dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

**Islamabad** 

Vol. XIII No. 200 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Tuesday June 27, 2023, Zil Hajj 08, 1444 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

### Lt. Gen. among others sacked from service after May 9 probe: DG ISPR

Army spokesperson says strict disciplinary action has been taken against 15 officers, including three major generals and seven brigadiers; Relatives of retired generals are also facing accountability

RAWALPINDI (APP): Di- stan, and in its aftermath, rector General of Inter Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) Major General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry on Monday said there would be no reprieve or leniency for the facilitators and perpetrators of the May 9 mayhem on account of fake human rights narrative.

A thorough probe had clearly indicated that May 9 riots and arson were a preplanned and orchestrated conspiracy against the armed forces, he said, adding there was no substance in the concocted narrative of any human rights abuses.

Addressing a news briefing at the ISPR Directorate, Major General Ahmed Sharif informed the media about the actions and investigations with regard to the violent incidents against military installations on the Dark Day of

He said the May 9 was the darkest chapter in the

the process of self-accountability within the Army was carried out without any discrimination.

"Two comprehensive institutional inquiries were conducted into the incidents of violence at various garrisons on May 9. The inquiries were presided over by officers of the rank of Major General," he

He said a disciplinary action had been initiated against the officials concerned who failed to maintain the security and sanctity of the garrisons and the Jinnah House.

of rank or social status in uncertainty was created the accountability process of the Army. The bigger the post, the bigger the respon-

The DG ISPR said the investigations clearly established the point that the planned for several 76-year history of Paki- months and accordingly



adding, "The relatives of the martyrs are questioning

whether their loved ones

sacrificed their lives for the

nation so that their sym-

bols are desecrated? Will the

evil elements continue dis-

respecting the sacrifices of

martyrs and Ghazis to

achieve their political goals?

to justice?

Prime

Muhammad

Sharif on Monday directed

the provincial and district

authorities to immediately

take rainwater drainage

Taking notice of the

problems faced by the

dwellers of Lahore, the

measures in Lahore.

the brainwashing of the people was done to mislead them against the armed forces. "It is clear from the evidence regarding the May 9 tragedy that the planning was done a month earlier, "There is no distinction and first an atmosphere of and then the public unrest was made

However, the probe is underway and further proofs are being collected," he added.

Acting President

approves

Finance Bill

*2023-24* 

ISLAMABAD (Online):

After the assent of the Act-

ing President, the Finance

Bill has become a formal

Sadiq Sanjrani has ap-

provêd Finance Bill 2023

and 2024.

Acting President

It is pertinent to men-

tion that Finance Bill was

approved by National As-

Stampede breaks out

during

distribution of

**BISP** funds

XARACHI (INP): Stam-

4 Pakistani

mountaineers'

successfully scale

up Nanga Parbat

SLAMABAD (Online): 4

Pakistani mountaineers

have successfully climbed

scaled up Nanga Parbat

(8126 meter) without ad-

ditional oxygen this morn-

Yousaf Ali have also suc-

essfully climbed Mount

Nanga Parbat this morning.

ilso climbed 6 peaks higher

than eight thousand meters

without additional oxygen.

Before that Sajid has

Imtiaz Ali Sadpara and

Sajid Sadpara and Shah

women

leserving

unconscious

Nanga Parbat

Karachi.

sembly (NA) yesterday.

He said the heirs of the The Pakistan Army, martyrs were asking the May 9 tragedy was being relatives of the martyrs and Army Chief whether he veterans were perturbed and saddened over the May sanctity of the martyrs in

The heirs of the martyrs and all the ranks are raising the question that if the sanctity of the sacrifices of martyrs were to be desecrated, then what is the need to sacrifice one's life?" The Pakistan Army, he

said, represented all the (federating) units, schools of thought and classes and not a particular elite. "The basis of the stability of any country and nation is the relationship of trust and respect between the people, the government and the army." The DG ISPR reaffirmed that neither the black day of May 9 would be forgotten in the country's history nor the miscreants, planners and facilitators of the tragic incidents would be forgiven.

When will the planners of May 9 tragedy be brought "Those who obstructed all the measures against the facilitators related to this tragedy will also be dealt with iron hands with the would be able to protect the support of the nation," he

No leniency should be

The authorities were

The prime minister

shown in addressing the

public issues and griev-

ances, it was further added.

tasked to continuously

monitor the situation with

prompt measures in place.

KARACHI: The Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform, Ahsan Iqbal visiting Karachi Shipyard.

Ahsan Iqbal says

### Govt placed promotion of blue economy in its growth agenda

Call for concerted efforts to achieve sustainable economic growth

eral Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, on Monday said that the blue economy possesses enormous potential for sustainable financial stability and development of Pakistan and the incumbent government has placed it in its futuristic agenda of national

The minister talking to media persons during the visit of the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) here said that more than one thousand kilometres long coastal line and over 2 million kilometres of vast exclusive economic zone offer unfathomable opportunities

to the country. Pakistan being an agrion the green economy at the time while the volume prime minister also directed further stressed that con- of its blue economy was

KARACHI (APP): Fed- integration of both econo- Pakistan. mies could boost the pace of the journey of development to a greater

The federal minister said that PML-N led government has expedited important projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that were integrated with the global Belt and Road initiative and open new vistas of growth and prosperity of the

He said that under the sustainable development approach, it was our responsibility to secure and efficiently monitor the country's coastal line and maritime frontiers.

The minister while lauding the services of PMSA for the protection cultural country had relied of the borders of Pakistan said that the agency was equipped with state-ofthe-art equipment and fleet terials and elimination of ilgreater than the green one, and was vigilantly securing

Additionally, PMSA has also earned a good name for the country across the globe due to its rescue and relief operations in the deep

sea, he added. Ahsan Iqbal recalled that in 2014 operational capacity of PMSA was limited to a few old boats and it lacked an effective moni-

toring system Then PML-N government vowed to modernise the agency and approved projects for the induction of 6 modern ships and boats in PMSA which had significantly improved the operational capacities of the agency, the minister

He hoped that PMSA with its enhanced capacities would keep securing the maritime frontiers of the country and preventing the dumping of hazardous malegal trade within their ju-



Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting of the Steering Committee to oversee the outsourcing of airports' operations, at Finance Division in Islamabad

### Saudi media minister affirms strong fraternal relations with Pakistan, calls it 'his country' MAKKAH (APP): Saudi eral cooperation in the me-

13 killed in rain related

incidents: PDMA

LAHORE (APP): Provin- tricts of the province, said

the relevant authorities to sidering the situation, alter-

remain alert in the situation arising out of the current rainy spell, the PM Office nate routes should be timely identified for smooth vehicular traffic.

PM directs immediate

rainwater

draining measures

ISLAMABAD (APP): Media Wing said in a press

Minister release.

