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dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Hub

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PM tasks BOI to bring further EoDB for more

Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif on Friday tasked the

Board of Investment with

the target to bring more ease

for attracting investment

and pave way for more

businesses in the country.

who chaired a high-level re-

view meeting on Ease of

Doing Business (EoDB) for

investment and business

activities, said the mini-

mum impediments were a

must to attract investment.

during his previous tenure,

he had taken priority mea-

sures to promote invest-

ment and business and that

the Special Investment Fa-

cilitation Council had also

played a supportive role in

achieving the goals of eco-

nomic revival.

He told the meeting that

The prime minister,

Ruling alliance suffers major blow

PA speaker suspends 27 MPAs in light of SC's decision on reserved seats

Of 27 suspended MPAs, 23 belong to ruling PML-N, two to PPP and one each to IPP and PML-Q; Speaker suspends members of 24 woman, 3 minority lawmakers.

LAHORE (INP): Following the Supreme Court's ruling the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q). on reserved seats after the nullification of the Peshawar High Court's verdict, the ruling alliance faced a major blow as their 27 lawmakers in the Punjab Assembly ties. faced suspension on Friday.

After reading out the top court's verdict in the provincial legislative assembly, Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan suspended the memberships of 27 lawmakers who had been allocated reserved seats for women

Twenty-three out of 27 lawmakers belonged to the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) whose number of seats in the House has been reduced to 203. Subsequently, two lawmakers of the Pakistan

each from the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) and

The speaker suspended memberships on 24 reserved seats for women and the other three for minori-

The suspended Members of the Provincial Assembly (MPAs) representing minorities in the Punjab Assembly include Tariq Masih Gul, Waseem Anjum and

The suspended women MPAs include Maqsoodar Bibi, Robina Nazeer, Salma Zahid, Kanwal Noman, Zeba Ghafoor, Saeeda Samreen Taj, Sheher Bano, Amna Perveen, Syed Sumera Ahmed, Uzma Butt, Afshan Hussain, Shagufta Faisal, Nasreen Riaz, Sajida Naveed Farzana Abbas, Maria Talal, Tasheen Fawad, Abida Peoples Party (PPP) faced suspension, as well as one Bashir, Saadia Muzaffar, Faiza Momina, Amira Khan, Samiya Ata, Rahat Afza and Rukhsar Shafiq.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a high level review meeting regard-



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme, Ms Rubina Khalid, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

We can easily put our universities on path of self-sufficiency by adopting modern means: Governor

Khan Mandokhail has believed that we can easily put our universities on path of self-sufficiency by adopting modern means and mechanism instead of traditional procedures to settle their financial and administrative matters.

The Governor stressed the need to prepare a comprehensive policy to save all the public sector universities from the financial crisis in future and ensure timely payment of the salaries to their teachers and employees.

also be taken into confer-

These views were expressed by the Governor while speaking to the Provincial Minister for Education, Ms Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani, Vice Chancellors of different public sector universities of the province including Professor Dr Dost Muhammad Baloch, Dr Abdul Malik Tareen and Dr Jan Muhammad Baloch who called on him separately

here on Friday. During the course of

QUETTA: Former Chairman Senate, MPA Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Sena-

tor Manzoor Khan Kakar, Provincial Minister Ziaullah Lango and former

Speaker Balochistan Assembly Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali meeting with

tors were becoming posi-

tive, international journals

were also predicting im-

provement in Pakistan's

also taking steps to invest

in infrastructure projects

would not only boost the

economy but also create

employment opportuni-

said had established a spe-

cial Investment Facilita-

tion Council to attract for-

eign investment and facili-

Sharif was determined to

provide relief to the

collection system was be-

ing improved in Pakistan

and in this context, tax re-

forms were being intro-

duced in the Federal Bu-

Tarar said that the tax

people, he maintained.

Minister

Shehbaz

tate investors.

Prime

Muhammad

The government, he

"The government is

Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Tarar for measures at global

level to counter misuse of

social media, spread of fake news

ISLAMABAD (APP): he said economic indica-

economy

'The Government of in Pakistan," the minister

Pakistan recognizes the said adding these projects

Federal Minister for Infor-

mation and Broadcasting

Attaullah Tarar said on

Friday that there was a

need for measures at the

global level to counter the

misuse of social media and

importance of freedom of

the press and freedom of

expression, and it is deter-

mined to protect the rights

of journalists", he said

while talking to a delega-

tion of Bangladeshi journal-

ists visiting Pakistan who

important issues were dis-

cussed including freedom

of expression and eco-

nomic initiatives of the

the government led by

Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif was fully focused

on economic stability.

