

# Independent

Member APNS &amp; CPNE

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Quetta

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## Despite constraints, budget 2023-24 promises to turn things around: PM

PM terms arrival of Russian oil cargo as beginning of new relationship with Moscow

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that despite the constraints imposed by domestic and global circumstances, the budget 2023-24 promised to turn things around and has outlined a clear path for the purpose.

The prime minister, in a tweet, said that achieving economic self-sufficiency, remained the overarching goal where the economy was insulated from external turbulence and shocks.

He said as the experts were analysing the various facets of budget 2023-24, he considered it important to highlight the special emphasis the government had placed on the growth-inducing sectors in the bud-

get. He said the measures for the uplifting of information technology, agriculture, solarisation, youth development and other sectors were proposed after thorough deliberations.

"They are aimed at incentivizing innovation and entrepreneurship of our talented youth and boosting the productivity of agriculture and attracting investment in the agro-industry."

At the same time, the prime minister said the government was working on a solarisation initiative to replace the costlier sources of power generation by harnessing the vast solar power.



Advisor to PM Sheikh Rohale Asghar calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad.

## In view of cyclone Biparjoy: High alert declared & section 144 imposed on coastal belt of Balochistan

Independent Report  
QUETTA: In view of the biper joy's cyclonic threat, a high alert has been declared and section 144 has been imposed on the coastal belt of Balochistan on special directives of the Chief Minister, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo.

Similarly, the leaves of employees of all concerned departments have been cancelled with the directives issued to remain present at their respective duties.

In addition to this, all the hospitals in the coastal areas have also been put on high alert with emergency declared there.

According to an official hand out issued here on Monday, these directives

were issued in context of the cyclone biper joy that may hit the coastal areas of the province in due course.

The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has directed the concerned authorities to establish strong coordination among all law enforcement agencies, civil administration and other concerned departments to cope with the challenge of cyclone in coastal areas of the province.

Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has also directed the Commissioners of Kalat and Makran divisions to personally monitor the situation and arrangements being made for tackling the situation to be caused by the cyclone.



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

## JIT meets on high profile case of target killing of Abdul Razaq Shar Advocate

Independent Report

QUETTA: The first ever sitting of the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) formed to probe into the brutal assassination of senior lawyer Abdul Razaq Shar was held with Deputy Inspector General of Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in the chair at his office on Monday.

The JIT is consisted of the SSP Investigation, SSP Operations, Investigation Officer of the murder of Abdul Razaq Shar and representative of the legal branch of Police besides the representatives of sensitive agencies.

While chairing the meeting, the DIG CTD ordered

to collect data of DVRs of the surrounding area of the spot of the murder to determine the criminals.

The JIT recommended to send the evidences from the spot and used bullets to the Forensic Laboratory. Moreover, the analysis of call data of the cell numbers used by the deceased lawyer can also be acquired, it was also mentioned.

The technical team of CTD was also assigned to provide facilitation in the investigations.

It was decided to hold next meeting of JIT on June 14, 2023, in which the participation of son and driver of the deceased lawyer is expected.



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

## COAS Munir calls on PM

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir on Monday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Prime Minister (PM) House.

Sources said that the meeting, held at Prime Minister House, underscored the exchange of thoughts on country's law and order situation, COAS briefed PM Shehbaz on professional matters of the army.

The meeting also deliberated the implementation of decisions taken at the National Security meeting, as well as brought intelligence-based operations against terrorism to light.

## Dar for further strengthening economic ties with China

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

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

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

The finance minister further updated the Charge de Affairs about the progress on talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the completion of the 9th review.

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

## Sustained supply of Russian oil to cut POL products prices: Musadik

ISLAMABAD (INP) - Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Malik has said the prices of petroleum products would start decreasing once continuous supply of oil from Russia was ensured. Mr Malik told a private news channel that there was going to be a huge difference in prices with the benefit being transferred to the masses when Pakistan would start meeting one-third of the domestic needs through the imported Russian oil.

"Our target is to get one-third of crude oil from Russia at discounted rate. When we will achieve the objective then the oil [petroleum products] would be available at cheaper price."

The state minister, however, said, "I cannot share the actual price now. However, it would result in a massive difference."

He said the first oil container had reached Karachi and the government wanted to ensure a sustained supply of Russian oil.

## NA adopts resolution demanding speedy action against May 9 rioters under Army Act

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

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

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

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

He said the House de-

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

"This step is continuity of the policies of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif who also has credit of the constitution of 8th Wage Board after a hiatus of 18 years," she added.

When PM Shehbaz Sharif was opposition leader in the National Assembly, many journalists visited his chamber complaining about their health problems, she recalled while highlighting directives of the prime minister who soon after coming into the power ordered establishment of a fund for the medical treatment of deserving journalists and media workers.

"This is not a favour to anyone since this is your right and our responsibility," the minister remarked.

## Zia seeks role of tribal elders to resolve tribal feuds

Independent Report  
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has stated that the progress of Baloch nation lies in unity and harmony and as such the provincial government is striving to resolve the tribal disputes, however, it is also responsibility of the tribal elders to play their part in this regard.

The Minister Home was speaking to prominent tribal elder and Bangulzai tribe chieftain, Sardar Kamal Khan Bangulzai here on Monday.

During the course of meeting, the issues related to tribal disputes and their solution were discussed between them.

Speaking on the occasion, the Provincial Minister maintained that we want an end to the tribal disputes and bloodshed in the province. For this very aim, although the government is also making efforts, but the role of tribal elders and chieftains is crucial in this regard, he added.

## Two new education boards formed in Balochistan

Independent Report  
QUETTA: Two new boards of Intermediate and Secondary Education have been formed in Balochistan on Monday.

According to an official notification issued here by the Colleges, Higher and Technical Education, Government of Balochistan here, both the boards including Makran Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (MBISE) and Loralai Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (LBISE) have been formed with approval of the Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo.

The MBISE would be established at Kech and LBISE would work from Loralai.

The basic objective behind this initiative is to provide education and examination facilities to the students of the province in their respective areas.

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

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

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

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

The court while giving stay order on the order for paying 100 percent tax on non transferable property adjourned the hearing of the case for indefinite period.

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by the Chief Justice of Pakistan

(CJP) Umar Ata Bandial took up the case for hearing Monday.

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

The CJP remarked that flaws in taxation system will have to be seen. New taxation will have to be made to integrate more people into tax system. What court has to do it has to do it as per law and constitution.

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



QUETTA: MPA Nasrullah Zarey meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## Governor satisfied with positive and constructive role of media in Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has expressed his satisfaction over the positive and constructive role being played by media in the province.

He said that the people associated with the media play role of bridge between government and masses. The Governor was speaking to a delegation of Panjour Press Club who called on him under leadership of its President, Umar Majid, here at the Governor House on Monday.

Speaking to the members of delegation, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar said that media persons are performing their duties with dedication despite lack of the necessary facilities in remote areas of the province, which is commendable.

The Governor assured that the government is ready to extend every possible cooperation to the media persons.

The delegation was comprised Khalid Jamil, Huzoor Bakhs, Abdul Waheed and Qadir Bakhs. They also apprised the Governor about the problems being faced by the media persons of Panjour. They also invited Mr. Kakar to visit Panjour to review performance of the government institutions.



QUETTA: Secretary General Balochistan Awami Party and Senior Provincial Minister Haji Noor Muhammad Dumar listening demands of teachers at their hunger strike camp

## Govt ready to talk with TLP after protest call in Punjab

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal government has decided to start negotiations with Tehreek Labaik Pakistan (TLP) in the back drop of TLP call for protest in Punjab. For this purpose Government has constituted a committee head by Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah. It is pertinent to mention here that TLP was banned by the previous government of Pakistan

Tehreek Insaf (PTI), and a notification was also issued on April 15 2021. According issued notification TLP was banned under Anti Terrorism Act 1997. PTI banned TLP after countrywide protest demonstrations.

Tehreek Labaik was of the view that TLP is not a terrorist organisation but a political organization registered with Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

engaged the terrorists' location and after an intense fire exchange, one terrorist was sent to hell, while two terrorists were injured.

The Security Forces also recovered weapons and ammunition from the killed terrorist who remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces as well as the killing of innocent citizens.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, the Army troops effectively



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar talking to a delegation of Panjgur Press Club who called on him under leadership of its President, Umar Majid.

Fazal blames PTI for economic mess

PESHAWAR (TLTP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said on Monday the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government had destroyed the country's economy.

financial year 2023-24. Read also: JUI-F has taken down PTI chairman project: Fazl He took a swipe at the PTI chief, saying: "Kashmir is under assault due to the nexus of the PTI chief and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. I requested the government to take strict action against the PTI chief."

support the government in providing relief to the people. As for elections, Mr Rehman said, "Basically, the JUI-F will contest the elections with its own candidates across the country. However, there will be a margin for seat adjustments."

Courts approve Imran's bails in nine cases

ISLAMABAD (APP): Local courts of Islamabad on Monday granted pre-arrest bail to PTI's chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan in nine cases registered by various police stations of the city.

Sports play key role in holistic development of children: Shaza

LAHORE (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Youth Affairs Shaza Fatima Khawaja has said sports play major role in ensuring holistic development of children.

this regard would also be shared. She said that after Eidul Azha, provincial leagues would be started on completion of trials. She said that teams, which would come forward in provincial leagues, their national competition would be held by the end of July in Islamabad.

College for Women University. Caretaker Punjab Sports Minister Wahab Riaz appreciated the federal government over its approach under which they were collaborating with the provincial governments for promotion of sports. He said it was welcoming that youth, especially girls, would be empowered through the initiative.

9 killed, 14 injured as a bus plunged into ravine in AJK

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP): At least nine people were killed and 14 others injured when a bus fell into a deep ravine in the Kotli area of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) on Monday.

Advertisement for 'Tender Notice' regarding the DETOXIFICATION & REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR DRUG ADDICTS.

Advertisement for 'Tender Notice' regarding the DETOXIFICATION & REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR DRUG ADDICTS.

