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dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing a seminar on "the Role of Federal Insurance Ombudsman in the Development of Insurance Industry" at Governor House.

PM directs for preparing export-oriented development budget 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday issued clear directions to include on priority, such projects in the upcoming development budget that help in ensuring import substitutions, expanding export volume, and bringing innovation in various sectors.

The prime minister also directed to allocate special funds in the development programme for the welfare and development of the country's youth.

Chairing a meeting to review the budget proposals with respect to the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2023-24, Shehbaz Sharif said that in the upcoming budget, projects relating to higher education, professional training and job creation for the youth must be added in the programme.

He also asked for the establishment of Pakistan Endowment Fund to provide higher education to the youth.

The laptop programme should also be included in the upcoming PSDP to distribute free laptops among the top performing students to equip them with modern technology skills, he added.

He said through the endowment fund, the youth should be given professional and higher education besides skill-based training in IT sector.

The prime minister also stressed the need to give special importance to merit and transparency while providing scholarships and education to the youth.

PM Shehbaz directed to continue the projects initiated under the Kissan Package while renewable

energy projects should also be made part of the development budget.

The prime minister also directed to allocate special funds in the upcoming budget for projects to bring innovation in the energy sector.

He said all the slow ongoing projects under the PSDP that had lost their importance, should be removed from the development budget.

All stakeholders of the relevant sectors and the allied parties should be consulted before including any development project in the budget and their proposals should also be considered, the prime minister directed.

Earlier, the meeting was briefed in detail about the proposals for adding new projects in the upcoming fiscal year and progress on the ongoing projects.

Governor Sindh chairs meeting on KMC hospitals

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori on Friday chaired a high-level meeting on the hospitals of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) in the Governor House, here.

The participants discussed the measures to improve the KMC hospitals, the provision of all facilities to the patients, and the difficulties faced in this regard, said a statement.

In the meeting, the plan of providing ration to one lakh people for six months under the Taqatwar Pakistan program was also discussed. Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rehman, Municipal Commissioner, Senior Director Health Services and the medical superintendents of hospitals were also

present.

It should be noted that Governor Sindh is also the brand ambassador of the Taqatwar Pakistan program.

Speaking on the occasion, the governor said that Abbasi Shaheed and Sobhraj hospitals are the most important medical facilities of KMC. Improvement of all medical centers of KMC, especially these two hospitals, is among the priorities, he added.

Kamran Khan Tessori said that the needy patients coming to the medical centers will also be given ration under the Taqatwar Pakistan program. The ration bag of 27 kg will contain various items and the ration has been arranged according to the household of five-member family.

President urges insurance companies to expand services in health, agriculture sectors

KARACHI (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi, on Friday urged insurance companies to expand their services in health and agriculture sectors and utilise modern technologies for enhancing outreach to masses.

The quantum of insurance sector in national economy was much less than its potential and in comparison to other countries of the region, he noted and stressed upon all the stakeholders to work hard for creating their good will among the public besides imparting awareness to masses for achieving exponential growth.

The president was addressing a seminar, titled "Role of ombudsman in development of insurance sector" organised by Federal Insurance Ombudsman

secretariat here at Sindh Governor House.

Dr. Arif Alvi said that government was providing social safety and assistance through its social safety net, public health services and in shape of compensation in case of natural calamities and accidents but more initiatives were required to cover the entire population of the country.

He said that health expenditure was a major concern for people particularly the lower income group and there was a vast potential of health insurance services in the country as those services could not only bridge the existing gaps but also be of great value in time of need.

Emphasizing the need of insurance services for agriculture sector, the president observed that agriculture was another important sector of economy that was under served in lieu of insurance services and products while progress with regard to provision of agriculture insurance services was sluggish.

Rapidly developing information and communication technologies should be utilised to expand the outreach and ensuring the access of masses to the services while doors must be kept open for receiving the complaints and feed back of the public, he advised and suggested that creating good will of insurance companies among the general public and mass awareness would certainly help bringing gradual change in public perception about the sector.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on PSDP proposals for 2023-24.

Peoples Bus Service to start a new route on Lyari Expressway: Sharjeel

KARACHI (APP): Government of Sindh on Friday decided to start a new route of People's Bus Service on Lyari Expressway to alleviate the problems of commuters.

The decision was taken in a meeting held here with Sindh Minister of Information, Transport and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon in a chair, said a news release issued here.

In the meeting, it was decided to conduct a survey to assess the feasibility of a non-stop route of Peoples Bus Service on Lyari Expressway and initially to start plying a bus on a trial basis on the expressway.

The member of the National Highway Authority (NHA) Munir Memon and Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Highways

and Motorway Police Javed Ali Mehr briefed the meeting regarding the flow of traffic on the Lyari Expressway.

Sharjeel Inam Memon said that the Sindh government was striving to provide the best transport facilities to the people across the province and various public transport initiatives were taken in that regard.

He hoped that starting a route of People's Bus Service on Lyari Expressway would help reduce the burden of traffic on other roads of Karachi.

The minister instructed the relevant officers to complete the necessary arrangements for starting trial bus service on the expressway and carry out a survey by June 11 and submit the report.

PM leaves for Turkiye to attend Erdogan's inauguration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday departed here for Turkiye on a two-day official visit to attend the inauguration of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday.

In the second round of elections held on May 28, President Erdogan received 52.14 percent of the votes, beating his challenger, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, who won 47.86 percent.

I am innocent, Parvez Elahi

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and former Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi has said that I am innocent.

In a video message, he has said that I have full trust in our judiciary and as far as the Pakistan Army is concerned, I have always been a supporter of the Pakistan Army.

It is matter of concern for them the people sitting around them are taking the country where.

He has said, it is my message for all PTI workers and leaders that they remain steadfast, you are on the truth, you do not back down, victory is yours.

Sindh CM 'concerned' over activist Jibran Nasir's disappearance

KARACHI (Online): Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Friday expressed his "concern" over the disappearance of well-known rights activist and lawyer Jibran Nasir.

Nasir's wife Mansha Pasha said she was present with him in their car yesterday when at least 15 unidentified heavily armed men in multiple vehicles cornered them and abducted him from near his residence in Karachi's DHA.

"We were returning after having dinner when a white Vigo intercepted and almost crushed us. There were 15 men with pistols and they took away my husband forcibly," Pasha said in her video statement.

She urged everyone to make efforts and pray for the early recovery of her husband.

Nasir, a former independent candidate in the 2018 general elections from Karachi, has criticised the recent state crackdown on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party and legal proceedings concerning individuals allegedly involved in riots.

His efforts to address sectarian violence earned him a place on Foreign Policy Magazine's 2013 list of three inspirational Pakistanis working against such conflicts.

Journalists Imran Riaz Khan, Aftab Iqbal and Sami Ibrahim, all considered supporters of PTI, were also taken into custody earlier this month.

Ibrahim and Iqbal have been released, however, the whereabouts of Imran Riaz Khan remain undisclosed to date.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Kamran Tessori seeing off Hajj Pilgrims, at Jinnah International Airport in Karachi

Sindh to initiate action against water theft, encroachment

KARACHI (APP): Chief Secretary Sindh, Dr Muhammad Sohail Rajput on Friday chaired a high-level meeting regarding the illegal encroachments and water theft in Karachi and decided to take stringent measures to tackle these unlawful activities.