The minister said that

After the present gov-

ernment came to power, reau of Revenue.

In the meeting, various

met him here.

the spread of fake news.

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor
Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar
Vhon Mandelsheil Jaffar fort to promote healthy academic environment in all higher educational institu-

> He made it clear that concrete steps would be taken for promotion of quality education in the province.

being confronted by the universities can easily be overcome with recommendations of concerned experts and making all responsible persons efficient at the universities

IMF demands

pension tax on

retired govt.

employees

ISLAMABAD (INP): The International Monetary

Fund (IMF) has reportedly

presented new demands to

Pakistan ahead of crucial

negotiations set to begin

today. Among these de-

mands is the taxation of

pensions for retired govern-

According to media reports, the IMF seeks addi-

tional revenue generation of

0.5% of Pakistan's Gross

National Product (GDP)

translating to approxi

mately Rs. 600 billion. This

revenue is expected to come

primarily from taxes levied

n salaried individuals and

ing the need for Pakistan's

the 24th IMF program for

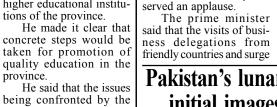
Pakistan and are touted as the

most challenging to date.

The IMF is emphasiz-

businesses

nent employees.



The images were released by Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) on

Friday. The satellite, iCube Qamar has completed three lunar orbits after being launched aboard China's Chang'e-6 spacecraft from Hainan, China on May 03.

According to the Paki-(IST), Technology

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial

Minister for Home and

Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah

Langove has expressed dis-

pleasure over the law and

order situation in the prov-

incidents of lawlessness

and loss of human lives in

the Provincial Minister di-

rected the Additional Chief

Secretary Home to take

steps for improving law

them are intolerable.

He said that the recent

In view of the situation,

investment, businesses the trust of local and foreign investors in the government policies.

He instructed the BOI to formulate a mechanism on the pattern of one window operation in coordination with all the ministries and provincial govern-

He also called for the devising a strategy, in collaboration with the business community and provincial governments, to make the new investors and businessmen face minimum hurdles in their ventures.

He also instructed for engaging experts of international repute for the pur-

Federal ministers Jam Kamal Khan, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Abdul Aleem He said the promotion Khan, Rana Tanveer of foreign investment and Hussain, Azam Nazeer business activities in the Tarar, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission, parcountry manifested the efforts by the government liamentarians and relevant team for which they desenior officers attended the meeting.

The four provincial chief secretaries and prominess delegations from nent businessmen joined friendly countries and surge the meeting via video link.

Pakistan's lunar satellite sends initial images from space ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's lunar CubeSat

Displeased with law & order situation:

Govt endeavouring to prevent

Gwadar and Kech like

incidents in future: Zia

Pakistan's lunar satellite, iCUBE Qamar has sent the initial images from orbit after successfully completing three rounds of the

stan Institute of Space

iCUBE-Q was successfully deployed in orbit at 1314 hours on May 08 from Chang'E-6.

IST which is a leading high-end university of Pakistan had the distinct honor of launching a Cube Satellite ICUBE-Qamar (ICUBE-Q) in Lunar orbit onboard China's Chang 'E-6 Mission.

CubeSats are a class of small satellites used by academic institutes for experimental and research purposes in Low Earth Orbits. generally with an altitude of less than one thousand km. However, these satellites are now finding many applications in higher orbits and deep space missions.

and order in the provin pri-

it is responsibility of the

government to protect life

and property of the people.

district administration, DIG

of Police and DPOs should

consider themselves to be

under suspension if the

situation of law and order

was deteriorated in their

areas. He warned that the

officers committing negli-

gence in their duties would

not be spared at all.

The Minister said that

He asserted that the

President summons NA

04:00 pm.

Minister Prime Shehbaz Sharif on Friday expressed grief over the demise of Sheikh Hazza bin Sultan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, a member of the royal family of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Almighty to bless the departed soul with eternal peace in paradise.

