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#### PM Shehbaz approves reforms, reconstruction of NTDC

ISLAMABAD (APP): for ensuring implementa- sible in the government de- mission and Despatch Prime Minister Shehbaz high level third and final meeting to review reforms in the power sector.

During the meeting, important decisions were taken about the transmission system of electricity and distribution compa-

The prime minister approved in principle reforms and restructuring of the electricity transmission system especially reform and reorganization of National Transmission and Despatch Company.

to finalize the recommendations for ensuring implementation of reforms and reorganization in this re-

He also set up a cell in crease exports. the Prime Minister House

tion of reforms in the power partments without a sys-Sharif Thursday chaired a sector. The cell would closely monitor the whole process.

Consider the would be ment," he added.

Federal ministers Ishaq

fans to low income consumers and another plan to provide electricity to the indus-

the power sector reforms. He directed that industries should be provided electricity at lower tariff to ensure economic progress and in-

'Reforms are not pos-

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf interacting with Naval

Heads of various Navies during 19th Western Pacific Naval Symposium

Nawaz Sharif had extended

hands of talks to Imran

Khan, Nawaz Sharif proved

through his action that he

gives priority to national

suffer heavily due to poli-

tics of resistance and narra-

tive, he stated. He had to

go to exile and his business

Bajwa had said that he had

not sent Nawaz Sharif to

London is correct, he re-

and his cabinet had sent

Nawaz Sharif to London for

medical treatment, he indi-

cated. Imran Khan had sent

his doctor to confirm either

Nawaz Sharif was unwell

or not. later all medical re-

What Gen (Retd)

He said Imran Khan

Nawaz Sharif had to

interest above all

was destroyed.

marked.

Nawaz ready to talk

to Imran national

interest: Rana

LAHORE (Online): PML-

N leader Rana Sana Ullah

has said Nawaz Sharif is

ready to talk to Imran Khan

private channel Rana Sana

Jllah said Thursday that

PML-N Quaid was ready

for talks with Imran Khan

and he proved it through his

Nawaz Sharif extended in-

vitation to Imran Khan for

talks when 126 days dharna

popularity among the people is zero but he has

got vote of resistance and

sympathy during general

inappropriate words

PTI founder was using

was underway.

He went on to say

He held Imran Khan

In an interview with a

for national interest.

tem of reward and punish-

He sought a report on Dar, Ahad Cheema, the project of his last gov-Muhammad Aurganzeb, ernment which was aimed at replacing high power consumption fans with low power usage fans.

Mutaullah Tarar, Sardar Attaullah Tarar, Sardar Awais Khan Leghari, Dr Musadiq Malik, Abdul Aleem Khan, former min-He also sought a comprehensive plan to provide ister for power Muhammad Ali, Deputy Chairman Planlow consumption power fans to low income consum-khan, member National Assembly Bilal Azhar Kiyani, Engineer Qamarul nization of National ansmission and Desch Company.

He formed a committee The PM said he himself would chair the Minister Rana Ihsaan Afzal, Chairman Board of Revenue, Chairman NEPRA and high level officers attended the

meeting.

During the meeting, participants were informed in detail about issues and reforms of National Trans-

PM summons

cabinet meeting

today

ISLAMABAD (INP):

Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif has summoned the

federal cabinet meeting to

be held on Friday (today)

in Islamabad to discuss the

current political, economic

and security situation in the

Shehbaz Sharif will preside

over the federal cabinet

meeting to be held at the

Prime Minister's office.

Important agenda items

will be approved during the

**SC** nullifies

EC decision on

suspension of

speaker BA

ISLAMABAD (Online):

Supreme Court (SC) while

nullifying Election Com-

mission (EC) decision re-

garding suspension of

speaker Balochistan As-

sembly (BA) Abdul Khaliq

Achakzai has restored him

der Justice Amin ud Din

Khan took up the case for

A 3-member bench un-

on his office.

Prime

meeting.

Minister

Company and different suggestions were pre-

Recommendations were also presented regarding the power distribution companies, their losses. privatization outsourcing.

The meeting was also informed about tariff rationalization and power tariffs for industries and domestic consumers Different suggestions

were put forth for utilization of electricity for cooking by domestic consumers instead of gas.

The prime minister appreciated the briefing and said the approved reforms should be implemented in the stipulated time.



ABBOTTABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif offering condolences to the family members of Pakistan Customs Inspector Husnain Ali Tirmazi Shaheed in Abbotabad.

Resolves to eliminate smuggling

#### PM launches Shuhada Package for martyred federal govt officials

ABBOTTABAD (APP): of smuggling.

Prime Minister Offering Fatcha for Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday launched the Shuhada Package to support the families of the federal government officials martyred in the line of duty.

The prime minister announced the package during his visit to the family of late Customs Inspector Syed Hasnain Ali Tirmizi, who was martyred in a firing incident in Dera Ismail Khan a few days ago. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, PML-N leaders,

ficers were present. PM Sharif handed over a cheque under the Shuhada Package to the family of a martyred cusfamily of martyred personnel and assured his government's all-out efforts for the security of the customs officials serving to purge the country medical facilities.

and senior government of-

the martyred soul and sympathizing with the bereaved family, he said that the Shuhada Package, earlier announced by the Punjab government, had now been extended to the federal government and could be revised further considering the country's

financial position. The package comprises cash assistance, housing allowance, free education and medical treatment. Under the package, the family members of a martyred sepoy will get Rs 10 million cash assistance and Rs 13.5 million housing allowance besides free education and toms inspector will be entitled for a Rs15 million cash and Rs25 million housing allowance along

with free education and

#### Pakistan rejects US human rights report as biased

Contents of report are unjust, relying on inaccurate information and disconnected from ground realities, says FO

and politicized

Divorced from ground reality:

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- spicuous by its lack of ob- civilians. Silence of the kistan on Thursday categorically rejected the recently released 2023 Country Report on human rights practices issued by the US State Department terming its contents "unfair, based on inaccurate information and completely divorced

from the ground reality". Foreign Office jectivity and remained inherently flawed in their methodology.

domestic social lens to judge human rights in other countries in a politically biased manner. This year's report is once again con-

rights agenda," she added.

The spokesperson said the report clearly demonstrated the double standards thus undermining the international human rights discourse. She said it was deeply

concerning that a report purported to highlight hu-Spokesperson Mumtaz man rights situations its own human rights Zahra Bloch, in a state- around the world ignored framework, constructively ment, said that the US State or downplayed the most engage to promote inter-Department's annual exer- urgent hotspots of gross national human rights cises of preparing such un- human rights violations agenda and uphold fairness solicited reports lacked ob- such as in Gaza and Indian and objectivity in the in-Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir.

"These reports use a motivated report can ig-Gaza,

"Only a politically nore the alarming situation

massacre of over 33,000

jectivity and politicization United States on the conof the international human tinuing genocide in Gaza runs counter to the stated objectives behind the socalled country reports on human rights," she remarked.

The spokesperson reiterated that Pakistan remained steadfast in its commitment to strengthen ternational human rights discourse.