The meeting was attended by Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Minister for Local Government, Muhammad Iqbal Memon, Commissioner Karachi, Baquillah Unar, Senior Member, Board of Revenue, Syed Najam Ahmed Shah, Secretary Local Government, officials from the Malir Development Authority, Karachi Development Authority, Water Board Police, and Rangers.

The reports of encroachments on the lands of the Malir Development Authority (MDA), Karachi Development Authority (KDA), and the Water Board were presented.

Briefing the meeting, the officials said that the lands of MDA, KDA and Lyari Development Authority (LDA) had been illegally occupied in different city areas and at different times. They informed that they had also carried out various operations but encroachments resurfaced.

Addressing the meeting, the chief secretary said that a strong operation would be carried out against encroachments and water thieves in the city of Karachi. "An operation will be conducted against illegal hydrants in the East and West districts of the city," he said. If illegal hydrants were reactivated, strict action would be taken against the SHOs (Station House Officers) concerned, he added.

Furthermore, Dr Muhammad Sohail Rajput, emphasized that the police and Rangers would actively participate in the operation against encroachments.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Sardar Shahid Ahmad Laghari meet Chairman NDMA Lt General Inam Haider Malik at his office.

Sindh Assembly to meet on June 7

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has summoned a session of the Provincial Assembly (PA) of Sindh on June 07, Wednesday.

According to the notification, the session of the provincial assembly of Sindh will meet at 2 pm at the Sindh Assembly building.

SHC stops recruitment of teachers in Sindh

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Friday barred the provincial government from further recruitment of teachers.

According to media reports, the SHC was moved against the recruitment of teachers under the hard area policy. The applicant demanded a unified policy for the recruitment of teachers.

The orders were passed by the Sindh High Court Chief Justice, Ahmed Ali Shaikh while hearing a plea against the policy of teachers' recruitment in the province.

Sindh education secretary Akbar Leghari appeared before the court. The top judge asked about the hard and soft areas policy in recruitment at the start of the hearing. Which areas have been declared as hard areas, Justice Sheikh asked.



MOROCCO: Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque addressing GITEX Africa Digital Summit.

MOIT committed to develop a digital Pakistan: Amin Ul Haque

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque has said that the MOIT is working round the clock to achieve the target of developing a digital Pakistan as it will drive entrepreneurial innovation, productivity and economic growth.

Speaking as keynote speaker in a Panel Discussion in Digital Summit, GITEX-23 Morocco in Marrakech, the Historic City of Morocco, he said that MOIT&T is working on different projects keeping 2050 in vision. He informed the conference about various policies including Cyber Security, Freelancers Policy, Personal Data Protection Bill, saying that Pakistan is

emerging as an important center of Information Technology where wide opportunities and incentives are available for international investors. Initiatives to promote IT industry, Freelancers, and Start-ups have made Pakistan a Digital hub, he said.

Syed Amin Ul Haque while highlighting the significance of start-ups in Pakistan said, "It is very well said that the entrepreneur always searches for change, responds to it, and exploits it as an opportunity."

Since start-ups are centers of novel innovations, they generate jobs, which implies more career opportunities; more employment leads to stronger economy.

Security forces kill two active terrorists in Dossali fire exchange

RAWALPINDI (APP): The security forces killed two active terrorists involved in inimical activities against the forces and killing of innocent civilians during an exchange of fire in general area Dossali of North Waziristan District on Thursday. According to an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release on Friday, the army troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location and sealed all possible escape routes.

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorists who remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces and killing of innocent citizens, it said.

Karachi mayor to be elected through show of hands, Sindh govt tells ECP

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh government on Friday informed the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) that the mayor of Karachi will be elected through a show of hands.

The clarification from Sindh government comes after the election commission had asked local government ministry to inform the election body about the Karachi mayor election process.

The provincial government further said that mayor election will take place through a show of hands method in as per Sindh Local Govt Amendment Act.

Earlier, the Election Commission of Pakistan announced the schedule of the mayor and deputy mayor election in Sindh.

The election of the mayor and deputy mayor will take place on June 15 while the nomination paper can be submitted by June 9-10. The ECP schedule stated that the Returning Officer will check the nomination papers on June 11 and the finalized list of candidates will be released on June 14.

On June 16, the Returning Officers will announce the results whereas the successful candidates will take oath on June 19.



LAHORE: Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President, Chaudhry Parvez Elahi leaving court after court case hearing, at District Court in Lahore

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Balanced approach

Political equations are never easy to engineer, let alone solve. A political crisis should either be allowed to burn through or resolved via the electoral process — imposing any artificial solution on it will never address the social conflicts precipitating it.

Unfortunately, the many lessons from Pakistani history that substantiate this simple fact continue to be ignored. Instead of taking a laissez-faire approach to democratic processes, past practice has been to introduce new variables into the political equation to counteract a popular political force whenever it begins posing a threat to the status quo.

There are several extant by-products of this strategy. The Q-League, MQM-Haqiqi and Pak Sarzameen Party were carved out from the PML-N and MQM after the parent parties began asserting themselves in ways that were not approved of by the status quo elite.

Likewise, the National Awami Party, banned from Pakistani politics in 1975 by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto because of its dogged opposition to his politics and policies, has survived through its avatar, the ANP.

Based on recent news reports, it appears that several PTI leaders who recently deserted their party and said they were disavowing politics might have already been roped in for a fresh experiment.

Former information minister Fawad Chaudhry, former Sindh governor Imran Ismail and erstwhile PTI stalwarts Amir Kiani and Mehmoood Moulvi on Wednesday made an attempt to convince PTI vice-chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi to ditch the party.

Mr Chaudhry also revealed that he had reached out to other key leaders from the PTI for their support for the new venture. For now, his efforts have borne no fruit. It may be noted, however, that Mr Qureshi was recently named heir apparent to the PTI by the party's chairman himself. This could make his departure, if it happens, rather devastating to the beleaguered party's morale.

What is most intriguing, however, is that this new grouping has made it quite clear that it will be acting in opposition to the PDM parties. In other words, it will be seeking to prevent the PPP and PML-N from taking advantage of the PTI's fall.

It is unclear how this wheeling and dealing will benefit the country, considering how polarised public opinion has become due to the PDM government's economic mismanagement amidst worsening sociopolitical crises.

Only a legitimate government — elected through a fair electoral contest and backed by a strong public mandate — may be able to take the country out of its present crisis. Unfortunately, it appears that we may be heading in a completely different direction. The parties in power must ask themselves if another hung parliament serves their political interests. They entered a marriage of convenience over their opposition to the PTI, but will this marriage last another five years amidst wide-ranging crises?



Zubeida Mustafa

Man is by nature a collector. What he collects and how he manages his collection depends on his personal commitment and style of working as well as the resources available to him. If well planned and made accessible, collections can become a valuable source of knowledge for mankind.

