# nachenten

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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## PPPP's Murtaza Wahab elected Karachi's mayor, Salman Abdullah deputy mayor

Bilawal felicitates Murtaza Wahab on his election as Karachi Mayor

KARACHI (APP): Barrister Murtaza Wahab, the Pakistan People's Party's (PPP-backed) candidate was returned victorious as the Mayor of Koroki in Karachi here on Thursday.

As per unofficial results, Murtaza Wahab serival, Jamaat-e-Islami's Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman, got 160 votes. PPP's Salman Abdullah Murad was

elected as deputy mayor by bagging 173 votes to defeat his opponent Saifuddin Advocate of JI who secured 160 votes.

Four counters were established outside the Arts Council to identify the members. Mobile Naeem.

the Mayor of Karachi in said, Murtaza Wahab won the election held at the Arts Council of Pakistan mayor Karachi and JI's Naeemur Rehman remained runner-up with 160 votes. PPP's Salman cured 173 votes while his Abdullah Murad was victorious as the deputy (JI-backed) candidate mayor with 173 votes and defeated JI's Saifuddin, who got 160 votes.

The main gate of the Arts Council of Pakistan was closed before the voting started.

The members elected the Leader of the House through a show of hands who first voted for Murtaza Wahab followed by voting for Hafiz



**KARACHI: PPP Sindh President Nisar Khuhro** presents sweets to Mayor-elect Murtaza Wahab on his victory at Arts Council.

mention here that the total number of city council members is 367. The case of one UC chairman is pending in the court while 333 members were present in the house while

33 members were absent. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

It is pertinent to on Thursday congratulated Barrister Murtaza Wahab on his election as Mayor of Karachi and Salman Abdullah Murad on being successfully elected as Deputy Mayor

In a felicitation mes-

People's Party (PPP) has achieved a historic victory and this triumph is the success of the whole of

Bilawal Zardari said that this success was the result of the long untiring struggle and sacrifices of the "Jiyalas' of Karachi. The politics of hatred and division in the economic hub of the country reached its logical end,

He said, "Local gov-ernment problems of every street, locality, and area of Karachi will be solved without any discrimination.'

He said, "Now all elected representatives of the PPP have heavy resage, Chairman PPP sponsibilities on their Bilawal Bhutto Zardari shoulders."

## **Denmark to cooperate** Pak in developing green energy infrastructure: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Danish Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy Dan Jorgensen on Thursday agreed to enhance cooperation in building climate-resilient green energy infrastructure including wind energy to overcome the challenge of climate change and to resolve energy problems in Pakistan.

Talking to the media here after exchanging Joint Action Plan under Green Framework Engagement Agreement, the foreign min-property.

ister said the agreement would set the stage for joint initiatives and projects in renewable energy and green

The minister hoped that policies would be formulated on behalf of the federal government to encourage international companies to invest in Pakistan's wind and other green energy sectors.

He said Pakistan was facing climate change challenges and last summer, historic floods hit the country resulting in the loss of precious lives and



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dent Ilham Aliyev leading their respective sides at a delegation level meeting.

### Pak, Azerbaijan agree to enhance trade, energy cooperation, start Baku-Islamabad flights

PM reiterates that Pakistan committed to the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and appreciated the bravery of country's forces for fighting for Azerbaijan's rights

BAKU (Azerbaijan) (APP): Pakistan and Azerbaijan on Thursday agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in the fields of energy, trade and aviation sectors to reflect the decades-old strong relationship between the two nations.

The bilateral relations were discussed at length in a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev here at Zugulba Palace. The prime minister, accompanied by a high-level delegation is on a two-day official visit to Baku at the invitation of President Aliyev.

At a joint press stakeout following their bilateral meeting, the two leaders told the media of agreeing to introduce flights of Azerbaijan airline between the two capitals, enhance

avenues of cooperation in minister said that the Pakithe areas of energy, investment and education. Prime

Shehbaz, who earlier visited the mausoleum of Azerbaijan first president Haider Aliyev and the martyrs monument, spoke high of the President Ilham Aliyev's leadership to build the city's infrastructure and impressive horticulture.
Citing the "pleasant surprises" of neatness and beauty of Baku, the prime

Emphasising cooperation in energy sector, he said being an energy-deficient country, Pakistan depended minister requested the Azerbaijan president to lend their experts in horticulture and waste manage-

ment to Islamabad. He told the media persons that during the "wonderful" discussion, there was a "total unanimity" of views on various bilateral and multilateral issues as the relationship was built

stani flags all across Baku manifested the love be-

tween the two people. "Though our ties are so strong since ages, these do not reflect its intensity through trade and investment, exchange of visits and other important areas of cooperation," the prime minister remarked.

upon costly imported fu-els spending \$27 billion last year which was becoming unaffordable owing to the challenges of imported in-flation and oil price hike due to the Ukraine crisis.

The prime minister said that his government was committed to replace the costly imported fuels with solar energy to supnumber of military exercises, besides exploring the ity of purpose. The prime port industries, exports, commerce and offices.

Khurram Dastagir says:

No major breakdown

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori visiting coastal area of

### Shazia Marri for int'l collaborations to protect vulnerable segments from climate change impacts

ISLAMABAD (APP): ongoing threat of a cyclone Federal Minister and Chairhitting the country and person, Benazir Income neighboring India. Support Programme (BISP), Shazia Marri Thursday reiterated Pakistan's commitment to address the climate crisis and advocated for international collaboration to protect vulnerable nations from the impacts of climate

She was speaking at the closing session of the "Global Forum on Adaptive Social Protection: Protecting lives and livelihoods in times of crisis" held in

She acknowledged the vulnerability of Pakistan to climate shocks, citing recent

In her talk to the audience, Shazia Marri shed light on the climate vulnerability faced by Pakistan.

The country has experienced devastating floods in the past, including in 2010, 2011, 2022, and most recently this year.

During the recent women directly affected. However, the incum

bent government, through the Benazir Income Sup port Programme, successfully distributed cash assistance to those affected by devastating floods and the the recent floods, she said



KARACHI: Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon holds a press conference outside Sindh Assembly building.

#### Pak and Russia sign MoU on Exchange of statistical data between Customs

(APP): Pakistan and the Russian Federation on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation between Pakistan Customs and Russia's Federal Customs Service on Exchange of Statistical Data on Mutual Trade. Pakistan's Ambassador to Russian Federation Shafqat Ali Khan singed the MoU on behalf of Pakistan Customs while Secretary Commerce Muhammad Saleh Farooqi witnessed the signing ceremony held here on the sidelines of Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum, a press release issued by the Ministry of Commerce said.

Minister of Trade and

SAINT PETERSBURG Investment at Pakistan's Embassy in Moscow. Shaukat Hayat Cheema, was also present on the occasion. In order to implement the memorandum, the two parties will cooperate in the sphere of exchange of information on the methodology used for the maintenance of foreign trade statistics, its significant changes as well as the exchange of statistical data on mutual trade, except the data, not subject to disclosure or constituting a state or commercial secret. The purpose of the exchange of information on the methodology used for the maintenance of foreign trade statistics, as well as the exchange of statistical data defined in the memorandum.

#### **Review and** appeal are two different powers: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Hayat Bandial has remarked there is basic difference between review and appeal.

He further remarked how should the scope of review be increased. The petitioners are of view that the scope of review be increased. But it should not be changed into appeal. The petitioners problem relates to the process of extending the scope. If government has to make review like hearing again then do it. You will have to adopt right legal way in this connection. Review and appeal are two different powers.

