

# Independent

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 05. No. 187 Zil Hajj 03, 1444 AH Thursday June 22, 2023 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

## PM directs for ensuring complete prevention of human trafficking

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah to supervise the investigation and formulate necessary legislative proposals regarding the complete prevention of human trafficking.

He also directed the investigation committee regarding the Greece shipwreck incident to finalize its proceedings and present its report as soon as possible.

A high-level meeting with respect to the Greece boat incident was held here under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Expressing anger over the incident, the prime minister questioned why the criminal activities of human smuggling could not be

timely stopped.

He asked why concrete preventive measures were not taken despite repeated happenings of such kind of incidents.

The prime minister directed the relevant authorities to bring all those responsible for human smuggling to justice as soon as possible.

Federal Ministers Rana Sanaullah, Mariyum Aurangzeb, Special Assistant to Prime Minister Tariq Fatimi, DG FIA, Chief Secretary Azad Jammu and Kashmir and other relevant high officials were present in the meeting.

On June 14, a boat sank in the Mediterranean Sea near Greece, in which 104 people have been rescued alive, out of which 12 are from Pakistan.

So far, a total of 79 bodies have been recovered from the sea.

The meeting was told that the coordination cell established in the Ministry of Interior was working 24 hours, where families of missing persons can contact anytime.

The meeting was informed that after the incident, a total of 10 FIRs had been registered while 15 people had been arrested, including the main accused of the incident.

It was told that an organized network from different countries is involved in human trafficking.

The Prime Minister directed the FIA to promptly complete the detailed investigation of the matter and to take effective measures to prevent it.



KARACHI: Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Foreign Minister cutting cake to celebrate 70th birthday of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto.

## Rana Sanaullah says PTI chief 'mastermind' of May 9 mayhem

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah on Wednesday accused the Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI) chief of 'mastermind' of the May 9 incident, demanding his trial under military courts.

"All planning for May 9 was prepared by PTI Chairman himself," said Rana while talking to a private television channel.

He said Khadija Shah the PTI activist was monitoring all activities being done by her co-workers against security institutions.

He was of the view that cases of PTI women leaders or workers found involved in attacking national institutions particularly security should be forwarded to military courts.

Commenting on Nawaz Sharif, he said the Pakistan Muslim League-

Nawaz (PML-N), has made a request to the former prime minister for leading the election campaign.

Rana said Nawaz Sharif should be given relief from the cases filed against him by rival party leaders on fake evidence.

He said political cases filed by rival parties should be abolished forthwith and added the PML-N, after winning the elections will nominate Nawaz Sharif for the country's highest post of prime minister.

To a question about Dr Aafia Siddiqui, he said all-out efforts were being made to bring Dr Aafia back to Pakistan.

It is pertinent to mention here that Aafia Siddiqui was a highly qualified personality born in Pakistan, and facing sentence on different charges made by Americans.

## Pakistan Navy marks World Hydrography Day

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Navy has observed World Hydrography Day (WHD) with enthusiasm and with an aim to create awareness on the importance of hydrography and its role towards blue economy and ultimately national growth.

The WHD is celebrated worldwide on June 21 every year to appreciate the work done in the field of hydrography to support safe navigation at open seas, ports and other protected marine areas. Every year a specific theme related to contribution of hydrography in world maritime affairs is orchestrated by International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO), said a news release on Wednesday.

This year, the theme of WHD is "Hydrography - underpinning the digital twin of the ocean". Digital twin is a high resolution, near real time virtual representation of the ocean which will help in informed decision making by policy makers.

## Shaheed Benazir Bhutto remembered on her birth anniversary

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah felicitated Shaheed Benazir Bhutto's family and workers on her birth anniversary, being celebrated on Wednesday across the country.

Syed Murad Ali Shah in his message told the workers that today (June 21) should be celebrated as the day of Bhutto's sacrifice, struggle, undying love for people, and democracy.

Benazir Bhutto was the great daughter of Quaid-i-Awam Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Begum Nusrat, the CM

said.

He said that Shaheed Benazir Bhutto's bravery, struggle, and martyrdom were inherited from her great father and mother.

Murad Ali Shah said that Benazir Bhutto sacrificed her life for the love of her motherland, the restoration of democracy, and the uplift of the people.

"In order to understand the greatness of Bhutto and her love for the country, one has to read the 'Sur Marvi' of the great poet of Sindh, Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai," Murad Shah added.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah addresses during Provincial Assembly session held at Sindh Assembly building in Karachi.

## Shazia Marri vows to uphold Shaheed Benazir Bhutto's mission

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri Wednesday said Pakistan People's Party (PPP) will always stand with the people of the country and fight against poverty, inflation and unemployment, following the mission of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto.

Paying tribute to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto on her 70th birth anniversary, Shazia Marri said, "Her contributions to the restoration of democracy in the country will be remembered forever."

Addressing a news conference along with Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Faisal Karim Kundi, the federal minister said that the PPP leadership and its workers have rendered great

sacrifices for upholding democratic values in the country.

Benazir Bhutto was not only the first woman Prime Minister of the country but of the entire Muslim Ummah giving a new perspective to the country's politics.

She took a number of unprecedented initiatives for empowering women including establishing Women Police Stations, and First Women Bank as well as launching the Lady Health Workers project.

The Ghazi Barotha and Neelum Power Projects were also launched in her tenure of electricity generation.

The federal minister said that oil and gas production increased during the tenure of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto while Pakistan's relations with foreign countries were also significantly improved.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Ms. Shazia Marri address a Press Conference on 70th Birthday of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi, MOS PA&SS is also present.

## Development works being executed under Karachi Mega Project: Mayor

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that the development works of roads and stormwater drains are going on in various areas under the Karachi Mega Project, which will be completed as soon as possible.

On visiting Allama Rashid Turabi Road, Shahrah Humayun, Shahrah Noor Jahan and Shadman Nala, he said works which were urgently needed in the city have been prioritized keeping the convenience of the citizens.

Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad was also with him, Project Director on this occasion briefed Mayor Karachi about details of the projects included in the mega project.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that Allama Rashid Turabi Road is three and a half kilometre long. Here first the drain work is being done, after that, the road will be carpeted, this

road is from Ziauddin Hospital to Landi Kotal Chowranghi and from Landi Kotal to People's Chowranghi, he said. He said that it will be carpeted from Ziauddin Hospital to People's Chowranghi.

Later, Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab visited Shahrah Humayun, where after the completion of the construction of the Storm water drain, the 20 km long road is now being carpeted.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab, on the occasion of his visit to Shahrah-e-Noor Jahan, inspected the construction of the road from Asghar Ali Shah Chowk to Qalandria Chowk, where the work of drain is in progress in the remaining part of the road, after which carpeting of other parts will be done.

At the end of his visit, the Mayor Karachi inspected the development works on the Shadman Nala where the accident took place last year.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairing a meeting regarding human smuggling and the recent capsizing of a boat in the Mediterranean near Greece.

## Govt committed to complete IMF programme: Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar said here on Wednesday that the government was committed to complete the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme.

