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# Won't rest until steering Pakistan out of current crisis: COAS Munir

Hails govt's plans for agricultural uplift; says no external force can hinder our journey towards advancement

**Monitoring Desk** RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir on Monday inaugurated the Khanewal Model Agricultural Farm at an event seeking to bolster the agricultural sector and promote national prosperity.

The event witnessed the participation of distinguished dignitaries, local farmers, and officials from various sectors.

"Pakistan Army takes pride in serving its nation," stated the army chief, high-lighting the military's dedi-the nation's potential to cation to the welfare of the overcome challenges.

people and the country. The army belonged to the people, and the people belonged to the army," COAS said, emphasising the strong bond between the armed forces and the civilians. COAS Munir expressed his determination to steer Pakistan out of the pre-vailing crises, stating, "We have decided to lead Pakistan

out of the current crisis."

vailing economic challenges, the army chief remarked, "All Pakistanis have collectively rejected the beggar's bowl." Grateful for the country's blessings, COAS Munir remarked, "Allah has bestowed Pakistan with numerous gifts."

Drawing attention to Pakistan's potential for progress, the army chief Addressing the nation's qualities, he praised the Pakistanis for their pride, self-respect, and nation's capability to achieve greatness in all domains. COAS Munir hailed

Referring to the pre- the government's plans for an agricultural uplift, expressing his confidence in the transformation of the agricultural landscape of Pakistan, saying, "Pakistan will witness an agricultural revolution, Insha'Allah."

The Khanewal Model Agricultural Farm is designed to benefit small-scale farmers and promote sustainable practices. The the asserted, "No external force army chief announced that similar modern farms would be established across Pakistan, aiming to uplift the livelihoods of farmers and contribute to the nation's economic growth.



LAHORE: Masood Nabi, MD Pakistan LNG Ltd and Mariam Almaszade, CEO SOCAR signing an agreement for LNG cargo on behalf of Pakistan and Azerbiajan respectively. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and other dignitaries are witnessing the ceremony.

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir exchanging views with General Michael Erik Kurilla, Commander United States (US) CENTCOM during meeting held at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi.

# **Bilawal, Josep Borrell** discuss revival of Black Sea Grain Initiative

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari held a telephone conversation with European Union's High this subject. Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy aimed at reviving the initia-

The foreign minister said that he had also spoken to his Ukrainian and Turkish counterparts on He hoped that efforts

**US CENTCOM** Commander lauds Pak Army's

### successes in fight

against terrorism RAWALPINDI (APP): Commander United States (US) CENTCOM, General Michael Erik Kurilla called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir and lauded Pakistan Army's successes in the fight against terrorısm

During the meeting KARACHI (APP): Govermatters of mutual interest, nor Sindh Kamran Khan regional security situation Tessori while lauding the contribution of USAID in and defence cooperation were discussed, an Inter the social sector in the prov-ince, has said that USAID Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release received on Monday said. is helping in the provision of improved facilities to the Both the dignitaries reiterated the desire to furmasses, especially health and education sectors.

ther enhance bilateral relations in all fields.

**PM** thanks President of **USAID's contribution** in social sector

**Governor Sindh lauds** 

Ms.Nicole Theriot at Governor House here Monday. Bilateral relations, in-

vestment opportunities in the province, projects of USAID, IT program under Governor's initiative and other matters of mutual inthe occasion.

the youth financially empowered, he added.

public welfare projects in-

This he said during a meeting with the Consul General of USA in Karachi youth.

Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that the 63% domestic (SOCAR) Trading and the Pakistan LNG Limited consumers using up to 200 units per month would be

exempted from the recent (PLL). increase in power tariff. A partial subsidy was also being given to those consuming up to 300 units per month, who were around 31% of the total Mariam Almaszade. domestic consumers, he

Petroleum Musadik Malik, "Due to the toughest Punjab Governor Baleegh conditions from the Inter-Ur Rehman, diplomats and national Monetary Fund government officials were also present on the occa-(IMF), the government had to raise the electricity prices sion but I stressed that the buragreement, the SOCAR den should not be passed on to the protected seg-ments of the society," he Trading has offered supply said after witnessing the

and with the credit line for 30 days after delivery of the which is extendable by another year.

Prime Minister The framework agree-Shehbaz Sharif said it was ment was signed by PLL really a great day as "we Managing Director Masood are standing here as broth-Nabi and Chief Executive ers from two brotherly Officer of SOCAR Trading countries - Pakistan and Azerbaijan". Minister of State for

He expressed good wishes for President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev whom he met in Baku few weeks ago and thanked him for finalizing the agreement.

"We had extremely productive and very fruitful discussion over there as to how to promote ecoone cargo per month of liq- nomic relations between uefied natural gas (LNG) to the two friendly countries.

terests were discussed on Governor Sindh said that US investment would generate employment and help in reducing poverty. IT added program is aimed at making

Consul General said that US investors are interested in investing in various sectors in the province. She lauded various

cluding IT courses for

consumers of 200 units per month LAHORE (APP): Prime signing of a framework Pakistan on flexible terms agreement between the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic cargo in one year contract

Under the framework

PM Shahbaz says No increase in power tariff for

day and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Expressing Pakistan's concerns over the expiry of the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI), the foreign minister said that the resulting food inflation and food security-related challenges would adversely impact developing countries like Pakistan which were already under economic pressure.

through dialogue and constructive engagement accommodating the concerns of all parties. The foreign minister requested the EU High Representative to play his role to help find a solution

that would allow the renewal of BSGI and con-

veyed Pakistan's readiness to contribute to collective efforts in that regard. media platform Twitter, he said, "Today marks a major Use of IT helps improving service delivery: Federal

KARACHI (APP): The Federal Ombudsman of Pakistan Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi, on Monday, said that the use of information technology, public facilitation, and merit-based

**Ombudsman** 



appointments in government organizations could help improve service delivery and substantially reduce public complaints.

He, while briefing the media on the performance of the FO Secretariat during the visit of the Regional Office Karachi, observed that the number of public complaints filed with the federal Ombudsman against NADRA and SNGPL had reduced significantly with the improvement of their IT-based digital system.

Mayor Karachi says: All pumping stations in city should be exempted from load shedding

KARACHI (APP):Deputy are very worried about the Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad has said that all the pumping sta-tions in the city should be exempted from load shedding to reduce the hardships of the citizens and there should be no load shedding at all in the areas where the bills are being paid in full. No load shedding should be in the city during Muharram.

He said this while talk-ing to Sarmad Shah and Rukhsar Siddiqui, the focal persons of K-Electric in his

office on Monday. Rehman and He said that people also present.

load shedding in the city due to which the water crisis has become a serious situation in many areas. On this occasion,

Town Municipal Corporation Gadap Chairman Tario Baloch, Town Municipal Corporation Ibrahim Haidari Chairman Nazir Ahmad Bhutto, PPP parliamentary leader in Town Municipal Corporation Malir Riaz Baloch, Mir Abbas Talpur and from

Town Municipal Corporation Korangi Azizur Rehman and others were

Azerbaijan for favorable LNG agreement

ISLAMABAD (APP) Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday thanked President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev for his support in the finalization of Liquefied Natural Gas agreement on favorable terms to Pakistan. In a tweet on social

development in the bilateral relations of Pakistan & Azerbaijan. Our respective ministries signed an LNG Agreement today to procure one LNG cargo per month for a period of one year. This agreement will help ease gas

shortage in the country & provide relief to the people & industry." "I am grateful to H.E President of Azerbaijan, for his support in the finalisation of this agreement on favorable terms to Pakistan. My appreciation is also due to Minister of Finance Ishaq Dar, Minister of State for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik & their

teams for the hard work. Victories in Squash championship, ACC match against

potential.

main.

the talks.

between Ministry for For-

eign Affairs and Pakistan

approach for seeking ef-

fective international part-

nerships in maritime do-

She urged pro-active

Naval Headquarters.