#### 97% of vulnerable population shifted to safe places: Khi corps commander

KARCHI (INP): In the wake of the threat of Cyclone Biparjoy hitting Thatta's Keti Bandar and Indian Gujarat's Kutch area this afternoon, the Pakistan Army has released new statistics of the rescue process in the affected areas. According to the new data, 97% of the population has been shifted to safe places. The Karachi corps commander said the Pakistan Army, Rangers, Navy, the NDMA and all civil administrations deserve applause for successfully moving the vulnerable population to safety within the stipulated time.

#### Four TTP terrorists held in joint Rangers-police operation in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): In a joint intelligence-based operation, Pakistan Rangers and Sindh police arrested four members of Hizbul Ahrar, a group of banned outfit Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), from Manghopir in Karachi. The accused identified as Qari Alamgir, Muhammad Zahid alias Qari, Muhammad Kashif alias Kashi and Muhammad Yousafhad been involved in extorting money from people, police said Hand grenades and illegal veapons were also recovered from the possession of the accused, police added.

#### KARACHI: Pakistan Navy rescue team evacuates local populace from Cy clone BIPARJOY affected areas. Cyclone 'Biparjoy' potent threat to the vulnerable

communities: Sherry ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Senator Sherry Rehman on Thursday said the very severe cyclonic storm (VCSC) 'Biparjoy' of category-3 had observed a decline in its intensity but its density prevailed due to emerging weather conditions posing a potent threat to the vulnerable communities.

The federal minister flanked by Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik provided the latest update on the VSCS BIPARJOY to the media

Senator Rehman said the cyclone's direction had changed from Karachi but its associated risks were prevailing in the impacted

'The water level rise, rainfall, and storm alerts had already been issued whereas the four districts that would probably face the impacts are Thatta, Sujawal, Badin, and Keti

"There is a shift in the direction of 'Biparjoy' and landfall will take place at night. However, there are 17 different weather stations monitoring the situation and providing the most updated information," she noted.



SAINT PETERSBURG: A group photograph of Pakistan's Ambassador to the Russian Federation, H.E. Shafqat Ali Khan after signing the MoU between Pakistan Customs and the Federal Customs Service (Russian Federation) on the Exchange of Statistical Data on Mutual Trade while Secretary of Commerce, Muhammad Sualeh Ahmed Faruqui also present on the occasion.

#### Trial of civilians in military courts: Chairman PTI files appeal plea against registrar office objections

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman PTI has filed in Supreme Court (SC) appeal plea against the objections raised by registrar office on the petition filed by him with reference to trial of civilians in military courts and his demand for judicial inquiry into May 9 incidents.

Chairman PTI has taken stance in his appeal plea registrar office raised objection that question of public importance was not highlighted.

#### JI, PPP clash after Wahab wins Karachi mayor election

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan People's Party's (PPP) can-didate Murtaza Wahab appeared victorious in the election for Karachi mayor on Thursday after securing 173 votes and his rival, Jamaate-Islami's Hafiz Naeemur Rehman, got 160 votes as per unofficial results. The voting for Karachi's new mayor started earlier in the day with elected members of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) City Council taking part in the process. In the tight contest, Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) Murtaza Wahab and Jamaat-e-Islami's (JI) Hafiz Naeemur Rehman were facing each other with Salman Abdullah Murad of PPP.

#### reported in prevailing cyclonic situation ergy Khurram Dastagir on Wednesday said that no

major electricity breakdown had been reported due to the cyclonic situation However, the Federal Ministry of Energy was working on the rehabilitation of the electricity system likely to affect in Cyclone

'Biporjoy.

Addressing the press conference in HESCO Headquarters here on Wednesday, the Federal Minister said on the directives of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, He was visiting different areas of the coastal belt to evaluate the cyclonic situation.

poles collapsed in the Jhampir area due to heavy towers also collapsed in the Laadiyon area of district sujawal, however, restoration work had been started to restore the power sup-He said that the Cy-

clonic situation had put adverse impacts on Shipping activities in Port Qasim particularly on the arrival of RLNG which triggered a shortage of gas however under the leadership of Pakistan Muslim League- Nawaz (PML-N) this problem was also resolved by arranging gas supply internally.



Khurram Dastgir Khan addressing to media persons at HESCO office.

#### JI to observe 'black day' as Murtaza Wahab elected Karachi mayor KARACHI (INP): Ameer demanded of the Chief Elec-

ter Pakistan Peoples sue a new schedule.
Party's (PPP) Murtaza "We had the 192 while
Wahab was elected as PPP had 173 voters," he JI's Hafiz Naeem Ur Rehman.

"Black Day will be observed across the country tomorrow against the controversial Karachi Mayoral Election. I appeal to every democrat to participate in tomorrow's gathering," the JI chief said in a tweet. Addressing a press conference outside Arts Council, Jamaat Islami Karachi chief Naeem has letter read.

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Siraj- tion Commissioner to deul-Haq announced to mark clare the mayoral election Friday as "Black Day" af- in Karachi as void and is-

Karachi's mayor, defeating claimed. Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman also announced to approach courts against arachi mayor poll.

In a letter to ECP, the JI leader said: "the Sindh government abducted 29 PTI council members to restrain them from casting

vote in the election.' "The election commission should cancel this 'fraud exercise' and issue a new schedule for polls," JI

## Daily soice of Masse Independent

#### CM's remarkable initiatives indeed

During course of last few days, the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has taken cer-

tain remarkable initiatives to surprise of many.
While on one hand, the Chief Minister issued standing directives to the provincial ministers and administrative secretaries of all the provincial government departments to issue the appointment letters of the posts within a week time whose tests and interviews have been completed till April 2023.

The Chief Minister also issued directives to the provincial ministers and secretaries to strictly monitor the process of recruitments in their respective departments and ministries ensuring all recruitments purely on merit and that in clean and transparent manner so as to give right to the deserving persons.

It is commendable when the Chief Minister warned of stern action against the secretary and member of the selection committee on receiving any information about the sale of jobs in anyway.

Certainly, this directive of the Chief Minister came on the reports that several thousand recruitments are pending for years in different departments including Health, Education, Public Health, Agriculture, Levies. Finance Colleges etc as also mentioned in an official communique shared with the media recently.

In addition to this, the Chief Minister has also directed to expedite the process of recruitments in the

Moreover, in another important move, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has refrained the provincial ministers and government functionaries from making inauguration of public nature and welfare projects in the prov-

In a tweet on his social media account, Twitter on Sunday last, the CM categorically stated that people would make inauguration of the public projects now

The CM maintained that whether it is school or college, hospital or sports ground, health card or Green bus project, all these are public money. He said that we would not waste our resources merely on the inaugural ceremonies for taking or giving credit of these public projects.

As per the reaffirmation of the CM, inauguration of the schools would be got inaugurated by the students studying in these public institutions.

Worthwhile to mention is that the Chief Executive of the province had already imposed ban on use of the bomb and bullet proof vehicles. After that, he didn't use the bomb or bullet proof vehicles of the CM's secretariat. Last but not the least, the CM issued an official memorandum to Chief Secretary for limiting the security arrangements during VVIP movement just because the general public suffer due to the extraordinary security arrangements made for the provincial ministers, members of assembly and other senior government functionaries.

Even he also urged the Governor Balochistan to limit his security protocol during his movement to avoid any inconvenience to the people. Undoubtedly, these initiatives taken by the Chief Minister are remarkable, exemplary, and unprecedented. If implemented with letter and spirit, the CM's initiatives and decisions would set new example in the otherwise most backward province of the country.

