

# Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

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Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vd: XXIV No. 304, Zil Hajj 05, 1444 AH Saturday June 24, 2023 Pages 12, Price Rs.15

## PM Shehbaz, Chinese Premier vow to set CPEC projects at centrality in bilateral cooperation

Agree to celebrate Decade of CPEC this year to showcase success;  
Pakistan to expand strategic ties with China, says PM Shehbaz

PARIS (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday met Chinese Premier Li Qiang here wherein the two sides agreed to celebrate the Decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) this year to showcase its success. The meeting was held here on the sidelines of the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact.

It was the first in-person meeting between the two leaders since Premier Li assumed office in March this year. Expressing satisfaction at the steady development of CPEC projects in Pakistan, the two sides agreed on CPEC's centrality for Pakistan's socio-economic development and expressed their firm commitment to continue working together for realizing its shared objectives for the two countries.

The conversation was marked by traditional warmth and cordiality that has been the hallmark of Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

During the meeting, the two leaders held an in-depth discussion on the entire gamut of bilateral relationship, including CPEC as well as economic cooperation.

Reiterating support to China on its core issues, the prime minister appreciated China's unflinching support to Pakistan's territorial integrity, sovereignty and socio-economic development.

He noted that China's firm opposition to holding any G20 meeting in the disputed region of Jammu and Kashmir was a vivid reflection of China's principled stance for upholding international law and the United Nations resolutions.

In his remarks, Premier Li said the Pakistan-China friendship was unique and had withstood the vicissitudes of time due to deep fraternal ties between the peoples of the two nations.

Continued on page 2



PARIS: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Premier of the State Council of China, Li Qiang meet on the sidelines of the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact.



LAHORE: Chief Organizer of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Maryam Nawaz in a group photo with a delegation of National Party led by Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch

## PML-N, NP express resolve to extend political cooperation

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief organizer Maryam Nawaz and the National Party (NP) on Friday declared their intention to extend their political collaboration.

An NP delegation led by former Balochistan chief minister Abdul Malik Baloch called on Maryam, during which the matters in line with the country's political situation were highlighted.

On this occasion, Maryam believed that her party placed a great value on Balochistan and its people. She lavished praise on PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, saying, "Nawaz Sharif and PM Shehbaz has always worked in line with the progress of Balochistan. The Balochistan's progress is vital for the sake of the overall country's development."

## Gwadar's over 15 mega projects under CPEC completed in one year

GWADAR (APP): The Gwadar's over 15 mega projects under the game changer China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have been completed during the financial year of 2022-23 which would benefit the local masses of the port city.

The mega projects completed included a 300 MW coal power plant, 2000 boat engines, Khuzdar to Panjur transmission line, Gwadar International Airport, Pak-China Technology Institute, Gwadar Hospital, Smart Port and certain other projects in the socio-economic domain have been completed in the outgoing fiscal year. The construction of a modern

hospital in Gwadar would ensure the best healthcare facilities for the local people, said an official source on Friday.

Under the CPEC, multiple projects for the provision of clean water and its fair distribution in the coastal town of Gwadar have been also completed during the said period.

The Gwadar Development Authority has completed a project of installing a 158 kilometer long pipeline to supply water from nearby dams to the residents of Gwadar town.

Moreover, multiple projects including were also underway at full pace as planned in the Master Plan of Gwadar, it added.



QUETTA: A delegation led by President Social Welfare Officers Association Javed Baloch meeting with Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Imran Gichki

## Govt on toes to manage power supply during peak summer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Despite the economic recession and pressure by International Monetary Fund to do away with subsidies, the government is pursuing a focused agenda of overcoming power shortage during the peak summer season through a multi-pronged strategy.

Since the uninterrupted power supply is considered crucial for the development

of industrial, agricultural and domestic sectors, its smooth supply to domestic consumers is equally important.

But it becomes difficult when one's hands are tied to certain international monetary compulsions and there is a shortfall in indigenous supply and demand.

Therefore, the present

Continued on page 2

## Trial of civilians in military courts: 102 people in army's custody, AGP tells SC

No journalist, minor, woman and  
lawyer under custody of Army in  
connection with the incidents of May 9  
and 10; Hearing adjourns till June 26

ISLAMABAD (Online): Attorney General (AG) has filed details of arrested accused in Supreme Court (SC) in the matter of trial of civilians in military courts.

According to the report, 3050 persons were identified to have been found involved in May 9 incidents. Arrest warrants of 2258 persons were issued among them under MPO. 1888 persons are arrested in 51 cases under terrorism clauses. 4119 persons are arrested in 247 cases under other clauses.

86 accused have been handed over to police on physical remand while 2464 persons have been sent on judicial remand. As many as 81 women who

were involved in May 9 incidents have also been arrested. 42 women among them were granted bail by the courts. 39 women are in jail on judicial remand.

It is pertinent to mention here the report presented by Attorney does not include the details of accused, lawyers and journalists who are under the custody of army and the arrested children.

APP adds: The Supreme Court on Friday adjourned the hearing of the petitions pertaining to trial of May 9 riots accused in military courts till June 26 (Monday).

A seven-member bench headed by Chief Justice of

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Zamrak Khan Achakzai, Abdul Khaliq Hazara and MPAs Mir Arif Jan Muhammaddassani and Molvi Noorullah talking during Assembly session

## Asif hits back at joint US-India statement

ISLAMABAD (Online): Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Friday rebuked the United States and India for issuing a joint statement calling on Pakistan to ensure that its territory is not used to launch extremist attacks.

Asif took strong exception to the statement as he pointed out "the irony of this statement coming during the visit of someone who was banned entry to the US for overseeing a pogrom of Muslims when he was CM Gujarat".

Lamenting the actions of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a tweet, the minister said that "he leads yet another campaign

of state-sponsored terrorism in Kashmir, which includes routinely maiming and blinding the local population".

"Across the rest of the country, Modi's acolytes lynch Muslims, Christians, and other minorities, with impunity," he added.

The defence minister also stressed that "Pakistan has lost countless lives, and has been continuously at war with terrorism for decades now, owing to failed American interventions in the region".

"Perhaps President Biden should consider these facts the next time he fetes the Butcher of Gujarat," Asif said.

## Expatriates are 'pride of Pakistan': Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday said being a precious asset, the overseas Pakistanis were 'pride of Pakistan' as they were playing a major role in its economic development.

"It is the foremost priority of the government to resolve the issues of expatriates," the minister said in a meeting with members of Pakistani diaspora in France.

She extended gratitude to the Pakistani community for according a warm welcome to the Pakistani delegation on their arrival in Paris for a summit on New Global Financing Pact.

Marriyum said the journey of progress and development would continue in Pakistan under the visionary leadership of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid Nawaz Sharif.

## Bilawal for collective efforts by world powers to root out terrorism effectively



ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday stressed that collective efforts were needed by the world powers to root out the menace of terrorism, which had affected Pakistan the most.

Speaking in the National Assembly, he said being a global issue, terrorism should not be seen through the prism of geopolitics.

The foreign minister regretted that after the fall

Bilawal said first of all there was the need to bring political stability in Pakistan and then the focus should be shifted to further enhancing bilateral relations and forging partnerships with other countries, including the United States.

He said the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) chairman himself pushed his party into a blind alley following the May 9 vandalism of military installations and martyrs' memorials due to his rigidity.

