

Independent

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 05. No. 174 Ze'qad 17, 144 AH Wednesday June 07, 2023 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

CJP is constitutional post: No one else can use charge of chief justice on basis of presumptions: CJP

Says Powers of chief justice or judge cannot be reduced as per requirement; Before confirming facts, can government officials accuse judges? Justice Akhtar; Is govt using resources to find out where, how audios being recorded? CJP asks.

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial has remarked Chief Justice of Pakistan is a constitutional post and no one else can use the charge of chief justice on the basis of presumptions.

He further observed chief justice was available in this case who was not informed about the constitution of commission. It was not in the knowledge of CJP and commission was formed.

He further observed the Attorney General (AG) should first understand law before reading the references of courts decisions. AG should tell

on what basis he presumed that there is conflict between three judges among us.

The second important issue is independence of judiciary. Ascertain it if the twitter handle is operating from within or outside the country. Did the government ascertain by using its resources audio's recording is being made from where and how. Who is doing all this.

The constitutional petitions against formation of audio leaks inquiry commission came up for hearing before a five members bench of SC presided over by CJP Umar Ata Bandial here Tuesday.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori addressing a press conference.

250,000 youths registered for IT courses: Sindh Governor

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori has said that the air-conditioned marquee was in the final stages of construction and it would house information technology students of entrance test and classes till the time of construction of the convention centre at Governor House.

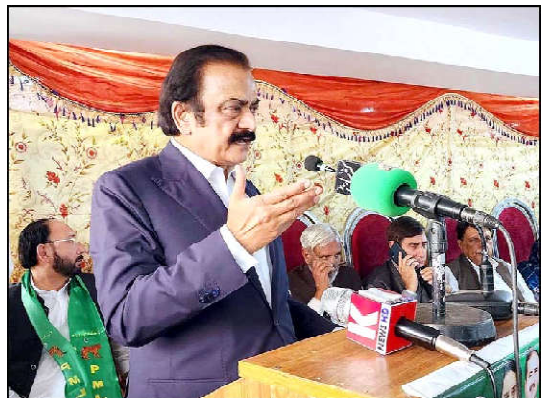
He was addressing a press conference at the marquee at gate number 4. IT experts Sir Zia Khan and Daniyal Nagori, JDC Head Zafar Abbas and IT Consultant of Governor House Muzammil Ather were also present on the occasion.

The Sindh governor said, "The media has been invited to witness the progress of the construction of the marquee and inform the doubters that the

initiative of IT training of 50,000 youth was not a false claim but it is a promise which soon would become a reality."

The overwhelming response from youth for registration on the website www.governorsindh.com was very encouraging where as many as 250,000 youths have registered themselves for the entrance test, he added.

The Sindh governor said that 400 computers would be installed in this marquee where Sir Zia Khan and his team would start classes after the selection of youth based on the entrance test. "I am also very thankful to Sir Zia and Daniyal Nagori for extending their services free of cost for this vital initiative", he added.



BAGH: Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan addressing a public gathering.

Sanaullah urges AJK people to vote for PML-N as 'future belongs to it'

BAGH (AJK) (APP): Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah on Tuesday urged the people of Azad Jammu & Kashmir to vote for the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in the June 8 by-polls in LA-15, Bagh-II as "the future of Pakistan belongs to it".

Speaking at an election gathering of PML-N candidate Mushtaq Minhas, he said the changing circumstances were favourable for PML-N, and it would resume the journey towards development – which was halted in July 2017 with the "unjustified" ousting of Nawaz Sharif – shortly after securing a two-thirds majority in the general elections.

Sanaullah, who is also the president of PML-N's Punjab chapter, claimed that whenever the country was in deep waters, PML-N came forward to steer it out of crises. PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif ended load shedding and terrorism in Pakistan, putting it on the path to development, he added.

Shedding light on the three tenures of PML-N, Sanaullah said that Nawaz Sharif did not bother about international pressure and conducted nuclear tests in 1998. "He made Pakistan a nuclear power, and due to nuclear deterrence, our enemy cannot attack us."



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs meeting of the National Economic Council in Islamabad.

NEC approves Rs 2.709 trillion ADP for FY 2023-24

Govt decides to shut markets across country by 8pm to conserve energy; Also decides inclusion of energy reforms in budget 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Economic Council (NEC) on Tuesday proposed the Annual Development Plan (ADP) for the upcoming fiscal year (2023-24) with a total outlay of Rs2.709 trillion.

"The total national outlay [Rs2,709 billion] contains the development budget of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for only four months [due to caretaker set up in the province], but if their full budget is included in the ADP, it will exceed the figure of Rs 3 trillion," Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal said in the post-NEC meeting media talk.

He said Rs1,150 billion under the PSDP were the highest-ever allocation made in the history of the country, terming it a "milestone achievement" of the incumbent government despite severe financial challenges. Ahsan Iqbal said the highest-ever development budget was allocated for the

Higher Education Commission (HEC) as around Rs60 billion had been proposed in the next fiscal plan in the NEC meeting, which was also attended among others by chief ministers of Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa besides Balochistan's Planning Minister.

He said it would help expand academic facilities, modernize laboratories for research, adding Pakistan needed to double the number of its universities and classrooms at par with regional countries. He said the water sector was also prioritized and its allocation had been increased from Rs 97 billion to Rs110 billion. The minister said de-

velopment fund for merged areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had been increased from Rs 53 billion to Rs 57 billion whereas the allocation for Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan had been enhanced from Rs 55 billion to Rs 61 billion. Initiatives for elimination of hepatitis and fighting diabetes had also been planned for the year 2023-24.

For development of the communication network, he said the allocation of National Highways Authority had been enhanced from Rs101 billion to Rs161 billion with special focus on completing the ongoing projects that were stopped because of lack of funds.

Pakistan, Russia resolved to further cement bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Russia on Tuesday reiterated the resolve to further strengthen bilateral ties between both countries by enhancing bilateral cooperation in various areas including economy, trade, finance and energy and education.

The resolve was expressed during a high-level meeting between Chairman Senate of Pakistan Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani and the Speaker of the Russian Federation Council I.V Matvienko, said a press release issued here.

The Chairman Senate is on a four day visit to Russia on the invitation of Speaker of the Russian Federation Council.

The visit constitutes celebrations to commemorate the 75th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Russia. During the meeting, both sides emphasized the importance of parliamentary exchanges to further enhance bilateral relations between Pakistan and Russia.

MoS Khar, Norwegian FM agree to enhance bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar and Norway's Foreign Minister Anniken Huitfeldt on Tuesday agreed to work towards the enhancement of bilateral cooperation in multiple spheres.

During a meeting in Oslo, they appreciated 75 years of Pak-Norway relations and agreed on the importance of multilateralism to address regional and global challenges, Foreign Office Spokesperson posted on her Twitter handle.