During a meeting with Ambassador of the United States of America to Pakistan, Donald Blome who called on the minister, the minister informed him about the progress on the on-going talks with IMF, according to press statement issued by finance ministry. He said Pakistan values the deep rooted historic and durable bilateral relations with the United States

on economic and trade fronts.

Dar shared the economic policies and priorities of the government to address the challenging economic environment and set the economy on the path to stability and growth.

He informed the US Ambassador about the government's budgetary measures to reduce the fiscal gap in order to meet its national as well as international financial obligations.

The two sides also exchanged views about areas of common interest and how the existing bilateral relations between the two countries can be enhanced further.



ISLAMABAD: H.E. Mr. Donald Blome, Ambassador of the United States of America to Pakistan called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at Finance Division.

## Pak, Iran pledge stronger bonds through pilgrimage, trade cooperation

MAKKAH MUKARMA (APP): Pakistan and Iran have reiterated their resolve to further enhance cooperation in facilitating pilgrims and extending economic cooperation through border trade, aiming to create a seamless and enchanting experience for pilgrims, besides strengthening their economic ties.

In a meeting with Syed Fateh Nawab, the head of the Iranian Hajj Mission in Makkah on Wednesday, Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Senator Talha Mehmood, stated that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding the Ziarat of sacred places in Iran has been sent to the

Iranian Embassy in Pakistan through our representative from the Foreign Ministry.

Talha expressed his utmost desire for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to evolve into a formal agreement, aiming to foster an enriching cultural exchange between the two countries.

Talha voiced his aspiration to formalize and streamline the border trade between the two countries, which currently takes place through Dubai. Recognizing the significant potential for bilateral trade, Talha emphasized the importance of establishing regularized channels for commerce between the two nations.

## PPP likely to part ways with ruling alliance after approval of budget

ISLAMABAD (Online): PPP has completed all the preparations to give big surprise to government after Eid ul Azha.

Possibility is there that PPP which is annoyed with government has made all preparations to part ways with government.

According to private TV report PPP hopes to get anti Nawaz votes from Punjab.

PPP sources said it has started considering over parting ways with ruling alliance. Following the approval of federal budget PPP is likely to quit ruling coalition.

## President appoints Justice Qazi Faez Isa as next CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday approved the appointment of Justice Qazi Faez Isa as the next Chief Justice of Pakistan.

Justice Qazi Faez Isa will assume office on September 17, 2023, following the retirement of the incumbent Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Umar Ata Bandial, a President House statement said.

The incumbent chief justice will reach the age of superannuation on September 16, 2023, under Article 179 of the Constitution.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi addressing National Security & War Course members at National Defence University (NDU).

## Commissioner vows to make PM's Youth Programme THYSL successful

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Iqbal Memon Wednesday said the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Talent Hunt Sports League (THYSL) committed to discovering talented players.

The Commissioner was speaking at an inauguration ceremony of two-day football trials being held under the THYSL at Karachi Port Trust (KPT) ground here, said a spokesperson.

He said that the Karachi administration will play a vibrant role in making the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Talent Hunt Sports League successful. Iqbal Memon said that the Sindh government is pursuing various programmes for the promotion of sports.

He said that the Karachi administration has

already started a talent hunt program in collaboration with Swindon Town Football Club London to create opportunities for young football players. Under the programme, Zubair Ahmed of Lyari has completed his training as a coach and now the football skills he learned will be taught to other players at KPT ground, he added.

He expressed hope that the children who were eligible would get opportunities to show their football talent in London.

The Commissioner said that the Karachi administration recently organized the National Women's Basketball Championship here last week with the support of the Pakistan Basketball Federation after a gap of 16 years to revive the government's sports development efforts.

## Supposed missing persons arrested by police: SHC informed

KARACHI: The police submitted its progress report in Sindh High Court (SHC) over petitions against enforced disappearances on Wednesday.

Sindh Police in its report claimed that all allegedly disappeared persons have been involved in crimes and concerned police has arrested them.

"Supposed disappeared person Syed Ahrar has been arrested by Shah Faisal police in two cases," report read.

"Tajdar Ali was arrested by the counter terrorism department and he has been in jail," police disclosed.

## 10 including illegal Afghan immigrants arrested

KARACHI (APP): The City district police on Wednesday arrested 10 alleged accused including five illegal Afghan immigrants and five gutka sellers.

According to a spokesman for City district police the accused were arrested from the limits of police stations Eidgah, Garden and Napier and were identified as Shehroz, Naveed, Naeem, Muhammad Ramzan, Muzammil, Wasey, Mir Agha, Ali Jan, Bashir Ahmed and Baaz Muhammad.

Cases had been registered against all the accused at the police stations concerned and further investigations were underway.



KARACHI: Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Iqbal Memon in a group photograph during inauguration ceremony of two days trials being held under the Prime Minister Youth Talent Hunt Sports Programme at KPT Ground.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Thriving racket

All sound and fury signifying nothing. That, in a nutshell, is how best to describe the storm of condemnation by the government and the anti-human smuggling operations taking place in the country, thousands of miles from the watery grave where so many, possibly hundreds, of Pakistanis met their deaths last week.

The FIA has swung into action and several traffickers allegedly involved in human smuggling have been arrested in the country.

Yesterday, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah promised that the investigation into the catastrophe that struck the overloaded fishing trawler off the Greek coast would be completed within a week.

The ill-fated vessel was carrying at least 800 people, including reportedly 400 Pakistanis, when it capsized in the Mediterranean Sea. Only 104 people are known to have survived, with virtually no chance of finding more survivors. Bodies of around 80 have been retrieved from the water, as anguished relatives wait for news, hoping at the very least for a chance to provide a burial for their loved ones. Unfortunately, it is only the scale of the latest tragedy that has sparked this flurry of activity, the need to be seen as doing something. Human smuggling is a national shame, with thousands of desperate Pakistanis every year risking life and limb and their hard-earned money to reach Europe for a chance at a better future. Some undertake to go to their chosen destinations via Balochistan, Iran and Turkey. Suffering hunger and thirst, dodging bullets from border patrols, many die on the way; some are kidnapped for ransom by criminal gangs in Iran and Turkey. Another means of illegal passage is the 'Libyan route' which entails crossing the Mediterranean under incredibly dangerous and squalid circumstances.

And all this happens under the very nose of the authorities: the various routes and modus operandi have even been reported on ad nauseam in the media. For, while it is an organised crime on a global scale, every 'national' component of migrant smuggling is sustained by an elaborate network with multiple stakeholders. Traffickers are but one aspect of this lucrative criminal racket whose tentacles extend into the highest corridors of power. And yet, when has anyone of consequence been charged, let alone been punished, for complicity? And it is that ruling elite of this country that is responsible for collectively creating such a loss of hope that it is driving young people out of Pakistan on treacherous journeys towards greener pastures, no matter the hellish experiences they must endure to reach them.

Consider that on the trawler that capsized in the Mediterranean last week, the Pakistanis were reportedly forced to occupy the hold — the most dangerous part of the vessel — and singled out for maltreatment. Unless every aspect of this racket is stamped out, human smuggling from Pakistan will continue to thrive.



