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# PM directs for vital measures to reduce power price per unit for common man

#### Emphasizes maximising renewable energy utilization, improving transmission system

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed for drastic measures including shifting of imported coal-run plants, improvement in power supply system, setting up cost ef-fective and renewable energy plants, and functioning of solar projects to reduce cost of electricity per unit thus benefiting the ordinary

people. The prime minister chaired a high level review meeting regarding the power sector

The meeting was at-tended by federal ministers Ishaq Dar, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Ahad Khan Cheema, Attaullah Tarar, Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari and Dr

Mussadik Malik, former investment in this regard minister Muhammad Ali, Member of the National Assembly Bilal Zaheer Kiyani, Rana Ahsan Afzal, Salman Ahmed and relevant authorities, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister directed for shifting of the coalrun power plants from the imported fuel to local coal, duced price could be made besides improvement in the power supply system. He said that in future, only clean, cost effective and renewable power plants should be set up in the coun-

The meeting was ap-prised of the 600MW solar power project and the prime minister directed for expediting work on the foreign

The prime minister also asked for proposals for better utilization of the current surplus power generation capacity in industries.

He observed that wheeling price of electric-ity should be reduced for the industrial consumers so possible, besides for the industrial development and increase in export, grid stations should be installed

2013.

near big industries. The process of auction

of those power plants of Generation Companies (GENCOs) that were lying dysfunctional and defective should be accelerated. he further directed.



ISLAMABAD: President, Asif Ali Zardari congratulating Aseefa Bhutto Zardari on taking oath as Member of the National Assembly

### All evidence pointing towards Indian involvement in Lahore gun attack: Naqvi

LAHORE (Agencies): In-terior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Monday in-Tamba was at his

dicated that there was residence in Lahore's dicated that there was evidence of Indian in-volvement in the Lahore gun attack on Amir Sarfraz Tamba – the man who allegedly killed Indian pris-oner Sarabjit Singh in Xot Lakhpat prison in 2013. Kot Lakhoa tamba – the man who allegedly kore sarabju tamba – the man who allegedly killed Indian pris-oner Sarabjit Singh in 2013. Kot Lakhoa tamba – the man who allegedly kore sarabju tamba – the man who alleged

Tamba was critically He was rushed to a local hospital, where he injured in an attack on was being treated. The interior minis-

injured in an attack on Sunday, according to police officials. While media reports had ini-tially claimed that he was killed, Lahore Se-nior Superintendent of ter was questioned on Monday about the incident during a press con-ference at the Federal In-Police Operations Syed vestigation Agency's re-Ali Raza had clarified gional office in Lahore ings] that he was alive, al- and asked to comment same."

on the veracity of the reported Indian involve-ment.

"India was directly involved in two to four events like this before in assassinations inside

The police are still investigating but till now their suspicion is exactly the same as yours," he said in response to a reporter's questions.

"At this time, all evidence is pointing to-wards them (India), it is inappropriate to say more before the investigation is completed but the pattern [of kill-ings] is almost the

# China ready to strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation with **Pakistan, says Envoy** ISLAMABAD (APP): China has stressed for implementing a holistic ap-proach to pational security challenges for win-win re-

implementing a nonsuc approach to national security sults. The Ambassador said community with shared future. In an article, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Ambassador Jiang Zaidong said China stands ready to work hand-in-hand with Pakistan to defeat the evil attempt at disrupting our co-operation. He said we are also ready to work with Pakistan to safeguard development with security and to promote security with devel-

nent The Ambassador said we should take the promotion of international security as a support, and further enhance China-Pakistan counter-terrorism and security cooperation. Quot-ing the President Xi Jinping's vision of Global

we stand ready to work with Pakistan in jointly implementing the Global Security Initiative and building a peaceful and secure homeland.

Condemning the 26th March terrorist attack on Chinese workers in Pakistan, he called for taking resolute actions to crackdown on terrorists. He expressed hope

that Pakistani side will speed up the investigation of the incident, find out the truth, and severely punish the perpetrators

The Ambassador fur-ther said we should take economic security as foundation, and continue to promote the building of an security Initiative, he upgraded version of stressed that all countries CPEC.



**RAWALPINDI: Saudi Foreign Minister Prince** Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud received by Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar upon his arrival at Nur Khan Airbase

Anti-state elements circulating videos to malign state institutions, says ASF



level review meeting regarding power sector

**Development schemes should be** 

Pakistan.

leaving the victim in a pool of blood.

### completed with quality as soon as possible: Nasir Shah

#### Most of consultant companies performance is disappointing so review and terminate the contract: Provincial Minister

**Independent Report** KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Development and Planning Sindh Syed Nasir Hussain presided over a high-level meeting of the P&D Board that was held at the Sindh Secretariat today. In the meeting, there was a detailed discussion regarding the development schemes in the province. Chairman Development companies is disappoint-Board Engineer Syed Najam Ahmad Shah gave a detailed ing, so the performance of

briefing and told the meeting about the ongoing development projects in the province. The meeting was informed in detail about future development projects and planning. Minister Nasir Shah said that all development projects should be completed transparently on merit and on time.He said that the performance of most of the consultant

**KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Development** and Planning Sindh Syed Nasir Hussain presiding over a high-level meeting of P&D Board

#### **Chief Secretary paid** surprise visit of Jamshoro, suspended Executive Engineer

**Independent Report** KARACHI: In response to severe misconduct and a significant lapse in performance, Irfan Bouk, Executive Engineer (BS-18), currently stationed at the Public Health Engineering (Dev/ O&M) Division in Jamshoro, has been suspended with immediate effect. The decision to suspend Executive Engineer Îrfan Bouk comes following a thorough investigation prompted by reports of non-functional Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants under his jurisdiction. During a surprise visit by the Chief Secretary Sindh Syed Asif Hyder Shah in District Jamshoro, it was discovered that two RO plants were inoperable due to maintenance issues. Furthermore, concerns were raised by divisional administration reamong its personnel garding Mr. Bouk's irregu-

all consultant companies should be re-evaluated and the work of only those companies with good performance should be continued on merit while others are performing poorly, contracts of the companies should be terminated.

Minister added that safe city projects should be started at the divisional level, in this regard the concerned members of the assemblies should be taken onboard, they will be in-

cluded in this project and they should also be involved in the funding. Nasir Shah emphasized on this occasion that the schemes should be thoroughly reviewed and prepared in such a way that they do not need to be revised. In the case of revising, not only the expenses of the government increase, but due to the delay of the project, the people also have to face difficulties and problems, while it is part of the vision and manifesto of Chairman

Bilawal Bhutto that to make Sindh developed. Accident kills

#### child, her parents, siblings injured

lar attendance at his office, HYDERABAD (APP):An which significantly impacted accident between two mohis overall performance. torbikes on Hyderabad road Moreover, it was rein Jamshoro district on vealed that out of the 113 Monday claimed the life of RO/UF plants in District a 3 years old child and left

Jamshoro, only 30 were her parents and 2 siblings functional, indicating a wideinjured. spread failure in ensuring According to Jamshoro access to clean drinking wapolice, the family was travter for the local population. elling from a village in Additionally, numerous de-Unarpur area of Manjhand velopment projects remain taluka to Hyderabad when incomplete due to Irfan their motorcycle collided Bouk's uncooperative dehead-on with another twomeanor and lack of commitwheeler coming from the ment to fulfilling his offiopposite direction.

cial duties. This negligence The police identified has exacerbated the plight the deceased child as Nazia of the community, depriving Zardari. Majnu Zardari, them of essential public health Aalam Khatoon and their services and potable drinking sons Avaz and Nadir were water. The Government reinjured in the accident. The mains committed to ensurinjured were shifted to ing the efficient delivery of Liaquat University Hospipublic services and maintain tal in Jamshoro. ing the highest standards of The rider on the other

integrity and performance motorbike survived the accident.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Interior, Mohsin Raza Naqvi talking to media persons in Lahore

#### Petrol price hiked by Rs4.53 per litre for next fortnight

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD: The federal government has increased the price of petrol for next fortnight by Rs4.53 per litre in line with the hike in

the global oil rates. According to a notification issued by the Finance Division late Monday, the price of high-speed diesel (HSD) has also been increased by Rs8.14 per li-tre to Rs290.38 per litre.