## Juggling budgets



Friday June 16, 2023

F.S. Aijazuddin

Mr Ishaq Dar's recent address to the National Assembly on the budget for 2023-24 reminded one of the story of a finance minister who had a nightmare that he was presenting his country's budget, and woke up to find that he

Mr Dar can be forgiven for sleeping with his eyes open during his own speech. He tried hard to disguise his ennui, for he has juggled too many such budgets during his four tenures as finance minister (1998-1999; March 2008-May 2008; 2013-2017; and from September 2022 until now).

If the website of the Ministry of Finance is to be believed, Mr Dar "is known for his expertise in macroeconomic issues. balance of payment crises, energy security, bilateral and multilateral debts, food security, diplomatic crises, parliamentary politics, and international dispute settlements for Pakistan." Heady qualifica-

It does not mention a superior one — his rela- ency too close not to be tionship as an in-law to three-time prime minister ning the government Mian Nawaz Sharif. Nor (Rs714 billion) and pendoes it disclose that between 2000-2002, Dar spent almost two years in custody during which he disgorged ('under duress', he insisted later) information that he had laundered \$14.86 million on behalf of Nawaz Sharif. In June 2013, Mr Dar found himself catapulted again into the finance minister's seat and given less than a fortnight to baste a budget already dressed for the oven by his predecessor. Some

journalists questioned

whether Mr Dar could

minister Nawaz Sharif is said to have retorted: "What else has he been doing for the past five This year's budget for

2023-24 has been gestating for nine months, since September 2022 when the government took over our ailing economy. That should have been long enough for anyone (however uncertain their tenure) to present a budget that revealed some visible effort at planning and economic foresight. Instead, the 2023-24 budget bears out the observation of Walter Wriston (a former CEO of CitiGroup): "Every line in the government's budget

has its own constituency. In Pakistan's budget, the constituencies could not be more clearly demarcated. Creditors form the largest bloc. Next year, Rs7.3 trillion is owed to them for debt servicing and repayment. This monumental burden may be renegotiated, but that would simply be postpon-

ing the inescapable. 'Creditors,' as Benjamin Franklin once observed, 'have better memories than debtors.' The second large constituency (that carries an equally big stick) is Defence Affairs & Services. It extracts Rs1.8tr of flesh from an already emaciated cashless cow.

Those serving the government are a constituappeased. The cost of runsions (Rs761bn) are shown separately in the budget whereas in fact they belong together. The first is the sum of obligations to current employees, while pensions which include those for retired defence personnel (Rs563bn) are the recurring reward for past service.

The increase therefore of 35 per cent in salaries of government servants of grades 1-16 and 30pc for grades 17-22 are more than open-handed largesse by a nervous tesy Dawn

buy their help in the next elections. This additional cost will add to the load of future pensions, to be borne by us, the next and subsequent generations of Pakistanis. Pakistan Railways, once the iron horse of our transportation system, will receive a paltry Rs33bn, while the National Highway Authority (a haven for khaki and civil retirees) can expect almost five times as much – Rs157bn.

The allocations for social sectors like population control and management, health (Rs24bn) and education (Rs97bn) receive grudging inclusion in the government's budget. Regard-less of whether these are the responsibility of the federal or the provincial governments, they are the real needs of all Pakistanis, regardless of domicile and age (23m of whom are out-of-school children.) To the government, they clearly do not matter because the future is not a constituency.

The government will argue that with this budget, it has tried to fill a halfempty glass. Sceptics see only a glass whose half contents are draining dry. We are a nation that has enough foreign exchange to cover only one month of imports, yet we posture like Dickens's perpetually insolvent Mr Micawber, confident that 'something will turn up' to thwart the spectre of default. In the 1970s, Mr

Ahmed Dawood (then one of Pakistan's richest industrialists) could be seen shopping with a cloth bag in Karachi's Empress Market. That was his way of keeping his finger on prices and the pulse of the economy. Perhaps, ministers should learn from his example. They should do their own household shopping and let their minimumwage menials run the country instead. The latter are more adept at balancing budgets than any government functionary. -- Cour-

## Fisherfolk misery



Rida Tahir

Sailing the seas in fragile boats to earn a day's living is no easy task. A fishworker, whether in Pakistan or across the border, is exposed to great vulnerability

marginalisation. Fishworkers' communities live in coastal areas where they are affected by the degradation of the ecosystem. Their situation becomes worse when they find themselves arrested and are incarcerated in prisons across the border for years on end. One storm over invisible maritime borders is all it takes for a person to be captured and thrown into prison in an alien country.

It was estimated that 654 Indian fishworkers were incarcerated in Karachi's Malir Jail; 631 arrested fishworkers had already completed their sentences and their nationality had been verified. Meanwhile, 83 Pakistani fishworkers are detained across the border in Indian jails; many of them have completed their sentences, and their nationality, too, has been verified. This information is contained in a joint letter released by the National Fishworkers Forum and the Pakistan-India Peoples' Forum for Peace

& Democracy. It is often said that hope dies last; one cannot lose hope, for if you lose hope, you lose everything. But Pakistani fishworkers languishing in jails across the border for a number of years, had lost all hope. However, with Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari's recent visit to Goa for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting, this

a gesture of goodwill.

fishworkers mentioned, ment of Foreign Prison-Pakistan released the first ers provide important batch of 198 fishworkers on May 11, 2023. The second batch of 200 fishworkers was released on June 2, 2023. A third batch will be released next month

Consular Access came into force on May 21, 2008, with the objective of ensuring humane treatment for the nationals of both India and Pakistan who had been arrested, detained, or imprisoned in 1966. Across these laws the other country and for and rules, a foreigner is them to have reciprocal consular facilities. Section 5 of the agreement reads: "Both governments agree to release and repatriate tional status and completion of sentences.

Moreover, Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (ratified by Pakistan in 1969 and India in 1977) mandates via Article 36 that the country's consular post must be informed if one of its citizens is detained, in custody, or arrested, "without delay", and that the prisoner be informed of his/her legal

Further, the UN Convention against Torture community in both coun-(which India has not rati- tries. India must reciprofied but Pakistan did in cate by releasing Paki-2010) mandates that under Article 6 "any person in guishing in Indian priscustody ... shall be assisted in communicating important to highlight that immediately with the nearest appropriate representative of the state of which he is a national" and that when a state "has taken a person into custody, it shall immediately notify the states ... of the fact that such person is in custody and of the circumstances which warrant his detention".

Moreover, the Body of Principles for the Pro-

lost hope might be reig- tection of All Persons unnited. For the visit der Any Form of Detenprompted the release of tion or Imprisonment and several Indian fishworkers the Model Agreement on from Pakistan's prisons as the Transfer of Foreign Prisoners and Recom-Of the 654 Indian mendations for the Treatprinciples and guidelines for the protection of persons under detention or imprisoned in a foreign country.

The national framework regarding the regu-The Agreement on lation of the entry, movement and removal of foreigners in Pakistan is governed by the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, the Foreigners Act, 1946, and the Registration of Foreigners Rules, defined as "a person who is not a citizen of Paki-

We await a world where humanity, kindpersons within one month of confirmation of their namarginalised communities continue to suffer when their anguish can end with the simple decision of releasing them from captivity? Why hold someone a prisoner, only because they sailed across the seas to earn their livelihood one tragic day?

Pakistan's gesture of goodwill of releasing the fishworkers is a step in the right direction. A shimmering light has been lit for the fisherfolk stani fishworkers lanons. At the same time, it is it is not enough to have one-off occasions where fishworkers are released and sent home. Rather, the national and international legal framework must work in a systematic and coordinated manner to ensure that nobody languishes in jails across the borders because they had inadvertently found themselves in the other's territory. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

## Pakistan, Azerbaijan sign document to boost trade cooperation

(APP): Pakistan and Azerbaijan on Thursday signed a Statement of Understanding to enhance between the two countries. bilateral cooperation, particularly to boost the volume of energy trade.

