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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on the matters related to the youth of the province to play role in the development. **Balochistan province.** 

# **ECP** suspends lawmakers elected on reserved seats denied to SIC

Membership of 77 women, non Muslim legislators of NA, provincial assemblies suspended

Council's (SIC) petition re- across the country followgarding reserved seats, the ing the PHC's verdict. Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Monday suspended 77 lawmakers elected on seats denied to

the party. The issue of reserved seats had been a point of contention between the SIC, which primarily comprises Pakistan Tehreek-e-Însaf-backed independent candidates, and the ruling parties notably Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Following the top court's (PML-N), the Pakistan order, the ECP today withdrew the notification of 22 Peoples Party (PPP), Muttahida Qaumi Movereturned candidates who ment-Pakistan (MQM-P), and others.

the PPP, PML-N, MQM- female lawmakers given PML-Q and IPP.

Pakistan, US reaffirm

ISLAMABAD (INP): Af- P, JUI-F and others had seats in the NA from ter the Supreme Court or- taken oath on reserved seats Punjab, 8 from Khyber der on Sunni Ittehad in different assemblies Pakhtunkhwa and 3 minority seats in the lower

> house. The ruling PML-N is On the other hand, in the biggest loser as 44 of KP Assembly 21 lawmakers on reserved seats for its members have been suspended while 15 lawwomen and 4 for minorities makers from PPP, 13 from have been de-notified.

Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam In the Punjab Assem-Fazl (JUI-F) and one each bly, 24 women lawmakers from MQM-P, Istehkamand 3 non-Muslim legislae-Pakistan Party, and tors have been de-notified. Awami National Party, While in the Sindh Assem-Pakistan Muslim League bly, the commission de-noand Pakistan Tehreek-etified 2 female MPs and a Insaf Parliamentarians. minority member.

All the lawmakers that have been de-notified belong to the PML-N, PPP. MQM-P, JUI-F, Awami National Party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. Dozens of members of of the 22, 11 of them are Parlimentarians (PTI-P),

Khawaja demands imposition of Article 6 against violators of constitution

ISLAMABAD (APP): Khawaja Asif said that Minister for Defence Pakistan has faced chal-Khawaja Muhammad Asif lenges from that period onon Monday called for imwards, indicating that deposing Article 6 on those mocracy has struggled to who violated the Constitutake root in the country. He tion and suggested that it asserted that leaders enshould begin with Field gaged in unlawful activities Marshal Ayub Khan. must face justice. The min-Speaking at the forum ister accused the opposition of National Assembly, he leader in the NA of consissaid, "I fully endorse the tently supporting dictatoropposition leader's proship and unlawful actions, posal to invoke Article 6, mentioning that his party but it should be started from had previously apologized for supporting General Zia-1958 up to 2022, when the ul-Haq and now seeks the then Deputy Speaker Qasim Khan Suri breached the constitution during the no-confidence process." The min-ister highlighted the Supreme Court's intervention at that

same from opposition members. He said that the respect of all individuals associated with building a stable and developed Pakistan is crucial, and those working time, which restored the National Assembly and overagainst the country's interturned the unconstitutional ests will be held accountable by the law.

# **Prime Minister reiterated Government's resolve to ensure** development of Balochistan

Says Federal Govt would provide all possible assistance regarding the conversion of agricultural fube-wells to solar energy

He was chairing a high level ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz meeting to review the key is-Sharif on Monday reiterated his government's resolve to ensure development of Balochistan, saying that the welfare of the people of province was its top priority. He said the government was providing equal opportunities of education and employment to

sues of Balochistan province Haji Muhammad Khan, at the Prime Minister House. Zmarak Khan Achakzai, and The meeting was at-Balochistan Chief Secretary tended by Balochistan Chief Shakeel Qadir. During the Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Planning Minister Zahoor Ahmed Bilidi and meeting, the prime minister emphasizing the importance of Balochistan's development Finance Minister Shoaib and prosperity, hoped that Noshirwani. Parliamentarv the new provincial cabinet Secretary Fisheries Haji under the leadership of Chief Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Barkat Rand, Provincial As-

sembly Members Mir Bugti would play a vital role in resolving the province's issues and put it on the path to progress. The prime minister directed the speedy completion of the process of solarisation of agricultural tube-wells in Balochistan and said that the Federal Government would provide all possible assistance regarding the conversion of agricultural tube-wells to solar energy.



Rehmat Saleh Baloch and

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), addressing GHQ Investiture ceremony held at General Headquarters Rawalpindi.

#### **PM** resigns as PML-N President

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has tendered resignation from his position as Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President.

According to PML-N Information Secretary Marriyum Aurangzeb here on Monday, PM Shehbaz Sharif said, "Time has come for Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to resume his rightful place as the President of PML-N and provide his the nation during an Invesinvaluable leadership and vision to steer the party forward.

#### Shuhada and Ghazis are our national heroes: COAS

#### Army Chief confers military awards upon Army Officer's at **GHQ** Investiture ceremony

RAWALPINDI (APP): Asim Munir on Monday rious services rendered to solve to fight with utmost

Paying tributes to Chief of Army Staff Shuhada (martyrs) and (COAS), General Syed Ghazis, the COAS said, "There is nothing more conferred military awards noble than laying one's life upon Army personnel for for defence of motherland their acts of gallantry dur- and the sacrifices of our ing operations and merito- martyrs strengthen our re-

#### commitment to continue counter-terrorism coop.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- Ambassador Elizabeth Rikistan and the United States have reaffirmed their commitment to continue counter-terrorism, pledging to work together to address regional and global security challenges and promote stability in the region.

"The counter-terrorism dialogue underscores the cooperation between Pakistan and the United States in addressing the most pressing challenges to regional and global security, including Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and ISIS-Khorasan", a joint statement issued after the Pakistan-US counter-terrorism dialogue held in Washington D.C on May 10, said. Additional Foreign Secretary for the UN and OIC, Ambassador Syed Haider Shah, and US Department of State Coordi-

chard, co-chaired the dialogue. Discussions centred on the counter-terrorism landscape in the region, with a focus on areas of mutual interest.

were allotted seats in the

National Assembly. Out

Pakistani and US se nior officials emphasized the importance of expanded counter-terrorism collaboration and capacity building, including exchanges of technical expertise and best practices, investigative and prosecutorial assistance, provision of border security infrastructure and training, including the United States training of more than 300 police and frontline responders since the last Pakistan-US counter-terrorism dialogue in March 2023, and strengthening multilateral engagement



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq presiding the meeting to discuss matters related to present and upcoming Budget Session of National Assembly at Parliament House.

#### Khosa expresses resent on delaying work of Custom, Gahi Khan Flyover in Quetta

QUETTA (APP) Balochistan Minister for Communications and Work (C&W) Mir Saleem Ahmad Khosa expressed his displeasures for delaying the speed of work ongoing Custom Sariab area and Gahi Khan Flyover projects during paying a surprise visiting of both projects.

The Minister issued orders for departmental action against the concerned authorities on the occasion.

He said that the traffic stoppage in the custom area and it has become a daily routine where the people have to go through severe torture saying that at their doorstep.

therefore, the speed of construction work on the ongoing project should be accelerated. He said that the first priority of the provincial government was to provide modern facilities to the people of the province in every sphere of life and in this regard, negligence on the ongoing development projects in his department was not acceptable under any circumstances

The Provincial Minister said that the people have chosen us with the hope that their basic problems would be solved and to provide facilities to them



order.

BEIJING: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishag Dar meets with Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Ambassador Zhang Ming.

#### We would have to make tough decisions to make universities on path of self-sufficiency: Sheikh

QUETTA (APP): Gover- House Quetta.