Shehbaz

pede broke out during the distribution of funds of the Arabia's Minister of Me-Benazir Income Support dia, Salman Al-Dosari, ex-Programme (BISP) among pressed his deep bond with Pakistan, referring to it as his country, while emphasizing that Saudi Arabia The stampede broke out outside the BISP office near KPT Ground in

serves as a second home for Pakistanis. Karachi's Kemari area. As a result, 20 women lost fell During a comprehensive meeting held in Mina the other day, the Minister engaged with a delegation of Pakistani journalists, un-

derscoring the strong fraternal relations between the two nations.
Al-Dosari conveyed

his heartfelt sentiment that Pakistanis are considered brothers, and Saudi Arabia welcomes them as a second

Recognizing the importance of fostering bilat- pilgrimage.

cial Disaster Management

Authority (PDMA) Direc-

tor General Imran Qureshi

has said that at least 13

people died with 17 se-

verely and 6 minor injuries

in 15 lightning strikes and

roof collapse incidents due

to heavy rains across the

province during the last 24

received reports of damages

and casualties from all dis-

He said the PDMA has

dia sector, Salman Al-Dosari highlighted the ongoing efforts to strengthen ties with Pakistani media.

nificance of mutual col laboration, he affirmed that both countries are actively promoting this alli-

In response, the Pakistani delegation expressed sincere appreciation to the Saudi authorities and government for the impeccable arrangements made for Hajj 2023. After a three-year hiatus, this year's Hajj was held in its full glory, and the delegation conveyed their gratitude for the excellent management of the sacred

a handout issued here.

The injured have been

provided with the best

medical treatment while

monitoring of the situation

is continuing from the pro-

vincial control room, he said

and added that machinery

and staff have been put on

high alert for handling emer-

gencies as the PDMA is in

constant contact with the

province-wide administra-

Emphasizing the sig-

### We have no stick for implementation of court's orders: Chief Justice

Several people have stick. But what moral justification they have eral government directives

ISLAMABAD (Online): The 7-mmeber bench of Supreme Court (SC) hearing petitions against trial of civilians in military court once again stands dissolved due to objection raised by federal government against Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, member of bench.

The 7-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial took up the case for hearing Monday. At the inception of

nearing Attorney General (AG) on behalf of federal government requested Justice Mansoor Âli Shah to recuse himself from bench AG came on rostrum

and informed about fed-

regarding bench. AG said one petitioner relative of Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, therefore, his conduct can be af-The CJP remarked the benches can not be con-

stituted on your desire or choice. You are raising objection on the learned judge of this court on what

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah remarked" I had said from the very first day tell us if some one has any ob-

AG said I have no personal objection. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah recused him from the

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah remarked "I never sat in such bench when there is doubt of partialagainst me.

ČJP while moving to AG remarked "you are raising objection on what basis. Are you raising objection on the basis of clash of interest or partiality. We have always exercised restraint. We did not award punishment to those who have not implemented court's decisions. We think this time is for moving one step back. Government should not insult the judiciary.

He further remarked "implementing court's decisions is moral obli-

### Pak, Kazakhstan hold political consultations ISLAMABAD (APP): The two sides also ex-

The second round of Pakistan-Kazakhstan Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) was held on Monlay in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Additional Secretary Afghanistan & West Asia) yed Ahsan Raza Shah led Pakistan side while Kazakh side was led by Kanat Tumysh, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

During the consultations, both sides held extensive discussions on various facets of bilateral relations in the political and diplomatic, trade, economic connectivity, science & technology and culture sectors.

changed views on issues of regional and global importance. Cooperation between two countries within the framework of United Nations, CICA, OIC, ECO and SCO was also re-

The two sides agreed towards early finalization of the Transit Trade Agreement which would become the catalyst for enhanced trade between the two countries. It was also agreed to enhance connectivity between the two countries and welcomed the resumption of direct flights commencing early next month



KARACHI: Woman line up at Benazir Income Sup-

port Center after Stampede broke out during the

distribution of funds of the Benazir Income Support

Programme (BISP) among deserving women as Sev-

eral women were injured in the stampede at Benazir

Marriyum says: Title of 'CPEC Hero' for

Ahsan, a slap on face of

malicious characters

son whose honesty, dedi-

cation, and hard work were

acknowledged by a country

as esteemed as China, was

unjustly thrown into jail

during the previous regime's

campaign of political victim-

ization. She said the title of

CPEC hero for Ahsan Igbal

also reflected the effective

foreign policy of Pakistan which faced isolation dur-

ing the four years rule of Pa-

kistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Minister for Information

Marriyum Aurangzeb on

Monday felicitated Minister for Planning, Develop-

ment and Special Initiatives

Ahsan Iqbal who was given a title of the Hero of China

Pakistan Economic Corridor

(CPEC) by the Chinese gov-

ernment the other day.

The minister, in a tweet, said ironically, a per-

Broadcasting

**Income Support Center in Provincial Capital.** 

Shahida Rehmani & Vice Chancellor Fatima Jinnah Women University Dr Saima Hamid launching the 2nd NDFF at Fatima Jinnah Women University.

Government launches search

### Columnist goes underground, disappears amidst controversy the country through covert able resource will be tire-

**Monitoring Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: In a shocking turn of events, acclaimed columnist Syed Fawad Ali Shah has once again disappeared, leaving behind a trail of mystery and intrigue. The Federal Ministry of Interior in Islamabad has taken swift action, issuing a confidential letter to the Inspector Generals of Police across all provinces, urging them to locate the missing journalist and report back im-

Government sources reveal that Fawad Ali Shah may have gone into hiding or vanished altogether after being granted temporary bail by the courts. Speculations are rife that Fawad, known for his daring stance against the state, might have managed to flee

means, potentially crossing the land borders of neighboring India, Iran, or Afghan istan.

The situation has become even more convoluted as conspiracy theories and clandestine investigations swirl within various security agencies, including the Federal Ministry of De-

Fawad's involvement in multiple cases pertaining to conspiratorial news and social media campaigns against the government has led to an international travel ban and the revocation of his passport. The cloak of anonymity, these insiders have revealed that if Fawad Ali Shah has indeed managed lessly deployed to ensure his swift repatriation. Collaborations with international agencies such as Interpol and Pakistani diplomatic missions abroad are being sought, as the government aims to establish connections and en-

The gravity of the situation cannot be overstated. Fawad's actions over the of disrepute upon the country, prompting the government to take resolute measures to hold him accountable for his alleged transgressions. As the nation braces itself for the unfolding drama, the eyes of the world are fixed upon Pakistan, waiting to see how to secretly enter any for- this high-stakes saga will eign country, every avail- conclude.



MUZAFFERABAD: Activists of All Parties Hurriyat Conference holds banner and shouting slogans during protest in the favor of their demands in the

## Daily Soice of Masse, Independent

### Revised budget

Budget 2023-24 that was passed by parliament yesterday after the introduction of large fiscal-tightening measures to sweeten it for the IMF might resuscitate the bailout deal with the Fund, stalled since

As Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said in his closing budget speech, the IMF's concerns regarding the original budgeted deficit of 6.5pc of GDP have been largely addressed through the imposition of additional taxes of Rs215bn and spending cuts of

In its comments on the original budget unveiled in May, the IMF had said that it "misses the opportunity to broaden the tax base in a more progressive way". The lender had also objected to certain other budgetary measures like the 'no-questions-asked scheme' to attract new dollar inflows from Pakistanis abroad. Unfortunately, the details of the new fiscal adjustments show that the government has wasted yet another opportunity to broaden the tax base despite meeting the IMF condition.

It has imposed a total of Rs438bn — taxes of Rs223bn were introduced in the original draft and there is no major effort to bring undertaxed sectors, such as retail, agriculture and real estate, into the net. No reform of the SOEs has been planned

Although the government has increased the withholding tax on property transactions in the hope of netting Rs35bn, the measure is unlikely to produce the targeted revenue without drastic documentation of the sector. Much of the burden of the additional taxes will be borne by the organised corporate sector and salaried classes.

Mr Dar's speech indicated that agreement on the new adjustments had been reached between the two sides after three days of hard negotiations. That means that one of the three concerns of the lender has been met before it restarts the funding.