MoS Hina Rabbani Khar, separately, held bilateral talks with her Norwegian counterpart Erling Rimestad. During a meeting, the global and regional issues including Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), Afghanistan & Ukraine were discussed. Hina Khar expressed gratitude for Norway's support for the flood-affected people of Pakistan.



MOSCOW: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani and Senators in a group photo with Speaker of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Valentina Matvienko.

Sherry Rehman for embracing 7Rs strategy to end plastic pollution through circular economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman has said it was high time for the country to embrace the 7Rs strategy to end worsening plastic pollution through the circular economy model that helps to overcome menace of plastic waste with multiple mutually beneficial opportunities.

She was addressing the high-level policy dialogue on World Environment Day 2023 titled "Reimagining Plastics and Renewable Solutions to Environmental Degradation" organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) on Tuesday.

The federal minister had rolled out the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination's roadmap to combat plastic pollution through the 7Rs agenda action based on "resource, research, responsibility, recycle, re-use, redesign

and reduce".

Senator Rehman said the 7Rs strategy demanded everyone for making conscious choices to reduce plastic consumption, reimagining the design and manufacturing of plastic products to minimise their environmental impact, extend the lifespan of products and packaging, reduce reliance on single-use plastics, transform plastic waste into new materials for circularity and reduce the burden on the landfill and oceans.

It also demanded that the masses make it their shared responsibility to manage plastic waste and promote sustainable practices, harnessing the power of scientific inquiry to drive innovative, low-cost, and sustainable solutions addressing plastic pollution, provide necessary support and resources, particularly to developing nations to fight this global challenge, she added.



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) Senior Deputy Convener, Farooq Sattar in a protest demonstration, at Steel Town in Karachi.

Pakistan, Iraq agree to strengthen ties in diverse fields

BAGHDAD (APP): Pakistan and Iraq have agreed to further strengthen their bilateral ties in diverse fields.

The understanding was reached during meeting between Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and head of Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq Sheikh Dr Hamoudi in Baghdad today.

They discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in trade and investment and efforts for peace and stability of the region

and beyond.

The Foreign Minister also met Speaker of Iraqi Parliament Mohammed al-Halboosi and discussed promotion of cooperative parliamentary exchanges.

During his meeting with President of Al-Hikmet Party of Iraq Ammar Hakeem, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari discussed the historic, religious and cultural linkages between the two countries deep-rooted in mutual respect and understanding.



IRAQ: Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in a meeting with head of Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq Dr Sheikh Humam Hamoudi during his visit of Iraq for bilateral relations in various fields of cooperation.

Govt paying special attention to improvement of infrastructure in industrial zones; Commissioner

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Iqbal Memon on Tuesday said the Sindh government was paying special attention to the improvement of the infrastructure of the industrial areas of the city.

He stated this while addressing the office bearers and members of the Bin Qasim Association of Trade and Industries, according to a news release.

The commissioner said steps will be taken to improve the infrastructure of Bin Qasim Industrial Zone and provide civic amenities.

Iqbal Memon said measures will be taken to improve security, transport and traffic in the area, assistance will be provided to establish liaison with relevant institutions in order to remove obstacles in payment of taxes.

Deputy Commissioner Malir Irfan Salam and Association President Abdul Rasheed Jan Muhammad and others also spoke on the occasion.

President Abdul Rasheed Jan Muhammad

gave a detailed briefing to the commissioner regarding the issues being faced by the members of the association.

He told the Commissioner that the Workers and staff associated with the industries of Bin Qasim zone were facing issues in transportation from different areas of the city to Port Qasim. He mentioned that the security situation in the area required attention and a separate police station was also needed.

The association members also drew attention of the Commissioner to the need to complete the construction of Mehran Highway. The commissioner said he will refer to the government in this regard, efforts will be made to remove the problems in transportation of the workers and staff associated with the industries of Bin Qasim zone.

He said the government will be approached to review the construction of Mehran Highway, Malir Expressway and the extension of People's bus service to Port Qasim.

Reports of grouping in the PPP on the issue of Mayor Karachi baseless: Murtaza

KARACHI: The Spokesperson of the Sindh Government and The Advisor to CM Sindh on Law, Barrister Murtaza Wahab, has said that there is no grouping in the PPP on the issue of the mayorship; the PPP

leaders Masroor Ahsan, Najmi Alam, and Liaqat Askani had submitted nomination papers for mayorship. Still, after consultation, the party leadership has assigned this important responsibility to me, for which I am



is like a family. Rumormongers should know that Adi (sister) Faryal Talpur has a key role in my position. I have always got to learn from her. Without her compassion, I am nobody. He was speaking to the media during his visit to the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI). Barrister Murtaza Wahab further said that the reports of grouping in the PPP on the issue of Mayor Karachi are baseless; those who spread such news are trying to distort the facts. Senior

deeply grateful to the leadership. I will try my best to do it well.

He further said it is incorrect that I do not have the support of Sister Faryal Talpur; she is highly respectable to me, I have her compassion, I always get to learn from her, and she keeps teaching the workers about politics. Ms. Faryal Talpur has played a big role in ascending me to the position I am today in politics; for me, her position and respect have greatly increased.

Shah Mahmood Qureshi released from Adiala jail

RAWALPINDI (INP): Vice Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi was released from Adiala Jail Rawalpindi on Tuesday.

Earlier, the Lahore High Court (LHC) Rawalpindi bench ordered the immediate release of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice Chairperson Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

High court judge Justice Chaudhry Abdul Aziz heard the case and declared the detention of PTI Vice Chairperson Shah Mahmood Qureshi as 'illegal'.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Populist budget?

There couldn't have been more challenging times than the present ones for preparing the national budget. The uncertainties related to elections and foreign funding required to cover the massive external account financing gap of about \$25bn during the next financial year, amid deepening domestic political crises and unfavourable global economic circumstances, mean that our fiscal authorities would be budgeting this year on hope rather than tangles.

Add to that the strong compulsion the PML-N-led government must be feeling to appease voters as the monthly price inflation hits another record high of 38pc days before Budget 2024, and it becomes obvious that the present rulers really have their work cut out for them before the next general polls.

It will not be surprising if the Shehbaz Sharif dispensation decides to give a 'populist' budget, including a large fiscal stimulus in the shape of development allocations to recoup some of its lost political capital. But this will be disastrous for an economy on the brink of default.

The government has already choked the economy to avoid a default as foreign funding dries up thanks to slumping relations with the IMF.

A populist — or what Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has described as a "welfare-oriented, pro-investment and business-friendly" — budget will be fraught with the risk of Pakistan being pushed deeper into economic depression and away from multilateral and bilateral lenders.