The document was signed by Minister for ministers expressed their to realize the shared goals Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar and Azerbaijan's trade and enhancing of Understanding. The Minister of Economy Mikayil Jabbarov at a ceremony witnessed by Prime Minister Shehbaz both countries will Sharif, along with his cabinet members.

Statement Pakistan's Ministry of organizing events, Commerce and the conducting studies to Ministry of Economy of identify Azerbaijan is aimed at products, and promoting bilateral investment, and promoting bilateral trade.

document establishes a framework

and promoting trade early August of 2023.

Recognizing the importance of expanding through this agreement.

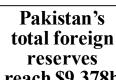
collaborate to create favourable conditions for The signing of the bilateral trade by sharing foundation for increased tement between trade information, trade and economic economic cooperation.

For this purpose, both countries agreed to

(Azerbaijan) for fostering closer mobilize their efforts to Pakistan and collaboration between finalize a Preferential Azerbaijan and Pakistan Trade Agreement (PTA) by

> They emphasized the potential benefits that the PTA would bring and their friendship and affirmed their commitment economic partnership, the to working collaboratively dedication to diversifying outlined in the Statement economic development signing of this agreement marks a significant Under the agreement, milestone in the economic partnership between Azerbaijan and Pakistan, strengthening

events, cooperation. It is expected to create new opportunities exportable for businesses, enhance contribute to the overall growth and prosperity of both nations.



total liquid foreign réserves of Pakistan stood at US\$ 9,378.2 million while reserves held by the central bank reached US\$ 4,018.7 million.

The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that foreign reserves of the central bank increased by US\$ 107 million to US\$ 4,018.7 million in the week ended

commercial banks stood at US\$ 5,359.5 million, it added

In the previous week ending on June 02, 2023,

Among them, foreign reserves held by the central bank were US\$ 3,912.2 million while net foreign reserves held commercial banks were US\$ 5,422.6 million.



Minister for Productions and Industries Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi said on Thursday the incumbent government was striving hard to uplift the national economy which had been ruined due to wrong policies of the past government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. Talking to APP, he said that political stability was highly important to strengthen national economy, attract investment, and ensure development and prosperity in the country. "Until there is no political stability, there stability as both are inter- resume its agreement.

In a situation where there was political instability in the country, the political opponents hatching conspiracies everywhere and misleading the nation; nobody would be ready to invest in the country, he observed. Putting responsibility of current economic crisis on the past regime, the state minister said it breached its own agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) due to which would not be any economic it was now he sitant to

### Pakistan E-commerce entrepreneurs stand out in UK market

Pakistani freelancers and entrepreneurs are expanding abroad by establishing a company in the US and UK markets, as data shared by UK government on foreign-

company establishment shows that Pakistan ranks first, especially in E-Commerce industry. Workhy, which provides endto-end solutions that facilitate company establishment abroad has started to provide services in Urdu to facilitate opening of Pakistani entrepreneurs, especially commerce industry and providing freelance services,

Pakist

entrepreneurs freelancers export knowcompany first in the e-commerce

## Ayaz Sadiq vows to tackle smuggling, tax evasion for economic growth

Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Thursday reiterated his firm resolve of the government to take all appropriate measures to end menace of smuggling and tax evasion for enhancing revenue collection to attain sustainable economic manufacturing sector to stressed the need to bring growth in the country.

Addressing the ceremony of study conducted by Ipsos on "Unveiling tax evasion: a close look at five sector in Pakistan", the minister stressed the need of complete harmonization among the federal and but it also suffered the losses of Rs 500 billion.

ISLAMABAD (APP): provincial tax collecting domestic industry. authorities to plug the tax

> take all the stakeholders on board for making viable tax policies to stop tax evasion and enhance local revenue collection, incentivizing discourage the imports.

> billion, which not only put

history of Pakistan, the The minister said that transfer and postings were government was striving to put on sale during last four years, he said adding that as a result all those who purchased these posts work for their vested besides interests rather than serving the country.He all the industry under track He said the unrealistic and trace system to stop polices of last government tax evasion, besides of Pakistan Tehreek-e- removing tax anomalies at Insaf have sparked the federal and provincial level

imports as it jumped to \$85 as well as simplification of tax return by the Federal huge pressure on local Board of Revenue to foreign exchange reserves overcome accumulated

#### **Record cotton** cultivation in Rajanpur this year: Minister LAHORE (APP): Caretaker

Punjab Minister for Industries SM Tanveer has said record cultivation of cotton has been carried out in district Rajanpur with the support of the district administration. According to official sources here on Thursday, the minister said this during his visit to Rajanpur, along with Caretaker Provincial Minister Bilal Afzal. Both ministers presided over a meeting of the district officers.

#### **Budget estimates of PC** for FY 2023-24 approved

ISLAMABAD (APP): The fiscal year 2013-2014. The Privatisation Commission Board 2023-24, amounting to Committee and PC Rs1248.8 million. The Board management in finalizing the met here under the audited accounts. The Board attention, said a press release.

The meeting discussed agenda item entailed the presentation and subsequent approval of the Audited Accounts for the

(PC) Board on Thursday appreciation for the approved budget estimates extensive deliberations of the PC for the fiscal year carried out by the Audit Chairmanship of Abid emphasized the importance Hussain Bhayo, which discussed several topics audited reports for the requiring the PC Board's remaining years on priority. These estimates, categorized under various heads of expenditure, will undergo further approval by the federal government as required by PC Ordinance, 2002.

## Unveiling Tax Evasion A Closer Look at Five

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Qamar Zaman Kaira addressing a briefing session regarding tax evasion held in Islamabad.

#### Lawmakers advocate for enhanced incentives, development in Agri sector

ISLAMABAD (INP): the need for robust Assembly have called on the increased incentives in the in agrarian products. Participating in general discussions on the federal

Lawmakers in the National incentives comprehensive government to introduce development strategies in the agriculture sector in the budget for 2023-24 to budget.Khurshid Ahmed bolster the agriculture sector Junejo of the PPP and achieve self-sufficiency highlighted the urgency of safeguarding agriculture from the adverse effects of climate change and underscored the budget lawmakers in the importance of constructing National Assembly have dams for water reservoir joined forces to emphasize capacity.

## reach \$9.378b

KARACHI (APP): The

on June 09, 2023. Meanwhile.

foreign reserves held by

total liquid foreign reserves held by the country was US\$ 9,334.8 million.

ISLAMABAD (Online): those operating in the eto global markets.

> how and services to all over the world by using the possibilities digitalization. The data by the United Kingdom (UK) government on foreignowned establishment shows that Pakistani nationality ranks

## No leniency should be shown to any culprit involved in events of May 9: CM Naqvi

**Independent Report** LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi chaired a meeting at his office on Thursday to review progress made so far on the legal proceedings against the culprits involved in the May 9

The meeting decided that trial of the May-9 accused would take place in jail. Daily hearing of cases registered under the Anti-Terrorism Act would take place, and the relevant departments would be duly informed about the trial proceedings in jail. Consensus was reached in the meeting to expedite testimonies were being minister emphasised the

Institute of Cardiology.

details of cases registered

against her.Justice Amjid

Rafiq took up Aleema Khan

petition for hearing Thursday whereby the

petitioner had requested for

providing to her details of

all cases against her.

The CM instructed Lahore, the police and prosecution department to present strong evidence against the attended the meeting. accused and emphasised that no leniency should be shown to any culprit involved in the events of May 9, while innocent individuals should not be subjected to punishment. intensify efforts to cultural landmarks of the apprehend the absconding culprits.

