# nachenach

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# Lt. Gen. among others sacked from service after May 9 probe: ISPR DG

Army spokesperson says strict disciplinary action has been taken against 15 officers, including three major generals and seven brigadiers; Relatives of retired generals are also facing accountability

rector General of Inter Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) Major General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry on Monday said there would be no reprieve or leniency for the facilitators and perpetrators of the May 9 mayhem on account of fake human rights narrative.

A thorough probe had clearly indicated that May 9 riots and arson were a preplanned and orchestrated conspiracy against the armed forces, he said, adding there was no substance in the concocted narrative of any human rights abuses.

media about the actions and military installations on the Dark Day of May 9. He said the May 9 was

the darkest chapter in the 76-year history of Pakistan, and in its aftermath, the process of self-accountability within the Army cess of the Army. The bigwas carried out without any discrimination.

"Two comprehensive

RAWALPINDI (APP): Di- briefing at the ISPR Direc- inquiries were presided torate, Major General over by officers of the rank Ahmed Sharifinformed the of Major General," he added. He said a disciplininvestigations with regard to ary action had been initiated the violent incidents against against the officials concerned who failed to maintain the security and sanctity of the garrisons and the Jinnah House.

"There is no distinction of rank or social status in the accountability proger the post, the bigger the responsibility." The DG ISPR said the investigations institutional inquiries were clearly established the conducted into the incipoint that the May 9 tragdents of violence at various edy was being planned for



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori briefs media about the biggest ever ration drive of 20000 ration bags under Taqatwar Pakistan programme at Governor House.

# Role of journalist fraternity in strengthening democracy commendable: Tessori

KARACHI (INP): Sindh important role played by the journalist community in strengthening the democracy in the country.

These views were expressed by him while addressing the journalist fraternity during a ceremony held at Governor House in Karachi on Monday.

Terming the journalists as eyes and ears of any government

society, Kamran Khan Tessori said that they can play an important role to guide the government towards the right direction

He said IT courses are being arranged in the Governor's House for which tests will be taken after Eid. The Governor Sindh said that resolving the problems of the people was the top most priority of the

and unifying the people.

# We have no stick for implementation of court's orders: CJP

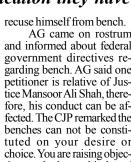
Several people have stick. But what moral justification they have

ISLAMABAD (Online): recuse himself from bench. The 7-mmeber bench of Supreme Court (SC) hearing petitions against trial of civilians in military court once again stands dissolved due to objection raised by federal government against Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, member of bench.

The 7-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial took up the case for hearing Monday. At the inception of hearing Attorney General (AG) on behalf of federal government requested Justice Mansoor Ali Shah to

tion on the learned judge of

Justice Mansoor Al Shah remarked" I had said from the very first day tell us if some one has any



this court on what basis. and 2024.



KARACHI: Woman line up at Benazir Income Support Center after Stampede broke out during the distribution of funds of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) among deserving women as Several women were injured in the stampede at Benazir Income Support Center in Provincial Capital.

#### Marriyum says: Title of 'CPEC Hero'for Ahsan, a slap on face of malicious characters

SLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday felicitated Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal who was given a title of the Hero of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) by the Chi-

nese government the other day. The minister, in a tweet, said ironically, a person whose honesty, dedication, and hard work were acknowledged by a country as esteemed as China, was unjustly thrown into jail during the previous regime's campaign of political victimization. She said the title of CPEC hero for Ahsan Iqbal also reflected the effective foreign policy of Pakistan which faced isolation during the four years rule of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

#### **Acting President** approves Finance Bill 2023 and 2024

ISLAMABAD (Online): After the assent of the Acting President, the Finance Bill has become a formal law.

Acting President Sadiq Sanjrani has approved Finance Bill 2023

It is pertinent to mention that Finance Bill was approved by National Assembly (NA) yesterday

#### age Board should solve the Chairman TMC Orangi problem of leakage from Jameel Zia. Stampede breaks out during distribution

of BISP funds

KARACHI (INP): Stampede broke out during the distribution of funds of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) among deserving women in Karachi. The stampede broke out outside the BISP office near KPT Ground in Karachi's Kemari area. As a result, 20 women lost fell unconscious.

Getting the information, the rescue teams reached the spot and moved the women to the hospital. Last Monday, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) announced releasing the fourth quarterly tranche

of Benazir Kafaalat cash

The fourth quarterly tranche would be Rs 9,000 per beneficiary, after 25 increase, which was announced by the federal government early this year. In addition to Benazir Kafaalat cash assistance, Benazir Taleemi Wazaif stipend's instalment of January to March is also being disbursed to 6.7 million school-going students, having at least 70 per cent attendance at schools, who are registered under Benazir Taleemi Wazaif, the press release added

# Govt placed promotion of blue economy in its growth agenda

Ahsan Iqbal says

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform, Ahsan Iqbal in a Group Photograph during his visit

Call for concerted efforts to achieve sustainable economic growth

KARACHI (APP): Federal kilometres of vast exclusive with the global Belt and Road has also earned a good name with its enhanced capacities Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, on Monday said that the blue economy possesses enor-mous potential for sustainable financial stability and development of Pakistan and the incumbent government has placed it in its futuristic agenda of national

to Karachi Shipyard.

The minister talking to media persons during the visit of the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) here said that more than one thousand kilometres long coastal line and over 2 million (CPEC) that were integrated

Muhammad

Sharif on Monday directed

the provincial and district

authorities to immediately

take rainwater drainage

problems faced by the

dwellers of Lahore, the

prime minister also directed

the relevant authorities to

remain alert in the situation

arising out of the current

rainy spell, the PM Office

Media Wing said in a press

shown in addressing the public issues and griev-

KARACHI (APP): Mayor

Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab Monday said citi-

zens' complaints regarding

cleaning and other munici-

pal problems would be re-

He was presiding over meeting in his office for a

detailed review of the prob-

lems faced by the citizens

in the limits of, Tehsil Mu-

nicipal Committee (TMC)

Orangi, Manghopir and

Mominabad and issued in-

structions for their imme-

diate solution by the rel-

evant bodies. He said that

Karachi Water and Sewer-

solved on priority.

No leniency should be

Taking notice of the

measures in Lahore.

PM Shahbaz directs

immediate rainwater

draining measures

Mayor assures citizens

of municipal grievances

Shehbaz

economic zone offer unfathomable opportunities to the country.

Pakistan being an agricultural country had relied on the green economy at the time while the volume of its blue economy was greater than the green one, he observed and noted that integration of both economies could boost the pace of the journey of development to a greater extent.