He said time and again the PTI chief was asked from the parliamentary forums to announce his disassociation from the May 9 incidents but he paid no heed and consequently his party was today in trouble.

Those involved in attacking the military installations and the memorials of martyrs did not deserve

Continued on page 2

## Ready to sign charter of economy, says Zardari

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former president and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari has said that he is ready to discuss and sign the charter of economy.

While addressing a session of the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA), Asif Ali Zardari urged the industrialists to sign an agreement - charter of economy - with all political parties.

"I am ready to sign the charter of economy. I will give you a level playing field. We are rich not poor and those who think Pakistan is a poor state are fools."

Asif Ali Zardari said that he had also invited Pa-

kistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman to sign the charter of economy.

He asked the manufacturers to increase exports. "The increased price of dollar makes everything expensive. I am fully aware of issues being faced by traders and industrialists. We can stabilize the economy by enhancing exports."

The PPP co-chairman claimed that they would increase exports to \$100 billion. "We have to promote trade for the betterment of the economy. The common people will be able to pay taxes if their issues are addressed. We should focus on trade opportunities instead of aid."



LAHORE: Spokesman of Chief Minister Balochistan, Babar Yousafzai and Coordinators talking with media men during their visit to Jinnah House

## Call to take steps to reduce MMR: SOGP National Scientific Conference held with focus on women health issues

QUETTA: The Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Pakistan (SOGP) National Scientific Conference was held with the focus on taking effective measures for prevention of the women health issues particularly reducing the maternal mortality ration in the country, here on Friday evening.

While the chief guest of the conference was the Provincial Minister for Health, Syed Ehsan Shah, the Secretary Information, Hamza Shafiqat participated as the guest of honour.

Prominent among those participated in the conference were the former Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Ms. Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani and other dignitaries.

The President SOGP, Professor Azizun Nisa Abbasi, the members of cabinet of the SOGP and senior doctors and gynecologists from all over the country also participated in the scientific conference. The senior gynecologist, Head of the gynecology department of Sandeman Provincial Headquarter

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Provincial Health Minister Syed Ehsan Shah and others addressing SOGP Conference



## Strengthen progress on climate change Govt keen to support resilient economic development: Romina

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM), Romina Khurshid Alam said the government was keen to support a resilient economic development agenda and strengthen progress on climate change, energy efficiency, transition, and gender equality.

She was addressing a policy dialogue on Pakistan's Post-Budget Economic Outlook, organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute in collaboration with Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs and Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) here, a news release said.

SAPM Romina Khurshid Alam urged for strengthening partnerships in South Asia through consortiums as populations in the region are among the biggest victims of climate change. She stressed, "Our economy must undergo reform so that it can be resilient in the face of recent and future climate disasters wreaking havoc in the country."

fronted with climate disasters do not need aid but trade and added that regional connectivity and cooperation are the answer to the development challenges in the region, she added.

Coordinator to Prime Minister of Pakistan on Commerce and Industry Rana Ihsan Afzal said that the government had to present a realistic not an election budget that could be carried further.

It focuses on the agriculture, IT and SME sectors with a realistic growth of 3.5% after stakeholder consultation and considering growth drivers.

In the last 16 months, the government has not taken populist decisions but rather focused on reforms like bringing retail businesses into the tax net, rebasing the electricity and gas tariffs, and the fiscal deficit has been reduced compared to last year.

He said that the Charter of Economy is the right plan, and PDM parties are already discussing it. He urged for collective wisdom and kickstarting reforms including privatization, managing of imports etc.

He stressed that we need to look inside, increase revenues, cut expenditures, and manage the macro-factors that are halting the much-needed reforms.

Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI said that the current budget surprisingly is not a populist one and shows the commitment to bringing the IMF program back on track.

He hoped that some budget numbers will be revised as coalition partners and provinces have expressed some reservations.

He further said that though faced with many challenges, the financing of the budget deficit will be made possible through both domestic and external sources, for example, from friendly countries like rollovers of 2 billion dollars from Saudi Arabia, 1 billion from UAE, new financing of 2.4 billion from IMF, 1.5 million from other financings, and commercial banks tripling their lending to the government.

However, he stressed that these inflows depend on political stability in the country.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan, Khazar Farhadov called on Federal Minister for Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique.

## Zong 4G, PAGE join forces to empower girls' education in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecommunications provider, is proud to announce a strategic partnership with PAGE (Pakistan Alliance for Girls Education), an esteemed organization dedicated to creating an enabling environment for gender equity in education, employment, rights, and leadership.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony took place, solidifying the commitment of both organizations to collaborate and empower girls' education in Pakistan.

The ceremony was attended by representatives from both Zong 4G and PAGE said a news release.

Under this MoU, Zong 4G and PAGE will work together to achieve their shared goal of transforming the environment of girls' education in Pakistan.

The cooperation will encompass a range of activities, including workshops conducted by trainers, the

provision of internet devices in areas with limited access, career training initiatives, rehabilitation of flood-affected schools, and workshops in women's vocational centers.

Zong 4G is committed to supporting PAGE in its mission to bridge the gender gap in education.

The official spokesperson for Zong 4G expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership, stating, "At Zong 4G, we firmly believe that education is the cornerstone of progress. By collaborating with PAGE, we are committed to empowering girls and ensuring equal access to quality education."

Zong 4G and PAGE have previously partnered for several initiatives such as the formation of an independent Digital Lab in Pir Chinasi, Azad Jammu & Kashmir. The Lab is primarily established in an all-girls school but it also serves as a vocational center for the women of the area.



ISLAMABAD: Traffic wardens seize without registration motorcycles at Faizabad police check post in the Federal Capital.

## Feast arranged to honor sacrifices of policemen

ISLAMABAD (APP): A special dinner was organized to honor the sacrifices of martyrs, veterans (Ghazis) and their families.

Upon the directive of Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP), the Islamabad Capital Police arranged a special dinner at a local restaurant to pay tribute and show solidarity with the martyrs, veterans, and their families.

Capital City Police Officer Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan met with the families of the martyrs and veterans, conveying his sincere condolences for the sacrifices of their loved ones.

He emphasized that the purpose of this dinner was to foster unity and strengthen the relationship with the families of martyrs and survivors, who made immense sacrifices for the protection and safety of the nation.

He commended the bravery of the martyrs and veterans, assuring them that their sacrifices would always be remembered.

Additionally, he expressed the determination of the Islamabad Capital Police to utilize all available resources for the welfare, education, and the promising future of the families of martyrs and veterans.

Personally, Islamabad



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, Vice Admiral (r) Mohan Wijewickrama, paid a farewell call on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Heavy pre-monsoon falls NDMA advises provincial authorities to take preventive steps

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Friday advised all the relevant federal and provincial authorities to ensure preventive measures in the wake of forecast for pre-monsoon wind-thundershower with heavy falls causing risk of urban flooding and landslides in the north of country.

The NDMA, in its advisory, said the pre-monsoon rains with dust-thundershowers were predicted from June 25-30 as an intruding weather system was bringing moist currents

from the Arabian Sea which was penetrating upper and central parts of the country along with a westerly wave which was likely to enter upper parts on June 25. "Under the influence of this weather system", it said, "the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has predicted rain and wind-thundershowers with few heavy falls in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Punjab, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) and Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) from June 24 (night) to 30, and rain and wind-thundershowers with iso-

lated heavy falls in Punjab, KP, Balochistan, and ICT from June 26 to 29. However, from June 27 to 28 rain and wind-thundershowers with isolated heavy falls are expected in Sindh.