TENDER NOTICE for the EXTENSION OF IRFAN KASI FOOTBALL STADIUM. Includes details on procurement rules, eligibility, and contact information.

Govt. to curtail non-developmental expenses in AJK budget: PM

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq said that appropriate funds will be allocated under the development budget whereas non-developmental expenses will be curtailed in the fiscal year 2023-24 AJK budget.

accommodation and food facilities would increase the tourist influx in the region. He said that the coalition government will take concrete steps to provide relief to the people. "A lot of work needs to be done in the fields of education and health", the PM said that the development of public sector organizations/institutions would be an important milestone towards creating a welfare state.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY e-Bidding System INVITATION FOR e-BIDS. Includes a table of 23x packages of permanent and mobile weigh stations on national highways and motorways.

## President Alvi says: Provision of education, social justice can help eradicate child labour

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday said that the challenge of child labour could be overcome by promoting social justice and ensuring the provision of quality education to children.

"World Day against Child Labour is observed all over the world to raise awareness for the prevention of child labour, and encourage stakeholders to speak against this social evil," the president said in a message on the observance of the Day on June 12.

The president said that child labour was a growing curse in the world, as according to the United Nations, around 160 million children were forced into child labour. "Globally, one out of every 10 children is working."

He said although child labour had been reduced on the international level, still there was a dire need for further efforts to eradicate the social evil.

The president emphasized that poverty, wars, terrorism and lack of access to education were the basic causes of child labour, adding that the basic causes needed to be overcome to completely eradicate the challenge.

He said poverty forced the families to get their children to engage in work at an early age.

Child labour, President Alvi said, deprived children from receiving basic education and access to health facilities. It exposed them to harmful and hazardous environments and clipped their basic rights to life and liberty, he added.

An estimated 27 million children did not go to school in Pakistan, he said, adding that in Pakistan, legislation was being made to eliminate child labour from the country.

He said in Pakistan, child labour was completely banned and the government was providing educational scholarships to discourage child labour and attract children towards education. President Alvi stressed the need to speed up efforts to promote the protection of children's rights and eliminate child labour from the country.

He also stressed that the government, society, private sector, media, employers and civil society should work together and play their due role in eliminating child labour in Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: State Minister National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination, Dr Mahesh Kumar Malani chairing Parliamentary meeting on Increasing Investment in Family Planning for Sustainable Development.

## Tarar lauds budget well-balanced plan to tackle financial crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazir Tarar on Monday praised the Budget 2023-24, describing it as a well-balanced plan that addresses the needs of the people during a challenging financial crisis. Speaking on the floor of the Senate, he emphasized the government's commitment to supporting employees who have been severely impacted by rising inflation.

Minister Tarar highlighted the Cabinet's extensive deliberations, which lasted over an hour, to ensure financial relief for government employees. Recognizing their right to meet household expenses and other domestic obligations, the government had decided to increase their salaries, he added.

Discussing the main features of the budget,

Minister Tarar emphasized the revolutionary reforms implemented in various sectors, including agriculture, information technology, education, trade, tourism, energy, and youth programmes.

He encouraged his colleagues to provide their proposals in a timely manner for further improvement and inclusion in the upcoming budget.

Minister Tarar reassured the house that the government, led by the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), would continue its efforts to improve the country's financial stability through all available means.

Earlier, he commended the Opposition Leader in the Senate, Dr. Shahzad Waseem, for his constructive criticism of certain economic policies and his proposals to further enhance

them.

Minister Tarar also criticized the economic policies of the previous government, noting that before the Supreme Court's decision against former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in 2017, the economic indicators were positive, with stable commodity prices accessible to the lower middle class.

Blaming the previous government for the financial turmoil in the country, he pointed out that it took significant loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which had not been done in the country's history for the past 75 years.

He further emphasized that the previous government violated the terms and conditions of the IMF agreement, and the consequences were still being felt by the nation today.

## ITA impounds 70 vehicles, issues fine to 130 during last 18 days

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Inspectors from the Islamabad Transport Authority (ITA) checked a total of 245 vehicles out of which 130 were found to be in violation of regulations and were issued challans while 70 were impounded during the last 18 days.

According to the ICT spokesperson, the authority conducted a thorough inspection of bus stands and wagon stands as per the directive of Deputy Commissioner Irfan Nawaz Memon. The aim of the inspection was to crack down on routes violation, overcharging, and illegal stopping in the city.

The inspections took place between May 20 and June 8 during which strict action was also taken against vehicles emitting excessive smoke, which poses a hazard to the environment and public health.

The violators were collectively fined Rs 89,200

and they were given a warning to adhere to the rules and regulations in the future.

It is important to note that this operation against smoke-emitting vehicles and other violations will continue on a daily basis, as part of the authorities' ongoing efforts to ensure a safe and well-regulated public transportation system in Islamabad.

Meanwhile, Excise and Taxation (E&T) Department, while initiating strict measures against vehicles with tinted windows and fancy number plates, suspended the registration of 19 vehicles upon finding them to be in violation of regulations.

A joint operation was conducted by Assistant Excise and Taxation Officers (AETOs) in collaboration with the traffic police. Multiple areas were targeted during the checks, resulting in over 100 vehicles being examined.

## SC disposes of coronavirus suo moto notice case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Monday disposed of hearing of the suo moto action regarding combating the pandemic of coronavirus (COVID-19).

A four-member larger bench of the apex court headed by Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan heard the case.

During the course of proceedings, the bench remarked that the World Health Organization had ended the emergency related to declaring Coronavirus as a global pandemic.

The court stated that the federal and provincial governments submitted progress reports from time to time. Coronavirus was no longer considered a global epidemic, it added.

The court stated that the federal government had been issuing emergency notifications from time to time and preventive measures were taken to deal with the Coronavirus epidemic.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar cuts the cake along with Ambassador of the Russian Federation in Pakistan Danila Ganich and others, on the Occasion of "National Day of Russia" at Serena Hotel in Federal Capital.

## Sherry urges new financial regimes for Climate funding

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman on Monday urged for new financial regimes for Climate funding.

"A fair amount of thought leadership and re-tooling is needed, both for markets and public institutions to change their instruments to meet quantum growing needs, as navigating a forest of barriers has become normalized for accessing a small percentage green financing," said the minister.

The minister was keynoting virtually at a Chatham House Confer-

ence on Green Accountability and Climate Finance, a news release said.

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

The scale of human suffering has totally changed because climate change is coming at us so

fast and furious that we're having trouble just understanding its scale and velocity. It can't even be called 'climate change' anymore, it's a 'climate emergency'," said the minister.

She said that the U.N. estimates that developing countries already need \$70 billion per year to cover adaptation costs now and will need \$140-\$300 billion in 2030, rising to \$280-500 billion by 2050, but she reiterated that these numbers are also underestimated.

She highlighted that Pakistan alone needs to invest US\$348 billion by 2030 as per the World Bank's CCDR Report to keep its head above water.

## SC expresses concern over ongoing mining on Margalla hills, seeks details of mining

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) while expressing concern over ongoing mining on Margalla Hills has sought record of re-

trieved forest land in all four provinces and details of ongoing mining on Margalla hills.

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

During the hearing of the case the CJP remarked trees are seen on the mountains on Islamabad side. On the other side of Margalla

hills mining is continuing.

The state counsel said that area falls in jurisdiction of KP.

The CJP remarked encroachments are being set up on forest lands. Tell us governments are taking what steps for tree plantation. Provincial government should tell how many trees were sold out. How many trees have been planted so far. Is forest department land being leased out under public-private partnership.

The counsels for provincial governments said all the leases have been cancelled in the light of court's orders.

## Chairman HEC urges for best education

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed has urged the universities that apart from teaching, as a beacon of knowledge and enlightenment, the universities had the responsibility to produce good human beings.

Dr Mukhtar while talking to mediapersons said that conflict merged various sectors of society including families, and deserved a collaborative and coordinated response.

Sharing his thoughts on the issues within society, he highlighted the importance of youth in the society and the role of youth in policy-making.

## Parliamentary taskforce on SDGs & Islamic relief Pakistan sign MoU

ISLAMABAD (Online): The National Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Islamic Relief Pakistan, solidifying their commitment to collaborate on urgent climate change issues, while also focusing on building climate resilience and promoting the role of women and youth in climate adaptation.

Islamic Relief is an international humanitarian organization providing aid and development programs in over 40 countries. The Taskforce, serving as a monitoring and evaluation body on the SDGs committed by Pakistan, is determined to enhance the quality of life for its people.

The MoU was signed by Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, Convener National Parliamentary Taskforce on

SDGs, and XXX from IRP during a ceremony held at the Parliament House today.

On this occasion, Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam remarked, "We are delighted to sign this MoU with Islamic Relief Pakistan to work together on addressing critical climate challenges facing the country."

Under the MoU, the SDGs Secretariat and Islamic Relief Pakistan will engage in advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns to foster a deeper understanding of climate change issues among the public. The collaboration will also focus on developing innovative solutions, implementing best practices, and sharing knowledge and experiences to strengthen Pakistan's capacity to address climate challenges effectively.



ISLAMABAD: Faisal Karim Kundi, Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety addressing a press conference at PID.

## NA Speaker for eradicating Child Labour to ensure country's bright future

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Monday said that the bright future of the nation is interlinked with the eradication of the menace of Child Labour.

In a message on the occasion of International Child Labor Day, which is celebrated across the world on June 12 every year under the auspices of the United Nations, he said, that each child should be given the opportunity for standard education by eliminating all kinds of forced labor, mental and physical abuse, especially against children from so-

ciety. He also stressed on the need to take special initiatives to protect children from the menace of child labour.

The Speaker said that forced labor from children is tantamount to compromise and destroying their childhood as they are deprived of what is essential for development.

The speaker said that the constitution guarantees the protection of children's rights and under the constitution, it is the responsibility of the government to provide facilities for children from 5 to 16 years to avail the opportunity for getting free education.

## Dr Shehzad calls for proper reforms to put country's economy on right track

ISLAMABAD (APP): Leader of the Opposition in Senate Dr Shahzad Waseem on Monday said the federal budget 2023-24 lacked proper reforms to put the country's economy on the right track.