The federal minister said that PML-N led government has expedited important projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor

ances, it was further added. The authorities were

tasked to continuously

monitor the situation with

prompt measures in place.

further stressed that con-

sidering the situation, alter-

nate routes should be timely

identified for smooth ve-

of the country, the prime minister also directed for

adoption of safety measures

during the rainy spells and

called upon the provincial

and district administrations

to save the people from any trouble with their joint col-

water supply and drainage

lines in Manghopir.
Solid Waste Management Board should keep in

full contact with the TMCs

regarding sanitation in their

area. All the concerned offic-

ers should solve the problems

of the citizens through mu-

tual contacts, he observed

Deputy Commissioner West

Ali Zulfiqar Memon, Man-

aging Director Sindh Solid

Waste Management Board

Syed Imtiaz Shah, CEO Water Board Syed Salahuddin

Ahmed, General Manager

Sindh Solid Waste Manage-

ment Board Dil Nawaz Shah,

hicular traffic

The prime minister

Similarly, in other parts

initiative and open new vistas of growth and prosperof the country. He said that under the

sustainable development approach, it was our responsibility to secure and efficiently monitor the country's coastal line and maritime frontiers. The minister while lauding the services of PMSA for

the protection of the borders of Pakistan said that the agency was equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and fleet and was vigilantly securing the maritime frontiers of Pakistan

Additionally, PMSA

for the country across the globe due to its rescue and relief operations in the deep sea, he added.

Ahsan Iqbal recalled that in 2014 operational capacity of PMSA was limited to a few old boats and it lacked an effective monitoring system. Then government vowed to modernise the agency and approved projects for the induction of 6 modern ships and boats in PMSA which had signifi-

cantly improved the opera-

would keep securing the maritime frontiers of the country and preventing the dumping of hazardous materials and elimination of illegal trade within their ju-

risdiction He further said that PMSS Kolachi was developed at the Karachi shipyard and inducted into a fleet of PMSA. The Karachi shipyard had the capability to manufacture even bigger ships that would not only further enhance the country's tional capacities of the maritime forces but Pakincy, the minister said. stan could also earn p He hoped that PMSA cious foreign exchange. stan could also earn pre-



KARACHI: Members of Drugs Action Committee are holding protest demonstration against selling of drugs in Malir area, on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, at Karachi press club.

#### PTI chairman, his wife regret to appear in NAB office

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI chairman and his wife Bushra Bibi have regretted to appear in NAB Rawalpindi office.

PTI chairman has filed written reply while regretting to appear in NAB Rawalpindi office.

PTI chairman took the plea " I have challenged jurisdiction of NAB in Toshakhana in-

I am appearing in Lahore High Court (LHC) in several cases today. Due to it I cannot appear in NAB office in person.

# Rice, cotton crops badly hit by water scarcity: Jam Khan Shoro

HYDERABAD (APP): Sindh Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro has deplored that the rice and cotton crops were being badly hit by water scarcity.

Addressing a press conference after assuming the charge of Chairman Board of Directors of Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (SIDA), he said that IRSA was releasing 12,000 cusecs of water in Taunsa Panjnad and 8,000 cusecs in Chashma Jhelum link canals

flood situation. He argued that under the 1991 Water Accord Sindh was supposed to supply 180,000 cusecs of water in the Indus river during the current season.

'But at present, just 160,000 cusecs of water is being released at Taunsa which is 300 kilometers away from Guddu barrage in Sindh. He recalled that a committee formed by the National Assembly Standing Committee on Water visited the barrages in Sindh and also acknowlwhich were supposed to be given water only during the given its due share of water.

# Speakers demand implementation of 2014 landmark verdict of Supreme Court

**Independent Report** KARACHI: Human rights,

and minority rights activists at a consultation here on Monday expressed serious concern about the non-implementation of the Supreme Court of Pakistan's 2014 judgment on minority rights and demanded the government to implement this landmark

verdict in its true spirit. The consultation Ensuring Compliance with Minority Rights in Sindh through the Lens of Honorable Supreme Court of Pakistan Judgment (SMC no 1 of 2014)" was organized by the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) in collaboration with National Lobbying Delegation for Minority Rights and Legal Aid Soci-



sion, Special Assistant to Sindh Chief Minister on human rights Surendar Valasai reiterated the Sindh government's commitment to promoting and protecting minority rights. He said that the PPP government of Sindh established the minority affairs department in 1994, which was the first such a depart-Speaking on the occament in any province of

Pakistan. He said the provincial government is seriously making policies and laws for the protection of minority rights to foster an inclusive society in the

SHRC Chairperson Iqbal Detho shared the pivotal role of the Commission in addressing the minority's issues in the

# Daily soice of Masse Independent

# Revised budget

Budget 2023-24 that was passed by parliament yesterday after the introduction of large fiscal-tightening measures to sweeten it for the IMF might resuscitate the bailout deal with the Fund, stalled since last November.

As Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said in his closing budget speech, the IMF's concerns regarding the original budgeted deficit of 6.5pc of GDP have been largely addressed through the imposition of additional taxes of Rs215bn and spending cuts of

In its comments on the original budget unveiled in May, the IMF had said that it "misses the opportunity to broaden the tax base in a more progressive way". The lender had also objected to certain other budgetary measures like the 'no-questions-asked scheme' to attract new dollar inflows from Pakistanis abroad. Unfortunately, the details of the new fiscal adjustments show that the government has wasted yet another opportunity to broaden the tax base despite meeting the IMF condition.

It has imposed a total of Rs438bn — taxes of Rs223bn were introduced in the original draft – and there is no major effort to bring undertaxed sectors, such as retail, agriculture and real estate, into the net. No reform of the SOEs has been planned

Although the government has increased the withholding tax on property transactions in the hope of netting Rs35bn, the measure is unlikely to produce the targeted revenue without drastic documentation of the sector. Much of the burden of the additional taxes will be borne by the organised corporate sector and salaried classes.

Mr Dar's speech indicated that agreement on the new adjustments had been reached between the two sides after three days of hard negotiations. That means that one of the three concerns of the lender has been met before it restarts the funding.

How much progress has been made on the other two demands regarding the removal of controls on the exchange rate to keep the rupee from going into free fall, and the gap between the two sides on the IMF's external financing gap estimates for the outgoing fiscal year?

The government has already moved towards restoring the proper functioning of its foreign exchange market, and it is anticipated that the Fund will relax its condition on external financing gap pro-

Since the 'thaw' in ties between the lender and Islamabad has come only after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's repeated interactions with IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva, including their recent Paris meeting, both sides seem to be softening their positions. Though just a few days are left before the rescue facility expires on June 30, there is still enough time to seal the deal. This is crucial if Pakistan is to avoid the looming sovereign default; without the deal, the country could exhaust its forex reserves in the next few months

# It's all geopolitics

choosing to largely ignore

India's horrific human

rights record with regard

to Kashmir and the Indian

Muslim population, and

the rapid erosion of

India's democratic culture

in the form of press cen-

sorship and clampdowns

on the political opposi-

leave Pakistan? We could

cry foul at being told (yet

again) to clamp down on

home-grown militancy.

But this is not a way to

make friends and influ-

ence people (least of all

China and Saudi Arabia,

long-term allies who dis-

creetly signalled to Paki-

stan in recent years that

the strategy of maintain-

ing state-sponsored 'as-

sets' is no longer wel-

tion: we could initiate a

serious rethink of our for-

eign policy. The major

challenge for Islamabad

arising out of Modi's visit

is the question of how to

balance its ties with

Washington and Beijing.