With the country confronting stagflation — marked by flattening economic growth, soaring unemployment and spiking inflation — there has never been a more compelling case for a budget that focuses on fiscal, governance and structural reforms for longer-term economic recovery and sustainability.

Pakistan needs foreign financing, including loan rollovers, of more than \$77bn to meet its external debt payments over the next three years. That will not be possible without the IMF on board. A fiscally irresponsible budget can make a new deal with the Fund even more difficult.

Domestic revenue resources also remain scarce — they are insufficient to cover debt-servicing costs, let alone finance development, defence, salaries, pensions, etc.

The upcoming budget will be more a test of the government's resolve to stay the course and restructure the economy to steer it through uncertain conditions rather than provide temporary relief to people and businesses for short-term political gains.

Sadly, the indications so far are that the government is more likely to follow the fiscally imprudent path rather than follow through with the reforms it has promised its lenders to ensure longer-term economic stability.

The next monsoon



Naseer Memon

With the monsoons approaching, there is reason to feel concerned. Preoccupied with the political melodrama, few of us recall the plight of the millions of flood-affected. Their tribulations after last year's calamitous deluge, especially in Sindh, have not ended and the rainy season is once again looming. Although weather pundits expect a drier monsoon in southern Pakistan this year, climate change is all about extreme and unpredictable weather events.

Rescue and relief are the two most important pillars of any disaster-response strategy. Last year, both were lacklustre, and displayed four main gaps. There was no early warning and no transport arrangements to evacuate stranded families; pumping machines were mostly non-functional and unable to drain rainwater; and relief camps couldn't be mobilised fast enough to be able to provide for shelter, food, water and sanitation initially.

The number of displaced people mounted every day and the administration was unable to cope. Local philanthropists, relatives, friends and a few patches of dry elevated road and dykes were the last resort for the uprooted. It was only belatedly that government departments, international NGOs, religious charities and some compassionate elected representatives acted. The towns of Johi, Mehar, Dadu, Bhan Sye-da-bad, Jhudo, Digri and Umerkot in Sindh were saved through coordinated efforts led by local communities with the

assistance of elected representatives and the irrigation department. Still, over 10m end-usered a nightmarish situation. Sindh lost more than 1,000 people, around 2m houses, 450,000 cattle heads and 3.7m acres of crop land. The Post Disaster Needs Assessment report revealed that poverty in Sindh would increase by between 8.9 and 9.7 percentage points. Of the total loss and damage sustained, Sindh bore the brunt (72 per cent).

The Sindh government, with meagre federal support and international aid, is undertaking reconstruction and rehabilitation in the affected areas. Major breaches and relief cuts in the flood protection network and roads have been plugged and dykes improvised. However, communities in Mehar taluka (Dadu) are anxious about the unrepaired breaches of the Suprio bund. Parts of Thari Mirwah in Khairpur Nathan Shah, Odeero Lal in Matari and some other areas are suffering from protracted inundation.

Enhancing the drainage capacity of the Manchar lake from 10,000 to 52,000 cusecs through the under-construction Aral head regulator and the reinforcement of the Manchar Containing Bund are significant initiatives of the World Bank-financed Sindh Flood Emergency Rehabilitation Project of the provincial government. The reconstruction of houses and livelihood restoration projects are at an early stage. But, if properly implemented, these projects can generate climate-resilient infrastructure in rural areas, where over half the katcha houses and a rickety community infrastructure are victims of climate shocks.

Before the onset of the next monsoon, district-level flood contingency plans must be developed and implemented through meaningful engagement

with local stakeholders. The plan should include preparedness for emergency evacuation, well-equipped relief camps, food and medicine stockpiles, unobstructed municipal and irrigation drains, functional pumping stations with power back-up, and arrangements for people needing special focus, such as pregnant and lactating women, newborns and toddlers, the elderly, the disabled and socially ostracised segments. These short-term measures can help if disaster returns, although sustainable solutions need long-term measures.

Sindh is a vast sink for upst-ream flows. Because of its flat topography, it needs a storm-water drain network on both sides of the Indus. This is a complex task, as major irrigation effluent drains like the LBOD and RBOD have not delivered. Torrential flows from the catchment area of the Kirthar hills in Sindh and Balochistan need a multi-dimensional flood management plan that includes small reservoirs, relief channels connected to the Indus and the safe diversion of floodwaters to the river via Manchar. As a first step, the capacity and geographic coverage of these drains should be increased.

Blocked natural waterways are another menace. Canals, roads, villages, cropland and encroachments have clogged natural flow paths. While everyone wants these cleared, the road to remove these obstructions is itself stymied. Strong political will is required to dilate the waterways. Most importantly, new public and private infrastructure should have resilience parameters. Settlements, houses, schools, dykes, roads, hospitals, etc, need climate-resilient engineering and sociology. Finally, local bodies have to be empowered to act as first responders to disaster. -- Courtesy Dawn

Malnutrition woes



Navaira Ali Bangash

Malnutrition, or poor nutrition, emerges when one's diet does not contain the right amount of nutrients. Poor nutrition can be broadly categorised as 'undernutrition' and 'over-nutrition'. In most developing countries, like Pakistan, malnutrition usually exists as an inability to meet standard nutritional targets due to the scarcity of food generally available in the country.

Young children and pregnant or breastfeeding women are the main category of people prone to malnutrition in most of South Asia. The deficiency of micronutrients leads to complications during pregnancy, and later, malnourished newborns. Increased iron needs during these periods and decreased iron intake and absorption appear to be the most significant causes.

According to the National Nutrition Survey 2018 (NNS 2018), 40.2 per cent of children under five years of age in the country are stunted, while 17.7pc are wasted. Other effects of malnutrition are poor physical and cognitive development, impaired growth, frequent illnesses, fatigue, shortness of breath, poor school performance and reduced capacity to work even later in life. Malnutrition is thus one of our most pressing challenges. Disasters compound the problem of malnutrition, as seen in the aftermath of last year's floods.

Moreover, according to the Pakistan Nutrition Humanitarian Overview 2022, the country has a global acute malnutrition

rate of 17.7pc, exceeding the emergency threshold. Conditions such as drought and famine affect five million people in Sindh and Balochistan.

The most common deficiencies are those of iron, protein, vitamin A, vitamin D, zinc and folic acid. Iron deficiency affects children the most in the first two years of life. Among its many consequences are anaemia, low birthweight and poor weight gain.

The NNS 2018 also confirms that micronutrient deficiencies are rampant in Pakistani children. Iron deficiency anaemia was, according to the survey, most common in children between six to 59 months. Overall, 49.1pc of children in the country are iron deficient.