The NDMA said in light of the above weather system forecast, "following impacts are expected in aforesaid parts of Pakistan: prevailing heatwave conditions are likely to subside, while heavy rainfall may cause urban flooding in low lying areas of Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Gujranwala and Lahore from June 26-27, and trigger landslides in the vulnerable areas.

## 22,960 women widowed in IIOJK since 1989

ISLAMABAD (INP): As the world is observing International Widows Day, today, Kashmiri women continue to suffer at the hands of Indian troops, police and dreaded agencies in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

According to a report released by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service, the unabated Indian state terrorism rendered 22,960 women widowed since January 1989 till date as their husbands were martyred by Indian troops and police personnel in fake encounters and in custody.

It said around 2,500 women have been forced to live as half-widows during the past 35 years. The women whose husbands were subjected to custodial disappearance after arrest by the Indian army and police are referred to as half-widows and several of them died due to mental tension.

According to the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons and other human rights groups in IIOJK, around 8,000 civilians have disappeared in the custody of Indian troops and police personnel since 1989, it said.



ISLAMABAD: Players and kids poses for group photo along with Olympian Sadaf Siddiqui to celebrate International Olympic Day 2023 at Rawal Lake under the umbrella of the Pakistan Olympic Federation (POA), in Federal Capital.

## 157,000 Pakistani pilgrims arrive in Saudi Arabia for Hajj

ISLAMABAD (INP): A total of 157,000 Pakistani pilgrims have arrived in Saudi Arabia for Hajj, including 81,000 participants under the government scheme and 76,000 through the private scheme, as confirmed by the spokesperson from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony.

Muhammad Umer Butt, Spokesman Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony told APP that Saudi Makatib had completed the preparations to make the tents in Mina and Arafat functional.

Hajj pilgrims will be transported to the Mina tent village on the night between Sunday and Monday via buses.

The guiding posts of Pakistani Muavineen had already been established in Mina and Jamarat, he added.

In Mina, he said two camp offices had been set up by the Pakistan Hajj Mission to provide continuous assistance to prospective pilgrims.

These offices will in-

clude different departments like lost and found, guidance, complaints, and a monitoring desk, ensuring 24/7 support for the pilgrims.

Quoting Director General Hajj Abdul Wahab Soomro, he said a shuttle train service would be available to 63 percent of the Hajj during the Hajj days, while the remaining 37 percent would be transported to Mina, Arafat, and Muzdalifah via buses.

Meanwhile, the transport service to Haram Sharif was closed early in the morning in order to control the severe rush of pilgrims at the Grand Mosque due to the last Friday before Hajj rituals.

Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Senator Talha Mehmood, will join ordinary prospective pilgrims in performing Hajj.

During his visit to various buildings housing Pakistani Hajj pilgrims, the minister personally addressed their concerns and gave instructions to resolve them.

## Senate body on Maritime Affairs discusses vital matters

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Maritime Affairs met under the Chair of Senator Rubina Khalid.

The Committee discussed Public Petition No. PP-5278. The Secretary, Ministry of Maritime Affairs directed the KPT authorities to recruit Mr. Shah Nawaz Baloch on daily wage basis without further delay.

Another significant issue discussed during the meeting was about advertising the vacant posts in Gwadar Port Authority. Senator Rubina Khalid directed the Secretary Maritime Affairs to gather relevant information regarding the recruitment at the Gwadar port.

The committee expressed its displeasure over the non-timely provision of

working papers and the lack of preparation related to the agenda items. This lack of readiness led the committee to defer several agenda items for future consideration. The deferred items included report on procurement tenders issued by the KPT in the last ten years; detailed of all machinery and equipment which was used or is being used by KPT on rental charges basis since 2013 with complete detail of rent charges paid or being paid by the KPT on monthly basis; outstanding rental charges payable to the Gwadar Port Authority by the KPT, as well as the return of a tug boat to the GPA; provision of details by the KPT and Port Qasim Authority (PQA) regarding dredged volume expenditure on maintenance dredging, along with average costs.



Delegation of residents of Islamabad visiting National Museum at Parliament House, Islamabad

## Shahida says: Govt must implement approved Plantation Day across Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior Environmentalist, social worker and Chief Editor Subh-e-Nau magazine Shahida Kausar Farooq on Friday urged the government to implement National Plantation Day which is approved on 18 August to create a sense of harmony and unity in nationwide plantation and ecosystem restoration initiatives.

With Subh-e-Nau's initiatives and Shahida Farooq's efforts, the National Plantation Day was approved by the then Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani, and has the potential and scale to engage swathes of masses in a single day to plant maximum plants to not only increase green cover rather help ensure eco-friendly employment opportunities.

Ms. Farooq said the plantation has been considered as the cheaper and most effective measure for overcoming the devastating effects of climate change, environmental degradation, and rising temperatures.

She added that plantation was being carried out by Forest Departments of federating units and some private entities as part of their corporate social responsibility but there needs to be national cohesion in this endeavour.

The senior environmentalist was of the view that the country was on the front line of countries facing the adverse impact of climate change and natural calamities.

She said plantations would be the best source to beautify mega urban centers that have turned into concrete jungles and resulted in increased pollution and temperature.

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## CPO law and order visit to Kohsar police station

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Following the special order of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan the Capital Police Officer (CPO) Law and Order Shakir Hussain Dawar paid a visit to Kohsar police station, a police public relation officer said.

He said that, during the visit CPO Law and Order reviewed the steps taken for the facilities of police personnel and public. SDPO Kohsar Abdullah Shehryar and Officer Incharge police station Kohsar Shafiq Faiz were also present. During the visit he also met with the staff of Kohsar police station.

tion and received a briefing on all administrative matters.

CPO Law and Order also checked the lock up and records and visited the different rooms and mess and issued directions to senior officers, stating that more steps should be taken to improve the quality of the



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## PIMS new emergency block to be expanded

ISLAMABAD (APP): Executive Director Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Dr Imran Sikandar has decided to expand the new emergency block project of the hospital with the addition of one more floor to ensure the provision of the best emergency services to citizens.

According to ED PIMS spokesperson Dr Mubashir Mushtaq Doha, the decision was made on the direction of the Planning Commission of Pakistan as with this new plan further 75 beds will be added to the project.

He said that after approval from the Ministry

of National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination, the documents of the projects have been sent to the Planning Commission for allocation of funds.

He said that with the addition of 75 beds, the total number of beds will be 239 in the new emergency block of the hospital with state-of-the-art facilities including a laboratory, operation theatre, and x-ray.

He said that the new emergency block project will be completed next year. He added the project will be helpful in providing quality emergency services to patients of not only Islamabad but also from surrounding areas.



