latest report says the UN is stepping up the criticism of IMF and World Bank for benefitting the rich nations. From the ashes of

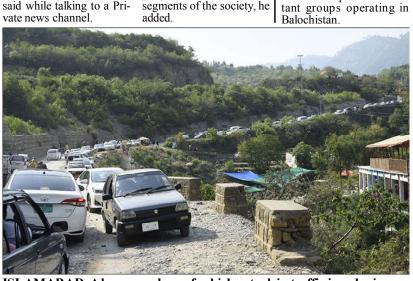
World War II, three institutions were created as linchpins of a new global order. Now, in an unusual move, the top official in one (the secretary-general of the United Nations) is pressing for major changes in the other two," the Associated Press said.

"Antonio Guterres says $the {\it International Monetary}$ Fund (IMF) has benefited rich countries instead of poor ones. And he describes

the IMF and World Bank 's response to the COVID-19 The suggestion that pandemic as a glaring failure that left dozens of coun-

Guterres said it's time for the boards of the IMF and the World Bank to right what he called the historic wrongs and "bias and injustice built into the current international financial architecture.

The IMF's rules unfairly favour wealthy nations, he added. During the pandemic, the wealthy Group of Seven nations, with a population of 772 million, received the equivalent of \$280 billion from the IMF while the least developed countries, with a population of 1.1 billion, were allocated just over \$8 bil-



ISLAMABAD: A large numbers of vehicles stuck in traffic jam during arrival at Shahdara picnic point during hot weather, in the Federal Capital.

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

Undoing the past

The PDM coalition government seems to be preparing for the next general elections with some lastminute measures to 'level the playing field', so to speak. It has recently introduced legislation that will allow politicians handed a lifetime disqualification from holding public office to return to the political arena, and also to 'restore' to the ECP the sole power to announce and amend election schedules.

The latter seems to be a bid to preclude any legal challenges that may arise over any further tinkering with election timelines. The proposed amendment will allow the ECP to unilaterally decide when elections are to be held once they become due.

While this may have passed much scrutiny in simpler times the present context has complicated matters: the move seems aimed at providing legal cover to the ECP for its failure to hold elections to various assemblies within constitutionally stipu-

The other proposal, to limit disqualifications under Article 62(1)(f) to five years instead of a lifetime, is likely to draw even more controversy because critics will invariably see it as 'person-specific'. In particular, it will directly benefit PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif and the newly minted Istehkami-Pakistan Party's patron, Jahangir Tareen.

But, as the government has generously pointed out, the rule change will also apply to PTI chairman Imran Khan, who is the latest to have the disqualification sword hanging over his head. While the timing of this legislation is indeed unpropitious, the historical context must be considered.

The Supreme Court had been roundly criticised for ruling, in 2018, that an Article 62(1)(f) disqualification is for life. The article sets a rather nebulous standard for lawmakers, and the apex court's strict interpretation of it was widely seen as just a means to keep a thrice-elected prime minister out of the running from any future political contest on the basis of a rather weak conviction in the Panama Papers case.

That said, the manner in which the Supreme Court's earlier decision is being undone is problematic. Laws that are passed without following the legislative process — ie, after robust debate and due consideration by both the government and opposition benches — remain vulnerable to future challenges and, therefore, lack durability. Parliament should be seen to be representative of the people. not just a party or group of parties, nor any individual.

Had these two proposals been discussed and debated with opposition parties, had the government helped their critics understand how its proposed legislation would benefit the political process, and had the government been transparent about the drafting of the laws, perhaps the objections raised would not have arisen. Parliament cannot be used only as a rubber stamp — it must be meaningfully invested in all legislation that passes through its two Houses

The whole scoop



Monday June 19, 2023

Muna Khan

On a few people's recommendations I watched the Netflix show Scoop about an Indian journalist Jagruti Pathak's quest for front page stories and how, in that chase, she gets embroiled in the murder of another journalist. The person reporting stories suddenly becomes the story. It's a fascinating show that sheds light on the connections between the media, law enforcement and criminal gangs. And it's based on Jigna Vora's memoir Behind Bars in Byculla, about her time in prison, charged for the murder of journalist Jyotirmoy Dey in 2011. She was acquitted in 2018.

Scoop is not just about Pathak's incarceration and her fight to clear her name. It tells the story of a female crime reporter navigating a very maledominated space in which she must deal with their aspersions on her character and ethical practices. Pathak has worked hard to rise to reach her position and enjoys the full support of her editor. She deals with jealous colleagues and police officers playing politics in a bid to broker their own deals

Is Pathak a hero for trying to get to the truth or a ruthless reporter seeking glory for that front page story? Must she be one or the other?

shines a spotlight on the media industry, journalistic practices and relationships between the government (advertisers) and media companies, showed journalists' per- suited to your reality. I sonal lives. Too often one won't be surprised if -- Courtesy Dawn

work impact families and relationships. Scoop first came to

my attention on social media because users were show wherein the paper's editor cites weather to illustrate objectivity. The quote actually came from Jonathan Fraser, a journalist and professor at Sheffield University: "If someone says it's raining, and another person says it's dry, it's not your job to quote them both. Your job is to look out the [expletive] window and find out which is true." Many people sharing this quote said 'this is how journalism must be' or 'tell facts as they are'. The trouble is, often people don't like

Facts, for journalists, are like spices for chefs an essential part of their craft. Journalists use them to make arguments, substantiate claims and also hold the powerful to account. Sadly, selling wild claims as facts has turned into a profitable business for which there are many eager buyers — the case of partisan YouTubers earning in the hundreds and thousands selling unsubstantiated claims is a prime example of how journalists' role has been misunderstood. Journalists are meant

to play by the rules of the game but these rules assume politicians would "stay within the guardrails of truth" wrote the Australian editor Lenore Taylor in the Guardian in 2020. And we've seen, all over the world, how it's difficult to play by those rules "if the politicians themselves aren't in any way constrained by facts if they lie, contradict While the TV series themselves or simply make things up, or if their calculated tactic is to upend or subvert civic dialogue rather than participate in it". It's so easy to say 'fake news' to an op-

doesn't realise how their 'fake reality' becomes a term given that TV channels all over the world seem only too happy to air 'alternative facts' There are consequences sharing a still from the of this and the pandemic is one example of how leadership that put aside its divisions and chose to create policies based on scientific evidence fared better than others. At one point when then president Donald Trump was calling Covid the 'China virus' the mortality rate, measured as deaths per 100,000 citizens, was 54.18. Over in the UK when prime minister Boris Johnson was shaking hands with coronavirus patients to downplay the fear, that figure was 62.4. The rates came down policymakers when turned to evidence, not