Malnutrition and food insecurity have become a crippling challenge despite multiple national interventions over the years. What starts out as a seemingly less serious condition in children, turns out to be one of the most serious health conditions among adults in underdeveloped nations. No doubt iron deficiency in children deserves far more attention than it currently garners. One way to raise awareness of the consequences of malnutrition, including iron deficiency, is to highlight the economic losses incurred. The country pays heavily for a condition that, through active policymaking and changes to existing plans, can be tackled in the earlier stages of life, and at least stem the speed of a nosediving GDP.

In a report — a collaboration between the nutrition section of the Ministry of Planning and the UN's World Food Programme — WFP consultant Jack Bagriansky has shared some perturbing facts. The cost of the lost future workforce in Pakistan due to underweight children, wasting and micronutrient deficiency is

estimated at \$2.24 billion per year. Cognitive deficits derived from childhood stunting, anaemia and iodine deficiency disorders will also result in reduced future adult productivity, which is valued at a Net Present Value of \$3.7bn per year.

Pakistan's economy relies heavily on agriculture as well as manual labour. The report indicates that anaemia in men and women who are engaged in agriculture and manual labour will lower their economic output by \$657 million per year.

Pakistan is unfortunately going through extremely tough times, with a nightmarish scenario looming on the horizon. The economic repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic, the des-truction of the recent floods and an uncertain political climate make the situation worse. Tough decisions, farsighted policy-making and reforms in the existing strategies are the need of the hour.

Large-scale food fortification as well as fortification of widely consumed food is considered a medium- to long-term helpful strategy in increasing regular consumption of essential nutrients. Programmes like the Food Fortification Programme are playing a critical role in supporting industry to adequately fortify wheat flour and edible oil and ghee in Pakistan. We are fortunate enough to witness the breakthrough referred to as 'iron-plus', the improved iron source that enhances the absorption of iron thrice as compared to normal iron sources. It is a precious opportunity for underdeveloped countries like Pakistan to eradicate malnutrition in the country. This venture will require a joint effort by the government, the food industry and, last but not least, informed masses to cultivate hope for future generations. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

PM for inclusion of mega incentives for IT sector in fiscal budget

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed relevant authorities to include mega incentives for the Information Technology sector in the fiscal budget 2023-24 to boost country's IT export.

Chairing a high-level meeting on promotion of the IT sector, he directed to prepare a big package for the sector in the upcoming fiscal budget.

The prime minister decided to introduce fixed tax regime for the sector in

the budget and also constituted a committee on it, besides directing the body to submit its recommendations immediately, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The meeting also accorded approval in principle for providing special incentives to new business start-ups in the sector.

Special concessions for promotion of business and trade through modern technology were also approved.

During the meeting, it was also decided to take the initiatives that were crucial to encourage youth for starting their own businesses.

The prime minister approved a major decision of creating special training IT zones for promoting entrepreneurship.

He said that the government would spend huge amount on the training of youth in the sector.

Currently, a total of 45,000 young people across the country were

being trained in the sector, he added.

The prime minister further said that in the upcoming fiscal budget, the government would distribute 1,00,000 laptops among the youth on merit basis.

During the previous tenure of the PML-N government, they had distributed laptops among the country's youth and by utilizing this facility, the young people brought foreign reserves during the Covid pandemic, he observed.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on budget proposals regarding IT and Telecom Sector.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khayr Pakhtoonkha Haji Ghulam Ali handing over cheque of Rs. 100 million to FPCCI Peshawar Branch. Caretaker Provincial Ministers and representatives of business community are also present

Khurram Dastagir says:

Power sector being made consumer friendly through implementation of AMI

FAISALABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Energy Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan on Tuesday inaugurated Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) cell at computer centre of the Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (Fesco) headquarters and termed it a revolutionary step to enable the company as well as consumers simultaneously for accessing to real-time monitoring of meter data.

According to a press release issued by the Fesco, the minister said that the power sector was being made consumer-friendly through implementation of the state-of-the-art technology of the AMI. He said the AMI

would not only help to control electricity theft and technical losses, but would also play a pivotal role in eliminating over-billing. The AMI would also be helpful in fault tracing and immediate restoration of power supply in case of power failure, he added.

During the briefing, Chief Executive Officer Fesco Engr Bashir Ahmed & DG (IT) Abdul Hayee said that due to real-time provision of complete information regarding the usage of electricity on smart mobiles and computers of the consumer, there would be an end to wastage of electricity due to effective control of the consumer's electricity usage times and bills. They said the Fesco was

replacing all industrial and agricultural electricity meters with its own resources under a phase manner to provide better service to its consumers and more than 6,000 consumers had been shifted to this technology so far.

The Fesco chief said that the establishment of AMI section would escalate and improve performance of the project and all functions related to the AMI would be possible under one roof. Meanwhile, the CEO briefed the federal minister about performance of the company and said that there was no single power transformer overload of the Fesco jurisdiction.

Naveed shares Pakistan's investment potential with leading firms

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Naveed Qamar held a meeting with the leading investment firms in London and shared with them the investment potential of Pakistan in various fields of the economy.

High Commissioner Moazzam Ahmad Khan and Commerce Additional Secretary, Ahsan Ali Mangi accompanied the minister in the meeting, according to a press statement issued by the commerce ministry here Tuesday.

The investment firms deal primarily in equity

financing, fintech, startup and venture capital funds, it added.

The Minister highlighted the significant economic reforms undertaken by the government to enhance the ease of doing business and ensure a secure and profitable environment for investors. Minister Qamar provided a comprehensive overview of Pakistan's key investment sectors, including energy, infrastructure development, manufacturing, agriculture, information technology, and financial services.

NPO to assist industries' ministry to improve productivity

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Industries and Production has launched a development project to improve the productivity of the industrial, manufacturing, services and education sectors through the assistance of the National Productivity Organization (NPO), its Chief Executive Officer, Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry said on

Tuesday. The NPO would train the stakeholders to increase productivity and make them productivity specialists in their sectors concerned as it had been accredited the status of certification body by the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) Japan first time for the period of four years, the NAP CEO told a press conference.

China to work with Pakistan to boost bilateral trade through land transportation: Wenbin

BEIJING (APP): China on Tuesday welcomed quality agricultural products from Pakistan to enter its market and stands ready to

continue to work with Pakistan to boost bilateral trade through land transportation.

As all-weather strategic cooperative partners, China and Pakistan have engaged in close cooperation in trade and other fields, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang

Wenbin said in response to a question raised by APP about import of seafood through land route.

Last week, Pakistan first-ever seafood cargo container arrived in Kashgar city of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region through Karakoram Highway.

This is the first time that seafood containers from Pakistan have been transported by road from Karachi to Kashgar city along the China-Pakistan

Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

"We welcome quality agricultural products from Pakistan to enter China's market and stand ready to continue to work with Pakistan to boost our trade through land transportation, achieve sustainable growth, bilateral trade and deliver more benefits to our two peoples," he added.