We need to maintain our

links with both these su-

perpowers: we need the

loan rollovers from

Beijing, the IMF bailouts

from the US. We need

China's infrastructure in-

vestments, and American

IT innovations. We do not

we should have obsessed

over last week was that of

US Secretary of State

Antony Blinken to China.

The trip aimed to ease ten-

sions between the super-

powers after the US shot

down a Chinese spy

plane in February. Some

progress was made to

stabilise ties and im-

prove communication,

but relations soured

again when US President

Joe Biden referred to

China's president as a

value to both its allies by

Could Pakistan add

playing a productive me-diator? Unlikely given tesy Dawn

"dictator"

Arguably, the visit

want to have to choose.

Here's another op-

So where does this



**Huma Yusuf** 

Kicking off his US visit with a yoga session on the north lawn of the United Nations, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed the positions of a cobra, crocodile, and frog. Pakistanis watching the visit unfold last week probably hurled more animal slurs his way. But the visit should leave Pakistan introspective.

compatriots My have been incensed at the US-India joint statement calling on Pakistan to do more to counter terrorism, and inviting further FATF scrutiny of our efforts to counter terrorism financing. Similar statements with similar phrasing have been issued by four US administrations to smooth the course of the US-India bilateral relationship. It

Much has already been written to explain why Modi — once banned from entering the US due to his involvement in the anti-Muslim pogrom in Gujarat — is now feted as America's great friend. The answer is always geopolitics: India. with its burgeoning population and robust economy, is in America's eyes the only convincing counterpoint to China in Asia; there is no managing Beijing without be-

is the least of our worries.

friending New Delhi. And then there's the Russia angle. With growing urgency to resolve the Ukraine conflict and weaken Russia sufficiently to prevent future transgressions, Washington needs New Delhi to take a more critical stance vis-à-vis Moscow. historic defence ties notwithstanding.

When Great Games

are underway, everyone starts to bend the rules. down, but these are In the US case, that means questions we should be

asking.

Another 21st-century reality highlighted by Modi's visit is that unless you have something to offer the world, the world doesn't care what happens to you. Our long-term strategy of negotiating under pressure has run its course. Rather than agonise over the impressive defence deals that New Delhi has struck with Washington, let's consider what else makes India an attractive

partner for the US. Geopolitical might aside, Modi arrived in Washington with semiconductor assembly and other manufacturing capacity, critical minerals, climate finance opportunities and an ambitious space programme.

For supporting the diversification of supply chains away from China and facilitating the global green transition, India is receiving the kind of inward investment that many will covet: not just hundreds of millions dollars into manufacturing facilities, but also an agreement to train 60,000 Indian engineers to boost India's capacity to develop semiconductors. Pakistan will be lost if it doesn't marry economic policy (our vague premise of doing better on agriculture and IT) with foreign policy and geopolitical realities. Ultimately, it will have to reappraise the cost of premising its foreign policy on enmity with India. Areas for cooperation — food and water security, climate adaptation and mitigation, supply chain integration, access to technology, and even regional stability – are proliferating and need to be explored (perhaps one day in a threesome with Washington too?). Without a more agile approach, Pakistan will only

# Token legislation?



Haris Zaki

Today marks the 26th International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, commemorating the adoption of the UN Convention Against Torture in 1987 and the absolute prohibition on torture in any and all circumstances. Each year, this day provides a platform for stakeholders to come together in universal condemnation of the reprehensibility of torture, and to rally support for the victims and survi-

Pakistan's relationship with the phenomenon of torture has always been an uneasy one. Despite repeated condemnation by the state and accession to various international human rights instruments, torture is an institutionalised practice that permeates nearly every facet of our criminal justice system. Impunity breeds violence, and in the absence of clear-cut accountability mechanisms, those in power were free to exercise this violence to coerce, intimidate and extract unlawful confessions from the

When the president put his assent to the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022, in November last year, it seemed as though years of effort were finally yielding some progress; the past decade had seen the introduction and subsequent failure of five separate bills criminalising torture. As such, the passage of this law (introduced by the previous government's interior ministry and taken up by the incumbent one) was nothing short of momentous. It may have vestigation

duty to the public, or perselves from goes, or even a step towards compliance with international obligations. Regardless of their motivations, our lawmakers have succeeded in bringing to life a procedural framework within which torture by public officials is defined, criminalised penalised. Since then, however,

there has been no docu-

mented use of this law, despite the rampant prevalence of the term 'custodial torture' in today's public discourse. Seven months on, it seems the general public, particularly those who most regupolice's cross hairs, are largely unaware of this Act and the protections it offers. The true success whether it receives the approval of our legislature, or how many brownie points it gets us in the UN Treaty Body reporting phase. Without passing rules that detail responsibilities, powers and procedures, similar to those notified under the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial Act), 2021, the Act criminalising torture will remain a token piece of legislation introduced as a cosmetic measure in advance of Pakistan's GSP-Plus reapplication.

On this International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, perhaps more than simply bringing attention to the prevalence of torture in the country (which is no great secret), the priority should be ensuring every Pakistani who has or may unlawfully suffer at the hands of public officials knows how to hold them to ac-

Under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022, the Federal In-Agency

been out of a sense of (FIA) and the National Commission for Human haps to protect them- Rights are granted investhe tigative authority. As an victimisation they inevita- independent institution bly face depending on mandated to protect and which way the ballot promote human rights across the country, it is imperative that the NCHR be sufficiently empowered, and that its resource constraints and bureaucratic encumbrances be addressed immediately. Given that they have the power to initiate inquiries and investigations into human rights abuses upon receiving a complaint, they remain the best avenue for ensuring culpability and justice.

However, there are also other channels available to victims that remain woefully underutilised.

larly find themselves in the magistr-a--te presiding over the arrest of an individual may, of their own volition or acting upon a complaint, di--rect the of any law lies not in FIA to launch an investigation into alleged torture in custody. The FIA (similarly plagued by resource constraints and capacity issues) may be directly approached as well, as can the Ministry of Human Rights and the National Commission on the Status of Women. Furthermore, in Punjab, the 'Meri Awaz' app can be used by women subjected to torture.

In the absence of concrete results in the form of successful prosecutions of perpetrators through impartial investigations, accountability and compensation for victims and a reduction in police excess, the Act will never be more than a piece of paper. Our government must fulfil its duty to train and capacitate the relevant actors, allocate resources, spread awareness amongst the Pakistani people and notify a procedural framework, should it truly wish to demonstrate its commitment to eradicating the blight of torture. -- Courtesv Dawn

# Commerce News

# **CDNS** to launch four Shariah compliant product from July 1st

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday reiterated firm resolve of the government to implement Shariah Compliant financial system to promote and encourage interest-free Islamic banking and finance in the country.

Addressing launching ceremony of the Shariah Compliant products by the Central Directorate of National Saving (CDNS), the minister said the directorate has designed and introduced Shariahcompliant investment and saving scheme which would be formally launched by July 1, 2023

four investment and saving products based on one- country. year, three-year and fiveyear terms, besides initiating saving account facility, adding that it is a flexible scheme with monthly profit and to withdraw principle amount that would the encourage savings and ensure full returns.

