# naenenieni

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif presenting awards to highest exporters at "KCCI Exports Trophy Awards Ceremony 2022-23".

# Cabinet approves E-Safety, **Personal Data Protection Bills 2023**

The federal cabinet on Prime Wednesday approved the E-Safety Bill 2023 (E-Safety Bill 2023) on the The feder recommendation of the Ministry of Information

Ministry of Information

Ministry of Information

The Teacher the Personal Data Protection of the Personal Data user data and prevent ille- ommendation of the

mation systems. Technology an Under this law, a comcommunication. prehensive framework will be established to ensure the protection and unauthorized use of user data on all types of online ser- various organizations and vices, online shopping, data provided to various companies, and social net- mation/data with any comworking websites in Pakistan. After the approval of ernment organization withthe bill, heinous crimes like harassment, online narassment, cyberbullying, and blackmail will be effectively pre-

The meeting of the lished which will act as a try.

The federal cabinet ants. Technology (IT) to protect tion Bill 2023 on the rec-draft amendment bill of the gal and illegal use of infor- Ministry of Information nance 2001 for the promo-Technology and Tele-

Under this bill, the government will ensure the security of the user's personal information/data of companies and prohibit sharing of the user's inforout their permission.

Under the law, the National Commission for Personal Data Protection tation of foreign invest-(NCPDP) will be estab- ment projects in the coun-

ISLAMABAD (APP): cabinet was held here with civil court to protect the Prime Minister private documents/data of Muhammad Shehbaz the users and redress the grievances of the complain-

> The federal cabinet also gave assent to the Investment Board Ordition of foreign investment in Pakistan.

The amendment will empower the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) as well as lay down its basic structure, working procedures, and cooperation mechanisms with various ministries and provincial governments. After the law is passed, the SIFC will ensure the speedy implemen-



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs Federal Cabinet Meeting.

disruption of global food

supply chains, causing

food inflation and food-

security-related chal-

lenges, Foreign Minister

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

underscored the need for

concerted efforts to find

viable solutions that

would in particular, ben-

efit developing countries,

already under economic

hope that all parties involved in the BSGI would

engage in constructive

dialogue to revive the Ini-

tiative. In this regard, the

Foreign Minister reiter-

ated Pakistan's support

for international efforts

He expressed the

# Bilawal, Russian FM discuss bilateral coop. in multiple sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari held a telephone conversation with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov of the Russian Federation on Wednesday and exchanged views on bilateral matters and growing cooperation in diverse

The Foreign Minister also renewed the invitation to Foreign Minister Lavrov to visit Pakistan, a press release issued by the Foreign Office spokesperson said.

The two Foreign Ministers also discussed the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI).

Recognizing the im-Recognizing the importance of this initiative and its potential impact on all sides.

for restoring the deal by addressing the concerns of all sides.

**China** willing to strengthen

# strategic coordination with Pakistan: Zhao Leji

BEIJING (APP): China is ready to work with Pakistan to implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, deepen exchanges and cooperation in various fields and push forward the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership for new and greater

development. These views were expressed by China's top legislator Zhao Leji during his talks with the Speaker of National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf via video

Zhao, chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, hailed Pakistan for giving firm support to China on issues concerning China's core interests over a long period of time.

He said China is willing to strengthen strategic coordination with Pakistan and promote the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era

#### **SC** issues written order regarding hearing ISLAMABAD (APP)

The Supreme Court (SC) Wednesday issued written order regarding hearing dated July 24, in a petition of chairman PTI Imran Khan against addition of his name in case pertaining murder of a lawyer in Quetta.

The court directed the petitioner to appear before the bench in personal capacity in next date of hear-

The order said that the lawyer of the petitioner had prayed the court for adjournment in the case. which was accepted by the bench and hearing was adjourned till August 9.

The order said that the petitioner would not be arrested by the authorities in the said murder case till next date of hearing. It further said that so far no arguments had been given pertaining the merits of the case

#### plea for stopping trial in Toshakhana criminal case ISLAMABAD (Online):

SC rejects chairman PTI

Supreme Court (SC) while rejecting chairman PTI plea for stopping the trial in Toshakhana criminal case has sent the matter to Islamabad High Court (IHC). The court ordered that the counsel for the petitioner and DG Law election commission agreed that IHC should give decision after hearing both of the ap-

plications first. Justice Yahya Afridi remarked the point related to jurisdiction in the case is basic and important. We can only request the high court. To my view we should avoid interfering in the matter at this time.

A two members bench of SC presided over by Justice Yahya Afridi took up

the case for hearing Wednesday.

On the hue and cry outside the court before commencement of hearing the court expressed annoyance saying Khawaja Haris please see the matters outside the court. We cannot hear the case this way. The two members

bench resumed the hearing after silence was maintained outside the court. Justice Musarrat Hilali

remarked how can we stop the trial when we are referring the matter to high court. Justice Yahya Afridi

remarked when high court order is challenged then we will issue appropriate order after hearing it in details. High court has not given direct order so far.



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan reviewing the parade during the passing out ceremony of 38th Basic Recruit Course at Police Lines.

# Parliament passes Election (Amendment) Bill 2023; empowering caretaker setup

Bill approved with majority the vote; Granting caretaker government power to take decisions regarding existing bilateral or multilateral agreements, projects

ship of Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

spite opposition from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), a joint session of the Parliament approved amendments to the Election amendments to the Election Act of 2017 on Wednesday. Act of 2017 on Wednesday.

The move enables the caretaker government to effectively take actions and make decisions concerning current bilateral or multilateral agreements and

The Elections (Amendment) Bill 2023 aims was moved by Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi.

Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar, taking the floor, clarified that no new powers are being given to the caretaker government. He said that amendments in Section 230 are aimed to ensure that the decisions

Minister Shehbaz Sharif

Wednesday said that the

country's economy was on

the course of progress as

the risk of default had been

averted, consequent to the

efforts by the coalition par-

a meeting with a delegation of the Pakistan Business

Council here, said all the

coalition parties cooperated

in every decision of the gov-

was keen to revive national

economy through invest-

ment facilitation and busi-

ness-friendly policies.

SLAMABAD

Chief of the Naval Staff Ad-

miral Muhammad Amjad

Khan Niazi on Wednesday

emphasized on maintaining

perpetual combat readiness

to effectively thwart any ag-

addressing the concluding

session of Command &

Staff Conference of Paki-

stan Navy held at Naval

During the conference,

ing maritime situation in the soon season.

participants assessed evolv-

Headquarters, Islamabad.

He stressed this while

gression against Pakistan.

He said the government

said restoring the confidence ports.

ernment.

The prime minister, in

ISLAMABAD (INP): De- already taken by the fed- mittee under the chairman-

presented with consensus, saying it was a sensitive bill and things would be explained about the proposed amendment in Section 230 when the provision comes up for ap-

APP adds: The Joint sitting of Parliament on Wednesday passed muchawaited amendments in the Election (Amendment) Bill, 2020 which aimed to improve the election law and ensure smooth and transparent elections.

bly passed the Election (Amendment) Bill, 2021 on June 10, 2021 but it could not sail in Senate. A parliamentary com-

ness community was the

would miss no opportunity

for economic recovery, res-

toration of confidence of in-

ternational partners, investors and the business com-

a Special Investment Facili-

tation Council had been es-

tablished for foreign direct

the business community

did not only provide em-

ployment opportunities in the country but also be-

comes a source of foreign

region and discussed a range

of topics related to national

security, geostrategic af-

fairs, combat readiness and

discussed various service

polices. Readiness for disas-

ter relief operations amid

potential flood alerts during

ongoing monsoon season in

the country was also re-

viewed. Naval Chief Admi-

ral Amjad Niazi also di-

rected all naval commands

to be fully ready for hu-

manitarian assistance

during the ongoing mon-

The prime minister exchange by enhancing ex-

Naval Chief stresses combat

readiness to thwart any

aggression against country

investment in Pakistan.