Senator Mrs. Rubina Khalid, Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Maritime Affairs presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House Islamabad



## Operation against dacoits: CM visits Katcha area to boost police morale Announces to establish a school and a hospital in the areas being vacated from miscreants

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited the Katcha Area in Rahim Yar Khan in order to boost the morale of police officers and jawans taking part in the ongoing operation against dacoit gangs.  
He visited various 'mauzas' and deep katcha areas, which are being cleared from dacoit gangs and met the police jawans deployed at the front line bunkers. He appreciated the spirit of police jawans taking part in the operation in severe hot weather, said a handout issued here.  
Mohsin Naqvi, Inspector General of Police Dr Usman Anwar, Additional IGP South Punjab and other police officers took their meal

with the police jawans, listened to their problems and promised solving their problems.  
Mohsin Naqvi met students getting education in schools and inquired from them about their educational activities. He also distributed prizes among students in the school, established in the Katcha area.  
The CM inquired after patients at the temporary dispensary and asked them about the treatment facilities. He announced establishment of a school and a hospital in the Katcha area and ordered establishment of a dispensary and a school after acquiring a house with the cooperation of local residents.  
Mohsin directed

additional chief secretary South Punjab to take prompt measures for establishing a school and a hospital and stated that the people of Katcha area would be provided health and education facilities. Complete medical cover would be provided to jawans of police force and their families, he added.  
Operation in the Katcha area was underway successfully and the police had got the area vacated from the miscreants, he said adding the nation was proud of brave sons of Punjab Police. Mohsin Naqvi saluted the valour and spirit of the police officers and jawans taking part in the operation and added that establishing durable peace in the kacha was a priority.



RAHIM YAR KHAN: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi and Inspector General of Police Dr. Usman Anwar taking meal with police personnel participating in the Kacha operation during their visit to Kacha area in Rahim Yar Khan.

### Governor terms youth precious asset at GCWUF convocation

**Independent Report**  
FAISALABAD: Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur-Rehman said on Friday the youth were most precious asset to the country and the government was making all-out efforts to utilise it for national development to the maximum extent.  
Addressing the 3<sup>rd</sup> convocation of the Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF) here, he said that females were an integral part of society and their involvement in mainstream was imperative for national progress and prosperity.  
In this connection, quality education and other facilities were being provided to the female segment, he said and emphasised the girl students to focus on their study and equip them with latest and modern trends so that they could play their

dynamic role in national progress and prosperity.  
He said that Islam is a religion of love and peace. "Hence we should promote love instead of hate. We should also reject the rumors as these were most injurious to national solidarity and integrity," he added.  
The governor strongly condemned the May-9 mayhem, and said that despite political differences, national heroes were respectful for the entire nation and the patriotic Pakistanis could never dare vandalise and disgrace their monuments at any cost.  
He said that anti-state elements were using the social media to spread rumors for their nefarious designs and youths were under their main target. Hence, the youths should investigate the information first and then react on it for greater national interest, he added.

### Minister orders maximum facilities to patients at govt hospitals

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Punjab Health Minister Dr. Javed Akram has said that maximum facilities should be provided to patients at the public sector hospitals as these hospitals were being run with citizens' tax money.  
During his visit to Sir Gangaram Hospital on Friday, he said emergency conditions of hospital were slightly better. "I am visiting the government hospitals across the province on the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi," he added.

Dr Javed said the Punjab cabinet was working with good intentions for betterment of people.  
By pointing out shortcomings in the government hospitals, he added that better facilities for patients could be brought about in hospitals. He asked the medical superintendent (MS) to realise the responsibility and create facilities for patients. He said a patient should not face any problem in any government hospital of the province.



PESHAWAR: Members of Pakistan Railway Traffic Yard Staff are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Peshawar press club.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali talking to participants of 33<sup>rd</sup> Senior Management Course during their study visit to Governor House.

### Barrister Feroze says: All efforts will be made to solve problems of CPNE

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: The Council of Pakistan Newspapers Editors (CPNE) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa committee meeting was held on Friday in a local hotel in Peshawar under the chairmanship of Caretaker Minister for Information and Auqaf, Hajj, Religious and Minority Affairs Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhi. In the meeting, Secretary Information and Public Relations Mukhtiar Ahmed, Director General Information and Public Relations Basir Ali Rehman Khan, President CPNE Irshad Ahmed Arif, General Secretary Ijazul Haq, Vice President Tahir Farooq, Chairman Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Committee FCPNE Rahatullah, Qaiser Rizvi, Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani, Wazirzada, Mumtaz Sadiq, Arshad Khan, Jamsheed Baghwan, Rashid Iqbal, Amjad Aziz

Malik, Zahir Shah Shirazi, Salman Khan, Nauman Khan, Sardar Naeem, Maqsood Khan, Mumtaz Bangash, Najeebullah, and Aitzaz Hussain Shah and others participated.  
On this occasion, the participants of CPNE demanded the caretaker government and caretaker information minister to take steps to pay the arrears of the newspapers. Addressing the meeting, Caretaker Information Minister Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhi said that efforts will be made to solve the problems of CPNE. He said that the journalist community is the main pillar of the state. Information department and journalist community are two wheels of a vehicle which cannot run without each other. We have to work together and find solutions to all problems together.

### Murad inaugurates football ground, community centre at Ibrahim Hyderi

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah inaugurated the football ground and community center Ibrahim Hyderi constructed with the help of World Bank for Rs1.9 billion.  
Ibrahim Hyderi, a historical town located along the seashore has been rejuvenated with the inauguration of a state-of-the-art football ground, an upgraded community center, and the implementation of various infrastructure developments.  
Those, who were present on the occasion include Mayor Karachi Muratza Wahab, Deputy

Mayor Salman Murad, MNA Agha Rafiullah, MPA Mehmood Alam Jamote and others.  
Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that this initiative was part of the government's commitment to enhance the welfare of the youth and prioritize the development of future generations, encouraging their active participation in healthy activities and fostering their contributions towards the progress of the country.  
He said that the remarkable upgrades in Ibrahim Hyderi Village were made possible through the Karachi Neighborhood

Improvement Project (KNIP), which aimed at uplifting the entire town, accommodating its dense population.  
"The comprehensive project included the reconstruction of new arterial roads such as Omar Colony Road, the enhancement of main roads and neighborhood connecting streets, and the development of open community spaces into better congregating places," the CM said adding that these improvements have not only provided better connectivity but have also created attractive spaces for the local community to gather and socialize.



LAHORE: Chairperson Almarah Foundation Mrs Sofia Warriach presents souvenir to the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Pakistan Henny de Vries after MOU collaboration ceremony between Almarah and SBP KJHA at National Hockey Stadium as and Dy Inspector General of police Mr.Mehboob Lilla also present.

### Blistering heat wave faint Women at BISP centre Muzaffargarh

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD (Online): Several women in Muzaffargarh, Punjab reportedly lost their consciousness as Mercury crossed 40C in funds distribution centre of Benazir Income Support Program, officials said on Friday.  
Station House Officers (SHO) of Muzaffargarh told that he saw few women during his routine visit of various sites, who had fainted at distribution centre established at a government elementary school.  
A video also showed SHO fanning women who collapsed.  
SHO told that he immediately called medical aid. According to AccuWeather.com, the temperature in the city was recorded to be 38 degrees Celsius at around 11:45am.

heat wave conditions are likely to subside from June 25".  
It states, "Moist currents are penetrating in upper and central parts of the country from Arabian Sea and a westerly wave is likely to enter in upper parts of the country on June 25".  
The advisory further forecasts "pre-monsoon rains with dust thunderstorm predicted in upper and central parts from June 25-30 with occasional gaps".  
In an advisory released on June 19, the PMD forecast heatwave-like conditions in most parts of the country from June 20-24 along with a gradual increase in day temperatures.  
The women, who had lined up to receive aid distributed under the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), complained about mismanagement at the centre and an alleged deduction from the funds.

