

# Independent

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Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 05. No. 179 Ze'qad 23, 1444 AH Tuesday June 13, 2023 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

## CM Sindh for expediting contingency measures as 'Biparjoy' likely to hit coastal belts on June 15

KARACHI (APP): Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday said that around 32,466 people of district Sujawal, Badin, and Thatta, and residents of 70 dangerous buildings of Karachi are prone to the 'Very Severe Cyclonic Storm' (VSCS) 'BIPARJOY', which is likely to hit the coastal belt on June 15.

"We are taking all-out measures to shift the people to secure areas and removing loose installations like billboards, sign boards, and such other weak structures to avoid any untoward incident."

He said this while addressing a press conference at CM House regarding the Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (VSCS) 'BIPARJOY' at CM House.

He was flanked by

provincial ministers Sharjeel Memon and Nasir Shah. The CM said that a 'Very Severe Cyclonic Storm' (VSCS) 'BIPARJOY' over the East-Central Arabian Sea had further moved northward. He said that under the existing upper-level steering winds, it was most likely to track further in the North-Northeast direction towards Southeast Sindh-Indian Gujarat coast.

He quoted the PDMA and Met Office reports saying, "Now cyclonic storm lies near Latitude 19.5°N & Longitude 67.7°E at about 600km South of Karachi, 580km South of Thatta, and 710 km southeast of Ormara."

He further said that maximum sustained surface winds were 160-180 Km/hour gusts, 180 Km/hour

around the system center and maximum wave height was 35-40 feet.

The favorable environmental conditions (sea surface temperature of 30-31°C), low vertical wind shear & upper-level divergence) are supporting the system to maintain its intensity.

The CM said that under the existing upper-level steering winds, the ESCS 'BIPARJOY' was most likely to track further Northward until 14 June morning, then recurve Northeastward and cross between Keti Bandar (Southeast Sindh) and Indian Gujarat coast on 15 June afternoon as a VSCS.

Talking about the impact of the storm, Murad Ali Shah said that with its probable approach to the southeast Sindh coast,



KARACHI: People openly defy Section 144 imposed by the administration as a preventive measure in anticipation of tropical cyclone Biparjoy. Sindh government has decided to evacuate residential areas and other human settlements located near the coast areas of Sindh due to threat of cyclone Biparjoy

## Money lying outside country be kept in country to improve foreign exchange reserves: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial has remarked the country at present is facing financial hardships, therefore, the money which is lying outside the country should be kept in the country to improve foreign exchange reserves.

He further remarked we can understand the compulsions of government. It is responsibility of every one to extend cooperation.

He gave these remarks during the hearing of the petition against imposition of tax on foreign assets here Monday.

The court while giving stay order on the or-

der for paying 100 percent tax on non transferable property adjourned the hearing of the case for indefinite period.

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial took up the case for hearing Monday.

The court while rejecting FBR plea for payment of 100 percent tax issued the order to respondents to pay 50 percent tax on non transferable property besides remarking the decision will not be applicable to transferable property.

The CJP remarked that flaws in taxation

system will have to be seen. New taxation will have to be made to integrate more people into tax system. What court has to do is to do it as per law and constitution.

Member legal of FBR told this matter is of billion of rupees. If court issues stay order then it will be injustice with others. If we start giving such relief on tax policy then the difficulties will increase.

The CJP remarked court has no objection on whosoever wants to pay 100 percent tax.

The court adjourned the hearing of the case for indefinite period.

## PM lauds Sindh CM for taking safety measures against 'Biparjoy' cyclone

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday spoke on the phone with Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah and discussed the preparations to deal with the cyclone and the present situation in the coastal areas.

In a tweet on social media platform Twitter, the PM said, "I just spoke to CM Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah and discussed the preparations to deal with the cyclone. I commend the Sindh government for the prior arrangements it has made under the leadership of the chief minister."

"I assured the Sindh government of complete support of the federal government. God willing, we will be able to overcome this situation with the support of the people," he added.

According to the PM Media Wing, the prime minister said that an effective strategy should be formulated for implementation by the departments of federal and provincial governments to address concerns about ships, fishermen, coastal infrastructure, danger of flooding and issues related to Thatta, Badin and the southwestern areas.

He said the evacuation of people from these areas to safer places should be ensured.

The prime minister was informed about the steps taken for early warning and conveying of information to people in these areas. The PM inquired about the necessary items, equipment and goods required for prior preparation to deal with an emergency situation.

He said the federal government departments were ever ready to assist the Sindh government in the protection of the life and property of citizens.

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KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah addresses to media persons during press conference held at CM House in Karachi.

## Govt enhances BISP's budget from Rs 404 to Rs 455 billion for FY 2023-24: Shazia Marri

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety (PA&SS) Shazia Marri Monday said the incumbent government had further enhanced the budget of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) budget from Rs 404 billion to Rs 455 billion for the financial year 2023-24.

Informing the journalists about the budget increase during a press conference here, she said the Benazir Noshonuma Programme's budget also saw a leap upwards from Rs 4.87 billion in 2021-22 to 21.88 billion in 2022-23 which was an increase by 349%, whereas, an amount of Rs 32.27 billion had been proposed in the upcoming budget of 2023-24.

She said the Benazir Noshonuma Programme

had also registered 0.643 million children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers to date, and was all set to meet the target of 1.5 million during the next financial year 2023-24.

Shazia Marri emphasized the importance of the BISP's role in uplifting the lives of the underprivileged and marginalized segments of the society. The BISP, which commenced in 2008 and was the brainchild of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, had proven to be a highly successful programme.

"It functions on non-political grounds, providing financial assistance to approximately 9 million women across the country which is targeted to be expanded to 9.3 million households after the recent increase in the budget."

## Asif Zardari leaves for Dubai for eye check-up

LAHORE (INP): Former president and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari left for Dubai from Lahore for eye examination on Monday.

Asif Zardari will return to Pakistan in a couple of days after meeting the doctor for eye check-up, informed sources have said.

In his place, Foreign Minister and PPPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will hold meetings with the party leaders and workers in Lahore.

## Hina discusses bilateral ties, cooperation with Belgian officials

BRUSSELS (INP): Minister of the State for Foreign Affairs, Hina Rabbani Khar arrived in Brussels, the capital of Belgium on official visit on Monday.

The State Minister's visit aims to strengthen bilateral ties between Pakistan and Belgium across all areas of cooperation, with a particular focus on labour mobility from Pakistan to Belgium. Pakistan attaches great significance to its relations with Belgium, that are embedded in history with an important focus on trade, investment and educational cooperation.

## Key to Dr Aafia Siddiqui released lies in Islamabad: Dr Fouzia Siddiqui

KARACHI (Online): Dr Fouzia Siddiqui has returned to Karachi after meeting her sister Dr Aafia Siddiqui imprisoned in US jail. Talking to media men at Karachi airport she said second meeting with Dr Aafia Siddiqui will take place in the month of July.

She went on to say that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari helped in her meeting with her sister Dr Aafia Siddiqui.

I could not imagine Dr Aafia Siddiqui in such miserable condition, she added.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor, Kamran Khan Tessori briefs detail about the aims and objectives of the bell to Australia High Commissioner Neil Hawkins and Italian Lazio Region's Ombudsman Marino Fardelli during meeting held at Governor House in Karachi.