He told the meeting that

He acknowledged that

He said the government

greatest achievement.

**Economy on track of** 

progress as default

risk ebbs away: PM

KARACHI (APP): Prime of investors and the busi-

The National Assem-

was constituted to ensure He said that the bill was consensus on the various amendments. This committee included parliamentarians from all political par-ties which had several parleys and finally agreed on amendments in the bill. The bill was tabled in

the joint session of the parliament which approved the amended bill. It approved amend-

ments in section 230 of the Election (Amendment) Bill,2021 which is related to the functions of the caretaker government. It approved a proviso

after sub-section (1) and sub-section (2) of the Section 230 which states" Provided that sub-sections (1) and (2) shall not apply

decisions regarding existing bilateral or multilateral agreements or the projects already initiated under the Public Private Partnership Authority Act, 2017 (VIII of 2017), the Inter-Governmental Commercial Transactions Act, 2022 (XXX of 2022) and the of the Bill, Minister for Law

(Amendment) Bill 2023, after being presented to and debated in the Majlis e Shoora (Parliament), has successfully secured approval with the intention of finetuning and making the exist-

Privatization Commission

Ordinance, 2000 (LII of

2000)". The Election

fective and transparent. These amendments were carefully discussed and proposed by members of the Majlis e Shoora to address ting the result will be 10am various concerns and short-

ing Electoral laws more ef-

ment has to take actions or comings in the current elec-

The goal behind these changes is to ensure a fair, transparent, and efficient electoral process that upholds democratic principles

and fosters public trust. During the presentation and Justice Azam Nazir Tarar highlighted that all parliamentary parties have reached a unanimous consensus, leading to substantial enhancements in Section 230 of the Election Act 2017, thereby increasing its effec-

Under an amendment, the Returning Officer will be bound to send the election results by 2 am on the day following an election. However, the deadline for submitthe next day



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi chairing the Command & Staff Conference of Pakistan Navy held at Naval Headquarters.

#### PM due to arrive in Gwadar today Independent Report

QUETTA: The Prime Minister, Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif is due to arrive in the port city of Gwadar today Thursday).

The Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister Housing, Maulana Abdul Wasey, Federal Minister Communications and Postal Services, Maulana Asad Mehmood, Federal Minister Information, Ms. Maryam Aurangzaib and others are also expected to be accompanied with the Prime Minister during the Gwadar's visit.

#### Brother, nephew of MPA Aslam Abro shot

dead in Karachi KARACHI (Online): Sindh Assembly member Aslam Abro's brother and nephew were killed as a result of firing on his brother's vehicle near Qayumabad in the Defense Housing Authority area of Karachi while 2 people were injured. According to the police, Vigo vehicle number KV 6052 was fired upon by the motorcycle riding terrorists. The police said that Elahi Bakhsh Abaro was safe in the firing incident while MPA Aslam Abaro's brother Akram Abaro and nephew Shahryar

#### President Alvi calls for cementing Pak-Tunisia economic collaboration ISLAMABAD (APP): fields of education, culture,

President Dr Arif Alvi on and defense. Wednesday emphasized the need for promoting knowledged Tunisia's vigreater economic collaborations with Tunisia to boost

bilateral trade. He, talking Pakistan's Ambassadordesignate to the Republic of Tunisia, Javed Ahmed Umrani, who called on him, also called for increasing interactions and exchanges between the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the two countries. He said that Pakistan

greatly valued its historical and brotherly ties with Tunisia and both countries had commonality of views on various issues.

He asked the envoy to

President Alvi acsion for making OIC a substantive platform for advancing inter-faith harmony as well as cooperation in addressing international issues such as the Jammu and Kashmir Dispute, Palestine

and Islamophobia. He also welcomed Tunisia's support to the resolution presented by Pakistan on behalf of OIC at the UN Human Rights Council in July 2023 on "Countering Religious Hatred" in the wake of the incident of burning of the Holy Quran in Sweden.

The president asked the ambassador-designate play his role in further to highlight at various fora strengthening bilateral rela- the issues of Islamophobia tions with Tunisia by in- as well as the mistreatment



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to the Republic of Tunisia, Mr Javed Ahmed Umrani, Abaro were killed in the car. | called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Passing out parade of 38th Recruit Course held

# Primary purpose of the state is to protect the lives and property of masses: Rana

The police here on Wednesday organized a ceremony to mark the passing out parade of the 38th Basic Recruit Course. Minister for Interior,

Rana Sanaullah Khan attended the ceremony as chief guest, said a press re-Islamabad Capital

Police Officer (ICCPO), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, senior police officers, representatives from civil society, and the newly inducted young recruits were present on the occasion. A smart contingent unit of the police force presented a guard of honor to the chief guest.

The minister said oung talent from various parts of the country was serving as members of the Islamabad Police force.

He commended the inclusive recruitment process and emphasized the significance of upholding

ISLAMABAD (APP): values like honesty, integrity, and service to the people as they started their duty to protect and serve the nation.

The minister pointed out that the recent recruitment of 1,751 personnel in Islamabad Capital Police, the largest recruitment drive in the nation's history, included 208 women.

The selection was based on merit rather than political, linguistic, or regional affiliations, he "I extend my heart-

felt congratulations to all the jawans for choosing the path of service through the police force. Your dedication and commitment to safeguarding the life, property, and honor of the citizens are commendable and praiseworthy," Rana Sana remarked

He also shed light on the government's commitment to enhancing the welfare of the police force.

Prime Muhammad Sharif's steps for approving and implementing various initiatives aimed for the welfare of Islamabad police personnel.

'The primary purpose of the state is to protect the lives and property of its citizens. The most crucial responsibility of a police official is to safeguard the lives and property of the people, and it is a duty and a form of worship," he added. Rana Sana stated

highlighted government's initiative for providing financial support to the police ersonnel's families.

The minister said that the outstanding dues of the martyrs' families, amounting to a substantial sum of Rs 1240 million, were immediately paid when PML-N led government came into power.

# Daily Aoice of Masse, Independent

# Wrong move

At a time when Pakistani democracy is facing an unprecedented existential crisis, legislation to improve service delivery for ordinary citizens would have gone a long way towards demonstrating that the country's leadership is serious about turning its fortunes around. Instead, the record for the past year shows that politicians seem to be preoccupied with their own troubles and power struggles.

The Contempt of Majlis-i-Shoora (Parliament) Bill on Monday became the latest piece of legisla tion to clear both Houses in record time, with normal procedures bypassed to hasten its enactment.

The proposed law, which seeks to impose criminal penalties on anyone for contemning parliament or parliamentarians, has been bluntly described by experts and observers as a 'weapon' that our lawmakers wish to wield in their ongoing stand-off against the Supreme Court.