According to the data, 1,048 motorbikes, 86 auto-rickshaws, 115 motorcars, 19 vans.  
As many as 670 serious injured were shifted to different hospitals, while 582 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.  
The analysis showed that 605 drivers, 38 underage drivers, 142 pedestrians, and 511 passengers were among the victims of the road crashes.  
The statistics show that 282 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 291 persons, placing provincial capital at top of the list, followed by 88 in Faisalabad, with 85 victims, and at third Multan, with 79 accidents and 69 victims.

### Minister for swift progress on electric buses project

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Punjab Minister for Transport Ibrahim Hassan Murad on Friday directed that the project of electric buses should be progressed swiftly saying the eco-friendly transport would help protecting environment besides providing latest commuting facility.  
During his visit to the Transport House, he directed that the mechanism of vehicle fitness certificate should be made more effective.  
He said fitness of government vehicles should also be monitored. The minister said he would request the caretaker CM about the electric-buses project. Ibrahim Murad said that the officers of the Transport department

should travel occasionally on mass transport so that they could find out the grievances of the citizens regarding public transport.  
During the departmental briefing, Transport Secretary Punjab Usman Ali Khan said that work on 11 development schemes of the Transport department was underway across Punjab. "Environment friendly electric buses with cost of Rs 3400 million would be operated in Punjab", he said. The Secretary said that the Transport Department had constructed 200 shelters at various bus stops recently. Usman Ali said that work was also underway on the Punjab Digital Transport Governance Project at a cost of Rs 127 million.



FAISALABAD: Governor of Punjab, Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman awarding degrees among the successful students during the 3rd Convocation of Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF).

### Mayor Karachi says: Work on Safe City project to begin soon

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that the approval of the Safe City project has been obtained and soon the work on this project will start.  
He said this while presiding over a meeting in his office on Friday to review the progress of the Safe City project.  
Under the project, 10,000 new cameras will be installed in different areas of the city and 2,000 existing cameras will be upgraded in 4 phases.  
On this occasion, Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, Municipal Commissioner Syed Afzal Zaidi and other relevant officials were also present.  
In the meeting, a briefing was given regarding the work being done in Karachi under the Safe City Project.  
Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that Safe City project is important for Karachi,

so the work should be carried out through full coordination between all the relevant institutions.  
The main objective of the Safe City project is to develop the security and surveillance system in the city on modern lines, for which 10 thousand new CCTV cameras will be installed at important places in the city and the existing monitoring system will be updated according to modern requirements.  
He said that this project is based on installation of CCTV cameras, establishment of command-and-control centers, the introduction of face and vehicle recognition software and installation of biometric system which will help curb street crimes in Karachi and provide protection to the citizens.  
Mayor Karachi said that similar systems for security and monitoring are running successfully in all major cities of the world and with this.

### ADC chairs meeting with board

**Independent Report**  
HYDERABAD (APP): The Additional Deputy Commissioner Shakeel Ahmed Abro has said the District Traffic Management Board has played an important role in easing the problems of traffic in the city but more needed to be done in this regard. Chairing a meeting of the board in Shabbaz Building here on Friday the Additional DC emphasized the need of taking action against all forms of obstructions in the flow of traffic on a daily basis.  
Abro said the soft encroachment, wrong parking and the electric poles which were wrongly placed on the roads all contributed to the traffic congestion. He added that the traffic police and the staff of the Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (HMC) should take action against such obstructions as routine work. The Additional DC asked the concerned officers to expedite the work of arranging separate parking for the vehicles outside Qadam Gah Moula Ali.



LAHORE: Members of Pakistan Masiha Millat Party and Human Liberation Commission Pakistan are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Lahore press club.

### Rs 104.292m assistance provided to families of Lahore police officials

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE (APP): More than Rs 104.292 million were given to families of Lahore police officials through a range of assistance programmes during the current year.  
In a statement, issued here on Friday, spokesman for the Lahore police highlighted the department's welfare-oriented initiatives and added that under the Shaheed package,

residences have been provided to six martyrs' families. Additionally, an amount of Rs 10,741 million has been distributed among 52 families as group insurance, providing a sense of financial security. Furthermore, the spokesman said over Rs 12.037 million had been disbursed as the final salary payment to 206 families, ensuring their well-being and stability.

## Pakistan, Germany agree to enhance cooperation in trade, investment

**Pakistan also keen to benefit from Brazilian experience in agriculture sector**

PARIS (APP): Pakistan and Germany on Friday agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in multiple fields including trade, investment and energy. The bilateral ties were discussed in the meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, on the sidelines of New Global Financing Pact Summit held here. The prime minister thanked Germany for its support to the flood-hit people of Pakistan, besides providing an economic support of 163 million euros to the country. The prime minister said that the additional 27 million euros for Benazir Income Support Program were spent for the assistance to the flood victims and provision of food to them. Lauding the development model of Germany, the prime minister said the progress

achieved by the country was an inspiration for the developing countries. I am personally impressed by the development of Germany as a country and the hard work and resilience of the German nation, he added. Prime Minister Shehbaz expressed the hope that Germany would raise the voice of developing world on the issues like climate change and financial stress. He said that releasing the economic burden from the developing states would help uplifting their people. The prime minister appreciated the services of German firms and NGOs operating in Pakistan. Expressing his pleasure to meet the prime minister, the German chancellor conveyed good wishes for the government and people of Pakistan. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

on Friday expressed Pakistan's keenness in benefiting from the Brazilian experience of using modern technology in the agriculture sector. PM Shehbaz met Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva here on the sidelines of Summit for New Global Financing Pact. The prime minister appreciated Brazil's cooperation in defence and other sectors. The two leaders expressed satisfaction over the level of bilateral cooperation at multilateral forums. They also agreed to promote and expand the bilateral cooperation, besides working in close coordination to explore new potentials of cooperation in all sectors of mutual interests. The Brazilian president conveyed his best wishes to the prime minister and the people of Pakistan.



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

## Atif Ikram says: Crucial role of Army in boosting economy encourages businessmen

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former Vice President of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Atif Ikram Sheikh said on Friday that Pakistan Army playing significant role in boosting the country's economy, which is very encouraging for the business community. In a statement issued here, he said the government has announced an Economic Revival Plan to address economic issues and promote prosperity, and the business community was pinning high hope on the plan and the COAS amid the economic downturn. Special Investment Facilitation Council has been established to attract investment and the Army's contribution in it will be significant, said Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as President ICICI and Chairman PVMA. He said the economic revival plan recognizes the importance of domestic development and foreign investment while the Army

has assured to support these initiatives, which has gone down very well with the business community. The business leader said that the Army's commitment was very essential for the success of the plan and the plan require a secure and stable environment which the Army can provide. In order to maintain stability and national security, the Army can help protect domestic and foreign assets which will be favourable for the commercial activity and encourage local and foreign investors, he added. Atif Ikram observed that the plan emphasizes the value of cooperation between civilian and military leadership which will encourage good decision-making, optimiz use of available resources, and accelerate investment and execution. One of the industries targeted for expansion and development was the production of defence equipment, which will have a substantial economic impact, he noted.