How much progress has been made on the other two demands regarding the removal of controls on the exchange rate to keep the rupee from going into free fall, and the gap between the two sides on the IMF's external financing gap estimates for the outgoing fiscal year?

The government has already moved towards restoring the proper functioning of its foreign exchange market, and it is anticipated that the Fund will relax its condition on external financing gap pro-

Since the 'thaw' in ties between the lender and Islamabad has come only after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's repeated interactions with IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva, including their recent Paris meeting, both sides seem to be softening their positions. Though just a few days are left before the rescue facility expires on June 30, there is still enough time to seal the deal. This is crucial if Pakistan is to avoid the looming sovereign default; without the deal, the country could exhaust its forex reserves in the next few months

### It's all geopolitics

India's horrific human

on the political opposi-

leave Pakistan? We could

cry foul at being told (yet

again) to clamp down on

home-grown militancy.

make friends and influ-

China and Saudi Arabia,

long-term allies who dis-

creetly signalled to Paki-

stan in recent years that

the strategy of maintain-

ing state-sponsored 'as-

sets' is no longer wel-

tion: we could initiate a

serious rethink of our for-

eign policy. The major

challenge for Islamabad

arising out of Modi's visit

is the question of how to

balance its ties with

Washington and Beijing.

We need to maintain our

links with both these su-

perpowers: we need the

loan rollovers from

Beijing, the IMF bailouts

from the US. We need

China's infrastructure in-

vestments, and American

IT innovations. We do not

we should have obsessed

over last week was that of

US Secretary of State

Antony Blinken to China.

The trip aimed to ease ten-

sions between the super-

powers after the US shot

down a Chinese spy

plane in February. Some

progress was made to

stabilise ties and im-

prove communication,

but relations soured

again when US President

China's president as a

Could Pakistan add

dictator"

Arguably, the visit

want to have to choose.

Here's another op-



Tuesday June 27, 2023

**Huma Yusuf** 

Kicking off his US visit with a yoga session on the north lawn of the United Nations, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed the positions of a cobra, crocodile, and frog. Pakistanis watching the visit unfold last week probably hurled more animal slurs his way. But the visit should leave Pakistan introspective.

compatriots My have been incensed at the US-India joint statement calling on Pakistan to do more to counter terrorism, and inviting further FATF scrutiny of our efforts to counter terrorism financing. Similar statements vith similar phrasing have been issued by four US administrations to smooth the course of the US-India bilateral relationship. It

is the least of our worries.

Much has already been written to explain why Modi — once banned from entering the US due to his involvement in the anti-Muslim pogrom in Gujarat — is now feted as America's great friend. The answer is always geopolitics: India. with its burgeoning population and economy, is in America's eyes the only convincing counterpoint to China in Asia; there is no managing Beijing without befriending New Delhi.

And then there's the Russia angle. With growing urgency to resolve the Ukraine conflict and weaken Russia sufficiently to prevent future transgressions, Washington needs New Delhi to take a more critical stance vis-à-vis Moscow. historic defence ties notwithstanding.

When Great Games

are underway, everyone our current political meltstarts to bend the rules. down, but these are In the US case, that means questions we should be

asking.

choosing to largely ignore Another 21st-century reality highlighted rights record with regard to Kashmir and the Indian by Modi's visit is that Muslim population, and unless you have somethe rapid erosion of thing to offer the world, India's democratic culture the world doesn't care in the form of press cenwhat happens to you. sorship and clampdowns Our long-term strategy of negotiating under pressure has run its So where does this course. Rather than agonise over the impressive defence deals that New Delhi has struck with Washington, let's But this is not a way to consider what else makes India an attractive ence people (least of all partner for the US.

Geopolitical might aside, Modi arrived in Washington with semiconductor assembly and other manufacturing capacity, critical minerals, climate finance opportunities and an ambitious space programme.

For supporting the

diversification of supply chains away from China and facilitating the global green transition, India is receiving the kind of inward investment that many will covet: not just hundreds of millions dollars into manufacturing facilities, but also an agreement to train 60,000 Indian engineers to boost India's capacity to develop semiconductors. Pakistan will be lost if it doesn't marry economic policy (our vague premise of doing better on agriculture and IT) with foreign policy and geopolitical realities. Ultimately, it will have to reappraise the cost of premising its foreign policy on enmity with India. Areas for cooperation — food and water security, climate adaptation and mitigation, supply chain integration, access to technology, and even regional stability are proliferating and need Joe Biden referred to to be explored (perhaps one day in a threesome with Washington too?). Without a more agile apvalue to both its allies by proach, Pakistan will only playing a productive me-diator? Unlikely given tesy Dawn hasten its isolation. -- Cour-

### Token legislation?



Haris Zaki

Today marks the 26th International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, commemorating the adoption of the UN Convention Against Torture in 1987 and the absolute prohibition on torture in any and all circumstances. Each year, this day provides a platform for stakeholders to come together in universal condemnation of the reprehensibility of torture, and to rally support for the victims and survi-

Pakistan's relationship with the phenomenon of torture has always been an uneasy one. Despite repeated condemnation by the state and accession to various international human rights instruments, torture is an institutionalised practice that permeates nearly every facet of our criminal justice system. Impunity breeds violence, and in the absence of clear-cut accountability mechanisms, those in power were free to exercise this violence to coerce, intimidate and extract unlawful confessions from the

When the president put his assent to the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022, in November last year, it seemed as though years of effort were finally yielding some progress; the past decade had seen the introduction and subsequent failure of separate bills criminalising torture. As such, the passage of this law (introduced by the previous government's interior ministry and taken up by the incumbent one) was nothing short of momentous. It may have

selves from victimisation they inevitagoes, or even a step towards compliance with international obligations. Regardless of their motivations, our lawmakers have succeeded in bringing to life a procedural framework within which torture by public officials is defined, criminalised penalised.

there has been no docu-

mented use of this law, despite the rampant prevalence of the term 'custodial torture' in today's public discourse. Seven months on, it seems the general public, particularly those who most regupolice's cross hairs, are largely unaware of this Act and the protections it offers. The true success whether it receives the approval of our legislature, or how many brownie points it gets us in the UN Treaty Body reporting phase. Without passing rules that detail responsibilities, powers and procedures, similar to those notified under the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial Act), 2021, the Act criminalising torture will remain a token piece of legislation introduced as a cosmetic measure in advance of Pakistan's GSP-

Plus reapplication. On this International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, perhaps more than simply bringing attention to the prevalence of torture in the country (which is no great secret), the priority should be ensuring every Pakistani who has or may unlawfully suffer at the hands of public officials knows how to hold them to ac-Under the Torture

and Custodial Death (Pre-Act, 2022, the Federal Investigation Agency

been out of a sense of (FIA) and the National duty to the public, or per- Commission for Human haps to protect them- Rights are granted investhe tigative authority. As an independent institution bly face depending on mandated to protect and which way the ballot promote human rights across the country, it is imperative that the NCHR be sufficiently empowered, and that its resource constraints and bureaucratic encumbrances be addressed immediately. Given that they have the power to initiate inquiries and investigations into human Since then, however, rights abuses upon receiving a complaint, they remain the best avenue for ensuring culpability and justice.