## Sindh to buy hundreds of hybrid buses from China

KARACHI (INP): Sindh provincial government plans to buy hundreds of hybrid buses from China in the next fiscal year, starting on July 1, 2023, according to a senior Sindh minister. Sindh Information and Transport Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon told GwadarPro that the province needed buses to facilitate the people.

"We have purchased buses from China in the recent past, and they are very fuel-efficient. We plan to buy more in the coming months," he informed.

Memon underlined that the government was committed to resolving the transport issue in Sindh.

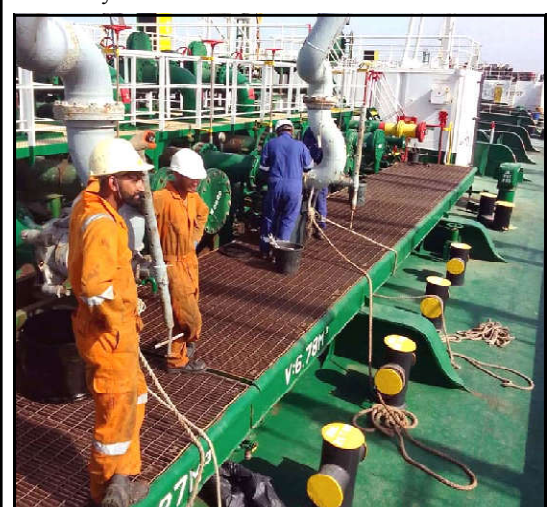
"Chinese buses have been beneficial, and we hope to further capitalize on Chinese technology," he remarked.

Earlier, the Sindh government allocated PKR 10 billion for the procurement of 500 hybrid buses in the provincial budget for the financial year 2023-24.

Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, while presenting the provincial budget on Saturday, announced a total allocation of PKR 13.4 billion for the provincial Transport Department.

He stated that PKR 6.1 billion has been earmarked for the 'Intra-District Peoples' Bus Service,' and PKR 2 billion for the maintenance of transport infrastructure. Additionally, the government has set aside PKR 600 million for new routes. Three new routes will be introduced from next year to facilitate employees of the Sindh secretariat.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, who also serves as the Finance Minister, presented the budget for the fiscal year 2023-24 in the Sindh Assembly. Addressing the budget session of the Sindh Assembly, CM Murad Ali Shah announced that the total outlay of the budget for the province is estimated at PKR 2.2 trillion.



KARACHI: Labours unload the discounted Russian crude oil from the tanker of the cargo ship transporting the first shipment, at Karachi Port Trust.

## Italian CG, Ombudsman call on Sindh Governor

KARACHI (APP): The Italian Consul General Danilo Giurdanella and Ombudsman of Lazio, Italy Marino Fardelli called on Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori at the Governor House here on Monday.

Marino Fardelli, who is also President of the National Coordination of Italian Civic Ombudsmen is visiting Karachi on the special invitation of the Provincial Ombudsman Sindh

## PML-N to support PPP candidates in Karachi mayoral election

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz has extended support to the People's Party candidates in Mayor and Deputy Mayor's election.

The PML-N central leadership has communicated the PPP, a coalition partner in the federal government, about its decision.

PML-N Sindh President Shah Muhammad Shah while informing the PPP leadership has directed the deputy mayor's party candidates to withdraw their nomination papers.

## Courts approve Imran's bails in nine cases

ISLAMABAD (APP): Local courts of Islamabad on Monday granted pre-arrest bail to PIT's chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan in nine cases registered by various police stations of the city. Additional District and Session Judge Syed Mehmood Haroon accepted the bail of PIT's Chairman till July 4, in FIR registered in Khanna police station against surety bonds worth Rs30,000. Similarly, Additional District and Session Judge Farrukh Fareed granted bail to Imran Khan in two cases of Shahzad Town Police Station against surety bonds worth Rs5,000 each. Additional District Judge Tahir Abbas Sapra approved bail of the deposed prime minister in FIRs of police stations Tarnol, secretariat and Karachi Company against surety bonds worth Rs10,000 each.

## Free media plays crucial role in safeguarding democracy from attacks: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb Monday lauded the journalist community for playing a critical role in protecting democracy from different kinds of threats in the country.

"Nobody can dare to attack democracy if the voice of journalists is powerful and their message is loud and clear," the minister said while addressing a reception organized by the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) here at the National Press Club.

The reception was also attended by Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Sohail Ali Khan, Principal Information Officer Mobashir Hassan and a large number of journalists and media workers.

The minister said the health insurance scheme for journalists and media workers was introduced in the Federal Budget 2023-24 in line with the vision of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

"This step is continuity of the policies of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif who also has credit of the constitution of 8th Wave Board after a hiatus of 18 years," she added. When PM Shehbaz Sharif was opposition leader in the National Assembly, many journalists visited his chamber complaining about their health problems, she recalled while highlighting directives of the prime minister who soon after coming into the power ordered establishment of a fund for the medical treatment.



Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting participating in a thanksgiving reception held in view of allocating funds for health insurance in the budget for the journalists & Media workers at National Press Club, Islamabad.

## Modernization in policing need of hour: IGP

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon on Monday said modernization was being adopted in policing and investigations standards because current times and circumstances demand that IT should be taken forward in the process of policing.

He stated this while talking to a delegation of under training assistant superintendents of police (ASPs) from National Police Academy, at the Central Police Office (CPO) Karachi, said a news release.

He said that in addition to the Safe City project, ANPR and facial recognition cameras were installed at the entry and exit points of province be-

sides other such measures. The IGP Sindh further said the use of technology would prove to be an effective weapon of the police in recent and future times.

The DIGP - Headquarters Sindh gave a point-to-point briefing to the participants about various departments/units of Sindh Police including Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), Special Security Unit (SSU), Special Protection Unit (SPU), Crime Investigation Agency (CIA), Special Branch Sindh and others.

The delegation also visited the Command and Control and School of Finance. Later, the participants of the delegation participated in a question and answer session.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety, Shazia Marri addressing a press conference at PID.

## Sherry Rehman urges new financial regimes for Climate funding

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman on Monday urged for new financial regimes for Climate funding. "A fair amount of thought leadership and re-tooling is needed, both for markets and public institutions to change their instruments to meet quantum growing needs, as navigating a forest of barriers has become normalized for accessing a small percentage green financing," said the minister. The minister was keynoting virtually at a

Chatham House Conference on Green Accountability and Climate Finance, a news release said.

She said, "The accelerated impacts of climate change require transformational thinking, both in terms of the quantum needed for social impact, but also to bridge the dangerous gap between different levels of emitters, especially for the less-prepared developing world, where the speed and scale of financing can mean the difference now between survival and subsistence, development or dystopia."