Principal Secretary to nor Balochistan Sheikh Governor Balochistan Jafar Khan Mandukhel on Hashim Khan Ghilzai, Vice Monday said we would have to make some tough Chancellor of BUITEM decisions along with cre-University Dr. Khalid Hafeez and DG Higher ating new sources of income in order to take the Education Dr. Zahoor public sector universities Ahmed Bazai were also present in the meeting. The Governor said on the path of self-suffi-

He expressed these that all higher education in-views while talking to Dr. stitutions in the province stitutions in the province Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairwere common assets of all man of Higher Education of us and to ensure the Commission at Governor's provision of quality edu-

**Finance** minister welcomes IMF team for completing SBA with success SLAMABAD (APP)

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzebwelcomed the International Monetary Fund (IMF) team and expressed gratitude for them

for completing Standby Arrangement (SBA), with success. The minister for finance and revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb met with the delegation of IMF Mission led by IMF Mis-

cided to provide funds after thoroughly examining the situation in the territory, in a special meeting sion Chief Nathan Porter, said chaired by him on the subject in Islamabad, a PM a press release issued here.

ISLAMABAD

lic sector universities to solve all the financial problems faced immediately and to provide the poor students of remote areas with the jewel of higher education. He said that the federal government would

give us full attention to provide special packages to Balochistan which could be required for improvement of educational institutions.

# Electricity, flour prices slashed in AJK after PM Shehbaz orders release of Rs23b

(INP): Office press release said. Different parts of the Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif on Monday ordered AJK witnessed protest demonstrations during the an immediate release of Rs23 last coupe of days with the billion to resolve the issues confronting the people of people seeking reduced Azad Jammu and Kashmir electricity bills and taxes as and to ease the protests. Shehbaz Sharif dewell as subsidized wheat flour. Azad Jammu and

Kashmir prime minister, AJK cabinet members and senior leadership attended the meeting besides the federal ministers and leaders of the coalition parties.



**QUETTA: Chairman Higher Education Commission Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed** meeting with Balochistan Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Shehbaz Sharif said. "I remain steadfast in my commitment to serve the party diligently and with unwavering loyalty under the leadership of Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.'

SC deems investigation into attacks on journalists 'unsatisfactory'

cation in Balochistan pub-ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pa-kistan on Monday expressed dissatisfaction over police investigation report regarding torture and harassment of journalists.

The court adjourned further hearing into the matter till the month of June and final date would be announced later

dissatisfaction over the investigation report on torture of journalists including Asad Tur and Absar Alam.

The report on abduction and torture of Matiullah Jan was also declared unsatisfactory.

The court instructed the police to complete the investigation process regarding the attack incidents on three journalists within

Relief on POL prices expected from May 16 ISLAMABAD (INP): "Big relief" in petrol and diesel prices is expected for

consumers in Pakistan following a decrease in global oil prices. Sources said the government is expected to cut petrol price by Rs14 per litre and diesel by Rs10 on May 16 for the next fortnight revision. Last month. the government slashed the price of petrol and highspeed diesel for the next fortnight by Rs5.45 and 8.42, respectively. The current petrol price is Rs288.49 per litre and that of HSD is Rs281.96. Meanwhile, oil prices extended de-clines on Monday amid signs of weak fuel demand and as comments from U.S. Federal Reserve officials dampened hopes of interest rate cuts.

dedication and spirit of sactiture ceremony held here rifice.' The Army Chief also

at General Headquarters. A large number of selauded brave families of nior Army officers and Shuhada for their high spirfamilies of awardees atits and sacrifices rendered tended the ceremony. by them. The COAS said, "Shuhada and Ghazis are

The officers & solour national heroes and the diers were awarded medals including Sitara-I-Imtiaz nation owes its indepen-(Military) and Tamgha-Idence and security to the Basalat. Medals of Shuhada sacrifices of its valiant warwere received by their famriors. Our Shuhada are, inily members, an Inter Serdeed, the beacons of hope vices Public Relations and resilience for the na-(ISPR) news release said.



**QUETTA: President National Party Dr. Abdul** Malik Baloch meeting with Deputy Chairman Senate Seydal Khan Nasar.

### **DPM Dar urges SCO** states' collaboration to harness region's potential

BEIJING (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Ministers' Strategic Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Monday met with Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organiza-tion (SCO) Ambassador Zhang Ming here wherein he emphasised an effective collaboration among SCO member states to harness the region's potential for

Dialogue with Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi which would cover the full spectrum of Pakistan-China relations. Senator Ishaq Dar re-

affirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the SCO Charter and the Organization's fundamental ideals as enunciated in the sustained progress and 'Shanghai Spirit.' He exprosperity. The deputy prime pressed Pakistan's strong commitment to advancing minister is on a four-day SCO's security and devel-visit to China to co-chair the opment cooperation agenda.

**NAB** closes probe into wheat scandal

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has decided to close its investigation into the wheat and flour scandal that occurred during the previous regime of the Pakistan ings Muslim League – Nawaz

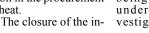
(PML-N). This decision came following the approval of NAB to cease the ongoing

investigation related to corruption in the procurement of wheat.

vestigation

vestigation was sanctioned under the NAB amendment law, with NAB recommending the transfer of the case to the Anti-Corruption Punjab for further proceed-

The officials of NAB were occupied in the investigation of corruption amounting to billions of rupees within the Executive Board of the food department while, the case of thousands of sacks of wheat being stolen was also under came under in-







# The court expressed

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OPINION

#### Daily **Independent**

# Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

#### **Spending restrictions**

The consistent contraction in the size of the federal Public Sector Development Programme for the past three years is yet another sign of Pakistan's lingering financial and economic crisis. New official data shows that the government has squeezed federal infrastructure development to Rs353bn — less than 0.4pc of GDP — during the first 10 months of the ongoing fiscal year to April, as the cash-strapped centre slashes its expenditure to meet the IMF goal of producing a primary budget surplus of 0.4pc of GDP this year.

The total spending for the period under review is 38pc of annual PSDP allocations of Rs940bn, and is 12.3pc less than what was spent on development projects during the same period a year before. That the government does not have enough money for new projects, or even for maintaining existing ones, underlines the costs Pakistan's citizens are forced to pay to survive the country's worst economic crisis ever. The lingering financial troubles also mean that most of the millions of people affected by the devastat-ing floods of 2022 are still waiting to be rehabilitated.

A media report suggests that the IMF wants Pakistan to bring down expenditure by around 163bn to Rs183bn — to make up for a significant revenue shortfall — as the Fund is not willing to make concessions on the goal of achieving a primary budget surplus this year. The government has hardly any choice in the matter, unless it is prepared to breach the IMF conditions for a primary surplus — which is an indication of a government's borrowing requirements - that was agreed to under the recently concluded shortterm \$3bn Stand-by Arrangement. This would jeopardise its chances of getting a longer and larger bailout to stay afloat.

Another report suggests that, with the discussions on the new bailout approaching, Pakistan has committed to the IMF that it would aim for a primary surplus equal to 1pc of GDP in the next fiscal year. The Fund is already believed to have told the government to raise additional revenues of Rs1.7tr, contain its development expenditure, and increase the petroleum levy target by more than 24pc to about Rs1.1tr next year. The country has achieved a sort of economic stability in recent months and economic fundamentals have shown some signs of improvement.

But this 'recovery' remains fragile and any shock at this point can mean a relapse. The IMF, therefore, has been insisting that Islamabad persevere with economic contraction as long as the fiscal and governance reforms suggested under the SBA — and which are likely to be part of the next programme - create enough fiscal space to put the country back on the growth trajectory. In this context, it would be naive to expect the government to bolster investment in public infrastructure development anytime soon.