> However, there are also other channels available to victims that remain woefully underutilised. iu--dicial

larly find themselves in the magistr-a--te presiding over the arrest of an individual may, of their own volition or acting upon a complaint, di-rect the of any law lies not in FIA to launch an investigation into alleged torture in custody. The FIA (similarly plagued by resource constraints and capacity issues) may be directly approached as well, as can the Ministry of Human Rights and the National Commission on the Status of Women. Furthermore, in Punjab, the 'Meri Awaz' app can be used by women subjected to torture.

In the absence of concrete results in the form of successful prosecutions of perpetrators through impartial investigations, accountability and compensation for victims and a reduction in police excess, the Act will never be more than a piece of paper. Our government must fulfil its duty to train and capacitate the relevant actors, allocate resources, spread awareness amongst the Pakistani people and notify a procedural framework, should it truly wish to demonstrate its commitvention and Punishment) ment to eradicating the blight of torture. -- Courtesv Dawn

## Commerce News

### **CDNS** to launch four Shariah compliant product from July 1st

Minister for Finance and Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday reiterated firm resolve of the government to implement Shariah Compliant financial system to promote and encourage interest-free Islamic banking and finance in the country.

Addressing launching ceremony of the Shariah Compliant products by the Central Directorate of National Saving (CDNS), the minister said the directorate has designed and introduced Shariahcompliant investment and saving scheme which would be formally launched by July 1, 2023

four investment and saving products based on oneyear, three-year and fiveyear terms, besides initiating saving account facility, adding that it is a flexible scheme with monthly profit and to withdraw principle amount that would the encourage savings and en-

sure full returns. Ishq Dar informed that soon after assuming the charge as finance minister, he had directed the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) to withdraw their petitions against the decision of the Federal Shariah

Court in which the Court

In a first, the minister said the CDNS has launched interest-free banking and financing system in the

> Meanwhile, a high power steering committee neaded by the Governor SBP was formed to find ways and means to promote Shariah-compliant financial system in the country. The committee was comprised of other prominent scholars and experts from the banking and finance sectors.

> He said during the last tenure of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government, a committee was also constituted, which had taken several steps and produced positive results as due to these efforts.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar addresses the launching ceremony of Sarwa Islamic Savings Products by National Savings at Finance Division.

### Naeem stresses to enhance Pak-Africa economic integration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's High Commissioner for the African country Rwanda Naeem Khan on Monday said that the African region is very important for enhancing economic integration with Pa-

Africa is the largest consumer market in the world due to the lack of large-scale industry and production at the local level,

Pakistan's High Commissioner for the African country Rwanda Naeem Khan expressed these views during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and

mense opportunities for has priority, he said. Pakistan's business community in this region.

Naeem Khan said that the way Islamabad Chamber has made efforts for trade relations with other African countries including Ethiopia for some time is commendable.
"I hope that as the

Head of Mission to Rwanda and other countries, I will continue to receive the full support of the Islamabad Chamber and the business community.

He said that the diplomatic and political importance of Africa for Pakistan has its place but the most

In the policy given to

"I invite the business community of the whole country, including Islamabad, to set up their display center in the Pakistani Embassy in Rwanda. we will provide full facilities, Rwanda is an excellent tourist destination, the business community should also pay attention

He said that the African region is of great importance at the political and diplomatic level in the whole world.

"Africa is well represented in all international forums including the United Nations, OIC. We need to take advantage

### **PSX** witnesses bullish trend, gains 1,371

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pa-

3.372 billion on the last

### Govt's new tax measures to intensify miseries of poverty-stricken masses ISLAMABAD (INP): Se- other Rs215 billion in taxes

PEW says:

nior Vice President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) Dr. Hanif Mughal has said that newly introduced tax measures of the of government employees. government will further intensify the hardships of the poverty-stricken masses who are in the grip of the unprecedented inflation and unemployment in the recent years.

In a statement issued here on Monday, he said that various changes have been made by the govern-ment in budget of the including fiscal tightening measures in a last-ditch effort to secure critical funding, but it will also hit the buying, selling property, masses badly, he said.

said that the government ing above Rs200,000 per mow aims to generate anmonth.

and cut spending by Rs85 billion without reducing the federal development budget or the salaries and pensions which will be difficult.

The IMF orders will revise the revenue collection target to Rs9.415 trillion: put total spending at Rs14.48 trillion and the share of provinces would be increased to Rs5.39 trillion from Rs5.28 trillion, he added.

The business leader said that the government will collect Rs70 billion from fertiliser duty, Rs45 billion from hike in tax on and Rs30 billion from in-Dr. Hanif Mughal creased tax on people earn-

### **SMEDA** to sign MoUs with six public sector organisations

LAHORE (APP): The Small and Medium Enterprises Develop-Authority (SMEDA) is going to sign six memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with six public sector organizations to celebrate June 27 (Tuesday) as the World SME Day.

The signing ceremony would be attended by Makhdoom Syed Murtaza Mehmood, Federal Minister Industries and Production as chief guest. The organisations joining

the signing ceremony of MoUs included Punjab Small Indus-Corporation (PSIC), Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO), Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), Messaliha International Center for Arbitration and Dis-Resolution (MICADR), Urban Unit Government of

the Puniab and Gov-

ernment of Gilgit Baltistan.

Talking to media here Mon-day, CEO SMEDA Farhan Aziz Khawaja highlighted the signifi-cance of World SME Day, and said that the United Nations General Assembly, in order to recognize and streamline the importance of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in any economy had declared 27 June as world MSME Day and the first MSME day was celebrated on 27th June 2017.

The objective of celebrating this day was to provide a platform for MSME owners to tell their stories of entrepreneurship and its challenges, while governments, international organizations and business support organizations show their commitment to supporting their development, he explained

### Tasneem Qureshi says: Promotion of agro based industry vital

SARGODHA (APP): State agro-based industry was Minister for Production crucial for sustainable and Industries Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi Monday stressed the need for promotion of the agro-based industry.

He said agro-industry contributes to GDP, earns foreign exchange through exports, promotes rural development, ensures food security, and adds value to agricultural products.

Talking to APP, he said a strong and vibrant

economic growth, poverty reduction and overall developments.

He said the agro-based industry was crucial for ensuring food security in Pakistan.

With a growing population, it is essential to have a robust agricultural sector that could produce an adequate quantity of food to meet the domestic demand,

### Gold prices up by Rs 800

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 800 and was sold at Rs 215,300 on Monday against its sale at Rs.214,500 the previous day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs .685 to Rs 184,585 from Rs 186,043 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went up to Rs 169,203 from Rs 168,574, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola silver increased by Rs.50 to Rs2,550 whereas that of ten gram went up by Rs.42.87 to Rs.2,186.21.



HYDERABAD: Vendors selling sacrificial animals at Animal Market Hathri Bypass in connection with upcoming Eid ul Azha.

#### Industry, said a press reimportance is trade. lease issued here. He said there are im- us by the government, trade **Shahid Rasheed says:** IMF, WB political institutions, promoting

poverty, inequality in world

ISLAMABAD (INP): countries of their re-Former President of sources, he added. Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Monday that the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank (WB) and other related institutions are promoting poverty and inequality in the world.

Their aim is to in-

In a statement issued here, Shahid Rasheed

Butt said that because of Rasheed Butt said on the tactics of these institutions, five percent of the world's population has occupied eighty percent of the resources. The majority of the richest people in the world belong to a Western power, and the IMF is adopting crease the wealth and in- every legal and illegal tacfluence of Western coun- tic to increase their tries by robbing the poor wealth, he observed.