The new fuel prices will be effective from April In addition to this, the

government jacked up the

tre. Similarly, the rate of light diesel has been in-creased by Rs6.54 to Rs174.34 per litre. "The prices of Petro-

leum products have seen an increasing trend in the international market during the last fortnight. The Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has worked out the consumer prices, based on the price variations in the international

market," read the notification. In the last fortnightly review, the federal government increased the price of petrol by Rs9.66 but it

slashed the price of HSD prices of kerosene oil by Rs6.69 to Rs193.8 per li-

**MQM-P** warns of taking to streets if crimes in Karachi not stopped

KARACHI (INP): Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Paki-stan (MQM-P) has warned of taking to the streets if the government fails to curb the rampant scourge of street crimes in Karachi.

"We would raise our voice [on the issue] in the Sindh Assembly and in the National Assembly [...] and would protest on the streets if our concerns are not addressed.' MQM-P's Ali Khurshidi said while addressing a press iference in Karachi.

His remarks come as Karachi has witnessed a sig-



nificant surge in street crimes in recent months which have resulted in dozens of injuries and fatalities.

Since January 1, at least 59 people have lost their lives while 200 were injured due to resisting robbery this year so far in the metropolis.

According to Geo News, as many as 6,780 crimes were committed in Karachi in the holy month of Ramadan alone in which 20 vehicles were snatched and more than 130 others stolen

#### Aseefa Bhutto takes oath as MNA

ISLAMABAD (APP) Aseefa Bhutto Zardari misleading. A spokesperson for ASF clarified that two older daughter of late former prime minister Shaheed videos depicting alleged Benazir Bhutto and sister misconduct by ASF personof Pakistan Peoples Party nel were being shared with (PPP) Chairman Bilawal the intent to incite and mis-Bhutto Zardari on Monday inform, as part of a planned took oath as a Member of conspiracy. the National Assembly (MNA). Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq administered the oath to her, who later signed the registration roll. were circulated on social media, one depicted a security person allegedly misbehaving with a minor girl, Aseefa Bhutto was

while the other showed a elected unopposed in the security person involved in by-election in NA-207 a scuffle with an enraged Shaheed Benazirabad. Her mob. father President Asif Ali Zardari had won the seat videos in question showed in the general election 2024 incidents that had already on February 8 and later vabeen addressed through cated it after his election as strict disciplinary actions. President of Pakistan.

#### Saudi FM arrives on two-day visit

ISLAMABAD (APP) Foreign Minister of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah, leading a high-level delegation, on Monday arrived here on a two-day visit.

Upon arrival at the air-port, the Saudi Foreign Minister was received by Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and other senior officials.

The Saudi Foreign Minister is heading a highlevel delegation comprising Saudi Minister of Water and Agriculture Eng Abdul Rahman Abdul Mohsen Al-Fadley, Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources Bandar Ibrahim AlKhorayef, Deputy Minister of Investment Badr AlBadr. Head of Saudi Special Committee Mohammad Mazyed Al Towaijri, and senior officials from Min-

istry of Energy and Saudi Fund for General Investments "The visit takes place

essentially to expedite follow up on the understanding reached between Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Mohammad bin Salman, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom done in the province to complete the target of of Saudi Arabia during their recent meeting.

KARACHI (INP): The Air pension from service Security Force (ASF) has through court martial prorefuted claims made against ceedings it in circulating social media videos, referred them

Two videos of ASF

According to ASF, the

Those involved faced

penalties in accordance

with the law, including sus-

The spokesperson emphasized that ASF operated under the Pakistan Army Act, with a robust system of accountability in place.

They reiterated ASF's commitment to a zero-tolerance policy towards any form of undisciplined behavior, noting that stringent actions were taken against individuals found guilty of misconduct.

The spokesperson attributed the circulation of these videos to anti-state elements aiming to malign state institutions and the Pakistan Armed Forces.

They highlighted ASF's unwavering dedication to its duty of serving the nation and ensuring the highest standards of discipline and professionalism. Individual involved in any misconduct were given exemplary penalties.



SUKKUR: Peoples Party (PPP) Senior Leader, Khursheed Shah talking to media persons after case hearing of alleged assets beyond means, outside Accountability Court

### Sindh demands increase in cotton support price

KARACHI (INP): The the low rate, the farmers are Sindh government has denot

sowing the cotton crop, Mahar said and added that ment to increase the cotton support price to help farmrice, cotton and other crops will be affected if Sindh fails to get its due share of water in the Khareef

season. Rejecting the three-dimension formula of IRSA for water distribution in Sindh, Mahar demanded to increase the support price of cotton. Today cotton rate in Pakistan starts from Rs8,000 to Rs9,400 per 40kg. Today the cotton price is 230 Rs Per Kg approximately. Cotton rates in every city are different.

The current cotton rate in Pakistan is an important factor for both the agricul-640,000 hectares. Due to tural and textile industries.

As one of the largest producers of cotton in the world, Pakistan's cotton rate has a significant impact on the economy and various sectors that rely on this commodity. Sindh Ag-Minister

iculture Muhammad Bux Mahar in his statement urged the federal government to increase cotton support price to Rs10 to 11,000 per 40kg. Sindh minister said 20pc picking of cotton is

manded of federal govern-

Page 02

OPINION

#### Daily **Independent**



Tuesday April 16, 2024

Iran's counterstrike

The Middle East, indeed, the entire international community, was on tenterhooks after Israel struck the consular section of Iran's embassy in Damascus on April 1.

While Tel Aviv has been striking Iranians and their allies in Syria for over a decade, faith in them. since the beginning of the Syrian conflict, this incident was different, and was seen by Tehran as a declaration of war.

It was the first time Israel hit an official Iranian facility, killing several members of the ered citizens and increased their expectations of what Sepah-i-Pasdaran, including two senior generals. Tehran's response to this provocation ing world. was expected, and it came late on Saturday, in another 'first' as the Islamic Republic rained a barrage of drones and missiles directly on Israel.

From here, it is into the unknown: either diplomacy and Slowly but surely, the signs de-escalation can kick in and of a global political and culbring the region, and the world, tural realignment are becoming apparent. Several back from the brink. Or a catacommentators trace the strophic conflagration can enorigins of this realignment sue, resulting in more devasto events of the last two and a half decades — the tation, bloodshed and global so-called war on terror and its impact on Muslim soeconomic misery. cieties, the global financial

Israel's Western friends crisis and the concurrent growth in Asian econoparticular the US and many mies, and greater migratory European states — have used flows, especially to the sanctimonious adjectives to West denounce Tehran's 'reckless' varied trends are clubbed together and summarised counterstrike, and have reiteras the end of neoliberal ated their 'ironclad' commitglobalisation. Trade wars between the US and China, ment to Israel's defence.