# A lost future

Samia Liaquat Ali Khan tory in the air —

campuses whether in Pakistan or across the US have even the US. The return erupted into student of Benazir in 1988 had galvanised hope in our demonstrations and sitbreasts — and it was ins protesting the genostill alive and kicking. cide in Gaza. Students President Bill Clinton's across every religious denomination are in- government felt fresh volved. Columbia Uni- and exciting, and his versity, my alma mater, choices for who would join him in his adminishas been most prominently in the news. Not tration showed a genudesire only for being the first ine inclusivity. Take, for exset of students to call out their university, but ample, his first national also for the harsh retali- security advisor - Anation by its administra- thony 'Tony' Lake. He tion. The university's was one of my college current president is a professors, and I rewoman of Egyptian de- member, when the Baroness course ended, thinking 'Minouche' to myself that if there US administration, the progress

around women's and minorities' rights has place. The hope that been made since the globalisation meant turn of the century. carving a better future More and more, we see men and women of for everyone was procolour populate what pelled by events of the used to be the domain time. Watching on TV the 1999 protests against the World of 'white' Westerners. There was much celebration when Shafiq Trade Organisation, historically dubbed the announced Columbia's next presi-'Battle of Seattle', and studying it later, it bedent. In the UK, Rishi came clear to me that Sunak became the first there were 'protesters' prime minister of South on both sides of the Asian origin. Pakistanis barricades. Those on had witnessed the jourthe inside believed they Malala from a would be able to bring traumatised child victim about better policies by of extremist violence to participating in the proa young woman at ease cess, while those on the in the company of West- outside created the pressure that would ern political and social achieve global publicelites. While controversy surrounded her, ity. I read the columns of the inimitable Robert epitomised Fisk, writing on the struggle and achieve-Middle East, with awe and delight in the way Today, conversely,

he clearly understood as we watch six months of the Israel-Palestine the view from the other war unfold, with a con- side (our side). The fall tinuing genocide occur- of the apartheid govring before our eyes, the ernment in South Africa role of women and mi- and Nelson Mandela's nority-origin leaders in reconciliation process the Global North seems brought us face to face may lead to her being like a sinister reprisal of with what our higher shunned by those in the old colonial mantra selves could achieve.

of divide and rule. The 1990s were a preclude the darkness destiny lies? Only time different period, espe- that was also present. will tell.

cially for the youth. The Balkan conflict and There was heady vic- genocide of Muslims, the genocide of the Tutsis by the Hutus in Rwanda — these were hauntingly terrible events that told of existing failures in attitudes by governments and the UN system. Good and evil, present side by side. Yet, in those few brief years, good seemed to be ahead. And then came 9/11, and the world for changed forever. The two decades

of the 21<sup>st</sup> century have been a time where a new world order has been created, one which is far more cynical and insidious than what it was in the last two decades of were more like him in the the  $20^{th}$  century. The 'with us or against us' world would be a better mantra has led to a decimation of free thinking, dialogue and debate, with compromise and trust losing out against winner takes all. In this taking, a new set of

rules was also created. The fashioning of a global elite, consisting of people like us, bought with offers of money, power, glamour and status. We convinced ourselves that Western democracy models and the global neoliberal capitalist framework were the only ways forward. Will Minouche Shafiq realise the re-

sponsibilities of her position to her own community? Could she be playing out a strategy that brings her public revile, but creates fundamental change from within? Is there a possibility that Malala will realise that her true strength lies not in reliance on Western puppet masters but in finding her own truth, different from what has been created for her? It power today, but who But this did not can predict where one's

**Commerce** News

#### Huma Yusuf followed the Chang'e-6 mission and enjoyed seeing images of the moon transmitted by Pakistan's first lunar satellite. This is a promising development months after Pakistan launched its first National Space Policy in December. But can we keep up the momentum?

For years, I was a space sceptic, frustrated that developing countries would expend precious resources on space programmes when citizens' basic needs were barely being met. But availability of human times and tech have changed; space tech- to capitalise on the nologies are now key to public welfare. Pakistan's renewed push to manufacture and deploy domestic satellites is timely and strategic. Consider me a space convert!

The launch of our space policy emphasised the need for resilient telecommunications and cybersecurity. But satellite technologies offer so many other advantages for developing countries. A 2020 report by London Economics highlighted that space technologies offer cheaper options for critical data collection required to boost economies and save the environment. Space solutions are now central to managing food security, predicting climate risks, monitoring forest resources and disaster preparedness.

Developing countries are using their satellites to track the spread of water-borne diseases and inform irrigation approaches in water-scare regions, as well as urban planning. Real-time satellite data transfers underadvances pin in telehealth, rural banking,

and virtual education. To be truly inclusive, economies and societies must now look to the stars.

uses international satel-Thanks to my seven-year-old child, I have a and agricultural plannewfound interest in ning, but given how clispace technology. We mate-vulnerable it is, we must invest in domestic space infrastructure to take full advantage of the myriad uses of satellite technology at lower cost. But to do this, we have to get our programme right. Writing for Chatham

Shadow of the moon

House in 2022, Val Munsami, a former CEO of the South African National Space Agency, argued that for a developing country to make the most of a space able policy pla-nning. Inprogramme, it needed to consider four elements: capital, an industrial base sector's commercial potential, presence of technological infrastructure, and an appetite for international cooperation. Viewed from this angle, our space ambitions seem precarious.

The biggest risk is the paucity of STEM education. Home-grown images of the dark side of the moon and talk of sending the first Pakistani citizen into space can inspire a generation of scientists to drive a domestic space programme, but tries are playing an imonly if there exists an appropriate pedagogical culture that values scientific curiosity and a robust educational sector. of 15 key programmes in This we sadly lack. While its Agenda 2063, and the space policy acknowledges this gap, hopes to improve the quality and reach of the continent in recent STEM education in Pakistan remain slim.

One argument for developing countries investing in space infrastructure is that the sector can attract FDI, create new industries, and motivate manufacturing facilities to upgrade and update.

This is only true if a country can strike the right balance between investing in indigenous tic foreign and economic infrastructure and the development policies.

Pakistan already cost efficiencies of importing increasingly cheap satellites. The continued lack of funding for our space programme (compare Suparco's \$26 million budget for 2023 with the Indian space agency's \$1.5 billion) means the likelihood of getting this balance wrong is high.

Another risk is that the programme becomes highly securitised, with cybersecurity, counterespionage, surveillance and space defence bec-o--ming priorities over the need to collect data to inform sustaintentions ma---tter, and Pakis-tan should learn from the Philip-pin--es, which launched a space programme driven by a desire for disaster preparedness after experiencing Typhoon Haiyan in 2013. The space policy must go further in terms of articulating priorities that put the Pakistanis and basic service delivery and sustenance first.

Finally, Pakistan should not miss out on the opportunities for Global South collaboration that space offers. While superpowers continue to lead the space race, developing counpressive game of catchup. The African Union, for example, has ranked its space strategy as one more than 20 national space institutions have been established across years

Global South space programmes are focused on tech that can support inclusive telecommunications and climate risk management, issues kev to Pakistan's success We should be careful not to put all our satellites in one (Chinese) basket, and instead ensure that the space collaboration is diversified as part of holis-

# PM orders developing mobile phone App for fair wheat procurement; censures delay

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed the authorities concerned to develop a mobile phone application to ensure transparent procurement of wheat and ordered the procurement. suspension of two senior officers of PASSCO over their negligence in this audit of PASSCO's stock, process. regard.