Ishq Dar informed that soon after assuming the charge as finance minister, he had directed the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) to withdraw their petitions against the decision of the Federal Shariah Court in which the Court

In a first, the minister said the CDNS has launched interest-free banking and financing system in the

> Meanwhile, a high power steering committee headed by the Governor SBP was formed to find ways and means to promote Shariah-compliant financial system in the country. The committee was comprised of other prominent scholars and experts from the banking and finance sectors.

> He said during the last tenure of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government, a committee was also constituted, which had taken several steps and produced positive results as due to these efforts.

hasten its isolation. -- Cour-

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar addresses the launching ceremony of Sarwa Islamic Savings Products by National Savings at Finance Division.

#### Naeem stresses to enhance Pak-Africa economic integration mense opportunities for

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's High Commissioner for the African country Rwanda Naeem Khan on Monday said that the African region is very important for enhancing economic integration with Pa-

Africa is the largest consumer market in the world due to the lack of large-scale industry and production at the local level,

Pakistan's High Commissioner for the African country Rwanda Naeem Khan expressed these views during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said a press rese issued here

He said there are im-

Pakistan's business community in this region.

Naeem Khan said that the way Islamabad Chamber has made efforts for trade relations with other African countries including Ethiopia for some time is commendable.

"I hope that as the Head of Mission to Rwanda and other countries, I will continue to receive the full support of the Islamabad Chamber and the business community.

He said that the diplomatic and political importance of Africa for Pakistan has its place but the most importance is trade.

In the policy given to us by the government, trade

'I invite the business community of the whole country, including Islamabad, to set up their including display center in the Pakistani Embassy in Rwanda we will provide full facilities, Rwanda is an excellent tourist destination, the business community should also pay attention

He said that the African region is of great importance at the political and diplomatic level in the whole world.

"Africa is well represented in all international forums including the United Nations, OIC. We need to take advantage

## **PSX** witnesses bullish trend, gains 1,371

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 1,371.78 points on Monday, a positive change of 3.42 per cent, closing at 41,437.10 points against 40,065.32 points the pre-

A total of 226,821,151 shares were traded during the day as compared to 136,899,866 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.7.010 billion against Rs. 3.372 billion on the last

#### PEW says: Govt's new tax measures to intensify miseries of poverty-stricken masses ISLAMABAD (INP): Se- other Rs215 billion in taxes

nior Vice President of Paki-stan Economy Watch (PEW) Dr. Hanif Mughal has said that newly introduced tax measures of the government will further intensify the hardships of the poverty-stricken masses who are in the grip of the unprecedented inflation and unemployment in the recent years.

In a statement issued here on Monday, he said that various changes have been made by the govern-ment in budget of the including fiscal tightening measures in a last-ditch effort to secure critical funding, but it will also hit the masses badly, he said.

said that the government ing above Rs200,000 per now aims to generate an-

and cut spending by Rs85 billion without reducing the federal development budget or the salaries and pensions of government employees, which will be difficult.

The IMF orders will revise the revenue collection target to Rs9.415 trillion: put total spending at Rs14.48 trillion and the share of provinces would be increased to Rs5.39 trillion from Rs5.28 trillion, he added.

The business leader said that the government will collect Rs70 billion from fertiliser duty, Rs45 billion from hike in tax on buying, selling property, and Rs30 billion from in-Dr. Hanif Mughal creased tax on people earn-

# **SMEDA** to sign MoUs with six public sector organisations

LAHORE (APP): The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) is going to sign six memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with six public sector organizations to celebrate June 27 (Tuesday) as the World SME Day.

The signing ceremony would be attended by Makhdoom Syed Murtaza Mehmood, Federal Minister Industries and Production as chief guest. The organisations joining

the signing ceremony of MoUs included Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC), Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO), Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), Messaliha International Center for Arbitration and Dis-Resolution (MICADR), Urban Unit Government of

the Puniab and Gov-

ernment of Gilgit Baltistan.

Talking to media here Mon-day, CEO SMEDA Farhan Aziz Khawaja highlighted the signifi-cance of World SME Day, and said that the United Nations General Assembly, in order to recognize and streamline the importance of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in any economy had declared 27 June as world MSME Day and the first MSME day was celebrated on 27th June 2017.

he objective of celebrating this day was to provide a platform for MSME owners to tell their stories of entrepreneurship and its challenges, while governments, international organizations and business support organizations show their commitment to supporting their development, he explained

# Tasneem Qureshi says: Promotion of agro based industry vital

SARGODHA (APP): State agro-based industry was Minister for Production crucial for sustainable and Industries Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi Monday stressed the need for promotion of the agro-based industry

He said agro-industry contributes to GDP, earns foreign exchange through exports, promotes rural development, ensures food security, and adds value to agricultural products.

Talking to APP, he said a strong and vibrant

economic growth, poverty reduction and overall developments.

He said the agro-based industry was crucial for ensuring food security in Pa-

With a growing population, it is essential to have a robust agricultural sector that could produce an adequate quantity of food to meet the domestic demand,

#### Gold prices **up by Rs 800**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 800 and was sold at Rs 215,300 on Monday against its sale at Rs.214,500 the previous day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs .685 to Rs 184,585 from Rs 186,043 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went up to Rs 169,203 from Rs 168,574, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola silver increased by Rs.50 to Rs2,550 whereas that of ten gram went up by Rs.42.87 to Rs.2,186.21.



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

**Shahid Rasheed says:** IMF, WB political institutions, promoting poverty, inequality in world ISLAMABAD (INP): countries of their re-

Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt said on Monday that the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank (WB) and other related institutions are promoting poverty and inequal-

ity in the world. Their aim is to increase the wealth and influence of Western coun-

sources, he added. In a statement issued here, Shahid Rasheed

Butt said that because of the tactics of these institutions, five percent of the world's population has occupied eighty percent of the resources. The majority of the richest people in the world belong to a Western power, and the IMF is adopting every legal and illegal tactic to increase their tries by robbing the poor wealth, he observed.

vious day.

trading day.



Tuesday June 27, 2023

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji GhulamAli addressing 1st Convocation of University of Technology Nowshera

# Kundi for ensuring all possible facilities at BISP payment centers

(APP): Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Šafety Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday directed for ensuring the provision of all possible facilities to the beneficiaries at payment centers of Benazir Income Support Program

He issued these directions during his visit to different payment centers of BISP in Dera Ismail Khan. On this occasion, the state minister was accompanied by Pakistan People's Party (PPP) District President Malik Farhan Afzal Dhap,

Khawaja Ahmed Hassan

said on Monday the Paki-

stan Muslim League-

Nawaz (PML-N) govern-

ment was determined to

steering the country out of

prevailing crises and it

would come up to people's

meeting, called to review

the ongoing development

work in the city and ar-

rangements in connection

with the Eidul Azha at the

Aiwan Iqbal Complex.