The participants (WCLA). were briefed that during Reco investigation, individuals were acquitted

PESHAWAR: Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan,

Dr. Mehmet Pachaji and other visit Peds

Cardiology Ward Up gradation in Peshawar

LHC disposes of Aleema

petition seeking details of

cases registered against her

LAHORE (Online): In the police. It was told in the

light of IG Punjab report, Lahore High Court (LHC) registered by Punjab police

has wrapped up Aleema against Aleema Khan. One Khan petition seeking case is registered against

During the hearing of of the petition in the

the case police authorities light of report presented

presented report in the by police on behalf of court on behalf of IG IG Punjab.

prosecution, commissioner Lahore, and others

Meanwhile, meeting held under the chairmanship of caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi at his office decided in principle on Thursday to hand over the The CM also ordered to management of historic and province to the Walled City of Lahore Authority

Recognising the mesmerizing allure and profound historical profound after being proven significance of Punjab's innocent, and strong cultural heritage, the chief legal actions against the culprits involved in the events of May 9.

presented against the culprits. The chief these architectural gems to secretary, IG police, CCPO their original magnificence.



PESHAWAR (APP): The Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan, Dr. Mehmet Pacaci on Thursday inaugurated Cardiology Ward at the Peshawar Institute of Cardiology here.

Speaking on the occasion he said that modern machinery has been provided to the hospital and hoped that the patients suffering from heart disease would now be able to get better health facilities.

#### Man killed over resistance in dacoity bid

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Unidentified armed outlaws looted cattle and killed a man for putting resistance at Mouza Pakka Naich in the jurisdiction of Saddar Alipur police station on Wednesday night. According to a police spokesman, unidentified armed robbers entered the farmhouse of Sharafat, a



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Nagyi presides over the meeting to review progress of taking action against the elements involved

## Gives Rs 4m cheque to HCBA Kundi demands cancellation of recent population census

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday demanded cancellation of recent population census conducted in Dera Ismail Khan Division.

According to a press release issued here, the minister wrote two letters to the Prime Minister and the Federal Minister for Planning and Development in support of the demand made by the political parties, social organizations and All Parties Conference (APC) held on June 7, against the

results of the census in the

Anti-Narcotics Force

(ANF) in their ongoing operations against drug

country and managed to

recover over 184 kg of

spokesman here on

an operation, 22.8 kg

hashish was recovered

He informed that in

Thursday.

results of the census should be canceled immediately and action should be taken against the responsible persons involved, adding, the public complaints must be addressed.

Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi here on Thursday gave a cheque worth Rs 4 million to the leaders of High Court Bar Association (HCBA).

According to a press release issued here, the minister, on behalf of the federal government, handed over the cheque to the recently elected

hashish was concealed in

resident of Peshawar was

arrested. In another

The vehicle was

intercepted near Sangjani

Toll Plaza on G.T Road.

Two Afghan nationals

recovered

He demanded that the HCBA President Malik Hidayt Ullah Malana and General Secretary Waqar Alam in an event organized by the People's Lawyers Forum here at the High Court Bar.

The minister said the Meanwhile, Minister supremacy of law and State for Poverty impartial delivery of justice played a basic role in the development of nations. He said that an independent justice system was necessary for a developed, prosperous and stable Pakistan.

> The cooperation of the bar and bench indispensable for the improving the justice system, he added.

#### 11 dead, 1,229 injured in Punjab road accidents LAHORE (APP): At least

11 persons were killed and 1,229 others injured in 1,186 road traffic crashes in Punjab during the last 24 As many as 690

seriously injured people were shifted to different hospitals, while 539 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams. The analysis showed

that 597 drivers, 49 underage drivers, 164 pedestrians and 479 passengers were among the from a vehicle intercepted were also arrested on the victims of road traffic

### Jirga meeting of merged areas elders held in Governor House

PESHAWAR (APP): A 60- districts," Haji Ghulam Ali member Jirga meeting Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Haji Ghulam Ali at the of the province, problems Governor's House, and difficulties will be consisting of tribal chiefs, solved according to the owners, and elders of the merged district of Bajaur here on Thursday.

The Tribal Jirga apprised Governor Haji Ghulam Ali about the problems and difficulties faced by the business community and the people of the area related to electricity load shedding, educational institutions, hospitals, irrigation, and in frastructure. "Despite

economic crisis, the federal government has allocated 57 billion rupees for the merged districts in the budget," Haji Ghulam Ali informed the Jirga elders.

"The federal and provincial governments are taking serious steps to development of the merged their solutions.'

told the Jirga members.

He said," Tribal districts have become part House, and difficulties will be constitution and law.

"The tribal people have always supported the country's integrity and unity, national institutions, and defense institutions including the Pakistan Army, which is a matter of pride," Haji Ghulam Ali said. Bajaur is a peaceful area and the land here is also fertile," he said.

He said, "An efficient irrigation system can be implemented with the installation of solar tube wells for the development of the agricultural sector in Bajaur. For the first time, the elders are making the Governor's House like their home and they thanked the Governor for listening to their problems ensure the socio-economic and giving assurance for

#### **KP Minister, CEO EZDMC** visit Jalozai EZ, inaugurate **Aqua Pura Smart Industry** Independent Report

PESHAWAR: KP Minister for Industries, Commerce & Technical Education (IC&TE), Adnan Jalil, along with Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC), Javed Iqbal Khattak, visited the Jalozai Economic Zone on Thursday. The visit was

aimed at exploring the prosperity. thriving industrial landscape within the zone and showcasing the remarkable achievements of the company for the promotion of industrial growth in the province.

During their visit, they inaugurated Aqua Pura Smart Industry, a state-ofthe-art facility specializing in advanced drinking water treatment technologies. This cutting-edge enterprise will only contribute to the landscape.

Adnan Jalil and CEO Javed Khattak have had the opportunity to witness the development of Khalid Zubair Chemical Industry that is under construction. This upcoming venture holds great promise for the industrial sector and will play a pivotal role in fostering innovation, job creation, and economic

Emphasizing the importance en viron mental sustainability, the provincial minister Adnan Jalil and CEO Javed Khattak also planted a tree under the 'green plantation drive' campaign. This symbolic gesture underscores the commitment of KP-EZDMC towards creating a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable

## near Motorway Toll Plaza spot. International News

ANF seizes 184 kg drugs

in seven operations

operations against drug the CNG cylinder of a traffickers conducted vehicle. During the seven raids across the operation, an accused

drugs besides netting five operation, two kg heroin

accused including two and two kg Ice drug

Afghan nations, said an concealed in secret ANF Headquarters cavities of a vehicle were

recovered.

The

RAWALPINDI (INP): Islamabad.

## NATO sees no change in Russia's nuclear posture despite Belarus leader's claims

case is registered against Aleema Khan in Multan

with reference to property.

The court was informed through the

report Aleema Khan arrest

is not wanted by Punjab

The court disposed

Police at present.

BRUSSELS: NATO sees no sign that Russia has changed its nuclear posture. the head of the military alliance said Thursday, after President Alexander Lukashenko claimed that Belarus has already received some tactical nuclear weapons from Moscow.

In an interview on state television on Tuesday, Lukashenko brashly warned that he wouldn't hesitate to order their use if Belarus faced an act of aggression. Russian President Vladimir Putin has said the weapons

**Monitoring Desk** 

JERUSALEM: Israeli de-

fence exports hit an all-time

high of \$12.5 billion last

year, with Arab countries

that recently established

ties accounting for nearly a

quarter of purchase con-

tracts, officials said on

Wednesday.
The defence ministry,

which oversees and ap-

proves the exports of

Israel's defence industries,

said one quarter of deals

were for drone systems,

with "missiles, rockets and

next month and will remain under Moscow's exclusive

closely monitoring what Russia is doing. So far, we haven't seen any changes in the nuclear posture that requires any changes in our posture," Stoltenberg told reporters before chairing a meeting of NATO defense ministers at the alliance's headquarters in Brussels.