The prime minister, organization to procure members chairing a high-level meeting to review the demand and supply and procurement of wheat by

the federal government, ordered the suspension of Pakistan Agricultural loss to the farmers and meeting.

Storage and Services resolved to take all-out Corporation (PASSCO) measures for their and Meneral manager prosperity and bringing Procurement for their food security in the failure to implement the country. earlier directives of utilising He assured that the the technology in the wheat government would reward

the outstanding PASSCO Calling for crops' centers and officers insurance and a third-party during the procurement

he instructed the Federal cabinet Muhammad an additional 400,000 Aurangzeb, Rana Tanveer metric tonnes of wheat Hussain, Ahad Khan through a transparent Cheema, Jam Kamal Khan, Shaza Fatima Khawaja The prime minister Coordinator to PM Rana said the government would Ehsan Afzal and relevant

the Managing Director of not tolerate any economic senior officers attended the

#### Thousands of trucks stranded **FPCCI demands** immediate reopening of Chaman border: Atif

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting

Independent Report immediately to alleviate the KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President sufferings and financial losses of the traders - and, FPCCI, has apprised that the Chaman border has allow essential supplies like food and medicines to get through the border. It been closed once again for is a humanitarian and the past one week; and, socioeconomic crisis as thousands of trucks and well, he added. other vehicles have been stuck under vulnerable. explained that Chaman uncertain and hostile circumstances. It is complete chaos once again

regarding wheat stocks.

border nestled in the heart of the region's complex

demanded that Chaman border should be opened

### Flour prices decreasing cross the country, easing burden on consumers

various cities.

In Islamabad, for instance, the price has plummeted an by impressive Rs 850 within just one month. Last month, residents

of the capital were paying around Rs 3.000 for the same quantity, but now they can purchase it for as low as Rs 2,053, with the maximum price capped at dropped significantly in Rs 2.133

#### Gold rates dip by Rs 1,200

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs 1,200 and was sold at Rs 242,300 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs 243,500 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs 943 to Rs 207,733 from Rs 208,762 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs 190,422 from Rs 191,365, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs 2,650 and Rs 2,271.94 respectively. The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$10 to \$2.349 from \$2,359, the Association.

International **Cattle Festival** on May 30-31 FAISALABAD (APP) University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) in collaboration with International Goat & Bull Association will organize the 26<sup>th</sup> International Cattle Festival 2024 here

on May 30-31. A spokesman for the association said here on Tuesday that various animal competitions would be arranged in the festival including heavy goat, beautiful goat, heavy camel, heavy ram.

level committee led by Minister for Industries Chaudhry Shafey Hussain for the purpose.

Minister was briefed,"Sheds and other facilities like weaving, dyeing and other related units will be established in the Garment City." It was also briefed that the proposed Garment City will be energized with green/solar energy

Moreover, garment cities will be established in other areas gradually, after the success of first garment



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the Republic of Turkiye, Mr. Mehmet Pacaci, paid a courtesy call on the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Mr. Ahad Khan Cheema.

#### NTDC adds 250 MVA auto-transformer at 220kV Grid Station Rohri

ISLAMABAD (APP): The project Delivery (South) team of National Transmission and Despatch Company Limited (NTDC) has successfully added another 220/132kV, 250 MVA auto-transformer (T-4) and 220 kV half Dia D-4 & 132kV transformer bay E-13 at 220kV Grid Station Rohri. The auto-

transformer after installation has also been energized, according to a statement issued by NTDC. This project was

improve the capacity of the NTDC transmission network. This work has been completed under the National Transmission Modernization Project (NTMP-I), funded by the World Bank and NTDC's own resources. The completion of this component of NTMP-I will benefit the domestic, agricultural. and industrial consumers of the SEPCO region, it further said.

This addition of an auto-transformer will improve the loading capacity of 220 kV grid part of a power station Rohri and provide transmission capacity relief to the areas under enhancement program to the SEPCO region.

Mandokhail. **PCJCCI, FTO hold** awareness session on redress of taxpayers complaints The 100-Index of the

LAHORE (INP): The attracted by huge interest Pakistan China Joint from diverse stakeholders Chamber of Commerce and (PCJCCI) Industry organized an awareness session for "Outreach programmes with respect to Role and functions of FTO (Federal Tax Ombudsman) office on account of redress of complaints of taxpayers against FBR" here at the PCJCCI Secretariat on Monday.

The speakers for the event were Dr. Ahmed Shahab, Advisor, Adeela Rehman, Advisor FTO and Nazim Raza, Director FTO. The session was complaints within 45 days.

comprising representation from companies and young entrepreneurs. Adeela Rehman,

Advisor FTO, briefed that Federal Tax Ombudsman is working tirelessly for the improvement of tax services and systems in the country. She said that the 741,196,400 shares valuing main purpose of FTO is to redress the injustice done to taxpayers by FBR, Revenue Division and Government of Pakistan We try our level best to

day. Some 387 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 241 of them recorded gains and 120 sustained losses, deal and resolve the



process.

QUETTA: A delegation of Chaman Chamber of Commerce led by Haji Jamalud Din Achakzai meeting with Balochistan Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan

**PSX stays** bullish, gains 713 points ISLAMABAD (APP):

Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 713.61 points, a positive change of 0.98 percent, closing at 73,799.11 points

against 73,085.50 points the previous trading day. A ISLAMABAD (APP): total of 721,597,885 shares The flour prices across the valuing Rs 25.649 billion country, including the twin were traded during the day cities of Islamabad and compared Rawalpindi have witnessed a notable decline in recent

Sheikh,

Rs 25.268 billion the last weeks, offering relief to consumers. According to official documents of Ministry of Food Security and Research, the cost of a 20 whereas the prices of 26 kg bag of flour has remained unchanged.



per tola

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh

Punjab's first plug and play garment city Independent Report

Maryam to establish

LAHORE: "All facilities will be available in the first plug and play Garment City," said Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif while chairing a special meeting to decide on the establishment of Punjab's first plug and play garment city. She

garment industry."

Madam

Earlier, Madam Chief

added,"Organize technical training of workers of the Chief Minister directed the systems. authorities concerned to solicit expressions of interest from major apparel

industries for the Garment City, and formed a high- city pilot project. Independent

Tuesday May 14, 2024

# National News

# CM orders sustainable water drainage system for Lahore

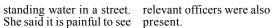
#### *Reviews C&W's road construction, maintenance projects*

water

Independent Report LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz dirty Sharif, during a meeting on local government here on Monday, reviewed the state of drainage and sewerage system besides progress on repair and rehabilitation measures. The CM said, "No

street in Lahore should remain unpaved. A sustainable water drainage system should be devised."

Maryam Nawaz Sharif said that the Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA), Metropolitan Corporation Lahore (MCL) and other bodies concerned should work in close coordination, adding that people cannot bear the inconvenience caused by



Meanwhile, Punjab and Chief Minister Maryam overflowing sewerage in Nawaz Sharif reviewed the broken streets and roads. "All institutions should not ongoing road maintenance ignore problems of the and construction projects people," she mentioned. She also reviewed progress carried out Communication and Works (C&W) department, here on streetlights, parks and horticulture in suburban on Monday.

During a meeting with Punjab Minister for Communication and Works Pervaiz Rashid, Senior Provincial Marriyum Soheb Ahmed Malik, she Aurangzeb, Provincial was briefed about the Local maintenance and construction of roads Government Zeeshan across Punjab. The CM was briefed Rafique and Special Assistant Zeeshan Malik

that the work on repair and rehabilitation of 590 roads attended the meeting. Chief Secretary, Chairman P&D. covering a distance of 11500 kilometers across Secretaries, Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner Lahore, DG LDA and other Punjab has been started.