Rafia Zakaria

It is being called the worst migrant boat disaster in the Mediterranean Sea. A week ago, a migrant boat carrying up to 750 people, 400 of them said to be Pakistanis, started to have trouble with its engine. After three days of being stranded, the boat capsized and most of the passengers died — in fact, all of them, except for 104, who were rescued. Among the survivors were only 12 Pakistanis.

The boat smugglers who run these migrant boats had promised its passengers passage from Libya to Italy. The accident took place off the shores of Greece.

In the hours after news of the boat disaster spread, relatives of the Egyptians, Syrians and Pakistanis, and possibly other nationalities, on board gathered in Kalamata in Greece to find out whether their relatives had lived or died. Most of course, were indeed dead, their journey to a better life having, ironically, taken their own life.

Pakistanis reporting on the boat disaster have emphasised how the Pakistanis on the boat were treated worse than the other passengers by the Egyptian boat operators. They were kept below the deck in absolutely disgusting and fetid conditions and their travel documents like passports etc, were taken away.

According to Yiva Johansson, the EU commissioner for home affairs, there has been a 600 per cent increase in the number of these boats running the Mediterranean passage. The majority, it seems, have little hope of

### Boats of doom

actually accomplishing their goal of getting people safely to the EU countries where they want to go to live a better life. As Johansson puts it the passengers are being sent "to their deaths".

On Monday, a few days after the accident, the Greek version of the story which holds that the boat was on course to Italy was being questioned. A BBC report looked at tracking data from passing ships to see the boat's location.

They found that the Greek narrative which held that the Greek coastguard did not assist the ship because the boat was on a steady course to Italy may not be true. The boat was actually stationary for several hours near the Greek coast — giving plenty of time to the coastguard to assist it. Was it, then, Greece that was the boat's destination?

The issue of Greek or Italian or any other European nation failing to rescue migrants has become normalised in recent years. Again and again, there are absolutely heartrending stories of migrants taking extreme risks to get to the European Union because they believe that they will have a better life in Europe. This idea itself requires some questioning given the dire economic situation in many European countries.

Greece and Italy, for instance, are both in economic decline, with rising unemployment in the post-Covid era. In the case of this particular boat catastrophe, nine Egyptian men, allegedly the smugglers who ran the boat, have appeared in court. Institutions such as the Greek, or in other cases the Italian, coastguard have, as per usual, escaped accountability even as the United Nations has called the efforts at saving migrant boats dismal.

In Pakistan itself, people need to be better educated about the actual opportunities available to them in the EU. The

gradual decline in employment opportunities available in Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Gulf in general, all of which are trying to transition to more locally staffed workforces, are one reason that more and more Pakistanis have been found travelling on migrant boats.

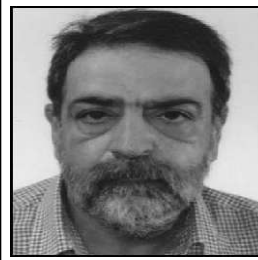
This is exactly why a public information campaign that underscores not only the extreme risks that these boats represent but also the life that awaits them even if they do get to Europe is a desperate need. As anyone who has travelled to the EU can attest, migrants who make it are either sequestered in horrendous conditions in filthy refugee camps (such as the one on the Italian island of Lampedusa) or seen cold and shivering hawking trinkets at tourist sites. The risk is far greater than the reward of getting to the EU countries.

As artificial intelligence and remote work gets more integrated into the workforce, developed industrialised democracies in EU and also the UK and US are going to decline further. In other words, all of these countries are looking at the impending employment crises particularly in the low-skilled sector.

Already, stores have stopped hiring cashiers and shelf stockers because these jobs have become automated. Soon jobs that do not require much local context information, such as computer programming, data sciences etc, are also going to end up in countries that can provide these services at the lowest cost.

Developed economies are aware of this and of the fact that low-skilled workers will become redundant first. This is going to require these wealthier countries to institute some sorts of benefits such as a universal basic income so that the poor in their countries can survive. - Courtesy Dawn

### Man of conscience



Mahir Ali

On Sunday, June 13, 1971, the New York Times carried a groundbreaking report across three columns at the top of its front page under a rather mundane headline, "Vietnam Archive: Pentagon Study Traces 3 Decades of Growing US Involvement". It was a live bombshell dressed up as history, with several inside pages devoted to the topic.

It landed with a dull thud. Initially, there was almost no reaction. Then the Nixon White House stepped in. A telex from the attorney-general, John Mitchell, ordered the NYT to desist. The newspaper responded defiantly, and published more the following day. Mitchell took the matter to court and obtained an injunction. Right away, other newspapers, beginning with the Washington Post, began publishing reports based on the same study. Within days the NYT, backed by its rival the Post, took the matter to the supreme court, which ruled that "prior restraint" was unconstitutional under the First Amendment.

The majority decision upheld free speech but did not protect the papers, let alone their source, from prosecution. The study, which became known as the Pentagon Papers, had been commissioned in 1967 by Robert McNamara, defence secretary in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. It laid bare the extent of US involvement in Vietnam going back to 1945, and left no doubt that successive presidents had consistently lied to the public about their nation's obnoxious role in

Indochina.

Daniel Ellsberg, the Rand Corporation consultant who had contributed to the study and eventually decided to publicise it, was once a gung-ho cold warrior whose mind was changed by the two years he spent in South Vietnam in the mid-1960s. He realised not only that the war could not be won, but also that it was wrong. As he put it in the 1974 documentary Hearts and Minds, it's not just that the US was on the wrong side, but rather "we are the wrong side".

Ellsberg, who died last Friday at 92, was a dedicated antiwar activist even before the Pentagon Papers were publicised, alongside the likes of the late historian Howard Zinn and Noam Chomsky. It was in fact a speech by a draft resister who faced imprisonment that persuaded Ellsberg to reveal the secrets of which he had gathered intimate knowledge. After offering the documents he had copied to a number of senators — some of whom, notably foreign affairs committee chair William Fulbright, promised to hold hearings but went quiet — Ellsberg eventually offered the information to NYT reporter Neil Sheehan.

It was months before the NYT published anything — on the very night, it turned out, that Ellsberg, a movie buff, watched for the first time what became his favourite film, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. He expected to spend the rest of his life in prison, but considered the sacrifice worthwhile if it helped to halt the war in Vietnam. He became the first civilian to be charged under the Espionage Act 50 years ago and faced a 125-year sentence. He escaped it thanks to the Nixon administration's overkill. Its operatives tried to burgle the office of Ellsberg's psychiatrist, hoping to embarrass him, but found nothing that could help them. There

were also efforts to debilitate or even assassinate Ellsberg.