the fracturing of peace in The rest of the international Europe, the rise of rightwing nationalist and popucommunity, including UN Selist movements, the breakcurity Council members China down of the (admittedly) and Russia, have taken a more thin consensus on open approach, measured emphasising de-escalation. Pashow a world quite differkistan has also highlighted the ent to the one envisioned the world, rather than an need to "stabilise the situation by the Davos crowd in the 1980s and 1990s. and restore peace". The fact is that Israel, by attacking Iran's front, quite a lot has aldiplomatic facilities and violating Syrian airspace, is largely responsible for this dangerous situation. And its recklessness must be reined in. There was, of course, tremendous domestic pressure on feels like endless school the Iranian government to retaliate, and Tehran appears to turns to childcare. When have taken the pragmatic route by demonstrating its deterrence capability, while stepping that the West is grappling back from all-out war. Iranian and millennials are taking officials have said the matter is to TikTok in droves to "concluded", though top generals say if Israel responds, Iran working mothers and childcare as a Western will again hit back. This is a very dangerous ingly a Pakistani one. The moment for the international country must tackle it quickly if it is to be an community. Instead of mollyprosperous society. coddling Israel, the Western bloc needs to prevent it from has been good news on taking more provocative steps. If Tel Aviv does take further military action against Iran, to develop day care centhen all bets are off, and a fullscale war could be inevitable. comes on the back of a The path towards de-escalation spree of day care centre launches in Punjab in reis clear. Israel must immedi- cent years, including at ately end the slaughter in Gaza, which is the key driver of the the Day Care Centres current confrontation in the Bill, which requires work-Middle East. Moreover, it must cease its roguish acts of targeting sovereign states including Iran, Lebanon and Syria. If the West a positive precedent. keeps talking tough, it will embolden Israel and could drag symbolic acts amount to little in a country with a the US and Europe into a shooting war with Iran and its regional allies. This is what Benjamin labour participation rate Netanyahu may actually want, world, and well off our to take the world's attention own Vision 2025 target of away from the massacre in Gaza, childcare is a key driver and to fight Iran to the last American. Deft statesmanship ILO study, Pakistani is the need of the hour to prevent a devastating showdown.

# Governance & competent states

Maleeha Lodhi demic, this conversation The global debate over govintensified as assessments

ernance continues - what constitutes good governance and how it helps to determine the fate and forunes of nations

stant

cient iob than authoritarian It is axiomatic that efsystems, Fareed Zakaria, in fective governance and his book Ten Lessons for competent leadership are the Post-Pandemic World, what make the difference argued that while democrabetween successful and uncies had a better record, it successful states. Economic was a "competent, welldevelopment, in fact, defunctioning, trusted state" pends on good governance. and quality of governance And this, in turn, has much that were instrumental in to do with the quality of tackling the pandemic effecgovernance institutions, tively

their responsiveness to Similarly, the Ameripublic needs and people's can political scientist Francis Fukuyama asserted In an increasingly it was not the type of pocomplex world, governance litical system that deterchallenges have become mined capable management more daunting. New techbut an effective state. In a nologies have created un-2020 essay, he argued the precedented flows of incrucial determinant in effiinformation to cient crisis response is state heighten the challenge. capacity and trust in gov-ernment. "What matters in Technology has empowthe end is not regime type but whether citizens trust governments should deliver. their leaders, and whether But governments are seen those leaders preside over to lack agility in a fast-mova competent and effective state The international de-

were made of which coun-

tries managed the health cri-

sis better and whether de-

mocracies did a more effi-

The unsettled postbate on governance in the Covid period saw unprec-21st century has produced edented, overlapping chal-

ruefully,

These

that

a rich body of literature. lenges confront countries During the Covid-19 pan-across the world. This prompted the World Bank to call for reimagining governance. Its Future of Government report (2022) focused attention on the need for governments to tackle unresolved governance problems. tion

It saw the world at an inflection point due to growing demands, ecothese nomic headwinds and mistrust, as well as persistence of chronic failures such as the learning crisis and job insecurity. The report called for a new social contract supported by an elite bargain by which elites

committed to outcomes to benefit society at large and not just themselves. It proposed a "government of the future" with a clear vision of its role — innovative, trusted, prepared for crisis and responsive to the demands of citizens. Over the years, the

World Bank also advanced the governance debate by its efforts to evaluate and measure the quality of governance of countries. Its worldwide governance indicators represent a compilation of data that captures perceptions of the quality of governance in over 200

countries and territories. They measure six dimensions of governance ---voice and accountability. political stability and absence of violence/terrorism, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, rule of law and control of corrup-

In the global rankings based on assessment of evolved dimensions. Singapore, Finland, Norway and Denmark were among top performers in the 2022 rankings, with Pakistan among the bottom of governance" group of countries. A different contribu-

tion to the governance debate was made by an insightful book published some years back titled Intelligent Governance for the 21st Century: A Middle Way between West and East by Nicolas Berggruen and Nathan Gardels. The authors examined whether there was a need to reimagine government as

challenges. They argued political systems were not delivering effective goverthat polarisation, dysfunction, decay and ideological nance. They offered a comrigidity afflict governance pelling idea that both East and West should learn and systems in much of the adapt from one another to West. Without reform, eleccombine "knowledgeable toral democracy anchored in democracy" with "accounta consumer culture of inable meritocracy"

For the authors, the question was not if Westtowards "terminal decline" This is because it prioritises ern-style democracy would short-term interests, unmitigated by robust delibtriumph over rule by a meritocratic Mandarinate erative institutions, which rooted in China's ancient have become weaker and 'institutional civilisation", unable to pursue the public or the other way around. good. In the US, democracy Instead, they asked appears unable to self-corwhether a "middle way" rect. On the other hand, between them could be

China adopts a long-term By this, they meant finding a balance between governance perspective, can take tough decisions meritocracy and democand robustly implement racy, and between authorthem. China's operative ity and freedom to create system is predicated on the most "intelligent form the meritocratic tradition of learned and experienced They suggested drawing on the 'best pracelites and reflected in the modern Mandarinate of tices' from both to evolve the Communist Party. hybrid institutional ar-This enables it to chart a rangements that fused ellong-term path, which exements of popular democplains its extraordinary racy with the Confucian

rise. But the Chinese system is also under stress tradition of a learned and needs correction be-But they stressed the cause it "lacks accountability" and faces mountneed for reform in Western and Eastern political sysing demands from its people for democratic tems alike, as both faced checks on arbitrary authority and cronvism. This discussion leads

the authors to contend that the best attributes of both Eastern and Western systems can help to produce a template of "intelligent govstant gratification is headed ernance'

the rise of state interven-

tions in the economy, even

# iter neoliberalism

of political and cultural ideals whose task was to generate mass consensus, especially among the soof losers

A primary one was the ideal of liberal democracy, supposedly guaranteed globally by the US. The simple fact, though, is as the US), have switched that the commitment to to some variant of industhis ideal remained selectrial policy, especially in tive at best, contingent on key sectors like battery US foreign policy goals. and green technology and The West was comfortable semiconductors. In her reworking with dictatorships cent trip to China, US of all stripes as long as its Treasury Secretary Janet interests in a particular re-Yellen suggested, almost gion were guaranteed. the However, even this super-(neoliberal) mantra of free ficial consensus seems to trade championed by her be fraying. With the rise of far-right and populist and her predecessors in office had been detrimenmovements in the West, tal to American workers. democracy is eroding in its

economic supposed heartlands. Simultaneously, the shifts will become more apparent as countries (selective) success of auacross the Global South tocracies in generating borders, and the resurgence attempt to catch up using popular support and conof the state as a coordina- a variety of different interventionist approaches. Sean attractive alternative. lective engagement with

came armed with a range ing popular representation is a key ingredient in delivering growth.