NATO's secretive nuclear defense planning group is set to meet on Friday. The meeting has long

air defence systems" mak-

ing up another 19 per cent.

show total exports have

doubled over the past nine

gions to which the goods are

exported showed a leap

(nine per cent) in 2021 to \$2.96 billion (24pc) in 2022.

The US-brokered Abraham

Accords from 2020 saw Is-

rael normalise ties with the

United Arab Emirates

A breakdown of the re-

figures

Ministry

**Arab countries account** 

for quarter of Israeli

arms exports

reaction to recent developments but the alliance is concerned about Putin's threats and his decisions to pull Russia out of important arms limitation treaties.

"Russia's nuclear rhetoric and messaging is reckless and dangerous, Stoltenberg said. "Russia must know that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought." He noted that "Russia has invested heavily in new modern nuclear capabilities and also deployed more nuclear capabilities.

#### Iran tested suicide drone in Gulf, U.S. official savs **Monitoring Desk**

DUBAI: Iran tested a suicide drone against a practice vessel in the Gulf and fired one other missile or drone without warning ships in the area, a U.S. official in the region said.

The one-way drone was launched on Wednesamong Abraham Accords countries from \$853 million day from the Jask area of Iran 8-9 miles out to sea within Iran's territorial waters - against a practice barge, the official said, citing U.S. intelligence data. Essentially practicing hitting merchant vessels



of Azerbaijan inspecting guard of honor at Zugulba Palace.

## Greece hunts for survivors of migrant shipwreck, at least 78 dead

**Monitoring Desk** KALAMATA: Rescuers scoured seas off Greece on Thursday in a massive search operation, as hopes dwindled of finding survivors of a shipwreck that

killed at least 78 migrants in one of Europe's deadliest such disasters in recent years. Reports suggested hundreds of people had packed the fishing boat that capsized and sank early on Wednesday in deep waters about 50 miles (80 km) from the southern coastal town of Pylos, while being shadowed by the Greek coast guard.

As dawn broke on Thursday, a coast guard vessel sailed into the nearby port city of Kalamata, transferring victims. After an official count, authorities

revised the death toll to 78 from 79. They said 104 people were rescued.

They said it was unclear how many had been aboard, but were investigating one account from a European rescue-support charity that there could have been 750 people on the 20- to 30 metre-long (65- to 100-foot) boat. The UN's Interna-

tional Organization for Migration said initial reports suggested up to 400 people were aboard. News portals Proto

Thema and Skai TV reported that, according to witnesses, mainly women and children were in the vessel's hold.

Government officials said migrants on the boat, which had set off from the Libyan port of Tobruk, had repeatedly refused offers of help from Greek authori-

"It was a fishing boat packed with people who refused our assistance because they wanted to go to Italy," coast guard spokesperson Nikos Alexiou told broadcaster Skai TV.

"We stayed beside it in case it needed our assistance which they had refused.

The search operation was due to continue until at least Friday morning, according to government sources. Chances of retrieving the sunken vessel were remote, they said, because the area of international waters where the incident occurred is one of the deepest in the Mediterranean.

#### Two killed in shooting at Japan army base

Monitoring Desk

TOKYO: A new military recruit shot and killed two fellow soldiers and wounded a third at a training range in central Japan on Wednesday, the military said, with the 18-year-old suspect detained at the

"During a live-bullet exercise as part of new personnel training, one Self-Defence Forces candidate fired at three personnel," the Ground Self-Defence Force (GSDF) said in a statement, confirming two

#### North Korea fires two missiles off east coast exercises.

**Monitoring Desk** SEOUL: North Korea fired

its first missile after two months off its east coast just less than an hour, AFP reported on Thursday citing the South Korean mili-

The launching of two short-range ballistic missiles came after Pyongyang had warned of an "inevitable" response to military drills jointly staged by South Korea and the United

The two nations, in their response to the increasing threats from the nuclear-armed North, are jointly carrying out largescale live-fire "annihilation"

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it de-

tected the "two short-range ballistic missiles from the Sunan area into the East Sea between 19:25 and 19:37 (1025 to 1037 GMT)." 'We have stepped up monitoring in case of fur-

ther provocations and are maintaining readiness in close coordination with the United States," it said, terming the launches as a "grave provocation" violating UN sanctions. The missile launches were also confirmed by Tokyo, saying that they had landed in waters within Japan's exclusive economic zone.



United States Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, right, greets NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg during a meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

#### US fighter jets deployed in Middle East to counter Russian aggression

WASHINGTON: United States Central Command (CENTCOM) has announced the deployment of F-22 Raptors to the Middle East due to a rise in unsafe and unprofessional behaviour by Russian aircraft in the region. The decision aims to demonstrate the US military's ability to swiftly reposition forces

**Monitoring Desk** 

power when necessary. "Russian Forces" unsafe and unprofessional behaviour is not what we expect from a professional air force. Their regular violation of agreed upon airspace deconfliction measures increases the risk of

and deliver overwhelming

escalation or miscalculation," CENTCOM commander Gen. Michael "Erik" Kurilla said in a news release. "Alongside our partners and allies we are committed to improving the security and stability in the region." The F-22 Raptors, hailing from Langley Air Force Base's 94th Fighter Squadron in Virginia, have been integrated with other Coalition forces on the ground and in the air. The move comes in response to Russia's repeated violations of agreed-upon airspace deconfliction measures which pose an increased risk of escalation or miscalculation. according to CENTCOM Commander Gen, Erik Kurilla In recent weeks

Members of the Japanese Self-Defence Force (SDF) are seen around the shooting range where a teenage member of the SDF was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after a shooting incident, in Gifu, Japan.

## **US pushing India to** seal drone deal

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Ahead of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Washington, the Biden administration is pushing New Delhi to cut through its own red tape and advance a deal for dozens of

US-made armed drones,

two people familiar with the matter said. India has long expressed interest in buying large armed drones from the United States. But bureaucratic stumbling blocks have hampered a hoped-for deal for SeaGuardian drones that could be worth \$2 bil-

lion to \$3bn for years. US negotiators are counting on Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's White House visit on June 22 to break the log jam. Since the date for Modi's visit was fixed, the US State Department, Pentagon and White House have asked India to be able to "show" progress on the deal for as many as 30 armable MQ-9B

SeaGuardian drones made by General Atomics, two sources said. Modi and Biden are also expected to discuss co-production of munitions and ground

#### **Only solution is** agriculture: Khurshid

ISLAMABAD (Online): During debate on budget of fiscal year 2023-24, member national assembly demanded special allocation to deal with climate change as Pakistan number third most vulnerable country to climate disasters. Federal minister for water resources Khurshid Shah said that only solution to our problems is agriculture. He said what happened on May 09, has never happened in the history, enemy has not made such damage.

Federal minister of water resources Khurshid Shah said required fund be provided to K-4 project so the project can be completed as soon as possible.

Federal minister for professional education Rana Tanvir Hussain said when we took over the government, economy was so worse that send a hair shuddered us. He said there is no example in the world like declaring Nawaz Shareef disqualified.