> Facts save lives. They have an essential role to play in news consuming audience's everyday decision-making whether in choosing how to prepare for the cyclone or where to repose their trust at election time. If journalists demand evidence-based information, not hyperbole, from politicians, I believe the audience's trust in the media will see a rise. Placing a group of ill-qualified analysts or party spokespersons to pass as a diverse panel is not journalism. Reporting a political leader's conferences without contextualising is not journalism.

science fiction.

So if a minister says the country is not going to default and an oppositional leader says it is, your job is not to report what they said but to look out the window, smile in the knowledge that you've done your homework - based on evidence — and are ready to ask the tough questions. Perhaps it bears reminding that journalism is hard work and one that requires thought it also aptly posing opinion or one not employing all tools of verification to get to the truth.

Civil service reform



Aizaz Ahmad

Chaudhry In the heart of Vienna lies a flourishing Pakistani restaurant that caters to thousands of tourists and locals. The owner has credited much of the restaurant's success to an enabling business environment. For instance, while his restaurant is regularly and rigorously inspected by government officials, there is no expectation of or demand for bribes. One wonders what motivates Austrian government functionaries to do their job effectively and honestly. Is there a lesson we could learn from international best practices?

An Institutional Reforms Cell (2018-2021) with Dr Ishrat Husain at its helm examined this question. It noted that, besides law and order, the essential role of any government is to create an enabling environment for commerce and industry. This requires an efficient civil service, physical infrastructure and rule of law. The IRC observed that in Pakistan's case, the government is "weak and expansive", cumbersome, centralised and inefficient. Greater devolution of

power, authority and resources to grassroots levels of government also contributes to the provision of efficient public service delivery, provided there is, inter alia, a competent bureaucracy. China's stellar economic performance, for instance, attributed to a 'meritocratic bureaucracy' and focused leadership. In our case, the IRC noted that civil servants were "badly motivated" and "unresponsive" to public needs. It formulated pro-

posals for reform, which and technical expertise were only partly implemented. Several other attempts to reform the civil services have suffered a similar fate. Committees and task forces are formed, reports are finalised, but not implemented.

The last major civil service reform took place in 1973 when Zulfikar Ali Bhutto changed the it for economic managecategorisation of civil servants from Class I, II, III and IV to a new structure based on pay grades 1-22. The 1973 reforms sought to end the elite culture and false sense of superiority that civil servants seemed to have assumed. Elitist titles like the Civil Service of Pakistan were abolished, and instead, a Common Training Programme for 13 occupational groups was introduced.

But these reforms had a downside. They withdrew constitutional guarantee for service security, leading to frequent transfers of civil servants on political grounds and undermining rule-based continuity. Salaries were also compressed. Over time, the best and brightest started avoiding the civil service, and "mediocre and pliable" civil servants began to run government offices and institutions. Politicisation and mediocrity have severely impaired

government's capacity to create a congenial business environment or render efficient public service

Gen Musharraf's National Reconstruction Bureau tinkered with some aspects of the civil service, ostensibly to 'reconstruct' local governments, but many of the measures became controversial and were later reversed. Clearly, a reform stable and prosperous fuwhole value chain" of The IRC rightly observed and intake had outlived for our people. -- Courtheir utility; specialisation

were marginalised, and performance had no link with remuneration. Internal accountability mecha-

nisms had become weak. To address this, the IRC proposed an 'All-Pakistan National Executive Service' for senior management positions, and the introduction of four specialised cadres under ment, technical, social sector management, and general management. Another sound proposal was to reduce the hierarchy of each ministry and department from five to three deputy secretary, joint secretary, secretary order to infuse efficiency.

Central to civil service reforms is the system of recruitment of candidates for the central superior services by the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC). The process of recruitment is long and tedious and benefits rote learners more than critical thinkers. In the CSS results for 2022, out of the 20,262 governance and policy candidates who appeared in the written examination, only 393 passed. The FPSC should consider open, transparent, technology-based methods, which are now being applied across the world, to recruit civil servants who are critical thinkers, tech-savvy and can relate to the growing needs of the people. Alternatively, the system of centralised recruitment through FPSC should be done away with, leaving recruitment, performance evaluation and promotion to each service to encourage specialisation and efficiency. An honest, competent and efficient bureaucracy is the 'steel structure' that can help Pakistan secure a package should cover the ture. Implementing civil service reforms should be human resource policies. a high priority if we want economic security and that recruitment methods rule-based governance tesy Dawn

Commerce News

AJK cabinet reviews supplementary budget for fiscal year 2022-23

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Scrutiny Committee government buildings. Azad Jammu and Kashmir constituted with reference Under this ordina (AJK) cabinet on Sunday reviewed supplementary budget for the fiscal year 2022-23.

The AJK Cabinet met at Jammu Kashmir house Minister Chaudhry Anwarul-Haq in the chair.

AJK Secretary Finance Ismatullah Shah, on the occasion, presented the figures of the supplementary budget for the financial year 2022-23 before the cabinet.

cryptocurrency

market traded mixed on

Sunday, with the market

cap gaining 0.1 percent to reach \$1.11 trillion.

GMT, Bitcoin (BTC), the

world's most valued token.

slipped to \$26,512 with a

minor decrease of 0.1 percent in the last 24 hours.

The market capitalisation of

the biggest crypto has reached \$514.5 billion with

this decrease. Bitcoin has

been 2.9 percent up in the

past seven days. Bitcoin has

As of 1330 hours

reviewed

State Assembly.