The same operatives were caught out during their Watergate operations, and eventually served time, as did Mitchell and the Nixon aide John Ehrlichman, who, mid-trial, offered Ellsberg's trial judge the post of FBI director. The judge was obliged to declare a mistrial. Ellsberg was arrested dozens of times in succeeding years as an anti-nuclear activist, with his book The Doomsday Machine offering a reminder of how close the world had come — and remained — to the ultimate catastrophe. At 90, he also reiterated his knowledge of American plans for a nuclear first strike during the 1958 Taiwan Strait crisis. The possibility of that particular confrontation remains alive today. In his latter years, Ellsberg was a vociferous defender of fellow whistleblowers such as Edward Snowden, Chelsea Manning and Julian Assange — and recognised Afghanistan and Iraq as symptoms of his failure as a dedicated truth-teller to thwart the US imperialist enterprise. He was also an admirer of Bernie Sanders, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and, above all, Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg. His monumental legacy will endure, unlike — hopefully — the American empire. A single column on the far right of the NYT front page mentioned at the outset is headlined 'US urges Indians and Pakistanis to use restraint'. By then, West Pakistani forces were busy creating their own Vietnam. And the Nixon administration's response doesn't sound very different from how the Biden White House responds to Israeli transgressions against human rights. From America to Pakistan and far beyond, the world would benefit from a lot more Daniel Ellsbergs. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Musadiq Malik says: Pak-Azerbaijan LNG purchase agreement will end gas crises soon

ISLAMABAD (APP): State Minister for Petroleum Musadiq Malik Wednesday assured that Pakistan's a liquefied natural gas (LNG) purchase agreement framework with Azerbaijan would end gas crises and domestic consumers will not face any gas shortage in the next winter season.

Azerbaijan will supply an LNG cargo every month to Pakistan at a "cheaper price," he said while talking to a private news channel.

While giving details of LNG Cargo, he said under

Pak-Azerbaijan long-term agreement in the current year we will have 9 to 10 cargo factories in the country, adding, Azerbaijan would help Pakistan to fulfill its energy needs through cooperation in the fields of oil and gas.

Replying to a question about the shortage of gas, he said in winter, we would be able to control the gas shortage.

In some specific areas in Karachi, he said that we have been facing infrastructure issues that will be solved on a priority

basis. - nment hoped to give more relief to domestic consumers in coming winters which will ensure gas supplies to residential consumers at three times.

To another question, he explained that the government has also devised a plan to attract investment from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries as part of the 'Economic Revival Plan', adding, these billion of investments in the country would create jobs and livelihoods for the youth and women.

### Gold imports up by 44.22% in 11 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The gold imports increased by 44.22 percent during the past eleven months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The gold imports during the July-May (2022-23) were recorded at \$27.377 million as compared to the imports of \$18.983 million during

July-May (2021-22), according to the data.

In terms of quantity, Pakistan imported 437 kilograms of gold during the months under review as compared to the imports of 302 kilograms last year, showing growth of 44.70 percent. Meanwhile on year-on-year basis, the gold imports into the country witnessed an increase of 250.55 percent as these were recorded at \$3.421 million.

### Gold prices decline by Rs.1,800

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.1,800 and was sold at Rs.218,700 on Wednesday against its sale at Rs.220,500 the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.1,543 to Rs.187,500 from Rs.189,043 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went down to Rs.171,875.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet.

### ECC approves Rs1.9 bln technical supplementary grants

ISLAMABAD (Online): In addition to approving various summaries, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet, here on Wednesday approved Rs1,914.83 million in technical supplementary grants for various ministries and divisions.

The cabinet committee meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, said a press statement issued by the finance

ministry.

According to the press statement, on the Ministry of Commerce summary ECC suspended Import conditions contained in Import Policy Order 2022 related to the import of Timber/Wood from the date of issuance of IPO 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 with direction to the Ministry of National Food Security and Research to review the import policy and come up with suggestions to settle this issue.

### 540 bln invoices issued through POS in one year: FBR

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Wednesday said that almost 540 billion invoices have been issued through the Point of Sale (POS) system in one year.

Director General Automation Abdul Wahid said this during the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of a workshop titled "Digitalization of Taxes in Pakistan" jointly organized by FBR and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP).

Addressing the participants he said that

almost 50 million invoices were issued on a monthly basis.

He said in order to improve and expand the system steps are being taken.

FBR senior official said that the use of technology in Pakistan is less as compared to other developed countries adding that the FBR is trying to make tax and tax matters easier.

He urged the private sector to put their efforts to improve the system and minimize the loopholes.

### MNAs deliberate on Senate budget recommendations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Lawmakers in the National Assembly on Wednesday deliberated on recommendations of the Upper House of the Parliament presented for incorporation in the federal budget 2023-24, suggesting measures to improve the national economy, strengthen key financial sectors and provide maximum relief to the common man.

Resuming debate on the federal budget and the Senate recommendations, Dr Sobia Aslam Soomro of Pakistan Peoples Party

Parliamentarians (PPPP) said the past regime of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) installed landmines for the incumbent government by weakening the national economy and pushing the country towards the default-like situation. She said the present government effectively tackled all the economic challenges and put the country on a path of macroeconomic stability with collective wisdom, setting remarkable growth targets in the fiscal year 2023-24.

Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif, she said, soon after assuming charge of the office restarted the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project that remained on backburner during the three-hand-an-half year rule of the PTI.

Commenting on the Senate budget recommendations, she suggested increasing sales tax on sugary-energy drinks and tobacco products so the generated revenue could be utilized in health and education sectors besides controlling the increasing population.

### Prices hike of vegetables, fruits worries citizens

PESHAWAR (APP): The sudden increase in the prices of vegetables and fruits in Peshawar worried the citizens and they demanded of the district government to ensure the availability of food items at the rates given by the district administration. During a visit to the vegetable and fruit markets, the price of ginger increased to Rs 860 per kg, garlic Rs 320, and lemon to 160 per kg. Onion 50, tomato 30, green pepper 100, okra 90, and peas 230 rupees sold per kg.

### Sale tax evasion worth Rs 1358 million recovered on June 20

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Directorate of Intelligence and Investigation, Inland Revenue, Lahore recovered sale tax evasion worth Rs 1,358 million and default surcharge of Rs 26 million from a reputed company on the other day.

The company issued illegal credit notes of huge amounts in Annexure-C of the sales tax returns without corresponding debit notes from the buyers, said a FBR press release issued here on Wednesday. In this way, the

company suppressed output tax to reduce its sales tax liability for the tax periods in which illegal credit notes were issued and thus deprived the national exchequer from due tax revenue.

The team of the Directorate gathered information meticulously without disturbing the business activity of the company to initiate proceedings under section 38 of the Sales Tax Act, 1990 and retrieved the record and documents from the business premises.



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



**PESHAWAR:** A representative delegation of All Khyber Pakhtoonkwa Goods Transport Union meeting with Khyber Pakhtoonkwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali and Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan.

## CM Punjab expresses annoyance over poor arrangements at BBH

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi paid a surprise visit to Benazir Bhutto Hospital last night and expressed annoyance over poor arrangements at the hospital.

During his visit, the CM in detail inspected various sections of the hospital and found that air conditioners were shut down in several wards while the X-ray facility was also missing at the hospital.

Some doctors and staff were also found absent

from their duties while Naqvi expressed strong displeasure over the treatment of patients on stretchers in corridors.

On the occasion, the patients complained to the CM that medicines were not available in the hospital and they were forced to buy medicines from outside the hospital.