"If the US must engage in this exercise, then we expect the US State the Department to at least exweaponization of humani- ercise due diligence when tarian assistance and the conducting the assess-



Justice Qazi Faez Isa on Thursday said he had not received a single complaint from any high court judge about interference in judicial affairs since assuming

The top judge was addressing Sindh High Court Bar Association (SHCBA). He said no one has reported any meddling in the judicial process to him, adding that all the incidents were taken place before the start of his

tenure as CJP. He categorically stated that interference in judiciary was not acceptable but at the same time set the record straight that he had not received any such complaint

On March 25, six

High Court wrote a letter to the Supreme Judicial Council regarding the "interference of intelligence agencies in judicial mat-

The letter was written by Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani, Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, Justice Babar Sattar, Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan, Justice Arbab Muĥammad Tahir and Justice Saman Raffat Imtiaz. Later, the Supreme Court initiated suo motu proceedings on the IHC judges' letter and sought a proposal from the Pakistan Bar Council (PBC), the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), high courts and the federal govern-

ment to address the issue.

#### ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal chairs a meeting to review progress over CPEC Joint Group Works and upcoming 13 JCC. IHC suspends naan, roti price

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has suspended the notification of slashing prices of naan and roti in

cut notification

the federal capital. IHC Justice Tariq Mahmood Jahangiri took up the plea of Naanbai Welfare Association's president. In the plea, the Naanbai Welfare Association maintained that the controller general cut the price of roti rom Rs25 to Rs16 and naan om Rs30 to Rs20.

The association maintained that the concerned authorities did not take them on board befor e making the decision. He told the court that the decision was made without consulting them and that the new prices were too low. The district administration representative told the court that the controller of general prices and suppli ers was given powers to fix the rates of essential commodities including naan and roti. The powers were handed over to the controller general after amendment in the law. Barrister Umar Aijaz Gilani, the lawyer of the Naanbai association, in his arguments, said the powers of the controller general were not by Section 3 as per the notification issue. Rent and flour prices are high in Islamabad, he added.

#### Govt determined to eradicate terrorism: Attaullah Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar Thursday informed the National Assembly that the government was determined to eradicate terrorism from the country.

In response to a calling

attention notice regarding increase in incidents of suicidal bombing in different parts of country and increase in number of incidents of snatching, gunshots Hyderabad and Kashmore, he said, that following the Peshawar APS attack, the National Action Plan was devised with consensus among all stakeholders, and its implementation was promptly initiated.

mencement of two successful operations, Zarb-e-Azb and Radd-ul-Fasaad, aimed at eradicating terrorism from the country. Tarar said that after the

The minister said that

He highlighted the com-

provinces extended coop-

eration to the federal gov-

ernment in executing the

National Action Plan.

operations, a significant decline was witnessed in terrorist incidents in the country.

He expressed regret over the lack of meetings and implementation of the National Action Plan by the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governments led by Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) in 2018 to

#### 2 ring leaders among 3 terrorists killed in Khyber operation

security forces on Thursday killed three terrorists including two ring leaders during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Khyber District.

During the operation, an intense exchange of fire took place between the army troops and terrorists, which resulted in the killing of three terrorists in-

RAWALPINDI (APP): The cluding ring leaders Sohail alias Azmato and Haji Gul alias Zarkavi, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The terrorists' hideout was also busted during the operation, whereas weapons and ammunition were recovered. They remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the

#### that time but even then seen. Women are very hard working and are asset to society: Maryam

against Nawaz Sharif at ports of Nawaz Sharif were

CM addresses passing-out ceremony of lady constables



LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif appreciated women on Thursday as work superhumans as mothers, daughters, sisters and professionals.

Addressing the passing-out ceremony of lady constables at Police Training College Chung, she said: "Women are very hard working and they are an asset to society."

Marvam said, "The lady out and alert. I am happy to see that Pakistan has been blessed with so much talent. No one can imagine how hard women work; I salute all for their you.

dedication and commitment to work.'

The chief minister said, "I am happy that this time the police gave sword of honor to a young woman. My sisters, daughters! I am proud of you all.

She added, "The training of lady police constables has been conducted in line with the International best practices and modern requirements. It was a pleasure, indeed, to see the professionalism constables are very active of lady police constables undergoing training." She said, "If you need any kind of help for training at college, let me know. I am always there to facilitate

#### hearing Thursday. The court also nullified EC order for re-poling in 12 polling stations in PB-51 of Chaman. **IHC adjourns**

cipher case

hearing against

PTI founder

till April 20

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday adjourned hearing till April 30, on appeals against the conviction of PTI founder and former foreign minister Shah Mehmood

Qureshi in cipher case. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb heard the ap-

peal of two accused. Federal Investigation Agency (FIA)'s prosecutor Hamid Shah continued arguments during the hearing. The prosecutor said that the court has to look at four things in this case, did the copy of the cipher reach the accused or not? Whether the document was received by the accused in physical form or not?

#### ICC T20 World Cup 2024 trophy unveiled in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): The ICC T20 World Cup 2024 Trophy was unveiled here at the Shakarparian National Park on Thursday with a sense of excitement and anticipation. As it got unveiled, it was greeted by enthusiastic fans, eagered to catch a glimpse of the coveted trophy.

The trophy's three-day tour of Pakistan is a symbol

of hope and unity, bringing together cricket enthusiasts from all walks of life.

From Islamabad the trophy would travel to Abbottabad thus giving a chance to the city's fans to gather around and marvel at its sleek shimmering silver



In Pakistan, the trophy's final stop would be Lahore, the heart of cricketing culture. The trophy would be the centerpiece at the Gaddafi Stadium, during the last T20 International between Pakistan and New Zealand on Saturday. The trophy's presence would be a reminder that with hard work and dedication, the dreams of lifting the coveted prize could become a reality.

## Daily Aoice of Masse, Independent

#### Digital growth

Technology divides us. According to a new UNDP report on Pakistan, titled Doing Digital for Development — Access, Adopt, Anticipate, Accelerate, noticeable differences in human development can be seen between those districts that have embraced digital transformation compared to those that have lagged

The report, which underscores the importance of equitable and safe access to technology as an important means of improving human lives, places Pakistan in the category of countries where digital development can thus far be described as 'moderate' at best. Over half the country still has no access to the internet, and its women remain grossly underserved. Of the women who do have access to digital technologies, 83.5pc say their phone ownership is policed by their spouses or parents. Meanwhile, digital development among the richest 20pc of its population is 15 times greater than in its poorest quintile. Clearly, digital access has become a marker of privilege in Pakistan. This needs to be urgently addressed. Pakistan is already among the lowest-ranked countries in the UNDP's Human Development and Gender Inequality indices. It would appear that sound digital development policies alone can greatly strengthen its present dismal standing in these areas. It is encouraging, in this context, to note that Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal has described access to digital resources and modern technologies as a fundamental human necessity, just like electricity, healthcare or education.

One hopes that this belief is more commonplace at the policy level than it presently seems to be. Democratising digital development will catalyse a rapid, if not immediate, improvement in human development indicators for the underserved segments of the Pakistani citizenry. All that is needed is some creative rethinking about how they can be better integrated into the overall digital development scheme, especially in terms of ease of internet access. The government may, for example, consider an internet subsidy for underdeveloped districts. With policy debates on what Pakistan needs to re-emerge from its economic slump repeatedly hitting the resource-constraint wall, perhaps it is time our policymakers started giving more weightage to the role accelerated digital development can play in turning things around quickly and sustainably. Apart from erasing distortions in intradistrict human development, increased adoption of modern technologies will also help improve national productivity. Consider that next door in India, even roadside hawkers have adopted digital payment systems simply because they ease commerce for both buyers and sellers in myriad different ways. There is no reason why the ordinary people of Pakistan will not embrace similar digital-driven improvements in their everyday lives, especially if they are also backed enthusiastically by the government under a comprehensive digital development policy. The existing infrastructure may need improvements over time, but for now, a concerted push in the right direction is a good place to start.