The demands approved by the cabinet in the Legislative

The cabinet all the cabine recommendations of the management

Thursday. The filing of an

application by BlackRock

for a crypto-backed

exchange-traded fund has

driven BTC's gain,

effectively putting an end to

its three-day losing streak.

have unfolded amidst the US

Securities and Exchange

Commission's legal actions

against Binance and

Coinbase. Similarly, Ether

(ETH), the world's second-

largest cryptocurrency by

market capitalisation, slipped

by 0.3 percent to reach

These developments

Bitcoin slips to

\$26,512 in mixed trade

ISLAMABAD (TLTP): three-month low on

Under this ordinance.

to supplementary grants.
While deferring the maintenance of statebetter management and demands of some owned buildings within and departments in light of the outside the state would be recommendations put forth by the committee, Prime Minister also formed in the federal metropolis on Sunday with Prime the cabinet approved the a committee under the chairmanship of the the cabinet approved the a committee under the presented in the AJK Additional Chief Secretary. Legislative The committee has been asked to submit a report Finance within a month regarding Secretary has been the illegal use of the statedirected to present the owned buildings inside and

The cabinet also The Cabinet also approved an ordinance seeking a ewed the ordinance for better complete ban on memorations of the management. of deforestation.

Farmers

MULTAN: Members of All Pakistan Clerks Association (APCA) are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, held at Multan press club.

Indonesian envoy stresses on product diversification to raise bilateral trade benefits

Day organised The diversification of in Sialkot products and robust market research to identify SIALKOT (APP): Under the new business sectors auspices of the Department would be the key for the of Agriculture (Extension), the Pakistani Farmers Day was organised community to gain maximum benefits from the at a marriage hall in Daska regarding cultivation of paddy. bilateral trade relationship

Assistant Commissioner AC) Daska Faisal Ahmed was between Indonesia and Pakistan. the chief guest at the ceremony. Assistant Director of Agriculture (Extension) Dr Irshad Ambassador of Indonesia Adam M. Tugio while interacting with top CEOs at a "Dialogue on Ahmed, Senior Research Scientist Dr. Muhammad Indonesia-Pakistan Trade Tahir Awan, Dr. Arshad Makhdoom, representative Relationship" organized of Fauji Fertilizer Dr. Tahir by CEO Club Pakistan, Naeem and other experts

here Sunday.

Answering to various queries of leading business companies' chairpersons during an engaging session, Ambassador Tugio highlighted many opportunities to further enĥance bilateral trade beyond raw materials and agricultural products. Textiles, leathers and pharmaceutical industries are the areas where business community of the two countries have the potential to team up in JV and produce items for the third country markets", the envoy said. Responding to the prospects of FTA, the Indonesian

community to identify more items where Pakistan has comparative advantage and consult with relevant authorities to include them in Trade in Goods Agreement (TIGA) as part of the review process to expand the PTA. He reminded the audience on the important location of Indonesia as hub for expanding trade to the wider area in Southeast Asia and suggested leapfrogging strategy to explore possibility of joining Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement which represents 15 countries.

Rupee edges lower against dollar for third week

KARACHI Pakistani rupee fell for the third consecutive week against the US dollar in the interbank depreciating by 0.09 percent on a week-on-week

According to the central bank, the rupee Monday and closed at

Murtaza says: **Industrial development** will help in increase of export curtail imports

Minister for Industry and Production Makhdoom Syed Murtaza Mahmood Sunday visited Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI).

The minister also with President FPCCI Irfan Iqbal Sheikh and discussed ways and means to promote small and medium enterprises in

ISLAMABAD (INP): Sheikh urged the need of industrial development to attain rapid economic

He said that industrial development will help in increase of export curtail imports and generate employment opportunities for the people.

He said that whenever e borrowed from the IMF, our GDP growth decreased instead of increasing and also become Speaking on the areason for other economic



CHINIOT: Labourers busy in unloading maize from trolley at grain market.

PSX snaps two-week winning streak on economic uncertainty

KARACHI (TLTP): Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) snapped a twoweek winning streak owing to the uncertainty about International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme, growing political noise, failure of the federal budget to meet investors' expectations several other developments, with the benchmark KSE-100 Index dropping by 602.9 points to close the week in the red.

The KSE-100 Index fell -1.44 percent from 41,904.2 points to 41,301.3 last week after gaining 551.22 points 388.44 points (+0.95

percent) in the preceding weeks.

Among indices, the KSE All Share Index slipped by 333.04 points (-1.18 percent) last week to 7,920.66 points from 28,253.7 points, while KMI All Share Islamic Index fell by 202.21 points (-0.97 percent to 20,487.75 points from 20,688.96 points on a week-on-week basis.

The PSX remained bearish and lacklustre throughout the week, closing all the five sessions in the red, as investors took the new budget deviating from the (+1.33 percent) and context of the IMF loan programme.

addressed farmers. recovered since hitting a

CHINIOT: A farmer spreading fertilizer in a field.

said a news release issued Govt striving to give maximum relief to the poor: SAPM Hamid

business

This was stated by

SARGODHA Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Gas and Petroleum Chaudhry Hamid Hameed said on Sunday Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) led coalition government was making allout efforts to provide maximum relief to the poor and deserving segments of society in its limited

Talking to APP here on Sunday, he said the PML-N, during its previous tenure, launched significant uplift projects, eliminated terrorism, overcame power outage. revived economy and achieved other milestones progress prosperity of the country. He said that in 2013, before formation of the PML-N government

and

figures shared by the opened at 286.93 in the interbank market on 287.19 on Friday

Measures taking to develop underprivileged, neglected districts in KP: Governor

Governor Ghulam Ali, on Sunday said that steps are being underprivileged neglected districts on par with developed areas of the

Malakand Division, particularly the district Dir, is blessed with natural beauty, and promoting tourism in the region will create employment opportunities and highlighted the for the local population.

In this regard, it is crucial for local officials and youth to play their role in

> Governor Haji

LAHORE: Chairperson Almarah Foundation Mrs.

Sofia Warriach, Pakistani Singer Abrar ul Haq

and Dy. Inspector General of police Mehboob Lilla

cutting ribbon during the completion of 100 kids

and inauguration the 5th house of Almarah

PML-N steers out country

of difficulties: Muqam

Addressing at Shakas during Ramazan, free flour

Shaji Gul joining PML-N, poor and needy.