India reflect indomitable spirit: Bilawal

KARACHI (APP): Chair-man of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has extended heartiest congratulations to entire nation on Pakistan's victory in the World Junior Squash Championship 2023.

He also extended his best wishes to Hamza Khan, the teenager player who led Pakistan to victory in the championship, saying: "Well done, Hamza Khan! You have raised the flag of Pakistan in the world of sports through your brilliant performances.May you always continue to shine the name of our beloved motherland like this.'

Bilawal said that the victories in the World Junior Squash Championship 2023 and the ACC Men's Emerging Cup 2023 against India reflected the indomitable spirit and determination of the new generation.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar speaking at annual talks between Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Pakistan Naval Headquarters.

# **Policy needed to realize** Pakistan's maritime, blue economy potential: Hina

ISLAMABAD (APP): Maritime Affairs was also represented in the meeting. The meeting provided Minister of State for For-

eign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar Monday stressed the opportunity for a comimportance of holistic prehensive overview of policy framework and en-Pakistan's maritime interabling domestic ecosystem ests including in the domain for realizing Pakistan's maritime and blue economy of maritime security, blue economy, disaster management, environmental pro-Hina Rabbani was tection and climate change speaking at annual talks

imperatives. Pakistan's participation in various regional and international forums dealing with maritime issues and

The Foreign Secretary Dr. Asad Majeed Khan and Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Operations) Vice Admiral Ovais A Bilgrami led the respective sides for policy framework to synergise the efforts of all Minister of State for relevant stakeholders in the Foreign Affairs Hina maritime domain for a ho-

Rabbani Khar presided the listic pursuit of the marimeeting. The Ministry of time interests of Pakistan.



KARACHI: Commuters are facing difficulties in transportation due to stagnant rainwater due to poor sewerage system caused by heavy downpour of monsoon season, located on Nagan Chowrangi area in Karachi.

# **Minister brushes aside** hearsay on caretaker nominations of cabinet

#### Says coalition parties to be taken onboard regarding caretaker PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination. Senator Sherry Rehman Monday rebuked hearsay and fake information on various media outlets pertaining to nominations of caretaker

setup. The minister flanked by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi here at the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Sec-retariat clarified the media on propagated stories pertaining to the nominations of interim setup. Senator Rehman said

there were many rumours proliferating on the reputed rately on the Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor media outlets.

They, on the occasion, discussed the political situation in the Sindh province, the role of all stakeholders, the welfare of the people, federally-funded projects in the province and other issues of mutual interest. The GDA delegation included Safdar Abbasi, Sardar Abdul Rahim, Hasnain Mirza and Nand Kumar.

GDA, MQM-P

delegations call

on Governor

KARACHI (APP): The

delegations of the Grand

Democratic Alliance (GDA)

and Muttahida Qaumi

Movement-Pakistan

(MQM-P) called sepa-

House here on Monday.

#### City police chief visits different Imam Bargahs, reviews security KARACHI (APP): Additional Inspector General of Police - Karachi Javed Alam Odho on Monday visited Usami Masjid (Bohra Community) Block North ыюск -C, North Nazimabad, Khair-ul-Amal Imam Bargah and Al Mohsin Imam Bargah. According to a spokesman for Karachi Po-

lice on Monday, the police chief met the administrators of the Imam Bargahs and discussed security and other matters and issued strict security instructions to the police officers present at the spot.

The police chief also reviewed the security of the Majalis and surrounding roads.

She clarified that the PPP had two clear views, one that there was no nomination shared with the party whereas SAPM Kundi also informed media in that regard.

The minister that no nominations were decided by the PPP leadership for interim cabinet and the Party had maintained its previous and constitutional stance.

'There has been news circulating that PPP had completed the caretaker. It is visible that after the 18th **Constitutional Amendment** this process has been made transparent and inclusive whereas it engages all the parties including the oppo-sition leader in the consultative process," she said.

# **Opposition leader has** gone 'Underground': **Sharjeel Memon**

KARACHI (APP): Sindh and the process of their Minister for Information non-stop arrival would Sharjeel Inam Memon on continue. Monday said that the Op-

Replying to a question, Sharjeel said that PPP position Leader in Sindh



Assembly Haleem Adil Shaikh had gone 'Underground

protect it.

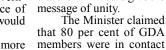
He said that the Opposition Leader must come up and he would not be sieged. While talking to media persons on the premises of the Sindh Assembly, he

He said that the more members were in contact with PPP. new buses reached Karachi

leader Faisal Karim Kundi had clearly said that no consultation had been carried out on the caretaker PM and the party had formed a three-member committee

on the matter. Answering a question at the GDA meeting, he said that the PPP would give the

said that the Sindh government had taken notice of Karoonjhar issue and would



opportunities for international collaboration and capacity-building in various fields were also discussed.

The participants of the meeting were unanimous on the need for early finalization of a comprehensive national maritime Page 02

OPINION

## Daily **Independent**

# Daily A oice of Masse, Independent

## **Skewed tax policy**

In a statement before the National Assembly on Friday, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar rebuffed reports that the government was planning to impose new taxes on the agriculture and construction including real estate — sectors.

A day later, he insisted that the taxes on these two sectors agreed with the IMF for its new \$3bn loan, and widely reported in the media, had already been implemented in the budget for this fiscal year. "I want to categorically state that no new tax will be imposed on the agriculture and construction sectors ... we have already endured the pain, and met all prior actions of the IMF programme," he told parliamentarians.

The budget is estimated to generate additional revenues of Rs80bn by increasing the tax rate for builders and developers and non-filers on the purchase and sale of immovable property and second

The changes in the rates were part of the government effort to secure the IMF bailout by raising additional tax and non-tax revenues during the present financial year to meet the programme goal of producing primary surplus equal to 0.4pc of GDP, as well as strengthen tax collection to 10.3pc of GDP.

Most additional revenue measures were announced on the day parliament approved the budget to satisfy the Fund after the latter's criticism of Mr Dar's original budget that the government had 'missed' the opportunity to broaden the tax base.

Though the tax target was eventually revised upwards, the minister tiptoed around the broader tax policy goal of effectively taxing undertaxed sectors such as retail, agriculture and real estate especially incomes from these sectors.

However, this did not come as a surprise. The PML-N — or any party for that matter — and the powerful civil and military bureaucracy are averse to taxing incomes from retail, real estate and agriculture, the economy's three largest segments, because of their own vested interests.

Former FBR head Shabbar Zaidi has narrated how he was prevented by the previous army chief from taking steps to document the massive 'file' business in real estate.