## Impact of disinformation and deepfakes on journalism



By Muhammad **Mohsin Iqbal** 

'disinformation" has gained significant traction in the modern world, but the act of disseminating false or misleading information for the purpose of deceiving or manipulating is far from a phenomenon. Throughout history, di-

verse forms of misinformation, propaganda, and deceptive communication have been prevalent, shaping narratives and influencing public opinion across different cultures and periods.

5th Century BC, politiorators Alcibiades and

were Themistocles known for using persuasive techniques that sometimes-included exaggerations or selective presentation of facts to sway public opinion in their favor. Similarly, during the medieval period, monarchs, religious institutions, and rulers utilized manuscripts, artworks, and proclamations to control narratives and shape perceptions. Feudal societies witnessed lords and monarchs employing narratives and loyalty oaths to reinforce tion. hierarchical structures and cultivate loyalty among vassals.

ods saw the use of pam- ing nations.

phlets, newspapers, and ideas challenging established norms. However, it was during World War II and that disinformation and pro-

paganda emerged as lethal tools, blatantly used by various nations to tion, boost morale, and vilify the enemy. The ideological conflict of the Cold War further intensified these efforts, with both the United States and the Soviet actually did. Union engaging in extensive propaganda campaigns to influence global opinion.

With the emergence of television and global media, disinformation campaigns evolved into more sophisticated endeavors. Governments and non-state entities began using misinformation to pursue political objectives, contributing In ancient Athenian to the surge in dissemi-Democracy, during the nation of conspiracy theories. During this like era, Muslims and Islam faced heightened prejudice and discrimination fueled by unfounded

> propaganda disinformation. Fast forward to the digital age, the advent of the internet and social media has introduced fresh avenues for the swift transmission of information, encompassing both accurate and erroneous content. In contemporary democracies, there is growing apprehension about disinformation campaigns, fake news, and online manipula-

Instances have been noted where countries engage in false flag The Renaissance operations to tarnish the and Enlightenment peri- reputation of neighbor-

In this digital age, existence and potential books to disseminate where information and in shaping public opinion, the emergence of deepfake technology introduces a disconcerting dimension to the campaigns. Deepfakes shape public percep- refer to the sophisti- challenges posed by arcated use of artificial intelligence to create realistic video or audio content, often featuring individuals saying or doing things they never

One of the primary concerns is the ease with which deepfakes can be disseminated through social media platforms, where information spreads rapidly and is often consumed without thorough scrutiny. A manipulated video of a candidate could go viral, shaping public perception and influencing voter sentiments. The impact extends beyond its immediate release, as media outlets scramble to verify authenticity, leading to heightened atmosphere of suspicion and mistrust.

potential for deepfakes to target key moments in an election campaign adds complexity, overshadowing policy discussions and shifting focus to sensationalism. In the wake of these concerns, countering deepfake threats in election campaigns emerges as a critical imperative.

Policymakers, technology companies, and electoral bodies must collaborate to develop robust mechanisms for detecting and prevent- insidious offspring of ing the spread of disinformation, pose an

media play pivotal roles nerstone of resilience sual content to create itself. As trust in tradiagainst this new form of misinformation.

addresses the evolving vigilance and collective trust in institutions. action is clear. It's imperative to uphold the principles of truth and serve the integrity of

formation spreads at the racity of news has become increasingly precarious. The rise of deepfakes has unleashed a torrent of challenges for journalism, threatening the very foundations of truth and credibility.

Disinformation, the tion, has become a Furthermore, the weapon of choice for various actors seeking to manipulate public

With the proliferation of social media platwithin seconds, blurring the lines between fact and fiction. Journalists, once revered as gatekeepers of truth, against time. Yet, even and trustworthy jourwading through a quagmire of falsehoods, reality from propaganda.

Deepfakes, a more ceive and mislead.

integrity of democratic never did. From politipotential driven manipulation. As fabricate speeches, in-

transparency to pre- is multifaceted and pro- journalistic landscape. found. Firstly, they uning a climate of skepticlick of a button, the vecism and distrust. In an accountability. environment where misposes a threat to democsential for a functioning society.

Moreover, the proliferation disinformation and pact of disinformation deepfakes complicates and deepfakes on jourthe already daunting nalism is far-reaching forms, misinformation task of fact-checking. and profound. As socan reach millions Journalists are forced to ciety grapples with the navigate a labyrinth of implications of an indeceit, verifying sources creasingly digital and and cross-referencing interconnected world, information in a race now find themselves the most diligent efforts nalism has never been can falter in the face of sophisticated struggling to separate disinformation campaigns designed to de-

prevalence deepfakes. Educating even graver threat. disinformation and the public about their These sophisticated AI- deepfakes has pro- hoods.

generated videos ma- found implications for impact becomes a cor- nipulate audio and vi- the future of journalism hyper-realistic simula- tional media continues tions of individuals say- to erode, journalists are Safeguarding the ing or doing things they forced to grapple with existential questions processes demands a cians to celebrities, no about their role in socilandscape of election proactive approach that one is immune to the ety. How can they updamage hold the principles of wrought by deepfakes. truth and accuracy in an tificial intelligence- They can be used to age of rampant deception? How can they reelection campaigns un- cite violence, or even gain the trust of a skepfold in an era of deepfake sway elections, sowing tical public inundated technology, the need for discord and eroding with misinformation? These are daunting The impact of challenges that demand disinformation and innovative solutions deepfakes on journalism and a reimagining of the

In response to democratic institutions. dermine the credibility these challenges, news In an era where in- of news sources, foster- organizations must prioritize transparency and openly acknowledging information thrives, au- the prevalence of diences become in- disinformation and disinformation and creasingly cynical, deepfakes, journalists questioning the legiti- can begin to rebuild macy of even well-re- trust with their audisearched reporting. This ences. Moreover, colerosion of trust not only laboration between jourundermines the integrity nalists, technologists, of journalism but also and policymakers is essential to developing deliberate spread of false racy itself, as an in- strategies for combating or misleading informa- formed electorate is es- the spread of misinformation and safeguarding the integrity of the

Ultimately, the imthe need for reliable

Only by confronting these challenges head-on can journalists hope to fulfill their Furthermore, the essential role as guardians of truth in a world besieged by false-

## Commerce News

#### **Domestic wheat production** grew by 5.4%, 29.69 mln tons output estimated

Agriculture (FCA) was informed on Thursday that wheat production in the country during the current season (2023–24) grew by was estimated at 1.92 The FCA held 5.4 percent as compared to million tons from an area detailed deliberations over the output of the corresponding period of the last year.

The FCA met here with Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain in chair, which was also attended by the relevant federal and provincial authorities.

crops (2023-24), the Committee observed that wheat production for the

hectares.

crops, including onions, for 27.9% over the target the period under review of 0.122 million hectares.

The increase in production was 3.9%, whereas the area decreased whereas tomato season was estimated at 627.47 thousand tons from an area of 50.9 thousand hectares. The production While reviewing the performance of the Rabi commodity increased by commodity increased by 3.9%, whereas the area decreased by 0.3% over the

last year.