Opening the debate on federal budget, he said that the coalition government did not take appropriate steps to improve gross domestic product (GDP) and check inflation and unemployment in the country.

He said there had been a rise in the poverty and the people would be further

burdened with the imposition Rs 200 billion in taxes.

He said a major chunk of the country's revenue would go to pay interest on debt borrowed by the past governments. After this payment, there would be a limited amount for development works, he added.

Pointing out the economic challenges, Dr Shahzad Waseem called for introducing genuine reforms, curtailing unnecessary expenditure besides setting national priorities to steer the country out of the current crisis.



ISLAMABAD: Students and faculty members of the Legend College visiting Senate Museum at Parliament House.

## SDPI's CRRN apprise journalists on increasing mass mobilization against extremism

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)'s Community Resilience Research Network (CRRN) appraised the journalists from different media organizations and mediums on increasing mass mobilization on enhancing societal resilience to violent extremism.

The SDPI held the media training workshop here to raise awareness of the research findings and

encouraged journalists to report on the findings of CRRN research products, build the capacity of Journalists in knowledge and skills that they need to report on violent extremism in a responsible and accurate way and provide participants with the skills and knowledge they need to develop effective storyline about Community Resilience to Violent Extremism (CRVE).

The Research Network has three local chapters in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)-Islamabad, Sindh, and Punjab.

The network has a Senior Research Council (SRC) platform that develops, guides, and coordinates the activities of the Community Resilience Research Network members. It comprised nine leading experts in the field of social science, three each from the Islamabad/KP, Sindh, and Punjab chapters.

## NUST think tank holds webinar on 'Saudi-Iranian Rapprochement'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Ambassador of Pakistan to Iran, Netherlands and South Korea, Ambassador (Retd) Javid Hussain said that the détente between Saudi Arabia and Iran had the potential to bring about positive changes, countering the negative impacts of regional geopolitics.

He made these remarks as a keynote speaker at a webinar on "Saudi-Iranian Rapprochement," held by the NUST Institute of Policy Studies (NIPS). Amir Yaqub, Director of NIPS moderated the session, which was attended by veteran statesmen, diplomats, academics, researchers and students.

Hussain maintained that the agreement reached between Saudi Arabia and Iran, through Chinese good offices, was a testament to the victory of pragmatism, which shows that mutual understanding and cooperation are vital to safeguarding national interests.

The other keynote speaker, Prof. Ahmet Uysal, Director of Middle Eastern Studies, Center for Middle Eastern Studies (ORSAM), Ankara, said that Türkiye emphasizes the importance of maintaining friendly relations with neighbours.

He welcomed the recent rapprochement between nations and hoped for a reduction in tensions within the region.

## 3 Corona cases reported in last 24 hours: NIH

ISLAMABAD (APP): Health officials on Monday said that three new coronavirus cases were reported during the last 24 hours across the country.

As per the data shared by the National Institute of Health (NIH), the case positivity ratio was 0.22 percent while six patients were in critical condition.

No death was reported from the coronavirus in the last 24 hours while 1,358 Covid-19 tests were conducted.

Meanwhile, Minister for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination, Abdul Qadir Patel said the government had strengthened the role of Border and Health Services in Pakistan to deal with any sub-variant of Covid-19.



ISLAMABAD: Heavy machinery being used to expand a road at Chak Shahzad neighbourhood in the Federal Capital.

## Police issue driving license suspension notices to 104 e-challan defaulters

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police have taken a strong stance against traffic violators by issuing notices to suspend the driving licenses of 104 individuals who have failed to pay their e-challans. In a recent development, an additional 293 lawbreakers who had violated traffic rules promptly submitted e-challans and paid fines amounts. This move comes as part of the police's efforts to ensure road safety and enforce traffic regulations.

According to a police public relations officer, the authorities are actively working to locate and impound vehicles belonging to e-challan defaulters. They

are employing advanced technology such as the briefcam software and Safe City cameras, which have proven instrumental in identifying and tracking down these violators. Simultaneously, the remaining defaulters are being duly informed through messages, phone calls, and updates on the official website of the Islamabad Capital Police.

To facilitate citizens in checking their e-challan status, a convenient online system has been established. By entering their vehicle registration number on the provided link, citizens can easily access information regarding any pending e-challans.



ISLAMABAD: Students from various institutions, Regular Blood Donors PRCS Staff & Volunteers Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) in collaboration with its Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners, will organize cycling event 'Donors on Wheels' in connection with World Blood Donor Day 2023 at Jinnah Sports Complex, outside Liaquat Gymnasium.

Tuesday June 13, 2023

**Agriculture woes**

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

Agriculture is a large and diverse segment of the economy which remains criminally neglected, poorly organised and highly inefficient. Its problems are too complex to be dealt with the incentives announced in the budget. With the country trying to cope with a level of hunger that is described as serious by the Global Hunger Index, and having suffered massive damage to its farmlands last year due to climate change-induced floods, a complete rethink of obsolete agricultural policies that focus on fixing the prices of crops and doling out subsidies is needed. Studies have shown that the interests of big landlords, speculators and middlemen. Policies and fiscal interventions on behalf of a small group of large growers are the main reasons for growing rural poverty, low crop value addition, and rising food insecurity. No policy initiative or incentive can turn the agriculture sector around if it doesn't put the smallholder farmers at its centre.

This means that the government must invest heavily in agriculture research, set up initiatives to encourage the formation of cooperatives and adoption of technologies, and mitigate the impact of climate change. It should also design programmes to enhance the small growers' access to cheaper formal credit, give them crop insurance, and link them to the markets to eliminate the role of the middleman, thus raising their incomes. A well-developed agriculture sector can contribute a lot to economic development and alleviate poverty. For this to happen, the policymakers need to clean up the mess they have made in this important sector.



**Maleeha Lodhi**

While there has been a recent flare-up in military tensions between the US and China in the Taiwan Strait, efforts have also been underway by officials of the two global powers to stabilise the world's most consequential relationship. That Taiwan remains a dangerous flashpoint in their confrontation was laid bare last week when there was a near collision between a Chinese warship and an American Navy guided-missile destroyer. This underscored what many countries in Asia and beyond have long feared — an inadvertent drift into a conflict that neither side wants but may be unable to avert in a region bristling with heightened military activity.

This prompted an exchange of toughly worded statements between the top

defence officials of the two countries. They used the platform of the Shangri La security dialogue organised every year by a London-based think tank in Singapore to send each other strong messages. The statement by China's Defence Minister Li Shangfu was especially sharp. Referring to "navigational hegemony" being used on the pretext of "freedom of navigation", he warned of a "whirlpool of conflict" if Western militaries did not stay out of Chinese waters and airspace.

For his part, the American defence chief Lloyd Austin assailed China for risky aerial actions over the South China Sea and warned of a US response to "threatening actions", "bullying or coercion". But he also called for resumption of military dialogue especially in view of the fact that Beijing turned down a bilateral meeting between Li and him in Singapore until the removal of sanctions imposed on the Chinese official for his role in the purchase of Russian weapons.

Although this exchange of words only reinforced tensions, the unannounced

visit to Beijing last month by the CIA chief Bill Burns marked an effort to bring down the temperature and mend ties. Explaining the nature of the trip, a US official was quoted as saying it aimed at emphasising to his Chinese counterparts "the importance of maintaining open lines of communications in intelligence channels". He was the highest-level official of the Biden administration to visit China. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is now expected to go to Beijing in the coming weeks. His visit in February was called off amid rising tensions.

Washington's desire to halt the slide in ties was also evidenced in the statement by President Joe Biden at the Group of Seven (G7) summit last month that he expected an imminent thaw in relations with China. The summit's May communiqué also laid out the US-led economic strategy for 'de-risking', rather than 'decoupling' from the Chinese economy. The term is owed to Ursula von der Leyen, the European Commission president, who used it a few months ago. She had said that "it is neither viable — nor in Europe's interest —

to decouple from China. Our relations are not black or white — and our response cannot be either. This is why we need to focus on de-risk — not decouple". The notion is generally understood to mean business can continue with China so long as dependence is reduced on the Chinese economy, and it involves curbs on technology exports as well as diminishes China's control of global supply chains. In one sense, it is acknowledgement that decoupling is an unrealistic goal. It may also be recognition of the reluctance by America's European allies, whose largest trading partner is China, to be pushed too far in constraining their economic ties with Beijing without harming themselves. But as several others have also pointed out, the notion is imprecise and would be open to differing interpretations by America's alliance partners especially in implementation. The Chinese, however, criticised the G7 statement and were unmoved by the seemingly new strategy. Their response has been dismissive, saying the change in nomen-

clature was meaningless as actions still targeted China and aimed at its containment.

Although Biden and President Xi Jinping had agreed in their first in-person meeting last November in Bali, on the sidelines of the G20 summit, to de-escalate tensions and manage their competition "responsibly", that has been easier said than done. Differences have not narrowed over the contentious issues and disputes that divide them — Taiwan, trade, technology curbs and military postures. Indeed, both sides then and later have been spelling out their respective red lines on Taiwan. Although the US has repeatedly reiterated its commitment to a One China policy, it has sounded warnings over what it sees as China's coercive posture on Taiwan. Biden has even said US forces would intervene to defend Taiwan in the event of a Chinese invasion. The US has also been cementing an anti-China coalition by its Indo-Pacific strategy and through Quad, AUKUS security partnership and the Five Eyes group. This has strengthened Beijing's belief that the

US under Biden insists on pursuing a strategy to contain China, which has prompted an assertive response from Beijing.