In an insightful recent exposition, sociologist Cihan Tugal cites the case of Erdogan and Turkey's AKP, which have deftly used targeted state welfare, interventions in the economy and authoritarian politics to create a durable ruling arrangement. These arrangements have proven to be somewhat successful in limiting, though by no means finishing, challenges to its rule over the last two decades. Finally, the cultural

agenda of neoliberalism is also being challenged, both in the West and abroad. This agenda was based on the extremely selective cooptation of ideals of inclusion and representation. It found its clearest manifestation in places like the US, where check-box tokenism became the basic mode of dealing with racial and gensensus through economic der minorities without any politics, but also with insularity, and the ongoing growth makes them seem actual accompanying reordering of economic and soand sexual politics that are cial hierarchies The slowdown of conservative belief syseconomic growth, espetems. This is particularly true for young, first-generacially in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, has tion migrants who are raisled to an upsurge of racial, ing families in the West. nativist, and chauvinist

politics, which sees even is an even further rise in the these watered-down efforts of social justice to be an affront that need to be done away with. In a throwback of sorts to the inter-war period of the 20th century, minorities and immigrants are being scapegoated for the unmet aspirations of the majority.

meritocracy

This retreat towards primordial loyalties is also increasingly apparent in migrant communities, especially conservative Muslim ones across the world. The genocidal acts of Israel in Gaza, and the blatant encouragement provided by Western governments, have created a major schism with Muslim communities and dealt another blow to liberal political rhetoric and its talk of multicultural societies. Anecdotally, conversations with Pakistani migrants in the West reveal a range of anxieties; not just with regard to the rise of racial and Islamophobic ethnic, cultural and racial

attractiveness of the Gulf monarchies, especially for high-skilled, highcredentialled Muslim migrants. There is now renewed appeal of greater cultural conformity, alongside the usual economic advantages associated with life abroad. Global transformations rarely reveal themselves in one, clearly distilled moment. Instead they become apparent through various, drawn-out and slow-moving processes. In the present, these shifts in the global economy, political systems, and cultural values are all important indicators of such a transformation. Some of these shifts may be read as broadly positive. A focus on state-led national economic growth is one such example, which may help fix the inequities created by neoliberalism. On the other hand

prevalent modes of gender retreat towards such identities can be seen as a more

in the West. Drawing on China's successful implementation of political capitalism — ie, a system called where political power of globalisation. the state is used to fulfil economic goals — even countries generally reluctant to embrace any form of state intervention (such

A number of these

**Umair Javed** 

On the economy the decoupling of trade and

Regardless of the extremely unencumbered embrace, is specific factors that allow likely to be the pattern in some autocracies to generate growth, every aspiring

the years ahead. However, neoliberal autocrat, such as those freready been written about globalisation was not just quently found in Pakistan, an economic project. It seems to think that limit-

### Childcare challenge

#### Huma Yusuf

to push for adequate childcare for Pakistani During a spell of what women seems more like lip service than a top priholidays, a working ority. This highlights the mother's mind inevitably state's short-sightedness, given that female workforce participation faced with the great juggling act that is work and is constantly cited as a life, it is not surprising golden key to unlock Pakistan's economic potential. Indeed, a 2018 with declining birthrates IMF study concluded that Pakistan could boost swear off having children. its GDP by 30pc if it Readers may dismiss closed the gender gap in its workforce.

There are various problem, but it is increasbarriers to additional childcare provision, the key one being the failure to recognise the massive equitable, inclusive and demand for such support. The nostalgic fantasy of Admittedly, there

joint families, where infants are left in the care the childcare front. In her of doting grandmothers, inaugural speech as persists. In reality, care is Punjab Chief Minister, provided by elder female Maryam Nawaz pledged siblings or cousins, themselves denied schooling tres in workplaces to enbecause of childcare obliable working women. This gations, fuelling a vicious cycle of female poverty and marginalisation. Or it's a maid — likely underage and underpaid police stations. Last year, who herself will struggle the then president signed with childcare when the time comes to start a family. Improving formal places in Islamabad with childcare provision for more than 70 employees one woman would likely to establish crèches. It has improve the lot of many also made news headlines others. The childcare deeach time a provincial asmand is set to grow exsembly has established a ponentially. High inflachildcare facility, setting tion means dual-income households, particularly But these largely in urban areas, will grow symbolic acts amount to in number. Some of this will hopefully also be female population of 109 spurred by positive pull million (2021). At 24 per factors, as more workcent, Pakistan's female places seek to be gender inclusive.

Pakistan is also is among the lowest in the likely at a tipping point for female rural-urban mi-45pc. The lack of gration, and potentially at risk of having its female for this low participalabour force participation decline if it cannot solve the childcare puzzle. This women do more than 90pc of unpaid care work. is because women in ru-Despite this alarmin agricultural activities

ing statistic, the impetus are considered employed (leading to a rural-urban discrepancy of 28.9pc against 10.2pc in 2016).

Rural-urban migration has been dominated by men seeking employment or education in cities, with women moving in smaller numbers, largely due to marriage. But as climate change leads to more stress on agricultural production, expect women to migrate in much larger numbers due to economic nec-essity. With climate migration will come greater dem-and for childcare, particularly in urban areas, as women

leave behind the proverkilled. bial village it takes to raise a child. Failure to cater to this demand will worsen the prospects of female labour participation. The solution is not

merely legislative: laws such as the 1934 Factories Act mandate childcare provision by employers after reaching a threshold of female employees. A 2021 IFC/ Pakistan Business Council report found that these laws were poorly implemented because of lack of awareness and resources both among enforcement agencies and employers.

This will have to change. But solving for the supply side without addressing valid and material safeguarding concerns will be as good as doing nothing. Given the horrific stories about child abuse that make it to the news with sickening frequency (those are just the cases that are reported), childcare provision will have to be delivered with a complete infrastructure of regulation, monitoring, robust law-

inspections.

enforcement and timely We cannot afford to wait. The fate of legions

of working women and their children depends on our state prioritising the childcare conundrum.

seen to be antithetical to worrying trend. As seen in the past, the biggest fallout of heightened nativism is usually further exclusion and discrimination of gender and racial/ ethnic mi-One outcome of this norities

# **Criminalising hate**

#### **Bina Shah**

controversial statements There is a Stephen Spielberg movie called just to test its bound-Minority Report, based aries. In the law's first on a Philip K. Dick sciweek, police received over 7,000 complaints, of ence fiction novella set in the year 2054. Tom which only 240 were of-Cruise plays a police officially recorded, and the ficer who heads a special rest deemed as false comunit that uses Pre-Cogs, plaints. Described as an people with psychic 'unmitigated disaster" powers who can see the the law is causing more future and predict crimes. problems than it hoped When Cruise is accused to solve. of a crime he is going to commit 36 hours from now, it is merely the vision of a psychic that plunges Cruise into a desperate fight to clear his name and not be

I thought of this film when I read about a new law enacted in Scotland called the Hate Crime and Public Order Act. Hate crime laws had already existed in Scotland; the new law adds more categories to the group of protected minorifies: age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, against a protected group, you are criminally transgender identity or being intersex. It also abolishes the crime of liable blasphemy, which most developed nations consider to be outdated. what we want our soci-

eties to look like, and The hate crime law, passed in 2021, came how we want our citiinto effect on April 1, zens to behave versus 2024. It does not include how much freedom of protections for biological thought and expression women. Instead, the we want them to have. Scottish government, led by First Minister Humza Yousuf, proposes to entreat others with respect act a separate law and dignity. criminalising misogyny at a later date. This has legislate against hatred as caused tremendous cona felt human emotion. troversy, as duelling any more than you can groups argue that make it enforceable by women's rights are being law to love against trampled in favour of someone's will. transgender rights.

Confusingly, it is gally intervene in the not meant to "stifle critidelicate space between cism or debate", or even emotion, ethics, and acto stop people from "extion, by acting as a barpressing controversial, rier to human beings racchallenging, or offensive ing along the signal-free views" (quotes from a corridor of the amygdala, Scottish government the part of the brain that spokesperson speaking

to CNN). On social me- pre-frontal cortex, which dia, people are posting weighs the consequences of those impulses, may decide that a little hatred in the right time and the right place is actually a good thing, as Aristotle described the relationship between hatred and virtue. But just in case, the Hate Crime Law, with its attendant punishments, is there to guide you to the better choice of keeping your hateful thoughts to your-

In George Orwell's dystopian classic 1984, laws against thoughtcrime, or having negative thoughts against the ruling government, was the most extreme type of hate speech law. Thoughterimes did not have to be acted upon, person's beliefs, expressed to another or written in a diary, could such as Winston Smith into the reach of the ThinkPol, or thought police, though he avoided Hate speech laws the ultimate fate of engender a debate about vaporisation.