ISLAMABAD (APP): tons as the crop was sown was estimated at 8.1 The Federal Committee on over an area of 9.6 million tons from an area of 0.3 million hectares. The The output of other increase in production was

> assigned by the last FCA. the production targets for essential Kharif crops in 2024–25 and decided to fix the production target of 5.4% over the last year, cotton at 10.8 million bales, whereas the 8.7 production during the million-ton production target for rice is over 3.1 million hectares of land.

The maize target was fixed at 9.3 million tons of production over 1.5 million hectares of land

The Committee also fixed the production target of sugarcane for 2024–25 current season was estimated at 29.69 million production for 2023–24 area of 1.3 million hectares.

# ISLAMABAD: High-powered Federal Committee on Agriculture (FCA) mandated to oversee strategic measures for ensuring

food security in the country, held its meeting under the Chairmanship of Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research.

#### **Action taken against** officers not recovering 85% tax: Secretary

SARGODHA (APP): Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control (ET&NC) Punjab Secretary Masood Mukhtar has said that action has been taken against the officers who did not meet the target of 85% taxes recovery across the

province.

He expressed these views during a surprise visit to the Excise and Taxation office Sargodha Division, here on Thursday. The Secretary said that Excise and Taxation Officers (ETOs) would have to go to the field themselves whereas Khushab and district Bhakkar would be monitored closely.

He said that he had already issued clear instructions to the divisional directors and ETOs of all districts to meet the recovery targets given by the government up to 100% in all circumstances. districts are required to recover 85% of their target

in May", he instructed.

He said that the districts whose recovery was not as per the target had been directed to monitor the recovery of ETOs of their respective the recovery of district districts on a daily basis.

#### WB Director urges 'bold' fiscal reforms for Pakistan's macroeconomic stability ISLAMABAD (APP): sustained economic growth fiscal

World Bank's (WB) Global Director for Governance traps of debt distress, Arturo Herrera Gutierrez on Thursday stressed the need for 'bold' fiscal reforms to address challenges Pakistan's debt distress and achieve macroeconomic stability.

Speaking at a lecture organized by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Gutierrez highlighted the urgency of sustainable fiscal reforms, drawing from international experiences

"Pakistan stands at a crucial juncture where it can either pave the path for

or fall into the recurring Gutierrez remarked. discussed annually.

historical economic faced by countries like Mexico in credibility and securing the 1980s and how these experiences shape fiscal strategies today.

Moreover. outlined the necessity of consistency over time to strong macroeconomic avoid the economic frameworks, robust debt management practices, and the establishment of attention the concerning institutional arrangements resurgence of debt distress to ensure discipline in fiscal policy.

required a comprehensive long-term strategy, not just balancing budgets

"These measures are critical for building access to financial markets," the WB director said while emphasizing the he need to maintain problems of the past.

He brought to the globally, particularly post-COVID-19, necessitating a Gutierrez re-evaluation of fiscal emphasized that ensuring sustainability approaches.

#### **Ahad Cheem lauds UNDP's cooperation**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Cheema on Thursday appreciated the role of Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the provision of critical assistance to Pakistan, especially during floods 2022 and support to the International Partners' Support Group (IPSG).

talking to United Nations alignment between UNDP Assistant Secretary General (ASG), Asia, and the Pacific, Ms. Kanni Wignaraja during a meeting here, according to press

statement issued by Economic Affairs Division Assuring government's commitment, he said government was looking forward to continue cooperation with

UNDP for bridging

financing gap in achieving Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs). The minister stressed that better visibility of off The minister was budget projects and projects and national development objectives were essential in achieving Sustainable Development

#### Meta delegation calls on Shaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): A two-member delegation of Meta called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja in her office on Thursday.

The delegation comprised Dania Mukhtar, Head of Public Policy for Pakistan at Meta and Taabeer Ather, Manager Public Policy for Pakistan.

The discussed in details responsible use of social media platforms, said a news release.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with Keith Svendsen, CEO of APM Terminals, accompanied by Ambassador, Ambassador Jakob Linulf.

#### Faysal Bank unveils strong financial results for the Q1'24

Faysal Pakistan, continued with its growth stride during 6.5 billion as compared to Q1 2023. Earnings per share increased from Rs. 2.12 to Rs. 4.29, while the Bank also declared an interim cash dividend of Rs. 1/- per share, i.e. 10 percent, saod a news release here on Thursday. The total assets reached a new high of Rs.1.5 trillion,

with deposits increasing to

ISLAMABAD (APP): Rs.1.050 trillion and loan Bank book in excess of Rs. 603 Limited (FBL), one of the billion. Advance-to-leading Islamic banks in Deposit Ratio (ADR) was at a healthy 55 percent, while its Capital 2024, whereby the profit after tax doubled to PKR 6.5 billion as comparation regulatory requirement.

The sound financial performance and the strong balance sheet footing is reflective of the Bank's solid business fundamentals coupled with prudent risk management practices.

It further solidifies the bank's position as a key player within the Islamic banking segment.

#### **PSX loses** 80 points

The 100-Index of compared

599,401,643 shares the last day. Some 389 recorded gains and 191 remained unchanged

## ISLAMABAD (APP)

Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Thursday shed 80.49 points, a negative change of 0.11 percent, closing at 71,971.40 points against 72,051.89 points the previous trading day. A total of 798,527,177 shares valuing Rs.27.542 billion were traded during the day

valuing Rs. 24.459 billion companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 173 of them sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 25

#### Kazakh envoy stresses quantum jump in bilateral trade

FAISALABAD (APP): business-to-business The business community must avail all opportunities to give quantum jump to bilateral trade between to fully exploit the Pakistan and Kazakhstan, said Yerzhan Kistafin, ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Addressing a selected gathering at the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), he said that both countries were enjoying cordial relations, the business community must translate these ties into economic

termed the Belarus.

(B2B) contacts brother-tobrother relations and said that it had paved the way untapped potential. He said that three cities of Pakistan had already been declared sister cities of Kazakhstan and now Shymkent has been declared sister city of Faisalabad because of their similarities in textile. He urged textile exporters to invest in this city to directly capture the five Eurasian countries including Russia and

#### CM KP chairs meeting on **CRBC** Left Canal project

development program,

government also pledging Rs. 10 billion in the

federal

Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur, chaired a meeting on the CRBC Left Canal Project on Thursday and decided to issue the project tender by July of

The meeting was attended by officials from relevant provincial and government departments.

During the briefing, the participants were informed that an agreement had been reached between the federal and provincial governments on previously finalized project implementation details. Briefings were provided various aspects of the

road in Abbottabad.

while upholding the success of Rana Bilal Ijaz

of Sunni Ittehad Council

(SIC) from National

Gujranwala has declared

illegal the Election

notification for recounting.

notification for recounting

on PML-N candidate

EC has issued

It has been maintained illegal.

Assembly

constituency

Commission

application.

upcoming fiscal year's PSDP for the project. According to the briefing, funds for the project will be shared from the federal government and 35% from the provincial government. Approximately 286,000 acres of barren land will be irrigated through the Left

ABBOTTABAD: Workers of Water and

Sanitation Services Company Abbottabad

(WSSCA) are cleaning and collecting solid waste

during cleaning drive campaign at the Main KKH

Order for recounting cannot

be given after issuance of

forms, 47, 48 and 49: LHC

Lahore High Court (LHC) recounting cannot be while upholding the conducted after issuance of

NÀ-81

(EC)

(Online): in the written order

forms 47, 48 and 49. The

notification for counting of

votes could be issued

decision EC notification in

connection with re-

counting has no legal

standing. The court

declares null and void EC

notification for re-

counting. Notification of

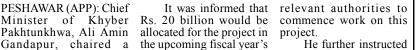
issued on March 18 is

Qayyum recounting which was

According to written

during election process.