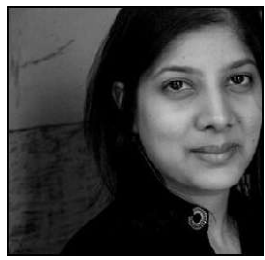
## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Agriculture woes

The government has proposed a raft of incentives in the FY2024 budget to boost the productivity of the agriculture sector and encourage investments in the agro industry. Among the steps announced by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday is a significantly large increase in loans for farmers — from Rs1.8tr Rs2.2tr — the allocation of Rs50bn to shift 50,000 tube wells to solar power, the withdrawal of duties on seed import, and duty exemption on the import of combine harvesters. The budget also proposes the removal of duties on rice planters, seeders and dryers, in addition to setting aside Rs16bn for concessional loans and tax relief for agro-based industry. On the face of it, all these measures appear to be populist, aimed at pleasing a large electorate associated with agriculture. However, it remains unclear — and doubtful — whether these actions will have a meaningful impact on the lives of farmers, especially the smallholders. Nor is it clear if they are effective enough to address long-standing issues such as the rising cost of inputs, climate change, water shortages, etc, that are pulling down the farm sector and hampering value addition in a part of the economy on which depend, directly or indirectly, two-thirds of the population, for their livelihoods.

Agriculture is a large and diverse segment of the economy which remains criminally neglected, poorly organised and highly inefficient. Its problems are too complex to be dealt with the incentives announced in the budget. With the country trying to cope with a level of hunger that is described as serious by the Global Hunger Index, and having suffered massive damage to its farmlands last year due to climate change-induced floods, a complete rethink of obsolete agricultural policies that focus on fixing the prices of crops and doling out subsidies is needed. Studies have shown that the current policies protect the interests of big landlords, speculators and middlemen. Policies and fiscal interventions on behalf of a small group of large growers are the main reasons for growing rural poverty, low crop value addition, and rising food insecurity. No policy initiative or incentive can turn the agriculture sector around if it doesn't put the smallholder farmers at its centre. This means that the government must invest heavily in agriculture research, set up initiatives to encourage the formation of cooperatives and adoption of technologies, and mitigate the impact of climate change. It should also design programmes to enhance the small growers' access to cheaper formal credit, give them crop insurance, and link them to the markets to eliminate the role of the middleman, thus raising their incomes. A well-developed agriculture sector can contribute a lot to economic development and alleviate poverty. For this to happen, the policymakers need to clean up the mess they have made in this important sector.

### Critical challenge



Huma Yusuf

What we needed was a pro-people party. What we got was a "political party beyond politics!!!" The launch of the Istehkam-i-Pakistan Party last week is a clear message for Pakistanis that our politics has been reduced to an anti-democratic facade to ensure authoritarian control. Solutions to the country's myriad challenges and any form of service delivery increasingly seem like pipe dreams.

Pakistan's ongoing political crisis has critically delayed action on numerous fronts, one of the most urgent being a national strategy to tackle climate change. While monitoring the comings and goings at Zaman Park, many may have missed the World Meteorological Organisation's forecast that global temperatures will surge past the 1.5 degrees Celsius mark in at least one of the coming five years, triggering irreversible climate effects. As one of the world's top 10 climate-vulnerable countries, Pakistan can expect to be hit by climate shocks regularly.

Political hijinks may also have distracted from the Climate Change Conference underway in Bonn. These talks are a precursor to the UN COP28 climate summit at the end of the year. The conference is where — in the absence of politicians — the hard work on hammering out details on global climate policy takes place. This year's event in Bonn is particularly relevant for Pakistan because it will advance discussions on how to operationalise the loss

and damage fund — which envisions rich, high-emitting countries providing climate finance for poor, climate change-affected countries — agreed at COP27 last year.

Given Pakistan's climate change vulnerability, these topics should take centre stage. Unfortunately, the momentum to address climate issues generated after last year's devastating floods seems to have fizzled out with this year's political chaos. Now that the political puppet show is somewhat restored, our representatives must refocus on this critical challenge, particularly ahead of COP28.

The upcoming COP is already controversial because it will be hosted by the UAE under the presidency of the head of the Emirati oil company ADNOC, with grand plans to boost production. Climate activists are uncomfortable with a fossil fuels champion overseeing the "global stock-take", when countries have to review their progress against emissions-cutting commitments made in Paris in 2015. It is widely recognised that the stock-take will formally document dire progress, but will COP28 push for the phase-out of fossil fuels, which is urgently needed? The fear is that discussions will be steered towards fanciful plans for carbon capture and storage instead.

There are also concerns that fundamental decisions about the loss and damage fund — who pays, how, when and to whom? — will not be made at COP28. This is partly because of rich countries' disagreements about who should pay into the fund. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change was agreed in 1992, and many of the countries classified then as developing — and therefore exempt from paying into the fund — are now booming economies (think China, India,

and the oil-rich Gulf countries). Climate activists are concerned that the UAE could remain ambivalent on this to avoid paying in, and few expect more than the fund's structure to be agreed this year.

Pakistan is well-situated to be a key voice at COP28. As a long-term ally of the UAE, it could smooth over concerns by emphasising the need for clean energy investments, another topic the ADNOC chief favours. And as a major proponent of the loss and damage fund, Pakistan could push its allies — particularly the UAE and China — to widen the net of donors into the fund. More importantly, given that we spend almost half our budget on servicing debt, Pakistan can present powerful arguments equating climate justice with economic justice, and calling for debt relief as a form of climate reparations. But we can only do all this if our politicians can transcend existential crises, and get on with their jobs. One silver lining in this regard is the expanded budget allocation of \$1.3 billion for the climate change ministry, recognising the need to invest in climate resilience and disaster preparedness. This is a good jump up from last year's \$61 million and the 2021-22 allocation of \$93m. But it is not nearly enough — the annual cost of environmental degradation alone in Pakistan is estimated at \$2.3bn. In the run-up to COP28, our leaders — whether puppets or technocrats — must clarify Pakistan's climate narratives (reparations or relief? Justice or investment?), and articulate clear demands. It must also detail how it spends its climate budget, sensibly prioritising between adaptation and mitigation. No matter how intense the power tussles, Pakistan's climate woes cannot be sidelined any longer. --

Courtesy Dawn

### Reforms in service structure, agriculture is life line for the masses



By Iftikhar Ahmed

Balochistan Agriculture Officers are highly obliged to Minister Agriculture. Mir Asad Ullah Baloch, Secretary Agriculture Mr. Umeed Ali kokar, Balochistan Agriculture Officers Association's president Dr Qasim Kakar, General Secretary Shakeel Zehri and all others that rendered efforts in the approval of the Four Tier system. Hopefully the said service structure may diminish the prevailing frustrations amongst the agriculture officers. This may increase the performance of the overall agriculture department.

Currently agriculture is the least privileged department of the province though major segment of the population is directly or indirectly dependent upon the agriculture.

Agriculture must be given due respect and importance for the survival of the masses.

The longtime lingering demand of Four Tier Service Structure is the most effective apparatus that would not only strengthen the Department but also would benefit the officers in order to maintain smooth, timely

and regular flow of promotions. Absence of Four Tier Service Structure is one of the main hindrances in the progress of the Agriculture Department because chances of promotions are limited and large number of officers presently retired in the same grade wherein they were appointed. However, through the implementation of the Four Tier Structure, officers might get equal promotional chances in a flow, as timely as officers in the other departments of the province. Fortunately, financial impacts of the four tiers upon the department are so meager.