## WAPDA, UAE firm sign two MoU

ISLAMABAD (Online): WAPDA signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with the Private Office of His Royal Highness Sheikh Ahmed Dalmoook Al Maktoum of United Arab Emirates today. The MoU were signed by Chairman WAPDA Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd) and His Royal Highness Sheikh Ahmed Dalmoook Al Maktoum on behalf of their organizations. The first MoU is aimed at establishing a framework for cooperation and collaboration between the Private Office of His Royal Highness Sheikh Ahmed Dalmoook Al Maktoum and WAPDA to explore investment opportunities for WAPDA's small hydel power stations including 1MW-Renala, 22 MW-Rasul, 13.2 MW-Chichokimalian and 13.8 MW-Nandipur. The second MoU is related to exploring investment opportunities in energy sector of Pakistan, specifically for development of floating solar power project on water reservoirs and water bodies of the existing hydel power stations.

## Overbilling & Load shedding is the biggest problem: FPCCI

Independent Report LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, Regional Chairman Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi and Vice President of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Noman, Chief Executive Officer Shahid Haider and his team to FPCCI at FPCCI Regional Office Lahore. They further said the FPCCI representative should also be included in the LESCO board. Industry Mian Anjum Nisar said that the government should take immediate steps to prevent power theft, reduce line losses and load shedding, load shedding and overbilling is the biggest problem. A separate office and helpline should be set up at the LESCO headquarters for industrialists and traders. They expressed these views during the visit of Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) Board

Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Noman, Chief Executive Officer Shahid Haider and his team to FPCCI at FPCCI Regional Office Lahore. They further said the FPCCI representative should also be included in the LESCO board. Electricity prices are the highest in the region; high prices are also one of the reasons for the destruction of industries and the economy. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh and Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi further said that industrial feeders' load-shedding time and procedure should be decided in conjunction with local industrialists. The government should also solve the

problem of Maximum demand indicator (MDI) charges. An enterprise resource planning (ERP) system should be implemented in LESCO immediately. LESCO Board Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Noman said that he was working on an e-billing system, automatic system will eliminate over-billing problems. FPCCI proposals will be discussed in the LESCO board. A separate office and helpline will be set up at the LESCO headquarters for the industrialists and traders and steps are being taken to reduce the line loss, he added. He further said that there should be no load shedding for the industry.



PARIS: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets the President of Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser on the sidelines of the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact.

## Pak to support Azerbaijan in mobile manufacturing, telecom sectors: Amin

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Syed Amin ul Haque said that Pakistan had vast investment opportunities in various sectors including IT and Telecom. "We wish the bilateral relations in the Technology sector to be strengthened and the trade volume to increase further, he said during a meeting with Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov here Friday. Syed Amin ul Haque further said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan had long-standing relations as Islamic brotherhood countries, Pakistan was the first to recognize Azerbaijan and the love between the two countries

was natural, said a news release. Cooperation in Trade and Industrial sectors can further strengthen mutual relations in this regard, he said. The minister said the Ministry of IT will provide all possible facilities and supports to Azerbaijan government and businessmen in all sectors including Incubation Centers, Software Technology Parks, Mobile Manufacturing and Telecom sector. The Ambassador said, the revolutionary steps taken in the IT sector in Pakistan are commendable. "We wish to benefit from these experiences of Pakistan", he said.

He informed that the Minister for Digital Development and Transport of Azerbaijan would visit Pakistan in the second week of July. During his visit, we are looking forward to signing different Memorandum of Understandings on bilateral cooperation in Technology sectors. The Ambassador of Azerbaijan also extended an official invitation to the Minister of IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin ul Haque to visit Azerbaijan. The meeting was attended by Secretary IT Navid Ahmed Shaikh, Member IT Syed Junaid Imam and Director General International Coordination Jawad Sherazi.

## Symposium on corporate supervision, regulatory actions begins

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) is hosting the Symposium on Corporate Supervision and Regulatory Actions on June 23-24. The first day of the symposium saw notable members of the judiciary take the stage and address key challenges and opportunities pertaining to the corporate sector of Pakistan, said a press release issued here. SECP Chairman Akif Saeed, in his welcome address, said, "We aim to build a strong and growing corporate sector that is attractive to both domestic and foreign investors, ensuring economic stability and prosperity for our nation". He added, "In this crucial mission, we are fortunate to be assisted by our esteemed partners at the World Bank, and we express our heartfelt gratitude for their invaluable support in creating a conducive

corporate environment in Pakistan". Justice Shahid Karim, Honorable Justice @ Hamid Ali Shah, and Barrister Iftikharuddin Riaz highlighted the developments in Company Law, the need for upgrading the procedures under Company Law, and discussed new concepts. IHC Advocates Syed Bulent Sohail and Umer Ejaz Gilani presented a case study on the empirical analysis of Company Court judgments and also shared recommendations on the subject. Honorable Chief Justice of Pakistan @ Tassaduq Hussain Jilani also delivered the keynote address at the symposium and gave a presentation on corporate social responsibility (CSR) and its reforms in Pakistan. He pointed out some successful CSR programs in the country and also shed light on CSR Reforms undertaken by the SECP including CSR reporting guidelines.

## PM Shehbaz meets IDB president in Paris

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif met the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) President Dr Muhammad Al Jasser on Friday on the sidelines of the summit for a New Global Financial Pact being held in Paris. The two were seen holding hands as the IDB president escorted PM Shehbaz out after the meeting. They also exchanged a candid conversation where Al Jasser confessed his love for Pakistani mangoes that the PM promised to send to him as a gift. The premier also renewed the invitation to president IDB to visit Pakistan at his earliest convenience. According to a statement released by the PM's Office, during the meeting, the two discussed the long-standing cooperation and engagement between Pakistan and IDB during the meeting. They also took stock of the progress of various ongoing projects and exchanged views on new avenues.

## PM Sharif approves establishment of HAZECO: Murtaza

ABBOTTABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi Friday said that the approval of the establishment of Hazara Electric Supply Company (HAZECO) by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is a great decision to facilitate the masses of the region. He expressed these views in a press statement after the approval of HAZECO. The minister further said that the approval of the HAZECO also fulfills the longstanding demand of millions of consumers in the Hazara Division, which we have successfully materialized and fulfilled our promise. Murtaza Abbasi said that the approval of the Board of Directors of Hazara Electric Supply Company

will be circulated through a summary from the federal cabinet. He said that the establishment of HAZECO was approved during the tenure of the previous PML-N government, however, it was unnecessarily frozen during the PTI government. Now the establishment of Hazara Electric Supply Company has been implemented to improve PESCO's performance, enhance consumer convenience and minimize load shedding, adding the minister said. He said that the delay in the establishment of HAZECO was due to a court stay and now all hurdles have been removed and we got the approval of the company which will play its role not in the development of the region but in the country as well.



ATLANTA: Ambassador Masood Khan speaking at an event, titled "Pakistan Ambassador Briefing: Growing Trade and Investment with Georgia" jointly organized Global Atlanta, World Affairs Council Atlanta and Miller and Martin PLLC.

## Weekly inflation increases by 0.33pc

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.33 per cent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on June 22, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 256.00 points as compared to 255.17 points during the past week, according to the PBS data. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an

increase of 34.05 per cent. The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 is covering 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs17,732, increased by 0.52 per cent and went up to 263.03 points from last week's 261.66 points whereas it also increased by 0.53 per cent for the consumption group from Rs 17,732-22,888. The SPI for consumption groups from Rs 22,889-29,517, Rs 29,518-44,175, and above Rs 44,175 witnessed an increase of 0.48 per cent, 0.42 per cent and 0.20 per cent respectively. During the week, out of 51 items.



Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov calls on Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin ul Haque in Islamabad.