Canal Project. The meeting also decided to initiate another project to irrigate an additional 90,000 acres by relevant authorities on of land in southern districts. The Chief project during the meeting. Minister instructed



Friday April 26, 2024

them to ensure the completion of all necessary arrangements for tendering the CRBC Left Canal Project by July of the current year. The Chief Minister emphasized that the CRBC Left Canal Project is indispensable for the food security of the province and highlighted its importance for the country's food security. He stressed the need for early completion without any further delay. The Chief Minister stated that the provincial government would provide funds on a priority basis for projects, considering the economic viability of the project.

#### Collective efforts needed to curb terrorism: **Barrister**

**Independent Report** 

ESHAWAR: The recent spike of targeted attacks on security forces, customs and police in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, is a national issue which must be addressed with collective efforts, said Barrister Dr Saifhere on Thursday. "We can overcome and eliminate the menace of terrorism with united efforts, Barrister Dr Saif said. K h y b e r Pakhtunkhwa Chief

Minister's Advisor on Information and Public Relations Barrister Dr Saif further said that terrorism is our country's serious matter and police, security forces and law enforcement agencies are fighting war against terrorism with available resources. Hundreds of civilians and security forces have lost their lives during the recent terrorists attacks, he added. Police and security forces are vigilant and determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism, he said. He said such sacrifices of law enforcement and security agencies would further

strengthen our resolve.



vehicles for checking stale meat in the office of Punjab Ford Authority in the provincial capital, along with DG Food Authority, Asim Javed and others in the Provincial Capital.

#### Minister launches special 'Meat Safety Task Force' in Punjab Food Auhtority LAHORE (APP): Puniab all districts including

Punjab Food Authority (PFA), here on Thursday.

The force would consist of meat specialist doctors to ensure detailed inspection of meat, being supplied across province.

While talking to the media, he said meat safety teams would conduct detailed inspections of slaughter houses, frozen meat units, meat shops, and meat processing units on daily basis. The force will also check the meat supplied at the entry points and meat markets of

Food Minister Bilal Yasin Lahore. A complete record launched a special 'Meat
Safety Task Force' in the
Punjab Food Authority

Lambic Accomplete record
of traceability of meat
coming from poultry
farms, slaughterhouses will also be compiled and strict checking of entry points will be ensured in the morning hours.

The Food Minister said that Punjab Food Authority discarded 60 thousand kg of substandard meat during checking of meat shops and entry points in a few days. He said that elements hostile to health will never be allowed to do business and continuous checking is going on to ensure quality milk, meat and food.

#### Complete digitalization of EPI in progress; efforts on to maintain cold chain: Qasim

**Independent Report** PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Health, Syed Qasim Ali Shah Thursday said that efforts are underway to completely digitalize Expanded Programme Immunization (EPI) besides

maintaining the cold chain

to ensure the supply of

These views expressed by Syed Qasim Shah while speaking as chief guest at a ceremony held here on Thursday to commemorate 50 years of the EPI programme. During the ceremony, Provincial Health Minister paid special tribute to Prof Dr Ashfaq Ahmad Khan (Late) for being the founding vaccines in every nook and corner of the province. father of paediatrics.

#### FC man shot dead in Bannu

PESHAWAR (APP): An official of Frontier Constabulary (FC) was shot unknown motorcyclists in the Janikhel area of Bannu district on Thursday. Police said FC personnel, Abid Ullah was on leave from duty and was on the way home after working in his fields when armed motorcyclists shot him dead.

information, the police force arrived at the scene and collected evidence for investigation.

The Body of the deceased FC personnel was shifted to the hospital for medico-legal procedure Police have launched a search operation in the area to arrest the perpetrators involved in the killing.

#### Nine dead, **1,318** injured in Punjab road accidents **Independent Report**

LAHORE: Nine persons were killed and 1,318 others injured in 1,276 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

As many as 607 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 711 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical

#### PHC seeks details of registered cases against KP CM

PESHAWAR (APP): A Investigation Reports two-member bench of (FIRs) in Dera Ismail Khan Peshawar High Court region while the National comprising Justice Shakeel Ahmed and Justice Dr Khurshid Iqbal on Wednesday sought details of registered cases against Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Ali Amin Gandapur by anticorruption watchdog.
The counsel of Ali

Amin Gandapur had filed an application in the high court for details of cases.

Additional Director Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) told the court that there were two inquiries against Ali Amin, in the Dera Ismail Khan region. The police representative said that there were six First to political cases.

Accountability Bureau (NAB) prosecutor informed about one case against the KP CM. Counsel for petitioner Arshad Ali told the court that Anti-corruption officials have not yet submitted their response Justice Shakeel Ahmed wondered how the anticorruption department could not respond to the government. The Advocate General replied that an important meeting was scheduled for April 29 in which all the stakeholders including the police chief would be invited to take important decisions related



Haji Ghulam Ali is being presented Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Public Service Commission Annual performance Report 2023 by the Chairman KPPSC Mr. Sikandar Qayoum at Governor's House.

#### WWB directed to identify board's land for revenue generation

**Independent Report** PESHÂWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Labor, Fazal Shakoor Khan has directed Workers Welfare Board (WWB) to identify commercial land of the board sand utilize it for

revenue generation. He issued these directives while chairing meeting of WWB held here on Thursday. He also directed to form a committee comprising institut three members from WWB WWB.

to compile ideas and suggestions regarding land identification and sought a report within two week time. He said that construction of plazas, shops and parks on the commercial land would play a vital role in revenue generation for WWB. On the occasion, the minister was briefed about vocational, technical and general educational institutions working under

## International News

#### 155 killed in Tanzania as heavy rains lash East Africa

Monitoring Desk TANZANIA: At least 155 people have died in Tanzania as torrential rains linked to El Nino triggered flooding and landslides, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa

said on Thursday. Tanzania and other countries in East Africa a region highly vulnerable to climate change — have been pounded by heavier than usual rainfall during the current rainy season, with dozens of deaths also

reported in Kenya. Majaliwa said more than 51,000 households and 200,000 people have been affected by the rains, with 155 fatalities and 236 injured.

"The heavy El Nino rains, accompanied by strong winds, floods, and landslides in various parts of the country, have caused significant damage," Majaliwa told parliament in Tanzania's capi-

crops, homes, citizens' property, and infrastrucbridges, and railways," he

El Nino is a naturally occurring climate pattern typically associated with increased heat worldwide, with the forecast for more heavy rains across the the world and heavy rains said people living in the elsewhere, and can have a most vulnerable areas devastating impact in East

months of relentless rains.

Kenya since the start of the rainy season in Rigathi Gachagua told a March, including 13 who lost their lives in flash Meanwhile, the UN floods in the capital Nairobi this week.

Kenyan President William Ruto convened an emergency multi-agency meeting on Thursday to "These include loss respond to the crisis after since April 19.

of life, destruction of torrential rains triggered floods that caused chaos across the city, blocking ture such as roads, roads and bridges and engulfing homes in slum dis-

Kenyans have been warned to stay on alert, with the forecast for more drought in some parts of country, while officials would be relocated.