Four tier service structure approved, appreciation for the efforts of minister, secretary agriculture

There is terrible discrimination with the agriculture professionals rather with agriculture altogether as in the entire service most of the officers hardly avail only one promotion which is totally against the equity, fundamental right and natural justice.

Pakistan is an agricultural country; presently it contributes 19.2 percent to the GDP and provides employment to around 38.5 percent of the labour force. More than 65-70 percent of the population depends on agriculture.

It is suffice to mention that from 1960 to 2018 agriculture was contributing 27.38% to GDP with a minimum of 20.22% at the lowest. These figure show diminishing trend for the

last few decades because agriculture and agriculture professionals/officers have not been given due respect.

The officers with inferior qualification and technical knowledge, as compared to agriculture professional, in other departments are bestowed with attractive service careers.

They are given several promotions in the service moreover there is huge difference in the allowances, perks and privileges; agriculture department has kept deprived from all these allowances, perks and privileges which is badly affecting the overall agriculture in the province. These discriminations are potentially exponential which is intensifying the magnitude of the frustration amongst the agriculture professionals.

The progress of the agriculture in province, the same is highly dependent on the agro-professionals so it is obligatory that the agriculture professionals must be given due privileges.

The delightful agriculture officers mean advanced agriculture in the province.

Hopefully this service structure would bring new wave of happiness and joy amongst the officer.

The perks and privileges would also be increased, ultimately they would multiply their efforts for the progress and prosperity of the agriculture in the province.

## Commerce News



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the first meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Inter-Governmental Commercial Transactions (CCoIGCT), in Islamabad.

### Senate body on Finance Country's Financial State, in dire need of Charter of Economy

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue on Monday debated that the new budget starts with a "sorry" picture. Senator Mohsin Aziz said that the new budget doesn't bring any revival of the industries or the exporters and lack fundamental reforms, directing towards bolstering of the country's economy. He said that the

new budget seems to start with debits and forecasted a loan of 7 trillion at the beginning of the new budget.

The Minister for Finance and Revenue Aisha Gaus Pasha said that the new budget should not be outrightly discredited and maintained that country was saved from being default even after the disastrous floods and Global Climate crises. She

said that the new budget brings handsome agricultural packages which is the backbone of the economy resulting in increase and accelerated growth.

She also said that the Money Bill, 2023 brings no increase of duties on import of essential items and promotes energy efficiency and conservation. It also promotes the Information Technology.

### ICCI entrepreneurship program started for students of Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that women constitute 52 percent of Pakistan's population. Sustainable development is not possible without their full involvement, in the developed countries of the world, women are playing their role in every field of life alongside men, and this is the secret of the development of these countries. To deal with unemployment. There is a need to focus on entrepreneurship, it is not possible to accommodate millions of young people who

have graduated from universities in the public and private sector, instead of looking for employment, and the youth should become job sharers by promoting entrepreneurship. He expressed these views while addressing the launch ceremony of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry's entrepreneurship program for all students. Chamber members, Director Federal Directorate of Education Prof. Aftab Tariq, principals and a large number of students of educational institutions of Islamabad participated in the ceremony.

### Committee approves applications for petrol pumps

SARGODHA (APP): The divisional environmental committee has approved 26 applications for petrol pumps, poultry sheds and hospitals.

The committee meeting was held under the chairmanship of Commissioner Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti in his committee room here on Monday.

Assistant Director Environment Naveed Ahmed, ACG Hafiz Abdul Manan and Consultant Sargodha University Dr Ghulam Sarwar participated in the meeting.

### Meeting discusses promotion of agriculture

Independent Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industry and Commerce SM Tanveer chaired the third session of the task force for agriculture here at Civil Secretariat on Monday. The meeting approved various recommendations aimed at promoting modern agriculture, increasing per-acre yield, and enhancing land productivity.

According to the programme, approved certified seeds will be promoted to boost wheat

and cotton production. The Punjab Soil Fertility Revival Programme will be initiated to improve land fertility. Small farmers will be provided 60 kg sacks at a 50 percent subsidy per acre.

The meeting also approved a plan to bring 50,000 acres of barren land under cultivation. Pilot projects will be initiated in Mankera, Choubara, and Norpur Thal for land reclamation. Soil and water testing laboratories will be established at the tehsil level in Punjab.

### Arrival of Russian oil to help reducing petroleum prices in country: Kayani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Economy and Energy Bilal Azhar Kayani Monday said that after continued efforts of one year, the first consignment of cost-effective Russian crude oil has reached Karachi Port, which would help in reducing petroleum prices in local markets.

In a statement, he congratulated the nation and said that the incumbent government has fulfilled its promise to import crude oil from Russia as the last selected and incapable

regime led by Imran Khan had not taken any such practical step for importing cheap oil to facilitate the people in the country.

The last government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) only inaugurated the projects which were initiated and completed during the time of Pakistan Muslim League-N, he said adding that now these habitual liars were claiming that the PTI government completed the oil import deal with Russia.

### Khurram Dastgir says: 5000MW additional electricity injected into system in one year

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Power Division Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan said on Monday that the coalition government managed to inject 5000 megawatts (MW) of additional electricity into the system within one year.

Addressing a press conference here at Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) headquarters, he explained that 1980MW had been added to the

national grid from Thar coal power plant, three power plants of accumulative generation of 1100MW had been inaugurated in Karachi, and other 720MW projects, which were neglected by previous government, had now started generation, while testing of 1200MW Punjab thermal would start soon. "In one year of Shehbaz Sharif government, we have worked a lot in the energy

sector. We have brought back electricity in the country, which faced scarcity from 2018 to 2022 due to negligence of the former government," he added.

Khurram Dastgir said that previous government, in its four years period, created economic turmoil and made no progress on energy projects under the CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor). However, the current

coalition government, he added, started various projects under CPEC especially in power sector at full speed and in the new fiscal year, Rs 900 billion relief in the electricity bills would continue to be given to targeted/ deserving consumers, while load-shedding duration would also be less than in the past years. The federal minister said the government would also give a tariff differential subsidy of Rs 150 billion.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Power Khurram Dastgir Khan presiding over the meeting of LESCO officials at LESCO Headquarter.

### Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships namely, America, Yun-Ding-19, Butinah and Isabella Kosan, carrying containers, palm oil, coal and chemicals, berthed at Container Terminal, Liquid Terminal, Bulk Terminal and Engro Terminal respectively the other day. Meanwhile, two more ships, Calypso Gas and Scarabe with LPG and coal also arrived at the outer anchorage of Port Qasim during the last 24 hours.

A total of nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them, chemicals carrier 'Isabella Kosan' left the port.

### Amin urges Telecom companies to ensure uninterrupted connectivity during anticipated storm

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister of Information Technology, Syed Amin-ul-Haque, has called upon telecommunication companies to take immediate action to secure towers and optical fiber cables in order to maintain uninterrupted power supply and internet connectivity during an upcoming storm.

With the Meteorology Department

warning of potential disruptions to the power and internet systems, Amin-ul-Haque's instructions aim to mitigate any possible downtime.

Emphasizing the critical need for continuous communication during emergency situations, the minister stressed the importance of implementing alternative measures to ensure seamless internet and mobile services.