But rather than 1984 or the Minority Report, I look at Pakistan as a prime example of hate speech laws gone wrong, where the mere suggestion of sacrilege results They also attempt to in pogroms, desecration, make it mandatory to and death before the legal process against it has even begun.

Meanwhile, vulnerable populations women, kĥwaja siras and intersex people, the disabled, non-Muslims and minority sects - continue to experience hatred, discrimination and violence freely expressed in thought, words, and action. In Pakistan, this kind of hatred is not banned; instead, it is weaponised. When will we come up with the kind of laws to protect our generates impulses. Your citizens from that?

Hate speech laws that get it right must self. serve as a balance between public safety and order, and the right for people to express themselves freely — hence the classic example, that you can't go into a crowded theatre and shout 'Fire!' because of the harmful consequences of that act. Most hate speech laws nor did they have to criminalise speech that cause physical or mateincites people to violence rial harm. Merely a and physical harm. The Scottish law takes this even further; if your speech incites hatred, not bring a citizen of Oceania even actual violence.

But you can't truly

We are trying to le-

#### Daily A oice of Massey **Independent** Tuesday April 16, 2024

# CommerceNews

## Aleem Khan says: **Increase in exports to help enhance** foreign reserves, stabilise economy

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Monday said that increase in exports was imperative for enhancing foreign reserves and stabilising the national economy

The private sector should come forward and ate more jobs" explore different fields to enhance exports, he said during a meeting with businessmen and investors here at the Governor House.

the need to take special measures, especially in view of Pak-Saudi investment and export agreements. Aleem Khan said,"We

full advantage of the opporhave to further expand by tunity, which would also boost bilateral trade beinvesting in export sectors which will ultimately cretween Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. Federal Secretary He urged the private Commerce Saleh Farooqui

private sector would take

sector to find new opporbriefed the meeting regardtunities to invest domestiing the export situation. cally and abroad, for which He said that there was a wide scope in the fields the government would provide them all possible of agriculture, textile, infor-

The minister stressed facilities. The minister wel-need to take special comed the visit of a high-maceuticals, mobiles, level delegation from King-dom of Saudi Arabia. He sports equipment, minerals and other sectors expressed the hope that the

The meeting was attended by important business personalities, investors and leaders of the business community who announced their full support to the present government. The participants also

expressed their commitment that they would fully cooperate with the highlevel delegation from Saudi Arabia



Finance Minister Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb met with US Pakistan Business Council @\_USPBC delegation in Washington D.C. Highlighted govt's commitment to improving business climate & attracting foreign & domestic investments in key sectors including agriculture, IT, mining, & energy.



LAHORE: Chicken retailers protesting for their demands in front of the press club in the Provincial Capital.

### **China allows buffalo** embryos import from specific regions of Pakistan

more than threefold.

allowed specific regions of Pakistan to export buffalo embryos that meet its quarantine requirements.

The latitude and longitude coordinates provided in the recent joint announcement of China General Administration of Customs and Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs correspond to the buffalo epidemic-free ranch of Royal Group in Punjab, Chinese media reported.

This marks the first ranch in Pakistan and the only one in the world capable of exporting highkistan. vield buffalo embryos to

BEIJING (APP): China has under China-Pakistan Eco- ity germplasm resources of nomic Corridor, Royal milk buffalo to Pakistan. Group's "Buffalo Breeding This has helped solve the Project" has made signifiissue of maintaining the locant progress. The importation of

cal super buffalo resource. In 2021, the Royal buffalo embryos into China Group established Royal can significantly shorten Cell Biotechnology (Pakistan) and officially launched the "Milk Buffalo the cycle of improving dairy buffalo breeds from 12 years in the past to three Provenance Chip" strategy. years. Additionally, the In the following year, the milk production of a single Royal Cell in vitro embryo buffalo can be increased by production plant was formally inaugurated. Now, lo-In addition, Royal cal technicians in Pakistan

Group has established an in can produce hundreds of vitro embryo production high-quality buffalo emfactory and pastures in Pabryos in a week. The embryos will breed high-yield-They have also reing milk buffalo herds and cruited and trained local re- greatly increase buffalo milk production once they

As one of the first ag-ricultural projects initiated ers, and provided high-qual-milk production once th are introduced to China.

# **Steps afoot to cut** prices: Ch Shafay prices of Roti and Naan.

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister of Industry and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain said here Monday that the government under the leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif is making all out efforts to end inflation and dearness, besides reducing the prices of essential commodities after the historic Ramadan package.

The reduction in the prices of wheat bread (Roti/ Naan) is a mega step pro-viding relief to the people, he said and added that all the districts administration have also been directed to ensure the implementation

The price control committees and other relevant institutions should also play their active role to ensure the sale of Roti at Rs 16 and Naan at Rs 20, he asserted. The Provincial Minister said that measures would be continued to make life easier for the people, citing that welfare schemes are being rapidly promoted across the province. He vowed that economy would be stabi-

ensure the implementation by bringing new invest-of the decision to reduce the ments," he mentioned.

### Visit of Saudi delegation will be a milestone for Pak's economy: Atif

trail would soon begin re-storing the confidence of in-vestors from all over the Independent Report ISLAMABAD: President of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce world.

Atif Sheikh said inand Industry Atif Ikram vestment of this denomina-Shaikh termed the visit of tion from the platform of the Saudi delegation as a milestone for the economy the SIFC in the Reco Deq and hoped that it happens prospect was a positive in response to the recent step for the bolstering the economy. The role of the visit of Prime Minister of Investment Council is sig-Pakistan's to the capital of the brotherly kingdom. The nificant and timely, he focus is on a positive conadded. There is a need for a tinuation of the investment framework to help widen projects in Pakistan. The the possibilities of cooperapledge to complete the five- tion in different fields of the billion-dollar investment economy.

## **IMF urges Pakistan to boost** essential commodities | revenue via taxing non-essential items including cigarettes

Prof Zaman said there

The head of Zaman

ity and mortality that

smoking inflicts on the

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa- referred to a phenomenal kistan has been urged by the International Monetary ducted by Capital Calling, Fund (IMF) to overhaul its an Islamabad-based think tank, which says the cigatax machinery through taxing -essential items includ- rette consumption has deing cigarettes to boost revcreased due to increase in prices, he added. enue and improve public

Health advocates have was a need to bring into achighly appreciated a set of count the cost of morbidrecommendation and taxing non-essential items including cigarettes given by the society."Smoking is injuriglobal lender.

ous to health regardless of Head of Zaman Rethe cigarette brand," he said. search Center at Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), Research Center at QAU Prof Muhammad Zaman pointed to critical flaws said, "This is a crucial time within Pakistan's tax sysfor the government to fix tem particularly the cigaeconomic problems and implement the IMF recomrette industry, which have facilitated a loss of Rs567 mendation. billion during last seven

The IMF report has

#### **Finance Minister** meets USPBC delegation in Washington

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday met a delegation of the US Pakistan Business Council (USPBC) in Washington DC to discuss the government's commitment to improving the business climate in the country

According to a Finance Ministry press release, the minister during the meeting highlighted.

\$346.522 million to

to Bangladesh also de-

creased by 19.63 percent to

The country's exports

\$319.887 million.

Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).

Page

03

The study further exposed the influence of multinational cigarette companies on policymakers, particularly evident in the introduction of a three-tier excise duty structure in 2017, which prioritized revenue collection over public health considerations. However, subsequent analysis proved this approach to be ineffective and misleading in revenue generation.

The SDIP research highlighting global best practices and how high and middle-income countries have successfully used high cigarette taxes to reduce consumption and boost government revenues.



Butt addressing a press conference at press club in the Provincial Capital.

### Pak poised for economic growth with strong support from S.Arabia: Ashrafi

# lized by bringing about an industrial revolution in Punjab. "We will increase employment opportunities

health

### Pak rupee stable against **ŪS** dollar in interbank market

economic crisis amid

current fiscal year.