This government's tax policy was set by a tweet from PML-N chief organiser Maryam Nawaz last year when she indicated to then finance min ister Miftah Ismail through Twitter that he should revoke a nominal tax he had dared to impose on the electricity bills of the party's core support group, ie, retailers. The narrow tax base and low tax-to-GDP ratio means that the documented corporate sector and salaried classes will bear the burden of any increase in the tax target. The last two budgets are evidence of this skewed policy. Though the new IMF loan deal commits the government to expand the personal income tax base by adding a 'Nato lake' 300,000 persons, few believe the rulers have the political will to meet this condition



Huma Yusuf

Pakistan's Foreign Office ensuring interoperability last week offered to mediof Nato and Japanese forces to deploy alongside ate between Russia and each other. Ukraine in an effort to end Nato's secretary genthe war. The offer has eral also drummed home some credibility on the his thesis that security criback of the Ukrainian forses are globalised, with iseign minister's visit to sues in Asia having Euro-Islamabad, and Pakistan's pean ramifications, and repeated insistence of neutrality in that context. vice versa — in essence, a justification of Nato's And it is a sensible offer from a country desperate Asian forays for both cheap gas from Nato also made a

push to give teeth to its expanded vision. Leaders Russia and wheat from Ukraine. Unfortunately, neutrality seems an increasingly difficult pose to strike in our complex world. This was a key signal from the recently con-

is already upon us.

interests

defence plans outlining cluded summit of Nato how it would secure the leaders in Vilnius. Alalliance's northern, eastern though the summit fell and southern flanks. Such detailed plans have reportshort of announcing a timeline for Ukrainian acedly not existed since the Cold War era. cession, it gave a clear 'us Against this backversus them' message, the

drop, Islamabad's neutralsense that a new Cold War ity seems fragile. Pakistan The alliance reasis, after all, a major nonsured Ukraine of member-Nato ally, and one assumes it's a matter of time before ship at an appropriate time Nato messaging regarding and members' bilateral Russia and China comes promises of arms and support to Kyiv, a message to bear on that status (let's not forget the challenge that Nato would check Russian ambitions. It also this January to Pakistan's non-Nato ally status by a used strong language US Congressman on the against China, indicating basis that Pakistan was not that Beijing's non-transdoing enough to clamp parent approach, military modernisation and ties down on the Haqqani Netwith Moscow were all perwork; could neutrality visà-vis Moscow be the next ceived as threats to Nato's decried?). fault Polarisation of the global On the other hand, Finland's inclusion — and landscape has been the story of the past decade, Sweden's imminent acceswith the divides between sion - were celebrated bepopulism and pluralism cause they provide the alquickly hardening into liance its greatest-ever terthose between autocracy ritorial reach across Eudemocracy rope, the Baltic Sea and the and We are returning to a Arctic Circle. The Baltic

Sea was smugly rebranded lites, and those such as Pa-The alliance made kistan seeking neutrality, its intentions to esclear its intentions to es-

in Provincial Capital.

cheaper.

ance relations between the US and China, are likely to

president blocked the opening of a Nato liaison office in Japan, other plans to entrench Nato's presence in China's backyard were hatched, including West, China and Russia).

Beyond polarisation, the Nato summit also held some warnings for civil society in places such as Paki-s-tan democr-a-tic values are alre-ady threatened. The shift to terming the 2pc military expenditure as a floor rather than a ceiling in an era of cost-of-living crises privileges security spending at all costs.

This means IFIs' reagreed to a baseline of two per cent of GDP for dequirements for underdevelfence expenditure. Nato's oped countries struggling with debt and seeking bailtop general also presented outs to cut their own military expenditure to cover costs of public service may be perceived as lip service instead. This would be an unfortunate development, diverting from future funding for social welfare, infrastruc-

> tion Human groups criticised Sweden's many concessions to Turkiye to gain approval for its accession to Nato, including the lifting of an arms embargo and the introduction of new laws regarding proscribed groups. Many believe Stockholm has had to throw Kurdish dissidents seeking refuge in Sweden under the proverbial bus in order to secure its Nato spot. This goes against the key criteria for aspiring Nato members to respect democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law. As such, despite prioritising security, the Nato Vilnius summit

world of blocs and satelseems to be hearkening to a scarier world. Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce** News

struggle. These balancing acts must be central considerations for Islamabad not only as it crafts its foreign policies, but also in the economic arena (for example, we must consider long-term scenarios during the privatisation of key assets that will be of interest to key players from the

#### ber, yet a large swathe of the subcontinent came under us. Then came the British, yet fewer in number, to rule over both 'us' and 'them'. By the time the British were sent off, where the ballot and bullet had both gained currency. Strength in numbers determined who called the shots. We insisted that 'them' outnumbering 'us' was not acceptable and carved out a country from areas where we were in a

**Shahzad Sharjeel** 

We' were fewer in num-

The fear of being out-

majority. numbered transcends umbrella identities. There are minorities among the majority groupings based on language, race, sect, geography, etc. Division of the subcontinent resulted in the biggest migration in human history. The migrants to Pakistan natuture and the green transi-

rally sought representation in the new polity. The host communities' fears of rights have also becoming 'Red Indians' on their own soil were stoked. The quota system was born. Debates of equality vs equity can be taken up

in subsequent pieces as space restrictions allow us only to scratch the surface of issues as complex as inclusion, diversity, fairness and merit. The NFC awards and provincial shares in water resources can also be debated separately. Provincial quotas for

federal jobs were introduced in 1948, revised in 1949, and have been amended and extended through successive constitutions and presidential orders. However, the last such extension should have ended the quotas in 2013. Since then, bills for

# Quotidian quotas

ment to decide the matter rangement meant to be have been shuttling between the Upper and Lower Houses of parliament; throw in a few petitions to the courts of law and orders of the Supreme Court, and it is anybody's help the stragglers to guess on what basis the quotas persist. According to the

FPSC website Punjab has a 50 per cent share in federal jobs, Sindh has 19pc. KP 11.5pc, Balochistan 6pc, Northern Areas, and Federally Administered Tribal Areas [sic], 4pc, Azad Kashmir 2pc, and Merit 7.5pc. Ten per cent of the respective provincial quotas are reserved for women

Sindh takes the cake in these reservations as no other province has a further rural-urban, ie, 60-40, subdivision of quotas within the province. Fight over resources is not about their finite nature; ams ostensibly to it stems from a trust deficit in the other's intentions and fears that any recourse to remedial measures will favour those wielding force. Quotas may appear well-meaning and fairness-oriented initially, but they pose major problems First, to qualify for a

reserved quota, all one needs is to belong to a certain geographical area, speak a language or belong to a race, religion, or some other identity marker. Quotas are dissimilar to non-discrimination laws, meaning a person otherwise qualified will not be discriminated against on any grounds. What is fundamentally wrong with the quota system is that it does not help anyone in the long run, least of all the intended beneficiaries of these 'head start' schemes as they have no graduation programmes. A few individuals belonging to the underserved community or region may benefit but the area or the community gain nothing in terms competitiveness.

the constitutional amend- ter is that a temporary arphased out gained permanence and has created a debilitating dependence amongst its beneficiaries. Efficient governance and access to finance will catch up with the rest of the caravan, not quotas.

The quality of education in rural Sindh has deteriorated over the decades. It is because the lollipop of quotas suppresses the demand side of education reforms in rural Sindh that commands a majority in the provincial legislature. The constituents have been lulled into a perpetual state of gratitude for government jobs and a few admissions to professional colleges. Before the urbanites of Sindh act smug, their insistence on institutionalising organised cheating in excounter the double whammy of lax vigilance at examination centres in rural Sindh and its favourable share in quotas is akin to cutting one's nose to spite one's face. Enterprises like Pakistan Railways, Wapda and PIA are meant to provide the best services at the most competitive rates to the teening millions in Pakistan — and not for the perks and privileges of their employees. Similarly, the civil services are meant to serve the masses and are not employment exchanges.

Professional colleges and universities are meant for producing the best doctors, engineers and artists. What does it matter to a patient if her doctor belongs to a certain area, race or religion? If a kidney is removed in what was meant to be a knee replacement, what solace can the aggrieved patient derive from any kinship with the malpractitioner? Fight elite capture, and ensure equitable progress, but not through quotas. -- Courtesy Dawn

discussed

the two countries in order

to achieve the optimal trade

volume through the border

trade mechanism and

removing technical hurdles

in enhancing trade relations

between the two countries.

banking sector between the

two countries also came

under discussion as the

Collaboration in the

The crux of the mat-

# Modern technology, alternative energy inevitable to achieve exports competitiveness: PM

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that the utilization of modern technology and alternative energy by the inevitable to make exports competitive in the international market.