# points

kistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 1,371.78 points on Monday, a positive change of 3.42 per cent, closing at 41,437.10 points against 40,065.32 points the previous day.

A total of 226,821,151 shares were traded during the day as compared to 136,899,866 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.7.010 billion against Rs. trading day.



Tuesday June 27, 2023

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji GhulamAli addressing 1st Convocation of University of Technology Nowshera

and Foreign Minister

this time the aid amount has

been increased from Rs

cational scholarships worth

Rs 17 billion were being

given under the Waseela-e-

for the children of deserv-

ing women has also been

increased. The female stu-

dent would be given Rs

2,500 and the male student

would be provided Rs 2,000

**KP** registers

40 dengue

cases in

one week

PESHAWAR (APP): The

provincial health department,

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on

Monday called for more prag-

matic measures to control the

spread of dengue fever in the

province as at-least 40 cases

were reported within a week

from across the province. A

comparative report of den-

gue fever cases issued here

by the department revealed

that 13 cases were reported

from Mardan, 11 Peshawar,

five Bajaur, three Chitral, two

each from DI Khan and

Swabi and one each from

Bannu. Lakki Marwat.

Khyber and Kohat districts.

It said that the health depart-

ment in collaboration with the

district administrations and

other line departments kept

the dengue cases under con-

trol this year as compare to

the last year.

stipend amount.

Similarly, he said, edu-

The stipend amount

8,500 to Rs 9,000.

Taleem programme.

### Kundi for ensuring all possible facilities at BISP payment centers

(APP): Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday directed for ensuring the provision of all possible facilities to the beneficiaries at payment centers of Benazir Income Support Program

(BISP).

He issued these direction to different to differ tions during his visit to different payment centers of BISP in Dera Ismail Khan. On this occasion, the state minister was accompanied by Pakistan People's Party (PPP) District President Malik Farhan Afzal Dhap,

Khawaja Ahmed Hassan

said on Monday the Paki-

stan Muslim League-

Nawaz (PML-N) govern-

ment was determined to

steering the country out of

prevailing crises and it

would come up to people's

meeting, called to review

the ongoing development

work in the city and ar-

rangements in connection

with the Eidul Azha at the

Aiwan Iqbal Complex.

With sincere efforts of the

government, the country

would get out of the pre-

vailing crises soon, he said

adding that the leadership

would mitigate the effects

He was addressing a

expectations.

Tehsil General Secretary said that on the special in-Malik Khizer Hayat, structions of PPP Chairman Tehsil Information Secretary Haji Sooba Khan and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari,

He listened to the issues and difficulties being faced by the beneficiary women at these payment centers and directed the onduty staff to take steps for immediate resolution of the problems being faced by the deserving people.

He warned that no negligence would be tolerated in ensuring smooth payments to the beneficiary women

Ahmed Hassan says:

PML-N to come up

to people's expectations

LAHORE (APP): Prime vandalism, and it would be

Minister's Coordinator compensated by working

of the damage, caused to the duced for rapid develop-

economy by politics of ment of the province.

The state minister

Former MNA Mehar

Ishtiaq, MPA Ch Shehbaz,

Rabia Farooqi, Ramzan

Siddique Bhatti, Syed

Tauseef Shah, MD LWMC

Babar Sahibuddin, DG PHA

Naeem Watto, DMD

WASA Abdul Karim, rep-

resentatives of Walled City

of Lahore Authority,

Punjab Police and others

Hassan said that despite

difficult circumstances, the

government was providing

resources worth billions of

rupees to improve the qual-

ity of life to people

whereas comprehensive re-

forms were being intro-

Ahmed

Khawaja

were present.

### CM Punjab puts line departments on alert Independent Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Nagyi has directed all line departments including the provincial administration. Puniah Disaster Management Authority, Rescue 1122, and Water and Sanitation Agency to maintain a state of high alertness, operating round-the-clock, in response to heavy rainfall in Lahore and other cities. The chief minister directed the officers concerned to remain present in the field, ensuring prompt drainage of stagnant water. He emphasised the need for expeditious water drainage.

without any compromise.

utilising available machin-

planned drainage strategy within the designated timeframe. He sternly emphasised that no negligence would be tolerated in carrying out the vital task of water drainage. Addressing the issue

of traffic management, the CM emphasized the need for special arrangements to facilitate the smooth flow of vehicles, with active efforts required to resolve public grievances. He urged administra-

tive officers and WASA staff to oversee and complete the water drainage operations, while emphasizing the initiation of immediate emergency measures in the event of any ery to implement the unfortunate incident.

### GB unveils over Rs116 bln budget for fiscal year 2023-24

GILGIT (APP): The Gilgit wheat. The finance minis-Baltistan government on Monday announced an Rs116 billion 15 crore budget for the next fiscal year 2023-24 in the Assembly held here on Monday.

Gilgit Baltistan Finance Minister Javed Ali Manwa presented the budget in the House.

In the budget of the new financial year, 74 billion rupees have been allocated for non-developmental expenditure, while 28 billion 45 crore rupees have been allocated for development expenditure. 13 billion 70 crore rupees have been proposed for subsidy on power sector.

ter announced a 35 per cent increase in the salaries of government employees up to 16 and 30 per cent in the salaries of employees from grades 17 to 22.

He further said that more than one billion 37 crore rupees have been allocated for the improvement of the health sector.

Heer said that more than 1 billion 57 crore rupees have been allocated for education, 45 crore rupees for agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries, and 4 billion 17 crore rupees have been proposed for the

To control drug abuse

### Governor underlines need to evolve comprehensive mechanism in universities

**Independent Report** Governor Punjab/Chancellor Muhammad Balighur Rehman chaired a meeting of Consortium on Drug and Narcotics Control today at Governor House Lahore. In the meeting, suggestions and recommendations regarding the prevention of drug abuse in universities were

discussed. Speaking on the occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman underlined the need to evolve a comprehensive mechanism in universities to control drug abuse at the campuses of the universities. He said that the 2021

### 3 siblings died in a tragic traffic accident in

Lahore

LAHORE (Online): 3 siblings died due to traffic accident in provincial capital Lahore

According to rescue authorities, a tragic traffic accident took place on Soi Asal Road near Kahana where two speeding motorcycles have been collided with a tractor trolley parked on the side of the road.

Authorities have said that as a result of the accident, three siblings died while the mother and two sons were injured

policy of the Higher Education Commission is an effective and comprehensive policy in this regard. Governor Punjab urged all the vice chancellors to ensure the implementation of this policy.

He said that there is a

need to train the faculty in this regard as well. Governor Punjab emphasized that regular awareness campaigns should be conducted to make students aware of the ill effects of drugs. He added that there should be counseling facility for students in the campuses in this regard.

On this occasion, the members of the Consortium Mehmood participated in briefed the Governor the meeting.

various recommendations. Convener/Pro-Vice-Chancellor Bahauddin Zakaria University, Dr.

Muhammad Ali, Vice-Chancellor Faisalabad Medical University Prof. Dr. Zafar Ali Chaudhry, Vice-Chan-cellor Nishtar Medical University Multan Prof. Dr. Rana Altaf Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor GC University Lahore Prof. Dr. Asghar Ali Zaidi, Vice Chancellor University of Health Sciences Lahore Professor Ahsan Waheed Rathore, Vice Chancellor Women University Multan Professor Dr. Director ANF Raja Tariq

### Minister vows to arrest miscreants behind attacks on Sikh youth

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister of Information Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel on Monday said the law enforcing agencies and police were actively pursuing the two attacks on Sikh youth in the provincial capital and assured that soon the miscreants would be brought to justice.