## CDNS set target of Rs 70b in Islamic FY 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has set a target of Rs 70 billion rupees in Islamic finance year 2023-24. The aim was to introduce new dimensions in the Islamic finance sector. "Islamic finance has a very important role in the global financial sector at this time, and a large part of the economy of many major countries currently includes Islamic finance," the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Friday. The senior official said, "Work on Islamic finance is still needed in Pakistan." He said, "At present, work is being done on institutional reforms in CDNS and new reforms and innovations are being introduced." He said the CDNS and Central Depository Company of Pakistan Limited (CDCP) signed an agreement to start a pilot project to digitise and dematerialise NSCs last week.

facilities to the users." The official said, "CDNS will now provide facilities to its customers as a complete bank." Replying to another query, he said CDNS had reviewed and set a target of Rs 60 billion in the fiscal year (2022-23) for Islamic investment to introduce the new products in the market. In the current financial year, he maintained that CDNS would hopefully achieve the investment target of Rs 70 billion. Replying to a question, he said, "The CDNS has digitized National Savings Certificates (NSCs) for the convenience of consumers and to modernize the institutional process." He said the CDNS and Central Depository Company of Pakistan Limited (CDCP) signed an agreement to start a pilot project to digitise and dematerialise NSCs last week.



SIALKOT: The Pakistani Ambassador, Naemullah Khan, posted in the Central African country of Rwanda, meeting with exporters at SCCL.

## Edible oil, ghee output grew 4.97pc & 16.72pc

ISLAMABAD (APP): The production of edible oil and vegetable in the country during 10 months of the current financial year grew by 4.97 per cent and 16.72 per cent respectively as compared to the production of the same period last year. During the period from July 2022 to April 2023, about 458,231 metric tons of cooking oil were manufactured as compared to the manufacturing of 411,710 metric tons in the same period last year, said the data of Large Scale Manufacturing Industries of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics released on Friday. Over 1.268 million metric tons of vegetable ghee was also produced in order

to tackle with local requirements in the last 10 months of the current financial year as compared to the output of 1.178 million metric tons of the same period last year. The tea blending in the country also witnessed about 5 percent growth during the period under review as about 108,345 metric tons of tea blended locally as compared to 124,062 metric tons in the same period last year. Meanwhile, domestic tractors assembling during the period from July 2022 to April 2023 was recorded at 5,492 units as compared to the corresponding period of last year. During the period under review tractors assembling in local markets.

## Gold prices decline by Rs 1,500

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs 1,500 and was sold at Rs 217,500 on Friday against its sale at Rs 218,500 the previous day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs 1,285 to Rs 186,043 from Rs 187,328 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went down to Rs 170,539 from Rs 171,718, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs 2,550 and Rs 2,186.21 respectively. The price of gold in the international market declined by \$10 to \$1919 from \$1929, the association reported.



LAHORE: Farmers are busy in planting Rice Seedlings in fields near Wagah as early June to September is a suitable time for production of paddy in Pakistan.



## India deflecting attention from brutal repression of Kashmiri people: FO

ISLAMABAD (APP): India habitually used terrorism bogey to deflect attention from its brutal repression of Kashmiri people in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and maltreatment of its minorities, said Foreign Office Spokesperson here on Friday.

Responding to media queries regarding the US-India Joint Statement of June 22, 2023, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said: "We consider the Pakistan-specific reference in the 'Joint Statement from the United States and India', issued on June 22, 2023, as unwarranted, one-sided, and misleading. The reference is contrary to diplomatic norms and has political overtones. We are surprised that it has been added de-

spite Pakistan's close counter-terrorism cooperation with the US."

She said, "Pakistan has rendered unmatched sacrifices in the fight against terrorism. In laying down their lives, our law enforcement agencies and armed forces have set an example. People of Pakistan are the real heroes in this fight."

"The international community has time and again recognized Pakistan's efforts and sacrifices in the fight against terrorism. It has long concluded that terrorism can be defeated through concerted and co-operative actions. Today, we fail to see how the assertions made in the Joint Statement could strengthen the international resolve to fight terrorism. The statement shows that the coop-



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi awarding letter of Commendation to an officer during PN Investiture Ceremony held at Karachi.

## Pakistan Navy personnel conferred military awards

KARACHI (APP): Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi on Friday conferred awards as the Chief Guest in an Investiture Ceremony to naval personnel held at Karachi.

The recipients of Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military) were Cdr Shahzad Iqbal, Cdr Tauqeer Ahmad Khawaja, Cdr Muhammad Ahsan Raza Mallhi and Cdr Syed Talat Hussain.

Recipients of Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (Military) included Cdr Kabir Yahya Khan, Cdr Muhammad Atif Khan and Lt Cdr Abdul Rehman Khan.

Tamgha-i-Basalat was conferred to Cdr Syed Eusaf Viqar and Barkat Ali LCDT was awarded Imtiaz Sanad, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

In addition, 14 Awards of Tamgha-i-Khidmat (Military)-I, 17 awards of Tamgha-i-Khidmat (Military)-II and 10 awards of Tamgha-i-Khidmat (Military)-III were conferred upon CPOs and Sailors.

Letter of Commendation by Chief of the Naval Staff was awarded to 29 Officers, CPOs/ Sailors and Navy Civilians.

The ceremony was attended by serving and retired officers of the Pakistan Navy.

## Pak desires close ties with Afghan: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Special Representative on Afghanistan Asif Durrani called on Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari here on Friday and discussed matters of mutual respect.

They reviewed the ongoing situation in Afghanistan.

The foreign minister reiterated Pakistan's desire to build close co-operative relations with Kabul.

## Police cop injured in firing

QUETTA (APP): A police cop was injured in a firing incident that took place in the Airport Road area, here on Friday.

According to a police spokesman, a police cop was attacked by unknown armed men near Almo Chowk.

Resultantly, he suffered bullet injuries and was rushed to the civil hospital.

The assailants managed to escape. The condition of the injured police cop was stated to be out of danger.

The cause of the attack was yet to be ascertained.

Further probe was underway.

## Yousufzai flays attack on police cop

QUETTA (APP): Spokesperson of Chief Minister (CM) to Balochistan Babar Yousufzai on Friday condemned the armed attack on a police cop.

In a statement issued here, Yousufzai said, "Elements involved in the gruesome incident will be brought to justice."

He also directed the health authorities to ensure the best healthcare facilities for the injured cop at the hospital.

## Hindu Community takes out rally to show solidarity with Pak Army

KHUZDAR: A rally was taken out by the Hindu community living in Kanya, Lal Seth Jwari, Ramesh Kumar, Dewan Chand Prakash and others.

The participants of



Jhalwan land for centuries in honour of martyrs of Pakistan and Pakistan Army led by Hindu Panchayat leader Babu

of Pakistan and the Pakistan Army. The elements who insulted the martyrs who sacrificed their precious lives for the protection of Pakistan could not be well-wishers in any case of the country and the nation.

The speakers said, "Our armed forces have a big hand in making the country invincible.

The martyrs of the homeland are our heroes and thanks to their sacrifices, we are living peacefully today."

Paying tribute to, acknowledged the pledge that we are with our Pakistan Army and civilian institutions and will remain with them.



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Suh Sangpyo, paid a farewell call on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## President for enhancing economic, cultural coop. with Korea, Sri Lanka

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday called for further promoting bilateral economic, trade and cultural cooperation with the Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka to further cement bilateral ties.