"The government will In Burundi, one of the do whatever it takes, appoorest countries on the planet, around 96,000 people sources in terms of money have been displaced by and personnel to make sure that lives are not lost In addition, about 45 and the people of Kenya people have been killed in are protected from this di-

> humanitarian response agency OCHA said in an update this week that in Somalia, the Gu (April to June) rains are intensifying with flash floods reported

#### US high school students accuse school of censoring speech

**Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: Some US students at Washington, D.C.'s Jackson-Reed High

School filed a lawsuit on Wednesday alleging the public high school's administrators censored them by prohibiting pro-Palestinian events. The lawsuit said administrators treated the Arab Student Union, a student club at the high school, differently from other groups like the Black Student Union and the Asian Student Union by restricting its activities. "For the past four months, it [the Arab Student Union] and its members have been trying to engage in expressive activities at the high school - showing a documentary film, putting up posters, distributing literature, presenting a cultural programme – but have been stopped at every turn by the school administration.



French President Emmanuel Macron delivers a speech on Europe in the amphitheatre of the Sorbonne University in Paris, France.

#### Israel pummels Gaza after US approves military aid

**Monitoring Desk** GAZA STRIP: Israeli warplanes pounded the northern Gaza strip for a second day on Wednesday in a fierce assault that has shattered weeks of comparative calm, and Israel said it was moving forward with plans for an all-out assault on

Rafah in the south. The renewed attacks came after the US Congress approved \$13 billion in military aid for Tel Aviv.

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said the package already passed by the House of Representatives sent a "strong message to all our enemies" in a post on social media platform X.

Even though Western countries, including the United States, have pleaded with it to hold back from attacking the city on Gaza's southern edge, aspokesperson for PM

Benjamin Netanyahu's government said Israel was 'moving ahead" with its plans for a ground operation on Rafah, but gave no Senate's approval of the aid timeline.

#### Gaza could surpass famine thresholds in six weeks, UN official says

**Monitoring Desk** GENEVA: The Gaza Strip could surpass famine thresholds of food insecurity, malnutrition and mortality in six weeks, an official from the World Food Programme said on Wednesday (Apr 24). "We are getting closer by the day to a famine situation," said Gian Caro Cirri. Geneva director of the World Food Programme (WFP), "There is reasonable evidence that all three famine thresholds - food insecurity, malnutrition and mortality - will be passed in

backed report published in March said that famine was imminent and likely to occur by May in northern Gaza and could spread across the enclave by July. On Tuesday, a US official said the risk of famine in Gaza, especially in the north, was very high. Cirri was speaking at the launch of a report by the Global Network Against Food Crises, an alliance of humanitarian and development actors including United Nations agencies, the World Bank.

#### Taliban govt joins climate change talks for first time **Monitoring Desk**

KABUL: The Taliban gov ernment has entered the first stage of discussions with the United Nations, donors and non-governmental organisations. over the impact of climate change in Afghanistan, organisers said on Wednesday.

After four decades of war, Afghanistan is ranked as one of the countries least prepared to tackle the effects of climate change that are spurring extreme weather conditions and warping natural environments.

#### 4 injured as cavalry horses run amok in London

**Monitoring Desk** LONDON: A number of

military horses, including one covered in blood, ran amok on the streets of central London and injured at least four people on Wednesday. The horses belong to

the Household Cavalry which acts as the British monarch's official bodyguard and takes part in ceremonial duties.

They are garrisoned at Hyde Park barracks, less than a mile away from Buckingham Palace.

#### Blinken calls for US, China to manage differences

**Monitoring Desk** 

of State Antony Blinken called on Thursday on the United States and China to manage their differences "responsibly" as he went on a charm offensive ahead of expected tough talks.

A day before meeting Beijing's top brass to tackle thorny issues including Russia, Taiwan and trade, Blinken's visit to Shanghai has seen him sample local food, watch a basketball game and stroll along the city's famous Bund promenade. Visiting the local Communist Party leader in a room with sweeping views of the Shanghai skyline, Blinken said US President Joe Biden was committed to "direct and sustained" dialogue between the world's two largest economies after years of mounting tension.

to underscore the value — serving briefly in the city.

in fact, the necessity - of direct engagement, of speaking to each other, laying out our differences, which are real, seeking to work through them, Blinken said.

'We have an obligation for our people — in-deed an obligation to the world — to manage the relationship between our two countries responsibly.

The Chinese Communist Party secretary for Shanghai, Chen Jining, welcomed Blinken partly in English and spoke of the importance of US busi-

nesses to the city. 'Whether we choose cooperation or confrontation affects the well-being of both peoples, both countries and the future of humanity, Chen told him. The country's financial capital, Shanghai is often a stepping stone to power in China, with Presi-"I think it's important dent Xi Jinping previously

#### 'Europe could die,' Macron warns, as he calls for stronger defences

Monitoring Desk PARIS: President

Emmanuel Macron appealed on Thursday for stronger, more integrated European defences and said the continent must not become a vassal of the United States, as he outlined his vision for a more assertive European Union on the global stage. With just three years

left of his second and final term in office, and having lost his parliamentary majority in 2022, Macron, 46, wants to show his critics that he retains the energy and fresh thinking that helped propel him into the presidency in 2017 and that he has not become a lame

duck leader. "There is a risk our Europe could die. We are not equipped to face the risks," Macron said in his speech at the Sorbonne University in Paris, warning that military, eco-

pressures could weaken and fragment the 27-nation EU.

Macron said Russia must not be allowed to win in Ukraine, and he called for a boost in Europe's cybersecurity capacity, closer defence ties with post-Brexit Britain, and the creation of a European academy to train high-ranking military personnel.

There is no defence without a defence industry ... we've had decades of under-investment," he said, adding that Europe-ans should give preference to buying European military equipment.

'We must produce more, we must produce faster, and we must produce as Europeans," he

Macron said Europe risked falling behind economically in a context where global free-trade rules were being challenged nomic, trade and other by major competitors.

## U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets with Shanghai Party Secretary Chen Jining at the

Grand Halls in Shanghai, China. Russia vetoes a UN resolution

calling for the prevention of a dangerous nuclear arms race in space member Security Council **Monitoring Desk** 

UNITED NATIONS: Russia on Wednesday vetoed a U.N. resolution sponsored by the United States and Japan calling on all nations to prevent a dangerous nuclear arms race in outer space, calling it "a dirty spectacle" that cherry picks weapons of mass destruction from all other weapons that should also be banned.

was 13 in favor, Russia opposed and China abstain-

have called on all countries not to develop or deploy nuclear arms or other weapons of mass destruction in space, as banned under a 1967 international treaty that included the U.S. and Russia, and to agree to the The vote in the 15- need to verify compliance.

The resolution would

**Pro-Palestinian** 

#### People are getting nothing, will we go on paying all the money in salaries: CJP

KARACHI (Online): Chief don't know have you any project. Later it returned the Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has remarked 'talk about the people. They are getting what. Roads, water and electricity, what they are getting. Will we go on paying the entire money in salaries..

CJP gave these remarks while presiding over Supreme Court (SC) bench comprising Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan during the hearing of petition against sacking of contract employees of Hyderabad Development Authority (HDA) here in Karachi registry of SC

The petitioner had taken plea in the court that "I was not contract employee but I was regular employee. I was employee

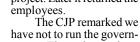
Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail remarked was all the procedure followed in your appointment. We degree or otherwise. The court remarked

you were contract employee. Read the appointment letter. The CJP Qazi Faez Isa remarked we know what is done in committee. List comes that these have to be appointed. The CJP observed only employees are being appointed. Where they are serving the people. we will see what the govdoing. Only people are bejobs. Only salaries are be-

He further remarked government has not four done it. annas to do some thing. Only it is said we are serving. Government jobs are given to those who are not competent for them. why should the burden of illegal appointments be shifted to people of Sindh.

ing paid to the employees.

ernment itself launched the thing cannot sustain.



ment. They themselves should run the government. The counsel said the appointments were made under the package of president and governor.