The Minister arrived here at Gurdwara Bhai Joga Singh, Mohalla Jogan Shah and condoled with the bereaved family of 32-year old

(APP): Manmohan Singh a Sikh shopkeeper who was shot dead in Rashidgarhi Bazaar here on Saturday. The Minister conveyed his heartfelt sorrow and grief to later Manmohan Singh's father and brother and assured that soon the culprit would be arrested and given exemplary punishment. He said that no one would be allowed to disturb the peace and atmosphere of brotherhood in the



LAHORE: Governor Punjab/Chancellor Muhammad Balighur Rehman chairing a meeting of Consortium on Drug and Narcotics Control at Governor House

## International News

### Russian PM urges citizens to rally behind Putin after aborted mutiny

**Monitoring Desk** MOSCOW: Russian Prime

Mishustin said on Monday that the country had faced "a challenge to its stability" and must remain united behind President Vladimir Putin following Saturday's abortive mutiny by heavily armed mercenary fighters.

Under a deal late on Saturday that defused the crisis and averted possible bloodshed, the Kremlin said the Wagner Group mercenaries would return to base, while their leader Yevgeny

Belarus. All criminal charges against him and his fighters would be dropped, the Kremlin said

dermine Russia.

'The main thing in these conditions is to en-

Prigozhin would move to independence of our coun-

In what appeared to minister in 2020. be the first public comments by a senior Russian dation of the whole of sociofficial since then, ety is especially important; Mishustin appealed at a we need to act together, as televised government meetface of what he said were around the president," he efforts by the West to un-

try, the security and wellbeing of citizens," said Mishustin, a technocrat who was appointed prime

"For this, the consoliwe need to act together, as one team, and maintain the ing for national unity in the unity of all forces, rallying said. Mishustin, a former head of Russia's federal tax service, also took a swipe

at the West. "As the president sure the sovereignty and

noted, virtually the entire military, economic, information machine of the West is directed against us," he said.

Putin said on Saturday that the rebellion by the Wagner mercenary force had threatened Russia's very existence under threat and vowed to crush it.

However, he has not publicly commented since then on the dramatic events or on the deal brokered by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko that



President Joe Biden arrives in the East Room with Vice President Kamala Harris and Jeff Say for an event about high speed internet infrastructure at the White House.

# Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Rudenko and Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang in Beijing.

### At least 3 dead, dozens of homes damaged after storms hit US Midwest, South

**Monitoring Desk** INDIANA: Tornadoes and thunderstorms hit the US Midwest and South a day earlier, leaving dozens of

homes damaged and at least three people dead in Indiana and Arkansas, authorities said on Monday. The National Weather Service said multiple torna-

does and severe storms were reported on Sunday in central Indiana and Arkansas. Emergency officials

from Martin County, Indiana, confirmed one death in the area. Emergency Management Director Cameron Wolf said the victim's injured partner was airlifted to two-storey log cabin, which

was destroyed by the storms. Further details were not immediately available.

"Damage is random it's kind of widespread, Wolf said in an interview with PBS. The damage mostly happened out in the countryside, he said. adding that towns were not his that hard by the storms.

The Lonoke County Sheriff's Office confirmed that two people were killed after a tree fell on a home in Carlisle, Arkansas, due to severe storms on Sunday, a

CBS News affiliate said. Images and footage from local media showed fallen trees had blocked hospital. They lived in a roads and homes were damaged

#### Kremlin releases first video statement by **Putin since** Wagner mutiny Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday issued via the Kremlin website his first statement since an armed mutiny by the Wagner mercenary group, congratulating participants of an industrial forum.

It was not immediately clear when or where Putin's statement was recorded.

#### UN ship agency chief urges decisive action at environment talks **Monitoring Desk**

LONDON: Countries must take decisive action at talks aimed at accelerating decarbonisation in the shipping industry, the United Nations' shipping agency chief said on Monday, as pressure for change builds.

Shipping, which transports around 90% of world trade and accounts for nearly 3% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions, is facing growing calls from environmentalists and investors to deliver more concrete action including a carbon levy

### China expresses support for Russia after failed

**Monitoring Desk** HONG KONG: China has

expressed support for Russia's efforts to maintain national stability in the wake of a failed uprising by mercenaries that posed a brief but unprecedented challenge to Russian President Vladimir Putin's rule.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Rudenko was in Beijing on Sunday, a day after Yevgeny Prigozhin called off an advance on Moscow

mercenary revolt by his Wagner mercenary group forces and agreed to leave for Belarus in exchange for charges being

dropped. 'The Chinese side expressed support for the efforts of the leadership of the Russian Federation to stabilize the situation in the country in connection with the events of June 24, and reaffirmed its interest in strengthening the unity and further prosperity of Russia.

### Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group says it shot down an Israeli drone near the southern border

**Monitoring Desk** 

BEIRUT: Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group said its fighters shot down an Israeli drone Monday that was flying near the border and over southern Lebanon.

The group gave no further details about the type of drone that it claimed was downed near the village of Zibqine just north of the border with Israel.

An Israeli military

spokesman said in a tweet

that a drone crashed in Leba-

non when an Israeli force was performing routine activities. The spokesman, Avichay Adraee, added in Arabic that there were no concerns of information being leaked. The incident comes after weeks of tensions along the Lebanon-Israel border, mainly in a disputed area known as Chebaa Farms. Earlier this month, Israeli soldiers fired tear gas to disperse scores of Lebanese protesters who

pelted the troops with stones

along the border.

### scribing the situation as Airport worker dies after plane engine 'ingests' him

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: US regulators said on Sunday they are investigating an incident in which a Texas airport worker was killed after being sucked into a passenger

plane engine. A Delta flight had arrived in San Antonio, Texas from Los Angeles on Friday night and was taxiing to the gate with one engine on "when a worker was ingested into that engine".

### shows 'cracks' emerging in Putin's rule intensity of a crisis that The fact that you

Blinken says Wagner insurrection

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: US Sec-

retary of State Antony have from within someone directly questioning Putin's Blinken said Sunday that the brief and chaotic insurauthority, directly questioning the premises that – rection in Russia led by the upon which he launched this Wagner paramilitary group shows "cracks" in Russian aggression against Ukraine. That, in and of itself, is President Vladimir Putin's role as a leader of the counsomething very, very powerful. It adds cracks. Where try. "This is just an added chapter to a very, very bad book that Putin has writthose go, when they get there, too soon to say, but ten for Russia. But what's it clearly raises new quesso striking about it is, it's internal," Blinken told tions that Putin has to deal with," he said. The comments from CNN's Dana Bash on 'State of the Union," de-

started when Yevegeny Prigozhin, the head of the Wagner Group, marched his fighters toward Moscow, taking control of Russian military facilities along the way. Prigozhin on Friday openly accused Russia's military of attacking a Wagner camp and killing a "huge amount" of his men. For months, he had railed against Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and the country's top general, Valery Gerasimov, whom he the nation's top diplomat underscore the short-lived blames for Moscow's fal-tering invasion of Ukraine. blames for Moscow's fal-

### North Korea holds rallies denouncing US, warns of nuclear war

**Monitoring Desk** 

SEOUL: North Korea held mass rallies in Pyongyang where people shouted slogans vowing a "war of revenge" to destroy the United States, as it marked the 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, state media reported on Monday. About 120,000 working people and students took part in the rallies held across the capital

on Sunday, state news

agency KCNA reported. Photos released by state media showed a stadium crowded with people holding placards reading "The whole U.S. mainland is within our shooting range" and "The imperialist U.S. is the de-

stroyer of peace." Sunday's anniversary came amid concerns Pyongyang could soon conduct another launch of its first military spy satellite to boost monitoring of

U.S. military activities.