The prime minister, addressing the soft launching of Ombre Special Economic Zone, Sundar Green Special Economic Zone and Smart Special Economic Zone, said owing to surging oil prices, the and assured all-out only option was to exploit support from the federal the potential of solar,

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce

and Industry (HCCI) President, Adeel Siddiqui ad-

dresses during National Exporters Training Program

organized by Trade Development Authority of Paki-

stan held at HCCI in Hyderabad.

HYDERABAD (APP):

President Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce

and Industry Adeel Siddiqui has emphasized

the need to initiate collec-

tion efforts to increase the

volume of Pakistan's ex-

ports so that the country

could come out of the eco-

nomic crisis. Despite is-

sues of water and energy,

Pakistani businessmen are

hitting the 26 billion dol-

lar exports mark whereas

Bangladeshi exports stood

at \$ 60 billion dollars with

single digit markup ratio

like other Asian countries,

he said while addressing

the participants of a na-

tional export training

the cost-effectiveness of commitment by the private local products.

to be addressed on a warindustrial sector were footing basis, which was plans to set up a threeswelling due to wasting billions of rupees annually because of line and

as power theft. appreciated the private measures to keep the sector for chalking out a national economy on track plan to establish the three special economic zones and Punjab governments.

SHEIKHUPURA (APP): wind and hydel energy for

sector to attract Ĥe said the issue of investment worth billions circular debt was required of rupees was also laudable, besides their megawatt solar power plant and other allied facilities like the vocational transmission losses as well training center. He hoped that the interim government The prime minister would also take all possible

He

said

the

of progress, as the incumbent one was already making necessary legislation to pave the way for future course of action.

#### **Shipping activity** at Port Qasim KARACHI (APP): Gas carrier 'LPG-FSM' carrying

2,200 tonnes of LPG arrived at outer anchorage of the Port asim on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2023.

A total of 06 ships vere engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them four ships, Maersk Al-Areesh, lavassa. Summer-Pleog and Sea-Ranger sailed out to sea on Monday morning (today), while another ship 'San-Antonio' is expected to sail on same day. Cargo throughput of 68,986 tonnes, comprising 38,130

tones imports Cargo and 30,856 tonnes export cargo.

**RDA** generates **Rs 851 mln** revenue during

last fiscal year RAWALPINDI (APP): The Metropolitan Planning and Traffic Engineering (MP&TE) Directorate, Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) generated revenue

Rs 565 million set for 2022-23 fiscal year. According to RDA spokesperson, the Land Use and Building Control (LU&BC) Wing had collected Rs 558 million and Planning Wing collected Rs 293 million.

market: Mian Zahid KARACHI (INP): Chairforex reserves, and the man of National Business country has to borrow, Group Pakistan, President which burdens 240 million Pakistan Businessmen and people in the country.

**Boosting Exports:** 

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif signing the plaque

Intellectuals Forum, and All Mian Zahid Hussain Karachi Industrial Alliance, said that the value of the and former provincial minrupee and dollar must not be controlled to boost exister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that strengthening ports and remittances. Efforts to control the value of the value of the rupee makes exports difficult currency reduced textile exwhile making imports ports by \$2.8 billion in 2023.

In a statement here on He said that non-textile exports, which were 12.46 billion dollars in 2022, Monday, he said that a strengthened currency reduces exports and increases fell to 11.23 billion dollars imports, which drain the in 2023

# **PBF demands govt to** end free power units to save 10bn annually

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan als living like royals. If par-Business Forum (PBF) on liamentarians, businessmen Monday urged the federal and masses pay electricity government to discontinue bills from their own pockthe facility of free or disets, then why certain segcounted electricity to govment of society enjoy the ernment officers including free facility when country is staff of all power distribualready facing economic crises. Similarly PBF showed tion companies (discos). This move will save the nadispleasure on a significant tional exchequer Rs 10 bilincrease in the base tariff by Rs7.50 per unit for electriclion a year. In a statement, PBF Chief Organiser and ity, dealing a severe blow to Vice President, Chaudhry middle-and lower-middle-Ahmad Jawad said gone are class consumers with Time the days of these individuof Use (TOU) metres.

## 35.48 % in **FY2023** ISLAMABAD (APP): The imports of gold

increased by 35.48 percent during the fiscal year 2022-23 as compared to last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

The gold imports during the July-June (2022-23) were recorded at \$30.651 million as compared to the imports of \$22.623 million during July-June (2021-22) according to the data.

In terms of quantity Pakistan imported 496 kilograms of gold during the months under review as compared to the imports of 361 kilograms last year showing growth of 37.40 percent

Meanwhile on yearon-year basis, the gold imports into the country witnessed a decrease of 48.22 percent as these were recorded at \$3.273 million in June 2023 against the imports of \$3.641 million in June 2022.

In terms of quantity, the imports of the commodity declined by 11.86 percent, from 59 kilograms in June 2022 to 52 kilograms in June 2023.

Meanwhile, on month-on-month basis, the gold imports during June 2023 decreased by 4.33 percent when compared to the imports of \$3.421 million in May 2023.

# Iran Ambassador calls on Dar, discusses bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): cooperation including Ambassador of Iran to trade, investment, and Pakistan Reza Amiri security between the two Moghaddam on Monday countries. called on Minister for They Finance and Revenue enhancing trade relations

Senator Mohammad Ishaq by activating the recently Dar and discussed ways to inaugurated border markets enhance bilateral relations. and opening of three more The minister border markets between

welcomed the ambassador and extended felicitations on assuming the charge of ambassador in Pakistan, said a news release issued here. Ishaq Dar extended blessings to the Iranian leadership and people at the start of the new Islamic year and highlighted deep-rooted

historical relations between heads of central banks of both countries based on the two countries would age-old commonalities. meet next week in Pakistan During the meeting, to discuss and sort out the they discussed in detail issues related to banking various fields for mutual cooperation.



Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam called on Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at Finance Division, Islamabad

# Power Division directed to refer \$ 32m damaged matter to GT-14 7474 MW to FIA

Senate Standing Committee on Power Monday directed the Ministry of Power Division to refer the matter of recovery \$ 32 million damaged to GT-14 (747 MW) from GE to Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for investigation. The committee which met with Senator Saifullah Abro in the Chair decided to refer the matter to FIA after being dissatisfied on the briefing by the acting CEO GHCL. Committee The

ISLAMABAD (INP): The discussed at length the matter of the recovery of amount of damaged GT-14 (747 MW) from GE.

The Committee also directed the Power Division to refer the matter of the constitution of the new Members of BoDs and also recommended to appoint fresh Members of BoDs as per qualification and merit. The committee while discussing the matter inquired on the action taken regarding the three letters issued by Power Division on 31-3-2022



Hyderabad had helped the

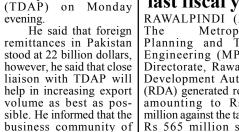
Federal Board of Revenue to

meet the tax collection tar-

get of Rs 7,100 billion in 2022-23 and now the target

of Rs 9,000 billion would be achieved with the same zeal

in 2023-2024



amounting to Rs 851

million against the target of



ITIONAL EXPORTERS TRAINING PROGI

ndependent

Tuesday July 25, 2023

# Naqvi calls for immediate drainage of rainwater

#### Fort Kuhna Qasim to be rehabilitated into its original form

chief

Scholar sees great

potential in SU

faculty members

original form.

He said

versity should send the

manuscripts regarding

Matthew hoped that the

Independent Report MULTAN: Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister, Syed Mohsin Naqvi, took notice of the accumulation of rainwater in various areas of the city and ordered immediate drainage of water.

He paid a visit to various parts of the city including Ghanta Ghar, Fish market, Eid Gah, Cantt, Shujabad road, and other areas, and reviewed the drainage condition after the rain here on Monday evening. He directed Water

and Sanitation Agency (WASA) to mobilize all machinery and resources and asked Kuhna Qasim, here also present.