The Caretaker CM assured the complainants that their concerns would be resolved and stern action would be taken against the negligent staff.

## Dr Jamal directs to expedite anti-dengue surveillance

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir on Wednesday directed the relevant officials to expedite anti-dengue surveillance to combat dengue. Presiding over a meeting along with Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaqat Ali Chatha to review anti-dengue arrangements, the minister directed the relevant officials to implement anti-dengue Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in letter and spirit.

He directed all the relevant departments to utilize all resources to eliminate dengue mosquitoes, as the prevailing weather was

suitable for breeding larvae.

Dr Jamal directed the concerned to remove stagnant water in graveyards and other public places to stop mosquitoes from breeding after rain and submerged water and warned that no negligence would be tolerated in any arrangements.

He asked the district administration to arrange seminars and walks for creating awareness against dengue and check the hotspots regularly.

On the occasion, the health officials briefed the meeting that ten dengue-positive cases had been reported in the Rawalpindi district this year.

## PDMA issues GLOF alert for Chitral, Kohistan, Dir

PESHAWAR (APP): The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) on Wednesday issued an alert of flash floods in Upper and Lower Chitral, Kohistan, Upper and Lower Dir, and Swat due to Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF). PDMA has directed all the relevant district administrations and other line departments to take precautionary measures and sensitive the local communities at risk, besides ensuring the availability of emergency and rescue services. The spokesperson of PDMA said that the authority also warned tourists to avoid any unnecessary travel to these areas.

## KP Food Safety operation against adulteration mafia

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority is active against adulteration mafia across the province with more than 2500 liters of non-standard and mislabeled juices and packing materials were seized from the factory.

According to a spokesman, the KP (FSHFA) launched an operation to people involved in using sub-standard materials in the food items.

## Govt taking tangible steps for bringing reforms in jails: Hidayt

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to Caretaker Chief Minister (CM) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) for Prison Hidayt Ullah Khan Afridi on Wednesday said that the caretaker provincial government was taking tangible steps for bringing reforms in jails.

He said, "Solid steps are also taking for providing basic human rights along with other facilities to detainees in jails."

"It is the need of the hour to bring reforms in prison department aimed at tackling the current era challenges," he added.

In a statement issued

from his office, the caretaker Special Assistant said, "For counseling the prisoners, psychiatrists perform their duties to make the prisoner's responsible citizens of society while prisoners are also learning different skills in jails."

"The provision of standard meals in jails and the cleanliness of lockups are included in our priorities," he maintained.

Hidayt Ullah Afridi said, "Medical facilities and other basic necessities are provided to detainees in the lockups." He issued directives to the relevant officers to make sure cleanliness and security of all jails.

## Minister praises free micro-financing model of Akhuwat Foundation

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister of Industry, Commerce and Technical Education, Mohammad Adnan Jalil on Wednesday praised the free micro-financing model of Akhuwat Foundation for the promotion of health and education, rehabilitation works, development of the agricultural sector and poverty alleviation in the country.

He was talking to a delegation of the welfare organization here at Civil Secretariat Peshawar.

The delegation of the organization briefed the provincial minister about the operational responsibilities and the activities being carried out in various sectors for social development. Besides, Managing Director (MD) Technical & Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA), Abdul Ghaffar, Director General (DG) Industries, Barkatullah, Director (Finance) TEVTA, Munir Gul, representatives of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development & Management Company (KP-EZDMC).

## Governor Punjab says Govt taking concrete steps for promotion of higher education in country

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Vice Chancellor of Government College Women University Faisalabad, Prof. Dr. Rubina Farooq and former Vice Chancellor of Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman at Governor House Lahore, here today. In the meeting, the improvement of governance in universities and the use of hydroponics technology in the agriculture sector were discussed.

Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman said that the government is taking concrete steps for the promotion of higher education in the country, adding that the government has allocated sufficient funds for the promotion of higher education in the recent budget.

He said that the Muslim League (N) government has always paid special attention to the health and education sectors. Governor Punjab said that as of hydroponics technology in the agriculture sector were discussed.

acter building of the students.

He said that he has directed the Vice-Chancellors to focus on the character building of the students. He also emphasized that there will be no compromise on governance issues in universities. Governor Punjab said that it is a good thing that women's universities are making progress. He said that it is a matter of pride that Government College Women University Faisalabad has come to a prominent place in the rankings of Times Higher Education and Asia.

## Two killed in truck, motorcycle collision

LAHORE (APP): At least two youngsters were killed when the motorcycle they were riding on was hit by a truck near Raiwind near Lahore on early Wednesday afternoon. According to details, Rescue 1122 said that the accident occurred in Raiwind where a truck collided head-on due to over-speeding, killed two persons on the spot. Police and rescue teams reached the spot and shifted the bodies to nearby hospital.

## Reproductive health rights essential for basic human rights: Shams ur Rehman

ABBOTTABAD (APP): District Population Welfare Officer Abbottabad Shams ur Rehman Wednesday said that reproductive health rights are an essential part of basic human rights and have been officially recognized and implemented through the Act by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Assembly for the first time in 2020.

He expressed these

views while addressing a day-long awareness seminar about the Reproductive Health Act of 2020. The seminar was attended by District Health Officer Faisal Khanzada, Dr. Shahzad, Deputy Demographer of Population Welfare, Sadra Malik, and other officials from the Department. The seminar began with a presentation on population demographics by Deputy Demographer Sadra Malik.



**LAHORE:** Additional Secretary Shrinves Rana Shahid is talking to the media about the arrival of Indian Sikh pilgrims at Wagah border to join the death anniversary of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh.

## International News

## Biden will not 'lecture' Modi on human rights, White House says

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden welcomes India's prime minister, Narendra Modi, on Wednesday for two days of talks that the White House sees as bolstering "one of the defining partnerships of our age," despite ongoing concerns about human rights. Washington wants India to be a strategic counterweight to China while Modi is seeking to raise the influence that his country, now the world's most populous, has on the world stage.

Biden and Modi are expected to announce a variety of agreements related

to defense cooperation and sales, artificial intelligence, quantum computing and investments in India by Micron Technology and other US companies.

Biden is expected to bring up US concerns about democratic backsliding in India, but he will not lecture Modi on the subject, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters.

When the US sees challenges to press, religion or other freedoms, "we make our views known," Sullivan said. He added: "We do so in a way where we don't seek to lec-

ture or assert that we don't have challenges ourselves."

"Ultimately, the question of where politics and the question of democratic institutions go in India is going to be determined within India by Indians. It's not going to be determined by the United States," Sullivan said. Modi has been to the United States five times since becoming prime minister in 2014, but the trip will be his first with the full diplomatic status of a state visit, despite concerns over what is seen as a deteriorating human rights situation under his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party.



**Indian PM Narendra Modi is greeted by supporters upon his arrival at a hotel in New York City.**

## Israeli police clash with Druze protesters in the Golan Heights. The rare violence leaves 20 injured

**Monitoring Desk**  
JERUSALEM: Israeli police on Wednesday fired tear gas, sponge-tipped bullets and a water canon during mass demonstrations by Druze Arabs in the Golan Heights—a rare burst of violence in the normally quiet area. At least 20 people were reported injured.