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi with a high tea at Gilani House. 100,000 people avail **PFA cracks** down on fake free health facilities under beverages,

# Sehat Card: Minister

**Independent Report** citizens

He appreciated the PESHÂWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Chief Minister Ali Amin Health Syed Qasim Ali Gandapur for reviving the health card soon after Shah on Monday said that coming to power and termed it a gift to the deserving people of the province.

The Minister said that a review was going on to check the quality of registered hospitals on the health card panel so that quality health services could be ensured on Sehat country and the province, adding that so far 2.7 billion card. Shah noted that the health card had also helped rupees had been spent on the treatment of these government hospitals. improve the services of

#### **Opposition in PA slams** government over worsen situation in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The minister has been declared opposition leader in no go area.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Dr Ibad raised Assembly, Dr Ibadullah, question that police while starting debate on stations have been the budget on Monday established in public said that there is property and rented confusion regarding the buildings at merged budget as the chief districts so where is the minister is saying that Rs1000 billion in the there is no fund in the context of the war on terror province while the Finance gone. Advisor is claiming that He said that the

situation has reached such Dr Ibadullah said that a point that the session the province has been judge is being kidnaped. destroyed from all aspect According to media reports, a transaction was which is financially or law and order. He said that the made for payment of constituency of chief ransom.

International News

Liters ATTOCK (APP): The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) has seized a staggering 1,100 liters of counterfeit carbonated and fizzy drinks during a successful raid in the Jehri area Kass near Hassanabdal, on Monday.

seizes 1,100

According to PFA spokesperson, the PFA's enforcement team led by Assistant Food Safety Officer Muhammad Zahid collaborated with the local police to intercept a pickup truck transporting the illicit beverages.

#### 718 more meters disconnected on gas theft

LAHORE (APP): The Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) disconnected 718 connections during its on going crackdown against gas pilferers in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad, imposing Rs 24 million fine. According to a spokesman for the SNGPL, in Lahore and Sheikhupura, regional teams disconnected 549 connections on illegal use of gas and imposed a fine of Rs 19.6 million against gas pilferers and also lodged 21 FIRs. In Multan and Bahawalpur, 139 connections were disconnected on illegal use besides imposing Rs 3 million fine.

#### **KPCM** for allocation of funds in ADP 2024-25 for all sectors

Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur in the chair regarding preparation of draft Annual Development Program (ADP), for the financial year 2024-25.

the upcoming ADP.

Communications

Besides Provincial

Minister for Irrigation

Aqib Ullah Khan, Minister

PESHAWAR (APP): A Works, Shakeel Khan and meeting was held on Advisor to Chief Minister Monday with Chief on Information Barrister Minister Khyber Muhammad Ali Saif, the meeting was also attended administrative by secretaries and other high ups of the concerned departments.

Page 03

A detailed briefing was also given in the During the meeting, meeting about the on-going the discussion was made and proposed projects of on proposed projects of these departments that will Irrigation, Public Health be included in the ADP Engineering and Road 2024-25. sectors to be reflected in

While issuing policy directives about new ADP, the CM directed the high ups of these departments to give top priority to the for Public Health ongoing schemes specially Engineering, Pakhtunyar those which are due for Khan, Minister for completion in the allocation & of developmental funds.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Health Khawaia Salman Rafique presides over the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Health Insurance working group Sub Committee.

#### **Minister directs for** early completion of beautification projcts

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Local Government & Rural Development, Arshad Ayub Khan Monday said that all incomplete beautification projects to be completed as soon as possible. Presiding over a meeting regarding development schemes in the annual budget, he said that annual development programme has been framed while keeping in view the opinion of the people. Besides, Secretary Local Government & Rural Development, Dawood

**Monitoring Desk** 

tinued to conduct air strikes

on Gaza on Sunday after it

expanded an evacuation or-

der for Rafah, with the

United Nations warning an

outright invasion of the

crowded southern city

agency said two doctors

were killed on Sunday in

the central town of Deir

al-Balah amid heavy gun-

fire from Israeli helicop-

with Egypt on Saturday and

smoke was seen rising over

international opposition

and entered eastern areas of

law, the entire Russian

Cabinet resigned Tuesday

following Putin's glitter-

wounded in

Israeli troops defied

Witnesses said Israel

ters

the city.

MOSCOW:

office

Gaza's civil defence

risked an "epic" disaster.

concerned also attended the meeting.

provincial The minister directed the inclusion of digitization projects of the local government sector in the annual budget to bring transparency in the governance. He said that all possible relief would be provided to the people in the upcoming annual budget.

He said that schemes including women development centre, parks, footpaths and construction of roads are being included in the budget to provide best facilities to the people Khan, other authorities of the district Haripur.

areas.

Minister

Minister

Senator

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif alongwith students addressing the inaugural ceremony of Chief Minister Skills Development Initiative.

#### Heat stroke units setup at LU Hospital

HYDERABAD (APP): in Hyderabad and its vicin-Medical Superintendent Liaquat University Hospital Hyderabad/Jamshoro Dr Aijaz Ahmad Abbasi has said that according to the Meteorological Department, a possible heat stroke is encountered during the increase in the intensity of heat.

In this regard the hospital will immediately impose emergency measures and all the doctors, and para-medical staff leave will be cancelled.

He said that in view have been appointed as offered in the village of the increase heat stroke Heat Stroke Focal Person. Tarnain Bala.

ity, we have set up air-conditioned units in University Hospital Hyderabad and Jamshoro to provide medical treatment. Along with supplies

and medicines, senior Dr Muhammad Aslam Rajput whose mobile number is 0311-3077700 for Civil Hospital Hyderabad and Dr Faheem Lashari RMO

whose phone number is 0332-1318881 for Jamshoro Hospital . They

so far 100,000 people of Father and the province have availed free health facilities under daughter-in-law Sehat health card initiative since the month of murdered by Ramadan. unknown In a release issued here, he said that the gunman treatment was provided to MANSEHRA (APP): Two the citizens of KP admitted to different hospitals of the people were shot dead by

unknown gunmen on Monday in the village of Tarnain Bala in the jurisdiction of Shankiyari police station Mansehra. According to police

sources, unknown gunmen barged into the house of Fazal Deen and killed him and his daughter-in-law Ansa Bibi. Shankiyari police

registered a case of double murder against unknown people and started an investigation. The family of the deceased have refrained from accusing any specific individual in their murder case filing. The postmortem report revealed that Fazal Deen sustained three gunshot wounds, while Ansa Bibi received two.

Following the completion of medico-legal formalities, the budget is surplus. Shankiyari police handed over the bodies to their heirs. Later, the funeral prayers for both victims were

# Turkey's Erdogan says US, Europe not doing enough to pressure Israel into Gaza truce

**Monitoring Desk** ANKARA: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Sunday that the United States and European countries were not doing enough to pressure Israel to agree a ceasefire in Gaza, after Palestinian militant group Hamas' move to accept a truce proposal. Turkey has denounced Israel's attacks on Gaza, called for an immediate ceasefire, and criticised what it calls unconditional support for Israel by the West.

Ánkara has halted all trade with Israel and said it had decided to join South Africa's initiative to have Israel tried for genocide at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Speaking to Muslim scholars in Istanbul, Erdogan said Hamas had accepted a ceasefire pro-

**Monitoring Desk** 

NEW DELHI: India signed

a 10-year contract with

Iran on Monday to develop

port of Chabahar, the

Narendra Modi-led govern-

ment said, strengthening

relations with a strategic

oping the port in Chabahar

coast along the Gulf of

India has been devel-

Oman as a way to trans- Asian Countries.