With sincere efforts of the

government, the country

would get out of the pre-

vailing crises soon, he said

adding that the leadership

He was addressing a

expectations.

Malik Khizer Hayat, structions of PPP Chairman Tehsil Information Secretary Haji Sooba Khan and

He listened to the issues and difficulties being faced by the beneficiary women at these payment centers and directed the onduty staff to take steps for immediate resolution of the problems being faced by the deserving people.

He warned that no negligence would be tolerated in ensuring smooth payments to the beneficiary women.

**Ahmed Hassan says:** 

PML-N to come up

to people's expectations

LAHORE (APP): Prime vandalism, and it would be

Minister's Coordinator compensated by working

The state minister stipend amount.

#### departments on alert **Independent Report** LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Nagyi has directed all line

8,500 to Rs 9,000.

#### **KP** registers 40 dengue cases in one week

PESHAWAR (APP): The

provincial health department,

Bannu. Lakki Marwat.

Khyber and Kohat districts.

It said that the health depart-

ment in collaboration with the

district administrations and

other line departments kept

the dengue cases under con-

trol this year as compare to

the last year.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Former MNA Mehar Monday called for more prag-Ishtiaq, MPA Ch Shehbaz, matic measures to control the Rabia Farooqi, Ramzan spread of dengue fever in the Siddique Bhatti, Syed province as at-least 40 cases Tauseef Shah, MD LWMC were reported within a week Babar Sahibuddin, DG PHA from across the province. A Naeem Watto, DMD comparative report of den-WASA Abdul Karim, repgue fever cases issued here resentatives of Walled City by the department revealed of Lahore Authority, that 13 cases were reported Punjab Police and others from Mardan, 11 Peshawar, were present. five Bajaur, three Chitral, two each from DI Khan and Swabi and one each from

Khawaja Hassan said that despite difficult circumstances, the government was providing resources worth billions of rupees to improve the quality of life to people whereas comprehensive rewould mitigate the effects forms were being introof the damage, caused to the duced for rapid developeconomy by politics of ment of the province.

Tehsil General Secretary said that on the special inand Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, this time the aid amount has been increased from Rs

> Similarly, he said, educational scholarships worth Rs 17 billion were being given under the Waseela-e-Taleem programme.

The stipend amount for the children of deserving women has also been increased. The female student would be given Rs 2,500 and the male student would be provided Rs 2,000

# utilising available machin-ery to implement the unfortunate incident. GB unveils over Rs116 bln budget for fiscal year 2023-24

CM Punjab puts line

planned drainage strategy

within the designated

timeframe. He sternly

emphasised that no negli-

gence would be tolerated in

carrying out the vital task

of traffic management, the

CM emphasized the need

for special arrangements to

operations, while empha-

sizing the initiation of im-

mediate emergency mea-

sures in the event of any

Addressing the issue

of water drainage.

GILGIT (APP): The Gilgit wheat. The finance minis-Baltistan government on Monday announced an Rs116 billion 15 crore budget for the next fiscal year 2023-24 in the Assembly held here on Monday.

departments including the

provincial administration,

Puniab Disaster Manage-

ment Authority, Rescue

1122, and Water and Sani-

tation Agency to maintain

a state of high alertness,

operating round-the-clock,

in response to heavy rain-

fall in Lahore and other cit-

ies. The chief minister di-

rected the officers con-

cerned to remain present in

the field, ensuring prompt

drainage of stagnant water.

He emphasised the need for

expeditious water drainage,

without any compromise.

Gilgit Baltistan Fi-nance Minister Javed Ali Manwa presented the budget in the House.

In the budget of the new financial year, 74 billion rupees have been allocated for non-developmental expenditure, while 28 billion 45 crore rupees have been allocated for development expenditure. 13 billion 70 crore rupees have been proposed for subsidy on power sector.

ter announced a 35 per cent increase in the salaries of government employees up to 16 and 30 per cent in the salaries of employees from grades 17 to 22.

He further said that more than one billion 37 crore rupees have been allocated for the improvement of the health sector. Heer said that more

than 1 billion 57 crore rupees have been allocated for education, 45 crore rupees for agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries, and 4 billion 17 crore rupees have been proposed for the

#### To control drug abuse

# Governor underlines need to evolve comprehensive mechanism in universities

Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman chaired a meeting of Consortium on Drug and Narcotics Con-

trol today at Governor House Lahore. In the meeting, suggestions and recommendations regarding the prevention of drug abuse in universities were discussed.

Speaking on the occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman underlined the need to evolve a comprehensive mechanism in universities to control drug abuse at the campuses of the universities. He said that the 2021

facilitate the smooth flow 3 siblings died in of vehicles, with active efa tragic traffic forts required to resolve public grievances. accident in He urged administrative officers and WASA Lahore staff to oversee and complete the water drainage

LAHORE (Online): 3 siblings died due to traffic accident in provincial capital According to rescue

authorities, a tragic traffic accident took place on Soi Asal Road near Kahana where two speeding motorcycles have been collided with a tractor trolley parked on the side of the

Authorities have said that as a result of the accident, three siblings died while the mother and two sons were injured

cation Commission is an Punjab/Chancellor effective and comprehensive policy in this regard. Governor Punjab urged all the vice chancellors to ensure the implementation of

this policy.

He said that there is a need to train the faculty in this regard as well. Governor Punjab emphasized that regular awareness campaigns should be conducted to make students aware of the ill effects of drugs. He added that there should be counseling facility for stu-dents in the campuses in this regard.

briefed the Governor the meeting.

policy of the Higher Edu- Punjab in detail about the various recommendations. Convener/Pro-Vice-

Chancellor Bahauddin Zakaria University, Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice-Chancellor Faisalabad Medical University Prof. Dr. Zafar Ali Chaudhry, Vice-Chan-cellor Nishtar Medical University Multan Prof. Dr. Rana Altaf Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor GC University Lahore Prof. Dr. Asghar Ali Zaidi, Vice Chancellor University of Health Sciences Lahore Professor Ahsan Waheed Rathore, Vice Chancellor Women University Multan Professor Dr. On this occasion, the Director ANF Raja Tariq members of the Consortium Mehmood participated in

# Minister vows to arrest miscreants behind attacks on Sikh youth

PESHAWAR Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister of Information Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel on Monday said the law enforcing agencies and police were actively pursuing the two attacks on Sikh youth in the provincial capital and assured that soon the miscreants would be brought to justice.

The Minister arrived here at Gurdwara Bhai Joga Singh, Mohalla Jogan Shah and condoled with the be-reaved family of 32-year old

Manmohan Singh a Sikh shopkeeper who was shot dead in Rashidgarhi Bazaar here on Saturday. The Minister conveyed his heartfelt sorrow and grief to later Manmohan Singh's father and brother and assured that soon the culprit would be arrested and given exemplary punishment. He said that no one would be allowed to disturb the peace and atmosphere of brotherhood in the



LAHORE: Governor Punjab/Chancellor Muhammad Balighur Rehman chairing a meeting of Consortium on Drug and Narcotics Control at Governor House

# International News

# Russian PM urges citizens to rally behind Putin after aborted mutiny

**Monitoring Desk** 

Minister Mishustin said on Monday that the country had faced "a challenge to its stability" and must remain united behind President Vladimir Putin following Saturday's abortive mutiny by heavily armed mercenary fighters.