After all, what are museums and libraries but institutionally managed collections which tell the story of civilisations and cultures or just a branch of knowledge. What is important is that the collections' permanence, continuity, security and accessibility are ensured.

All this cannot be done single-handedly, and governments and public institutions have to be involved in this mammoth process. Unfortunately, such commitment has been missing from the agenda of successive Pakistani governments. However, Lutfullah Khan (1916-2012) made the impossible possible when he recorded, relying on his own efforts, the voices and works of persons of great eminence in literature, music and other fields, and preserved them for posterity.

In fact, to make his collection accessible, he devised his own cataloguing system that he kept revising from time to time. The collection comprises tapes, CDs and digitised recordings that are unparalleled in magnitude and versatility.

A musician, and in his early years a radio presenter, Lutfullah collected whatever he could lay his hands on. He developed an interest in archiving

Sound treasures

human voices and musical sounds when he acquired a tape recorder for which he paid Rs1,148 in July 1951. Fascinated, he recorded his mother's voice, saying a time would come when she would be no more. It is such a thought that drives a collector's passion. But it also makes him possessive.

In that respect, Lutfullah Sahib was lucky. Five years after his death, a chance meeting between Mrs Zahida Lutfullah and Dr Khurshid Abdullah (an adviser at Aga Khan University), who had never met the man whose lifetime's labour he is now trying to preserve, led to the present arrangement. The credit for retrieving this treasure from the brink of oblivion goes to Dr Abdullah. With a similar passion, but also a full-time job, he has managed to digitise in six years nearly 25 to 30 per cent of the collection. But nothing has been added since Lutfullah Sahib recorded the last word.

When I asked Dr Khurshid Abdullah to give me an idea of the size of the collection in terms of the duration of the recording, he simply gave me some statistics. The presence of poets in the recording is enormous: there are nearly 800 of them. There are 7,261 poems with a duration of 278 hours, 39 minutes and nine seconds. In other words, you will have to listen round the clock for 11 days to go through the poetry section. Faiz and Akhtarul Iman top the list with their entire work recorded in their own voice.

The cataloguing leaves you marvelling. The catalogue for the music section, the largest, consists of 42 volumes with 200 pages each. The entries are classified as 'artistic', 'classical', 'semi-classical', 'instrumental', 'vocal', melody-wise, etc. Similarly, there are catalogues for poetry, prose,

talks, radio dramas and so on.

What is the significance of this collection? It is oral literature/history in a pure form. A poet who recites his own poetry — stressing a syllable at the right place to convey the meaning and nuances of the words as only the creator of these can do, communicates more effectively with his audience.

The Lutfullah collection contains a number of interviews, readings and conversations by eminent authors that are exclusive and give an insight into society and history. They are all there: be it Qur-atalain Hyder talking about her father, or Hajra Masroor in conversation with Ismat Chughtai. Pir Hisamuddin Rashdi figures in there with many others. Dr Khurshid Abdullah has wisely had transcribed in books exclusive talks and interviews.

Exploring at random, I found so many pearls of wisdom from these greatest of the greats. In the present distressing times, Faiz reassures us "Lambi hai gham ki shaam magar shaam hee to hai" (The night of sorrow is long, but it is only a night). Or when he promises us a better future reciting "Hum dekhenge gair..." (we shall see).

Then there are Noon Meem Raashid warning us against Nimrod's sham philosophy in the land of his divinity and Habib Jalib defiantly proclaiming "Mein naheem manta" (I don't accept). History is the best teacher and this collection is full of history. The voices in the recordings can be the mentors students need and which Dr Khurshid Abdullah believes are missing today. According to him, people look for 'sanads' (degrees) or 'tarbiat' (training) but what is really needed to make a youth accomplished is 'subhat' (mentorship). Lutfullah has provided them in plenty. -- Courtesy Dawn

Near collapse



Nazir A. Jogeza

It is said that contrary to its intended purpose of driving social growth and producing well-informed human capital, higher education in the country has fallen prey to a level of mediocrity that has stymied societal advancement and economic development.

Take the example of Balochistan. Along with all its other issues, including a poor security situation, political instability, economic challenges and natural disasters, the province faces a severe crisis in higher education. Of late, this has been most apparent in the state of its faculty at higher education institutions, who, deprived of their salaries — with some forced to sell their personal belongings — have taken to the streets to protest.

This state of affairs is a sorry comment on the history of higher education institutes in the province, which have been poorly planned and managed. It is a mere illusion that physically expanding existing campuses and hiring more staff will keep pace with greater enrolment numbers. It is unfair to burden the public sector with the task of generating job-creation opportunities in a province where there has been little industrial development.

Universities in the province spend more on building and maintenance, thus shifting the emphasis from teaching and learning to administration and control. The majority exist as corporate entities, employing administrative and support personnel. One professor said that university offi-

cials spend more on fuel while there was no budget for chemicals for the laboratories. Another believed that the clerk had more authority than him; even his request for paper to write on was sometimes denied.

The majority of sub-campuses promote social sciences programmes, including degrees in education and management, because they have comparatively lower administrative costs — there is little understanding of the importance of scientific subjects for future generations. Interestingly, some of the sub-campuses comprise just a few borrowed rooms with no labs or other prerequisites.

All this is in contrast to globally established norms in higher education institutes. Universities abroad invest billions in making themselves a hub of cutting-edge research and diversity by attracting talent from around the world and providing a learning platform offering students different skills. Here, we believe in rigid ideas, and old skills, and provide students with a static education experience from primary to the doctorate level in the same sociopolitical and sociocultural context, with minds closed to learning from multiple sources.

Political elites have brought sub-campuses to the doorsteps of their voters in remote areas, despite criticism that this can diminish students' exposure to diversity and limit their critical thinking skills. Faculty members with poor skills and inadequate qualifications have been employed for the purpose, thanks to the paucity of genuine professionals.

Our financial crisis continues to worsen, with adverse implications for teaching and learning at higher education institutes. Solutions so far have proved to be superficial and ineffective. Perhaps a more concrete

remedy lies in restructuring Balochistan's higher education institutes. The establishment of a provincial higher education commission is the starting point in the aim to incorporate strong human capital that can lay the ground for workable ideas, which meet the demands of academic needs, the sociocultural and sociopolitical environment of the province, and global trends. The currently centralised higher education mechanism, in the aftermath of the 18th Amendment, is in-effective and a great mismatch with ground realities and global academic trends.

It is essential that the tendency to set up satellite or sub-campuses be curbed and that universities receive additional funding instead. Higher education cannot be regarded as a fundamental right like school education by simply expanding access through sub-campuses; rather, there must be sophisticated admission standards so that meritorious students have the opportunity to avail themselves of academic programmes taught by highly qualified professors in well-equipped universities. Additionally, ad hoc appointments on the back of loose selection criteria must be discouraged. Nepotism is a national trait and relatives and non-professionals are often accommodated, resulting in education of an inferior quality. Rather than behaving as corporate entities, higher education institutions must act as the hubs of learning and research that they were meant to be, and give academicians more leadership roles and a larger say when it comes to decision-making. Learning, research and development must be the core business, and available material and human capital must be utilised towards this end. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

FAO joins hands with MNFS&R to unlock potential of Pak livestock sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) together with Ministry of National Food Security & Research (MNFS&R) concluded a national workshop in Islamabad to share the findings of the assessment of Pakistan's existing animal disease surveillance system and provide valuable recommendations.