### India's systematic torture against Kashmiris-biggest challenge to world's conscience: AJK PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir Minister, Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that India's systematic torture against Kashmiris was the biggest challenge to the world's

conscience. In a statement issued on the occasion of International Day of Support for Victims of Violence observed on Monday, the prime minister, while referring to the use and abuse of power by the Indian occupation forces in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), said that human rights abuses in Jammu and Kashmir ranging from mass killings, enforced disappearances, torture pose a serious threat to the people of Kashmir who have been reeling under relentless oppression and barbarism over the past several decades.

He said that sexual

violence was being used by where Kashmiris were the Indian forces as a means to punish and humiliate

Kashmiris were subjected to the worst mental and physical violence in torture cells and interrogation centers set up in the length and breadth of the

these colonial-era tactics to strengthen and solidify its illegal control over the territory of Jammu and Kashmir", he said.

He, however, maintained that despite facing India's worst violence and nefarious Kashmiris are determined to see their freedom movement to its logical conclusion. The prime minister while condemning the brutal repression of Kashmiris at the hands of the Indian occupation forces, said that IÎOJK had been turned

ISLAMABAD: Fatcha is being offered over the sad demise of the aunt of the

through their participation

in various agriculture trades

training programs under the Prime Minister's youth

Ghulam Muhammad Ali,

Chairman of the Pakistan

Agricultural Research Council (PARC), high-

lighted the critical role of

agricultural research in at-

taining economic stability

and promoting rural development. Dr. Ali empha-

sized the paramount sig-

it drives product innova-

tion, strengthens food security, and creates oppor-

instrumental in ensuring the

long-term prosperity of the

nation and the well-being of

rural communities by facili-

tating sustainable agricul-

tural practices and advance-

ments. Chairman Dr. Ali

expressed his profound ap-

preciation for the visionary

approach presented by BoP and assured the bank

earthing while using an iron

washing machine, refrigera-tor etc, put wooden pieces,

flappers or rug under your

feet and also use rubber soles

clothes instead of electrical

wires and do not use a wa-

ter pipe for it. Instruct chil-

dren to avoid going near electricity installations while

playing. Do not keep hold

of the rope of sacrificial and other cattle heads with poles or stay wire and re-

main at least a hundred feet

Use rope while drying

shoes, further said.

Such investments are

During the event, Dr.

Acting President, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

loan scheme.

PARC, BoP collaborate

to promote research

based agriculture

mand, with the goal of pro- nificance of allocating re-

moting the welfare of the sources to expand agricul-

cific needs of the potato- tunities for exports.

farming community and tural research activities, as

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: (PR&P

PARC) Pakistan Agricul-

tural Research Council

(PARC) and The Bank of Punjab (BoP) have entered

into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with

the aim of boosting agricul-

tural productivity and

sustainability in Pakistan.

BoP will provide financial

support for research activi-

ties that are mutually agreed

upon and driven by de-

ensuring sustainable food

security. In an initial step,

BoP will finance the spe-

growing community, focus-

ing on the production of

disease-free seeds for po-

tato growers in the Punjab

region. This financial back-

ing from BoP aligns with

the broader objective of fos-

tering growth and green

sustainability throughout

the country. Additionally,

both PARC and BoP have

expressed their commit-

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)

asked the general public to

adopt precautionary mea-

sures owing to a rainy spell

as a little carelessness or

negligence can lead to a fa-

vised the general public to

follow precautionary mea-

sures for the sake of saving life and important belong-

The spokesman ad-

Do not touch naked

plug along with proper wires.

tal accident.

ment to engaging the youth of wholehearted cooperain the agricultural sector tion in future endeavors.

Citizens asked to adopt

precautionary measures

amid rainy spell

Under this agreement,

forced to live under the shadows of guns. The Kashmiri leadership, he said, has been booked under Draconian laws and thrown behind bars

'Kashmiri youths are being picked up from their homes and martyred in fake encounters", he said, adding that secret "India has been using burials of martyred vouths in faraway places have become a new normal in Kashmir.

> The prime minister said that there were thousands of unknown graves in IIOJK

He said that thousands of women whose husbands have been subiected to enforced disannearances were living a miserable life. "They don't know whether their spouses are dead or alive" he said, adding that more than eleven thousand women have been raped in into an open-air prison IIOJK

Dust, thunder

storm with

rain expected

in most parts

of country

SLAMABAD (Online)

Isolated heavy falls with

isolated hail storm is ex-

pected in Northeast

Punjab, Potohar region,

akhtunkhwa and Kashmir

during the next twelve

hours. However, dust and

thunderstorm with rain is

expected in upper and cen-

tral Punjab, Islamabad

Pothohar region, Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, north and

east Balochistan, Kashmir

PTI chairman

must be given

punishment as

per law: Malik

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Minister of State for Petro-

leum Dr Musadiq Malik on

Monday said that Pakistan Teheek e Insaf(PTI), Chair-

man must be given punishment as per law. PTI lead-

ers and workers have found

attacking security institu-tions on May 9, he said

while talking to a private

television channel. PTI had

been using derogatory re-

marks against the heads of

national institutions, he

said. Appreciating the mili-

tary courts' unbiased work-

ing style, he said the cur-

rent decisions taken by mili-

tary courts are unprec-

and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Upper



athletes in a group photo after the closing ceremony at Brendenburg Gate.

### Pak wins 10 golds as **Special Olympics ends**

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan won a total of 10 gold medals in the 16th Special Olympics World Games, which concluded on Sunday

The number of golds in Pakistan's kitty increased after cyclist Šafeer Abid clinched one in the 10km time trial race during the games' cycling event. He completed the 10km distance in 23 minutes and 02.02 seconds.

This was the first time that Safeer, who hails from Karachi, has participated in the World Games. The cyclist had been preparing for the special sporting event since the last two years, he said.

"I have the passion to win more medals for Pakistan in the upcoming international events," Safeer said. In the 500m time trial race, Madeeha Tahir of Pa- women's singles.

kistan won the silver medal by covering the distance in 1 minute and 14.15 seconds, while Amina Arshad won the bronze medal by covering the distance in 1 minute and 16.82 seconds. In the final of the

futsal event, Oman won the

gold medal by defeating

Pakistan by 6-3 goals. Pakistan finished second with the silver medal. Pakistan stood fourth in women's doubles, men's

singles and unified men's doubles of the tennis event. In the Bocce team

event, Pakistan's Mahnoor, Simran Mahesh Lal, Jamilur Rahman and Farhan Aslam won the silver medal after defeating Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Farhan Aslam won the bronze medal in men's singles, and Mahnoor won the bronze medal in

### Dar chairs meeting to oversee outsourcing of airports' operations

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting of the Steering Committee to oversee the outsourcing of airports' operations, at Finance Division, today.

Federal Minister for Aviation and Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique, Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, SAPM on Finance Mr. prove service delivery and Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on match best international Government Effectiveness practices.