Middle Eastern nation.

and operate the Iranian

India inks 10-year

**Chabahar port** 

development.

posal by Qatar and Egypt in a "step in the path to-ward a lasting ceasefire", but Israeli Prime Minister Beniamin Netanyahu's government did not want the war to end. "The response of the Netanyahu government was to attack the innocent people in Rafah," he said, referring to the Gazan city that Israel is targeting. "It has become clear who sides with peace and dialogue, and who wants clashes continu-

ing and more bloodshed. "And did Netanyahu see any serious reaction for his spoiled behaviour? No. Neither Europe nor America showed a reaction that would force Israel into a ceasefire." Erdogan's in-Kalin met with Hamas leaders in Doha on Sunday to discuss ceasefire talks and

Israel's military con-

duct in Gaza has come under increasing scrutiny in recent weeks as the civilian death toll and devastation in the enclave mount. Its planned assault on

Rafah, hosting some 1.4 million Palestinians mostly displaced in the war, has helped fuel the deepest tensions in relations between Israel and its main ally Washington in generations

Ankara on Friday welcomed the United Nations General Assembly's backing for a Palestinian bid to become a full UN member. Erdogan on Sunday called on countries not telligence chief Ibrahim recognising a Palestinian sovereign state to do so after the vote, but slammed Washington and others who voted against. the access of humanitarian

#### **Russia says** it downs 16 Ukraine-launched missiles, 31 drones

**Monitoring Desk** AOSCOW: The Russian defence ministry said on Monday its air defence systems destroyed 16 missiles and 31 drones that Ukraine launched at Russian territory overnight, including 12 Police officers detain a demonstrator during a protest missiles over the battered against a bill on "foreign agents" in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Five houses were damaged in Belgorod, but according to preliminary deal to operate Iran's information, there were no injuries, Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov wrote on the Telegram messaging app

port goods to Iran, Afghani On Sunday, 15 people were killed in Belgorod stan and central Asian countries, bypassing the ports when a section of an apartof Karachi and Gwadar. ment block collapsed after US sanctions on Iran. being struck by fragments however, slowed the port's of a Soviet-era missile, launched by Ukraine and "Ĉhabahar Port's shot down by Russian significance transcends its

forces, Russia said. role as a mere conduit between India and Iran; it ministry said on Monday serves as a vital trade arthe 12 guided missiles were on Iran's south-eastern tery connecting India with launched from a Ukrainian Afghanistan and Central Vilkha multiple rocket launcher

Monitoring Desk TANAH DATAR: At least 34 people were killed and 16 more were pours swept ash and large rocks down Mount Marapi. "I heard the thunder missing in western Indo-

and the sound similar to nesia after flash floods and cold lava flow from boiling water. It was the sound of big rocks falling," housewife Rina one of the archipelago's Devina said, adding that three of her neighbours were killed. "It was pitch black,

so I used my cellphone as Hours of heavy rain a flashlight. The road was muddy, so I chanted 'God, have mercy!' over and over again," she said threatening thousands of of her evacuation to a lopeople after the down- cal official's office.

blackout, with medics and

human rights defenders

barely able to get news to the

world. The fighting has since

continued, eyewitnesses said

on Sunday, reporting air

strikes and artillery shelling

that left "houses on fire", one

resident said. According to

French medical charity Doc-

tors Without Borders (MSF),

two children and a caregiver

were killed in an intensive care

unit Saturday following a

nearby military air strike.

Since April of last year, Sudan

has been in the grips of a dev-

astating war between the

army, headed by the

country's de facto leader

Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.

# 27 killed in renewed clashes in Sudan: UN

**Monitoring Desk** PORT SUDAN: Clashes re-

strikes, artillery fire and machine gun clashes battering the city since Friday, when an hours-long battle left an estimated 850 people displaced, according to the UN. It also killed at least 27 that day, based on what the UN said were "unconfirmed re-



Nominee for the post of Russia's Defence Minister Andrei Belousov attends a hearing held by the defence and security committee of the parliament's upper house Federation Council as part of a confirmation process for a new government line-up, in Moscow, Russia.

#### Indonesia floods, landslides kill 34, 16 missing

**Russian flats Monitoring Desk** MOSCOW: At least seven people were killed and 17 injured when a whole sec

Seven killed

in attack on

tion of an apartment building in Belgorod collapsed after being hit by a missile fired by Ukraine, Russian officials said.

In one of the deadliest attacks to date on the region of Belgorod, Ukraine launched what Russian officials said was a massive missile attack with Tochka ballistic missiles and Adler and RM-70 Vampire (MLRS) multiple launch rocket systems.

#### First patient to get pig kidney transplant dies Monitoring Desk

ing inauguration in the WASHINGTON: The first Kremlin, and most mempatient to receive a genetically bers have been widely exmodified pig kidney transpected to keep their jobs, plant died, two months after while Shoigu's fate had the procedure, the US hospiappeared uncertain. Putin tal that carried it out said. signed a decree on Sunday "Mass General is deeply sadappointing Shoigu as secdened at the sudden passing retary of Russia's Secuof Mr Rick Slayman. We have rity Čouncil, the Kremlin no indication that it was the said. The appointment result of his recent transwas announced shortly plant," the Boston hospital after Putin proposed said. In a world first, surgeons Andrei Belousov to beat Massachusetts General come the country's de-Hospital in March transfense minister in place of planted the genetically edited Shoigu. The announcepig kidney into Slayman, who ment of Shoigu's new role came as 13 people were was 62 years old at the time and suffering from end-stage reported dead and 20 kidney disease more

# Israel strikes Gaza after fresh Rafah evacuation order

suspending traffic through another. RAFAH: Israeli forces con-

Israel expanded an evacuation order for eastern Rafah, after 300,000 people had fled the city earlier this week.

"We don't know where to go," said Farid Abu Eida, who was preparing to leave Rafah, having already been displaced there from Gaza City.

Residents piled water tanks, mattresses and other belongings onto vehicles and prepared to flee again.

'There is no place left had carried out strikes in in Gaza that is safe or not overcrowded... There's Rafah near the crossing nowhere we can go." Residents were told to go to the "humanitarian zone" of Al-Mawasi, on the coast northwest of Rafah.

International outrage the city, effectively shut-ting a key aid crossing and mounted at Isra mounted at Israel's opera-

#### **Putin** replaces Shoigu as Russia's defence minister in cabinet shakeup **Monitoring Desk**

Russia's border city of Russian Belgorod, where a 10-President Vladimir Putin story apartment building on Sunday replaced partially collapsed after Sergei Shoigu as defense what Russian officials minister in a Cabinet said was Ukrainian shellshakeup that comes as he ing. Ukraine hasn't combegins his fifth term in mented on the incident.

Belousov's candi-In line with Russian dacy will need to be approved by Russia's upper house in parliament, the Federation Council.

It reported Sunday that Putin introduced proposals for other Cabinet positions as well but Shoigu is the only minister on that list who is being replaced.

Several other new candidates for federal ministers were proposed Saturday by Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, reappointed by Putin on Friday.

Shoigu's deputy, Timur Ivanov, was arrested last month on bribery charges and was ordered to remain in custody pending an official investigation.

ignited between the Sudanese army and rival paramilitaries earlier this week in the key Darfur town of El-Fasher, the United Nations said on Sunday, killing at least 27 people in one day. Eyewitnesses have reported air

The Russian defence ports", as the city suffers a near-total communications



border region of Belgorod.

#### Daily **Independent**, Gwadar

#### Pak prosperity, progress hinges upon women's empowerment: Ayaz

#### ISLAMABAD (APP):

Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan Sardar Ayaz Sadig has said that empowerment of women is key to enhancing the development and prosperity of the country. He also added, "inclusion of women in socioeconomic stratas is pivotal for their social inclusion and for the country's progress as no society can realize the dream of women empowerment without ensuring their security and well-being.