Washington is also engaged in a battle to maintain supremacy in technology with an intense 'chip war' underway. It has imposed sweeping measures to bar American companies and allied countries from exporting chips and advanced chip equipment to China in order to cripple its semiconductor industry, that manufactures chips and circuits for modern electronics ranging from supercomputers and smartphones to automobiles. These restrictions have further worsened relations. Where does this dangerous confrontation leave the world's most important bilateral relationship? Assessments vary about its future trajectory. Some experts see intense competition and tensions as inescapable, while others warn that unmanaged competition can put the two global powers on a collision course with unpredictable consequences. Still others see the danger of an unintended descent into war through miscalculation. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Dreams of disruption**



**Dr Ayesha Razaque**

Some people like superhero movies while others prefer horror movies. My favourite category of movies (and TV series) are tales of founders of companies that built the world we live in. I accept that these stories are subject to some degree of sanitization and embellishment to mythologize the founder, but one hopes that the broad outlines are close enough to the truth. The common thread that runs through the stories about founders of technology companies is the exploration of the entrepreneurial spirit and the transformative power of innovation in the technology industry. These narratives often depict the challenges, triumphs, and personal journeys of visionary individuals who have significantly shaped the digital landscape. 'High Score' is a

documentary series on Netflix about the creation of the most iconic and influential video/computer games and the companies like Atari, id Software, Nintendo, and others.

These stories highlight the visionary qualities of the founders, portraying them as individuals with foresight and determination to revolutionize the world of technology. They showcase their ability to see beyond the status quo and envision groundbreaking products or services that change the way people live, work, and communicate. 'The Billion Dollar Code' is the David-and-Goliath story of a German technology startup ART+COM founded by Joachim Sauter and Pavel Mayer, funded by Deutsche Telekom, that developed the technology that enabled Google Earth and went up against Google in court.

The stories frequently delve into the relentless drive and ambition of these founders. They showcase their unwavering commitment, often at the cost of personal sacrifices and challenges. And illustrate their determination to overcome obstacles, navigate the competitive landscape, and

achieve their goals against all odds. The 2013 film 'Jobs' covers the life of Apple's founders, Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak, from their college days to the 2001 moment when the company introduced the first-generation iPod, which was followed by the iPhone and iPad in subsequent years.

A central theme in these narratives is the emphasis on disruptive innovation. The founders challenge established norms and disrupt traditional industries, introducing groundbreaking technologies or business models that reshape entire markets. They are depicted as catalysts for change, pushing boundaries and creating new possibilities. 'The Playlist' is a Netflix miniseries that tells the story of how Spotify came to be. It is in equal parts about the technological challenges the company had to address to find success and how it upended the way the music industry operated. Although not a technology company, 'Air' was released earlier this year and tells the story of how Nike's basketball division was resurrected by launching the Air Jordan

brand by reinventing the relationship sports equipment and apparel makers had with athletes.

These stories explore the dynamics of collaboration and rivalry among the founders and their peers. They showcase the complex relationships and dynamics that emerge as these visionaries navigate the competitive landscape, form partnerships, and sometimes engage in intense rivalries with other industry leaders. Although a bit dated now, but 'Pirates of Silicon Valley' is a 1999 film about the founding and rivalry between Microsoft / Bill Gates and Apple / Steve Jobs as it had played out up to that point.

Alongside success stories, these narratives also delve into the personal and professional struggles faced by the founders. They shed light on their failures, setbacks, moments of self-doubt, and the toll that the pursuit of their visions can take on their personal lives. Another film, 'Steve Jobs', focuses on the cost of ambition and takes a critical look at the relationship Jobs had with his daughter over the course of his life.

These stories highlight the cultural impact of tech-

nology companies and their founders. They illustrate how their innovations and companies have transformed society, reshaped industries, and influenced the way people interact, communicate, and consume information. 'The Social Network' is the story of Mark Zuckerberg and the founding of Facebook and the foresight he had for how social networks would change how people communicate and find information on the Internet. Chris Miller's 2021 book 'Chip War' documents the decades-long battle between China and the US over microprocessor technology and the unique place Taiwan occupies in it. It also provides some context for the heightened tensions between the US and China in recent years.

Such stories celebrate the indomitable spirit of the founders, their transformative ideas, and the profound impact they have had on the world through technology and innovation. While every founder's path may not be as dramatic, they provide insights into the human stories behind these iconic figures and their contributions to the ever-evolving tech industry.

There is a common thread that runs through these stories: no one does it alone. Whoever you look at, very early on, everyone begins by assembling a core team. The people on those teams tend to be exceptionally talented and dedicated. Having talked to a number of tech startup founders in Pakistan, for someone operating out of Pakistan that is often the first major hurdle or stumbling block. I cannot recall the last time I heard a team of mediocre talent build or accomplish anything truly innovative and therein lies our weakness.

That is not to say that finding entrepreneurial success, even in the technology sector, is impossible in Pakistan but that it is rarer and more difficult than it ought to be. However, the talent pool presently available is exceptionally shallow, no more than ankle-deep. The recent economic downturn has exacerbated this crisis of talent even more — many more educated people are trying to emigrate and experienced talent has the advantage. -- Courtesy TheNews

**Critical challenge**



**Huma Yusuf**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pakistan is well-situated to be a key voice at COP28. As a long-term ally of the UAE, it could smooth over concerns by emphasising the need for clean energy investments, another topic the ADNOC chief favours. And as a major proponent of the loss and damage fund, Pakistan could push its allies — particularly the UAE and China — to widen the net of donors into the fund. More importantly, given that we spend almost half our budget on servicing debt, Pakistan can present powerful arguments equating climate justice with economic justice, and calling for debt relief as a form of climate reparations. But we can only do all this if our politicians can transcend existential crises, and get on with their jobs.

One silver lining in this regard is the expanded budget allocation of \$1.3 billion for the climate change ministry, recognising the need to invest in climate resilience and disaster preparedness. This is a good jump up from last year's \$61 million and the 2021-22 allocation of \$93m. But it is not nearly enough — the annual cost of environmental degradation alone in Pakistan is estimated at \$2.3bn. In the run-up to COP28, our leaders — whether puppets or technocrats — must clarify Pakistan's climate narratives (reparations or relief? Justice or investment?), and articulate clear demands. It must also detail how it spends its climate budget, sensibly prioritising between adaptation and mitigation. No matter how intense the power tussles, Pakistan's climate woes cannot be sidelined any longer. -- Courtesy Dawn

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



**By Ifkhar Ahmed**

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

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

Agriculture must be given due respect and importance for the survival of the masses. The longtime lingering demand of Four Tier Service Structure is the most effective apparatus that would not only strengthen the Department but also would benefit the officers

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

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

Pakistan is an agricultural country; presently it contributes 19.2 percent to the GDP and provides employment to around 38.5 percent of the labour force. More than 65-70 percent of the population depends on agriculture. It is suffice to mention that from 1960 to 2018 agriculture was contributing 27.38% to GDP with a minimum of 20.22% at the lowest. These figure show di-

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

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

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

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

The delightful agriculture officers mean advanced agriculture in the province. Hopefully this service structure would bring new wave of happiness and joy amongst the officer.

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

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

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

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

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

He was flanked by provincial ministers Sharjeel Memon and Nasir Shah. The CM said that a 'Very Severe Cyclonic Storm' (VSCS) 'BIPARJOY' over the East-Central Arabian Sea had further moved

Northward. He said that under the existing upper-level steering winds, it was most likely to track further in the North-Northeast direction towards Southeast Sindh-Indian Gujarat coast.

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

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

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

The CM said that under the existing upper-level steering winds, the ESCS 'BIPARJOY' was most likely to track further

Northward until 14 June morning, then recurve Northeastward and cross between Ketu Bandar (Southeast Sindh) and Indian Gujarat coast on 15 June afternoon as a VSCS.

Talking about the impact of the storm, Murad Ali Shah said that with its probable approach to the southeast Sindh coast, widespread wind-dust/thunderstorm rain with some very heavy/extremely heavy falls accompanied by squally high-intensity winds of 80-100Km/hour likely in Thatta, Sujawal, Badin, Tharparkar & Umerkot districts during 13-17 June are predicted.

He said that Dust/thunderstorm-rains with few heavy falls and accompanied by winds of 60-80 Km/hour were likely to batter Karachi, Hyderabad, Tando Muhammad Khan, Tando Allayar, Mirpurkhas districts from 14-16 June. He further said that the winds may cause damage to loose and vulnerable structures such as Kutcha houses and solar panels.



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

## CM reviews "Ab Gaon Chamkein Ge" program

Naqvi also visits Complaints Cell, inspects sections

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

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

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

During the meeting, the chief minister

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

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

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

To his disappointment, some officers and staff were found absent from their offices. Expressing strong displeasure over the staff's

absence, the Caretaker CM took immediate action and ordered removal of the head of the complaint cell from his position.

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

Additionally, the Caretaker CM engaged in telephonic conversations with the complainants present in the complaint cell, attentively listening to their issues. He assured the complainants that their concerns would be resolved promptly. Emphasizing the significance of addressing citizens' problems within a specified time frame, he emphasized the need to keep the complainants informed about the progress made on each received complaint.

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

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

Independent Report

LAHORE: Former parliamentarians, Mian Marghub Ahmed, Zahid Akram, Khalil Tahir Sindhu, Overseas Muslim League worker Nasir Khan and senior workers met Governor Punjab Balighur Rehman here today at Governor House Lahore.

The current political situation was discussed in the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that overseas Pakistanis are our valuable asset who are playing an important role in the development of the country's economy by sending remittances. He said that stability, economic development and provision of basic facilities

to the people are the priorities of Muslim League (N). Governor Punjab said that the federal government has presented a very good and people-friendly budget despite the difficult economic situation. He said that the significant increase in the salaries of government employees is in the budget is commendable. Governor Punjab said that he congratulates Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar for presenting public friendly budget. He further said that the government has set the country's economy in the right direction, adding that country's economy will further improve in the coming days.



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

## Secretaries assigned to monitor cotton crop in Punjab on CM orders

MULTAN (APP): On the orders of caretaker Chief Minister Punjab, Mohsin Naqvi, cotton growing districts have been assigned to administrative secretaries of South Punjab to monitor cotton crop management to secure good production results.

Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Capt. (Retd.) Saqib Zafar has issued a notification in this regard, says an official release issued on Monday.