Gold prices decline by Rs.2,300

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs2,300 and was sold at Rs228,100 on Tuesday against its sale at Rs230,400 the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs1,972 to Rs195,559 from Rs197,531 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went down to Rs179,262 from Rs181,070. All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola silver decreased by Rs100 to close at Rs2,650 and ten gram silver also decreased by Rs85.74 to close at Rs2,271.94 respectively.

PAJCCI terms

Barter Trade approval b/w Pak, Afghanistan, Iran & Russia as dream come true

PESHAWAR (Online): Peshawar-based Peshawar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Zubair Motiwala while welcoming Pakistan's government decision of initiating Barter Trade with Afghanistan, Iran and Russia has termed the development as 'dream come true'. In a press statement issued here on Tuesday, Chairman PAJCCI stated that fruitful consequence of a series of meetings, since 2021 by

PAJCCI has started bearing fruits.

PAJCCI had been recommending several measures to facilitate economic activity with Afghanistan including waiver of E-Form & EIF requirement for extended period till finalization of alternate mechanism, opening up of new border crossings, increase in timings at existing border crossings, reducing multiple and manual checks.

Governor says: Federal govt to present people friendly budget

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali here on Tuesday hinted at more relief for the masses in the upcoming federal government budget saying it would meet the people's expectations.

Talking to media persons here at Governor House, the governor said that he has held important meetings with Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and informed him about the financial issues of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The governor said that funds for BRT would be released soon.

Due to the government's successful policies, he said the significant decrease in prices of daily commodities including ghee has been witnessed in the open market.

The governor said that the business community was supporting the government's austerity

measures and economic policies and wanted to end unnecessary expenditures of government organizations for the stability of the economy.

He said Pakistan has all resources and we need to work hard tirelessly in our respective professions to make it economically developed and prosperous. He said elections would be definitely held and people would know once its date was announced.

Health facilities under Sehat card to continue: Riaz Anwar

PESHAWAR (Online): Advisor to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister for Health Riaz Anwar on Tuesday said that despite financial crunch in the province the health facilities under Sehat Card would continue for the people of the province.

Talking to media here after release of a survey report on Sehat Card, he said that payments are being made to the insurance company under the head of different treatments while an inquiry into alleged corruption was

Caretaker cabinet meeting on June 8

PESHAWAR (APP): The sixth meeting of the caretaker cabinet of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would be held on June 8.

Caretaker Chief Minister Azam Khan will preside over the meeting which would consider a 12-point agenda said an official letter from the Establishment Department here on Tuesday. The agenda items include framing of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Probation and Parole Rules 2022, appointment as administrative judges of anti-terrorism courts and regularization of contract employees of the Health Department.



LAHORE: Senior Lawyer Aitzaz Ahsan addresses to media persons during press conference held at his residency in Lahore.

50,000 more families in DI Khan registered with BISP during last year

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): As many as 50,000 more families from Dera Ismail Khan have been registered with the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) during the last year.

According to a press release issued here, the number of beneficiary families in Dera Ismail Khan has increased from 135,000 to 185,000 due to the special efforts of the Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi.

13 dead, 1,181 injured in 1,142 accidents in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least 13 people were killed and 1,181 injured in 1,142 accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to the Rescue 1122, 573 drivers, 52 underage drivers, 142 pedestrians, and 479 passengers were among the victims of the road traffic crashes. The statistics showed that 271 accidents were reported in Lahore which affected 268 people placing the provincial capital at top of the list followed by 95 in Faisalabad with 94 victims and at third Multan 68 with 61 victims.

KP govt to ensure people friendly reforms, good governance: Afridi

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Excise and Narcotics Control, Haji Manzoor Khan Afridi has welcomed the reforms and modernization of his department and made it clear that apart from ensuring good governance. The provincial government was also trying its level best to align all its departments with contemporary requirements and make them more people-friendly, wherein the cooperation of the international community has also been commendable.

He was talking to the Sub National Governance (SNG) team of the foreign-funded reform organization from Islamabad that called on the provincial minister with the team leader and former Secretary Excise Raheel Siddiqui at his office, Civil Secretariat Peshawar on Tuesday. The team apprised him of the progress made so far in the reforms and legislation side.

Haji Manzoor Afridi praised the performance of the team for supporting reforms and drafting valuable legislation in 2020 in four important KP departments including Excise, Local Government, Finance, Revenue and Planning & Development.



PESHAWAR: Residents of Upper Dir District are holding protest demonstration against missing of Raees Ahmed and demanding for his recovery, held at Peshawar Press Club.



KARACHI: Visitors showing their keen interest in handicrafts during 13th Sartayon Sang Crafts Exhibition organized by the Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) in collaboration with the Sindh Government to facilitate better incomes for the women artisans of rural Sindh.

Climate change poses negative impacts on seasonal fruits

PESHAWAR (APP): Highly vulnerable to climate change, Pakistan witnessed excessive rainfalls last month, which caused negative impacts on the overall production of seasonal fruits orchards and vegetables besides adversely affecting farmers' income.

Breaking the past 63 years' rainfalls record, the May 2023 excessive torrential rains coupled with hailstorms have negatively impacted the production of summer fruits including watermelon, melon, banana and mangoes besides tomato and other seasonal vegetables in the country including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

The Met Office spokesman told APP on Tuesday that the national rainfall recorded last month was excessively high and above average i.e. plus 127pc and stands second wettest rainfall in May during the past 63 years as 34.30 mm of rainfall was recorded in 1987.

Agriculture Department official told APP on Tuesday that the record-breaking rainfall and hailstorms have badly affected the production of watermelon and melon in Charsadda, Nowshera, Swabi, Mardan and DI Khan districts.

He said that the standing rains water in low lying areas has slowed down the pace of growth of watermelon and melon in agriculture fields and started dying forcing affected farmers to premature cultivation to avoid huge financial losses.

In the Chamkani fruit market, one kilogram of mango was being sold at Rs150 to Rs200, watermelon at Rs50-70 and melon at Rs80-100 per KG.

Malayar Khan, a progressive farmer of Mohib Banda Nowshera said that he had cultivated melon and watermelon on five acres of land that were badly affected by the last month's torrential rains.

He said that farmers of watermelon and other seasonal vegetables and fruits received huge losses and demanded compensation.

Dr Muhammad Naeem, Assistant Professor of Economics and Agriculture, University of Swabi said that watermelon, mangoes, banana and melon orchards were highly vulnerable to climate change. He said that fluctuations in rainfalls, glacial retreats, floods, higher average temperature and frequency of droughts were causing negative effects on agriculture and fruit productivity in the country.