HYDERABAD (APP):

Professor of South Asian and

Deputy Commissioner on Monday. Mohsin Umar Jehangir to Naqvi, however, personally monitor the expressed displeasure drainage of rainwater. over the poor Chief Secretary, cleanliness IG Police Punjab, arrangement and Additional Chief instructed officials Secretary South concerned to ensure

Punjab, and cleanliness Additional Inspector arrangements. General of Police The chief minister South Punjab were also ordered the accompanied by the widening of a door and minister. its restoration to its Caretaker Chief original condition. He Minister of Punjab added that all steps Mohsin Naqvi said that Fort Kuhna would be taken for the rehabilitation of the Qasim was a historic ancient fort. On this occasion, asset and would be

Chief Secretary, IGP, rehabilitated into its Commissioner this Multan and many while visiting Fort other officers were

**SSP** visits

security routes

in Khairpur city

SUKKUR (APP): The Se-

nior Superintendent of Po-

lice (SSP), Khairpur, Mir

Rohail Khan Khoso on



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

# **Rangers conduct flag** march regarding security of Muharram

LARKANA (APP): Wing cessions and sites of Commander Shahbaz Rang-Majalis.

ers Lt. Col. Mohammad Rangers are performing their professional du-Baig led a flag march of Police, a convoy of Rangers ties to ensure peace, tranvehicles and motorcycles, quility, law, and order durthat took a round of Larkana ing Muharram in Larkana. city as part of Muharram On the directives of security arrangements in the

Sindh Major General Azhar The convoy took its Wagas control rooms had been established at various start from Rangers Headquarters Larkana and points.

been directed to monitor the Muharram processions.

in their surroundings.

from Lahore.

Director General Rangers

The Rangers had also

deploy the Rangers personnel at the venues of Majalis and to carry out patrolling

Staff to remain high alert on Ashura; says **MS Sukkur Hospital** 

International News

SUKKUR (APP): District sured during Ashura. headquarters hospital He directed to keep an

Sukkur will remain on high alert on Ashura days in compliance with the direc-tions of the Sindh should be completely func-

A meeting under the chair of MS Dr Rafique Memon was held at his ofhe said

rate beds would be fixed for rangements would be en- treated uninterrupted.

Page 03

# **SSWMB** takes measures for de-watering, **Muharram: MD SSWMB**

KARACHI (APP): Sindh ing of the roads, streets and Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) is taking effective measures for dewatering after rain and also to facilitate the mourners during the programs which would be held in connection

with the Muharram-ul-

taken on the directions of

the Managing Director SSWMB Syed Imtiaz Ali

Shah, said a spokesperson

on Monday. The MD SSWMB

The steps are being

haram.

venues of processions and Majalis, sprinkling of lime and other arrangements.

All the officers and staff will be active and ensure timely arrangements in relation to rain and Muharram-ul-haram, he said. Meanwhile, emergency will remain in force in relation to expected more rain, he added.

He said that redressal of the complaints received from the citizens is being ensured in a timely manner, also met the prominent in this regard private contractors have also been directed to collect the garbage as soon as possible.



FAISALABAD: Ahmad Farooq Senior Advisor to Federal Ombudsman is visiting Executive Office of Regional Passport Office at Koh-e-Noor Chowk.

# KU chemical engineering program receives PEC re-accreditation

KARACHI (APP): The B.E. Chemical Engineering the PEC delegation has as-Programme at the Universured the department that sity of Karachi has rethe formal documents conceived re-accreditation firming the re-accreditation from the Pakistan Engiwould be provided shortly. neering Council.

members from the PEC

visited the KU Depart-

ment of Chemical Éngi-

Shagufta Ishtiyaque shared

that after thoroughly as-

sessing the department and

campus, the delegation

agreed to re-accredit the

chemical engineering

2019 and 2023.

programme.

The delegation which A delegation of five was led by Engineer Professor Dr Abdullah Khan Durrani from the University of Punjab, Lahore, neering to evaluate the spent two days at the Unibatches enrolled between versity of Karachi, assessing the performance and The departmental activities of the chemical chairperson Professor Dr

She mentioned that

engineering department. Other members of the delegation included Engineer Taha Ahmed Khan, Engineer Dr Neharullah Khan, Engineer Dr Asad Ullah Khan, and Engineer Dr Ghulamullah Khan Kakar.

Post-colonial Pakistan Stud-Sindh, its culture, heritage ies. North Carolina Central and civilization, which would be published in University and President, Scopus verified Journal of American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) USA Dr Pakistan Critical Studies. This he said while talk Matthew A. Cook has said ing to an interactive session that the institute would assist the Pakistan Study Cen- at the Pakistan Study Centre (PSC), University of tre, University of Sindh Jamshoro on Monday. Dr. Sindh in bringing US faculty

development of strong acasession would be a first step towards establishing academic linkages with the US demic linkages and research He said that the teachcooperation between the

ers and scholars of the uni-American Centre and SU

for conducting training and

varsities.



HYDERABAD: Rain water accumulated on the road at Latifabad.

Monday visited security routes of the 8th Muharrampassed through all the main ul-Haram mourning procesroads of Larkana city and other areas of the city. The SSP Khairpur visited routes of Katchehry Later, the Wing Commander Shahbaz Rangers Road and Mall Road to be along with other officials of Rangers also inspected routes of Muharram protaken out on 8th Muharramul-Haram and issued directives to all SHOs to ensure effective Security arrangements

district on Monday.

### **ANF** seizes 37 kg drugs in

six operations RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force ANF) in its operations against drug-traffickers managed to recover 37 kg narcotics and arrested four accused, said an ANF Government. Headquarters spokesman.

He informed that in an operation, ANF recovered 5 kg Ice drug being sent to a foreign country through a booked parcel at International Mail Office Rawalpindi. Ice was concealed in Hot Pots.

fice to finalize the arrangements regarding 9th and 10th Muharram on Monday. Memon told the participants that foolproof ar-

#### scholars and the administra-**PIA steward** tors of Imambargahs and 'disappears' in assured them of the clean-Canada KARACHI (INP): A Paki-

National News

stan International Airlines (PIA) steward went 'missing' from a hotel after his arrival in Toronto, Canada

As per the PIA administration, flight steward Muntazir Mehdi arrived in Toronto from Lahore via the national airline's flight, PK-798 on Friday.

He along with other crew members had been staying at a hotel in the

airline authority confirmed.

The flight attendant Ramzan

Gul boarded the national flag

carrier's flight from Islamabad

in the capacity of the aircraft

crew, confirmed the PIA

spokesperson. PIA authori-

ties said they also updated

on the development, the Ca-

nadian immigration authority

as the crew member gets clear-

ance under General Declara-

tion and when one of them

has indeed gone missing.

Canadian city. The mysterious miss-ing of the PTI steward came to light when he didn't report for duty on a flight back to

tion authorities. Before Mehdi, four flight stewards and air hostesses of the national airline have slipped into Canada for citizenship. Last year, an air steward for Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) reportedly went missing in Canada after flight PK-798 landed in Toronto which the

ample quantity of life-saving drugs in the emergency ward during the Ashura. Medical equipment

tional and all the staff must be alert during these days. He directed that sepa-

wounded Aza-dars so that other patients coming to the emergency ward could be

He also directed to Pakistan. Subsequently, the matter was brought to the notice of the airline management and Canadian immigra-

# North Korea fires ballistic missile after US submarine arrives in South Korea

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: North Korea fired at least one ballistic missile into its eastern sea, South Korea's military said Tuesday, adding to a recent streak in weapons testing that is apparently in protest of the U.S. sending rine to come to South Komajor naval assets to South Korea in a show of force.

South Korea's Joint efs of Staff did not im-by test-firing ballistic and cruise missiles in apparent Chiefs of Staff did not immediately say where the demonstrations that it weapon was launched from and how far it flew.