Under a deal late on Saturday that defused the crisis and averted possible bloodshed, the Kremlin said the Wagner Group mercenaries would return to base, while their leader Yevgeny

Belarus. All criminal charges against him and his fighters would be dropped, the Kremlin said.

In what appeared to minister in 2020. be the first public com-Mishustin appealed at a televised government meetefforts by the West to undermine Russia.

"The main thing in these conditions is to ensure the sovereignty and

Prigozhin would move to independence of our country, the security and wellbeing of citizens," said Mishustin, a technocrat who was appointed prime

"For this, the consoliments by a senior Russian dation of the whole of sociofficial since then, ety is especially important; we need to act together, as one team, and maintain the ing for national unity in the unity of all forces, rallying face of what he said were around the president," he said. Mishustin, a former head of Russia's federal tax service, also took a swipe

at the West. "As the president

noted, virtually the entire military, economic, information machine of the West is directed against us," he said.

Putin said on Saturday that the rebellion by the Wagner mercenary force had threatened Russia's very existence under threat and vowed to crush it.

However, he has not publicly commented since



event about high speed internet infrastructure at the White House.

# Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Rudenko and Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang in Beijing.

# At least 3 dead, dozens of homes damaged after storms hit US Midwest, South

**Monitoring Desk** 

INDIANA: Tornadoes and thunderstorms hit the US Midwest and South a day earlier, leaving dozens of homes damaged and at least three people dead in Indiana and Arkansas, authorities said on Monday. The National Weather

Service said multiple tornadoes and severe storms were reported on Sunday in cen-

tral Indiana and Arkansas. Emergency officials from Martin County, Indiana, confirmed one death in the area. Emergency Management Director Cameron Wolf said the victim's injured partner was airlifted to two-storey log cabin, which

was destroyed by the storms. Further details were not immediately available.

"Damage is random, it's kind of widespread. Wolf said in an interview with PBS. The damage mostly happened out in the countryside, he said. adding that towns were not hit that hard by the storms.

The Lonoke County Sheriff's Office confirmed that two people were killed after a tree fell on a home in Carlisle, Arkansas, due to severe storms on Sunday, a

CBS News affiliate said. Images and footage from local media showed fallen trees had blocked hospital. They lived in a roads and homes were damaged

#### Kremlin releases first video statement by **Putin since Wagner mutiny**

**Monitoring Desk** MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday issued via the Kremlin website his first statement since an armed mutiny by the Wagner mercenary group, congratulating participants of an industrial forum.

It was not immediately clear when or where Putin's statement was recorded.

#### UN ship agency chief urges decisive action at environment talks **Monitoring Desk**

ONDON: Countries must take decisive action at talks aimed at accelerating decarbonisation in the shipping industry, the United Nations' shipping agency chief said on Monday, as pressure for change builds.

Shipping, which transports around 90% of world trade and accounts for nearly 3% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions, is facing growing calls from environmentalists and investors to deliver more concrete action including a carbon levy.

#### then on the dramatic events or on the deal brokered by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko that China expresses support

for Russia after failed

**Monitoring Desk** HONG KONG: China has expressed support for Russia's efforts to maintain national stability in the wake of a failed uprising by mercenaries that posed a brief but unprecedented challenge to Russian Presi-

dent Vladimir Putin's rule. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Rudenko was in Beijing on Sunday, a day after Yevgeny Prigozhin called off an advance on Moscow

mercenary revolt by his Wagner mercenary group forces and agreed to leave for Belarus in exchange for charges being

dropped. 'The Chinese side expressed support for the efforts of the leadership of the Russian Federation to stabilize the situation in the country in connection with the events of June 24. and reaffirmed its interest in strengthening the unity and further prosperity of Russia.

# Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group says it shot down an Israeli drone near the southern border

**Monitoring Desk** 

BEIRUT: Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group said its fighters shot down an Israeli drone Monday that was flying near the border and over southern Lebanon.

The group gave no of the border with Israel.

further details about the type of drone that it claimed was downed near the village of Zibqine just north An Israeli military spokesman said in a tweet

that a drone crashed in Leba-

non when an Israeli force was performing routine activities. The spokesman, Avichay Adraee, added in Arabic that there were no concerns of information being leaked. The incident comes after weeks of tensions along the Lebanon-Israel border, mainly in a disputed area known as

pelted the troops with stones

along the border.

plane engine. Chebaa Farms. Earlier this month, Israeli soldiers fired tear gas to disperse scores of Lebanese protesters who

# Blinken says Wagner insurrection shows 'cracks' emerging in Putin's rule

**Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: US Sec-

retary of State Antony Blinken said Sunday that the brief and chaotic insurrection in Russia led by the Wagner paramilitary group shows "cracks" in Russian President Vladimir Putin's role as a leader of the country. "This is just an added chapter to a very, very bad book that Putin has written for Russia. But what's so striking about it is, it's internal," Blinken told CNN's Dana Bash on "State of the Union," describing the situation as

authority, directly questioning the premises that – upon which he launched this aggression against Ukraine. That, in and of itself, is something very, very powerful. It adds cracks. Where those go, when they get there, too soon to say, but it clearly raises new questions that Putin has to deal with," he said. The comments from

The fact that you

have from within someone

directly questioning Putin's

the nation's top diplomat underscore the short-lived tering invasion of Ukraine.

intensity of a crisis that started when Yevegeny Prigozhin, the head of the Wagner Group, marched his fighters toward Moscow, taking control of Russian military facilities along the way. Prigozhin on Friday openly accused Russia's military of attacking a Wagner camp and killing a "huge amount" of his men. For months, he had railed against Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and the country's top general, Valery Gerasimov, whom he blames for Moscow's fal-

#### Airport worker dies after plane engine 'ingests' him

**Monitoring Desk** 

WASHINGTON: US regulators said on Sunday they are investigating an incident in which a Texas airport worker was killed after being sucked into a passenger

A Delta flight had arrived in San Antonio, Texas from Los Angeles on Friday night and was taxiing to the gate with one engine on "when a worker was ingested into that engine".

# North Korea holds rallies denouncing US, warns of nuclear war

**Monitoring Desk** SEOUL: North Korea held mass rallies in Pyongyang where people shouted slo-

gans vowing a "war of revenge" to destroy the United States, as it marked the 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, state media reported on Monday. About 120,000 working people and students took part in the rallies held across the capital

on Sunday, state news

agency KCNA reported.

Photos released by state media showed a stadium crowded with people holding placards reading "The whole U.S. mainland is within our shooting range" and "The imperialist U.S. is the destroyer of peace." Sunday's anniversary came amid concerns Pyongyang could soon conduct another launch of its first military spy satellite to boost monitoring of

U.S. military activities.