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistani rupee stayed on course against the US dollar as business resumed in the interbank market on Monday after long Eid break.

As per the information obtained from the forex dealers, the local currency appreciated by 16 paisas against the greenback and was currently being traded at Rs277.78.

On the last business day before Eid, the Pakistani rupee had remained largely stable against the US dollar, settling at Rs277.93 on Tuesday.

LAHORE (INP): Senior Vice Chairman (SVC)

Ferozepur Road Industrial

Association (FRIA),

Shahbaz Aslam has said that

the country is in the middle

of a deep economic crisis

amid interest rates hikes and

soaring inflation with its

major debt sustainability

indicators witnessing

here on Monday, he said

that amid the crippling eco-

nomic crisis, the govt will

have to return \$77.5 billion

as external debt in the next

three years. Quoting the

media reports, he noted that

a major portion of the \$77.5

billion is owed to China, and

has to be paid in June when

a \$1 billion Chinese SAFE

deposit and a roughly \$1.4

billion Chinese commercial

loan would mature.

In a statement issued

marked deterioration.



programme. Talks between Paki-

stan and the IMF are scheduled for this week in Washington, wherein the government team will request the Fund for approval of a new loan programme. The main ministerial meetings and events will be held from April 17-19.



Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan presided over a meeting of business community in Karachi.

#### Pakistan's regional exports Shipping activity at increase 20.57% in 8 months **Port Qasim**

KARACHI (APP): A ship 'Nicholas' with 56,277 tonnes of Coal, berthed at Pakistan International Bulk Terminal on Sunday.

Industry in grip of deep Meanwhile, four more ships, Fast, MSC Nilgun, High Trader and Navigation high marks: SVC FRIA Vega also arrived at outeranchorage of Port Qasim during the last 24 hours.

Shahbaz Aslam stated A total of seven ships that the total public debt were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them an edible oil carrier and liabilities of the country has presently been standing at Rs68 trillion in TTC Vishaka' left the Port FY22-23, expressing the today morning while anfear that it would go up furother ship 'Lusail' is exther by Rs11.8 trillion in the pected to sail today.

Cargo volume of He pointed out that 103,652 tonnes, comprising the total public debt and li-9,419 tonnes of export abilities would go up manicargo carried in 441 Confold mainly because of the tainers was handled at the rising fiscal deficit and it is port during last 24 hours.

estimated that fiscal deficit There are 8 ships at would escalate by Rs8.227 Outer Anchorage of Port trillion for the current fis-Qasim, out of them three cal year, equivalent to 7.8 percent of GDP.The SVC FRIA said that the governships, Fast, Gall and MSC Nilgun& two more ships, MSC Vilda-X and XT ment will have to manage Brightness are scheduled to budget financing to the tune load/offload Cement, Palm of Rs7.5 trillion through domestic avenues and only oil, Container and Chemi-Rs1 trillion would be made cals are expected to take available as budgetary supberths at MW-2, LCT, port from foreign avenues. QICT and EVTL.

LAHORE: Farmers are busy in harvesting wheat crop near Ravi River.

ISLAMABAD (APP): of Pakistan (SBP) reported. Pakistan's exports to the China tops the list of countries in terms of seven regional countries witnessed an increase of Pakistan's exports to its 20.57 per cent in the first neighbouring, leaving beeight months of the finanhind other countries such as cial year (2023-24) as compared to the corresponding stan months of last year.

The country's exports to the regional countries including Afghanistan, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, and the China witnessed an increase Maldives account for a of 42.02 per cent to small amount of \$2,912.102 \$1,895.720 million in eight

business community.

of the market.

million, which is 14.17 per months of this year from cent of Pakistan's overall \$1,334.804 million last year exports of \$20,537.900 while exports to Afghanimillion during July-Februstan witnessed a nominal ary (2023-24), State Bank decline of 7.68 percent from

### **Eid Festival Bazaars** to be organized in all markets from next year

ISLAMABAD (APP): Irfan Nawaz Memon, Deputy Commissioner, Islamabad has said that the business community is the key player in the economic development of the country and that he would initiate all the necessary steps to facilitate it.

He said this while addressing the closing cer-emony of Eid Festival Bazaar on Chand Raat at Abpara market as Chief Guest.It is worth mentioning that the ICCI in collaboration with the Traders Welfare Associations organized Eid Festivals at five different markets of the capital to enable the customers to buy articles of their choice at affordable price, said a press release issued here on Monday.

\$421.939 million this year Bangladesh and Afghanifrom \$525.017 whereas exports to Sri Lanka rose by Pakistan carried out 32.31 percent to \$266.164 its border trade with the million from \$201.165. The exports to India increased to \$0.230 million farther neighbour Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, and Maldives. Pakistan's exports to from \$0.161 million in the

previous year. Exports to Nepal increased by 5.66 per cent to \$2.164 million from 2.048 million while to Maldives increased by 8.11 per cent to \$5.548 million from 5.998 million, it added.

Pakistan's total liquid foreign reserves reach \$13.44 billion KARACHI (APP): The Deputy Commistotal liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan reached US\$ 13,441.7 million in the week ended on April 5, 2024 while foreign reserves held by State Bank stood at \$

promoting trade activities and that ICCI would con-

Meanwhile, net for-eign reserves held by comtinue to work with relevant mercial banks were regovernment departments to corded \$ 5,401.4 million, it resolve the issues of the added

Total liquid foreign re-He was also imserves held by the country, pressed by Capital Develin the previous week ended opment Authority that foon March 29, 2024, were \$13,378.9 million. cused on the beautification

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- visit would underscore the kistan Ulema Council country's appeal as an in-Hafiz vestment destination Tahir among the Muslim states. destination Mehmood Ashrafi on The PUC chairman Monday said that Pakistan was poised to make eco-

Chairman

Arabia.

stan

Muhammad

strong support of the broth-

erly country of Saudi

highlighted that both the prime minister and army chief had effectively garnomic growth with the nered support and commitments from key stakeholders, including the Saudi lead-He attributed the ership and prominent businessmen.

country's positive eco-He said concerted efnomic trajectory to the forts made during the last leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz two months to strengthen Sharif and Chief of Army Pak-Saudi relations, culmi-Staff General Sved Asim nated in successful meet-Munir, particularly in fosings of Pakistan's leadership with top Saudi offi-cials, including Defence Minister Khalid bin Salman tering friendly relations with Islamic nations to bol-ster investment and busiand Muslim World League Secretary-General Dr. ness opportunities in Paki-Talking to the media, Ashrafi said a high-level Mohammed bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa. delegation led by Saudi For-

Ashrafi said the visit eign Minister was expected of Saudi Foreign Minister to arrive in Pakistan on Faisal bin Farhan, accom-Monday evening, marking panied by representatives a significant milestone in bilateral ties, adding the from vital ministries and business sectors



MULTAN: Labourers are busy in spreading sheep wool for drying at their workplace.

### **PSX witnesses** bullish trend, gains 229 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): 156 sustained losses, The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 229.86 points, a positive change of 0.33 percent, closing at 70,544.58 points against 70,314.72 points ugainst vious trading day. A total of 555,214,972

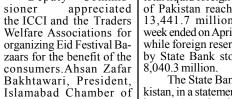
shares valuing Rs.21.986 billion were traded during the day as compared to 389,396,548 shares valuing Rs.17.273 billion the last day.Some 353 companies transacted their shares in

whereas the share prices of 17 remained unchanged.

In PSX, the three top trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 88,622,330 shares at Rs.1.39 per share, Fauji Cement with 33,100,985 shares with Rs.20.01 per share and Fauji Foods Limited with 30,022,192 shares at Rs.10.05 per share.

Bata Pakistan Limited witnessed a maximum in-crease of Rs.25.00 per share price, closing at Rs.1,725.00, whereas the the stock market; 180 of runner-up was Sugar Engithem recorded gains and neering Works Limited.