He feared that crop yields were likely to decrease in the upcoming years not only because of flooding and torrential rainfalls but also due to a rise in temperatures and deforestation that would cause rapid melting of glaciers in high altitude pastures besides dropping off the water table.

He said about 55.87% of watermelon was produced in Punjab, 21.29% in Baluchistan, 10.29% in Sindh and 11.84% in KP and its production was on the decline side due to climate change and fluctuation in weather patterns.

He said fertile land was mostly required for watermelon and melons having 1200 variants growing in more than 96 countries including Pakistan and in case of excessive rainfalls and glacier outburst its production were affected.

International News

Iran presents its first hypersonic ballistic missile: state media

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iran presented what officials described as its first domestically-made hypersonic ballistic missile on Tuesday, the official IRNA news agency reported, an announcement likely to heighten Western concerns about Tehran's missile capabilities.

Iranian state media published pictures of the missile named Fatah at a ceremony attended by President Ebrahim Rahisi and commanders of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards Corps.

"The precision-guided Fatah hypersonic missile has a range of 1,400 kilometres and it is capable of penetrating all defence shields," Amirali Hajizadeh, the head of the Guards' aerospace force, was quoted as saying by Iranian state media.

Hypersonic missiles can fly at least five times faster than the speed of sound and on a complex trajectory, which makes them difficult to intercept. Last year, the Islamic Republic said it had built a hypersonic ballistic missile which can manoeuvre in and out of the atmosphere.

State TV said Iran's Fatah missile can target "the enemy's advanced

anti-missile systems and is a big generational leap in the field of missiles."

"It can bypass the most advanced anti-ballistic missile systems of the United States and the Zionist regime, including Israel's Iron Dome," Iran's state TV said. Fatah's top speed reached mach 14 levels (15,000km/h), it added. Despite US and European opposition, the Islamic Republic has said it will further develop its defensive missile programme. However, Western military analysts say Iran sometimes exaggerates its missile capabilities.



A man casts his vote for National Assembly elections at a religious school in Sabahiya district, Kuwait.

US slaps sanctions on Iranian, Chinese targets over Tehran's missile, military programs

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The United States on Tuesday imposed sanctions on over a dozen people and entities in Iran, China and Hong Kong, including Iran's defense attaché in Beijing, accusing them of running a procurement network for Iran's missile and military programs.

An U.S. Treasury Department statement said the network conducted transactions and enabled the procurement of sensitive and critical parts and technology for key actors in Iran's ballistic missile development, including Iran's defense ministry and Armed Forces Logistics (MODAFL) agency, which is under U.S. sanctions.

Among those hit with sanctions in the action, which comes as Washington ramps up pressure on Tehran, was Iran's defense attaché in Beijing, Davoud Damghani, whom the Treasury accused of coordinating military-related procurements from China for Iranian end-users, including MODAFL subsidiaries.

"The United States will continue to target illicit transnational procurement networks that covertly support Iran's ballistic missile production and other military programs," Treasury's Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, Brian Nelson, said in the statement.

Iran's mission to the United Nations in New York and China's embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

China and Iran in March 2021 signed a 25-year cooperation agreement to strengthen their long-standing economic and political alliance. China has been a major buyer of Iranian oil despite U.S. sanctions designed to choke off these exports.

Philippines, Japan, US hold first trilateral coast guard manoeuvres

Monitoring Desk
OFF BATAAN PROVINCE: Small boats of armed men in grey camouflage fatigues and balaclavas speed towards a Philippine ship before climbing aboard and scanning the deck with small rifles at the ready.

Moments later, its crew are marched away with their hands on their heads, concluding a simulation of a counter-terrorism operation in the South China Sea between the coast guards of the Philippines, and allies the United States and Japan.

Tuesday's manoeuvre is part of an inaugural trilateral coast guard exercise between the three countries, coming at a time of growing unease over China's maritime conduct in the region.

The drill was a mock interception of a vessel carrying weapons of mass destruction, where Philippines coast guard personnel encounter armed resistance while boarding the vessel and are tasked with bringing the situation under control. "All the exercises we do, we help one another to prepare for anything that may possibly happen in the future," said John Ybanez, a spokesperson for the Philippine coast guard. "We do get our assets and training from these two countries, so what they want is, they want to see how much we've improved." The exercises in waters off Bataan province involve more than 500 coast guard personnel and also include search and rescue and counter-piracy scenarios.

Situation at nuclear plant under control after dam blast: Ukraine atomic agency

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: The destruction of the Kakhovka dam in southern Ukraine poses a threat to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, but the situation at the facility is under control, Ukraine's state atomic power agency said on Tuesday.

The U.N. nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, said on Twitter it was closely monitoring the situation but that there was "no immediate nuclear safety risk at (the) plant" which is also in southern Ukraine.

Explosions at the Soviet-era Kakhovka dam in Russian-occupied territory on Tuesday unleashed floodwater across an area that is now a war zone, according to both Ukrainian and Russian forces who blamed each other for the destruction.

Energoatom said the Russian invaders had blown up the dam.

Sixty Afghan girls hospitalised after school poisoning

Monitoring Desk
KABUL: Around 60 Afghan girls were hospitalised after being poisoned at their school in northern Afghanistan, police said on Monday.

The poisoning, which targeted a girls' school in the Afghan province of Sare Pol, comes after intense scrutiny of girls' education in the war-torn nation since the Taliban took over and barred most teenage female students.

At least 42 dead in Haiti floods, landslides

Monitoring Desk
PORT-AU-PRINCE: At least 42 people were dead and 11 missing in Haiti after heavy rains at the weekend triggered flooding and landslides, civil protection officials said on Monday.

The bad weather hit seven of the 10 departments in the country which is already plunged into a protracted humanitarian crisis fueled by gang violence, political collapse and economic stagnation.

According to the UN, the severe rains affected 37,000 people and displaced 13,400.

The town of Leogane, located 40 kilometers (25 miles) southwest of the capital Port-au-Prince, was particularly badly hit, with damage caused by three flooded rivers. At least 20 people died there, according to Haitian officials.

"The residents are desperate. They have lost everything. The waters have ravaged their fields, washed away their livestock," Leogane Mayor Ernsou Henry told AFP.

Finland says to expel nine Russian diplomats

Monitoring Desk
OSLO: Finland will expel nine diplomats working at the Russian embassy in Helsinki, accusing them of working on intelligence missions, the Finnish president's office said on Tuesday.

"Their actions are contrary to the Vienna convention on diplomatic relations," the president's office said in a statement, adding that it would inform the Russian ambassador of the expulsions.



Philippines, Japan, US hold first trilateral coast guard manoeuvres.



President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the 3rd Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) IT Excellence Recognition Ceremony, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

Redefined priorities, swift decision-making inevitable for development: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has said that the redefined priorities and swift decision-making were inevitable to make Pakistan join the bandwagon of the fast-developing world.