President Pakistan Muslim

League-Nawaz (PML-N)

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,

Engineer Amir Muqam on

Sunday said that under the

leadership of Muhammad

Nawaz Sharif and Prime

Minister Shehbaz Sharif,

the country was steered

out of difficulties;

otherwise, the Tehreek-e-

Insaf (PTI) had plunged

district Khyber after Alhaj

the nation into chaos.

(APP): Ghulam Ali expressed these 28-member delegation, chairpersons, councilors, province. and representatives from political parties, including federal government is also the Peoples Party of providing assistance to Pakistan, Jamaat-e-Islami, and Awami National Party.

The delegation, led by Chairman Maulana Ashfaq Hanafi, apprised the Governor of various issues related to the Dir district challenges faced by local municipalities. Governor Haji Ghulam Ali assured the delegation of his full cooperation in finding problems

He said that the views during a meeting here provincial government is at Governor House with a committed to ensure equal development in all urban consisting of elected and rural areas of the

> Furthermore, providing assistance to expedite the development

> The Governor said that local representatives are closest to the people and, therefore, funds have been allocated in the budget for elected municipal representatives to initiate developmental projects at the grassroots level. Governor

> Ghulam Ali urged the elected representatives from all districts.

Youngster shot dead by unknown outlaws

KHANEWAL (APP): A youngster was shot dead by unknown outlaws at Village 42/ 10-R on Sunday.

According police sources, Imran Khan s/o Musa Khan resident of Village 42/ 10-R in premises of Sadar police station was standing outside his house when unknown armed outlaws shot him

The criminals also managed to escape from the scene.

Taking notice of the incident, the District Police Officer (DPO) Rana Omer Farooq directed concerned to arrest the criminals as early as possible.

have collected the evidences from the crime scene and started search operation in the area after registration of sources added.



chairpersons, councilors, and representatives from political parties.

Baligh permits recruitment of homeopathic doctor for hospitals

Independent Report LAHORE: Governor Punjab Baligh Ur Rehman allowed recruitment 'homeopathic' doctors in government hospital to treat patients.

According to private
TV channel a group of
national council of
homeopathy met governor
Punjab Baligh Ur Rehman and brought his attention towards empty seat of homeopathic doctors in

headquarter hospitals and policy.

headquarter hospitals (THQs) and teaching hospitals. Seats are also empty in village health units, basic health units, said group.population is deprived of alternate method of treatment. Majority of Punjab people rely on homeopathic treatment.Governor Punjab allowed recruitment

homeopathic hospital. Official notification government hospitals.
Group said seat of
Homeopathic doctors are
empty in district
Gricial notification
has been issued. It was
said in notification that
homeopathic doctors
be recruited as per law

Electoral rolls to be frozen after July 13: DEC MIRPURKHAS (APP):

Commissioner (DEC) Mirpurkhas Khalid Hussain has urged the people to get their votes registered before July 13 as the electoral rolls will be frozen after the date. In a statement on Sunday, DEC asked the people of Mirpurkhas to register, transfer and validate their votes before July 13 and can contact the district Election Commission Mirpurkhas. In this regard,

especially women, transgender and persons with disability are requested to check their votes through SMS by sending their National Identity Card number to 8300, if any kind of correction is required.

KP CM finalizes proposals of expenditures for development

PESHAWAR (APP): by Chief Secretary Nadeem Caretaker Chief Minister Aslam Chaudhry, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan on Sunday chaired a highlevel meeting in which he finalised proposals regarding the proposed expenditures both of current and development sides during the first four months of the upcoming

proposed expenditures would be presented to the caretaker provincial cabinet for authorisation. Besides caretaker cabinet members Hamid Shah and measures with the aim to Himayatullah khan, the create maximum fiscal

financial year.

Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development, Zubair Asghar Qureshi, Secretary Finance, Muhammad Ayaz and other relevant high ups.

The meeting was given detailed briefing about various aspects of the current and development expenditures to be incurred during the first four months of the fiscal year 2023-24.

The meeting also finalised various proposals regarding measures with the aim to meeting was also attended space for development.

Forests preservation, growth mandatory to mitigate climate change impacts

Where climate change issue is affecting the whole world, its impacts in Pakistan are also increasing by each passing year as according to a study Pakistan is among the list of countries vulnerable to climate change if timely measures are not taken.

officers

The forensic team

by ensuring careful utilization and protection of forest lands.

As many other measures are necessary to mitigate the effects of climate change, the most different important one is to grow more trees besides controlling deforestation. No doubt, there are

many other challenges being faced by the country but this issue requires special attention of the current governments, both central and provincial. Keeping in view the

government has taken numerous measures for sustainable growth and preservation of forest resources of the province

"Considering forests a rich potential of the province, the government is giving due consideration to its protection and sustainable growth through measures including setting up of enclosures, protection from fire, prohibition in cutting of trees and safety from livestock grazing, informed Ibrahim Khan, Senior Officer of the KP

Forest Department. Taking to APP, Ibrahim Khan said all the departments concerned had gravity of the issue, the been taken on board for Khyber Pakthunkhwa preempting fire incidents in

forests due to heatwave during summer season.

The department had constituted teams in all the forest areas for round the clock monitoring, while a new system of fire line technology had been introduced for developing distance among trees by removal of weeds and bushes which usually catch fire and spread the blaze instantly, he mentioned.

Ibrahim awareness material in shape of printed pamphlets was also distributed among people living in forests and in its vicinity to educate them about response in case of fire. The same material was also shared with tourists visiting scenic sites with a request to avoid fire lit in forests.

enacted Forest Amendment Bill 2022 for protection of forests, in which, penalties in shape of imprisonment and fines had been enhanced for those found involved in destruction of

In the law, rules were introduced to increase sentence of two years imprisonment to three years and fine from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 500,000 for the violators. The law also enabled Divisional Forest Officers serving in newly merged districts to punish those found involve in degradation of forest.

government controlled

According to the law, the government would also take necessary measures

government, he added, also any forest or nearby area as national park.