He expressed these views while welcoming the passage of a unanimous motion to form a committee comprising members of both Houses i.e. The Senate and National Assembly to recommend the initiatives for women's empow-

erment. While highlighting the significance of the unanimous passage of the motion he reiterated that the parliament of Pakistan would be at the forefront of safeguarding women and providing them security.

He also expressed his confidence that this special committee would recommend initiatives for women's empowerment. He, further, stressed the need to take special endeavors to ensure women's security while narrating an incident of harassment of a

woman SSP in Lahore. He also assured to extend full cooperation on behalf of National Assembly Secretariat for proper and smooth functioning of Special Committee.



Cohodarevic called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

# **DPM Dar invites Chinese Gezhouba Group to expand** operation under CPEC Phase-II

#### Pakistan offers lucrative manufacturing, processing opportunities to investors

The

fice said.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister Group is a subsidiary of and Foreign Minister Energy China, which is Mohammad Ishaq Dar China's leading company on Monday invited the undertaking multiple Chinese Gezhouba power generation projects Group to expand its operation in Pakistan issued by the Foreign Ofunder the second phase of China Pakistan Eco-Corridor nomic

(CPEC). Chairman at the tragic in-"Under the Phase-II of cident in Shangla in which CPEC, Pakistan offers genfive Chinese and one Pakistani national were erous incentives to Chinese investors which the martyred. He expressed Gezhouba Group can use Pakistan's firm resolve to to expand its business foot- bring the perpetrators of prints in Pakistan," he said this heinous attack to juswhile talking to the Chair- tice and to assure foolman of Gezhouba Group in

Beijing

proof security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan.

Gezhouba Noting the contribution of Gezhouba Group to Pakistan's economic development, the Deputy PM underscored that Pakistan needed to further expand its power generation capacity in Pakistan, a press release in renewable and hydel sectors for which Gezhouba The Deputy PM ex-Group can play a leading pressed condolences to the role.

The Chairman thanked Pakistan for taking effective steps to ensure the security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan and expressed firm resolve that the company would timely complete all its projects in Pakistan and would further expand operations to new areas of cooperation.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Nawabzada Tariq Magsi and Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa meeting with Balochistan Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Dialogue, only option to resolve national issues:

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Adviser

dering hither and thither to sell wheat but tiktok government is sleeping, he added.

#### the sake of nation and country. The talks can be fruitful only with the powers that be, he said this in an informal talk with the journalists here Monday on the occasion of his appearance in anti corruption court.

#### **PTI founder may face** fourth Toshakhana case, says Barrister Gohar

tee.

channels.

delav

**QUETTA: Voice for Baloch Missing Persons Lead-**

ers, Mama Qadeer and Nasrullah Baloch address-

ing to media persons during press conference, at a

DC visits exam center for

ensuring power supply

protest camp outside Quetta press club.

RAWALPINDI (INP): vestigate the matter. PTI Chairman Barrister The PTI founder The PTI founder in-

sisted he would pursue dia-

logue, not deal, for the bet-

stressed that personal inter-

ests would not drive these

discussions. However, he

lamented a lack of progress

by the negotiation commit-

raised by the former prime

minister regarding tax col-

lection and the IMF

programme, Barrister

Gohar said power should

emanate from democratic

ciary to expedite the hear-ing on the Iddat case and

decide it without further

Gohar urged the judi-

Addressing concerns

# **President for promoting** business & trade ties with **Bosnia & Herzegovina**

Tuesday May 14, 2024

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Asif Ali Zardari has underlined the need to promote business and trade ties with Bosnia and Herzegovina by opening banks, trading in local currencies, and promoting barter trade between the two countries.

The President exressed these views while talking to the Ambassador of Bosnia & Herzegovina (B&H), Mr Emin Cohodarevic, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, to-

Welcoming the Am-bassador, the President Bosnia & Herzegovina, including food, tourism, said that Pakistan's ties and textile with Bosnia & Herzegovina were based on historic and friendly relations spanning

Ch Pervaiz Elahi says:

**Dialogue only** 

way to steer

country out of

prevailing crisis

LAHORE (Online): PTI

Pervaiz Elahi has said talks

are only way to steer coun-

try out of the prevailing cri-

only way to come out of

the present crisis. Imran

Khan has agreed for talks

not for his own sake but for

The farmers are wan-

The powers that be

should give positive re-

talks by former president

"Dialogues are the

Chaudhry

president

over almost three decades. Pakistan for their support He added that both countries should continue bilateral engagements and interactions to further explore the avenues of cooperation in the areas of mutual interest The Ambassador said

to Bosnia & Herzegovina during the war in the 1990s. He also solicited Pakistan's support for Bosnia and Herzegovina's draft resolution on Srebrenica in the United Nations General Assembly.

The President said that his country wanted to deepen ties with Pakistan that Pakistan would in the fields of economy, favourably examine security, and culture. He Bosnia's request, adding highlighted that there that Pakistan stood in soliwas a vast scope for ecodarity with the victims of the 1995 tragedy in nomic cooperation for Pakistani businesses in Srebrenica The Ambassador also different industries in

extended the invitation to the President to visit Bosnia & Herzegovina to The Ambassador exstrengthen economic cooppressed his gratitude to the eration between the two



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding Azad Jammu & Kashmir matters.

#### Contractors directed to implement execution plan for Mohammad project

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) Engr Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd) visited Mohmand Dam Project to review construction progress on different key

He had a detailed visit be deployed to squeeze of the inlets and outlets of completion time, he further the three diversion tunnels, the power house and the spillway, said a press re-

The GM/PD Mohmand Dam Project, accompanied by the consultants and the contractors, briefed the Chairman about the ongoing activities and timelines for completion of critical tasks at these

Subsequent to the site visit, the Chairman also pre-

creasing needs of water and energy in the country, the Chairman directed the contractors to implement the execution plan, in letter and spirit, for completion of the project according to the timelines Additional resources

said Earlier, the Chairman

was briefed about the progress on diversion works, recovery plan, progress on quarry development and spillway concreting.

It is important to note that WAPDA is constructing Mohmand Dam Project across River Swat in Mohmand District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It is the 5th highest concretesided over a meeting at the face-rock-fill dam in the sponse to invitation for talks by former president upon the significance of uled for completion in

ISLAMABAD (INP): The of the standing committees issue of the chairmanship and the members to the of 38 standing committees, chief whip of the government. The sources said the chief whip of the government will hold elections for the chairmanship of the committees after receiving the complete list from the parliamentary parties in the NA. A consensus was reached between the gov-

QUETTA: Provincial Minister for C&W Mir

Saleem Ahmed Khosa reviews under construction

**Opposition agrees to lead** 

11 standing bodies, PAC

chairmanship, govt gets 27

work of Custom and Gahi Khan Flyover.

including the Public Ac-counts Committee (PAC),

in the National Assembly

has been settled as the op-

position agreed to lead 11 and the government 27

ernment and the opposition

on the distribution of 38

standing committees and

Standing Committees came

under the control of the gov-ernment and its allies, while

the other 11 committees,

including the PAC, came to

As per the decision, 27

The sources said the

PAC on Monday.

the opposition.

committees

National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq played an important role in resolving the issue of the chairmanship of standing committees and the PAC. Several meetings were held for the allocation of the posts of chairmanship of the standing committees among the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PMLN) Minister for Religious Áffairs Tariq Fazal chief whip of the parliamen-tary parties will provide Party's (PPP) MNA Aijaz

names for the chairmanship Hussain Jakhrani.