The bill proposes that anyone who wilfully refuses to comply with an order passed by parliament or any of its committees be slapped with an imprisonment sentence of up to six months, or a fine of up to Rs1m, or both.

A 'parliamentary contempt committee' comprising five members, of which three will be drawn from the Lower House and two from the Senate, is to determine if anyone is to be charged with contempt of parliament, hear the matter, and also issue a punishment if left unsatisfied.

In this, the law has been criticised, and rightfully so, for arrogating to parliament the power to act as judge, jury and executioner. Critics have pointed out that Article 66(3) of the Constitution, under which it has been proposed, directs that the matter of punishments in case of noncompliance with parliamentary directives be left to a court.

Further, the language of the law — especially how it defines contempt — is also vague and rather expansive, which makes it vulnerable to abuse. As an example, even journalists protecting their sources against a parliamentary order to name them may be charged with contempt under the law if a contempt committee so decides.

Despite all these warnings, parliament seems intent on having this bill enacted. Parliament and public representatives do deserve to be accorded due deference and respect, especially when discharging their duties. However, they cannot be handed quasi-judicial powers to enforce their writ.

Unless all members of the committee are trained legal experts as well, it is unlikely that the trials they hold will be in accordance with the universal standards of justice.

This has grave implications for constitutional rights, especially as there is a possibility of a criminal sentence at the end. The government must reconsider this move. It may tighten existing rules or legislate to ensure better compliance with parliamentary directives, but it must leave the determination and imposition of punishments to the courts

# Resketching Karachi

two key seaports, Karachi

urgently needs bold and

innovative measures for

environmental improve-

ment, economic growth,

journey surely can't follow

the beaten track. A lot more

innovation and out-of-the-

box solutions are needed

to bring this city back to

normal, if not to its original

clude the restoration of the

Lyari and Malir rivers, the

creation of wetlands for

rainwater harvesting, and

the conversion of inhab-

ited islands into ecotourism

hubs. Additionally, there is

an urgent need to restore

Karachi's key lagoons,

Obhayo and Nai Nar, and

declare areas like Turtle

ests, disaster-risk reduc-

tion measures, and coastal

mangrove cover is critical

for a more resilient city. Si-

multaneously, fostering

economic opportunities

for the youth and meeting

their recreational needs are

equally vital for Mayor

glorious Lyari and Malir

rivers is an arduous task

that demands immediate

attention. Unchecked in-

dustrial pollution and un-

treated sewage have

turned these rivers into

toxic streams, posing se-

vere environmental and

health risks. Restoration

efforts can capitalise on

creating wetlands within

the Lyari and Malir river-

beds, serving as natural

reservoirs for rainwater

harvesting, mitigating the

impact of monsoon flood-

ing, and replenishing the

ited islands, including

Manora, hold great poten-

opment. Collaborating

with the native fishing

Wahab can ensure that

tourism initiatives respect

providing economic op-

community,

tial for ecotourism devel-

Karachi's four inhib-

city's water resources.

Restoring the once-

ambitious

Wahab's

agenda.

Promoting urban for-

Beach protected zones.

Some key actions in-

sociocultural

The new mayor's



Masood Lohar

Amidst the changing winds of power and politics in Pakistan, Karachi witnesses its first ever mayor from the PPP. The young Murtaza Wahab, a born Karachiite, has to deliver on multiple fronts in addition to facing the earnest political rivalry in the shape of the Jamaat-i-Islami and the PTI's vote

Karachi's municipal history is as old as the modern city's emergence as a key port after the British annexation of Sindh in 1843. Only a year after the establishment of the Municipal Commission in 1852, the latter was turned into the Karachi Municipal Committee. The first local government elections in Karachi were held on Nov

Before it got converted to the Karachi Municipal Corporation in 1933, among many others Seth Harchand Rai Vishandas (1862-1928) Jamshed

and Nusserwanji Mehta (1886-1952) continued as elected presidents of the Karachi municipality. The former is known for his introduction of electricity to Karachi in 1913, which became common in the US not before 1920. This visionary step made Karachi The City of Lights'.

Unlike his predecessors a century ago, when Karachi was known as Queen of the East', Wahab is taking over a city rated as one of the world's least liveable cities by the Economist Intelligence Unit. Of 173 cities, Karachi stands at 169th, only a little ahead of war-torn Dam-

ascus and Tripoli. Hosting 10 per cent of Pakistan's population and

The Obhayo and Nai Nar lagoons are vital to Karachi's ecosystem but have suffered from neglect. Connecting Obhayo lagoon with the sea through an overhead bridge, rather than the current Mai Kolachi road. can facilitate the flow of cleaner water, preserving the mangroves and marine life. Similarly, restoring the Nai Nar lagoon at Sandspit will aid the natural cleaning and washing

of the Keamari harbour

during low and high tides,

improving the overall

coastal ecosystem. The Turtle Beach holds significant ecological importance as it serves as a nesting ground for the endang-ered green turtle. Ma--yor Murtaza Wah-ab can take decisive action by declaring this area a protected zone, implementing strict regulations on development, and promoting responsible tourism practices to safeguard the turtles'

Initiating a massive tree plantation campaign and creating urban forests will not only restore biodiversity but also provide recreational areas and cleaner air, addressing the lack of green spaces in Karachi.

habitat.

Disaster-risk reduction measures, including improved infrastructure, early warning systems, and coastal mangrove cover, can enhance Karachi's resilience to natural calamities, like the recent near-miss Cyclone Biparjoy. Leveraging Karachi's young population, Mayor Wahab can foster economic opportunities by reaching out to Commonwealth countries in need of human resources and providing job training and skill development programmes for unem-

Creating safe and vibrant recreational spaces will enhance residents' wellbeing and strengthen soecological integrity while cial bonds within the community. -- Courtesy Dawn

ployed youth.

# Bangkok backslide



**Mahir Ali** 

It did not come as much of a surprise when Pita Limjaroenrat was prevented from becoming the prime minister of Thailand earlier this month. After all, his potential problems on the path to power were widely discussed after his Move Forward party won the highest number of votes in the May elec-

Somewhat less ex-

pected was the party leader's suspension from parliament by the constitutional court, after it accepted a case challenging Pita's eligibility as a candidate. The disqualification charge relates to his alleged ownership of (inherited) shares in an effectively defunct media company. But that's just a technicality: the underlying reasons for the heavily military-flavoured Thai establishment's resistance to a Move Forwardled government are hardly a state secret.