The launch came deployed U.S. naval veshours after South Korea's sels. navy said a nuclear-propelled U.S. submarine – the American-led U.N. Com-USS Annapolis — arrived mand said it has started a

at a port on Jeju Island. The conversation with North Korea about a U.S. soldier arrival of the USS Annapolis adds to the allies' show of force to counter North Korean nuclear threats. Last week, the USS fied borders.

Kentucky became the first U.S. nuclear-armed submarea since the 1980s. North Korea reacted to its arrival how many exchanges have could make nuclear strikes against South Korea and

Also on Monday, the King's condition.

# **Canada PM Trudeau** plans cabinet reshuffle this week

Mendicino.

**Monitoring Desk** OTTAWA: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is planning to reshuffle his cabinet this week, likely replacing ministers deemed to have struggled in their posts or who are not planning on running again in the next election, two government sources said. Trudeau has periodically reshuffled his cabinet since taking power in 2015. The shakeup which the Canadian Broad-

casting Corp said was likely to take place on Wednesday - could be his last opportunity to change his team before the next election. Three ministers canceled appointments set for Monday. It is common for cabinet members to clear their schedules and be called to Ottawa ahead of a reshuffle. One of the those who scrapped their events on Monday was Public Safety Minister Marco

#### who ran into the North last week across one of the world's most heavily forti-Andrew Harrison, a British lieutenant general who is the deputy com-mander at the U.N. Command, refused to say when the conversation started

taken place and whether the North Koreans responded constructively, citing the sensitivity of the discussions. He also declined to detail what the command knows about Pvt. Travis

#### **Monitoring Desk Two protesters** BEIJING: China's top leadburn Koran in ers pledged on Monday to step up policy support for front of Iraqi the economy amid a tortuous post-CÓVID recovery, embassy in focusing on boosting do-Denmark mestic demand, signalling

**Monitoring Desk** COPENHAGEN: Two protesters set fire to a copy of the Koran, Islam's holy book, in front of the Iraqi embassy in the Danish capital on Monday, risking a further deterioration of relations between the two countries. Protests have raged across Iran and Iraq after Denmark and Sweden allowed the burning of the Koran under rules

protecting free speech.

more stimulus steps. The world's secondlargest economy grew at a frail pace in the second quarter as demand weakened at home and abroad, raising pressure on policymakers to deliver more stimulus to shore up post-COVID recovery

China will step up a grim and complex exter-economic policy adjust- nal environment," Xinhua

Monitoring Desk

BUTON TENGAH: At

least 15 people were killed

on Monday after a wooden

Indonesia's Sulawesi island,

search and rescue officials

said, adding that all missing

passengers had been ac-

counted for.

ments, focusing on expandquoted the Politburo as ing domestic demand, saying, after a meeting chaired by President Xi boosting confidence and Jinping. China will implement preventing risks, state news agency Xinhua cited the Politburo, a top deciits macro adjustments "in a sion-making body of the precise and forceful manruling Communist Party,

Members of the security services investigate the site of a damaged building

China to step up policy adjustments

amid tortuous recovery

following a reported drone attack in Moscow, Russia.

as saying.

and strengthen ner" counter-cyclical adjust-"Currently, China's ments, as the government economy is facing new difsticks with a prudent monficulties and challenges, etary policy and pro-active which mainly arise from fiscal policy, the Politburo insufficient domestic deas quoted as saying.

Xinhua quoted President Xi as saying mand, difficulties in the operation of some enterprises, risks and hidden danduring a separate meeting gers in key areas, as well as that China will strive to

# Second US amid North Korea tensions **Monitoring Desk**

SEOUL: A U.S. nuclearpowered submarine arrived in South Korea on Monday, only days after the first U.S. nuclear armed submarine made port in the country in four decades, as the two allies seek to boost American strategic assets to deter North Korea. The USS Annapolis entered a naval base in South Korea' southern island of Jeju, to load military supplies while on an unspecified operational mission, the South Korean navy said.

# **UN chief urges** Russia to return to **Black Sea deal**

**Monitoring Desk** NITED NATIONS: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on Russia on Monday to return to a deal allowing the safe Black Sea export of Ukrainian grain in line with a proposal he made to President Vladimir Putin.

Russia quit the agreement a week ago, saying that demands to improve its own food and fertilizer exports had not been met, and that not enough Ukraine grain had reached the poorest countries under the Black Sea deal.

the most vulnerable will pay the highest price, Guterres told the U.N Food Systems summit in Rome on Monday. "When food prices rise, everybody pays for it.'

Since Russia quit the deal and began attacking Ukrainian food-exporting ports on the Black Sea and Danube river, global wheat and corn futures have risen sharply

This is especially devastating for vulnerable countries struggling to feed their people," Guterres said

Guterres had written "With the termination to Putin on July 11 in a fiof the Black Sea Initiative, nal effort to save the deal.



Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg is lifted away by police when she takes part in a new climate action in Oljehamnen in Malmo, Sweden.

# Iran kicks off air force drill as US sends more fighter planes to the region

Monitoring Desk TEHRAN: Iran on Sunday began an annual air force drill in the central part of country, state media reported, as the U.S. sends more fighter planes to the region to deter the Islamic Republic from seizing commercial vessels in the Persian Gulf area. The official IRNA news agency said 11 Iranian air force bases participated in the drill, dubbed Fadaeian Velvat-11, or Devotees of the Supreme Leader-11 It said an air base at the southern port of Bandar Abbas at the mouth of the strategic Strait of Hormuz is active in the drill. The Strait of Hormuz is the

narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which 20% of all crude oil passes. The report said more than 90 fighter planes, bombers and drones would participate in the drill.

Air Force Chief Gen. Hamid Vahedi said the drill's message is one of friendship, peace and security in the region. "Sustainable security, improving and fostering regional ties, peaceful coexistence and defending air borders are on the agenda, he said. From time to time Iran holds such drills and says they are designed to assess force's combat readiness and demonstrate the nation's military capabilities.



Tourists are seen after being evacuated following a wildfire on the island of **Rhodes**, Greece.



added, and the cause of the sinking was being in-vestigated. Muhamad Arafah, head of the local boat sank off the coast of search and rescue agency in Kendari city in Southeast Sulawesi, said in the statement that the 27 other passengers had been accounted

The boat sank with 48 people onboard just after midnight (5pm GMT on Sunday), the local office of Indonesia's search and rescue agency said in a statement. Six people were rescued and taken to hospi-

# 15 dead, all missing

for and all the victims had been identified. The agency had earlier reported that 19 were missing and that search efforts were ongoing, but Arafah said the operation had now been "declared finished and closed".

achieve its annual development targets. submarine arrives in South Korea

# **President for enhancing** trade, economic linkages with Ethiopia

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday asked Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Ethiopia to foster trade and economic linkages with Ethiopia by facilitating and enhancing interactions between business communities of the two countries.

He also urged the ambassador to work towards increasing trade volume with Ethiopia by reaching to their businesspersons for the import of Pakistani products.

The president was talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Mian Atif Sharif, who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

President Alvi said that Pakistan-Ethiopia bilateral ties were marked by common history, interests, and support for and scholarships for bankeach other on various international fora.

help improve bilateral ties He said that the biwith Ethiopia. lateral relations between the two countries needed the ambassador to create to be further cemented by awareness in Ethiopia taking the mutual trade about the rising tide of

volume to its fullest po-Islamophobia in the world and the need for collective The president also efforts to promote intercalled for enhancing coopfaith harmony and mutual eration in the field of edurespect cation and people-to-He also urged the people contacts, adding newly-appointed envoy

that students in Ethiopia to highlight the human could benefit from online/ rights violations and video educational materiatrocities being committed als/courses of the Virtual by India in the Indian Ille-University of Pakistan and gally Occupied Jammu Allama Iqbal Open Uniand Kashmir (IIOJK) as versity to enhance their well as the maltreatment of minorities in India.