## Murad for expediting contingency measures as 'Biparjoy' likely to hit coastal belts on June 15

KARACHI (APP): Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday said that around 32,466 people of district Sujawal, Badin, and Thatta, and residents of 70 dangerous buildings of Karachi are prone to the 'Very Severe Cyclonic Storm' (VSCS) 'BIPARJOY', which is likely to hit the coastal belt on June 15.

"We are taking all-out measures to shift the people to secure areas and removing loose installations like billboards, sign boards, and such other weak structures to avoid any untoward incident."

He said this while addressing a press conference at CM House regarding the Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (VSCS) 'BIPARJOY' at CM House.

He was flanked by provincial ministers Sharjeel Memon and Nasir Shah. The CM said that a 'Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (VSCS) 'BIPARJOY' over the East-Central Arabian Sea had further moved northward. He said that under the existing upper-level steering winds, it was most likely to track further in

the North-Northeast direction towards Southeast Sindh-Indian Gujarat coast.

He quoted the PDMA and Met Office reports saying, "Now cyclonic storm lies near Latitude 19.5°N & Longitude 67.7°E at about 600km South of Karachi, 580km South of Thatta, and 710 km southeast of Ormara.

He further said that maximum sustained surface winds were 160-180 Km/hour gusts, 180 Km/hour around the system center and maximum wave height was 35-40 feet.



LAHORE: A delegation of Overseas Muslim League worker in a group photo with Governor Punjab Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

## Punjab Governor says: Overseas Pak play vital role in dev. of Pak economy by sending remittances

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Former parliamentarians, Mian Marghub Ahmed, Zahid Akram, Khalil Tahir Sindhu, Overseas Muslim League worker Nasir Khan and senior workers met Governor Punjab Balighur Rehman here today at Governor House Lahore. The current political situation was discussed in the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that overseas Pakistanis are our valuable asset who are playing an important role in the development of the country's economy by sending remittances. He said that stability, economic development and provision of basic facilities to the people are the priorities of Muslim League (N). Governor Punjab said that the federal government has presented a very good and people-friendly budget despite the difficult economic situation. He said that the significant increase in the salaries of government employees is in the budget is commendable.

Governor Punjab said that he congratulates Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar for presenting public friendly budget.

## LHEAP program launched to make city hepatitis-free

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Health Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir has said that a model vaccination centre was being set up with the help of the World Health Organisation to eliminate hepatitis in the Rawalpindi district.

He was addressing the launching of the Local Hepatitis Elimination & Prevention (LHEAP) programme, developed in collaboration with the US-based task force for Global Health, at the Rawalpindi

## Police foiled smuggling bid of 6,050 liters Iranian oil

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The district police, foiling a smuggling attempt, seized over 6,050,000 liters of Iranian diesel here in the limits of Daraban Police Station on Monday. According to police spokesman, following the special directives of District Police Officer (DPO) Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani, a police team led by SDPO Kulachi Circle Abdul Rasheed Khan along with Daraban Police Station SHO Abdul Ghaffar Khan foiled a smuggling bid of Iranian diesel.

## CM reviews "Ab Gaon Chamkein Ge" program

Naqvi also visits Complaints Cell, inspects sections

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presided over a meeting at his office to review recommendations for the successful implementation of the "Ab Gaon Chamkein Ge" program.

The primary objective of this plan is to establish a comprehensive cleanliness system at the ward level within the union councils.

According to the proposed plan, dedicated sanitation workers will be assigned to improve the cleanliness standards at the village level. They will utilize rickshaws, tractors, and tractor-trolleys to effectively remove solid waste from the villages and dispose of it outside their premises. Additionally, a chowkidari system will be introduced, ensuring the presence of a vigilant 'chowkidar' in each ward of the union council.

During the meeting, the chief minister emphasized the importance of implementing a sustainable cleanliness system in villages, drawing inspiration from successful models in urban areas. He stressed the need to prioritize measures that guarantee the provision of clean water and other essential facilities to the rural population.

Provincial Minister for Information Amir Mir, SMBR, secretary finance, secretary local government, and others attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi on Monday paid a visit to the Chief Minister's Complaint Cell and Special Monitoring Unit to inspect various sections of the cell and special monitoring unit, carefully reviewing their performance.

To his disappointment, some officers and staff were found absent from their offices. Expressing strong displeasure over the staff's absence, the Caretaker CM took immediate action and ordered removal of the head of the complaint cell from his position.

He emphasized that operating air conditioners in the absence of officers and staff amounted to a wasteful utilization of resources.

Additionally, the Caretaker CM engaged in telephonic conversations with the complainants present in the complaint cell, attentively listening to their issues. He assured the complainants that their concerns would be resolved promptly.

Emphasizing the significance of addressing citizens' problems within a specified time frame, he emphasized the need to keep the complainants informed about the progress made on each received complaint.

Provincial Minister for Information Amir Mir, Secretary to CM, and the Secretary (Coordination) to CM were also present.



MUZAFFARABAD: Speaker Legislative Assembly of Azad Kashmir Ch. Latif Akbar taking oath from newly elected Sardar Zia - Ul - Qamar at the Capital of AJK.

## Governor says: Federal govt provides relief to common man, business community in budget

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali on Monday said that despite the economic crisis, the federal government has provided relief to the common people including the business community in the budget. The current federal government has allocated 57 billion rupees for the merged districts in the budget, he said while talking to a representative delegation of Kohat Chamber of Commerce and Industry here at Governor House. Representatives of Kohat Press Club and Kohat Bar Council were also included in the delegation. The Governor said that the services of the business community in providing economic stability and employment in the province are commendable.



GILGIT: Secretary Finance Gilgit-Baltistan Faisal Peerzada giving away winner trophy to team Captain during the 1st final match between Gilgit01 and GB Nalter during Jashn-e-Baharan Freestyle Polo Tournament at Aga Khan Shahi Polo ground.

## Two bodies found in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD (APP): Bodies of two persons were found from different parts of Faisalabad during the past 12 hours.

A police spokesman said here on Monday that some passersby spotted corpse of 55-year-old man lying at a deserted place near Darbar Qaim Sain and in formed Ghulam Muhammad Abad police.

# International News

## Turkey's president unwavering on two-state policy to resolve Cyprus' ethnic division

**Monitoring Desk**  
NICOSIA: Turkey's president said Monday that any deal resolving Cyprus' nearly half-century ethnic division must be based on recognition of a breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in the island nation's northern third.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's remarks in the north during his first overseas visit after his re-election last month aren't new, but suggest that Ankara's policy line on Cyprus remains unwavering, despite international condemnation of the two-state deal proposal that runs contrary to U.N. resolutions calling for a single, federated Cyprus.

"No one can bear to waste another 50 years of time," Erdogan said during a joint news conference with Turkish Cypriot leader Ersin Tatar. "If there is to be a return to the negotiating table, the only way to do this is to recognize the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus."

It also dashes hopes harbored by Cyprus' internationally-recognized government of a speedy return to negotiations, although a spokesman for President Nikos Anastasiades said Monday that Erdogan will be judged by his deeds rather than his words. Cyprus was split in 1974 when Turkey invaded in the wake of a coup by support-



TEHRAN: Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei views a model of a nuclear facility.