Thousands of Druze residents of the Golan took part in the demonstrations against the construction of massive wind turbines. The wind swept area is an ideal spot for the turbines, but residents fear damage to their properties and landowners have said they did not understand the agreements they signed with a

local power company, according to Israeli media.

Israeli police said a large crowd attempted to storm a police position in the town of Masade, throwing stones, fireworks, setting tires on fire, vandalizing police cars, blocking roads and even shooting live fire into the air.

A video released by police showed the crowd pelting riot police with objects.

The video showed Israeli riot police, accompanied by a large armored vehicle equipped with a water canon, marching through the streets, firing tear gas. The sound of rapid gunfire is heard in the background.

Israel's Ziv Hospital reported 20 injuries — including 12 members of the police with light wounds and eight civilians, four of whom were in serious condition.

Israel captured the Golan, a strategic plateau overlooking northern Israel, from Syria in the 1967 Mideast war. It subsequently annexed the area in a move that was recognized by former President Donald Trump. But most of the international community considers the area to be occupied territory.

While Druze leaders still profess allegiance to Syria, relations with Israel are normally good.

## Iran has talks with EU's Mora amid efforts to save nuclear pact

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: Iran met in Qatar with European Union mediator Enrique Mora as part of efforts to revive its 2015 nuclear pact with world powers, as Tehran and Washington seek to cool tensions with a mutual "understanding" to help end the deadlock. Having failed to revive the deal in indirect talks that have stalled since September, Iranian and Western officials have met repeatedly in recent weeks

to sketch out steps that could curb Iran's fast advancing nuclear work, free some U.S. and European detainees held in Iran and unfreeze some Iranian assets abroad. "(I) had a serious and constructive meeting with Mora in Doha. We exchanged views and discussed a range of issues including negotiations on sanctions lifting," Iranian chief nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani said on Twitter, without elaborating.

## Kremlin says Biden calling Xi a 'dictator' shows U.S. unpredictability

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russia said on Wednesday that U.S. President Joe Biden's reference to his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping as a dictator showed U.S. foreign policy was inconsistent and erratic, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said there was a contradiction between Biden's comment and the efforts of his secretary of state, Antony Blinken, to lower tensions with Beijing at a meeting with Xi earlier this week.

## Kazakhstan abruptly announces it will no longer host Syria talks, amid Russian surprise

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Kazakhstan abruptly said on Wednesday it will stop hosting talks aimed at resolving the Syrian conflict that erupted 12 years ago. The decision was a surprise to Russia and other participants at the wrapping up of the 20th round of talks held in the capital, Astana.

Since 2017, the former Soviet nation has provided

a venue for talks to representatives of Russia, Turkey, Syria and Iran on ways to resolve the Syrian conflict. Kazakhstan's Foreign Ministry said that the talks have fulfilled their mission and "the initial goals, including the creation of de-escalation zones, ending the bloodshed and reducing the number of casualties have been fully implemented."

## Taiwan reports Chinese aircraft carrier sailed through strait

**Monitoring Desk**  
TAIPEI: A Chinese aircraft carrier group led by the vessel Shandong sailed through the sensitive Taiwan Strait on Wednesday, Taiwan's defence ministry said, amid heightened military tension over the island Beijing claims as its own territory. The ministry said the Shandong, commissioned in 2019, had sailed in a southerly direction through the western part of the strait.

## Over 30 feared dead as dinghy bound for Spain's Canary Islands sinks

**Monitoring Desk**  
SPAIN: More than 30 migrants were feared dead after a dinghy headed for Spain's Canary Islands sank on Wednesday, two migration-focused organisations said on Wednesday. Walking Borders and Alarm Phone said the dinghy was originally carrying 59 people.

Helena Maleno, head of Spain's Walking Borders migrants charity, said in a tweet that 39 people had drowned, without giving further details, while Alarm Phone, which operates a trans-European network supporting rescue opera-

tions, said 35 people were missing. Earlier on Wednesday, Alarm Phone reported the boat was taking on water and three passengers were dead, adding: "We demand immediate rescue, do not let them down!"

Neither Spain's coastguard nor the Moroccan authorities would confirm how many people had been on board the vessel or how many might be missing. A Spanish coastguard source told Reuters that an operation carried out by Morocco some 88 miles to the southeast of Gran Canaria island rescued 24 people.

## Kuwait's Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Ahmad al-Sabah meeting with Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, in Kuwait City.



**Kuwait's Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Ahmad al-Sabah meeting with Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, in Kuwait City.**

## European Union countries agree on a new package of sanctions against Russia over the war in Ukraine

**Monitoring Desk**  
BRUSSELS: European Union countries on Wednesday agreed on a new package of sanctions against Russia for its war against Ukraine aimed at countering sanctions circumvention through third countries and businesses.

The EU had previously imposed 10 rounds of sanctions on Russia since President Vladimir Putin ordered his forces into Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022. Banks, companies and markets have been hit — even parts of the sensitive energy sector. More than

1,000 officials are subject to asset freezes and travel bans. Much work in the latest batch of sanctions has involved closing loopholes so that goods vital to Putin's war effort don't get through via nations that trade with the EU and have maintained a business-as-usual relationship with Moscow.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, the head of the EU's executive arm, said the new package will "deal a further blow to Putin's war machine with tightened export restrictions."



**A brawl broke out at the prison between members of rival gangs Barrio 18 and the Mara Salvatrucha.**

# Upholding sanctity of Parliament; a collective responsibility: NA Speaker

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf Wednesday said that the first ever Summer Internship Program for Young Citizen in National Assembly of Pakistan would provide an opportunity to young generation in form of a first-hand experience of legislative procedure.

He further stated that democracy entailed that Elected Parliamentary Representatives of people should make joint efforts to achieve prosperity.

The speaker also said that democracy was the only effective way of governance. In addition, he stated that Pakistan was destined to progress and its young generation would lead the country onto the path of progress.

While emphasizing the need to bridge the gap between young generation and Parliament, he said, "Parliament is a place where political leaders work day and night to change the fate of nation."

He further said that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto struggled and sacrificed her life for

democracy. Moreover, he said that she fought bravely against forces of tyranny and continued her struggle against dictatorship till her last breath.

He remarked that it was Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto who gave right of vote to our young generation.

The speaker also condemned the recent vandalism and desecration of monuments dedicated to nation's Martyrs, emphasizing the fact that it was impossible for a nation to progress if it did not respect its martyrs.

He stated that the onus was upon the young generation to preserve sanctity of Parliament.

While addressing the launching ceremony of the Internship Program, National Assembly Secretary, Tahir Hussain warmly welcomed the interns.

He remarked "Parliament is the house of people and it is fortunate that the youth of this country are getting an opportunity to work at this prestigious institution, which will help them to understand demo-

cratic systems and the Constitution".

He encouraged the interns to ask as questions as they wanted during the course of their internship as it would help them in better understanding of the Parliament, State and endeavours undertaken by parliamentarians for betterment of the people of Pakistan.

On this occasion Additional Secretary (Special Initiatives) Syed Shamooun Hashmi outlined the basic contours of this first ever Summer Internship Program.