The Workshop was organized under the Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) which aims to improve the animal disease surveillance system and establish a real-time animal disease reporting

system in the Pakistan. The workshop brought together leading experts, officials from federal and provincial livestock departments, and other key stakeholders committed to safeguarding animal health and welfare. The workshop provided a platform to unlock the potential of the livestock industry and promote its development.

Highlighting the importance of a comprehensive regulatory framework alongside the disease surveillance system, Dr Khalid Ashfaq, Animal Husbandry Commissioner said that the

Ministry has developed a draft National Animal Health Act aligned with World Organization for Animal Health guidelines, which will be presented to workshop participants for review and recommendations. Once approved, this will be the first national-level document related to animal health legislation in Pakistan, he added.

FAO Deputy Representative in Pakistan, Farrukh Toirov, during his inaugural remarks, said that there is a huge disparity between livestock sector's potential and the resources allocated

to this sector in Pakistan. To unlock the potential of the sector we need to improve the animal disease surveillance system and establish a real-time animal disease reporting system. Together with MNFS&R and other stakeholders, we aim to address this issue through this TCP.

Emphasizing the importance of the feasibility study which is expected to be completed within the project tenure, Muhammad Afzal, Project Coordinator said that establishing a robust animal disease surveillance system in Pakistan is crucial.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a meeting with a delegation of All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajiran headed by Mr Mohammad Naem Mir at FBR (Hqrs) in Federal Capital.



LAHORE: A delegation of LESCO board members led by Chairman Board of Directors LESCO, Hafiz Mian Muhammad Nauman, in a group photo with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore.

Ambassador-designate stresses steps to enhance trade with Denmark

FAISALABAD (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Denmark Shoaib Sarwar said on Friday that extraordinary steps would have to be taken in consultation with the business community to attract maximum foreign direct investment (FDI) and enhance trade with the country of this appointment.

Addressing the business community at the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), he acknowledged the economic strength of Faisalabad, particularly in the field of textile, and said it was strange

that only one firm was included among the top 50 exporting companies to Denmark. He said probably the FCCI members had not focused on this small country, which was included among the most developed and economically strong countries with maximum purchasing power. He motivated the exporters to exploit the Danish potential in addition to re-exporting their products to the EU countries. He proposed that an FCCI trade delegation should visit Denmark so that tangible steps could be taken to deepen the footprints of Pakistani textile there.

96.6pc wheat procurement target achieved in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD (APP): The Food Department has procured 542,000 metric tonnes of wheat against the total target of 560,938 metric tonnes, showing 96.6 per cent achievement. The wheat procurement targets of 277,000 metric tonnes in two districts Jhang and Chiniot have been achieved while procurement in Faisalabad and Toba Tek Singh is continuing. The details were shared at the deputy commissioner's monthly conference, held in connection with good governance with the divisional commissioner in the chair.

Agriculture revolution imperative to tackle future challenges: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday stressed the need for adopting the latest techniques and technology in the agriculture sector to boost the economy.

Chairing a meeting on the government's key initiative "Agricultural Revolution 2.0," the minister highlighted the importance of increased production of crops, saying

a revolution in the sector was needed to meet future challenges, said a press release issued here.

He said, "Agriculture is the backbone of the national economy."

He said prompt measures were being taken to prevent the agriculture sector affected from the negative impacts of climate change, besides promoting research and introducing modern technology for getting better production.

Weekly inflation increases nominally by 0.03 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed a nominal increase of 0.03 per cent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on June 1st, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 254.13 points as compared to 254.05 points during the past week, according to the PBS data. As compared to the corresponding week of last

year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 42.67 per cent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 = 100 is covering 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs17,732, however decreased by 0.06 per cent and went down to 260.57 points from last week's 260.77 points whereas it decreased by 0.10 per cent for consumption group.

PSX gains 63 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) gained 86.22 points on Friday, a change of 0.21 per cent, closing at 41,352.99 points against 41,266.77 points the previous day.

A total of 99,545,856 shares were traded during the day as compared to 99,950,613 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.3,336 billion against Rs.2,867 billion on the last trading day. As many as 296 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 146 of them recorded gains and 120 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 30 companies remained unchanged.

Gold prices up by Rs.4,000 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs4,000 and was sold at Rs233,000 on Friday against its sale at Rs229,000 the previous day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs3,429 to Rs199,760 from Rs196,331 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went up to Rs.183,113 from Rs179,970, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

Governor directs LESCO to resolve problems related to supply of power to consumers

Independent Report

LAHORE: A delegation of LESCO board members led by Chairman Board of Directors LESCO, Hafiz Mian Muhammad Nauman, called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman here today at Governor House Lahore. In the meeting, a detailed briefing was given on the overall performance of LESCO Lahore and the steps taken to provide uninterrupted electricity to the people. Speaking on the

occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that serving the people and providing them with basic facilities are among the top priorities of the government. He said that the government is making great efforts to provide relief to the salaried class, and the common people in the budget. He directed the board members to resolve the problems related to the supply of electricity to the consumers.

Pakistan has great potential to develop its economy: Zhao Lijian

BEIJING (INP): Former Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said on Friday that Pakistan as a resilient country has great potential to develop its economy.

Being a time-tested and iron-clad friend, China is always holding the hand of Pakistan firmly.

Given the regional and international challenges, Pakistan is not alone because China is standing by Pakistan to

grow and progress together. Zhao Lijian made these remarks in a meeting with Foreign Affairs Expert Muhammad Mehdi at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China.

During the meeting, Mehdi categorically supported the one-China policy.

Mehdi said Pakistan believes that it is the rightful and constitutional principle of the People's Republic of China.

Punjab Cabinet meeting approves measures for employees' public welfare

Cabinet decides to introduce an axle load management regime to prevent overloading and accidents on roads in Punjab

Independent Report
LAHORE: The 16th cabinet meeting, held under the chair of the caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi at his office on Friday, approved measures for welfare of employees and general public in the province.

It approved an amendment to the Punjab Civil Service Pension Rules, ensuring the immediate payment of 65 per cent pension to employees after retirement as it will continue to be paid until the complete pension documents are not prepared.

The cabinet decided to introduce an axle load

management regime to prevent overloading and accidents on roads in Punjab. Heavy trailers exiting factories will be subject to regular weight checks, and those exceeding the prescribed limits will not be allowed on the roads. The Motor Vehicle Rules of 1969 were also amended by the cabinet to ensure the effective implementation of the decision.

The responsibility for its execution was entrusted to the Minister for Industries SM Tanveer by the CM who also instructed all departments to expedite the resolution of promotion cases for

government employees, emphasizing that no deserving government employee should be deprived of career advancement. "I am personally monitoring promotion cases of government employees," he stated.