The CJP remarked what powers president and governor have. had they their own money. We will ernment departments are not allow if constitution is violated. How the powers ing filled in government came to the president to distribute the money to whom he wants. when it had taken place. Who had

> The counsel told appointments were made durng the tenure of former president Gen (Retd) Pervez Musharraf. Package

CJP Qazi Faez Isa remarked when the founda-The counsel for the tion of some thing is wrong petitioner took the plea gov- then it happens so. The

ISLAMABAD (Online)

Islamabad Police Sved Ali

Nasir Rizvi has said Police

will be equipped with the

modern technology.

During a visit to Safe

City project in Islamabad,

he said Police will digitalize

said that Safe City

Islamabad will be made the

best model of Pakistan. He

said no area in Islamabad

should be hidden from the

eral Police said advanced

drones will be added to Safe

**DG** Libraries

inaugurates

third day of

book fair

SLAMABAD (APP)

The Director General of the

Department of Libraries.

Muhammad Arshad on

Thursday inaugurated the

third day of a three-day

book fair organized by the

Islamabad Capital Territory

with Muhammad Arshad's

insightful introductory re-

marks, followed by

Sardar Irshad Shaheen's

thought-provoking review of his book entitled

"Physics and Sufi Cos-

mology: Creation of Uni-

verse and Life In the Light

of Science and Philosophi-

bridged the gap between

science and spirituality.

Attendees left the session

enriched and inspired.

The day three began

(ICT) Administration.

The Inspector Gen-

eve of the camera.

City project.

Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi

Inspector

its processes



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq planting a sapling of Magnolia Grandiflora in front of Parliament House.

#### President stresses joint efforts to control Malaria

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday urged all provincial governments and stakeholders to collaborate in controlling the spread of malaria and make Pakistan a Malaria free country.

"I urge our healthcare providers both in the public and private sector, the non-governmental organizations, private entities, philanthropists, community leaders, media and other stakeholders to raise awareness about the Malaria control issues but also in alleviating the sufferings of ailing human beings through improved diagnostic and therapeutic procedures," the president said in a message on World Ma-

He said the day which Malaria Programme's new is observed every year on April 25, is a reminder of the need to undertake concerted efforts in raising awareness and finding solutions to meet the growing challenges to control Malaria in the endemic areas of the country. Malaria is preventable, easy to diagnose and treatable, which entails

stakeholders. The global theme for WORLD MALARIA DAY 2024 is "Advancing health equity, gender equality and human rights".

He said the government of Pakistan is committed to cater to the health needs of the population and is committed to implementing the Global

initiative, T3 Strategy TEST. TREAT. TRACK. This initiative is built

on the principle that every suspected Malaria case is tested, confirmed and treated with a quality-assured antimalarial medicine. It is also imperative that the disease is tracked through timely and accollective efforts by all curate surveillance systems to guide policy and operational decisions, the president added. "I am pleased to note that the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination has made concerted efforts through the Common Management Unit-CMU Malaria to address various risk

#### Wafaqi Mohtasib team directs ETO to provide 1-window facility, awareness campaign

**Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: An Înspection Team from the Wafaqi Mohtasib's Office on Thursday visited the Excise and Taxation Office, Islamabad under the directions of the Federal Ombudsman, Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi, with a view to ascertaining the difficulties being faced by the general

tration of vehicles. Headed by a senior advisor, the inspection

there and listened to their

complaints for prompt

redressal. The inspection

team had submitted its re-

port to the Wafaqi

Mohtasib (Federal Om-

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Federal Minister for Law

and Justice, Senator Azam

Nazeer Tarar on Thursday

said the Capital Develop-

ment Authority (CDA) has

demolished the Islamabad

Tennis Club during it's anti-

encroachment action since

the establishment was built

Responding to Senator Taj Haider of Pakistan

People's Party Parliamen-

tarians (PPPP)'s query

pertaining to Islamabad

Tennis Complex which was

demolished by CDA late at

at a national park.

budsman), who directed places daily after 4 pm.

**Tennis Club demolished by** 

CDA amid anti-encroachment

action at public park: Tarar

that a one window facilitation desk might be established therein to provide all facilities to the public under one roof. The team was informed by the ETO Office that facilities relating to registration of the vehicles. transfer of registration and payment of token tax etc were currently available Online. Moreover, the ETO Office is also providing



Kasur. of Rs. 1900. It further inteam met with the people formed that the mobile teams from the ETO Office

are also providing the reg-

istration facilities to the

general public at the public

parks and other public

Senator Azam Nazeer

"If you write to the

Tarar said that the matter

was taken up to the Minis-

ter for Interior, whereas the

report would be issued on

the matter that would fur-

Interior Minister, the mat-

ter will be resolved. There

is no double standard

against any province. It is

not permissible to think like

that. We are here for fur-

ther support," he responded

to Senator Taj Haider in re-

sponse to his allegations of

discrimination to Sindh

province

ther reveal the facts.

#### DG kicks off tree plantation drive in ICT

ISLAMABAD (APP) The Director General (DG of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration, Flt. Lt. (retd) Asim Ayub on Thursday

kicked off a tree plan-Thursday.

ing in the project.

proaches. His presenta-

tion mentioned countries

with gross public debt is-

sues; notably, countries

like the US, Canada, Ja-

pan, and Pakistan, which

have debt-to-GDP ratios

exceeding 75%. Japan,

#### **IHC** accepts protective bail plea of

Sher Afzal ISLAMABAD (Online) Islamabad High Court (IHC) while accepting the protective bail plea of PTI leader Sher Afzal Marwat has restrained Punjab police from arresting him.

Justice Mehmood Jahangiri took up Sher Afzal bail plea for hearing Thursday.

During the hearing of the case Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri inquired Sher Afzal Marwat, have you left any place where case has not been reg-

istered against you. Sher Afzal Marwat told the court "My Lord cases are being registered against him all over the country. Case was registered against him for holding a public meeting in

The court inquired was this case registered in

tation drive by planting a sapling at the Department of Agriculture here on

According to the Spokesman of the Chief Commissioner Office. Nouman Nazir, the initiative was kicked off with an event at the Tarlai Center, where the Director General ICT and farmers participated in the event.

During the ceremony, the Director General spoke about the importance of planting trees to combat climate change. He encouraged everyone to get involved in the campaign and promised that the department would offer all possible support to local farmers participat-

## to ensure presence of their respective members in house

Mustafa directs chief whip

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, issued directives on Thurswhip to ensure the presence of their respective members in the house

He said that it had been decided to start the proceedings of the house at the announced time, underscoring the responsibility of the chief whip of all political parties to guarantee the attendance of their party members.

Hussain Aijaz Jakhrani and Noor Alam Khan also voiced concerns regarding the absence of ministers and officials of the ministers in the house. wheat price.

They urged the chair to issue directives to ensure

the presence of ministers. Shazia Marri of the Pakistan People's Party day instructing the chief raised concerns about the import of wheat despite Pakistan having bumper

She called for an investigation into the matter.