He also said that it was first time in history of National Assembly that young citizens had been provided an opportunity to be in Parliament for one month for learning and getting experiences. After the launch of flagship internship program, Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf along with Secretary WPC Ms. Shahida Rehmani, SDGs Parliamentary Task Force Convenor Romina Khurshid Alam celebrated Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's 70th birthday with the new young interns.



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan chairing a meeting with Tehreek Labaik Pakistan. Minister of State for Interior Abdul Rehman Kanju is also present on the occasion.

## Pakistan Navy ready to tackle maritime security challenges: Naval Chief

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi visited National Defence University (NDU), Islamabad and addressed the course participants of National Security & War Course. On his arrival, the Naval Chief was received by President NDU Lt. Gen Rahat Naseem Ahmed Khan.

While addressing the course participants, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi paid rich tribute to the role and sacrifices of Pakistan Armed Forces for defence of the

motherland.

He lauded the efforts of officers and men for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Operations during recent cyclone and nationwide floods last year. Naval Chief underscored the need for officers to remain abreast of major geopolitical developments and technological changes occurring across the world. He emphasized that synergy remains central to the modern concept of military operations as no military force can achieve success in today's warfare single handedly.

## PM arrives in Paris to attend New Global Financing Pact Summit

PARIS (France) (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday arrived here on an official visit to attend the New Global Financing Pact Summit, on the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron. As the prime minister landed at the Paris Airport along with his delegation, he was warmly received by Pakistan's ambassador in France and diplomatic officials, besides senior French government authorities. Federal ministers Sherry Rehman, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Marriyum Aurangzeb, and Special Assistant to the PM Tariq Fatemi are part of the prime minister's entourage.

## Protecting Prophet's (PBUH) honour religious duty of every Muslim: Rana Sana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah Khan on Wednesday said it was the religious obligation of every Muslim to protect and uphold the honour of Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

No compromises could be made on the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) honour as the love for him was deeply embedded in the hearts of Muslims, he said chairing a meeting of the joint committee of the government and Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan (TLP).

The minister further said a person who did not believe in the finality of the Prophethood could not be considered a Muslim.

The meeting, attended by Minister of State for In-

terior Abdul Rehman Kanju and Secretary Interior Syed Ali Murtaza, reviewed the progress made on the measures taken to safeguard the honour of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

The TLP was represented by Dr Shafiq Amini, Mufti Amer-e-Al-Azhari and others.

Officials of the ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs and Information Technology, Federal Investigation Agency, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority, and provincial home departments were also in attendance. The meeting also assessed the progress on the remaining points of the agreement between the government and the TLP.



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

## 9-member SC bench to take up pleas against military court trial

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Umar Ata Bandial has constituted a nine-judge bench to take up petitions against the trial of May 9 rioters in military courts.

The chief justice is heading the bench while Justice Qazi Faez Isa, Justice Sardar Tariq, Justice Ijazat Ahsan, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Khan Afridi, Justice Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi, and Justice Ayesha Malik are its members.

The petitions have been set for hearing tomorrow (June 22).

Last month, PTI activists took to the streets to vent their spleen over the arrest of Imran Khan in a corruption case. They damaged public property, state assets and sensitive installations.

The rioters stormed GHQ in Rawalpindi, Corps Commander House in Lahore and Radio Pakistan..

Innocent people lost their lives and riots left a trail of destruction. The government launched a hunt for the culprits in PTI.

As soon as the decision to try rioters in military court, PTI moved the Supreme Court (SC) against it, calling the decision a 'clear violation' of the constitutional guarantees of due process and fair trial.

"Such trials are highly deprecated internationally and widely considered as falling short of providing fair trial," the petition stated.

It stated, "They constitute a violation of Pakistan's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) which has been ratified by the country."

It added, "Trial of thousands of workers of a political party (or a political leader) through such courts is unheard of in the history of this country."

## DC chair meetings regarding Eid-ul-Azha, monsoon arrangements

NAWABSHAH (APP): In order to ensure a clean sanitation situation on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha and arrangements made for the expected monsoon season, Deputy Commissioner Sherry Gul Memon chaired separate meetings at the office of the Assistant Commissioner tehsil Sakrand and Qazi Ahmed.

Addressing the meetings, DC said that Eidul Azha is a big celebration for Muslims and for that reason, the cleanliness situation should be maintained in all towns of the district. DC instructed officials of both tehsils to ensure that remains of sacrificial animals would be shifted to some safer site outside the city limits at the earliest and warned that no slackness would be tolerated in this regard.

DC also instructed authorities concerned to ensure the cleaning of all drainage nullahs while steps be taken to keep the drainage disposal machinery in order and running condition.

The Department of Livestock was directed for vaccination of sacrificial animals and other domestic animals to prevent them from diseases, prior to Eid Ul Azha. The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Sakrand Nazeer Ahmed Abro, AC Qazi Ahmed Dr Rashid Channa, XEN Public Health Ahsan Ali Shah, Information Officer Aijaz Ali Teevino, town and Police officials of tehsil Sakrand and Qazi Ahmed.

DC also instructed authorities concerned to ensure the cleaning of all drainage nullahs while steps be taken to keep the drainage disposal machinery in order and running condition.

The Department of Livestock was directed for vaccination of sacrificial animals and other domestic animals to prevent them from diseases, prior to Eid Ul Azha. The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Sakrand Nazeer Ahmed Abro, AC Qazi Ahmed Dr Rashid Channa, XEN Public Health Ahsan Ali Shah, Information Officer Aijaz Ali Teevino, town and Police officials of tehsil Sakrand and Qazi Ahmed.

## FIA arrests Pervaiz Elahi again in money laundering case

LAHORE (INP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Wednesday arrested former Punjab chief minister Pervaiz Elahi in the money laundering case.

The FIA team produced Pervaiz Elahi before a court in the district courts of Lahore.

The FIA officials demanded a 14-day physical remand of Pervaiz Elahi from the court.

It is to be noted here that Pervaiz Elahi had not been released despite bail from a special anti-terrorism court in Lahore.

## Excise Dept collects Rs 24.3 m taxes during campaign

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Excise and Taxation Department collected taxes amounting to over Rs.24.3 million during road checking campaign for collection of outstanding taxes.

The Sindh Minister for Excise, Taxation and Anti Narcotics, Mukesh Kumar Chawla informed in a statement issued here on Wednesday that road checking campaign was started on June 5 to collect outstanding tax from defaulting vehicle owners and continued till June 16, 2023.

He informed that a total of 23,575 vehicles were

checked across the province during the road checking campaign. As per details, 3901 vehicles were checked in Karachi, 7459 in Hyderabad, 3004 in Sukkur, 3124 in Larkana, 2274 in Mirpur Khas and 3813 in Shaheed Benazirabad.

During the road checking campaign, 1347 vehicles were seized and documents of 1789 vehicles were confiscated, he added.

The provincial minister expressed satisfaction over the performance of officers and staff of Excise and Taxation department during the road checking campaign.



KARACHI: Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Foreign Minister inaugurating the Muhammad Ali Jauhar Football Ground, Lyari.