The party's campaign agenda included vows to challenge both military involvement in politics and the dominant clout of monopolies in the economy, posing a twin threat to vested interests. Arguably an even bigger issue, though, was the questioning of royal absolutism and, more specifically, the absurdly anachronistic lese-majeste laws that punish even the mildest criticism of the monarchy. Just a couple of years ago, a former civil servant in her 60s was sentenced to 87 years in prison for posting audio clips on social media. It was reduced to 43 years after she pleaded

That's longer than

42-year-old's chances of it's hard to discern how rested on securing a par-House proved willing to back him, he won only 13 out of a possible 249 votes in the unelected senate. The senators couldn't care less about the popular will because they are picked by the army — and any shift in the status quo could jeopardise their sta-What lies ahead for

Thailand is unclear. Media reports suggest a likely alternative is property tycoon Srettha Thavisin, a luminary of the Pheu Thai party that entered into a coalition with Move Forward, but has a chequered history with the military, exemplified by the fate of its exiled former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra (toppled in 2006) and his sister Yingluck (thrown out in 2014)

May was portrayed in the Western media as a triumph for 'progressivism' a concept that has become more nebulous of late. Pita evidently became interested in politics at school in New Zealand, and was enthused by the Obama presidential campaign while at Harvard. He claims to be an admirer of Uruguay's José Muiica. and recently told The New York Times he was reading Bernie Sanders' book

It's OK to be Angry about Capitalism. None of that necessarily suggests an inclination to overturn the existing order: it seems the idea. at best, is to tweak it and to pull Thailand out of the dark ages. Reducing the political input of the monarchy and the military would be an achievement, and may set Thailand on a path where progressivism goes beyond the US-sponsored 'rules-based order' that Pita appears to favour. But it seems all aspects of modernity are anathema to related 'stakeholders'.

In terms of its polity,

becoming prime minister much better Thailand is than its neighbours liamentary majority, but Myanmar and Cambodia. while the elected Lower Military rule is even more regular — and abrasive in Myanmar, which is embroiled in a sporadic civil war after the army overthrew an allied political order. In Cambodia, Hun Sen, in power for nearly 40 years, further solidified his support last weekend by excluding adversaries through bans and imprisonment. He intends to emulate North Korea by passing the baton to his son, Hun Manet — a West Point graduate who might not measure up to the expectations of his Pentagon

Inevitably, prone Thailand and Myanmar throw up parallels with Pakistan, not least in the context of the coalescence between feudalism and militarism, alongside obvious variations. The election result in Common ground can also be located in the resistance to various aspects of modernity and, of course, democracy. The latter, though, is also clearly ailing in nations where it was long considered the established norm, from India to the US, and across much of Europe.

Thailand could have gone a different way, but it seems the very idea of curbing the military and downgrading — let alone abolishing, which really ought to be the aim — the monarchy is a bridge too far for the dominant segments of the elite. As one Thai voter told AFP, "Why ask people to go to the polls? Why don't you just pick someone from your families to be

the prime minister?" It's a reasonable question, and not just for Thailand. But the show must go on, the democratic charade even if the crown goes to the clown. The very concept of democracy is due for a reckoning. Where it the Thai military and the might begin remains an open question. -- Courtesy Dawn

# Commerce News

Mayor

# Ahsan inaugurates historic 'FUTURE E-Commerce **Operations Center'**

Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday inaugural ceremony, the policy continuity, as it had inaugurated a historic minister highlighted the been instrumental in 'FUTURE E-Commerce essence of nation-building, sustaining China's progress Operations Center, calling emphasizing that unity and over the years. He said no upon the younger generation to embrace ecommerce and information technology as to China's remarkable and policy consistency. pivotal components of Pakistan's economic

growth. The event marks a significant milestone for peace. Pakistan, as it celebrates

the years, a news release prosperity,

"Political stability in

cooperation formed the bedrock of any successful without a system that nation. He drew attention prioritized peace, stability progress, attributing it to including political stability, how policy continuity and

the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the China played a pivotal role Corridor (CPEC) and of peace, enabling the

ISLAMABAD (APP): showcases the country's nation to channel its efforts remarkable progress over towards growth and said. Addressing the stressing the importance of

Ahsan Iqbal made a three fundamental pillars crucial point that no matter how qualified and exceptional the individuals in government may be, "nolitical uncertainty turmoil, or divisive politics China-Pakistan Economic in fostering an environment hinder a country's path to success.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal cutting ribbon to inaugurate Hyper Future E-

# Rs30b loans distributed under PMYB&ALS in five months: SAPM

KARACHI (NNI): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Youth Affairs Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Wednesday said under the Prime Minister's Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme (PMYB&ALS), the loans of 30 billion rupees were distributed during the last five months.

This was stated by her while addressing the billion were distributed under ceremony held for the the scheme in last 10 years, distribution of laptops and

cheques under the Prime Minister's Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme and Prime Minister's Youth Laptop Scheme 2023. respectively at the Sindh Governor House. Shaza Fatima Khawaja said the business loan programme was initiated by former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in 2013. The loans amounting to Rs. 75 billion were distributed under

she added.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Wednesday, gaining 265.19 points, a positive change of 0.57 percent, closing at 46,682.53 points against 46,417.34 points the previous trading day. A total of 429,515,564 shares were traded during the day as compared to 319,893,485 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 14.137 billion against Rs 10.259 billion on the last trading day.



QUETTA: President Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry Haji Abdullah Achakzai presenting special shield to Provincial Minister for Finance and Chairman BFA Engineer Zamrak Khan Achakzai.

#### **PSX** stays bullish, gains 265 points



Ambassador Pakistan and Kazakhstan have the potential of \$1 billion of bilateral trade for which the communication and interaction between

both sides is pivotal. He said this while addressing a seminar on the theme of "Small and Medium Enterprises and Women Entrepreneurs" organized by Islamabad Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IWCCI) along with the Founder President of IWCCI, Samina Fazil here. entrepreneurs are the

Wednesday said that increasing bilateral trade between Pakistan and Kazakhstan and in their cooperation with the business community of both sides.

> Yerzhan Kistafin said that 47% contribution to the economy Kazakhstan is currently from Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) which are growing day by day.

He said that women have a very important role in the economy of Kazakhstan. women

owners of big brands in Kazakhstan, and there are Kazakhstan to Pakistan, business chambers can play a lot of women, especially Yerzhan Kistafin on an important role in in the textile, clothing, fashion and IT sectors.

The Ambassador said that the delegation of IWCCI under the leadership of Samina Fazil should visit the cities of Almaty, Astana and others to evaluate the business opportunities there so that they can have an idea about the local market and also both sides could establish business links.

Meanwhile, Yerzhan Kistafin said that Kazakhstan is currently the most attractive country for foreign investment.

# PTCL implements robotic process automation for **Digital Transformation**

Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), the leading ICT services provider in Pakistan, has announced implementation of Robotic Process Automation (RPA) in its Customer Care operations as a vital part of its digital

ISLAMABAD (APP):

transformation strategy. The aim is to improve overall customer experience across all touch points. The a significant milestone in our initiative will help PTCL firmly align with the highest

global standards digitalization and automation, reinforcing its position as the industry leader, said a news release issued here Wednesday. Commenting on the initiative, Ahmad Kamal, Group Chief Customer Care Officer at PTCL and Ufone 4G, said, "We are delighted announce implementation of Robotic Process Automation (RPA),

ongoing efforts to enhance the

customer journey.

#### Gold rates decline by Rs 2,400

ISLAMABAD (APP) The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs 2,400 and was sold at Rs 222,100 on Wednesday compared to its sale at Rs 224,500 on the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs 2,058 to Rs 190,415 from Rs 192,473 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went down to Rs 174,547 from Rs. 176,433, All Sindh Jewellers Association reported

# ECC approves Rs985.43 for USC Ramzan Atta Scheme-2023 ISLAMABAD (APP): to a press statement issued

on Monday approved Industries and Production. Rs985.43 million for Ministry of Industries and Production that were spent by Utility Stores Corporation (USC)) under the Prime Minister's Free Atta Scheme during Ramzan in last financial year (2022-23).

The scheme was launched on March 18, April 16, 2023, according and some senior officers.