Syed Khursheed
Ahmed Shah requested a briefing on the privatization of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

The Deputy Speaker also asked the members to approach the office of the Federal Minister for Industries & Production. Rana Tanveer to attend meeting on the issue of



Change & Environmental Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam holds meeting with Asian Development Bank Mission led by Climate Change Specialist Nathan A. Rive at her office.

#### Court stops PTI founder, **Bushra to give statements** against state institutions

ISLAMABAD (Online): is responsibility of court. Accountability Court (AC) Islamabad has stopped PTI Founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi to give statement or talk against state institutions and their officials by way of gestur-

Judge Nasir Javed Rana of AC has issued big order on the petition of PTI founder in connection with

It has been said in the order that media should avoid publishing political and provocative narratives which target state institutions and their officials.

There is allegation PTI founder gave political, provocative and biased statements against the revered person of state institutions. Giving statements with reference to judiciary, Pakitantamount to disrupt the hibited to talk about the judicial decorum. Such statements act as impediment in the process of ad- code of conduct the politiministration of justice. Tak-

Jail authorities should restore jail court at its prior to Eid position.

The accused persons will not give political, provocative and biased statements with reference to state institutions and their officials through gesturing as well.

it was further said in the order media will keep its reporting restricted to court's proceedings. Prosecution, accused persons and their lawyers will not give provocative, political and biased statements during the hearing of the case which hurts court decorum. Family members and others lawyers and advisors who are present in the court will not make such statements. This order is conditional to PEMRA guide-

According to PEMRA cal statement of accused ing care of requirements of does not fall in legal reportcourt decorum and fair trial ing.

pending hearing cases.

#### **IGP** directs to expedite investigation of cases, warns strict action over negligence

**Independent Report** 

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi has directed to the investigation officers to expedite the investigation of cases, improve their performance and warned of strict action over negligence and carelessness. The IGP issued the directives in meetings with



AIG Investigation, SSP Investigation and SP Investigation during his visit to the Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) on Thursday. Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi on the occasion assessed

the performance of the CIA and issued important directives to the officers. Measures were taken to curb car theft by en-

hancing anti-vehicle lifting patrols in the city and apprehending car thieves to recover stolen vehicles, The IGP Islamabad issued strict instructions

to all officers to fulfill their duties with merit and justice, and to avoid any injustice towards any-

#### **SC** rejects contract employees plea for regularization service

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has dismissed the petition of regularization of contract contract employees of employees in Fisheries Fisheries Live Stock seeking regularization of their Justice Jamal Khan

the employees were employed for a specific project. Their jobs have been abolished due to abolition of project.

He gave these rehearing the petition Thurs- void

The case regarding Live stock came up for hearing before SC Thurs-The counsel said

Mandokhail has remarked Sindh government had passed the law for regularization of contract employees. Additional Advocate General (AAG) said the law under which they are demanding regularization marks during the course of has been declared null and

IG Islamabad says: **NACTA** organizes Police to 1st Annual Research be equipped with modern Conference technology ISLAMABAD (APP): and interventions that align

ISLAMABAD: Secretary BISP, Amer Ali Ahmad and Directing Staff of NIM,

Ms. Samreen Zahra, join the officers of 35th Senior Management Course

(SMC) for a group photograph during their visit to BISP Headquarters.

National Counter Terrorwith NACTA's mission and mandate to counter and preism Agency (NACTA) in collaboration vent extremism & terrorism UNODC organized a crucial Research Conference on 'Understanding Terrorism in Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) on Thursday. Speaking on the occa-

NACTA, Muhammad Tahir Rai, Imtiaz observed that the discussions and insights garnered during the conference will go on to serve as a rich repository of actionable

The insights offered will be translated into prac- Tanks, and Government tical policies, procedures,

conference brought together six distin-

in Pakistan.

guished subject experts from all over Pakistan and beyond to present their resion, the National Coordi- spective findings on this very pressing issue. The specific focus on NMDs Hilal-i-Shujaat and Sitara-i- helped address the critical gaps in the existing academic literature.

The Conference was attended by participants from all relevant stakeholders, including Universities. Research Institutes, Think organizations



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan in a meeting with Mir Tariq Bugtti.

#### **Nutrition Int'l donates** high-tech food lab to IFA for enhanced quality control

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Nutrition International has gifted a CDR Food Lab machine to the Islamabad Food Authority (IFA), promising faster and more accurate food inspections in

the Federal Capital. Talking to APP,
Deputy Director Operations (DDO) of Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) Tahira Saddique said that this high-tech equipment trition, made the donation would allow the authority during a ceremony in to check the quality of Islamabad.

cooking oil and milk more effectively, ensuring safer

food for the city's residents.

#### **Private education sector** demands allocation of funds for educational institutions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Muhammad Awan. Malik Abrar Hussain, the central president of All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association, had demanded the government of Pakistan to allocate handsome funds in the upcoming budget for private educational institutions to continue education for the chil-

dren of this country. Provision of facilities

is the responsibility of the

Government of Pakistan,

he expressed these views

in his statement released

to the media on the occa-

sion of meeting with se-

On this occasion. Malik Abrar Hussain said that private educational institutions are carrying the educational burden of the government and fulfilling the responsibilities for imparting education to the people with utmost care.

Under Article 25-A of the Constitution, it is the responsibility of the state to provide the children with good educa-

There is a need to support educational institutions which are providing education at a low nior leader Malik Deen cost.

cal Spirituality. Shaheen's exploration of the connection between physics and Sufi cosmology sparked curiosity and

She said that with the help of this machine IFA would overcome the big issue of rancid oil in the city and the department would be able to test oil on the spot through this mobile machine. Nutrition International, a global organization focused on improving nu-

PIDE talk: Gutierrez urges bold fiscal reform **Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: The Pa-

kistan Institute of Devel-Economics (PIDE) hosted a public lecture on "Sustainable Fiscal Reforms: International Experience and Applications for Pakistan," featuring Arturo Herrera Gutierrez, Global Director for Governance at the World Bank, as the keynote speaker.

At the core of his presentation, Arturo Herrera Gutierrez emphasized the urgent need for sustainable fiscal reforms in Pakistan. Drawing from international experiences, he highlighted the criticality of establishing a stable and sustainable debt path as a cornerstone for Pakistan's economic future. "Pakistan stands at a crucial juncture where it can either pave the path for sustained economic growth or fall into the recurring traps of debt disremarked tress. Gutierrez. In parallel, he context of economic chal-

sustainability requires a comprehensive long-term strategy, not just balancing discussed the historical budgets annually. These measures are critical for



1980s and how these experiences shape fiscal strate-Moreover, Gutierrez outlined the necessity of strong macroeconomic frameworks, robust debt management practices, and

the establishment of insti-

tutional arrangements to

ensure discipline in fiscal

policy. He emphasized that

ensuring

markets. The World Banker emphasized the need to maintain consistency over time to avoid the economic problems of

He brought to the attention the concerning resurgence of debt distress globally, particularly post-COVID-19, necessitating a re-evaluation of fiscal sustainability ap-

with a debt ratio of 252% of GDP and a low interest rate of 0.88%, contrasts sharply with Greece, which faces a higher interest rate of 3.55% despite a lower debt ratio of 168%. This indicates that the debt-to-GDP ratio is significant, but the sustainability of fiscal finances also sends a critical signal to the market, impacting interest rates. During the lecture,

Gutierrez imparted critical insights on sustainable fiscal policies across the globe, focusing specifically on how these strategies can be adapted to Pakistan's economic con-

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