While secretaries of agriculture department Punjab and South Punjab were already on toes, the authorities thought it better to specifically assign the cotton monitoring task district wise to administrative secretaries to supplement the team so that country may not face the shockingly dismal cotton production figures witnessed last season when country's production recorded a mere 4.9 million bales, the lowest ever in Pakistan history.

According to the instructions given in the notification, the administrative secretaries will provide support to the

concerned district administration and agriculture department to make ongoing exercise of cotton crop management more effective besides checking the functioning of Kisan Centers at the tselil level and the availability of fertilizers at notified rates. Secretaries will also check Clean Cotton-Picking Campaign, management of IPM demonstration plots, and availability of pesticides. Besides, the secretaries will send weekly report to Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab, Secretary Agriculture Lahore, Secretary Agriculture South Punjab and the commissioners concerned.

According to the notification, secretary Forest South Punjab will monitor cotton crop in Multan district and secretary Housing in Khanewal while secretary School Education has been assigned district Vehari and secretary Irrigation has been allotted Lodhran district. Moreover, secretary Specialized Health care will monitor cotton crop in district Bahawalpur.



KARACHI: Policemen standing alert on Sea view beach as Cyclone Biparjoy over east central Arabian Sea had further intensified into an "extremely severe cyclonic storm (ESCS)".

## Hamdard University signs MoUs with 30 industrial firms

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

At the grand event held by the university's Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialisation (ORIC) at a hotel here, a Centre of Excellence was also launched for fruitful linkages between the academia and the industry, said a HU spokesperson on Monday.

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

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

Many representatives of banks, including Habib Metro, Bank Islami and Meezan Bank, were also present on the occasion.

Speaking at the event, Vice Chancellor of Hamdard University Prof. Dr Syed Shabib-ul-Hasan said: "Our Industrial Meet-Up represents a unique opportunity for our academic community to collaborate with the industry."



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

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

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali on Monday said that despite the economic crisis, the federal government has provided relief to the common people including the business community in the budget.

The current federal government has allocated 57 billion rupees for the merged districts in the budget, he said while talking to a representative delegation of Kohat Chamber of Commerce and Industry here at Governor House.

Representatives of Kohat Press Club and Kohat Bar Council were also included in the

delegation. The Governor said that the services of the business community in providing economic stability and employment in the province are commendable.

He said that in order to deal with the economic challenges facing the country, people associated with all sectors would have to work together.

He said the previous provincial government could not get released even one rupee of fund from the federation for the merged districts. The federal and provincial governments are taking joint measures to provide facilities to the business community, he noted.



GILGIT: Secretary Finance Gilgit-Baltistan Faisal Peerzada giving away winner trophy to team Captain during the 1st final match between Gilgit 01 and GB Nalter during Jashn-e-Baharan Freestyle Polo Tournament at Aga Khan Shahi Polo ground.

## KP Govt to present Rs 600bln budget for four-month of FY 2023-24: Finance Advisor

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to the Chief Minister for Finance Himayatullah on Monday said that the caretaker government had prepared the budget for the financial year 2023-24, however, it would present an approximately Rs 600 billion budget for the next four-month.

"If the new government does not come within time then there will not be any issue of budget for the rest of the year as the government has already prepared the budget for the whole fiscal year," he said, adding that the size of the four-month budget was expected to be Rs 550 to 600 billion, according to a statement.

The Advisor said that

there was a consideration of 15 to 20 percent increase in salaries and pensions while no new tax would be levied in the budget and no new development plan would be included.

Himayatullah said that the province is likely to get 876 billion rupees from the centre during the next financial year while the province would generate 85 billion rupees from its own resources.

He said that 30 percent of the budget has been allocated for education, 20 for health, 20 for pension and debt repayment and 10 for peace and security while the remaining 20 percent of the budget have been allocated for all other departments.

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

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The district police, foiling a smuggling attempt, seized over 6,050,000 liters of Iranian diesel here in the limits of Daraban Police Station on Monday.

According to police spokesman, following the special directives of District Police Officer (DPO) Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani, a police team led by SDPO Kulachi Circle Abdul Rasheed Khan along with Daraban Police Station SHO Abdul Ghaffar Khan foiled a smuggling bid of Iranian diesel.

The police stopped two trucks bearing registration numbers (SEA-675) and (SEB-990) coming from Darazinda for checking and recovered 3025 liters Iranian diesel from each of the trucks.

## Two bodies found in Faisalabad

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

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

Similarly, Sahianwala police also found remains of a human body lying at a deserted place at rare side of the railway station.

The police shifted them to mortuary for postmortem while further investigation for their identification was under way, he added.

## 7 dacoits arrested, weapons recovered

FAISALABAD (APP): The police have arrested seven dacoits and recovered weapons and other items from them in different parts of the city during the past 12 hours.

A police spokesman said here on Monday that a Dolphin force team signalled two persons riding a motorcycle to stop near Gulzar Colony Raza Abad, but they tried to flee instead of stopping. The police chased them and asked them to surrender, but they opened fire on the team.



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

## LHEAP program launched to make city hepatitis-free

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

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

Arts Council on Monday. Dr Jamal said that four Union Councils (UCs) of Rawalpindi city, which had been declared high-risk UCs for hepatitis, would be screened under the LHEAP project.

He informed that the programme had been started in Union Councils 10, 11, 14 and 15 of the city comprising about 100,000 population.

The minister said that hepatitis was spreading rapidly and around 15 million people.

## Modernization in policing need of hour: IGP

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

He stated this while talking to a delegation of

under training assistant superintendents of police (ASPs) from National Police Academy, at the Central Police Office (CPO) Karachi, said a news release.

He said that in addition to the Safe City project, ANPR and facial recognition cameras were installed at the entry and exit points of province besides other such measures.



LAHORE: Activist of civil society holds a play cards during awareness walk in Provincial Capital, as world marked the World Day against Child Labour on 12th June.

## 41 terror attacks claim 141 lives of cops in KP in 2023: Report

PESHAWAR (APP): During the first five months and 12 days of the year 2023, as many as 141 police personal embraced martyrdom in 41 terror attacks across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to a police report issued here on Monday, the terror attacks included target killing.

During the period, 222 police officials also got injured in the attacks. In January, 116 police personnel were martyred, 189 were injured, the report said adding that in February, two officers were martyred and five injured; in March seven martyred, 18 injured, in April, eight policemen martyred, five injured, in May five martyred, four injured, while in June three were martyred and one injured.

## Commissioner dismayed at delay in repair of roads

FAISALABAD (APP): Divisional Commissioner Sitwat Saeed has expressed dismay over unnecessary delay in repair of various roads and directed the officers concerned to complete the project on priority basis.

During a meeting, she reviewed the situation of repair work on Sargodha Road and said the project was facing delay only due to negligent and lethargic attitude of the departments concerned. She said that roads were the main way of communication for general public and delay in the repair work would not be tolerated at any cost.

He directed the Chief Officer Municipal Corporation Faisalabad (MCF) Muhammad Zubair Wattoo to probe the matter and submit a report as to why patch work project was being delayed and who were responsible for it, so that proper action could be taken against the negligent. She also directed the officers of Water & Sanitation Agency to complete road cuts on urgent basis so that people could be provided with the best communication facilities as early as possible.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue on Monday debated that the new budget starts with a "sorry" picture. Senator Mohsin Aziz said that the new budget doesn't bring any revival of the industries or the exporters and lack fundamental reforms, directing towards bolstering of the country's economy. He said that the new budget seems to start with debits and forecasted a loan of 7 trillion at the beginning of the new budget.

The Minister for Finance and Revenue Aisha Gaus Pasha said that the new budget should not be outrightly discredited and maintained that country

was saved from being default even after the disastrous floods and Global Climate crises. She said that the new budget brings handsome agricultural packages which is the backbone of the economy resulting in increase and accelerated growth.

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

The Minister for Finance and Revenue addressed the committee that we foresee 3pc economy growth and a reduction of average

inflation from 29 pc to 21 pc. She also said that new regimes of direct taxes will prove progressive. She said that the previous budget collected 39pc of domestic taxes which makes the domestic income tax to almost 50 pc. She said that the budget 2023 is according to the IMF structure. She also believed that we should must draft a charter of economy which is the need of the day keeping the country's financial state.

Deliberations on The Money Bill 2023, was concentrated by the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee under the chairmanship of Senator Saleem Mandviwalla today at the Parliament House.

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

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

In a statement, he congratulated the nation and said that the incumbent government has fulfilled its promise to import crude oil from Russia as the last selected and incapable regime led by Imran Khan had not taken any such practical step for importing cheap oil to facilitate the people in the country.

The last government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) only

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

It is a fact that the coalition government has fulfilled all its commitments for importing cheap oil from Russia in order to provide maximum relief to the general masses in the country, he said adding that the incumbent government was fully believing in practical measures rather than making false claims.

It is also the fact that PTI government had not taken any practical measures for importing oil from Russian markets.

## Dar chairs first meeting of CCoIGT

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

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Faisal Ali Sabzwari, Federal Minister for Power Mr. Khuram Dastagir Khan, Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazir Tarar, Minister of State for Petroleum Mr. Musadik Malik, SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Government Effectiveness Dr. Muhammad Jehanzeb Khan, Secretary Finance, Secretary Maritime Affairs, Secretary Law & Justice, and other senior officers attended the meeting.

## Meeting discusses promotion of agriculture

LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industry and Commerce SM Tanveer chaired the third session of the task force for agriculture here at Civil Secretariat on Monday.

The meeting approved various recommendations aimed at promoting modern agriculture, increasing per-acre yield, and enhancing land productivity.

According to the programme, approved certified seeds will be promoted to boost wheat and cotton production. The Punjab Soil Fertility Revival Programme will be initiated to improve land fertility. Small farmers will be provided 60 kg sacks at a 50 percent subsidy per acre.

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

established at the tehsil level in Punjab, while a state-of-the-art research center will be built in Faisalabad in collaboration with China.

During the meeting, a recommendation was considered to provide small-scale farmers with public-private partnership opportunities for warehousing, cold storage and processing facilities. Under this programme, five new small dams will be constructed in Pothohar.