The Economic by the finance ministry adding the summary was (ECC) of the cabinet here moved by Ministry of

The meeting was chaired by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar while among others i was attended by Federal Minister for Industries and Production Makhdoom Sved Murtaza Mehmmod Coordinator to the PM on Economy, Bilal Azhar 2023 and continued till Kayani, Federal Secretaries



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan, Jemal Beker Abdula calls on Federal Minister for Aviation and Railways, K hawaja Saad Rafique at Ministry of Aviation.

# Traders warn countrywide protest against increase in electricity tariff

MULTAN (APP): The to Chamber of Small Traders government should make expressed concern on the arrangements for the recent increase in production of electricity electricity tariff and through dams, solar warned of countrywide systems and coal instead protest in case the of fuel. electricity tariff was not A reduced.

President Chamber of Small Traders south stated. Punjab Chaudhary Tariq Kareem along with other traders held a press conference stating that the traders were unable

electricity bills. He stated that the traders had to pay Rs 65/ unit of electricity. The office bearers lamented been increased from 5 pm

11 A number of taxes

have been included in electricity bills, they

The demand of the government to reduce electricity tariff at the earliest.

They also warned that the traders would countrywide hold protests. A meeting of traders will be convened in August in which representatives of traders that peak hours had also organizations from across the country

# Naqvi reviews security arrangements to ensure public safety in Muharram

**Independent Report** LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin

comprehensive security arrangements have been made throughout Punjab to ensure public safety during Muharram-ul-Haram.

Processions and gatherings have been geotagged and all processions and gatherings are being supervised through CCTV cameras, he

Caretaker

services

effort is being made by the government to ensure during Muharram-ul-Haram, adding that through mobile service would be temporarily suspended where needed.

Chief Secretary, IG reviewed police and relevant security officials are monitoring the security situation, and all line departments are on high alert, he said. Provincial ministers,

In a statement, the

minister said that as part

preparations have been

completed to launch a

helpline number 1198

could register complaints

related to municipal

services. Caretaker Chief

Minister Mohsin Naqvi

system for awareness and

handling of complaints

about municipal services,

inaugurate

this

the and obtain information

would soon

he added.

Citizens to get municipal

services through single

click: Amir Mir

government decided to through which citizens

of

Provincial

Minister for Information

and Local Government

Amir Mir on Wednesday said that the Punjab

decentralize all municipal

To achieve the goal,

convenience of citizens.

the local government

department established a

complaints management

and information system

where citizens could

access services with just

He said that every administrative officers, and police officials are present in the field and will remain Naqvi has stated that peace and security present to maintain a peaceful atmosphere cooperation, he added. CM Mohsin Naqvi

inspected the routes and arrangements

gatherings and processions related to Muharram-ul-Haram by visiting Khaimae-Saadaat, Lytton Road, and Taxali Road late night.

#### Youth shot dead, body found in Lahore

LAHORE (INP): A youth was shot dead over financial dispute while body of another youth was recovered roadside in different areas of the city on Wednesday, police

According to details, Muhammad Ali of Defence-C Lahore sold his land to Rana Nasir at Kala Khatai road but accused refused to pay for the purchased after which the deceased got stay order from the court.

Over same dispute, culprit Rana Nasir gunned down Muhammad Ali and



KARACHI: A view of the massive traffic jam at Qayyumabad area due to the closure of the road because of the flooded conditions on Korangi road in **Provincial Capital.** 



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali inspecting the control room during on the eve of Muharram ul Haram during his visit to

# **Azam directs effective** measures for improvement of law and order in KP

Chief Minister Azam Khan here Wednesday directed the authorities concerned to take effective measures for improvement of the law

and order situation in the

accountant general Punjab

to stop salary of Home

secretary Punjab, inspector

general of police (IGP)

Punjab and inspector

general of prisons Punjab

over not producing former chief minister

Punjab Chaudhry Parvez

Elahi during the hearing

of a money laundering

fine of Rs 50,000 each on

the officers and also issued

show cause notices to them

for August 5.

The court imposed a

Bakht Fakhr Behzad appeared.

Farooz Jamal, Chief Secretary, IGP KP and other senior officials attended.

The caretaker Chief He was presiding Minister stressed the need

Earlier, the court

The court observed

As the court resumed

Deputy

expressed displeasure over

not producing Chaudhry

Parvez Elahi and directed

for producing him by

that strict action would

be taken if the court

proceedings at 3.00pm,

DIG Operations Ali Nasir

Superintendent Adiala Jail

orders were

complied with.

Court orders to stop salary

of IGP, others over not

producing Parvez Elahi

AHORE (APP): A conducted the proceedings

special court (central) on of the money laundering Wednesday ordered case against Parvez Elahi

and others.

(APP): over a high-level meeting for a special focus on Expressing concerns over a high-level fleeting for a special focus on about the law and order recent incidents of situation in KP. The sensitive districts and terrorism, Khyber meeting reviewed the places during Muharram Pakhtunkhwa caretaker overall security situation and said that special of the province. measures in that regard Information Minister were inevitable for which all stakeholders need to play an effective role. The caretaker Chief

Minister held the sacrifices of security forces and police in high esteem.

#### Transformation process should be continued in parties: PPP

LAHORE (APP): Pakistar Peoples Party Central Punjab Information Secretary Shehzad Saeed Cheema has said that the process of transformation in the political parties and organizations should be continued

Addressing a meeting the divisional information secretaries, here on Wednesday, he said that the first time, social activists had joined the party.He stressed to ensure effective information and political contacts as elections were close now. He said that the future strategy should be set to contest the upcoming

# Senator Mushtaq for steps to improve law & order in merged KP districts

ISLAMABAD (INP): worship, resulting in the Senator Mushtaq Ahmed, martyrdom of Adnan representing Jamaat-e- Afridi, Additional SHO. Islami Pakistan (JIP) on law and order situation in merged districts of Kyber- terrorist elements. Pakhtunkhwa.

he stressed the Federal and provincial governments to take prompt and effective measures to restore peace and stability in the region. The Senator's made the passionate appeal in the wake of tragic incident targeted the place of areas.

The loss of life, he Wednesday called for said, underscored the taking steps to improve immediate need for taking decisive action against the

He said that the local Speaking at the joint community had also taken session of the parliament, out peace marches to express their support to promptly resolve these

Speaker of the National Assembly, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, paid tribute to the sacrifices of the security forces in their at Ali Mosque the other relentless efforts to day, where terrorists eliminate terrorism these



KARACHI: View of closed Korangi Causeway road for traffic that was completely destroyed while security and rescue officials stand alert to avoid untoward incident after flood flowed in Korangi Drain River after heavy downpour of monsoon season, in Karachi.

# **Education to usher era** of progress, development in tribal region'

North Korea to welcome China

and Russia with military display

after pandemic isolation

PESHAWAR (INP): Khattak. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Education education will play a key role in the development of the merged districts and a minister said that the will begin in the region by paying special attention

He expressed these the provision of views while discussing the facilities in educational He expressed these education sector projects in merged districts during scholarships are also a meeting with Education being paid to both boys

Excise and Narcotics District Khyber Shahid Control, Haji Manzoor Ali Khan and other Khan Afridi has said that officials participated in the meeting.

new era of development caretaker government is taking practical steps for the promotion of education and besides institutions; Adviser Rahmat Salam and girls students.