The establishment of Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centers was approved in the meeting, special centers will be established in Multan, Taunsa, Lahore, Faisalabad, and Wah, to provide rehabilitation services for paralysed patients. Necessary medical equipment will also be provided to paraplegic patients.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali inaugurates Umar Diabetes Foundation for free treatment of sugar patients.

PFA stops production of illegal pickle factory

Independent Report
LAHORE: An enforcement team of the Punjab Food Authority (PFA) stopped the production of pickle and candied fruit (murabba) factory over multiple violations of the PFA Act besides discarding 1,000kg fungus-infested murabba.

PFA Director General Raja Jahangir Anwar said that on the tipoff, the team raided a production unit in Ahmed Park and caught them red-handed producing inferior quality food items with rotten vegetables and fruits. Moreover, artificial flavours and hazardous chemicals were being used for this purpose, he said.

He further said that fungus-infested pickles and candied fruits were preserved in non-food grade drums while the use of non-food drums is strictly prohibited. Apart from that, the food business operator failed to present a food license and medical certificates to the raiding team. Raja Jahangir Anwar further said that the substandard and adulterated pickle was to be supplied to different hotels and local shops after packing, however, PFA ruined their unholy ambitions by taking timely action. He said that the use of fungus-infested pickles is injurious to human health.

Next PM, CM Punjab to be from PPP, claims Faisal

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan People's Party Central Punjab leader Faisal Mir called on PPP Parliamentarians President Asif Ali Zardari at Bilawal House on Friday.

After the meeting, he expressed his optimism that the next chief minister Punjab would be from the PPP after 1977. He claimed that PPP Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari would be the next prime minister.

Police net nine drug peddlers, bootleggers

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Rawalpindi police, in an action against suspected drug peddlers and bootleggers, conducted raids in different areas and rounded up nine accused on recovery of over two kg charras, 43 liters liquor and other items, said a police spokesman on Friday.

He informed that Bani police recovered 1210 grams of charras from the possession of Kamran while Sadiqabad police netted Ehtesham with 300 grams of charras. Wah Cantt police held Mansoor for having 110 grams of charras while Dhamial police netted Usman for carrying 540 grams of charras.

Women's role in water conservation highlighted

PESHAWAR (INP): Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar (WSSP) on Friday organized a Clean Campus Drive in collaboration with Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University to highlight women's role in sanitation and water conservation.

According to a press release issued here, teachers and students from various departments of the university attended the seminar.

Stalls displaying awareness materials on water and sanitation were set up. Students staged tableaux and played videos they produced on the environmental hazards of non-biodegradable plastic waste with a message to replace it with biodegradable bags.

The hall was adorned

with banners inscribed with slogans on the importance of cleanliness, sanitation, and water conservation.

An awareness walk was organized at the end of the seminar, encouraging students to play their part in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH).

Addressing the participants, chief executive officer Dr. Nasir highlighted women's role in water and sanitation and how a clean environment could transform their lives.

He also shed light on the importance of proper water usage, conservation, recycling of recyclable waste, and instilling cleanliness habits in their children from an early age.

They were made aware of WSSP operations, achievements so far.



HYDERABAD: Youngsters sliding down into a swimming pool to get relief from hot weather at Khisana Morri

Consumers face uphill battle against skyrocketing milk prices

KARACHI (INP): The dairy farmers in Karachi have recently announced an arbitrary increase in the price of milk, causing concern among the residents of the city. The price hike, set at Rs.10 rupees per liter, has been implemented by the dairy mafia without any official approval. This sudden increase in milk prices has left many citizens frustrated and struggling to cope with the rising cost of living.

In various areas of Karachi, milk is now being sold at a staggering Rs.220

per liter, which is forty rupees higher than the officially fixed price of Rs.180 per liter. Retailers, caught in the middle of this price surge, have shifted the blame onto the wholesalers, claiming that they are merely passing on the increased costs.

However, the citizens argue that with inflation already on the rise, this additional burden will make it even more challenging for them to make ends meet. The responsibility for enforcing the official price of milk lies with the Commissioner Karachi and his team.

Rescue 1122 rescued 139,574 victims in May

LAHORE (APP): Secretary Emergency Services Department Dr Rizwan Naseer said on Friday 139,574 victims were rescued while responding to 146,492 emergencies with an average response time of seven minutes across Punjab during the month of May 2023.

He said that out of 146,492 emergencies, Rescue responded 34,216 were road

traffic accidents, 91,358 medical emergencies, 2,588 fire incidents, 4,035 crime incidents, 103 drowning incidents, 97 structural collapses, 1,256 animal rescue and 12,839 miscellaneous operations in Punjab.

He expressed these views while presiding over monthly review meeting of all District Emergency Officers (DEOs) on zoom held at Emergency Services Department here.



LAHORE: Lahore Qalandars CEO Atif Rana called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

CM seeks plan for improving healthcare facilities

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has sought a plan from the health secretary within seven days for improving the healthcare facilities in major hospitals.

The plan will encompass measures for providing essential facilities as well as addressing repair and maintenance requirements to improve services.

The meeting, held under the chair of CM Mohsin Naqvi, was attended by the chairman P&D, secretary finance, health secretary, secretary C&W, chairman PITB, chief executive officer (CEO) Infrastructure Development Authority Punjab and others.

Minister for Specialized Healthcare & Medical Education Dr Javed Akram participated through video-link.

UK Health Security Agency team visits Institute of Public Health

LAHORE (Online): The UK Health Security Agency mission, during its Pakistan tour, paid a visit to the Institute of Public Health (IPH), here on Friday.

According to sources, the mission members had a detailed discussion with Dean Professor Dr Zarfishan Tahir and her technical team about creating a robust system using modern information technology in terms of disease prevention, detection and response.

Dr. Zarfishan said Pakistan is a signatory to the International Health

Regulations (IHR) 2005 under which it is prime responsibility of the country to strengthen various technical areas of the health sector. She said capacity building of the staff should be done on modern lines while a comprehensive strategy to prevent, detect and respond should be adopted with reference to diseases and prevention of spread of epidemics in a timely manner. She said that the Health Security Agency of the UK was providing technical assistance to Pakistani institutions to strengthen the public health.

International News

China Ukraine envoy urges govt to 'stop sending weapons to the battlefield,' negotiate peace

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China's Ukraine envoy called on other governments Friday to "stop sending weapons to the battlefield" and appealed for peace talks at a time when Washington and its European allies are ramping up supplies of missiles and tanks to Ukrainian forces trying to recapture Russian-occupied territory.

Li Hui said Russian and Ukrainian officials were open to peace negotiations, but he gave no indication they were any closer to happening.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping's government says it is neutral and wants to

serve as a mediator but has supported Moscow politically. Foreign analysts saw little chance of progress from Li's visits to the countries because neither side is ready to stop fighting, but sending an envoy gave Beijing an opportunity to expand its global diplomatic role. "China believes that if we really want to put an end to war, to save lives and realize peace, it is important for us to stop sending weapons to the battlefield, or else the tensions will only spiral up," Li told reporters.