# SBP raises policy rate to 22% amid recent financial developments

Monday, decided to raise the policy rate by 100 bps to 22 percent for keeping real interest rate firmly in the positive territory amid recent developments.

The decision, effective form 27th June 2023, was taken in an emergency meeting of Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) convened here to review the overall economic situation particularly the potential effects of budgetary measures and relaxation in imports, said a statement issued here by the Central

The MPC in its meeting held on 12th June decided to maintain the policy rate unchanged at 21 % terming the then monetary

KARACHI (APP): The policy stance as appropriate the already stressed external account, the statement said. of price stability "barring any unexpected domestic and external shocks.'

The MPC further noted that, this outlook was contingent on effectively addressing the prevailing domestic uncertainty and external vulnerabilities."

The Committee in its emergency meeting, however, had noted two important domestic developments since the last meeting- certain upward revisions in taxes, duties and PDL rate in FY24 budget and withdrawal of SBP's general guidance for commercial banks on prioritisation of imports- that have slightly deteriorated inflation outlook and which could potentially increase pressure on

the already stressed external The measures have in-

creased the upside risks to the inflation outlook, the MPC noted and viewed that additional tax measures were likely to contribute to inflation both directly and indirectly, while the relaxation in imports may exert pressures in the foreign exchange

"The latter may result in higher-than-earlier anticipated exchange rate passthrough to domestic prices,' it further added.

The MPC termed the decision as necessary to keep real interest rate firmly in the positive territory on a forward-looking basis and hoped that it would help further anchor inflation expectations - which are allast few months, and support bringing down inflation towards the medium term target of 5-7 percent by the end of FY25, barring any unforeseen developments.

The MPC viewed that its decision - along with the expected completion of the ongoing IMF program and the government adhering to the target of generating a primary surplus in FY24 would help in addressing external sector vulnerabilities and reduce economic uncertainty. The Committee reiterated that it would continue to carefully monitor evolving economic developments and stands ready, if necessary, to take appropriate action to achieve the objective of price stability over the me-

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Minister for Information

Marriyum Aurangzeb on

Monday announced final-

ization of the country's

first-ever music policy

draft, which would ulti-

mately prove to be a big

tives and initiatives would

eventually boost the music

industry since they would

effectively redress piracy,

copyrights and other perti-

nent issues, she said in a

music policy had been pre-

pared in accordance with

the international standards

and also considering the rel-

evant laws in vogue in the

public performance, pro-

duction, distribution, adap-

tation, duration, and me-

chanical and communica-

Karachi Barrister Murtaza

Wahab on Monday asked

Jamaat-e-Islami's (JI) Hafiz

problems of the people

dressing the ceremony or-

ganized on the occasion of

laying the foundation stone

of Allama Igbal Park in

Federal B. Area Block 14

on Monday. Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that

like Jahangir Park in Saddar-

Karachi, Allama Iqbal Park

is being constructed in Dis-

trict Central at a cost of Rs

250 million, it is a beautiful

gift from Pakistan Peoples

Party to the people of Dis-

Allama Iqbal Park will

be completed in a period of were also present.

DC chairs meeting

regarding Eid-ul-Adha

trict Central.

He said this while ad-

could be resolved.

tion rights were also sic music

Mayor Karachi asks JI's

Hafiz Naeem to sit together

for development of Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor three months and the project

Naeem Ur Rehman to sit cricket ground will be built

together for the develop-ment of Karachi so that the ment of Karachi so that the Mega Projects, he said.

She said the artists

neighbouring countries.

The minister said the

statement.

The new policy incen-

news for the industry.

Broadcasting

Big news - new policy

parameters to boost

music industry: Marriyum

brought into legal frame-

sures, the problem of users

and licensees would also be

solved, which would give a

boost to the music indus-

end of monopoly, the basic

legal rights of music indus-

try workers would also be

protected under the pro-

mands of the music stake-

holders, including copyrights, would be resolved,

would also protect the le-

gal rights of music produc-

ers, singers, writers and

lyricists, besides resolving

the long-standing issues of

the industry related to

sales, copying and piracy.

policy also included special

measures to preserve clas-

has three components, the

park will be built on two

acres and a football and a

Mayor Karachi Bar-

rister Murtaza Wahab has

said that the People's Party

believes only in public ser-

vice instead of power, they

want to share love and con-

nect hearts among people,

Pakistan People's Party

will continue its journey of

development in every street

of Karachi. Deputy Mayor

Karachi Salman Abdullah

Murad, PPP Central Dis-

trict President Masroor

Ahsan, General Secretary

Dil Muhammad Deputy

Commissioner Central Taha

Saleem and other officers

and elected representatives

The minister said the

try, she added.

posed policy.

she reiterated.

Through such mea-

The minister said the

All issues and de-

The policy, she said,

work through the policy.



MUZAFFERABAD: Activists of All Parties Hurriyat Conference holds banner and shouting slogans during protest in the favor of their demands in the capital of AJK.



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

#### Government launches search Columnist goes underground, disappears amidst controversy

**Monitoring Desk** ISLAMABAD: In a shocking turn of events, acclaimed columnist Syed Fawad Ali Shah has once again disappeared, leaving behind a trail of mystery and intrigue. The Federal Ministry of Interior in Islamabad has taken swift action, issuing a confidential letter to the Inspector Generals of Police across all provinces, urging them to locate the missing journalist and report back imme-

Government sources reveal that Fawad Ali Shah may have gone into hiding or vanished altogether after being granted temporary bail by the courts. Speculations are rife that Fawad, known for his daring stance try through covert means, potentially crossing the land borders of neighboring

India, Iran, or Afghanistan. The situation has become even more convoluted as conspiracy theories and clandestine investigations

swirl within various security agencies, including the Federal Ministry of De-

Fawad's involvement in multiple cases pertaining to conspiratorial news and social media campaigns against the government has led to an international travel ban and the revocation of his passport. The cloak of anonymity, these insiders have revealed that if Fawad Ali Shah has indeed managed to secretly enter any foreign country every available resource will be tirelessly deployed to ensure his swift repatria-

Collaborations with international agencies such as Interpol and Pakistani diplomatic missions abroad against the state, might have are being sought, as the govconnections and ensure Shah's return

The gravity of the situation cannot be overstated. Fawad's actions over the years have cast a shadow of disrepute upon the country



Dermatology Department attend an awareness walk in connection with World Allergy Week, at OPD of Civil Hospital, in City.

# Pakistan wins 10 golds as Special **Olympics concludes**

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan won a total of 10 gold medals in the 16<sup>th</sup> Special Olympics World Games, which concluded on Sunday

in Berlin. The number of golds in Pakistan's kitty increased after cyclist Safeer Abid clinched one in the 10km time trial race during the games' cycling event. He completed the 10km distance in 23 minutes and 02.02 sec-

onds. This was the first time that Safeer, who hails from Karachi, has participated in the World Games. The cyclist had been preparing for the special sporting event since the last two years, he said.