Rana Sana on Political and Public Af-



QUETTA: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) District Quetta Chief, Maulana Abdul Rehman along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Quetta press club.

#### World Thalassemia tem and parliament. Day observed at **BMC Hospital Quetta**

QUETTA (APP): Seminar creased but also the freorganized on the eve of World Thalassemia Day was celebrated at Balon Medical Complex (BMC) Hospital by Regional Blood Center and Thalassemia

Care Unit of Civil Hosptial Quetta. In Balochistan, the

death rate of children affected by thalassemia is being decreased, but by creating awareness among the people, it can not only be controlled, as Balochistan will be made free from thalassemia.

Due to the excellent Balochistan Safe Transfucare of children admitted to BMC Hospital's Thalassemia Center, not only the experts addressed the cermortality rate has de- emony.

Club on Monday, the Presi-dent of Arts Council of Pa-

kistan Karachi, Muhammad

(BUITEMS) Quetta.

16.

quency of blood transfusions has increased significantly. These views were ex-

pressed by the speakers while addressing at the ceremony and seminar organized with the children suffering from thalassemia and

their parents under the Department of Blood Bank and Thalassemia Clinic of BMC Hospital on the occasion of World Thalassemia Day. Secretary Health

Abdullah Khan, Director sion Professor Dr. Hanif Mengal, Dr. Shafi and other

fairs, Rana Sanaullah, said Gohar Ali Khan says efforts are afoot to file a on Monday that in a parfourth case against the terment of Pakistan. He liamentary democracy, diaparty founder related to logue was the sole method Toshakhana. to resolve issues; without He alleged that the it, there is no other option.

National Accountability Talking to a private Bureau (NAB) was being news channel, he said that used against the PTI the 'leader of the house' and founder. the 'leader of the opposi-

Speaking to media outside the Adiala Jail in tion' were two integral components of this democratic Rawalpindi, Barrister Gohar quoted the PTI However, referring to founder as having said the former chairman of PTL apology should be sought he lamented that unfortufrom him (and not the nately, there exists a politiother way round). He (founder) condemned the cal leader who doesn't believe in this democratic sys-May 9 violence and underlined the need for a ju-He alleged PTI dicial commission to in-

founder of attempting to sow chaos and sedition through democracy. Rana Sanaullah reiterated that dialogue was indispensable for addressing national issues.

#### NA budget session to commence on

June 6 ISLAMABAD (APP) Speaker of National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Monday chaired a meeting to discuss the current and upcoming budget sessions of the National Assembly and it was decided that the

budget session would commence on June 6. The meeting was attended by parliamentary leaders representing various parties in the house. It was further decided that the current session of the National

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Assembly would continue Lasbela, Humaira Baloch until May 17. The meeting on Monday visited the examination center at Government Girls Higher and Secondary School Uthal to ensure the smooth conduct of exams by ending power load shedding during paper

time. The center was facing severe load-shedding is-

on paper time in Lasbela Taking immediate ac-(DC) tion, the DC directed K-Electric (KE) to provide an uninterrupted electricity supply during paper timing to prevent any further inconvenience to the students The timely interven-

tion ensured that the exams were conducted without any hitch, and the students were able to appear for their papers in a comfortable environment, she said.



QUETTA: Provincial Finance Secretary Babar Khan participating via video link in the consultation session of Inter Ministerial Telecommunication Sector.

Arif Alvi, he held

ohmand Dam to cope in-



NASIRABAD: Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani being briefed by Chief Engineer Nasir Majeed and SE Abdul Hameed Mengal.

Buledi in a meeting with Pro-

vincial Head of UNFPA Dr

Sarmad Khan had deliberated

on crucial initiatives aimed at

der-Based Violence (GBV)

helpline to provide immedi-

ate support to victims, the

implementation of women

and girl-friendly spaces in

various districts of

Balochistan to foster safe

environment and introduc-

for

smoothly

crease private sector

GDP share and participa-

tion in the economy, add-

ing, we have to change the

mindset as the country

#### Zaman Park violence: LHC confirms interim bail of **PTI founder**

AHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday confirmed the interim bail of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder in the Zaman Park violence case.

The court ordered the PTI founder to furnish surety bonds of Rs 500,000 to avail the relief.

Justice Muhammad Amjad Rafiq heard the bail petition filed by the PTI founder and confirmed the interim bail upon completion of arguments by the parties

Barrister Salman Safdar represented the PTI founder and argued before the court that his client had no connection with the case. He submitted that his client used to appear in the case before his conviction and arrest. He further submitted that currently, the PTI founder was in jail and could not appear before the court, requesting confirmation of his interim bail. However, the pros

ecution opposed the bail petition and pleaded with the court to dismiss it.

The court observed that the bail petition could be heard without the appearance of the PTI founder as he was in prison.

for women empowerment QUETTA(APP): Advisor to programs tailored to emthe Chief Minister Balochistan on Women Depower women and engage the youth in productive venvelopment Dr. Rubaba Khan

**Advisor to CM Balochistan** 

holds meeting with UNFPA

tures. Dr. Buledi emphasized the significance of collaborative efforts in addressing the challenges faced by advancing the cause of women segment of society women empowerment across in the region, highlighting Balochistan region. During the importance of inclusive the meeting, they discussed the establishment of a Genand sustainable solutions.

Dr. Sarmad Khan lauded the proactive approach of the Women Development Department and reaffirmed UNFPA's commitment to supporting initiatives that promote gender equality and empower women and youth across tion of skill-based education the region of Balochistan.

#### Khosa stresses importance of public-private partnership for economic growth

QUETTA (APP): Addi- can no longer run on the old patterns. tional Finance Secretary

Balochistan Shujaat Ali He said that the pro-Khosa Monday stressed motion of foreign investthe need for a strong ment is government's first priority to turn the public-private partnership to ensure sustainchallenges into opportuable economic growth and nities, adding, the private bringing the sector is currently the country's traders into the priority of the current tax network to run coungovernment which can try' financial matters help the country navigate through current eco-Talking to PTV news

nomic challenges. He said that short mechannel, he said that Public-Private Partnerships is dium and long-term strategies are being worked on for considered as an important tool to further admacroeconomic stability to vance the implementation bring foreign direct investof the SDGs and to inment in the country.

Government has plan to provide more facilities to the business community and investors in Pakistan. he mentioned

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tics, literature, and other QUETTA (APP): The Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi sectors, will participate in in collaboration with the the festival. Expressing his senti-ments, he said that organizgovernment of Balochistan would organize two-day

2-day 'Pakistan Literature

Festival' from May 15

ing a festival in Balochistan Pakistan Literature Festival is a heartwarming endeav-our to embrace all languages 2024 in Quetta on May 15-Addressing a press conference at Quetta Press and cultures.

Shah remarked that Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi is the only council not governed by the gov-Ahmed announced the orernment.

ganizing of Pakistan Litera-He underscored the ture Festival 2024 (Quetta deep-rooted historical ties between Balochistan and Chapter) which is scheduled to take place on May Sindh, noting the active par-15 at Balochistan Univerticipation of Balochi writsity of Information Techers and poets in Karachi. nology, Engineering and He mentioned award-

ing prizes to Balochi litera-Management Sciences ture and extending support He said the renowned to Pashto literature through personalities from the fields the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa of arts, entertainment, poliregion.

including Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Aijaz Hussain Jakhrani, Malik Aamir Dogar, Syed Amin-ul sues, causing discomfort to Haque, Noor Alam Khan, several students who were Gul Asghar Khan. suffering from dehydration.

focused on the formation of standing committees and the finance committee of the assembly. Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly,

Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, along with members