China is the only major government that has good relations with both Russia and Ukraine and has

leverage as one of the biggest export markets for both. Xi's decision to send an envoy was welcomed by the Ukrainian government but prompted questions about China's motives after Beijing declared it had a "no limits" friendship with the Kremlin ahead of the February 2022 invasion. Beijing released a proposed peace plan in February, but Ukraine's allies insisted President Vladimir Putin must first withdraw Russian forces.

"China's goal is promoting peace talks and a cessation of hostilities," said Li, a former ambassador to Moscow.

Blinken says no Ukraine cease-fire without a peace deal that includes Russia's withdrawal

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Friday that a cease-fire in the war in Ukraine could not be declared unless it was part of a "just and lasting" peace deal that included Russia's military withdrawal.

Blinken said that "a cease-fire that simply freezes current lines in place" and allowed Russian President Vladimir Putin "to consolidate control

over the territory he has seized, and rest, rearm, and reattack — that is not a just and lasting peace."

Russia must also pay a share of Ukraine's reconstruction and be held accountable for launching its full-scale invasion of its neighbor in February 2022, Blinken said in a speech during a visit to Finland, which recently joined NATO and shares a long border with Russia.

Ukraine lifts air raid alerts, says downed more than 30 missiles and drones

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukrainian authorities on Friday lifted air raid alerts across most of the nation, and officials in the capital Kyiv said defences appeared to have shot down more than 30 missiles and drones fired by Russia.

Moscow has launched around 20 separate missile and drone strikes against Ukrainian cities since the start of May.



US calls for UN meeting on North Korea's attempted satellite launch.

BRICS meet with 'friends' seeking closer ties amid push to expand bloc

Monitoring Desk
CAPE TOWN: Senior officials from more than a dozen countries, including Saudi Arabia and Iran, were in talks on forging closer links with the BRICS bloc of major emerging economies on Friday as it met to deepen ties and position itself as a counterweight to the West.

BRICS, which now consists of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, is considering expanding its membership, and a growing number of countries have expressed interest in joining.

Once viewed as a loose association of disparate emerging economies,

BRICS has in recent years taken more concrete shape, driven initially by China and, since the start of the Ukraine war in February 2022, with added impetus from Russia.

In remarks opening Friday's discussions, host South Africa's Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor spoke of the bloc as a champion of the developing world,

which she said was abandoned by wealthy states and global institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic. "The world has faltered in cooperation. Developed countries have never met their commitments to the developing world and are trying to shift all respon-

sibility to the global South," Pandor said. Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Comoros, Gabon, and Kazakhstan all sent representatives to Cape Town for so-called "Friends of BRICS" talks, an official programme showed.

Egypt, Argentina, Bangladesh, Guinea-Bissau and Indonesia were participating virtually. Other countries echoed Pandor's condemnation of wealthy states. Democratic Republic of Congo's foreign minister said developed countries lacked the political will to promote collective peace and prosperity.

Taliban say foreign forces committed 'uncountable crimes' in Afghanistan

Monitoring Desk
KABUL: The Taliban on Thursday said foreign forces had committed "uncountable crimes" during the 20-year war in Afghanistan after a former Australian soldier lost a defamation case over reports of executing Afghan civilians.

Taliban administration spokesperson Bilal Karimi said the incidents involved in the Australian court case were a "small part" of the many alleged crimes that took place and that they did not trust any court globally to follow them up.

Ben Roberts-Smith, a former member of Australia's elite Special Air Service Regiment, sued

three newspapers for 2018 reports that alleged he was involved in the murders of unarmed prisoners in Afghanistan.

Roberts-Smith denied the allegations and launched a multi-million-dollar defamation case in response.

But after two years of proceedings, Justice Anthony Beskano ruled that the papers had proven the bulk of their allegations to be "substantially true" and dismissed the case against them.

The defendants hailed the verdict as a major victory for media freedom in Australia, where defamation laws are often used to muzzle the press.



Macron and Scholz urged Kosovo to allow new elections in four northern municipalities.

US sanctions Iranian firm for helping government censor internet

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The U.S. imposed sanctions on an Iran-based technology firm on Friday for its role in facilitating the Iranian government's censorship of the internet as anti-government protests have swept the country since September.

A firm known as Arvan Cloud, its co-founders Pouya Pirhosseini and Farhad Fatemi, and a United Arab Emirates-based firm were all sanctioned for helping to facilitate the Iranian government's attempts to control and censor internet traffic. Internet disruptions were instituted after home-grown anger over the September death of Masha Amini, an Iranian-Kurdish

woman detained by the country's morality police, escalated into large-scale protests. U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control says Arvan Cloud provided interception services for the government, allowing Iranian authorities to control and censor incoming and outgoing traffic and surveil data on the servers. The firm also blocked websites at the request of Iran's Committee to Determine Instances of Criminal Content.

"Free and unrestricted access to information is a fundamental right of all peoples, including in Iran," said Brian E. Nelson, Treasury's under secretary for terrorism and financial intelligence.



Brics meet with 'friends' seeking closer ties amid push to expand bloc.

Monitoring Desk
BULBOACA: France's President Emmanuel Macron and Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Thursday urged Kosovo to allow new elections in four northern municipalities, amid renewed tensions with the area's Serbian population. In response, Kosovo's President Vjosa Osmani said she had told the European leaders that this would be possible under Kosovo law if the Serbian leadership in Belgrade did not encourage Serbs to boycott the poll.

The European leaders met Osmani and her Serbian counterpart Aleksandar Vucic on the sidelines of the European Political Community summit in Moldova, hoping to head off further unrest in the region after recent clashes. "We have asked the two parties to organise new elections in these four municipalities as soon as possible, with an undertaking from Kosovo with participation in these elections in a clear manner on the part of the Serbian side," Macron said. Kosovo is mainly populated by ethnic Albanians, but the Serbs who make up around six percent.

Macron, Scholz call for new elections in tense northern Kosovo districts

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: CIA director William Burns visited China last month for talks with Chinese counterparts, a U.S. official said on Friday as the Biden administration seeks to boost communications with Beijing.

"Last month, Director Burns traveled to Beijing where he met with Chinese counterparts and emphasized the importance of maintaining open lines of communication in intelligence channels," the official told Reuters. The visit by the head of the U.S. intelligence agency, first reported by the Financial Times.

CIA head visited China in May, met counterparts - US official

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: CIA director William Burns visited China last month for talks with Chinese counterparts, a U.S. official said on Friday as the Biden administration seeks to boost communications with Beijing.

Govt approves Rs 1,100 bln development budget for next fiscal year: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday said the government had approved Rs 1,100 billion development budget for the upcoming fiscal year aimed at achieving the required goals of economic growth.

Addressing a news conference here, he said out of the total budget, Rs 950 billion would be utilized under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP 2023-24) and Rs 150 billion under the public-private partnership to execute different development schemes.

Initially, he said, the Finance Ministry had proposed Rs 700 billion for the PSDP 2023-24 which were extremely insufficient. "So we made a written request to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to increase the amount of development budget to achieve the economic growth, and the PM has approved Rs 1,100 billion development budget."