## Putin uses public holiday to laud patriotic feelings as support for troops in Ukraine

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin on Monday marked the Day of Russia national holiday by lauding the country's patriotic tradition as a support for soldiers fighting in Ukraine.

"This public holiday marks the inseparability of centuries-old history, the greatness and glory of the Fatherland, affirms the unity of the multinational people, devotion to their country, a warm, sincere attitude towards their beloved Motherland," he said at a ceremony presenting state awards.

"Such keen feelings... in a difficult time for Russia, they unite our society even more strongly, serve as a reliable support for our heroes, the participants in the special military operation," Putin said, using the Russian official terminology for the Ukraine conflict.

The holiday comes amid intensifying counter-offensive operations by Ukraine against Russian forces that occupy about 20% of the country. Ukrainian officials in recent days claimed to have regained control of some villages and to have made advances at some points along the front line.

Although Russia has been widely criticized for strikes on civilian targets including apartment buildings, Putin told recipients of the state awards that he was shocked by Ukraine attacking civilian areas.



MARSAALAM: Plumes of smoke erupt from a yacht.

## China's Xi says willing to begin free trade talks with Honduras

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: China is willing to begin talks on a free trade agreement with Honduras "as soon as possible", Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Monday, during the first visit by the Central American country's president since forming diplomatic ties in March.

Honduras' President Xiomara Castro is on a six-day official visit to China. She launched diplomatic relations with Beijing after cutting ties with its rival, Taiwan, in a bid for more investment and jobs. The country is also seeking support from China to mitigate its debt burden.

China will actively promote Honduran products to enter the Chinese market, Xi was quoted as saying by state broadcaster CCTV. China's customs said on Monday it had approved the import of Whiteleg shrimp from Honduras.

Xi said China will unwaveringly develop the friendly relations between the two nations and firmly support Honduras' economic and social development.

China also encourages Chinese enterprises to participate in Honduras' projects in areas including energy, infrastructure and telecommunications.

CCTV cited a joint declaration as saying.

The Honduran side is willing to provide policy support and facilitation, CCTV reported.

## US decides to rejoin UNESCO and pay back dues, to counter Chinese influence

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: UNESCO announced Monday that the United States plans to rejoin the U.N. cultural and scientific agency — and pay more than \$600 million in back dues — after a decade-long dispute sparked by the organization's move to include Palestine as a member. U.S. officials say the decision to return was motivated by concern that China is filling the gap left by the U.S. in UNESCO policymaking, notably in setting standards for artificial intelligence and technology education around the world.

The move will face a vote by UNESCO's member states in the coming weeks. But approval seems a formality after the resounding applause that greeted the announcement in UNESCO's Paris headquarters Monday. Not a single country raised an objection to the return of a country that was once the agency's single biggest funder. The U.S. and Israel stopped financing UNESCO after it voted to include Palestine as a member state in 2011. The Trump administration decided in 2017 to withdraw from the agency altogether the following year, citing long-running anti-Israel bias and management problems.

UNESCO's director general, Audrey Azoulay, has worked to address those concerns since her election in 2017, and that appears to have paid off.

"It's a historic moment for UNESCO," she said Monday. "It's also an important day for multilateralism." U.S. Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources Richard Verma submitted a letter last week to Azoulay formalizing the plan to rejoin. He noted progress in depoliticizing debate about the Middle East and reforming the agency's management, according to the hand-delivered letter, obtained by AP.

The decision is a big boost to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, known for its World Heritage program as well as projects to fight climate change and teach girls to read.

## Netherlands and Canada bring torture case against Syria at UN's top court

**Monitoring Desk**  
THE HAGUE: The Netherlands and Canada jointly filed a complaint against Syria on Monday before the United Nations' highest judicial body, alleging the regime of Bashar Assad has tortured thousands of civilians, in violation of a U.N. convention.

The pair say Syria has "committed countless violations of international law" and want the International Court of Justice to issue provisional measures ordering Damascus to halt an alleged widespread torture program against anyone opposed to the government during the country's long-running civil war. The Dutch first announced three years ago a plan to hold Syria accountable for what it called "horrible crimes," asking Assad's government via diplomatic note to enter into negotiations under the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Canada joined the process in 2021. The 1984 treaty requires parties to enter into mediation before bringing the dispute to The Hague-based court. The complaint says that the process has failed. The Netherlands and Canada say there is ample evidence that the regime has engaged in systemic gross human rights violations against its own people since 2011. "Syrian civilians have been tortured, murdered, disappeared, attacked with poison gas or lost everything when they fled for their lives," Foreign Affairs Minister Wopke Hoekstra said in a statement.

## Driver charged after Australia's worst bus accident in decades kills 10 wedding guests

**Monitoring Desk**  
SYDNEY: A man was charged with dangerous driving on Monday after at least 10 wedding guests were killed when the bus they were travelling in crashed at a roundabout in Australia's worst bus accident in almost 30 years, police said.

Twenty-five people were injured in the accident around 11:30pm on Sunday near the town of Greta, about 180km northwest of Sydney, police said.

The bus carrying 35 passengers left the road and flipped onto its side at a roundabout after a wedding in the Hunter region, a rural area famous for its vineyards and wedding spots. Police said the driver, a 58-year-old man, had been taken to hospital for mandatory drug testing. He was refused bail and is scheduled to appear in court on Tuesday. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese expressed his "deepest sympathies" to the families of the people killed and injured.

## Iran says prisoner exchange with U.S. could happen soon

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: Iran and the United States could exchange prisoners soon if Washington shows goodwill, Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson said on Monday, a day after Iran's supreme leader signalled the possibility of reaching a nuclear agreement with the West.

"Regarding the issue of exchanging prisoners with America... negotiations are ongoing through mediators."



# President for enhancing scientific cooperation among COMSTECH member countries

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday underscored the need for enhancing educational and scientific cooperation among COMSTECH members to overcome the challenges, being faced by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) countries in different sectors.

He said that there existed an abundance of open-source knowledge that needed to be fully utilized by the Muslim countries to their benefit.

The president expressed these views while talking to a delegation of the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological

Cooperation (COMSTECH) Scientific Advisory Council (SAC), led by the Coordinator General of COMSTECH, Prof Dr M. Iqbal Choudhary, that called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The president said that the world was undergoing rapid changes due to advancements in the field of science and technology and Islamic countries were required to strengthen their capacities and make faster decisions to keep pace with the fast-changing world.

He said that the availability and democratization of knowledge had brought

greater opportunities that should be fully capitalized upon by the Muslim countries.

The president also underlined the need of taking benefit from emerging technologies, like Artificial Intelligence, as well as find out-of-box solutions to the problems being confronted by Muslim countries in the fields of education, science and technology.