Caretaker Provincial Minister SM Tanveer stated that by implementing effective practical measures, an agricultural revolution could be achieved in the province. He emphasized that promoting corporate farming could yield better results. The minister highlighted that cotton and wheat were crucial crops for the country, and comprehensive measures were being taken to enhance their production.

Secretary Agriculture, Special Secretary (Agriculture).



QUETTA: Kissan Ittehad Pakistan Chairman, Khalid Hussain addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

## ICCI entrepreneurship program started for students of Islamabad

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

become job sharers by promoting entrepreneurship. He expressed these views while addressing the launch ceremony of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry's entrepreneurship program for all students. Chamber members, Director Federal Directorate of Education Prof. Aftab Tariq, principals and a large number of students of educational institutions of Islamabad participated in the ceremony.

President Islamabad Chamber said that all government schools and colleges of Islamabad are 50-60 years old, their reconstruction has become inevitable, out-of-the-box thinking and concern is needed in this regard.

## SBP keeps policy rate unchanged at 21% anticipating ease in inflation

KARACHI (APP): State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Monday, decided to keep policy rate unchanged at 21 percent on expectations of ease in inflation and subdued domestic demand.

The decision was made in a meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) that noted that higher inflation out-turns for April and May were broadly as anticipated while a sequential ease was also noted in inflation expectations of both consumers and businesses from their recent peaks, said a statement issued here.

Reduced demand-side

pressures and ease in inflation expectations, along with moderating global commodity prices and high base effect, would help bring inflation down from June 2023 onwards, the MPC assessed and termed continuity of the current policy stance as necessary to bring inflation down to the medium-term target range of 5-7 percent by the end of FY25.

It is "expected that domestic demand to remain subdued amid tight monetary stance, domestic uncertainty and continuing stress on external account", the MPC noted. The Committee while

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

## Committee approves applications for petrol pumps

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

The committee meeting was held under the chairmanship of Commissioner Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti in his committee room here on Monday. Assistant Director Environment Naveed Ahmed, ACG Hafiz Abdul Manan and Consultant Sargodha University Dr Ghulam Sarwar participated in the meeting.

Among the approved cases were 10 of Sargodha district in which six of cases were of poultry sheds and four of hospitals, seven cases of petrol pumps for Khushab district, two cases of petrol pumps of Mianwali and six cases of petrol pumps and one case of poultry shed was for Bhakkar district.

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships namely, America, Yun-Ding-19, Butinah and Isabella Kosan, carrying containers, palm oil, coal and chemicals, berthed at Container Terminal, Liquid Terminal, Bulk Terminal and Engro Terminal respectively the other day.

Meanwhile, two more ships, Calypso Gas and Scarabe with LPG and coal also arrived at the outer anchorage of Port Qasim during the last 24 hours. A total of nine ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them, chemicals carrier 'Isabella Kosan' left the port on Monday morning and three more ships, Galissas, Ning Tai Hai and America are expected to sail later today. A cargo volume of 88,217 tonnes.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister of Information Technology, Syed Amin-ul-Haque, has called upon telecom

communication companies to take immediate action to secure towers and optical fiber cables in order to maintain uninterrupted power supply and internet connectivity during an upcoming storm.

With the Meteorology Department warning of potential disruptions to the power and internet systems, Amin-ul-Haque's

instructions aim to mitigate any possible downtime.

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

He underlined the significance of maintaining robust communication with PTCL and telecom companies, emphasizing a zero-tolerance policy.

## Coordinator to FTO for expanding trade with Russia

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Meher Kashif Younis said on Monday that Pakistan could capitalise the opportunity to expand cooperation and attract Russian investments as Russia's economic footprint in Asia is still relatively low. Addressing the celebration of the Russia Day ceremony, he said, "This year marks a very important milestone in our relations-a 75th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic ties between

Russia and Pakistan," said a press release. Meher Kashif Younis said we had quite a few important episodes in the history of our productive bilateral cooperation. "It's a good omen to that Russian President Vladimir Putin in his recent address to the federal assembly categorically mentioned Pakistan as one of the few countries with which Russia is eager to develop a partnership and this desire was clearly reflected by the practical steps made by the leadership.



HYDERABAD: Labourer is busy in sorting good quality mangoes before packing at mangoes Orchard at tando jam.



HYDERABAD: Former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi addressing the members of Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HCCI) in City.

## Karandaaz, Vizpro join hands to digitization of retailer to distributor payments

ISLAMABAD (APP): Karandaaz a prominent organization at the forefront of promoting financial inclusion and driving digital transformation in Pakistan has announced its strategic partnership with Vizpro, a leading player in the digital payments ecosystem for facilitating digital payments.

This collaboration aims to tackle a critical challenge faced by distributors and retailers across the country, which is the lack of easy access to e-money for digital payments and falls under the Karandaaz "Pilot to Scale" program, a platform dedicated to fostering innovation and scaling up transformative projects in the financial sector, said a press release.

The primary focus of this collaboration is to facilitate the digitization of retailer-to-distributor

payments, introduce Raast IDs for merchants and refine the existing business model while exploring a merchant lending framework.

By streamlining these processes, the partnership aims to significantly enhance the efficiency, convenience, and security of digital payments, particularly within the Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) sector. Waqasul Hasan, CEO of Karandaaz said that the initiative aims to foster financial inclusion and catalyze digital transformation in Pakistan as the partnership is a significant step forward in the journey to create an inclusive and resilient financial ecosystem that improves the lives of the people.

Sharjeel Murtaza, Director of Digital Financial Services of Karandaaz.

## PSX loses 121 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Monday, losing 121.28 points, a negative change of 0.29 percent, closing at 41,782.93 points against 41,904.21 points the previous day.

A total of 179,118,281 shares were traded during the day as compared to 164,835,239 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 5.568 billion against Rs 5.195 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 314 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 108 of them recorded gains and 184 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 22 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were Hascol Petrol with 16,367,000 shares at Rs 5.69 per share; TPL Properties with 13,004,193 shares at Rs13.52 per share and Pak Refinery with 10,796,483 shares at Rs14.67 per share.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

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

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

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

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

way to do this is to recognize the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus."

It also dashes hopes harbored by Cyprus' internationally-recognized government of a speedy return to negotiations, although a spokesman for President Nikos Anastasiades said Monday that Erdogan will be judged by his deeds rather than his words. Cyprus was split in 1974 when Turkey invaded in the wake of a coup by supporters of union with Greece. Turkish Cypriots declared independence nearly a decade later, but that's only recognized by Turkey, which maintains more than 35,000 troops in the north.

U.N.-led peace talks haven't resolved the dispute. The most recent round in July 2017 broke down over a Turkish insistence on maintaining military intervention rights and a permanent troop presence

under any new arrangement. Another stumbling block was a Greek Cypriot rejection of a Turkish Cypriot demand for the right to veto all government decisions on a federal level. Turkish Cypriots number approximately about a quarter of Greek Cypriots.

Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots say it would be pointless to carry on negotiations based on a federated Cyprus and have instead pushed a two-state deal as a new starting point. Greek Cypriots say they can't agree to a deal that would formalize the country's division. "The just demands of the Turkish Cypriots are clear and unequivocal. Turkish Cypriots have never been a minority and never will be," Erdogan said. The Turkish president said Ankara would also push ahead with plans to supply Turkish Cypriots with electricity through an undersea cable.



MARSAALAM: Plumes of smoke erupt from a yacht.

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

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

The pair say Syria has "committed countless violations of international law" and want the International Court of Justice to issue provisional measures ordering Damascus to halt an alleged widespread torture program against anyone opposed to the government during the country's long-running civil war.

The Dutch first announced three years ago a plan to hold Syria accountable for what it called "horrific crimes," asking Assad's

government via diplomatic note to enter into negotiations under the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Canada joined the process in 2021. The 1984 treaty requires parties to enter into mediation before bringing the dispute to The Hague-based court. The complaint says that the process has failed. The Netherlands and Canada say there is ample evidence that the regime has engaged in systemic gross human rights violations against its own people since 2011. "Syrian civilians have been tortured, murdered, disappeared, attacked with poison gas or lost everything when they fled for their lives," Foreign Affairs Minister Wopke Hoekstra said in a statement.

# North Korea's Kim vows to 'hold hands' with Putin for strategic cooperation

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has vowed to "hold hands" with Russian President Vladimir Putin and bolster strategic cooperation on their shared goal of building a powerful country, state media KCNA reported on Monday.

Kim made the pledge in a message to Putin marking Russia's National Day, defending his decision to invade Ukraine and displaying "full support and solidarity." "Justice is sure to win and the Russian people will continue to add glory to the history of victory," Kim said in the message published by KCNA. Kim called for "closer strategic cooperation" with Moscow, "holding hands firmly with the Russian president, in conformity with the common desire of the peoples of the two countries."

# U.N. says concerned over Libya migrant arrests

**Monitoring Desk**  
TRIPOLI: The United Nations mission in Libya said on Monday it was concerned by the arbitrary arrest of migrants and asylum seekers in the country, accompanied by what it called a disturbing rise in hate speech and racist discourse.

The mission said Libyan authorities had detained thousands of men, women and children from the streets and their homes, or following raids on alleged traffickers camps and warehouses.

It said many of them, including children and pregnant women, were being detained in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions and that thousands of others, including some who entered Libya legally, had been collectively expelled.

Last week eastern Libya authorities deported thousands of migrants into Egypt, making them cross the border by foot.



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

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

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

Honduras' President Xiomara Castro is on a six-day official visit to China. She launched diplomatic relations with Beijing after cutting ties with its rival,

Taiwan, in a bid for more investment and jobs. The country is also seeking support from China to mitigate its debt burden.

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

Xi said China will unwaveringly develop the

friendly relations between the two nations and firmly support Honduras' economic and social development.

China also encourages Chinese enterprises to participate in Honduras' projects in areas including energy, infrastructure and telecommunications, CCTV cited a joint declaration as saying.