8,040.3 million. The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued Commerce and Industry here on Monday, informed (ICCI) said that the that foreign exchange re-Aabpara Market is the oldserves held by the central est market of Islamabad and bank decreased by \$0.1 milis playing central role in lion to \$ 8,040.3 million during the week under reimproving the economy by



### Daily Independent, Karachi

#### **Tuesday April 16, 2024**

# Ahsan stresses to transform sports, tourism scenarios

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC) Ahsan Iqbal on Monday underscored the need to transform country's sports and tourism scenarios to project its true image globally

Ahsan, who is also Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives was given additional charge of IPC ministery recently.

'I am honoured that the prime minister has entrusted me with this responsibility," he said while talking to media after chairing his first meeting as IPC minister here at Pakistan Sports Board.

He emphasized the significance of the IPC ministry in the field of sports.

"The 18th Amend- the Asian Games as it used ment does not mean that to be in the past. "We will have to take the federation should neglect the coordination," he some serious steps for sports development.

Highlighting the im-2025 as the year of sports portance of national coordination for the developrevival," he asserted. ment of the country's potential in tourism and nificant investments made sports, he said. by other countries for hosting prestigious sport events

'The establishment of a National Tourism Counto get recognition and promote themselves. cil is necessary. Similarly, we will have

"We need to launch to make concerted effort to the National Internship Programme on a large scale revive the country's sports reputation," he added. this year," he added

We will have to declare

He highlighted the sig-

The minister also He also mentioned spoke about Pakistan's Pakistan's dairy industry, performance at the Asian pointing out the low export Games in Hangzhou, last numbers compared to other year wherein it only claimed countries. He stressed the need for Pakistan to explore "Today, Pakistan's new markets for its meat

name is not prominent in products

three medals.

**MOM-P** to take up new Sindh governor issue with PM Shehbaz KARACHI (INP): A del-

egation of Muttahida Oaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) will meet with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to discuss replacing Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori with a new one, sources said on Monday. Sources further said that the MQM-P was interested in bringing a new governor in place of Tessori. and that, too, from the

party. The delegation, sources disclosed, would also put forward some names to the prime minister who could replace Tessori

Following the meeting the advice would be sent to President Asif Zardari they said, adding that the new governor was expected to be announced this week.

> CM chairs online meeting with Commissioners. DG PDMA:

Govt. enforces rain & urban

flood emergency in rain



KARACHI: A view of garbage lay along with Sea View Beach creating problems for commuters and unhygienic atmosphere, showing the negligence of concern authorities

SUKKUR: Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar along with Sindh Inspector General of Police (IGP), Ghulam Nabi Memon and others addresses to media persons during press conference regarding ongoing operation in the Kashmore and Kacha areas

#### Govt fully focused on uplift of merged districts: KP Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Gov- responsibility of all stake ernor Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali has said that federal and provincial governments are fully focused on the development and provision of health and education facilities in the merged districts of the province.

Talking to a delegation from Speen locality of the tribal district North Waziristan here on Monday, he said that government is taking crucial steps told the delegation to raise in this regard and results complaints of their respec-

of it would be visible soon. tive areas in written with The delegation the departments con-

Khyber holders and they would have to play their due role in this regard.

The Governor assured the delegation that he would take up the matter relating to problems in the tribal districts with the authorities concerned to ensure the availability of medical staff in hospi-

tals and teachers in schools. However, he also

Javed conducted the proceedings on the bail petitions of the PTI founder in cases of attacks on Jinnah House, er and the to cerned, so their problems ing of Shadman Police stacould be resolved in short tion period of time.

affected areas of Balochistan Independent Report responsibility to steer the QUETTA: The Govern-ment of Balochistan has people out of the hardships and miserable situation.

He issued clear direcenforced rain and urban tives to the field officers to flood emergency in the rain remove encroachments esaffected areas of the provtablished on the sewerage Following the rain and urban flood emergency, nullahs. APP adds: Balochistan government has declared rain and urban leaves of all concerned offlood emergency due to ficers and staff including those serving in the Provincontinuous heavy rains cial Disaster Management which battered different districts of the province, Authority (PDMA) have killing and injuring several been cancelled, stated the people across the province, spokesman of the Balochistan government Shahid Rind said on Monday.

He said the leave of all officers and staff has been canceled to promptly ensure rescue services to people in the flood-hit areas and to avert any untoward situation.

Shahid Rind said schools will remain closed on April 15 and 16 in rainaffected districts of the province. Under the chairmanship of Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti online meeting of Commissioners and PDMA

officials held to review the situation caused by heavy rains in the province and the measures being taken for the in the rain situation as it is our rescue of affected people.

Adil Raja stands exposed after losing legal battle in UK court

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Controversial YouTuber Maj ® Adil Farooq Raja has been exposed after losing a legal battle in the United Kingdom.

The false narrative he constructed has also been dismantled, with the British High Court rejecting all of his claims that Pakistan is an authoritarian state where the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) controls both the judiciary and the government. He had also alleged that the February 8 general elections in Pakistan were rigged.

High Court Judge Richard Spearman KC dis-missed all applications made by the YouTuber, including his request to halt a defamation trial brought against him by former senior military officer Brigadier Rashid Naseer.

The judge determined that Raja had posted seriously damaging remarks about Naseer in nine social media posts across platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, and X [formerly Twitter].

Imposing a penalty on Raja, the court ordered him to pay £5,000 to the now retired brigadier for the dismissed application to halt the defamation trial

Karachi on

Wednesday,

Thursday

KARACHI (INP): The

Meteorological Depart-

ment stated that there is a

possibility of rain with

thunder in Karachi on April

18 and 19. According to the

Meteorological Depart-

ment, the rainfall system in

the southwest is moving

towards the east and an-

other western system will

that light and heavy rain

continued intermittently

throughout the city on Sun-

the heaviest rainfall in the

city with 29 mm of rain,

while electricity was cut in

most areas as soon as the

day.

It is pertinent to note

Sarjani area recorded

enter Karachi on April 17.

### PTI demands formation of independent commission to probe May 9 incidents

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa- commission for investigakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf tion and the release of (PTI) General Secretary Omar Ayub has demanded 9 riots incident. He said the an independent commission cipher case was bogus and for a fair investigation of the the government must ac-May 9 incident.

by postponing the case hear-

ing twice today, as the case

said he had been demanding

formation of an independent

The opposition leader

was bogus.

knowledge its retaliation Speaking to media in Islamabad, Ayub asserted against the PTI founder. Regarding the letter ritten by eight Islamabad that the cases against the PTI High Court judges alleging founder and other leaders including Shah Mahmood interference in judicial mat-Qureshi were baseless.

ters, he stated that the letter was a charge-sheet on the He claimed that the prosecution was avoiding system. the Nikkah during Iddat case Referring to the move-

CCTV footage of the May

ment with the support of other allies, he said the purpose of the drive was to protect the sanctity of the constitution and the law



KARACHI: Members of All Pakistan Affected Employees Action Committee are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Karachi press club

Eight killed, 12 injured due to rains in KP The Chief Minister of

spokesman, Government of Balochistan here. According to the spokesman, the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz **ATC extends** Ahmed Bugti chaired online interim bail meeting with all divisional commissioners and high ups of PDMA on late Sunday of PTI founder night. The Principal Secre-tary to Chief Minister and in 3 cases LAHORE (APP): An anti-

Director General PDMA terrorism court (ATC) on briefed the meeting about Monday extended the inoverall situation of rains beterim bail of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf(PTI) founder sides relief and rescue activities in the province. in three cases related to Mav The Chief Minister ex-

9 violence, until April 16. pressed anguish over the The court directed jail aupublic complaints about the thorities to ensure the attensewerage and sanitation isdance of the PTI founder sues in the metropolis.

through video link at the next He said that the governhearing, besides seeking arment would provide wholeguments from parties. hearted support and re-ATC Judge Arshad sources to the field officers

headed by Maulana Javed Iqbal was consisted of Irfanullah, Aslam Yar, Amir Hamza, Asghar Khan and others. The members of delegation briefed the Governor regarding problems faced by the people of the Provincial Assembly are area and called for their resolution.