The ongoing Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Project was initiated in 2019 with a total cost of Rs125.184bn for four years to plant and regenerate 3.296bn trees in the country, Ibrahim said, adding under the project, 650.14 million trees were planted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while 146.2 million trees in merged

During the plantation drive, focus was also given on growing Miyawaki forest by planting 207661 trees on 280 kanals of land.

He said majority of trees planted in Miyawaki forests were Chir, Eucalyptus, Amlook, for protection of forest Phulai, Anar dana, Bottle carbon rights, besides Brush, Shisham, Wild provincial having the right to declare anar, Kachnar.

International News

Putin warns NATO over being drawn into Ukraine war, says Russia has more nuclear weapons

during Imran Khan's

all commodities, including

essential items were out of

control but when PML-N

came into power, the

economic situation was

stabilized.He said that

Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif effectively managed

the prices of essential

items, resulting in a

noticeable decrease, and

was distributed among the

Monitoring Desk dent Vladimir Putin has warned there is a "serious danger" of NATO being drawn further into the Ukraine war if members of the alliance continue to supply military weaponry to Kyiv. "NATO, of course, is being drawn into the war in Ukraine, what are we talking here," Putin said at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum on Friday.

'The supplies of heavy military weaponry to Ukraine are ongoing, they are now looking into giving Ukraine the jets." tanks, armored vehicles and other weaponry – prompt-

peared to be a reference to the F-16 fighter jets some members of the NATO alliance are making plans to

supply Ukraine with.

NATO, or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, was formed in the aftermath of World War II to defend Western nations from the Soviet Union and the alliance contains a mutual defense clause where an attack on any one member is considered an attack on all. While Ukraine is not a member of NATO, some NATO members have been supplying Kyiv with

ing threats of retaliation from Russia.

German Leopard 2 tanks, British Challenger 2 tanks and American Bradley and Stryker vehicles are among the Western equipment that has been sent to

In late April, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said that NATO allies and partners had delivered more than 1,500 vehicles and 230 tanks to the country.

During his speech in St. Petersburg, Putin said Russia had destroyed tanks "including Leopards" at the front lines.

Heavy rains

lash east Nepal;

one dead, 25

President Joe Biden speaks at the Philadelphia International Airport in Philadelphia after an aerial tour of the Interstate 95 highway collapse.

Biden strikes economic populist tone during campaign rally before exuberant union members into law last year that cut their crucial role in his re-

the cost of prescription

drugs and lowered insurance

premiums — pocketbook

issues that advisers say will

be the centerpiece of his ar-

gument for a second term.

"I'm looking forward to this

campaign," Biden said to

cries of "four more years!" before adding, "We've got a

phia and Pennsylvania -

and a friendly union audi-

His choice of Philadel-

record to run on."

Monitoring Desk dent Joe Biden delivered an unapologetically economic

Biden spotlighted the

missing populist message Saturday Monitoring Desk KATHMANDU: One per-son was killed and at least during the first rally of his reelection campaign, telling an exuberant crowd of 25 others were missing in union members that his flash floods and landslides policies had created jobs triggered by heavy rains and lifted the middle class. that battered east Nepal, Now, he said, is the time officials said on Sunday, the for the wealthy to "pay first known fatality since their fair share" in taxes.

the annual rains began last week. Heavy rains washed away a hydroelectric project under construction on the Hewa River in Sankhuwasabha district in eastern Nepal where 16 workers have gone missing, said Bimal Paudel, a gov-

sweeping climate, tax and ence — as his first official health care package signed campaign stop reflected Blinken starts rare China trip with hopes low for any breakthrough

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: US Secretary of

State Antony Blinken began meetings in Beijing on Sunday, the first top American diplomat to visit China in five years, amid frosty bilateral ties and dim prospects for any breakthrough on the long list of disputes between the world's two largest economies.

Having postponed a February trip after a suspected Chinese spy balloon flew over US airspace, Blinken is the highest-ranking US government official

to visit China since President Joe Biden took office in January 2021.

Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang greeted Blinken and his group at the door to a villa in the grounds of Beijing's Diaoyutai State Guest House, as the two made small talk in English before shaking hands in front a Chinese and an American flag.

After heading into a meeting room, neither Blinken nor Qin made comments in front of reporters who were briefly

Philippine coast guard rescues 120 people as ferry catches fire **Monitoring Desk**

election effort. The city was the site of his 2020

campaign headquarters and

the state was one of a hand-

ful that had voted for Re-

publican Donald Trump in

2016 but flipped back to

Democrats four years later.

Until the rally, Biden's pri-

mary reelection campaign

fundraising as the campaign

tries to amass an impres

sive fundraising haul before

the year's second quarter

activity had

concludes at the end

MANILA: All 120 people onboard a ferry that caught fire at sea in central Philippines on Sunday have been rescued, the coast guard said. The M/V Esperanza Star, which was carrying 65 passengers and 55 officers and crew members, caught fire while sailing from Siquijor island in the south to nearby Bohol island, the coast guard said. Coast guard firefighters onboard another vessel used a water cannon and declared the fire out by around 0200 GMT, a spokesperson said.

Uganda sends more troops to pursue attackers who killed 37 students includes Rwenzori Moun-

Monitoring Desk KAMPALA: Uganda's President Museveni on Sunday or-

dered more troops to western Uganda where attackers from a group with links to Islamic State killed at least 37 secondary school students. Members of the rebel Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) killed the students late on Friday at Lhubirira Secondary School in Mpondwe, near the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Military and police said the attackers had also abducted six students and fled towards the Virunga National Park across the border. Their fate is unknown. Museveni said more soldiers had joined the pursuit in the area, which set off a bomb as they fled.

tain, from where the ADF launched their insurgency against Museveni in the 1990s. "We are now sending more troops into the area south of Rwenzori Mountain," he said in a statement. 'Their action, the des-

perate, cowardly, terrorist action, therefore, will not save them. We are bringing new forces to the Uganda side as we continue the hunting on the Congo side.'