Dr. Muhammad Jehanzeb Khan, Secretary Aviation, DG CAA, IFC representatives and senior officers from Finance and Aviation attended the meeting During the meeting,

IFC, transaction advisor,

gave a presentation to the committee which took decisions as to the future Lightning strikes ocroadmap for moving forward for outsourcing of the first airport in order to im-

### AIOU to establish Swift **Centers across country**

ISLAMABAD (APP): AIOU, Prof. Dr Nasir Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has decided to establish "AIOU SWIFT Centers" across the country for the convenience of students and to ensure they have access to essential information related to academics, admissions, and examinations. According to the AIOU, after the digitization of universities, there was a need to provide online facilities to students in remote areas of the country, where internet and com-

able to students.

puter facilities are not avail-

Mahmood, the university established state-of-the-art computer labs in the regional offices of AIOU in the first phase to provide students with free internet and computer facilities.

Now in the second phase, AIOU SWIFT Centers are being established across the country, providing all necessary information and facilities to existing and new students. These SWIFT Centers will be duly registered with AIOU to promote the academic services and activities of the university and On the special instruc- serve as a digital facility cen-

### tions of Vice Chancellor tre for students. Law Enforcement departments unite in Islamabad to tackle drug abuse: ICCPO

**Independent Report** 

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad capital police, in collaboration with the Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) and educational institutions, conducted a significant meeting at the Central Police Office on the occasion included Brigadier Ammar from this menace, highlight-Ali, Regional Directorate ing that letters have already Commander North from been dispatched to all inthe Anti Narcotics Force, stitutions in this regard. and high-ranking officers Representatives from from Islamabad Capital educational institutions Police, including the Capiproposed the organization

of refresher courses and

awareness campaigns,

SSP Operations. aimed at shielding young of International Day

tal Police Officer Headquar-

ters, AIG Operations, and

### Daraz Pakistan to donate 200 laptops to government schools

wire and get repaired defective wiring, use three pin away from high tension

Daraz Pakistan has announced the donation of 200 refurbished laptops to company's dedication to supporting education and ensuring that students have access to essential technol-

government schools in Okara, a testament to the ogy resources. The donation aims to

provide students enrolled in eight schools in Okara with refurbished laptops, enabling them to thrive in today's learning environments. Recognizing the im-

portance of assisting the most vulnerable groups in society, this donation will be benefiting 3600 students, according to a press release issued on Monday.

This donation will help create a more equal educational landscape by granting children access to computers.

The laptops will facilitate innovative online learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom, breaking down barriers and ensuring equitable

against Narcotics. The meeting was chaired by Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the meeting aimed to address the rising concern of drug abuse among the youth and strategize effective measures to combat

this menace. The meeting saw the participation of key stakeholders, including representatives from Islamabad Capital Police, ANF, and various educational institutions. Notable attendees cies to safeguard students

During the session, ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan emphasized the critical role of social response and proper guidance in preventing youth from falling prey to drug addiction. He acknowledged the concerted efforts of law enforcement agencies, including ANF, in combating drug-related activities in

Pakistan ICCPO Dr. Khan urged educational institutions to collaborate closely with law enforcement agenof drugs and promoting a comprehensive understanding of its adverse consequences. By fostering awareness among the younger generation, the aim is to break the network of drug dealers and prevent the destruction of young lives. ICCPO Dr Akbar Nasir Khan affirmed the commitment of Islamabad capital police to bring those involved in drug trafficking to justice and prevent them from jeopardizing the future

students from the dangers

### **IHC summons SSP** operations

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday summoned SSP Operations Islamabad police and directed him to appear in person in a case seeking the recovery of a missing bureaucrat Azam Khan.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the case regarding the matter. The officials of FIA, NAB, Interior Ministry, police officials and additional attorney general appeared before the court.

At the outset of the hearing, the police officials informed the court that the vehicle of the missing bureaucrat was not seen in the footage of Safe City Cam-

The chief justice remarked that how it was possible as the vehicle to be driven across the city. He further said that it was a serious matter as the said bureaucrat was missing since June 15.

#### 12 people died due to lightning strikes in different cities

SIALKOT (Online): 12 people have died due to lightning strikes in Sialkot, Shakargarh, Sheikhupura and Pasrur.

5 people were killed due to lightning in Sialkot, 4 people were struck by lightning in Shakargarh, 2in Sheikhupura and one in

curred at two different places in Sheikhupura. person Mandiala Warkan in a buffalo enclosure was killed by

3 people sitting in a graveyard in Chak Shahpur were also struck by light-

Among them one person died while two others were injured.

Due to lightning, a fire broke out in the Sharqpur Road grid station, which was brought under control by the rescue staff. A person was killed

by lightning in the neighboring village of Thatha Malkhi in Pasrur.

### Marriyum says:

### Big news - new policy parameters to boost music industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): legal rights of music indus-Minister for Information Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday announced finalization of the country's first-ever music policy draft, which would ulti-

news for the industry. The new policy incentives and initiatives would eventually boost the music ndustry since they would effectively redress piracy, copyrights and other pertinent issues, she said in a statement.

The minister said the music policy had been prepared in accordance with the international standards and also considering the relevant laws in vogue in the neighbouring artists. countries.

She said the artists' public performance, production, distribution, adaptation, duration, and mechanical and communication rights were also brought into legal framework through the policy. Through such mea-

sures, the problem of users and licensees would also be and spirit" of the Pakistani solved, which would give a ry, she added.

boost to the music indus-

posed policy. All issues and demands of the music stakeholders, including copyrights, would be resolved, mately prove to be a big she reiterated.

try workers would also be

protected under the pro-

The policy, she said, would also protect the legal rights of music producers, singers, writers and lyricists, besides resolving the long-standing issues of the industry related to sales, copying and

piracy.

The minister said the policy also included special measures to preserve classic music, and initiatives for local and folk music to promote regional singers and

She said under the policy, steps would be taken to not only preserve bust also promote Pakistan's musical heritage, which was rich being a unique combination of Sufi poetry, with classic and odern music

Marriyum said music could be termed "the soul society, rather it was a national and cultural identity, which was being brought The minister said the forward from generation to end of monopoly, the basic generation.

### MOU signed between FPCCI and CCR

### Relentless efforts to improve Pakistan, Russia economic ties

Independent Report SLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Champers of Commerce & Indusry and the Chamber of the MOU. Commerce of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russia (Yakutia) is the largest re-

Masood Ur Rehman Vice President FPCCI and Mr. Bogoslovskaya Marina President CCR have signed

Republic of Sakha



have signed an MOU desiring to contribute to the expansion of friendly relations in the future through the development of coopmutually beneficial development of joint business projects in the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) and Pakistan, guided by the desire to develop foreign economic relations between the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) and in Pakistan: The MOU was signed after a week of 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the establishment of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Russian Federation, at the Saint Petersburg economic forum 2023. Mr. Umar their states in the field of eign economic relations.

public of Russia, located in the Russian Far East, along the Arctic Ocean, and with a population of roughly 1 million Sakha comprises erning Far Eastern Federal District. According to the signed MOU, both Parties will help establish direct contacts and exchanges between themselves and individuals of both Parties in the spheres identified by the Protocol of Intentions. Both Chambers will also develop cooperation for the development of joint business projects based on mutual benefit and under the laws of their states in the field of for-

### CONDOLENCE -

### THE ALL PAKISTAN NEWSPAPERS SOCIETY

expresses profound grief over the sad demise of

mother of

Mr. Saeed Ahmed Khan Accounts Officer, APNS.

May Allah the Almighty rest her

soul in eternal peace and grant

courage to the family to bear the loss.



All Pakistan Newspapers Society

of our society.