The 2 number admi (Fraudulent) like Shehzad Akbar took 'volume ten',

Rana Tanvir said we have worked for development and prosperity of Pakistan but the man was brought to power was Jewish agent. Dr Asrar said this that time when PTV was attacked, parliament gate was broken. Dresses were hanged on Parliament walls. Electricity bills were tar-

nished and said it civil disobedience and result of all that we beard

He said 2018 election were rigged for the person has distorted country's situation. PTI made contempt of parliament. First they resigned then they all including PTI chairman took salaries.

Minister said we

took over economy and made pure fight (Jehad) and people said we took government. Have we taken government first time? Our ministers made six, six turns. Imran Khan overthrew two governments and he gives credit of everything to his wife Bushra Bibi, he maintained. Further the minister said Imran Khan has killed so many people of TLP (Tehrik Labaik Pakistan). What the situation of Pakistan is today is be-

cause of Imran Khan. He added that Nawaz Shareef made Pakistan an atomic state despite Bill Clinton.

government Our started work from where they left. We should pay taxes for the betterment of country. If we have opportunity again we will improve Pakistan's revenue.

ISLAMABAD: Chairman NDMA Lt. General Inam Haider Malik presiding meeting with US ARCENTLTG Frank.

Sujawal, Chuhar Jamali and

Jati City. Additionally, 46

fishing boats of local popu-

lace of Ormara city have

been provided shelter at

Ormara Naval Harbour. PN

Ships and Emergency Re-

sponse teams are continu-

ing patrolling at sea and in

affected areas to efficiently

respond to distress calls of

seafarers. Pakistan Navy's

ongoing Relief Operation in

catastrophe-hit areas of

Sindh and Balochistan is a

practical manifestation of

PN's resolve to provide

every possible assistance to

fellow countrymen in the

of Students Welfare Organi-

zation located in Khaliqdina

Hall and gave instructions to

no attempt has been made to

secure the heritage, but now

is the time to highlight the

importance of these things

and to move forward with re-

newed courage and courage

towards improvement. He

said that Khaliqdina Hall Li-

brary was patronized by

prominent personalities in

the past like Begum Rana

Liaquat Ali Khan, Hakeem

Muhammad Saeed and Hajra

Masroor were its presidents.

Students and common citi-

zens used to come to study

and this library was a source

of quenching their thirst.

He said unfortunately

the relevant officers.

hour of need

KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief,

Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman along with others ad-

dresses to media persons during press conference

regarding alleged rigging the mayoral election polls, held at Arts Council building in Karachi.

**Administrator Karachi** 

for securing historical assets

Pakistan Navy continues

rescue, relief operation at

cyclone affected areas of

Sindh, Balochistan

KARACHI (APP): Paki- areas of Keti Bandar, Kharo

scale Humanitarian Assis-

tance and Disaster Relief

(HADR) Operations in far-

flung coastal areas of Sindh

ments, Pakistan Navy

Emergency Response

Teams in coordination with

local administration carried

out the evacuation of per-

sonnel and provided edibles

to the aggrieved populace,

a Pakistan Navy news re-

Emergency Response

Teams have so far evacu-

ated over 17,000 inhabit-

ants from various coastal

iting the office of Khaliqdina

Hall Library and the office

of the Students Welfare Or-

ganization on MA Jinnah

that remember their history

are on the path of develop-

ment and prosperity, all places

and buildings of historical im-

portance in Karachi will be

improved with the coopera-

tion of relevant institutions.

President of Khaliqdina Hall

Library Association Ali

Hasan Sajid, President of Stu-

dents Welfare Organization

Bashir Sadozai, Secretary

Tariq Rahmani, Syeda Naqvi,

Hassan Asmi Rizvi, Ishrat

Jahan, Anjum Mehmood,

Shehla Moeed, Farah

Tabasum, Afroz Khan and

He said that the nations

Road on Thursday

The Pakistan Navy

In the recent develop-

and Balochistan.

lease said

Pakistan Peoples Party member assembly Khurshid Junejo said cyclone is to landfall in Karachi pray for Karachi to not may any human loss



## Asset rich Pakistan can survive without IMF support: Ishaq Dar

Minister for Finance and Senator Mohammad Ishaq dar on Thursday reiterated that Pakistan was an asset rich country and it could survive without any support from

the International Monetary

Fund (IMF). Briefing the Senate's Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue, the minister stated that the annual budget had been prepared without the Fund's consultation, whose reservations could be addressed, according to a press release.

He told the committee, which met with Senator Saleem Mandviwala in the chair, that the information technology (IT), agriculture and SME sectors were drivers of growth' and ex-

Sardar Shah

congratulates

Murtaza Wahab

for being elected

as Karachi Mayor

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Education Minister Sayed Sardar Ali Shah on Thurs-

dav felicitated Barristei

Murtaza Wahab on his elec-

Sved Sardar Shah termed

the election of Murtaza

Wahab as mayor as the suc-

cess of party chairman

that for the first time in the

90-year history of mayor-

ship in Karachi under the leadership of Bilawal Bhutto, PPP candidate be-

came the Mayor of Karachi

that like Jamshed Mehta,

the first mayor of the city

in 1933. Murtaza Wahab

He expressed hope

Sardar Shah stated.

It is a matter of pride

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

In a Twitter message

tion as Mayor Karachi.

sectors were inevitable for of the country had inthe economic growth of the country, which currently stood at 0.29 percent.

He said the annual budget allowed freelancers to retain 35 percent of their revenue. Besides, freelancers earning \$ 2,000 were exempted from sales tax and they could also procure duty free hardware.

He maintained that in the current fiscal year, a return of \$ 2.5 billion was expected from the IT induswhich would reach \$4.5 billion by next year. The exemptions were given to the industry keeping in view its potential growth,

port restrictions were imposed to curb the massive

creased from \$70 billion to \$100 billion in the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf regime, which was clearly an outcome of its financial indiscipline, he added.

He said expenditure bill should be made by keeping in view the external debt and import restrictions would be uplifted by June 30. Ishaq Dar said as far as prevention of illegal border trade was concerned, coordination among intelligence agencies and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) was of vital importance and deliberations with authorities concerned ment should be exempted. Ishaq dar said fixation of tariff was a prerogative of the Commerce Ministry and their recommendation

would be forwarded to it.

Senator Zeeshan Khanzada highlighted the issues confronted by the industry in opening of letters of credit (LC's) opening and inquired as to what steps had been taken by the Finance Ministry for the repression of illegal border

Senator Irfan Siddiqui said the employees of Radio Pakistan had not been paid from the past three

#### Hina Khar meets EU's high representative/ **President**

ISLAMABAD (APP): cording to a statement re-Minister of State for the Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar met the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission (HR/VP) Josep Borrell in

Strasbourg.
Recalling her meeting with the High Representative on the sidelines of the second EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum in Stockholm on May 13, the minister expressed satisfaction on the ongoing cooperation between Pakistan and the EU based on the Strategic Engagement Plan.

The minister highlighted, "Pakistan is engaging with the European institutions for building partnerships under various initiatives of the EU including the Global Gateway Strategy with a focus on green energy, and blue economies," ac-

ceived here on Thursday. She also expressed the desire to further enhance EU-Pakistan mutual engagement, especially legal pathways to migration while addressing EU's concerns on readmission.

Underscoring the importance of trade and economic cooperation, Minister of State emphasized that the EU's GSP Plus framework had been mutually beneficial and instrumental in growth of trade between the two sides.

She highlighted the importance of decisive global action on climate adaptation and building climate resilience, and the importance of developed countries taking the lead in mobilizing climate finance, noting the significant role of public and private funds, and technology to facilitate



biometric verification for driving license at Islamabad Traffic Police F-8 Office.