The president expressed these views while talking to the outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Suh Sangpyo, and the outgoing High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, Vice Admiral Mohan Wijewickrama, who made separate calls on him here at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Talking to the outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, the president said that Pakistan highly valued its multidimensional relationship with Korea, which involved collaborations in various fields such as political, economic, scientific, cultural and people-to-people relations.

He highlighted that Pakistan was open for business and investment for all its friends and partners, and would especially welcome Korean investment in various sectors.

He stated that Pakistan wanted to increase cooperation with Korea, particularly in the areas of Information Technology and Agriculture. The president also called for further promoting cultural cooperation with Korea, adding that Pakistan offered some of the most exotic mountaining and religious tourism sites and would welcome tourists from Korea to visit Buddhist sites.

He remarked that Pakistan was home to the Gandhara Civilization and some of the most sacred relics in Buddhism, which could be a source of attraction for Korean tourists.

Talking to the outgoing High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, the President said that Pakistan attached great importance to its longstanding friendship and co-operative ties with Sri Lanka, which was its second-largest trading partner in South Asia.

He added that Pakistan wanted to further expand economic cooperation and trade relations with Sri Lanka under the Pak-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement. He stated that both countries should explore ways to rejuvenate SAARC and work together to fight poverty and promote peace, economic growth, and development for the benefit of the entire region.

He also recalled Pakistan and Sri Lanka's support for each other at the UN and other international bodies and expressed the hope that this cooperation would continue at international fora.

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KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari's addressing Press Conference at KPT.

## Saboor Kakar meets Dr. Rubaba: Meeting chaired by CM to make final decision on local domicile issue: Dr Rubaba

QUETTA (APP): The Secretary Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Balochistan, Abdul Saboor Khan Kakar called on the Parliamentary Secretary for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Science and Information Technology, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi here on Friday. During the meeting, the matters regarding meeting of the stakeholders about local and domicile certificates and other departmental matters were discussed.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ruababa Buledi said that the final decision about consultation of the leaders of political parties and all stakeholders ahead of the new laws and regulations regarding the local and domicile certificates would be made in the meeting to be held under the

presidency of Chief Minister, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo.

She mentioned that the recommendations of the two meetings held in the Law department are being finalized. The Parliamentary Secretary said that the ground situation of provincial capital, Quetta and other districts of the border areas is quite different. Therefore, such effective legislation and rules would be formulated keeping in view all the facts and realities so that no complications may be created and no one is deprived of one's right in future.

The Secretary Law and Parliamentary Affairs suggested that if single card may be introduced by computerizing all the necessary documents including local, domicile, driving and arms licenses, then it would facilitate the masses.



QUETTA: President SOGPP Prof. Azizun Nisa presenting shield to Secretary Information Hamza Shafiqat on eve of SOGPP Conference

## Despite space constraints in Mina Talha vows to provide optimal facilities to Pak Hajj pilgrims

MAKKAH MUKARMA (APP): Senator Talha Mehmood, the Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Friday said continuous and dedicated efforts being made to secure optimal facilities for Pakistani pilgrims during the Hajj days, despite the limited space in Mina.

Following a meeting with Osama Danish, the Managing Director of Al-Bait Guests, (Duyuf Al-Bait) a prominent Hajj service provider, Senator Talha Mehmood stated that he has urged Osama to allocate the maximum available

space in Mina and in new Mina for Pakistani pilgrims, as well as for the Pakistan Hajj Muavineen. Osama was also urged to provide quality food in accordance with Pakistani tastes to pilgrims during hajj days. Besides deploying English or Urdu-speaking staff in his Mina office to facilitate Pakistani pilgrims. The Minister stressed sacrifice, resilience, and adherence to Islamic teachings during Hajj. Besides, the Minister urged prioritizing patience, forgiveness, and religious obligations over leisure, aiming for a meaningful

## PM urges expatriates to expose anti-Pak propaganda, condemn May 9 arson

PARIS (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday urged the overseas Pakistanis to play their role to expose the anti-Pakistan propaganda in their respective countries, besides condemning the arson that took place on May 9.

The prime minister, in an interaction with the representatives of the Pakistani community in France as well as the Pakistan Business Forum, told the expatriates that the arsonists of May 9 were spreading lies to instigate the people abroad. The prime minister is visiting Paris to attend the New Global Financing Pact Summit hosted by France.

He said the overseas Pakistanis were Pakistan's ambassadors and an asset, and that their services for the country's development were laudable.

Prime Minister Shehbaz told the community members that through



PARIS: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif meets President of the EU Commission Ursula Von Der Leyen on the sidelines of the New Global Financing Pact Summit.

## Hina hails contributions of women in diplomatic field

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar Friday said the significance of June 24 as the 'International Day of Women in Diplomacy' was self-evident, symbolizing global recognition and admiration for women's accomplishments in the diplomatic realm.

She made these remarks in a message delivered at a roundtable discussion to mark the 'International Day of Women Diplomacy' here on Friday by the Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI).

The minister said, having the great honour of being the first woman Foreign Minister of Pakistan, this Day held great meaning and significance for her personally.

"It both brings satisfaction and strengthens our resolve to continue to do more. Nations proudly showcase their progress in appointing more women in diplomatic roles, deserving commendation for tangible advancements," she said adding Pakistan had made notable strides despite socio-economic challenges, with women achieving prominent positions, including a woman Prime Minister and a young Nobel Prize laureate.

"While celebrating, we must also acknowledge remaining challenges and work together for a future of equal opportunities, amplifying women's voices and utilizing their expertise in peace-making, peacebuilding, and achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."



GWADAR: Chairman COPHC meeting with Director General GDA Muejbur Rehman Qambrani

## GoB established 10 libraries in province

QUETTA (APP): The Balochistan government has established 10 libraries in Quetta and other parts of the province in the outgoing financial year to encourage the book reading habit among the people, especially youth.

The government has allocated fund to provide books to the libraries established in which will be open to public next month, said an official of Balochistan government.

"The project has also been initiated for the renovation and expansion of libraries across the province to also help increase literacy," the official said. He added that libraries are nurseries that produce leaders, writers, scholars, philosophers, and teachers who serve the nation. Highlighting the importance of books, he said, libraries will not only encourage book-reading culture among youth but will also prove beneficial in their capacity building. He said the students will be able to compete with their counterparts from other provinces in education if they turn to reading.

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## Joint efforts to yield far-reaching results for HEIs: Dr. Shafiq

QUETTA: Vice Chancellor of Balochistan University Prof. Dr. Shafiq Rehman on Friday said that joint efforts would yield far-reaching results for the higher education institutions of the province to cope with the modern demands and development.

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting at the Hall of Balochistan University.

The meeting was attended by the vice-chancellors of the universities of the province, senior teachers, and relevant representatives.

In the meeting, various issues including better relations between the universities of the province, promotion of education, research, training activities, financial and other issues

were discussed.

Despite, this regard, academic memorandum agreements were signed between the universities.

The Vice-Chancellor said that the purpose of this was to utilize each other's educational, research experiences and knowledge, including seminars, workshops, and teacher exchanges, and ensure measures to implement future educational projects.

While thanking the heads of the universities of the province, the Vice-Chancellor of Balochistan University said that joint efforts would yield far-reaching results for the higher education institutions of the province to cope with the modern demands and development.