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

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

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

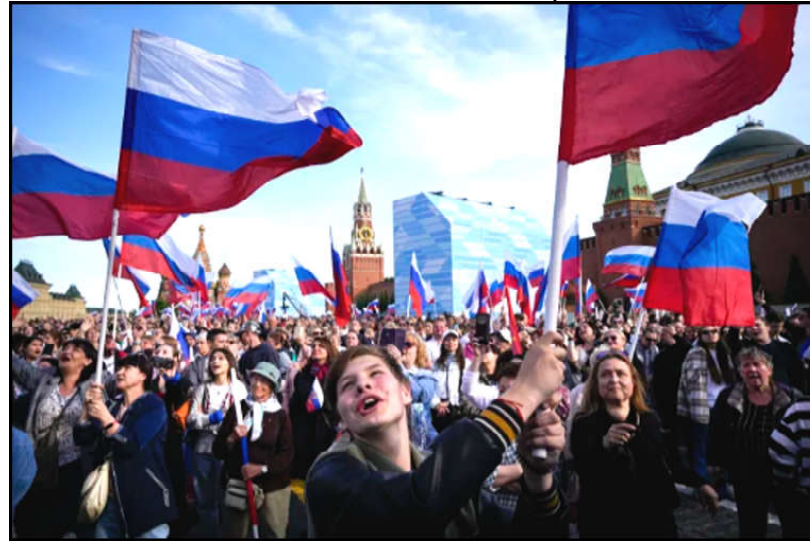
Twenty-five people were injured in the accident around 11:30pm on Sunday near the town of Greta, about 180km northwest of Sydney, police said.

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

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

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

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



Thousands of people wave Russian national flags as they gather on Red Square to watch a concert dedicated to the Day of Russia in Moscow, Russia.

# UN chief concerned Russia will quit Black Sea grain deal in July

**Monitoring Desk**  
UNITED NATIONS: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Monday he is concerned that Russia will quit a deal allowing the safe wartime export of grain and fertilizers from three Ukrainian Black Sea ports. Moscow has been threatening to walk away from the deal known as the Black Sea grain initiative - brokered by the United Nations and Turkey in July last year - if obstacles to its own grain and fertilizer shipments are not removed.

"I am concerned and we are working hard in order to make sure that it will be possible to maintain the Black Sea initiative and at the same time that we are able to go on in our work to facilitate Russian exports," Guterres told reporters.

To convince Russia to agree to the Black Sea grain deal, a three-year memorandum of understanding was struck at the same time under which U.N. officials agreed to help Russia with its own food and fertilizer exports. While Russian exports of food and fertilizer are not subject to Western sanctions imposed after the February 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

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# Indonesia court to rule on voting system change as election nears

**Monitoring Desk**  
JAKARTA: Indonesia's Constitutional Court is expected to issue a ruling on Thursday on a bid to change the country's voting system, an official said, a case that has sparked concern about a possible delay to an election just eight months away.

The case filed by several politicians, including a member of the ruling Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) seeks a return of a closed ballot list system that was scrapped in 2008, where voters choose parties instead of local candidates.

Of the nine factions in parliament, eight have opposed changing the system, which they say would be regressive and undemocratic.

# Third of Germany men find violence against women 'acceptable': survey

**Monitoring Desk**  
FRANKFURT: More than a third of men in Germany find violence against women "acceptable", according to survey results that campaigners described as "shocking" on Sunday. A total of 33 per cent of men aged 18-35 said they found it "acceptable" if "their hand slipped" occasionally during an argument with their female partner, according to the survey set to be published by the Funke newspaper group on Monday.

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

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

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

"Such keen feelings ... in a difficult time for Russia, they unite our society even more strongly, serve as a reliable support for our

heroes, the participants in the special military operation," Putin said, using the Russian official terminology for the Ukraine conflict.

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

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

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

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: UNESCO announced Monday that the United States plans to rejoin the U.N. cultural and scientific agency — and pay more than \$600 million in back dues — after a decade-long dispute sparked by the organization's move to include Palestine as a member.

The U.S. officials say the decision to return was motivated by concern that China is filling the gap left by the U.S. in UNESCO policymaking, notably in setting standards for artificial intelligence and technology education around the world.

The move will face a vote by UNESCO's member states in the coming weeks. But approval seems a formality after the resounding applause that greeted the announcement in UNESCO's Paris headquarters Monday. Not a single country raised an objection to the return of a country that was once the agency's single biggest funder. The U.S. and Israel stopped financing UNESCO after it voted to include Palestine as a member state in 2011. The

Trump administration decided in 2017 to withdraw from the agency altogether the following year, citing long-running anti-Israel bias and management problems.

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

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

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

# NATO begins unprecedented air drill in 'show of strength'

**Monitoring Desk**  
BERLIN: NATO will begin the largest air force deployment exercise in Europe in the alliance's history on Monday (June 12) in a display of unity toward partners and potential threats such as Russia.

The German-led "Air Defender 23" will run until June 23 and include some 250 military aircraft from 25 NATO and partner countries including Japan and Sweden, which is bidding to join the alliance.

Up to 10,000 people will participate in the drills intended to boost interoperability and preparedness to protect against drones and cruise missiles in the case of an attack on cities, airports or sea ports within NATO territory.

Presenting the plans last week, Lieutenant General Ingo Gerhartz of the

German Luftwaffe said "Air Defender" was conceived in 2018 in part as a response to the Russian annexation of Crimea from Ukraine four years before, though he said it was "not targeted at anyone".

He said that while NATO would defend "every centimetre" of its territory, the exercise would not "send any flights, for example, in the direction of Kaliningrad", the Russian enclave bordering alliance member states Poland and Lithuania.

"We are a defensive alliance and that is how this exercise is planned," he said.

US Ambassador to Germany Amy Gutmann said the drill would show "beyond a shadow of a doubt the agility and the swiftness of our allied force" and was intended to send a message to countries including Russia.

# Iraq urges countries to repatriate their citizens from camp housing families of extremist IS group

**Monitoring Desk**  
BAGHDAD: Iraq urged countries on Monday to repatriate their citizens from a sprawling camp in Syria housing tens of thousands linked to the extremist Islamic State group, saying it has become a "source for terrorism."

The statements were made during a conference in Baghdad discussing al-Hol camp in northeast Syria. Iraqi officials, the U.N. representative in Iraq, some members of the international coalition fighting IS and ambassadors of several countries were present.

Al-Hol Camp — named after a town near the Iraqi border — is an open wound left by Syria's 12-year conflict. Tens of thousands of people were taken to the facility after the extremist group's defeat in Syria in March 2019.

The camp holds about 51,000 people, the vast majority women and children, including the wives, widows and other family members of IS militants, mostly Syrians and Iraqis. There are also around

8,000 women and children from 60 other nationalities who live in a part of the camp known as the Annex. They are generally considered the most die-hard IS supporters among the camp residents.

There have been concerns that children at the camp were being taught extremist ideology by their mothers. Experts have warned that a future generation of IS fighters could emerge from al-Hol.

"Ending the issue of al-Hol camp has become a top national interest for Iraq," said Ahmad Sahhaf, Iraq's Foreign Ministry spokesman, according to the country's state news agency. Sahhaf called on the international community to urge all countries that have citizens at the camp "to repatriate them as soon as possible in order to eventually close the camp" because it has become "a dangerous epicenter" for IS gatherings.

Iraq has repatriated 1,396 families from al-Hol constituting 5,569 of its citizens over the past weeks, said Iraq's National Security Adviser Qasim al-Araji who spoke at the conference.

# Analysis-Lebanon's Hezbollah mobilises to block IMF's Azour for presidency

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: The Iran-backed Hezbollah and its closest allies are set to torpedo an attempt by rivals to elect a senior IMF official as Lebanese president this week, in a tussle that underlines its decisive sway and the dim prospects for reviving the crumbling state.

The standoff has laid bare Lebanon's deep splits, with the heavily armed Hezbollah deploying its political might against Jihad Azour's bid to fill the vacant presidency, while continuing to campaign for its ally - Suleiman Frangieh.

The latest twist will unfold in parliament on Wednesday, when lawmakers will try for a 12th time to elect a successor to Michel Aoun, a Hezbollah-allied politician whose term ended in October.

The attempt by groups including Hezbollah's opponents to elect Azour, an ex-finance

minister and the IMF's Middle East director, is expected to fail because Hezbollah and its allies have enough seats to deny a two-thirds quorum.

"We will obstruct for all to see," a senior Hezbollah-allied politician told Reuters, adding that Lebanon would then face an "open-ended crisis".

Hezbollah officials say the movement and its allies are exercising their constitutional right to block Azour's election.

The tussle has underlined the dim chances of a president being elected soon, leaving Lebanon drifting further from any steps towards remedying a devastating financial meltdown that has been left to fester since 2019.

The power vacuum - with neither a head of state nor a fully empowered cabinet - is unprecedented even for Lebanon, a country that has known little stability since independence.



A car passes a roadblock some 500 metres from the site of a bus crash, where 10 people from a wedding party were killed, in Cessnock, in Australia's Hunter wine region north of Sydney.

## Alvi for enhancing scientific cooperation among COMSTech member countries

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

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

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

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

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

He said that the availability and democratization of knowledge had brought

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

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

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

The delegation apprised the president about the initiatives undertaken

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

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

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



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



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

## Good education to brighten future of children: CM stresses need to eliminate child labour from society through collective efforts

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has underlined the need to make efforts for elimination of the child labour from the society through collective efforts.

This, the Chief Minister stated in a message issued here on International Day against Child Labour observed on June 12.

He said that the objective behind observance of the day is to create aware-

ness and consciousness about the child labour.

He said that elimination of child labour is a guarantee of better future of the children.

The Chief Minister said that the nations build future of their children with knowledge and skills.

The children who fall victim to the bonded labour, they remain deprived of education, the Chief Minister said adding that the country's laws strictly negates the child

labour.

However, we must abide by the international laws and treaties on the child labour, adding he stressed.

He also stressed that we have to impart good education to the children to brighten their future. In addition to this, collective efforts are needed to eliminate child labour through collaborative efforts, he added.

He stressed that "let's raise voice against the child labour as anation together."