On Saturday, privately owned NTV Uganda television said the death toll stood at 41, while the staterun New Vision newspaper said it was 42. New Vision said 39 of the dead were students, and some were killed when the attackers

Europeans scramble on air defence after decades of complacency

Monitoring Desk PARIS: The intensity of the

drone and missile war in Ukraine has laid bare gaps in European states' air defences that experts say will be difficult, time-consuming and costly to plug. Anti-air systems will likely have a starring role

at the Paris Air Show starting on Monday, predicts Richard Aboulafia, manag-(CSIS). director AeroDynamic Advisory. 'You're going to see

a lot of talk about production capacity for missiles. The market for missiles is easily the fastest growing segment of the industry and yet the manufacturers simply can't keep up, Aboulafia told AFP.

Western countries had enjoyed total mastery of the skies since the end of the Cold War and largely dropped the powerful defences once designed to protect NATO forces from Soviet aircraft.

France got rid of eight of its nine anti-aircraft artillery regiments, MPs flagged up in a recent re-

But NATO countries fence again in recent years as more states have acquired cruise missiles, short-range ballistic missiles and drones, said Mark Cancian, a retired US marine colonel who is a senior adviser at the USbased Center for Strategic

They started it, but basically didn't get too far," Cancian told AFP.

'In another five years, I think there'll be a lot more out there, but that doesn't help Ukraine right now," he added.

With anti-air systems and the missiles they fire lacking, the West is struggling to respond to Ukraine's pleas for supply whether for short- or ng-range defences.

Berlin plans to spend five billion euros on antiair from a 100-billion-euro (\$110 billion) fund for rebuilding its armed forces in the coming years, with the same amount budgeted in Paris for the period to 2030.

Evidence suggests Russia blew Kakhovka dam in Ukraine, reports NYT Monitoring Desk KYIV: Evidence suggests this month's destruction of

the huge Kakhovka dam in a Russian-controlled area of Ukraine resulted from an inside explosion set off by Russia, The New York Times said. Citing engineers and explosive experts, the newspaper said on Friday that its investigation found evidence suggesting an explosive charge in a passageway running through the dam's concrete base detonated, destroying the structure on June 6.

suggests the dam was crippled by an explosion set off by the side that controls

it: Russia," The Times said. Separately, a team of international legal experts assisting Ukraine's prosecutors in their investigation said in preliminary findings on Friday it was "highly likely" the collapse in Ukraine's Kherson region was caused by explo-

sives planted by Russians. The Kremlin accuses Kyiv of sabotaging the hydroelectric dam. ernment official.

Plane leaves Yemen capital for Saudi, first since 2016.

PDM resumes journey of development, stopped after 2018 rigged elections: Asad

DERA ISMAIL KHAN Hakla-Dera section of tion were in the completion (APP): Federal Minister for Communications Asad Mahmood on Sunday said the journey of development has been resumed which was stopped after 2018 rigged elections

He stated this while addressing a public gathering after inauguration of multi mega development projects worth Rs 5.65 billion by Jamiat Ulema Islam Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman here in a private marriage hall.

The federal minister said the mega projects were being initiated for the region under the National Highways Authority (NHA) and it was a message to the people of area that the development journey has been started, adding, the Dera Ismail Khan would be made a developed and prosperous city.

He said "a foreign agent was imposed in 2018 election to stop develop-ment process of Pakistan."

He said the founder of Motorways Muhammad Nawaz Sharif along with JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman had initiated

China Pakistan Economic Corridor. He said the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government did not believe in the politics of victimization rather it was pursuing the agenda of development.He vowed PDM government would be completed in stipulated time period.

He paid tribute to the workers of his party, saying, they faced difficulties but always stood by their leadership.

He said those who went missing after losing the government were trying to mislead the people and trying to get credit of different development projects of Dera Ismail Khan. "You could not mislead this nation," he added.

The project of Agriculture University of Dera was also on credit of PDM government which was announced by Nawaz Sharif.

When the foreign Hakla-Dera Bypass worth Rs 3 bilcluding Motorway, Yarik Grid sta-

phases but the PTI tried to get credit of these projects. 'Today, we started work on Hyderabad-Sukkur

Motorway," he said. The planners of the conspiracy have run away and the beneficiaries went that all the development missing from the scene, he projects initiated by the said and added that the beneficiaries should have to face the nation as they halted the journey of development.

He vowed that all the development projects initiated by the PDM government would be completed in stipulated time period.

He paid tribute to the workers of his party, saying, they faced difficulties but always stood by their leadership. Earlier, JUI-F Chief

Fazlur Rehman inaugurated rehabilitation work on two lanes 18-km long Qureshi Moor to Naivela road, two lane road from Muryali to Qureshi Moor and then to Ramak worth Rs 2.65 billion, two lane road from agent was imposed on this Mufti Mahmood Chowk country, the projects in- to Qureshi Moor on Dera



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Zamrak Khan Achakzai, Mir Naseebullah Marri and MPA Nasrullah Zarey giving away notification of upgradation to President Government Teachers Association Habibur RehmanMardanzai

Govt teachers call off 12-day long hunger strike as notification of demands issued

Independent Report QUETTA: The government teachers called off their protest and hunger strike as made by them earlier. They their demands were finally

The Provincial Minister for Education, Mir Naseebullah Marri along with the Minister Finance, Engineer nounced to end their hun-Zamarak Khan Achakzai reached the protest and hunger strike camp set up outside the provincial assembly building.

They met the govern- provincial assembly.

ment teachers on protest and handed over the notification regarding demands said that demands of the government teachers regard ing up-gradation have been met. After that, the government teachers anger strike and protest. It may be mentioned here that the government teachers had been observing strike for last 12 days outside the

Fazal inaugurates multiple mega development projects worth Rs 5.65 billion

DERA ISMAIL KHAN vincial Minister for Agri-(APP): Jamiat Ulema Islam Fazl (JUI-F) Chief ies and Cooperative De-Maulana Fazlur Rehman partment Abdul Haleem on Sunday inaugurated multiple mega development projects worth Rs 5.65 billion for Dera Ismail Khan

The JUI-F chief unveiled the plaques of different mega development projects in a ceremony held here in a private marriage hall which was also attended by Federal Minister for through a foreign agenda Communication Asad Mahmood, Caretaker Pro-

culture, Livestock, Fisherpartment Abdul Haleem Khan Qasuria, JUI-F District Ameer Maulana Lutfur Rehman, Maulana Ubaid, Sami Ullha Alizai and other local leadership of the