Governor Haji local problems and bring the Ghulam Ali said that the issue of the absent doctors development of all backand students in the notice ward districts including of their respective departmerged districts is the joint ments.

On August 11, 2023, an Haji Ghulam Ali said ATC dismissed the pre-arthat all elected representarest bails of the PTI founder tives including councilors, in seven cases over his non-Members of National and appearance, as he was jailed after conviction in the responsible to monitor Toshakhana case. health and education and

However, the Lahore High Court set aside the decision of the ATC and restored his bail petitions, while allowing a petition by the PTI founder.

# DC Ghotki visits procurement center

#### By Tanveer Ahmed

MIRPUR MATHELO: Deputy Commissioner Ghotki Dr. Syed Mohammad Ali vis-ited the food department procurement center established at Mirpur Mathelo and heard the complaints of the settlers, expressed anger on the officers of the food department. opened all the procurement centers and provided bardana to the settlers as per the policy. Continued instructions



According to the details, Deputy Commissioner Ghotki Dr. Syed Mohammad Ali Mirpur Mathelo and Hayat Pitafi reached the food procurement center, where the residents complained to the Deputy Commissioner and said that they had come to the center since morning for Badrana, but they were not given Bardana. Expressing his anger, the Deputy Commissioner directed the officials of the Food Department that according to the policy of the Sindh government, the settlers coming to the centers should be provided with bardana without making them wait and start the process of purchasing wheat by opening all the centers. In this regard, laziness will not be acceptable. Speaking further on this occasion.

**Pervez Khattak mulls** 

joining politics again

Khyber

PESHAWAR

Pakhtunkhwa chief minister

Pervez Khattak has decided

to join politics again, Dunya

sources, the seasoned politi-

cian is in contact with the PPP and other parties. He

also held several meetings

with key political leaders during the last few days.

News, the veteran politician

said he would take a decision

after analysing the political

situation. "I am silently ob-

serving the performance of

He said the develop-

the government nowadays,"

ment schemes of Rs10 bil-

lion were approved for

Nowshera but they had been

reverted. "The people of

Speaking to Dunya

According to family

Former

News learnt.

he said.



KARACHI: View of illegal encroachment by parking on a road by influent parking and encroachment mafia, which is creating problems for residents and commuters, showing negligence of concerned authorities of anti-encroachment department to draw its attention toward issue, at Liaquatabad Super Market

#### **Registered voters in Pakistan Rain likely in** surge to 130 million ISLAMABAD (APP): The total number of registered vot-

ers in the country has surged to 130.136 million from 128.59 million on the eve of February 8 general elections.

According to the latest data released by Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), the registered voters as on date are 130.136 million, with 70.043 million males and 60.092 million females, reflecting an increase of 1.546 million voters since the February 8 elections.

Islamabad has a total of 1.094 million voters, including 0.52 million females and 0.574 million males.

Similarly, there are voters 5.44 million, including 2.389 million females and 3.051 million males in in Balochistan; 22.183 million, including 12.074 million males and 10.109 million females in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; 74.093 million, including 39.563 million males and 34.530 million females in Punjab; and 27.326 million voters, including 14.781 million males and 12.545 million females in Sindh.

#### **Police reunite missing** children with mother

MIRPURKHAS (APP): their pursuit to locate the Mirpurkhas Police on missing children.

Monday successfully reunited two young children with their distraught mother after a harrowing twomonth-long ordeal.

According to Police, acting on the orders of the High Court Circuit Bench, SSP Mirpurkhas, Captain Retired Asad Ali Chaudhry led the efforts to reunite the family after a two-month Under the direction of SSP, a dedicated team was

assembled with DSP CIA Fazal Haque Chandio at the helm. The team comprising Inayat Ali Zardari, the CIĂ incharge, Ghulam Hussain Sadayo, in-charge of ADRC, SHO Taluk Khuda Bakhsh Ranjhani and SHO Woman Police Station Momal Laghari worked tire-

ordeal

Their diligent efforts paid off when the team successfully rescued two-year-

first drop fell, which was restored several hours later. old Ehsan Ali and twomonth-old Tayyab Ali from the Umarkot bypass. The children were promptly brought to the SSP office where they were

joyfully reunited with their mother. Overwhelmed with gratitude, the mother expressed her heartfelt appreciation to SSP Mirpurkhas Captain Retired Asad Ali Chaudhry and the entire Mirpurkhas police force for their unwavering dedication and exceptional work.

Recognizing the outstanding performance of the team, SSP Asad Ali Chaudhry presented certificates of appreciation, commending their remarkable efforts in resolving the dislessly day and night leaving no stone unturned in tressing case.

PESHAWAR (APP): Pro-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa divincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) on Monday issued a report on the loss of life and property in the province due to heavy rains during the last three days

According to preliminary reports, eight people were killed and 12 people were injured. Four children, three men and a woman are among the dead persons, while the injured include four women, six men and two children.

According to the report, a total of 85 houses were damaged due to the collapse of walls and roofs in different districts, of which 15 houses were completely damaged and 70

houses were partially damaged. Due to heavy rain, life and financial accidents took

place in different districts of Dir Upper, Chitral Lower, Swat, Malakand and Bajaur.

rected the concerned district administration to provide immediate assistance to the affected family and provide the best medical facilities to the injured. Relief materials were provided to the victims of the affected districts by

PDMA Due to continuous heavy rains, the flow of water in the rivers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is normal. The flow of water at Nowshera in Kabul River is a record 98,500 cusecs moderate flood.

Indus river water flow at Kherabad 103,200 cusecs record as usual.

41,804 cusecs record of water flow of Kabul River at Warsak as usual, flow of water at river Swat at Khawaza Khela is 30,183 cusecs normal and 27,701 cusecs record of water flow River Swat at Chakdara normally.

#### Storm causes power transmission tower collapse, disrupts electricity supply

HYDERABAD (APP):A the tower supporting the tower of 132 KV high 132-kV high transmission transmission line collapsed line to collapse, leading due to strong wind in Kotri to the power outage in Site Industrial Zone area on the Kohsar area of Saturday night, power Latifabad supply to the Kohsar area

The outage was reof Latifabad suspended stored a few hours later using alternative lines, but repair work on the tower According to spokeswas ongoing. It is estiperson of Hyderabad Elecmated that the restoration tric Supply Company work will take two to three (HESCO) Sadiq Kubbar, days to complete, he the strong winds caused added.



which was restored by us-

ing alternative lines.

HYDERABAD: A large number of people arrive at the bank of Indus River to enjoy the cloudy weather.

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### Aleem visits Chinese

(INP): their deprivation," he la-SLAMABAD (APP) mented. "I am away from ederal Minister for mainstream and social media Privatization, Board of Inthese days but can take decision to enter politics again Earlier, Khattak had

stepped down as chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Monday. He called on Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong and expressed his deep sorrow over the recent accident of Chinese engineers, said a press release.

bility and peace in the re-

pendent candidate. Shahid Ahad Khattak defeated him by securing 90.145 votes. Pervez Khattak had bagged only and bilateral relations. Nowshera will now realise 25,258 votes in the polls.

Parliamentarian (PTIP) days after his party showed dismal performance in the gen-eral elections 2024. The former defence minister had said he was resigning from the position due to health issues. Pervez Khattak had suffered defeat in NA-33 Nowshera constituency

which was earlier consid-

ered his stronghold.

soon," he added.

Embassy

vestment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan visited the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad on

Abdul Aleem Khan

while talking to the Chinese Ambassador said that Pakistan-China friendship is symbol of economic sta-

The PTI-backed indegion. He added that there no one can harm the friendship between China and Pakistan