The president, addressing the 3rd LCCI IT Excellence Recognition Ceremony in Islamabad on Tuesday said that the creation of talent and investment in human capital was the fastest route to achieve progress. It was organised by the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industries, which marked the distribution of awards among the excellent IT startups and companies.

The president, impressed by the remarkable progress of artificial intelligence, also shared with the audience a comprehensive presentation on exponential growth in AI prepared by ChatGPT within just six minutes which otherwise could take days or even weeks. He said information technology was the only sector in which Pakistan could achieve excellence by investing in human capital as in the modern era, the human intellect was far more important than natural resources. He said the establishment of IT industry took considerably lesser time than establishing a brick-and-mortar industrial unit.

Exemplifying the process of genome sequencing, the president said IT sector provided exponential growth, thus creating numerous opportunities to excel.

He said, on the one hand, the world felt scared of tremendous progress made AI and was thinking to decelerate its pace, but on the other hand, Pakistan has not yet joined that bandwagon which needed to be given serious thought.

President Alvi said that based on the fast pace of AI, one could predict that the AI would write software by itself and also achieve the capability to read human minds within the next 10 years.

Recalling his efforts to promote artificial intelligence and quantum computing in Pakistan, the president said the country needed more inspiration and creating talent.

Bilawal for exploring huge trade, investment potential between Pakistan, Iraq

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday said the current bilateral trade was not commensurate with the huge potential with Iraq which needed to be explored to expand bilateral trade volume.

Addressing the Pakistan-Iraq Business Council in Baghdad, he said Pakistan's Single Country Exhibition held in March 2022 in Baghdad saw deals worth of US\$ 20 million which showed the great business potential, between the countries.

He expressed the confidence that this Pakistan-Iraq Business Forum would ensure a similar opportunity for government to government (G2G) linkages and business networking amongst potential investors and trade partners from both sides.

Bilawal stressed for enhancing collaboration and mutual investment in five prioritized fields including IT, food security, energy, construction and medicine.

During the event, an MoU was also signed between Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce (FPCCI) and their Iraqi counterpart.

The foreign minister said the establishment of Pakistan-Iraq Business Council comprising chambers of commerce and key business representative entities from both the countries would help expanding the bilateral economic ties.

"Through this entity, we can follow-up on programs, policy suggestions, roadmap, and special initiatives for enhancing trade

Pak, China sign MoU for Dev. of water resources, environmental protection

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan and China on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding for bilateral cooperation in the utilization and sustainable development of water resources and environmental protection.

The MoU between Chang Jiang Water Resources Commission (CWRC) and Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) was signed in a ceremony held at the embassy.

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin Ul Haque and Vice Commissioner of CWRC, Wu Daoxi signed the agreement.

The MOU covers wide areas of cooperation including water conservation, watershed planning, flood control and drought relief, development of water resources, management and operation of water projects, ecological protection along the rivers, protection of aquatic species, water channel construction, emerging water technology and development of recreational projects.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Moin Ul Haque said that the MOU will pave the way for bilateral cooperation in the utilization and sustainable development of water resources and environmental protection.

Deadlock remains, IMF stubbornness to impose high taxes

ISLAMABAD (Online): Differences remain between Pakistan and International Monetary Fund (IMF) on targets of estimate tax collection in upcoming fiscal budget 2023-24.

According to media reports IMF executive board meeting scheduled on 14 June and due to failure in making staff level agreement Pakistan's issue was not included in schedule.



IRAQ: Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in a meeting with Minister of Interior of Iraq Lt General Abdulmimir Kamel Al-Shammari during his visit of Iraq for bilateral relations in various fields of cooperation.

Webinar held to mark World Environment Day

KARACHI (APP): Administrator Karachi Dr Syed Saifur Rehman on Tuesday said that the time has come to beat plastic pollution and protect our oceans, marking the time for action, World Environment Day 2023, urging everyone to do their part to protect future generations and contribute to the collective efforts to protect the planet earth.

By aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals, we can enable the world to tackle climate change. He said this while speaking in a webinar on the occasion of World Environment Day organized in collaboration with KMC, Pakistan Development Forum and Universal Scout.

The online session also highlighted alternatives to single-use plastics as well as how people can take steps to combat the problem. Director of Pakistan Development Forum Dr Umair Ansari, a prominent scholar and environmentalist Dr Parvez Amir, Provincial Secretary of Sindh Boys Scout Association Syed Akhtar Mir, Senior Director of Public Relations and Media Ali Hasan Sajid and other important personalities also participated in the webinar. Administrator Karachi said that the world is changing, people in every country are taking steps and new innovations coming to achieve the global goals that are considered as the basis of sustainable development and new ideas and solutions are coming out every day.

PAC directs to arrest real culprits of May 9 incident

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to arrest the miscreants, who incited public to take to streets on May 9 tragic incidents and attack the national institutions.

Chairing the PAC meeting, Chairman Noor Alam Khan questioned the relevant authorities that why elements involved in May 9 attacks were being released.

He further directed that innocent people should not be harassed.

The committee took notice of the arrest of senior politician Afzal Khan and sought a detail report from the Federal Interior Secretary and the Chief Secretary Punjab in that regard. In the meeting, the audit objections of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) of 2018-19 and 2019-20 were reviewed.

The PAC urged the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to conduct the Departmental Accounts Committee (DAC) immediately to ensure transparency in the system.

Robber killed in encounter with police

KARACHI (INP): Sindh police killed a robber affiliated with Afghan gang in an alleged encounter in the North Nazimabad area of Karachi on Tuesday.

According to the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Central, Maroof Usman, two robbers of an Afghan gang allegedly involved in looting a house in residential area, while their third accomplice guarding outside. Upon receiving information about the ongoing crime, the Sindh police reached on the spot and that led to an intense exchange of gunfire between the police and the criminals, resulting in the death of one robber associated with a criminal Afghan gang, while the other two managed to escape.

Eid-ul-Adha likely to be celebrated on June 29

KARACHI (INP): Climate Data Processing Centre forecast that the Zil Hajj moon is expected to be sighted in Pakistan on June 19 Monday.

According to the statement, the moon will be born on June 18 at 9:37pm which could be sighted on June 19. Consequently, the first Zil Hajj will be observed on June 20 (Tuesday) and Eidul Adha will be celebrated on June 29 (Thursday).

Very hot, dry weather forecast for city

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Meteorological Department on Tuesday forecast very hot and dry weather for most parts of the province, including Karachi during the next 24 hours.

The minimum and maximum temperatures recorded (in °C) were: in Karachi 35-37, Hyderabad 40-42, Sukkur 40-42, Thatta 36-38, Mohenjodaro 42-44, Dadu 43-47, Mithi 41-43, and in Nawabshah 41-43.