Addressing a gathering on this occasion, Fazl said "I am feeling happy that the journey of development which was stopped in 2018 was resumed in the coun-



ISLAMABAD: Woman displaying traditional stuff on her stall during the Saqafati Mela promoting Pakistani culture providing entertainment to pub-

14 outlaws arrested; drugs and weapons with ammunition recovered

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Islamabad capital police apprehended 18 outlaws from different areas of the city and recovered drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a police public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad capital police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city

Following these directives, the Aabpara police team arrested an accused namely Sultan Masih involved in drug peddling and recovered 1110 gram heroin from his possession. The Bani Gala police team arrested an accused namely Taimur involved in selling liquor and recovered 05 bottles liquor from his possession. Likewise, the Shalimar police team arrested an accused namely Yasir Abbas Shah involved in drug peddling and recovered 95 gram heroin from his pos-

Over 100 suicides incidents in **Indian Army**

NEW DELHI (Online): Indian Army is facing suicide after each three days and over 100 suicides are occurring in every year. Most of the incidents occured in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmır (IIOJK) According to details more than 3300 army personnel do suicide in various incidents. In only last five year, more than 800 Indian army personnel ended their live as they were tired of their officers behaviour. On January 23, 2023 colonel Khanna hanged himself to death with roof fan. While on January 09, 2023 Lt colonel Nashant gun downed his

wife and suicided. **Shandur Polo** festival to be started on July 7

ISLAMABAD (APP): A three-day Shandur Polo Festival 2023 would be held from July 7 to 9 to entertain the participants coming from various parts of the country at large.

Shandur Polo Festival is an amazing festival celebrated by the tribes of Gilgit and Chitral in the northern parts of the country, said a news release received here on Sun-

The tribes from the regions of Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral meet at the Shandur pass every sum-

Summer Autumn are considered for exploring the regions of Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral.

Haris Rauf joins closing ceremony of **Spring Gala**

ISLÂMABAD (APP) The Female Campus of the International Islâmic University (IIU) witnessed a spectacular closing ceremony for Spring Gala

The event was attended by the grandeur, renowned national cricketer Haris Rauf who graced the occasion as the chief guest. President, Vice President and the Student Advisor of the University's Female Campus were also present on the occasion.

Adding to one of the highlights of the evening was the declaration of the Faculty of Social Sciences as the Best Faculty for Sports and Co-curricular



being briefed by officials about construction work of Malir Expressway road under the supervision of local government department, during his inspection

PM's national innovation award competition underway

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Prime Minister's National Innovation Award. Pakistan's most significant pitching competition, took place at the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) from June 17-18, 2023.

This highly anticipated event has attracted 256 shortlisted candidates from across the country, who are vying for the prestigious title, a press release

The culmination of this inspiring event will be the National Award Ceremony, scheduled to take place today (June 19th) at the Prime Minister's Office Auditorium Where the top 50

winners will be awarded a cash prize of rupees up to

Organized by the Prime Minister's Youth Programme and executed

(HEC), the National Innovation Award serves as a groundbreaking initiative that aims to foster creativity, encourage entrepreneurship, and provide unprecedented opportunities to the youth of Pakistan. This governmentfunded program offers equity-free grants, enabling young innovators to transform their ideas into tangible realities.

The competition features a diverse range of participants, including students, professionals, and budding entrepreneurs, who have come together to groundbreaking ideas and

With the expert jury comprising renowned field experts from various thematic areas and industries, the candidates are putting by the Higher Education hopes of securing victory

Islamabad Capital Police to take strict action against route violators

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police has decided to take stern action against public service vehicles involved in non-completion of routes, misbehavior with passengers and overloading, a police public relations officer said.

e transporters violating is to provide better traffic

report submitted by the special squads constituted for checking of route completions by the public service vehicles.

According to details Islamabad capital police is utilizing all resources to facilitate the general public and not only issuing traffic He said that strict ac- violation tickets to the pubtion will be taken against lic service vehicles for overcharging mishehaving and traffic routes. The purpose incompletion of routes. Zonal DSP's were also di-



facilities to the citizens, Sved Mustafa Tanveer

rected to take stern action said CTO Islamabad Dr against PSV's drivers who were found repeatedly inwhile reviewing the special volved in the same violations.

NH&MP devises strategy to control accidents in Kallar Kahar salt range

ISLAMABAD (APP): of public service transport,
National Highways and
Motorway Police staffof passenger buses and (NH&MP) has devised a strategy for controlling accidents in the Kallar Kahar

salt range area. "In order to prevent accidents, the strategy of passing the buses from Kallar Kahar in the form of a convoy has been decided," DIG (Motorway North Zone) Muhammad Yusuf

Malik said in a statement. He said that NH&MP has formulated a strategy to protect the precious lives Range.

other traffic on the Islamabad-Lahore Motorway. He said that for the purpose of road safety, it has been decided that buses travelling from Islamabad to Lahore will be issued time cards at predetermined safe places on the motorway and strict monitoring will be done with the help of speed-checking cameras and police patrolling officers at the Salt

Students urge govt to include AIOU in PM laptop scheme

ISLAMABAD (APP): The students of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on Monday demanded the government to include the varsity in the Prime Minister Laptop scheme so that its students, especially Ph.D and Mphil are facilitated to carry on their higher studies.

They were of the view that being the largest public sector university with higher ranks, AIOU was not included in the PM laptop scheme. As per the Impact Ranking 2023 of the Times Higher Education, Allama Inbal Open University was ranked first among 66 public and private universities in Pakistan while it is ranked 25th among 1304 universities worldwide.