**PM** approves

been named as Pakistan's

ambassador to China, while

Khalid Jamali will take



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Iftikhar Ali Shallwani federal Secretary Health, MoNHSR&C during the Event of "Dissemination of Who and Unicef Estimates on National Immunization Coverage" WUENIC Pakistan 2022 Data.

## **Khursheed Shah seeks** Secretaries adherence to committee's recommendations for affected employees

ISLAMABAD (APP): vide relief to the sacked Minister for Water Re- employees under the Chair-Minister for Water Re-sources Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah on Monday manship of Abdul Qadir Mandokhel. The results and urged the Deputy Speaker the progress of the commit-National Assembly Zahid tee should be shared with Akram Durrani to summon the house, he said. all secretaries of ministries

been highlighted.

ite since 2018.

He further said that

Bijarani said that the

no work had been carried

out on the lease of Gran-

Range as a heritage. He said that previ-

formed to know about the

views of the people on

Karoonihar and the Com-

mittee had submitted its

report to him which would

be tabled in the Cabinet.

reports should also be sought from the secretaries of the various ministries and departments. He urged the chair to take notice of taker PM plays the role of it. The Deputy Speaker an umpire in a caretaker setsaid the committee did a up. He added that Ishaq marvelous job. However, Dar's name was not considsome complaints were reered for the caretaker PM's ceived that some departments have not provided

slot on any platform. He added that the federal government did not even give any hint at appointing Dar as the caretaker premier.

No possibility

of Dar's

becoming

caretaker

PM: Kh Asif

#### **CTD** conducts search operation He said that the isin different areas sue of Granite mining had KARACHI (APP): The

Sindh Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) conducted a search operation within the limits of Clifton, Boat Basin, Gizri, and Civil Line police stations.

provincial government had During the operation, also written a letter to 124 suspects were checked UNESCO to declare the through the Talash App, Karoonjhar Mountain according to a spokesman for CTD Sindh on Monday. ously a Committee was

Six suspects were handed over to the respective police stations for further investigations while two were arrested for keeping illegal arms. The operation was conducted under the supervision of experi-enced CTD officers.

# Tuesday July 25, 2023

Marriyum launches health insurance registration form for journalists

ISLAMABAD (APP): to register themselves Minister for Information Broadcasting and Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Monday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would formally launch Journalists Health Insurance Card Scheme on Au-

gust 7. She stated this after launching the registration process for Journalists Health Insurance Scheme by uploading its form on the website of the Press Information Department and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The minister said that

the health insurance form was now available online for media workers and journalof Information for launch ists and they would be able ing the scheme.

kistan (ECP) issued non-

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

(PTI) chief, Istehkam-e-Pa-

kistan Party (IPP) leader

Fawad Chaudhry, and

former PTI secretary general

bench, headed by Member

Sindh Nisar Durrani heard

the ECP contempt plea

against PTI chief, Fawad

Chaudhry and Asad Umar.

However, lawyers repre-

senting them did not appear

yer requested the commis-

sion to exempt him from

appearing because Umar

had cases against him, add-

ing that he had got an ap-

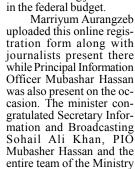
pointment from doctor.

Umar's assistant law-

before the ECP.

A four-member ÉCP

Asad Umar on Monday.



through the online health

for the first time, the gov-

ernment had allocated Rs 1

billion for the health insur-

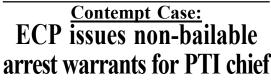
ance of working journalists

The minister said that

insurance form.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law & Justice Senator Azam Nazir Tarar called on Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf.



ISLAMABAD (INP): The "Umar kept on presenting before the ECP," he added. Member ECP ordered Election Commission of Pabailable arrest warrants for him to file the plea.

Chaudhry's assistant lawyer told the ECP that Chaudhry was in Lahore while his lawyer Faisal Chaudhry was in the IHC.

The capital police have been directed to arrest the PTI chief and present him at 10am before the electoral watchdog. The ECP will hear the plea on Tuesday.

Lawyer murder case Earlier, a three-member bench of the Supreme Court on Monday barred the lawenforcement agencies from arresting the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief till next date of hearing on Aug 9 in lawyer Abdul Razzaq Shar murder case.

Transfer of land/property under KMC subject to payment of arrears of municipal utility services: Murtaza



tential

skill sets.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Mian Atif Sharif called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

# **MD SSWMB assures** timely arrangements to ensure cleanliness

aging Director (MD) Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) Imtiaz Ali Shah, on Monday, said that emergency will remain enforced and all the officers and staff of the board will be active to ensure timely sanitation arrangements in connection with Monsoon.

The MD SSWMB, in a statement issued here, said that all the necessary arrangements were in place for drainage of rainwater and cleanliness on routes of processions and congregations of Muharram-ul-Haram.

Rainwater drainage routes of processions, and work was immediately other arrangements.

KARACHI (APP): Man- started after rain during the last three days in different areas of Karachi and the sanitary staff was deployed on the roads, he said adding that the staff worked whole the night to drain the rainwater and all the roads were cleared by morning.

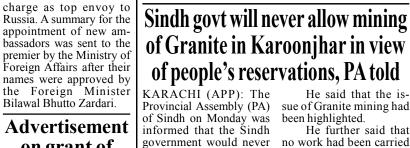
However, water was still accumulated in some low-lying areas, and drainage operation was continued, he further added. The MD SSWMB, meanwhile, also held meetings with Ulema and administrators

of Imambargahs and assured them of cleaning the

withdrawn immediately KARACHI (APP): The Director General (DG), who is also Licensing authority of the Sindh Mines and Mineral Development Department has cancelled immediately the advertisement regarding the open auction for the grant of a mining lease for Granite (re-

Foreign Affairs after their names were approved by the Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Advertisement permit the lease or mining

# Nagarparkar



in the privilege committee

tomorrow and inquired

from them about the com-

pliance into the recommen-

dations given by the Spe-

cial Committee on Affected

Employees headed by

tional Assembly, he said

that the House has consti-

Speaking in the Na-

tuted a committee to pro- compliance reports.

Abdul Qadir Mandokhel.

on grant of mining lease for Granite in



of Granite in Karoonjhar, Nagarparkar, keeping in view the reservations of the people.

#### The Sindh Minister for Mines and Mineral Development Mir Shabbir Ali Bijarani replying to a point of order on the floor of the

house, raised by MPA Rana Ansar and other MPAs, said that the provincial government would not take any step against the desires of

the people of the province.

#### ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Defence and central leader of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Khawaja Muhammad Asif has ruled out the possibility of Finance Minister Ishaq Dar He said compliance becoming a caretaker prime minister (PM). Talking to a private news channel on Monday Khawaja Asif said a care-

# to ensure peace, harmony ensured: DC Khairpur

KARACHI: Members of Students Action Commit-

tee of the Dawood University of Engineering and

Technology (DUET) blocked road as they are hold-

ing protest demonstration for acceptance of their

More rain forecast,

as powerful monsoon

system lashes country

demands, held at University road in Karachi.

**Comprehensive measures** 

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner Khairpur, Dr. Sharjeel Noor Channa on Monday reviewed security arrangements taken by the district administration and city police to ensure peace in Muharram-ul Haram

During a meeting, Dr Sharjeel told that for this purpose over 1500 personnel have been deployed from the 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> Muharram ul Haram.

In this regard, the Deputy Commissioner Khairpur and SSP Khairpur Mir Rohail Khan Khoso held peace committee meetings in all eight talukas of the district where all stakeavoided holders unanimously agreed

to implement measures to hold Muharram processions and gatherings in a peaceful manner.