## Mariyum says: Integration of ISA, PTV, Radio Pakistan academies milestone in history MoIB

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb on Monday declared the integration of the Information Service Academy, PTV Academy and Radio Pakistan Academy as part of the first film policy and said it was a major milestone in the history of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

In a tweet, sharing the teaser of the newly integrated academy, she said on May 13, 2023, she had announced the launch of PTV Film Institute and today she was thrilled to share the teaser.

The minister said that the merger of ISA, PTV and Radio academies reflected her goal to launch a world-class center of excellence for

media, broadcasting, films, acting, training and capacity building across Pakistan, which should be open and accessible to all especially youth.

Mariyum Aurangzeb said that this initiative was very close to her heart.

Practical training was incorporated with the academic programs of the academies using media equipment and facilities at PTV and Radio Pakistan, she said.

The academy, she continued, will not only be open to new inductees and existing employees of the Ministry of Information, PTV and Radio Pakistan but students and youth from across Pakistan will be able to enroll in courses including the academy's summer school.

## Khar, Belgian minister discuss cooperation in labour mobility

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar and Belgian Secretary of State for Migration and Asylum Nicole de Moor on Monday discussed enhancing of cooperation in the field of labour mobility.

MoS Hina Rabbani Khar held constructive discussions with the Belgian minister in this regard.

Earlier, she had arrived in Brussels on an official visit to Belgium, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press statement.

Minister of State Hina Rabbani Khar also met Senator Alessia Cleas, the Chair of the Pakistan-Belgium Parliamentary Friendship Group.

The discussions focused on fostering stronger ties between the two nations and exploring avenues for increasing trade and investment cooperation.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of student of University of Gwadar visiting Chinese Consulate

## Lashkari Raisani says: No lesson learnt from past as artificial parties being formed once again

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The senior politician and former Senator, Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani has charged that a political party had been formed within a day in 2018, and once again the artificial and bogus parties are being constituted as no lesson was learnt from the past. This was regrettably pointed out by Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani while speaking to the media persons during his visit to the Quetta Press Club on Monday.

He said that most of the political parties are being and operated through remote control. While on the other hand, he maintained that the country is being pushed towards the

economic disaster.

Without attributing to any particular party, Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani said that a party was formed artificially in the center, whose name was already registered. He said that attempts are being made to imposed a bogus party on the people in Balochistan for next five years. Earlier, Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani met the newly elected office bearers of the Quetta Press Club and congratulated them on their elections.

He expressed the hope that the media persons would continue to raise voice of the oppressed people of the province through their respective media platforms.

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

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

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

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

Fourteen PML-N members in the city council will vote for the PPP's mayor and deputy mayor's candidates.

The decision has been taken on the instructions of the PML-N Quaid Mian Nawaz Sharif.

People's Party has welcomed the PML-N decision and vowed to work jointly with the allied party for development of the city.

Earlier, the PML-N's elected chairmen had decided to field their own candidate, while expressing their discontent with the decision of the party's committee headed by Muhammad Zubair to extend support to the PPP.

## Senate passes resolution commemorating martyrs' sacrifices

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

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

Furthermore, the Senate resolution strongly con-

demned the shocking and distressing acts of vandalism and arson that occurred on May 9. These reprehensible actions targeted prominent landmarks such as Jinnah House Lahore, monuments dedicated to martyrs and national heroes, installations belonging to the Armed Forces, and the Radio Pakistan Peshawar building.

Expressing their deep sense of dismay and resentment, the House deplored these attacks and demanded that those responsible for planning, facilitating, and instigating them be brought to justice under the full extent of the law.

## Gen Inam says PDMAs conduct local-level needs assessment, mock exercises in vulnerable areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik on Monday instructed the provincial disaster management authorities (PDMAs) to conduct a local-level needs assessment and mock exercises, deploy manpower and machinery, and work closely with relevant departments in areas at risk of Tropical Cyclone

BIPARJOY effects. The NDMA convened National Coordination Conference on Tropical Cyclone BIPARJOY presided by Chairman NDMA, Lt. General Inam Haider Malik to review the development of 'Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm' (ESCS) BIPARJOY over Arabian Sea in PDMA Sindh Headquarter, Karachi participated by representatives of relevant stakeholders.



QUETTA: MPAs Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa and Nasrullah Zarey meeting with Provincial Education Minister Mir Naseebullah Khan Marri

## Chairman NAB says: NAB used for political objectives in the past Reforms underway to improve bureau performance

LAHORE (APP): National Accountability Bureau Chairman Lt. Gen. (ret'd) Nazir Ahmed has said efforts are being made to bring about more reforms and improvements in NAB system so that its mission to eliminate corruption and redress people's grievances can be carried out more effectively and efficiently.

Addressing a cheque distribution ceremony among affectees of four

housing societies, he said that it was NAB's responsibility to hand over the recovered amount to the affectees in a transparent manner.

The chairman said that NAB's Lahore region had contributed significantly to the efforts against corruption, as it made possible recoveries of billions of rupees in various housing sector scams and returned the money to the affectees.

## Start of freight shipping between Pak-Russia a welcome step: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazir Tarar on Monday said that the start of freight shipping between Russia and Pakistan and the arrival of Russian oil yesterday was a great step.

The minister expressed these views while addressing the National Day of Russia.

Tarar said that ways

of cooperation between Pakistan and Russia in various fields had started to open. The arrival of Russian oil in Pakistan was the beginning of a new era of cooperation between the two countries, he added.

He said that Pakistan valued relations with Russia and Russian cooperation. There was great scope for mutual investment, economic development.



QUETTA: A view of expansion work of eastern bypass road is under process.

## Shazia Marri says: BISP budget enhanced up to Rs. 455bln for FY 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety (PA&SS), Shazia Marri Monday said that the incumbent government has enhanced Benazir Income Support Programme's (BISP) budget from Rs. 404 billion to Rs. 455 billion for the Financial Year 2023-24.

She informed the journalists about the budget increase during a press conference held here.

She said that Benazir Nushonuma budget saw a leap up from Rs. 4.8 billion to Rs. 32.2 billion.

While talking about the Benazir Nushonuma Programme, the minister apprised the audience that BISP has registered 0.643 million children, pregnant

women, and lactating mothers up to date.

As part of its ongoing development program, BISP has distributed Rs. 24 billion, effectively supporting vulnerable communities across the country. She negated the fake news circulating in the media recently about boosting the population through Benazir Nushonuma.

She said it was extremely irresponsible to spread such news which are completely unfounded and have no true grounds.

Shazia Marri emphasized the importance of the role of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) in uplifting the lives of the underprivileged and marginalized segment of the

society.

BISP, which commenced in 2008 and was the brainchild of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, has proven to be a highly successful programme.

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

While talking about the budgetary allocations she said that over the years, the budget allocation for the BISP has witnessed significant growth, reflecting the government's commitment to social welfare of the poor.



QUETTA: A delegation led by MPA Akbar Mengal meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## 28 killed, 150 injured, 158 houses damaged due to rains in KP: PDMA

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) on Monday reported that the death toll reached to 28 and at least 150 were injured and 158 houses were partially damaged due to heavy wind, rain and storm in Bannu, Lakki Marwat and Karak districts.

Secretary Relief Abdul Basit said that Rescue 1122 and district administrations search and rescue operations are ongoing as all the injured are being shifted to the hospital before providing medical aid on the spot.

He said that Rs 40 million has been released for Bannu district on a priority basis. He said that all the affectees will be treated under government policy.

## Educational development key to overall progress of society, says Governor Balochistan Recruitment of locals must on posts of teachers

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Kakar has stated that educational development is a key to the overall progress of the society.

In this regard, we should pay proper attention towards expansion and quality of education, maintained the Governor while speaking to the Member of Provincial Assembly from Wadh area of Khuzdar, Mir Akbar Mengal, who called on him at the Governor House on Monday.

Speaking to Akbar Mengal, the Governor said

that posting of able teachers has always been an issue in the remote areas of the province. In order to resolve this particular issue, the Education department should ensure recruitment of maximum local teachers on the vacancies of teachers so that they perform their duties with dedication and honesty being familiar to their areas, adding he stressed.

If done so, there would be no room of disruption of academic activities of the students in the remote areas, the Governor believed.

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

KARACHI (Online): Dr Fouzia Siddiqui has returned to Karachi after meeting her sister Dr Aafia Siddiqui imprisoned in US jail.

Talking to media men at Karachi airport she said second meeting with Dr Aafia Siddiqui will take place in the month of July.

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



QUETTA: Wing Commander Colonel Akbar meeting with Deputy Commissioner Quetta Shehbaz Baloch

## Customs foil attempts to smuggle cigarettes worth Rs 111.65 mln

QUETTA (APP): Continuing the crackdown against the smuggling of cigarettes, Customs Enforcement Quetta has recently foiled two attempts to smuggle cigarettes worth Rs 111.65 million.

In the first incident, a truck was intercepted on June 06, 2023, at airport road Quetta loaded with smuggled cigarettes of various brands, said a press release issued here on Monday.

The seized quantity is 3.5 million sticks and their market value is Rs. 102.05 million. With an increase in Federal Excise Duty (FED) on cigarettes, reports have emerged that the quantum of cigarette smuggling has increased.

The smuggled brands included, among others, Benson & Hedges, Pine, Milano, Esse, Speed, Navy and Mond, it added.

In another incident, the Customs Enforcement

Quetta intercepted a bus at Sariab Road and seized 770,000 sticks of smuggled cigarettes having a market value of Rs. 9.6 million.

Pakistan Customs is continuing its crackdown against the smuggling of cigarettes, and the objective is to provide a level playing field to the Pakistani Manufacturers who are tax-compliant and contributing revenues to the national exchequer.

With an increase in Federal Excise Duty (FED) on cigarettes, reports have emerged that the quantum of cigarette smuggling has increased.

Accordingly, the Member Customs (Operations) devised a holistic strategy in consultation with Chief Collectors and Collectors (Enforcement) to locate and seize smuggled cigarettes during transportation, storage and distribution stages.