"I have the passion to win more medals for Pakistan in the upcoming international events,

Safeer said. In the 500m time trial race, Madeeha Tahir of Pakistan won the silver medal by covering the distance in 1 minute and 14.15 seconds, while Amina Arshad won the bronze medal by covering the distance in 1 minute and 16.82 seconds. In the final of the futsal

event, Oman won the gold medal by defeating Pakistan by 6-3 goals. Pakistan finished second with the silver medal

Pakistan stood fourth in women's doubles, men's singles and unified men's doubles of the tennis event.

the Bocce team event, Pakistan's Mahnoor, Simran Mahesh Lal, Jamilur Rahman and Farhan Aslam won the silver medal after defeating Canada, Australia and New

Zealand. Farhan Aslam won the bronze medal in men's singles, and Mahnoor won the bronze medal in women's singles.

Pakistan's Muhammad Luqman Habibullah clinched gold medals to increase the country's gold medals tally.

Luqman bagged gold in the 100m race by clocking 15.21 seconds of timing. He also won a silver medal in the long

anwhile, in powerlifting, Habibullah won gold in the 83 kilogramme deadlift. He also won silvers in squat, bench press and combined

#### Pakistan, Kazakhstan hold political consultations

SLAMABAD (APP) The second round of Pakistan-Kazakhstan Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) was held on Mon-

day in Astana, Kazakhstan. Additional Secretary (Afghanistan & West Asia) Syed Ahsan Raza Shah led Pakistan side while Kazakh side was led by Kanat Tumysh, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

During the consultations, both sides held extensive discussions on various facets of bilateral relations in the political and diplomatic, trade, economic connectivity, science & technology and culture sectors. The two sides also exchanged views on issues of regional and global impor-

#### CTD nabs four suspected terrorists in **Karachi involved** in multiple robberies

KARACHI (INP): In a significant operation, the Sindh Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) has nabbed four suspected terrorists in Karachi suspected of carrying out a series of robberies.

The CTD spokesperson confirmed that the suspects were arrested in inured condition

According to the CTD, the arrested individuals were involved in various criminal activities, including robberies, carjackings, and street

#### **Police arrest** 3 suspects HYDERABAD (APP):

The A-Section police arrested three suspects including one in injured condition after an encounter in Latifabad.

The police spokesman informed here on Monday that the police were conducting routine snap-checking when six suspects riding on a motorbike opened fire

on them in a bid to escape. He added that in the exchange of fire, Kamran alias Kami sustained a gunshot to his leg while two other suspects riding with him on the motorbike, Jmar Farooq alias Mushki and Sajjad, were also ar-

arrangements NAWABSHAH (APP): In order to overview the arrangement for sanitation and cleanliness on the days

of Eid Ul Azha in Daur Deputy Commissioner Shehryar Gul Memon chaired a meeting at Town Committee Office

Instructing all the officials of Town Committee, the DC said that one rickshaw for each ward and

bags shall be provided to each person sacrificing animals on all the three days of Eid so that animal waste could be lifted easily, DC said that attendance of sanitation stall should be ensured while steps be taken for shifting of sacrificial animal waste at some suitable site outside the towns.

DC said that he himself would visit different areas of the district to watch the sanitation situation. He said that sanitation

staff of the area would be strictly dealt with where sanitation is not found in proper condition. DC instructed DSP Daur to make better arrangements for Tehsil Daur citizens during Eid prayers.

Assistant Commissioner Daur was directed to set up a Control Room at his office for compliance of complaints in the wake of Eid Ul Azha and expected monsoon rains while focal persons of different departments shall be posted there.

The concerned officials of different government departments were instructed to ensure the cleaning of drainage nullahs.



Pakistan Avenue in Provincial Capital.

## Saudi media minister affirms strong fraternal relations with Pakistan, calls it 'his country' MAKKAH (APP): Saudi derscoring the strong frater- going efforts to strengthen

Arabia's Minister of Media, Salman Al-Dosari, expressed his deep bond with Pakistan, referring to it as his country, while emphasizing that Saudi Arabia serves as a second home for Pakistanis.

the other day, the Minister engaged with a delegation of

Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Director

General Imran Qureshi has

said that at least 13 people

died with 17 severely and 6

minor injuries in 15 lightning

strikes and roof collapse in-

cidents due to heavy rains

across the province during the

received reports of damages

and casualties from all dis-

tricts of the province, said a

handout issued here. The in-

jured have been provided with the best medical treat-

ment while monitoring of the

situation is continuing from

the provincial control room.

he said and added that ma-

chinery and staff have been

put on high alert for handling

emergencies as the PDMA is

in constant contact with the

province-wide administration

the alert issued regarding up-

coming rains, thunderstorms and rainfall with lightning in

Gujranwala, Sargodha, Attock,

Chakwal, Jhelum, Mianwali

Hafizabad, Mandi Bahauddin,

Sialkot, Narowal, Bhakkar,

Layyah, Gujrat, Sheikhupura.

Murree, Galyat, and adjoin-

ing areas was expected until

June 27, whereas some areas

may receive heavy rainfall

with gusty winds.

Lahore.

The DG PDMA said

Rawalpindi.

He said the PDMA has

last 24 hours.

During a comprehensive meeting held in Mina Pakistani journalists, un-

a second home.

nal relations between the two nations. Al-Dosari conveyed

that Pakistanis are considered brothers, and Saudi Arabia welcomes them as

Recognizing the importance of fostering bilateral cooperation in the media sector, Salman Al-Dosari highlighted the on- made for Hajj 2023

ties with Pakistani media. Emphasizing the significance of mutual collabo

his heartfelt sentiment ration, he affirmed that both countries are actively promoting this alliance.

In response, the Pakistani delegation ex-

pressed sincere appreciation to the Saudi authorities and government for the impeccable arrangements

#### 13 killed in PCG seizes hashish, rain related crystal ice worth \$136mln incidents: PDMA LAHORE (APP): Provincial

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Coast Guards (PCG) on Monday seized contrain Balochistan.

spokesperson, the hashish, crystal ice, and heroin were seized during an operation on a tip-off in Balochistan's Kapkapar.

The team of PCG raided a vacant house in Kapkapar and recovered high-quality 5,166 kilo-

grams of hashish, 274 kg of crystal ice and 53 kg of heroin worth \$136 million band items worth \$136mln in the international market. The spokesperson for

According to the Pa- Pakistan Coast Guards furkistan Coast Guards ther said the contraband items were to be smuggled

The case has been registered after seizing the contraband items. Separately, Coast Guards seized huge quantities of contraband items, in two separate actions in Balochistan.



HUB: Pakistan Coast Guard Officials are showing huge apprehended drugs worth millions of rupees, during raid on local area of Kapkapar, during press conference held at PCG Headquarters in Hub.

# CONDOLENCE -

#### THE ALL PAKISTAN NEWSPAPERS SOCIETY

expresses profound grief over the sad demise of

mother of

Mr. Saeed Ahmed Khan

Accounts Officer, APNS.

May Allah the Almighty rest her

soul in eternal peace and grant

courage to the family to bear the loss.



All Pakistan Newspapers Society