In 2018, the minister said, he had presented a development budget of Rs 1,000 billion, and when the incumbent government came into power last year

its size came down to Rs 550 billion. "Now after a period of five years there will be a development budget of Rs 1,100 billion, which reflects our priority for the national development."

Today, he said, the country was facing economic difficulties all because of the failed policies of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, which during its last year allowed \$ 84 billion import of luxury items and obliged friends for showing artificial growth, but the trade deficit mounted to \$ 50 billion.

"It was the turning point that pushed the country into the severe economic crisis that has eaten away all the foreign exchange reserves," he added.

The minister said when the current government took over last year, all the PTI leaders were saying that the country would default in two to six months and there would be a Sri Lanka-like situation.

"But we by the grace of Allah Almighty steer the country out of the crisis despite massive destruction caused by the last year's floods and the delayed

programme of the IMF (International Monetary Fund) by managing imports and taking corrective measures," he said.

As a result of it, he said, Pakistan was gradually moving towards economic stabilization and foreign investors were coming to invest in diverse fields.

Sharing details of the targets set for the next fiscal year by the Annual Plan Coordination Committee (APCC), Ahsan Iqbal said 3.5 per cent growth targets had been fixed each for the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the agriculture sector, manufacturing 4.3 per cent and services sector 3.6 per cent.

As per the next year's Annual Development Plan, he said, the inflation rate would be brought down from 29.2 per cent to 21 per cent; the national savings to be increased from 12.5 per cent to 13.4 per cent, exports to be taken over \$ 30 billion as compared to the current year's projected \$ 28 billion, \$ 58.7 billion import projected for the next year and the trade deficit that currently stood at 1.1 per cent, to be brought down to -1.7 due to revival of the economy.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori receiving shield from HEC during distribution of electric wheel chairs under the Prime Minister Scheme to the differently abled university students at Governor House.

PML-N decides to file appeal in SC to get undo life time disqualification of Nawaz

ISLAMABAD (Online): PML-N has decided to file review petition in Supreme Court (SC) under new law to get undo the life time disqualification of Nawaz Sharif.

This appeal will be filed under article 62-1/F of the constitution against the decision of life time disqualification of Nawaz Sharif. According to PML-N sources an important meeting of PML-N was held here. The meeting was presided over by Nawaz Sharif through video link.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif, federal ministers, Rana Sana Ullah, Ishaq Dar, Maryam Nawaz, Khawaja Asif, Ahsan Iqbal, Marriyum Aurangzeb, law minister Azam Nizar Tarar, Malik Ahmad Khan and Attorney General.

A big decision was taken to file petition to get undo the life time disqualification of Nawaz Sharif.

The PML-N senior leadership agreed on it that review appeal plea will be filed against Supreme Court (SC) decision pertaining to 62-1/F instead of filing review appeal in Panama case.

Sources said that PML-N will go to seek review against decision of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial under 62/1/F.

The PML-N will request the court to change life time disqualification of Nawaz Sharif to one time disqualification for five years. This benefit will be taken under new law.

if the decision on appeal comes favorable then life time disqualification of both Nawaz Sharif and Jahangir Tareen will stand abolished. In the event of disqualification for five years, they both have spent this period.

Parvez re-arrested after being discharged in corruption case

LAHORE (APP): Former chief minister Punjab and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Chaudhry Parvez Elahi was re-arrested on Friday in another case after being discharged by a local court in Gujrat development projects corruption case.

As per Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) Punjab spokesman, the PTI president was arrested in a corruption case, registered by the ACE Gujranwala. The spokesman said that the ACE Punjab would file an appeal against the local court verdict, as many important points were ignored in the matter.

Earlier, on Friday, a local court discharged Chaudhry Parvez Elahi in the Gujrat development projects corruption case and ordered for his release.

Judicial Magistrate Ghulam Murtaza Virk announced the reserved verdict, which had been re-

CJP Bandial, Justice Isa dissolve impression of fissures within judiciary

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial and Supreme Court of Pakistan judge Justice Qazi Faez Isa on Friday took part in tree-plantation drive together.

It is being perceived as a welcome move by both as the news of the ensuing division within the judiciary manifested in different verdicts of the SC had been circulating.

Both judges reportedly had a pleasant conversation too at the occasion. CJP Bandial said, "May Allah bless the institution of judiciary and all other institutions too".

The plantation drive also saw the participation of other SC judges including Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Athar Minallah.

Division within the judiciary had become the talk of the town in recent times due to multiple verdicts issued by the CJP-Bandial led SC bench, especially after the PTI chief dissolved Punjab and KP assemblies in a bid to pressurise the PDM-led government to hold snap elections.

As the CJP Bandial-led SC bench ordered the elections in Punjab on May 14, brawl between the government and the PTI intensified as the government took to the National Assembly floor to enact a law aimed at curtailing the powers of the chief justice.

Pakistan seeks support from Germany for technical training in Film: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb has said that we want to show the beauty of Pakistan culture and civilization to the entire world through Screen tourism.

Foreign Film makers should take advantage from special concessions given for filmmaking in Pakistan.

We sought support from German Institutions for technical training in film, art and culture.

She expressed her views during meeting with German Ambassador Alfred Grannas.

Pakistan and Germany have agreed on bilateral cooperation in the field of film, art and culture in the meeting.

A discussion was held on the proposal of cooperation with the University of Babelsberg and the university of Television and film Munich. Marriyum Aurangzeb has apprised German Ambassador about the film and culture policy of the government of Pakistan and the incentives given under the policy.



ISLAMABAD: Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Dr Mehmet Pacaci bidding farewell to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif upon his departure for Turkiye on his two day official visit.

IHC says: PM will be summoned if Murad is not recovered

ISLAMABAD (Online): DIG Police told the Islamabad High Court (IHC) has summoned Director General (DG) Rangers, interior secretary and IG Police Islamabad on the petition seeking recovery of Murad Akbar brother of Shahzad Akbar.

The case came up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani here Friday.

Additional Attorney General Munawwar Iqbal Dogal, Assistant Attorney General Usman Ghumman, Advocate General Islamabad Jahangir Jadoon, DIG operations Shahzad Bokhari, SP Nowsherwan, DSP legal, Qasim Wadood counsel for petitioner and others appeared in the court.

Advocate General Islamabad submitted details of the case before the court.

The court inquired "tell us the people who came were neither from CTD nor from Rangers. This should be confirmed."



DADU: Umme Rubab Chandio is talking to media persons after court case hearing in famous triple Mehar murder case by Model Trial Court in Dadu.

DC reviews healthcare facilities at DHQ hospital

LARKANA (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kashmore-Kandhkot, Engineer Munawwar Ali Mithiani Friday paid a surprise visit to District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital Kandhkot, to review health facilities being provided to the patients.

He took around the dialysis, emergency, and rescue 1122 center inside the civil hospital and checked the presence of paramedics, staff and doctors, and medicines.

The DC also inspected Mother & Child Healthcare Centre Kandhkot and also visited the medical camp established by Agha Khan Foundation. Officers concerned were directed to provide better medical facilities to the residents of Kandhkot City. Meanwhile, DC also visited Kashmore Press Club and said the press is an important pillar of society.