The students term the non-inclusion decision as totally injustice as it would have affect on hundreds of students particularly Ph.D and Mphil in various disciplines who were carrying forward their education as per other public sector universities. "AIOU is the only university in Pakistan which was included in the top 25 universities of the world," said Ambreen Iqbal an Mphil scholar.

and gaining recognition for Commission of Pakistan their innovative contribu-

> One of the distinguishing aspects of this pitching competition is its accessibility, as it accommodates both physical and online

This approach ensures that talented individuals from all corners of Pakistan can participate, regardless of their geographical location. The inclusion of online pitching enables a broader range of ideas to be heard and encourages a more diverse pool of talent to come forward. NUST, Islamabad has

been abuzz with excitement and innovation since the competition began. Alongside the participants and esteemed jury members, officials from the HEC are present to witness the bril liant pitches and the transformative potential they

Dar has ruined economy, only Sharifs are happy with him: Rashid

RAWALPINDI (Online): Castigating Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, Awami Muslim League chief and former federal interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has said that only Sharif family is happy with his economic policies.

Taking to Twitter on Sunday, he wrote that economic experts have rated Dar as the most incompetent finance minister of the country. The Sharifs have appointed him; the family has distributed all offices within the family, he added

He said that Dar has ruined the economy.

PM Shehbaz de fended Dar and said whoever tried to pull him down, he would punish him, he

Rashid wrote on the social media website that whether a technocrat or a democrat [government], there is no option [to stabilise economy] but the IMF. It would be clear whether the country would default or survive by June 30. If the economy sank, the country would sink.

'There is a disparity between the speeches of the prime minister and the finance minister on the budget. Political instability will bring destruction and ruin," he added.

Soccer player Shumaila held in connection with Jinnah **House attack**

LAHORE (Online): Police arrested soccer player Shumaila Sattar in connection with Jinnah House attack on May 9, police sources told media on Sun-The footballer's name

was included in the list of geo-fencing. She was found in sabotage act outside the Jinnah House. A police team raided her house, took her into custody and shifted her to a jail after seeking judicial remand.

Sindh CM for opening portion of Malir expressway by Dec

KARACHI (APP): Sindh speed on the expressway Chief Minister Syed and 50kph on its Murad Ali Shah during his interchanges. visit to the under-Malir construction Expressway directed the

local government department to speed up the work so that one portion of the project from Korangi or Quiadabad could be opened by December.
The Chief Minister

along with provincial minister Sharjeel Memon, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Special Assistant Syed Qasim Naveed, and Deputy Mayor Salman Murad visited 39.4 km under-construction Malir Expressway from Korangi to Kathore.

Commissioner Karachi Iqbal Memon, Secretary LG Najam Shah, PD Niaz Soomro and Special Secretary Finance Asad Zamin were present at the Site. The

Expressway facility was developed on the left bank of the Malir River to establish Controlled High-Speed Expressway'

It would have a sixlane with three-meter side shoulders carriageway. expressway way had been designed for 100kph Thatta.

The starting point of the project was Korangi Road, before Jam Sadiq Bridge, it would have an interchange for Jam Sadiq Bridge at KPT Flyover. It would cover Korangi, Shah Faisal (Quaidabad), and would

end at Kathore.

The project Director of the Expressway Niaz Soomro while briefing the Chief Minister said that there were two parts/ packages of Expressway project- Jam Sadiq to Quaidabad where the progress of the work had been recorded at around 38 percent.

On the other package from Quaidabad to Kathore 15 percent progress had

been achieved.
The CM was told that project had six Malir interchanges and six project straight bridges on which

work was in progress.
The Chief Minister said that with the completion of the project, the traffic congestion in the city would come down. The project would cut around 40 km distance for the traffic coming towards Karachi and going out to Jasmshoro and even to

Sajida Ahmed says: **Death of youths after** boat capsized in Greece is heartbreaking incident

Independent Report

MULTÂN: Chairperson, Etihad Foundation, Sajida Ahmed deeply regretted the loss of a large number of precious human lives in the tragic accident in

Greece and said that the death of 298 Pakistani

of a boat in Greece is a very heartbreaking incident. poverty, unemployment in the country. The former, current governments and current governments and correct number of people

Allah's court against these upper classes. These were

pieces of someone's liver/ In the constitution of

Pakistan, it has been done to the people, but unfortunately the state is completely unable to fulfill its most important and basic responsibility. Later, they are falling into the abyss of unemployment and then they turn to Europe through secret and dangerous routes in search of employment. It is the capitalist system, the ruling elite and the state.

These thieves hypocrites and traitors have made the country in youths due to the capsizing such a state that every young person is forced to go abroad and work in This is a sign of extreme another country. The decks severe of the boat are shown

the elite are responsible for on board the boat was 750, this. The FIR of more than in which there were about 298 youths is registered in three and a half hundred people belonging to

During the 10-day crackdown

Customs Intelligence seizes smuggled cigarettes worth Rs 303 million

Independent Report

KARACHI. According to the instructions of Chairman FBR Asim Ahmad and on the orders of Director General Customs Intelligence Faiz Ahmad Chadhar, the crackdown against cigarette smugglers was intensified. Customs Intelligence has seized smuggled cigarettes worth Rs 303 million during nationwide operations in the last ten days.

The largest operation was carried out in Balochistan, where Customs Intelligence seized 4,280,000 cigarettes of foreign brands worth Rs 114.2 million. While in Sindh province, as a result of eight operations, 1,420,700 cigarettes of top brands worth Rs. 69.7 million were confiscated. Similarly, during intelligence-based operations in Punjab, the Customs Intelligence team recovered 1,294,000 Rs 75.3 million. Similarly,

PK Customs Intelligence seized 1,155,000 smuggled cigarettes worth Rs 43.9

A total of 8,149,700 smuggled cigarettes worth 303 million have been seized by the Customs Intelligence during the last ten days. This brings the total number of seizures of smuggled cigarettes by Customs Intelligence to 33,994,850 in the current financial year 2022-23 with a value of 1,324 million. Chairman FBR Asim Ahmad and Director General Customs Intelligence Faiz Ahmad Chadhar while appreciating the efforts of Customs Intelligence Quetta, Karachi, Multan, Gwadar, Hyderabad, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Peshawar, expressed the fact that despite the shortfall of human resources and logistics, Customs Intelligence is effectively making efforts to combat smuggling in general and smuggling of smuggled cigarettes worth contraband cigarettes in



ISLAMABAD: Women are buying pots from vender at Weekly Sunday Market at Sector H-9 in Federal Capital.