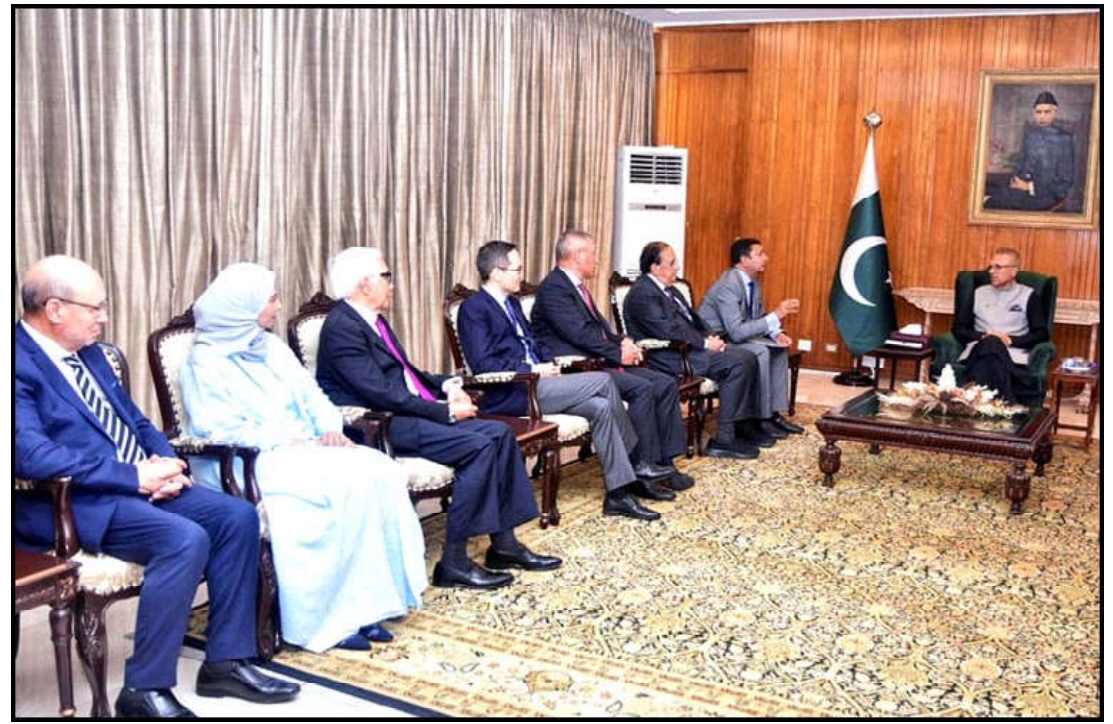
He said that the scientific advisory mechanisms of COMSTECH would also help fulfill the national requirements of OIC member countries.

The delegation apprised the president about the initiatives undertaken

by COMSTECH to strengthen cooperation in the fields of science and technology among OIC member states.

The participants highlighted the challenges and opportunities in higher education, science, technology and innovation (STI) and also gave various suggestions to further boost cooperation among Muslim countries.

The president appreciated the ideas, presented by the participants as well as the contributions made by COMSTECH towards the promotion of educational and scientific cooperation among member countries.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the standing committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) led by the Coordinator General of COMSTECH, Prof Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman NDMA Lt. General Inam Haider Malik presiding over meeting for update on Cyclone BIPARJOY.

## Commissioner bans eight routes to secure Karachi

KARACHI (APP): The Commissioner of Karachi Mohammed Iqbal Memon on Monday imposed a complete ban on eight un-frequented routes under section 144 CrPC in order to secure Karachi and to curb the possible movement of miscreants for a period of another two months, from June 11 to August 10 within the local limits of Karachi Division.

According to a communiqué here, the ban was imposed in the exercise of powers under section 144 (6). The routes, which were banned included (S-3) Soomar Goth, (S-5) Salu

Goth, (S-6) Salu Goth, (N-9) Noor Muhammad Goth, (N-14) Hamdard University, (N-15) Hamdard University, (N-16) Hamdard University and (N-18) Dureji Trash Road.

Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners of District West, Malir and Keamari were authorized to take action against violators in coordination with the Senior Superintendents of the Police concerned and get violators booked under Section 188 PPC in writing in the concerned Police Stations for the violation of Section 144 CrPC.

## Tessori directs emergency measures to tackle Cyclone Biparjoy

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has directed that the authorities concerned for taking measures on emergency basis to tackle any untoward occurrence in the wake of Cyclone Biparjoy.

In a statement issued on Monday, he ordered to declare emergency in all organizations working under Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC).

Kamran Tessori also directed to make active all rain emergency centers in the metropolis.

He said that advance steps must be taken to evacuate people along coastal side and rescue teams be kept ready.

## Performance of Sindh's players in 34<sup>th</sup> National Games excellent: Saif

KARACHI (APP): Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rehman has said that the performance of players from Sindh in the 34<sup>th</sup> National Games held in Quetta is excellent. The next National Games hosted by Sindh will be held in good style, which will promote sports activities in the province and improve the quality of sports.

He said this while addressing the civic reception given at the KMC Sports Complex for the athletes of Sindh who won medals in

the National Games held in Quetta, said a statement issued here on Monday.

Certificates of appreciation were also distributed to the successful athletes on this occasion, Secretary of Sindh Olympic Association Ahmed Ali Rajput, Wasim Hashmi of Pakistan Olympic Association, Senior Director of Culture and Sports Saif Abbas Husni, Senior Director Information and Printing and Media Management, Ali Hassan Sajid and other officers were also present on this occasion.



LAHORE: Chairman NAB Lt. General Nazir Ahmed and DG NAB Amjad Majeed Olakh presenting check to Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman on behalf of Punjab Administration at NAB Office.

## SSWMB declares emergency in wake of Cyclone Biparjoy

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB), on Monday, declared an emergency to deal with any potential situation arising of heavy rains and strong winds in Karachi due to Cyclone Biparjoy.

The managing director SSWMB Intiaz Ali Shah directed Chinese companies, local contractors and officials of the board to keep the staff and machinery ready, devise teams to carry out water drainage work and set up relief camps in each zone, said a statement issued here.

He instructed to mobilise the staff to provide relief to the citizens and form teams of sanitary workers to be deployed at all road points. He said that instead of carrying out cleaning and drainage of water in the form of a group of sanitary workers, 2 to 3 sanitary workers should be

posted at each point to ensure the availability of staff at all points.

All officers, contractors and operation staff will be in constant contact while close coordination would also be maintained with local government institutions, the MD further instructed adding that teams would be deployed to open the choke points as well.

He directed the in-charge of command and control and the complaint centre to immediately convey the complaints of the citizens regarding waste and rainwater drainage to the concerned officers so that the same could be redressed in time. He also warned that no negligence should be done in this regard.

The MD requested the public to contact the SSWMB on helpline number 1128 or WhatsApp number 03181030851 to register their complaints.

## CTD arrests three suspects of hostile intelligence agency

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Sindh Police on Monday claimed to have arrested three suspects from a sleeper cell of a hostile intelligence agency and recovered a huge quantity of foreign-made arms and grenades from their possessions.

According to a spokesman for CTD, the CTD along with an intelligence agency, in an operation, arrested three identified as Syed Kumail Hyder alias Ibrahim, Syed Hadi Raza Zaidi alias Zaheer, Syed Zahoor Abbas Zaidi alias Ghaffar alias Chacha, who had done recon to attack sensitive installations.