Moreover, Religious scholars and civil society members pledged their support in promoting peace and harmony and discouraging any incitement or sectarian hatred. Security arrangements for the routes of

Imambargahs, Majalis, and mourning processions have been put in place in all districts of Khairpur. Deputy commissioners and police officers are actively working to uphold

the sanctity of mosques and religious places, ensuring sectarian speeches are

> and other officers. Four die, several injured

roof collapse SUKKUR (INP): At least four people died and several others were injured when roof of a two-storey house caved in on Monday

KARACHI (INP): Sindh received maximum rainfall in last 24 hours as monsoon with few heavy falls likely wet spell continuing in the country, Met Office on Monday. According to weather report Padidan received 120mm rainfall, Dadu 75mm, Mirpur Khas 72mm, Surjani Town in Karachi 20mm rainfall.

Moreover, Murree re-ceived 45mm rainfall, Khanpur 42mm, Katchehry in Rawalpindi 26mm, Chaklala 22mm, Bokra in Islamabad 24mm, Zero Point 21mm and Astore in Gilgit-Baltistan received 38mm rainfall during last 24 hours. Monsoon currents continu-

try. Dust-thunderstorm/rain with few heavy falls likely in Jamshoro, Dadu, Qambar-Shahdadkot, Noshahro Feroze, Jacobabad, Feroze, Shikarpur, Larkana and Kashmore districts till July 25 night

Isolated heavy falls likely in Karachi division, Sukkur, TharParker, Umerkot, Mirpur Khas, Badin, Thatta, Sujawal, Shaheed Benazirabad. Matiari Hyderabad Tando Allahyar, Tando Muhammad Khan, Sanghar, Khairpur and Ghotki districts till early morning 26 July with occasional gaps, the Pakistan meteorological department ously penetrating in Sindh (Met Office) forecast.

vable) in Nagarparkar district Tharparkar. According to a Public Notice issued here, an advertisement published in various leading newspapers on July 22 and July 23.

#### Mayor LMC chairs meeting

#### to review **Muharram** arrangements

ARKANĂ (APP) Mayor, Larkana Municipal Corporation (LMC) Anwar Ali Nawaz Lohar has directed the municipal officers to make better cleanliness arrangements and give special attention to streetlights during the

Muharram days. This he said, while presiding over a meeting held here today to review the arrangements for Muharram, which was attended by Chairmen of Town Municipal Committees, union committees, Ulemas, Police officials, Municipal officers

# in Sukkur

due to rain. The incident took

place in Miandad Khoso area of Sukkur where roof of a house suddenly came down burying the residents under the rubble. Four people died in the incident and several others were reported injured.

affected during 2022 in Jacobabad district prosperous, and as an acknowledgement of love for Sindh, the ceremony for providing residential plot certificates under the Sindh Goth Abad (Housing Scheme) Act, 1987 and

#### funds for the construction of houses. In this regard, a ceremony was held in Jacobabad on Monday, Commissioner Larkana Ghanwar Ali Leghari, DC Jacobabad Muhammad Yusuf Shaikh, President

President PPP Ladies Wing Dr. Farkhanda, General Secretary PPP Jacobabad Arab Dayo and others, as per the instructions of the Sindh Government, distributed the certificates of Goth Abad among 500 women and men flood/rain victims

LARKANA: Umme Rubab Chandio is talking to media persons after court case hearing in famous triple Meĥar murder case by Sindh High Čourt in Larkana.

# **Commissioner Larkana**, DC Jacobabad distribute ownership certificates among the flood/rain victims

LARKANA (APP): In or- funds for the construction der to make the flood/rain- of houses in the affected affected families, who were area of the District.

The affected woman Rukhsana shared their thoughts and thanked the Sindh government, district administration and political leadership. She said that Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah came to their relief camp in October 2022 and promised to construct houses and give us the right to own property.

Commissioner Larkana and Deputy Commissioner said during the ceremony that this is the second historic decision of the Sindh government they are trying to provide funds for the construction of houses for the homeless flood/rain victims as well in the first phase in relation to the property rights and



test demonstration for acceptance of their demands, held in Larkana.

#### Two involved in robberies with fake pistol arrested

KARACHI (APP): Two alleged street criminals involved in robbing citizens with an artificial pistol were arrested red-handed by a team at Madina Colony police station on Monday.

According to police, a patrolling team of Madina Colony police station spotted two accused riding a motorcycle were robbing a citizen namely Azam Gul near 13D Road, Saeedabad area

The said team imme-diately arrested two identi-fied as Muhammad Raza alias Kamran and Anwar. The police recovered an artificial pistol and a motorcycle from their possession.

The arrested accused confessed to committing a number of robberies with the recovered fake pistol.

#### **FIA** arrests man for harassing woman in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD (INP): The Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Cyber Crime Circle, Hyderabad on Monday arrested a man

Ghufran Ali was blackmailing the woman by sending objectionable content to her on WhatsApp. The agency officials also recovered the cellphone as well as the SIM from the suspect.

#### Youth shoots dead woman

KARACHI (INP): youngster shot dead a woman in Karachi's Landhi area on Monday over unknown dispute, police said.

According to details, a vike rider youth along with a woman came to Landhi, shot dead the woman 9MM pistol after taking her off the bike and escaped

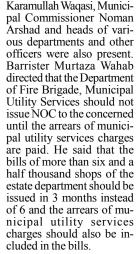
The body was of 40year old woman was shifted to hospital for postmortem where her identity was yet to be ascertained. The police have regis-

tered a case into the incident and conducted raids for his arrest

KARACHI (APP): Mayor implementation of the or-Karachi Barrister Murtaza ders regarding the payment Wahab has said that the of MUCT bills, he said. On this occasion Mayor Karachi Spokespertransfer, mutation, purchase and sale of land and property under the management of KMC is subject to the son for Political Affairs payment of arrears of municipal utility services charges, the vacated shops of the State Department, KMC will be given through public auction and should

not be directly transferred to another person. He issued these instructions while presiding over the meeting of heads of departments in his office on Monday. He said that the per-

mission issued for signboards in the city should be cancelled if they did not pay the arrears. Department of Land, Katchi Abadies, Estates, Orangi Town Pilot Project ensure





SUKKUR: Rescue officials are busy in rescue operation after a two-storey building collapsed due to heavy rainfall, in Sukkur.

## Malteser Int'l delegation witnesses impacts of devastating flood in Sindh SUKKUR (APP): A delega-

tion of Malteser Interna-

tional Headquarters, under

the leadership of the head

of the Regional Groups of

Asia, Cordulla Wasser vis-

ited the Sindh Rural Sup-

port Organization (SRSÔ)

visit was to engage with the

flood-affected communities

and explore how the orga-

nization could support

them in building resilience

against climate change im-

pacts and identify new op-

ongoing projects' effective-

ness, and strengthen part-

communities to drive their

The purpose of the

on Monday.

tion initiatives.

On the occasion, Provincial Secretary Social Welfare Sindh, Dr Shereen Mustafa Narejo Chief Executive Officer (CEO), SRSO Muhammad Dittal Kalhoro, Regional General Manager SRSO, Dr Ghulam Rasool Samejo were accompanied by the delegation. They went to rural Sindh, the region hardest hit by the devastation of the flood. In the village Muhammad Nawaz Rind UC Bugro, the delegation portunities, evaluate the met the families grappling with the loss of homes and livelihoods. During their nerships with SRSO. The visit, they engaged with fefocus was on empowering male entrepreneurs involved in small-scale busiown development and ennesses through enterprise hance disaster risk reduc- development

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as giving rights to the ownership. They further said that in the first phase, more than 500 families of Jacobabad district have been given

ownership certificates under the Goth Abad Scheme and construction of new houses has started.

for harassing a woman. According to the FIA