Mainly very hot and dry weather is likely to prevail in the province.



LONDON: Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar holding a productive meeting with leading investment firms at the Pakistan High Commission, London.

Commissioner, DC visits Cancer Hospital, inspects treatment facilities

NAWABSHAH (APP): Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Division Muhammad Abbas Baloch accompanied by Deputy Inspector General Police Muhammad Yousuf Chandio visited Cancer Hospital (NOREN) and inspected the treatment facilities given to patients.

The Commissioner said that Cancer Hospital is catering to better treatment for patients.

He said that divisional and district administrations would provide all possible cooperation to resolve the issues faced by hospitals.

He said that this hospital was providing better treatment to cancer patients of District Shaheed Benazirabad, Sanghar, Naushero Feroze and other districts of the province. On the occasion, Director NOREN Cancer Hospital Muhammad Sadiq Noheroo informed Commissioner and DIG that the hospital comprises 60 beds and 14 Cancer patients are under treatment at present while more than 100 patients attend Outpatient Department (OPD).

He said that the hospital conducts tests for cancer, heart, kidneys, throat, bone pain and other different diseases at low rates.

He said that the hospital provides free food three times a day to admitted patients. Director said that the government has provided machinery for the treatment of cancer patients. He said that the Sindh government has provided Rs 30 million from Zakat Fund while Pakistan Baitul Mal has provided Rs 40.5 million to hospitals for the provision of medicines at low prices and facilities for tests.

Sindh Abadgar Ittehad urges IRSA to release required quantum of water

HYDERABAD (APP): The Sindh Abadgar Ittehad (SAI), a farmers' lobbying group, has urged Indus River System Authority (IRSA) to release the required quantum of water for Sindh. A meeting of the group, chaired by its President Nawab Zubair Talpur here on Tuesday, expressed deep concern over the prevailing water shortage in the province for irrigation.

The meeting also expressed concern over the growing of rice in the command area of Sukkur Barrage in violation of the government's ban and sought action.

Cyclone developing in Arabian Sea could hit Karachi

KARACHI (INP): A low-pressure system present above the Arabian Sea is likely to turn into a cyclonic circulation in next 24 hours, the weather department said Tuesday.

"A low-pressure area (LPA) has formed over the southeast Arabian Sea at around latitude 11.0 N & longitude 66.0 E at about 1,550km south/southwest of Karachi," said Sindh Chief Meteorological Officer.

"Due to favourable meteorological conditions, the system is likely to intensify further into a depression (strong LPA) and move initially in northwest direction," he added.

Contingency plan devised to deal with monsoon emergency

KARACHI (APP): District Administration Karachi South devised a contingency plan to deal with any emergency situation due to potential heavy rains during the upcoming monsoon season.

A meeting was held here on Tuesday with Deputy Commissioner South Ghulam Murtaza Sheikh in the chair to review and finalise necessary arrangements in advance under a contingency plan to deal with any potential emergency situation.

The DC South said that a contingency plan has been prepared in consultation with Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB), District Municipal Corporation (DMC) South and other relevant departments.

The meeting was attended by all Assistant Commissioners of District South and representatives of KMC, DMC South, KWSB, K Electric, Sui Southern Gas Company, Cantonment Board Clifton, Karachi Development Authority, Provincial Disaster Management Authority and Sindh Solid Waste Management Board.

The DC instructed that low-lying areas should be identified and the district administration should use all resources to save the citizens from difficulties. He added that no negligence would be tolerated in this regard.



KARACHI: Collies are sitting at a roadside and waiting for the passenger at the Cantt station, in Provincial Capital.

Tree plantation launched on World Environment Day

KARACHI (APP): To mark World Environment Day observed on June 5 around the world, a tree-plantation ceremony was organized at KPT Sports Complex here in collaboration with Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) Environment Commission and Karachi Port Trust.

The event was attended among others by Sarwat Gilani, a well-known TV actress, Special Olympic Pakistan Chairperson Ronak Lakhani, Environment Commission Member Tehmina Asif, KPT Manager Sports Major (Rtd) Mehmood Riaz and other guests planted saplings along with special children. On this occasion, Sarwat Gilani said that increasing environmental pollution is gradually strengthening its grip on our environment. If special attention is not paid to the protection of the city, the harmful effects of pollution will increase shortly. She praised the efforts of the POA Environment Commission for the elimination of environmental pollution and appealed to the public to do more to achieve a happy and healthy society free from density.

Jl's to win Karachi mayor polls, claims Hafiz Naem

KARACHI (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) leader Hafiz Naem expressed confidence that JI's mayor will be elected in Karachi in the upcoming polls.

At a press conference on Tuesday in Karachi, the JI leader said "JI had already unveiled the name of the Karachi mayoral candidate before the LG polls. JI is also holding negotiations with other political parties to get support for its mayor." "We have also contacted Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) and Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP)," he added.

Hafiz Naemur Rahman stated that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has put forward a candidate for the mayoral position, and he himself could potentially become the mayor. He criticized the timing of passing laws after the election schedule had been announced, expressing his dissatisfaction with the Election Commission for granting the PPP ample opportunity.

Hafiz Naemur Rahman also expressed deep concern over the alarming rise in street crimes in Karachi. He specifically mentioned receiving numerous complaints from Sohrab Goth, where the cattle market is located. Rahman further said that the transportation system in the city is severely flawed. Karachi is currently in dire need of 10,000 buses, as existing buses are simply rebranded under different names. It is crucial to allocate a proper budget for the transportation sector.



KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Hafiz Naem-ur-Rehman addresses to media persons during press conference held at Idara-e-Noorul-Haq in Karachi.

Commissioner for 100 pc coverage of anti polio drive, EPI vaccination

HYDERABAD (APP): Commissioner Bilal Ahmed Memon has directed all the Deputy Commissioners to play their role in getting 100 percent results of anti-polio campaign and the vaccination against other diseases.

He issued such directives while presiding over a meeting of the Divisional Polio Task Force at his office here on Tuesday.

He said investigation regarding the absence of children in different districts during the polio campaign so that the desired results can be achieved.

The Commissioner directed the DCs to focus on low-performing UCs so that every child can be immunized against polio.

The commissioner said the children should be vaccinated against various diseases under EPI program to protect them from dangerous diseases.

Dr Jamshed Khanzada briefed the meeting about the polio situation and informed that no case was detected in Hyderabad since 2021 and environmental samples were also negative.

DC Fuad Ghaffar Soomro, ADCs and other officers were present in the meeting while DCs of other districts participated in the meeting via video link.



LARKANA: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Larkana, Dr. Muhammad Imran Khan chaired a meeting to maintain Law and order situation in the district, at his office in Larkana.