### **Govt working on 5-Es** to boost exports, energy, job sectors: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal Thursday said that government was working on 5-Es to boost exports, energy, infrastructure, and job sectors besides taking steps for tackling environmental changes

The young boys and girls would be provided opportunities for technical skills so that every institution could show progress in a befitting manner, he said while talking to PTV.

in Pakistan.

"We want to achieve fast growth to make Pakistan a prosperous state," he projects, adding foreign insaid. All available resources would be utilized for benefiting people of all prov- of PML-N's government

inces, he added. Commenting on trans-

parency in the development budget, he said a portal had been developed to ensure transparency in the utilization of funds. He said that general

public could click on portal to check transparency in the development projects. The minister said that

Imran's party could not pay attention to many sectors during the period of four years.

He said the Pakistan Muslim League-N, had worked on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) vestment was coming to Pakistan during the period

## KATI felicitates newly elected Mayor, Deputy Mayor Karachi

(KATI), on Thursday, felicitated Barrister Murtaza Wahab and Salman Murad on their election as Mayor and Deputy Mayor of

Karachi. President Faraz-ur-Rehman, Deputy Patron-in-Chief Zubair Chayya, Senior Vice President Nighat Awan, Vice President Muslim Mohemadi and other members, in a statement issued here, expressed their support to the newly elected

Mayor and expressed con-

fidence that "Wahab, being

Korangi Association of would actively contribute and Industry to the development and resolution of long-standing

issues of the metropolis. Faraz ur Rehman also extended gratitude to the leadership of the Pakistan People's Party for nominating Murtaza Wahab for the position.

He urged Wahab to prioritise the improvement of Karachi's infrastructure upon taking office and ensure fair allocation of funds to all LG bodies without discrimination so that city could be better served and its problems addressed



Hassan Zardari along with others inspecting the relief operation due to tropical extremely severe cyclone storm named Biparjoy, in Keti Bandar.

#### **KMC** employees asked to play role in improving performance

KARACHI (APP): Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rehman has said that the employees who are appointed and promoted in KMC should play a role in improving the performance of the institution. He said this while speaking at the func-tion held at KMC Sports Complex to give appointment letters under diseased quota and promotion letters to employees of Grade 1 to 10. Municipal Commissioner KMC Syed Shujaat Hussain, Senior Director HRM Jameel Farooqui, Senior Director Culture and Sports Saif Abbas, Senior Director Information, Print-

officers were also present on this occasion. Administrator Karachi

Ali Hassan Sajid and other

Dr. Syed Saifur Rahman said that the family members of the employees who served in KMC for a long time and died during service had the right to be employed in KMC. In this regard, keeping in view all the rules and regulations, the appointment letters have been issued and they have been appointed to the available posts in various departments, while 51 employees who have been promoted from one to ten grades have also been given promotion letters today so that these people perform their duties with more diligence.

#### had also been conducted for months and proposed 5 percent radio fee in the anhe added. in that regard. The minister said im-Senator Taj Haider nual vehicle registration fee proposed that the tariff on to curb the financial crunch tennis and badminton racket **Senators call for Charter of**

**Economy to steer country** 

out of economic crisis

there were so many oppor- wanted rehabilitation of

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senators on Thursday stressed the need for enhancing the country's revenue, besides inking the Charter of Economy (CoE) like Charter of Democracy (COD) to steer Pakistan out of the economic crisis.

They appreciated the government for announcing various incentives for the agricultue and information technology sectors, over-

seas Pakistanis and youth. Taking part in the de-bate in the Senate, Saifullah Abro of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) said generate revenue. The Guddu Thermal and Lakra Thermal power plants could be rehabilitated with limited funds and could earn hefty revenue for the country, he added.

However, he alleged that the power sector was intentionally destroyed by representatives of Independent Power Producers (IPPs) setting in the every government. Such 'mafias' had vested interests and they never

tunities available in the country which could help powers, he added. Senator Abro suggested that the govern-

ment should allocate Rs 2.5 billion for the pur chase of CT scan and MRI machines in two government own cancer hospitals in Larkana and Nawabshah from the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Rs 450 billion allocation. Many poor patients from both Sindh and Balochistan visited the two hospitals for their treatment, he added.



National Hero and first President of Azerbaijan, Haider Aliyev. Prime Minis ter laid a floral wreath at the mausoleum.

#### would make Karachi the most beautiful city among Police chief issues instructions to police for

expected rains KARACHI (APP): Additional Inspector General of Police - Karachi Javed Alam Odho on Thursday issued instructions to the police in view of the advisory issued by the Pakistan Meteorological De-partment regarding the expected rains

All Zonal DIGPs and District SSPs should give regular briefings on rain-related relief activities to their concerned police officers and officials and ensure liaison with concerned agencies.

### DC chairs meeting regarding recruitment on deceased quota

HYDERABAD (APP): candidates on recruit-For recruitment on de- ment on deceased quota ceased quota, a meeting of and said that they got District Recruitment Com- their right and expected mittee was held, Deputy
Commissioner SBA

chaired the meeting. On the occasion, the candidates appearing under the deceased quota were interviewed after verification of documents and other issues

After consensus, the District Recruitment Committee cleared 22 candidates' job on deceased quota in depart-

hope that they would discharge their duty honestly.

The meeting was at-

tended by Regional Director Colleges Prof Shahida Taj Abro, Deputy Director Local Government Abdul Sattar Rathore, District Health Officer Dr Daulat Jamali, Medical Superintendent PMC Hospital Dr Aqeel Qureshi, District Education Officer Secondary Qurban Ali Rahu, District Education Officer Primary Abdul Fatah Dahri and other commit-

#### Administrator **DMC South** greets newly elected Mayor of Karachi Murtaza

KARACHI (APP): Administrator DMC South Hammad N.D.Khan has congratulated the newly elected Mayor of Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab and Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad and said that Murtaza Wahab has served the city as the Administrator Karachi.

In a statement on Thursday, Administrator DMC South said that he is confident that under the leadership o Murtaza Karachi city will move on a new path of development and the citizens of Karachi will feel a positive change.

#### "Khaliqdina Hall - Library" ments of education, local government, health, irri-In view of the rains, KARACHI (APP): Admin- Mohammad Asif and other gation, LBOD, Peoples all necessary measures Medical College Hospital istrator Karachi Dr. Syed members were also present on should be implemented at Saifur Rahman has said that this occasion. Administrator and other departments. the police station level. DC congratulated tee members. Khaliqdina Hall and Library Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur are historical assets; we will Rahman made a detailed in Administrator DMC East, Syed Shakeel Ahmed visits Safoora Town secure it for future generaspection of the historical li-Condition of drains should be improved in tions. He said this while visbrary, main hall and the office

**Independent Report** ARACHI: Administrator

DMC East, Syed Shakeel Ahmed visited various areas of Safoora Town in view of the expected rains and reviewed the condition of drains and also inspected the pre-installed dewatering

He inspected Chishti Nagar nalah, Habib University Nalah, Johar Complex Nalah, Songal Goth Nalah, Sikandar Goth Nalah and installation of de watering pumps at Urdu University and various places.

maximum measures should be taken to clean the drains by utilizing the available time before the expected

there is a need for the the said works. winching of sewerage lines, the water and sewerage board should be contacted



He further said that rainy season while where to ensure the performing He expressed satisfac-

tion over installation of dewatering pumps at Urdu University and other places and said that installation of dewatering pumps at important places would help in quick drainage in case of heavy rains Senior Executive Engi-

neer Imtiaz Bhutto, Director Anti-Encroachment Elahi Bakhsh Banbhan, Assistant Executive Engineer Rashid Favvaz and other officers were also present on the occasion

## the time before the rainy season, Syed Shakeel

ing and Media Management

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