# International News

Rizvi,

Special Court Judge and other officials

# **New Chinese foreign minister** Wang talks Ukraine in Turkey on first trip

**Monitoring Desk** ANKARA: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi discussed Ukraine with his Turkish counterpart in Ankara and met President Tayyip Erdogan on Wednesday during his first foreign trip since being appointed, a Turkish foreign

ministry source said. China named Wang, a veteran diplomat, as its new foreign minister on Tuesday, removing former rising star Qin Gang after a onemonth absence from duties barely half a year into the job. Discussions between Wang and Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan included the latest situation

Monitoring Desk

Africa recorded over 1,800

terrorist attacks in the first

six months of the year re-

sulting in nearly 4,600

deaths with dire humanitar-

ian consequences, and a top

regional official said Tues-

day that's just "a snippet

of the horrendous impact of

U.N. Security Council that

half a million people in the

15-nation Economic Com-

Omar Touray told the

global financial system, the Turkish foreign ministry

Russia has expanded grain targets in recent days after quitting a 2022 deal brokered by the United Nations and Turkey that had allowed the safe Black Sea export of Ukrainian grain for the past year.

The United States and several European countries have urged China to use its influence over Russia to seek an end to the war in Ukraine. Earlier this year, China published a 12-point peace plan, calling for the protection of civilians and the sovereignty of all counin Ukraine as well as the tries to be respected.

States known as ECOWAS

are refugees and nearly 6.2

million are internally dis-

placed. If there isn't an ad-

equate international re-

sponse to the 30 million

people ECOWAS assesses

need food right now, he said.

the number of people in

need will increase to 42 mil-

lion by the end of next

month. Touray, who is president of the ECOWAS

Commission, singled out the

following drivers of insecu-

rity in the region: terrorism,

West Africa recorded over 1,800

terrorist attack in first six months

of 2023, regional official says

Wang, Erdogan voiced hope that Turkey and China would intensify their cooperation as both countries play important roles in global and regional issues, Erdogan's office said in a statement released after the

Fidan and Wang also touched on the development of economic and trade relations between Turkey and China, the Turkish foreign ministry source said.

Their discussions included "harmonisation of the initiatives of (China's) Belt and Road and Middle Corridor", as well as nuclear energy, agriculture and civil aviation, the source added.

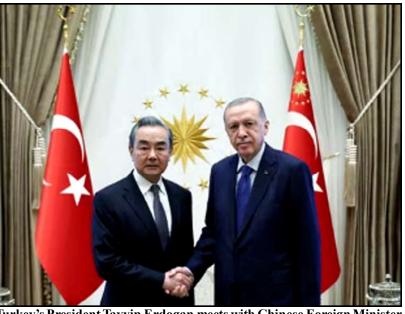
# **US** officials to meet Taliban representatives to

discuss security, rights issues Monitoring Desk

VASHINGTON: U.S. officials will meet Taliban representatives and "technocratic professionals" from key Afghan ministries during a visit to Doha this week, the State Department said on Wednesday, adding they will discuss security, narcotics and women's rights. Special Representative for Afghanistan Thomas West and Special Envoy for Afghan Women, Girls, and Human Rights Rina Amiri will travel to Astana.



Members of the Philippine Coast Guard remove a fallen tree from a road following the onslaught of Typhoon Doksuri in Buguey, Cagayan province, Philippines.



Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan meets with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the Presidential Palace in Ankara, Turkey.

# African leaders arrive in Russia for summit as Kremlin seeks allies amid fighting in Ukraine

Monitoring Desk ST. PETERSBURG: Some African leaders arrived in Russia on Wednesday for a summit with President Vladimir Putin as the Krem-

lin seeks more allies amid the fighting in Ukraine.
Putin has billed the two-day summit that opens Thursday in St. Petersburg as a major event that would help bolster ties with a continent of 1.3 billion people that is increasingly assertive

On Wednesday, Putin

on the global stage.

Abiy Ahmed, and said Russia will more than triple the number of Ethiopian students it hosts and cover their education costs.

Later in the day, Putin is set to hold talks with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi. Africa's 54 nations make up the largest voting bloc at the United Nations and have been more divided than any other region on General Assembly resolutions criticizing Russia's actions in Ukraine.

It's the second Russiamet separately with Africa summit since 2019, Ethiopia's Prime Minister and the number of heads of Africa summit since 2019,

from 43 then to 17 now because of what the Kremlin described as a crude Western pressure to discourage African nations

from attending it.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov deplored "unconcealed brazen interference by the U.S., France and other states through their diplomatic missions in African countries, and attempts to put pressure on the leadership of these countries in order to prevent their active participation in the forum.

#### **Indian government faces** Jakarta terms no-confidence vote over Manipur ethnic clashes

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: India's parlia-Wednesday

authorised a no-confidence vote against Narendra Modi's government by an alliance of opposition parties, to force the prime minister to address in detail concerns about ethnic clashes in the northeastern state of Manipur. Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has a clear majority of 301 members in the 542-seat lowerhouse of parliament so

the no-confidence vote will not affect its stability.

The opposition instead wants to trigger a debate about violence in the remote, BJP-ruled Manipur state, where more than 130 people have been killed and 60,000 displaced since it began in early May. Approving the opposition motion, lower house speaker Om Birla said he would soon decide when the debate and vote would

#### Taliban officials visit 'informal' **Monitoring Desk**

A K A R T A Represe-ntatives Afghanistan's Taliban government travelled to Indonesia this month on an unofficial visit, the foreign ministry in Jakarta said on Tuesday, despite Kabul saying they held meetings with politicians in the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation. 'My understanding is that they were in Jakarta informally for internal matters with the Afgha-nistan mission here."

#### nior Chinese and Russian delegations for 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorations of the Korean War and the struggle against the United States and its allies.

**Monitoring Desk** 

SEOUL: After years of

pandemic isolation, North

Korea has invited its friends

back this week, hosting se-

The visiting dignitaries, which include Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and Chinese Communist Party Politburo member Li Hongzhong, are expected to be presented with one of North Korea's signature events: a massive military parade showcasing its latest weaponry.

Analysts say the spectacle will likely include

missiles banned by the United Nations Security Council, where Russia and China are permanent mem-

The visits are the first known foreign delegations to visit North Korea since the COVID-19 pandemic began, and come as Pyongyang has looked to deepen its ties with Beijing and Moscow, finding common ground in their ri-valries with Washington and the West. Thursday's holiday, in which North Korea celebrates what it sees as a victory over U.S.-led allied forces in the 1950-1953 Korean War, provides a chance for Pyongyang to highlight the Cold War days when North Korean troops fought with Chinese and Russian



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visits the Chinese People's Volunteer Army Martyrs' cemetery in this photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

# China's sharp-tongued foreign minister is ousted, but his combative style is expected to continue

BEIJING: China's sharptongued foreign minister, Qin Gang, was something of an avatar for nationalist Communist Party leader and President Xi Jinping, warning of "conflict and confrontation" with the U.S., the stakes of which could be the "future of humanity." Now, Qin has been dismissed from office in the biggest political tumult to strike China in a decade.