## In age of growing global problems, countries should sit, find solutions: Khar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar Wednesday underlined the need for the world community to work together to find out solutions to the growing global problems like climate change and refugees.

The minister, in an interview with the Voice of America (VoA Urdu), said Pakistan had close contacts with the Western world, including the institutional linkages, whether it were with the United States or the Europe Union (EU). But at the same time, Pakistan also enjoyed close strategic ties with China spanning over decades, she added. Replying to ques-

tion regarding US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's recent visit to China, she said, "Look at Pakistan, Pakistan has good relations with both. It is every sovereign country's right to pursue its rights, our interest is in having balanced and good relations with all the countries."

She further said if the atmosphere of competition was intensified in the world, it would be a very good example for other countries how to preserve such like relationship and actually encourage them.

MoS Khar said the world was facing increasing issues like refugees influx and climate change problems.

## Govt trying hard to solve people problems: Arslan

SUKKUR (APP): Newly elected Sukkur Mayor, Barrister Arslan Sheikh Wednesday said the Sindh Government was trying hard to solve the problems of people despite multiple challenges on internal as well as external fronts.

Talking to various delegations of the PPP at Mayor House, he said that Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed was the voice of the poor. He said BB Shaheed wanted the eradication of terrorism in the country, adding that she had sacrificed her life for it.

He said that Shaheed Benazir Bhutto was the only leader of Pakistan that had international exposure and respect.

He said the mission of Benazir Bhutto would be fulfilled at every cost. He said collective efforts are needed to overcome increasing population and climate change problems facing the nation.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf along with other PPP Parliamentarians cutting cake to celebrate 70th Birthday of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto in WPC.

## Bilawal should not demand funds only for flood affectees of Sindh but also should talk about the flood affectees of entire country: JI MNA

ISLAMABAD (Online): JI MNA Maulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali has said in National Assembly (NA) Bilawal Bhutto should not demand funds only for flood affectees in Sindh but also should talk about flood affectees of the remaining parts of country.

Flood has hit other parts of country too, he said this while speaking in NA Wednesday.

Maulana Chitrali said flood has come in Chitral too. The funds should be

provided for flood affectees of Chitral as well.

Our budget and finance bill are based on interest, he said adding interest based system be eliminated and Islamic system be implemented. Pakistan is on the brink of destruction. Interest based system be eliminated.

He held no medical facilities are available in our Hajj mission hospital in Saudi Arabia. The treatment facilities be provided forthwith.

## Karachi police apprehend three wanted criminals

KARACHI (INP): Police arrested three wanted street criminals after an alleged encounter near Pak Colony area of Karachi, police confirmed on Wednesday.

According to the reports, two out of three culprits have been identified namely, Shah Nawaz and Sarwar, were wanted in serious criminal activities by Sindh police. The police officials stated that the accused are involved stealing motorcycles, mobile theft, street crime and other criminal cases. The police officials recovered a bike snatched from the vicinity of Model town police station.

## UAE 'keen' to invest in Karachi port terminal operations

KARACHI (INP): The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is 'keen' to invest in Karachi port terminal operations, sources said on Wednesday.

Sources further said UAE wants to equip Karachi port terminals with the latest technology for the smooth handling of shipments. The sources claimed that the agreement regarding terminal handling with the UAE will be inked before June 30. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and Maritime Affairs Minister Faisal Sabzwari are finalizing the conditions of the agreement with the UAE.

Sources said, the panel has been permitted to finalise a draft operation, maintenance, invest-

ment, and development agreement under the government-to-government arrangements with a nominated agency of the UAE for handing over the Karachi port terminals.

Earlier this year, the federal government formed an eight-member committee to begin outsourcing three major airports in Pakistan - Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore.

The committee wrote a letter to managers of all three major airports and directed them to provide data of the airports' aviation ministry.

Pakistan is in a financial crisis amid uncertainty over the revival of the \$6.5 billion deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

## CAA issues fresh guidelines after flights face GPS signal problem

KARACHI (INP): The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has issued new guidelines on complaints from airlines after Karachi and Lahore flight information region are facing problem in GPS signal. According to CAA, aircraft GPS signal problem was reported between 100 nautical miles in Lahore flight region. "All pilots should immediately report signal problems to Air Traffic Control," the CAA issued fresh guidelines. A few months ago, the problem of the GPS signal of the planes between the region was also reported.

## 70th birth anniversary of BB celebrated

SUKKUR (APP): The 70th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was celebrated with enthusiasm here on Wednesday.

A ceremony was organized at Sukkur House wherein the PPP workers cut the birthday cake.

PPP leader Senator Islamuddin Sheikh, Mayor Sukkur Arslan Sheikh, MNA Noman Islam Sheikh, Deputy Mayor Dr Arshad Mughal, Tariq Chuhani, Abid Gul Mahar and large number of workers also participated in the ceremony.

They paid glowing tributes to the services of Benazir Bhutto.

Senator Islamuddin Sheikh said that PPP history was replete with sacrifices.

He said that the PPP leaders sacrificed their lives for the stability of democracy in the country.

The senator said

Benazir Bhutto was voice of the poor and oppressed class, adding her services would never be forgotten.

Mayor Sukkur Arslan Shaikh paid tributes to former PPP Chairperson Benazir Bhutto on her 70th birth anniversary and resolved that the nation had to end the politics of hatred and anarchy to keep the country united.

He said it was the visionary leadership of Benazir Bhutto that envisaged policies particularly focusing on women's rights and empowerment, aiming at their increased participation for the sake of national development.

Deputy Mayor Dr Arshad Mughal said Benazir Bhutto was a politician with international stature, adding she took the country towards progress and prosperity.

The participants also prayed for the rest of her soul in eternal peace.

## A century-old Sukkur Barrage 66 gates' modernization and rehabilitation started

**Sukkur Barrage structure rehabilitation and upgradation to fulfil agriculture development: Experts**

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI/SUKKUR: Following the World Bank funded project, Sindh Barrages Improvement Project (SBIP) has started the modernization and rehabilitation of six main gates among 66 on River Indus in Sindh province.

Abdul Fatah Memon, Assistant Engineer Civil of Sindh Barrages Improvement Project at Sukkur Barrage told, national and international media observers and Journalists, while the delegation visit at Sukkur Barrage, he added that an old Sukkur Barrage on the River Indus has 66 main gates have been completely changed among 66 and 10 gates are permanently closed due to the rising silt and due to the flow of water issues.

Memon, further told



that the construction work was started during 1923 and completed in 1932 by the British government.

He said the 66 main gates on River Indus and it has seven canals four in the left and rest on the right side. He said these seven canals have around 55 small gates controlling and irrigates more than 88 lacs

acres of agri-land of Sindh province.

The discharge capacity of each canal will be increased due to closure of 10 gates.

He further said that Sukkur Barrage is 90 years old enormous and historical construction with Landslide Bridge, that has completed its maturity (period).



HYDERABAD: Doctors are holding awareness walk on the occasion of World Allergy Week 2023 organized by Shah Bhitai Government Hospital in Hyderabad.