SHC orders Sindh govt to suspend Mukhtiar Kar Altaf Korejo

HYDERABAD (APP): The Sindh High Court (SHC) Hyderabad circuit bench on Friday ordered the provincial government to suspend Mukhtiar Kar of Qasimabad taluka Altaf Korejo, who was served with a contempt of court notice in a case pertaining to forest land.

According to details, the bench at the last date of hearing on May 16 put Mukhtiar Kar on notice to explain why a court order had been wrongly interpreted to conduct the demarcation.

Former MNA Jawad Hussain joins PPP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former MNA Jawad Hussain has also left the captain's side and joined the People's Party along with his colleagues.

PPP leader Faisal Karim Kundhi has welcomed him on joining the party.

He has said that we give respect to people and we welcome whoever wants to be a part of the party.

We never say that wickets have fallen.

While talking to media, Faisal Karim Kundhi has said that the aim of today press conference is to welcome the PTI Former MNA on joining PPP.

Detentions under the MPO, the Sindh Home Department constitutes a committee to review the cases

KARACHI (Online): Sindh Home Department has constituted a committee to review the cases of detained political activists and citizens under the MPO.

Sindh Home Department has submitted the notification related to committee to the Sindh High Court.

The committee will be headed by Home Secretary. According to declaration, Additional Inspector General Sindh, Additional Secretary Judicial and Registrar ATC are included in members of the committee.

The committee will make decision by reviewing cases of detained citizens according to MPO.



KARACHI: Members of Islami Jamiat-e-Taliba chant slogans for the release of Dr. Aafia Siddiqui during protest demonstration to condemn the verdict against her, at Jinnah Hospital premises in Karachi.

Crackdown against property tax defaulters to be launched

KARACHI (INP): Sindh government decided to launch a crackdown on individuals and entities who have failed to pay their respective property tax by June 30, authority confirmed on Friday.

According to the detail, a meeting was held to address the issue of unpaid property taxes under the leadership of the Additional Chief Secretary of Sindh Local Government, Najam Ahmed Shah. The meeting decided to launch a crackdown against the entities failed to file their tax by June 30.

Najam Ahmed Shah, taking to media, emphasized the government's determination to streamline the collection process of Sindh urban property taxes, adding that, the efforts will be made to overcome any obstacles or complexities that may hinder the smooth collection of taxes.

He stated that the government will take strict action against those who violate the law and evade their tax responsibilities.

Construction of Asma pumping station underway Dmc East Administrator Shakeel inspects construction work

Says the pumping station will benefit Asma Garden and adjoining areas

Independent Report KARACHI: Administrator DMC East Syed Shakeel Ahmed said that it is not the responsibility of DMC East to resolve the problems of water and sewerage and the work has been entrusted in collaboration with the Water and Sewerage Board.

He expressed these views while inspecting the pumping station being constructed on Asma Garden Metropole iii Road.

He said that the residents of the said place were facing serious problems regarding water supply, on which a pumping station is being constructed with the fund of MNA Kishwar



CEC inaugurates new website of ECP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja has inaugurated the new website of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for enhancing transparency, efficiency and public participation in the electoral process.

The friendly interface of the website aimed at providing citizens easy access to the important information, said a news release on Friday.

During the inauguration ceremony, the election commissioner expressed satisfaction over the efforts made by the IT team for the accomplishment of the task.

One of the key features of the new website is its integration with social media platforms which will enable citizens to stay informed and get in touch with ECP through social media platforms.

Two killed in rival groups clash

KANDHKOT (INP): Two people were killed in armed clash between two rival groups in Ghouspur area of Kandhkot district Kashmore on Friday.

Police said that armed men of two groups of Lolai community which were in old enmity traded fire.

Two people identified as Sagheer Ali and Bhalu Khan were killed in cross firing.

Uncertainty prevailed in the area after the dual murder. Heavy contingent of police cordoned off the area after the incidents and brought situation under control.

The bodies were shifted to hospital for post-mortem. Police registering a case into the incident and started raids to arrest the culprits.

Two robbers injured and held with arms, stolen valuables

KARACHI (INP): Two robbers were injured and arrested with arms and stolen valuables after exchange of fire with police in metropolis on Friday.

The police engaged two robbers fleeing after robbery in Manghopir area of Karachi and an exchange of fire took place.

Both robbers were injured in cross firing and held with weapons and looted valuables. The detainees admitted committing 20 robberies in different areas of city in preliminary investigation.

The injured were shifted to hospital for treatment and police after registering a case against them started investigations.

Will continue struggle for Dr. Afia's safe release, vows Sen. Talha

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Senator Mahmood Talha Mahmood has vowed to continue struggle for safe release of Dr. Aafia Siddiqui.

In a statement on Friday, he said that Pakistani scientist Dr. Siddiqui has been serving an 86-year sentence in the United States (US) since her conviction by a federal court in New York in 2010 on charges of attempted murder and other offenses.

It's worth mentioning here that currently receiving treatment in a federal medical prison in Texas, Dr. Siddiqui benefits from specialized medical and mental health facilities available to women inmates.

Senator Talha Mahmood said that he held meeting with Dr. Siddiqui at the Phantom Detention Centre in Dallas in 2008 after fulfilling all necessary protocols.

During their encounter, he engaged in a detailed discussion with her adding that at that time, it was a fresh incident and she sustained three bullet injuries. Since then, Dr. Siddiqui's sister, Dr. Fowzia Siddiqui, and mother, Ismat Siddiqui, had maintained consistent contact with him, he mentioned.

Highlighting his priorities, Senator Talha emphasized his initial focus on locating Dr. Siddiqui's missing children and fighting the case in the US court, in a parallel way to efforts for her release. Notably, her children, Ahmed and Maryam, were discovered in Afghanistan under distressing conditions, he added.



KARACHI: Students are blocked road as they are holding protest demonstration against kidnapping of students, at University road in Karachi.

Challengers defeat Dynamites by 7 runs

KARACHI (APP): A half-century from Javeria Khan and three wickets by Noreen Yaqoob and Saima Malik led Challengers to a thrilling seven-run win over Dynamites at the State Bank Stadium on Friday.

This was the Challengers' second successive win in the one-day phase of the tournament and the first defeat for table toppers Dynamites.

The win means both Challengers and Dynamites will meet again in the final of the tournament on Sunday, 4 June at the same venue.

After being put into bat, Omaima Sohail-led Challengers managed 160 for seven in 45 overs. Experienced right-handed opening batter Javeria Khan top-scored with 83 off 126 balls, hitting six boundaries. The only notable partnership in the innings came from Javeria and Fareeha Mehmood (29, 50b, 2x4s) as the two added 75 runs for the fifth wicket.

For Dynamites, Nashra Sundhu bagged two wickets for 25 from nine overs.

In turn, the Dynamites' opening pair Khadija Chishti (15, 37b, 1x4) and captain Sidra Amin (36, 53b, 7x4s) provided a 43-run start to the innings. After the departure of Khadija, Aima Saleem soon followed Khadija – both batters were dismissed by left-arm spinner Saima as Dynamites were 48 for two in 14.2 overs.