Monitoring Desk

Qin's departure was a month-long disappear-

sparking rumors of personal scandals or friction within the top party echelons. He was absent from key meetings as the U.S sent Secretary of State Antony Blinken and other officials to Beijing. It also comes during economic challenges and poor relations with the United States and other nations that China relies on for economic development but is also seeking to push aside in its drive to announced Tuesday after overcome the Western-led

ance from public view,

# PM Shehbaz successfully navigates Pakistan's complex landscape: Arab News

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif after facing significant challenges, inheriting a country on the verge of financial default, has been able to successfully navigate this complex landscape by engaging coalition leaders, the security establishment and key foreign partners. As a result, Pakistan is now stable enough to transition smoothly toward a caretaker setup, which will hold the next general election, according to an article published by the Saudi Arab based daily newspaper "Arab

It said the political turmoil has receded since the appointment of Gen. Asim Munir as the chief of the army staff in November. "A new staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund, worth \$3 billion for a period of nine months, was concluded in June.... and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor stands revived, while relations with the US are also back on track," the article said adding most notably, the civil-military collaboration has expanded to the economic sphere, giving renewed momentum to Pakistan's economic partnership with the leading GCC economies. Since 2019, Saudi Arabia, China and the UAE have offered concessional loans worth several billion dollars to shore up Pakistan's foreign reserves. These loans have subsequently been rolled over to meet the IMF demand. The latest IMF deal became possible after Saudi Arabia deposited an additional loan of \$2 billion in the

State Bank of Pakistan, the daily added

The Kingdom has always stood by Pakistan through thick and thin. But Pakistan must stand on its own two feet. The Special Investment Facilitation Council offers a viable pathway in this respect. Its establishment indicates that Pakistan's civilian and military leaders understand the risk of dependency on foreign loans. And they are preparing to lay down a solid economic base through attracting investment from friendly countries.

The article added that political instability results in frequent changes of government and the consequent lack of continuity in economic policies. These issues have plagued major investment commitments by Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar in the recent past. While visiting Islamabad in 2019, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman pledged \$20 billion of investment in the energy, minerals and mining sectors. Likewise, the UAE and Qatar have committed \$9 billion. But these pledges are yet to materialize due to cumbersome procedures and structural impediments.

Going forward, the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with the UAE needs to be emulated in Pakistan's trade links with Saudi Arabia and the other GCC members. Pakistan's skilled manpower in the IT and services sectors is a perfect match for the economic transformations taking place in the Gulf, particularly Saudi



ISLAMABAD: The Planning Minister Professor Ahsan Iqbal launches "National Multi-sectoral Nutrition to Reduce Stunting & Other Forms of Malnutrition" worth Rs8.5 billion under Pakistan Nutri-



KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif distributes laptops among the high achievers of public sector universities of Sindh under PM's Youth Laptop Scheme 2023 at Governor House.

# Will distribute a million laptopsannually, if given mandate in next polls: PM

KARACHI (APP): Prime the only way to make the sheer injustice if the tal-Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that if given a mandate in next general elections, his next government would distribute around one million laptops across the country annually as part of the vision to support the tal-

ented youth The prime minister, addressing a ceremony for the distribution of laptops and cheques for youth business loans, said with support from allies, a mechanism would be formulated – to be equally funded by centre and provinces – to distribute up to 1000,000 veloping the projects like government should also ensure the merit in laptops'

"This is how the revolution will come... This is

ation in Balochistan.

man National Highway

Authority Captain ®

Muhammad Khurram

Agha directed for earlier

restoration of traffic on

affected portions of the

roads affected by recent

rains and floods in

maintain close liaison

with provincial and local

authorities to tackle un-

He also desired to

Balochistan.

nation progress," the prime ented youths were not prominister told the ceremony also attended by Sindh govemor, chief minister, federal ministers, MQM leaders, provincial ministers, diplomats, and representatives of bankers

He said youths from across the country needed to be equipped with education and provided maximum resources for country's swift progress.

of the capital venture initiative for freelancers on laptops across all prov- converting banana peels distribution keeping the exinto diff ent produ

Federal Secretary Communications and Chairman NHA Captain (R)

Muhammad Khurram Agha is giving instructions to deal with the flood situ-

tailed visit to Balochistan

with the view to review

condition

motorways and national

highways affected by re-

cent heavy rains and sub-

at Quetta gave a detailed

briefing to Captain ®

Muhammad Khurram

Agha regarding flood-hit

areas like Pinjar Bridge,

NHA's officials based

sequent floods.

vided with the required resources as they were the guarantee for the country's

government was in the process of distributing 100,000 laptops announced for the fiscal 2022-23 while the provision for another 100,000 laptops had been made in the budget 2023-24 which would be distrib-Mentioning the launch uted purely on merit, with-

out any nepotism. Prime Tuesday, he lauded the Shehbaz said the caretaker youngsters' talent for de- government should also endrones for agricultural use.

He said it would be public sector universities as the only merit.

Peshawar's

environmental

samples

tested polio

positive

ISLAMABAD (APP):The

environmental samples col-

lected from Peshawar dis-

Pakhtunkhwa province

tested positive for wild

According to the Ministry of National

Health Services, on receiv-

ing the report, Federal

Minister for National

Health Services, Regula-

tions & Coordination,

Abdul Qadir Patel said that

the poliovirus on any side

of the border was a threat

must continue to ensure

that their children under

five received the anti-

polio drops in all cam-

He said that parents

to children everywhere.

poliovirus.



Arabia to Pakistan, Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki call on Federal Minister for Aviation and Railways,

Ahsan for collective efforts to tackle 'hyper

malnutrition' challenge

ISLAMABAD (APP): the National Multisectoral

forts to tackle the con- this initiative which would

fronted challenge what he be implemented in collabo-

called 'hyper malnutri- ration with all stakehold-

malnutrition but it has be- day is the age of knowledge

come the challenge of revolution which requires

minister was addressing children's nutritional

Nutrition Programme to

reduce stunting and other

government had launched

ers including provinces,

donors and active com-

tion-related issues 'alarm-

ing,' the minister said "To-

creativity and innovation

driven by cognitive skills.

And it all depends on

Terming the nutri-

He said the federal

forms of malnutrition.

Minister for Planning, De-

velopment and Special Ini-

tiatives Professor Ahsan

Igbal on Wednesday

stressed for collective ef-

tion', affecting the physi-

cal and mental health of

floods; the challenge of

malnutrition is no longer

hyper malnutrition as the

flood-calamity hit the

poorest of the poor," the

the launching ceremony of health.

'After last year's

# **UNESCO** demands ban smart phones in schools

ISLAMABAD (Online): economic benefits. United Nations demanded ban on use of smart phones in educational institutes so that children learning ability may increase and save them from online abuse.

UNESCO's (UN's institute of education, science, and culture) report contains evidence to prove that often use of mobile phones affects students educational performance.

Children's emotional stability also affects due to excessive use of phones:

It has been demanded in report to ban smart phones in schools to send a message that technology does not matters more than an assistant to human's

UNESCO warned the effects of digital technology and stressed that positive effects of technology are exaggerated for learning and

Report said that every change cannot be declared development, every new thing is not always better.

According to international institute many revolutions are hidden in digital technology but along with that many risks are also being discussed. Same attention should be paid to education sector.

UNESCO director general Azoulay Audrey said technology use experiment should be to improve the students and teachers but it is needed to focus our attention on those who are learning its use. Online contacts cannot replace human relations. It is needed to make digital technology beneficial and safe from its disadvantages, said in report. Referring international data report said that excessive use of smart phones, tablets or laptops.