## Sindh Sports Departments starts summer camps to promote extra-curricular activities

HYDERABAD (APP): In order to promote extra-curricular activities, Sindh Sports Department has started conducting summer camps for school and college students during their vacations. Director of Sports and Youth Affairs Sindh Syeda Memna Shah who inaugurated the summer camp here at Sports Board's Hostel Niaz Stadium on Monday said that official-level extra-curricular activities were suspended in the province for the last few years due to COVID-19. However, she informed the provincial government has decided to conduct a summer camp.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Speaker National Assembly Zahid Akram Durrani in a meeting with delegation of National Highway Authority regarding development projects.

## CJP Bandial voices concerns over stone crushing at Margalla Hills

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial expressed deep concerns on Monday regarding the on-going issue of stone-crushing activities in the Margalla Hills.

A three-member bench headed by CJP Bandial heard the case against the occupation of forest lands. During the hearing, Chief Justice Bandial inquired about the measures being taken by the authorities to counter the adverse effects of stone crushing on the environment.

The top judge directed the government's counsel,

Raja Shafiqat, to provide information on the progress of tree plantation initiatives.

"The provincial governments need to provide details on the number of trees sold and the number of trees planted thus far," asked CJP Bandial.

In addition, the Chief Justice questioned whether the land belonging to the forest department was being leased out under public-private partnerships.

The council responded by informing the court that all leases had been canceled in compliance with a previous court ruling.

## Senate passes resolution commemorating martyrs' sacrifices

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a unanimous decision, the Senate passed a resolution on Monday, expressing profound appreciation for the heroic sacrifices made by martyrs in the pursuit of peace, safety, security, and stability in Pakistan.

Presented by Minister of State for Law and Justice, Shahadat Awan, on the floor of the Upper House of Parliament, the resolution paid tribute to the unparalleled role played by the Armed Forces in safeguarding the nation against both external and internal threats.



HYDERABAD: Former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi addressing a seminar "Re-Imaging Pakistan" at a local hall in City.

## KMC declares emergency in wake of cyclone Biperjoy

KARACHI (APP): Municipal Commissioner KMC Syed Shujaat Hussain has said that an emergency has been declared in all relevant departments of KMC as a precautionary measure in relation to possible cyclone Biperjoy and all works will be done in collaboration with the district administration to deal with any kind of situation.

He said this on Monday while presiding over a meeting held at the KMC head office regarding Cyclone Biperjoy, said a statement issued here.

On this occasion, Director General Technical Services Azhar Hussain Shah, Director General Parks and Horticulture Junaidullah Khan, Senior Director Municipal Services Noman Arshad, Senior Director Medical and Health Services Dr. Nadeem Asif, Senior Director Anti-Encroachment Bashir Siddiqui, Senior Director

MUCT, Irshad Arain, Chief Fire Officer Ishtiaq Ahmed Khan, Superintendent Engineer Abbas Ali Shah and other officers were also present.

During the meeting, the participants were briefed about the cyclone Biperjoy, Municipal Commissioner Syed Shujaat Hussain instructed the heads of all the concerned departments to deploy the relevant staff by imposing emergency in their departments and taking all necessary precautions.

He said constant communication should be maintained with the district administration so that any kind of situation can be jointly dealt with.

He directed the Senior Director Medical and Health Services to ensure 24-hour presence of doctors and staff by imposing emergency in all hospitals and medical institutions under the management of KMC.

## NA passes resolution to try May 9 rioters under Army Act 'without any delay'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly on Monday passed a resolution to initiate proceedings against the elements involved in the vandalism of military installations and martyrs' memorials on May 9 under the Army Act 1952 without delay even for a single day.

Presenting a motion, Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif said the House was of the view that a political party and its chairman while committing blatant violations of the law and the Constitution on May 9 attacked military installations, which

caused irreparable loss to the state and its institutions. "Of which, all evidence is available, so in line with the law and the Constitution, proceedings be completed against them without a single-day delay."

The minister said the people and leaders of that party were not ready to take the burden of the party and its chairman's anti-Pakistan activities and disassociate themselves from it. "It validates that this party and its head's agenda is based on enmity with Pakistan," he added.

He said the House de-

clared that there were no human rights violations while taking action against miscreants and criminals involved in the May 9 incidents.

In that regard, he said, allegations of a political party and propaganda had no reality.

As per the international practice, he said Pakistan too had the legal right to initiate proceedings against such elements under the relevant law. So, all the elements involved in the May 9 vandalism be prosecuted under the Pakistan Army Act-1952 without any delay and get them punished.

## Special focus on agriculture to bring fruitful results: Wassan

SUKKUR (APP): Advisor to Sindh Chief Minister for Agriculture, Manzoor Hussain Wassan has said that the Federal government has given a special focus on agriculture and agri-based industry which will bring fruitful results for the country's economy in the near future.



ISLAMABAD: H. E Ms. Pang Chunxue Charge's Affairs, Embassy of the people's Republic of China, called on Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at Finance Division

## Ishaq Dar for further strengthening economic relations with China

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar here on Monday highlighted the need to deepen bilateral relations with China with a special focus on economy, trade and financial sectors.

He was talking to Charge's Affairs, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Pang Chunxue, who called on the minister here.

According to a press statement issued by the finance ministry, Dar appreciated the deep-rooted historical bilateral relations between Pakistan and China, and much-admired Chinese support to Pakistan on multiple fronts.

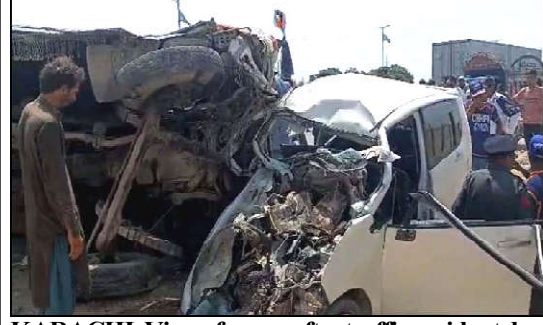
The finance minister further updated the Charge de Affairs about the

progress on talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the completion of the 9th review.

He further apprised her about the positive response of the various sectors of the economy on the Budget 2023-24, presented by the incumbent government despite difficult economic circumstances.

Dar expressed gratitude to Pang Chunxue for the support and cooperation Pakistan has been receiving from the leadership in Beijing.

Pang Chunxue reciprocated the sentiments and acknowledged the friendly relations between the two countries. She also assured of continuous support from the Chinese government to the people of Pakistan.



KARACHI: View of venue after traffic accident due to over speeding and break failure, while people busy in rescue work, located on Baldia Colony area in Karachi.

## Hamdard University signs MoUs with 30 industrial firms

KARACHI (APP): The Hamdard University (HU) has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with 30 different industrial organisations, including the Bahria Foundation, Bosch Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Soorty Enterprises, Premium Textiles, Pharm Evo and others for formalising collaboration with them in domains such as research and development, joint conferences and placements.

At the grand event held by the university's Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialisation (ORIC) at a hotel here, a

Centre of Excellence was also launched for fruitful linkages between the academia and the industry, said a HU spokesperson on Monday.

The contributions and achievements of the university's several alumni were also acknowledged on the occasion.

The names of the alumni who were honoured are Babar Hamid Chaudhry of the Asia Petroleum Ltd, Naemuddin Ahmed Siddiqui of the Ziauddin Ahmed and Company Ltd, Ejaz Bashir and Tahir Javid of the Hunar Foundation, and Adeel Sharif.