# Pakistan at 99th place among 121 countries on Global Hunger Index

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has dropped from 38.1 in 2006 to 26.1 in 2022 in the ranking on the Global Hunger Index (GHI-2022) and is at 99th place in the list of 121 countries.

According to the report, although Pakistan's ranking has improved, the hunger level is considered serious. Zero score indicates a country has no issue of hunger.

The report said 16.9 per cent population in Pakistan was undernourished. The death rate of children under the age of five years is 6.5 per cent and 7.1 per cent are wasted, while 37.6 per cent children under five due to a combination of factors. One is the devastating 2022 summer floods. A second is the current economic crisis that is severely affectgovernment's ability to manage food scarcity.

The devastating destabilised floods Pakistan's rising inflation and poor economic situation. Pakistani government officials stated that the floods destroyed almost 80 per cent of crops.

This staggering number has major ramifications for a country where an average household spends around 50 per cent of its

# Single-use plastic items banned in Capital from Augt 1: Sherry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman on Wednesday informed that a new regulation further limiting the use of singleuse plastic items was going to be imposed from August 1 in the federal capital. he minister flanked by Additional Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Syed Mujtaba Hussain while launching the first-ever National Adaptation Plan approved by the federal capital, briefed the media on banning onetime use of plastic items.

Senator Rehman said that the Ministry had taken the decision after proper consultations with the plastic bags and items manufacturing industry to circumvent any possibility of unemployment or damage to

The Additional Secre-

### **Qureshi says:** PTI being kept away from **Electoral** Reforms Bill

SLAMABAD (Online): PTI leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said PTI is being kept from Electoral Reforms Bill (ERB). "Maulana Fazlur Rehman is striving to forge alliance against he said this while talking to media men outside Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) here Wednesday.

He went on to say that the judge directed the prosecution to bring to fore evidence on previous hearing

ERB has become tall of the town now a days and we have reservations on it, he held. The allied parties of government have too reservations on this bill. Raza Rabbani too has expressed reservations on this bill.

#### PML-N in favor to conduct elections on time: Kaira ISLAMABAD (APP):

Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira Wednesday said Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) was not in favor to delay elections. Talking to private news channel, he said PML-N was supporting to hold elections after completion of constitutional period adding that delaying elections would not be in favor of the country. Commenting on caretaker setup Kaira said Ishaq Dar was a most experienced politician. and informed that caretaker setup would not be a easy task as a huge responsibility lied upon it.

#### COMSTECH, UoS sign MoU for scientific coop.

ISLAMABAD (APP): To implement joint educational and scientific programs, COMSTECH and University of Sargodha (UoS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Wednesday.

by the Coordinator Ğeneral COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary and the Vice Chancellor of UoS, Prof. Dr. Qaisar

The MoU was signed

The officials of COMSTECH and the university were also present in the signing ceremony.

The two sides agreed to develop and implement joint educational and scientific programs in the fields of science, technology and innovation and collaborate in joint organization of international events, such as workshops, conferences, symposia, seminars, exhibitions, and training

tal whereas all these items plastics will be more than had their environment friendly alternatives. marine life in our oceans and

it has a lifetime shelf life." Hussain said from ban on single use plastic bags it The single use of plastics would be completely was further extended to banned after the implemenother items were used in tation of the revised staturoutine life and was causing risk to the environment as the drains, land and air



tary informed that plastic bowls, cups, glasses, stirrer and cutler and also packaging items

tory regulatory

(SRO), she added

were polluted by plastics. The legislation, he said would be imposed in Islamabad and the provinces could adopt it comwould be completely pletely or develop their own banned in the federal capias per their needs.

## Another electric shock to public NEPRA increases electricity price by Rs 1.88 per unit

ISLAMABAD (Online): NEPRA has approved increase in cost of electricity by RS 1.88 per unit for 1 month. Additional RS 24 billion will be charged to people. Chairman NEPRA said that why did they buy expensive electricity despite being cheap?

National wealth is being wasted despite having all resources. Who is responsible for so many destroyed tow-

Request for increase in cost of electricity by RS 1.88 for 1 month for government Discos has been heard in NEPRA under H. Farooqui. Authorities said that alternative and expensive plants

were operated due to fault in transmission lines. Chairman ÑEPRA asked that you are getting electricity for 4 to 7 rupees, so why did you charge more?

NTDC authorities said that getting power from K2 Hydro and others is the first priority. Member NEPRA said that from 2016 to 2023, 133 towers were destroyed on the NTDC

If there is such a situation in any other country in the world, please let me know. NDDC shifted all the burden to climate change.



ISLAMABAD: A motorcyclist pass through rain waterat Ghouri Town.

# **Police Education Wing** organizes four-day road safety workshop

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police (Education Wing) organized a fourday Road Safety Workshop at COMSATS University Islamabad which emphasized the importance of observing road safety and traffic laws, not only for one's own safety shop at COMSATS Unibut also for the safety of

More than 50 drivers and other staff members participated in the workshop, where they were educated about road safety and cautious driving. On this occasion, special guest SP (Traffic) Chaudhry Abid Hussain emphasized the importance of observing road safety and traffic laws, not only for one's own safety but also for the safety of

rules, and encourage others to do the same. He emphasized that being a responsible citizen means ensures our safety and the traffic laws.

safety of others. Protecting the lives and property of citizens is our foremost duty, he added. According to the police spokesperson, the special instructions of Capital City Police Officer Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, Islamabad Capital Police organized a 4-day Road Safety Workversity Islamabad, where more than 50 drivers and other staff members participated. The participants were educated about road safety, cautious driving, and other traffic laws. This initiative was carried out by the SP Traffic Education Wing, In-charge Sub-Inspector Muhammad Shafique Bajwa, and his team. The workshop covered topics such as the dangers of using mobile phones during driving, the importance of He urged everyone to seat belts and helmets, the act responsibly while risks of driving without driving, follow traffic helmets on motorbikes. the consideration of the rights of other road users the use of the headlight beam, the use of zebra adhering to the law and crossing, dangers of avoiding negligence, which overspeeding, and other

#### tive of Federal Minister in particular. **RECA condemns PM** statement regarding real estate

pleasant situations in the Hub Bridge, Wangu, Qila

province. On the direc- Saifullah and Khuzdar

Secy communications

for early restoration

of affected highways

ISLAMABAD(APP): for Communications

Federal Secretary Com- Asad Mehmood, the NHA

munications and Chair- chairman has paid a de-

ISLAMABAD (PR): We condemn the Prime other domestic industries Minister's statement regarding real estate. The real estate sector is of great importance to the economy of Pakistan. Countless industries and segments are as-

sociated with this sector. The condemnation statement General Secretary of Real Estate Consistency Association (RECA) Adil Nawaz Bhatti said that a positive signal to the real estate and construction sector will drive foreign exchange remittances, automobile industry, mobile and telecom industry and and achieve revenue targets. Improvements in the

lowest level. Adil Bhatti said that if relief is not provided to the real estate and construction industry, in this situation country's economy will not be able to recover despite

real estate sector have always had a positive impact on the economy of Pakistan. The outflow of national treasury abroad has accelerated and the remittance of foreign exchange from abroad has come to the

the IMF package



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of WEFIXERS Organization, Islamabad visiting