UAE media, late Sheikh Hazza bin Sultan bin Zayed Al Nahyan was the son of Sheikh Sultan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who had died in

the Al Bateen cemetery

CPEC the crown jewel in China, Pakistan friendship, says Ahsan

BEIJING (APP): Calling the China-Pakistan Ecotecomb phase, he added. nomic Corridor (CPEC) an exemplar of friendship between the two countries, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof Ahsan Iqbal said there has always been "spring" in the relations between Pakistan and China which are always moving on an up-

ward trajectory.
CPEC, which was launched in 2013 and a flagship project under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, has "benefited Pakistan's economy immensely", he said in

Beijing.
Pakistan looks for-

"The garden of friendship between Pakistan and

China in every season has blossomed new and colorful flowers of cooperation and understanding between the people of Pakistan and China," the minister said. Iqbal lauded CPEC for

transforming the development landscape of, creating jobs for and building connectivity for his country, China Daily reported. "CPEC has helped

Pakistan transform its energy and infrastructure sectors and connect several parts of the country so the fruits of development can ward to further cooperat- be shared across various ing with China to seek regions of Pakistan," Iqbal shared economic growth as

"It also helped create over two million jobs and helps Pakistan's workers master new technology and get trained in projects," he

Iqbal slammed the socalled debt trap narrative as far from reality and expressed appreciation for China's financial support which he said has been 'very attractive financing for Pakistan"

Iqbal said China outlined five corridors under CPEC last year, namely growth, livelihood, openness, inclusivity and innovation, which were well aligned with 5-E's framework, namely Export, Energy, Equity, E-Pakistan and Environment, envisioned by the government of Pakistan.



nized by Belt and Road Center of National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

session on 13th ISLAMABAD (APP)

President Asif Ali Zardari has summoned the session of the National Assembly on Monday (May 13) at

The president summoned the session of National Assembly in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 54(1) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

PM condoles over demise of **UAE's Sheikh** Hazza bin Sultan

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The prime minister offered condolences to the UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and members of the royal He prayed to Allah

According to the

The body of the deceased was laid to rest at in Abu Dhabi.

PM paying attention on development of **Balochistan: Syedal**

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Chairman Senate Syedal Khan Nasir on Friday said that the Prime Minister was paying special attention on development

Balochistan. He said that due to the positive policies of the government, investors had restored confidence in Pakistan and foreign investors were ready to in-

vest in the country. He expressed these views while talking to various delegations which called on him at his residence in Quetta. The Deputy Chairman Senate said that the federal and provincial governments would work together to

people and youth would get employment from timely completion of mega projects which would be eliminated backwardness from respective areas of Balochistan. Syedal Khan Nasir said

that Gwadar Port was a game changer for the development of Balochistan saying that Pakistan Muslim League (N) leader Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Pakistan Prime Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif had issued directives to complete Gwadar Port and other major projects in the province as soon as possible so that the people of the province could benefit from

Provincial Minister for Finance maintains:

game changer if attention paid with good intention

QUETTA: The Provincial

Minister for Finance, Mir Shaoib Nausherwani has categorically stated that Balochistan is blessed with natural resources as there exist vast reservoirs of different minerals.

He regretfully pointed out that unfortunately, no proper attention was given on the mining sector in the past. If attention was paid on the mining sector in Balochistan with good intention, then it can prove to be game changer in time to come, maintained the Provincial Minister for Finance while speaking to a delegation of mine owners here on Friday. The mine owners ap-

sources

ederal Board of Revenue (FBR) to focus on increasing tax collection. Furthermore, the IMF reportedly advocates for the elimination of tax exemptions currently enjoyed by several pension schemes. The upcoming negotiations mark

QUETTA: Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango meeting with Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai

solve the problems of the these big mega projects. Mining sector can prove to be

Independent Report prised the Minister Finance about their issues Secretary Mines and Mineral Development, Saidal Khan Luni and Di-

rector General Mines, Abdullah Khan were also present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion. Shoaib Nausherwani said that the provincial government is determined to resolve the issues being faced by masses under leadership of Chief Minister.

He assured that the issues of people would be resolved at their doorstep.

Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

He said that reforms would be brought about in the mining sector by mo-bilizing all available re-

Daily soice of Masse Independent

Enrolment drive

In a promising albeit familiar declaration, the prime minister has announced a four-year "education emergency" to eradicate the blight of illiteracy and bring millions of out-of-school children into the classroom fold. While many governments have come and gone and such emergencies have been declared, obstacles to access, quality and equity in education persist, underscoring the need for a renewed commitment. The PM's stated resolve to personally oversee this initiative and to collaborate across provincial and political lines enhances hope but also raises the stakes for

Pakistan's education crisis is both deep-rooted and widespread. The statistics are sobering: the country grapples with a literacy rate of only 62pc and educational spending at a mere 1.7pc of its GDP. There are an estimated 26m children out of school and 70pc of 10-year-olds are unable to comprehend basic texts. Add to this the fact that a significant proportion of schools lack basic facilities such as potable water and

The disparity in educational access between urban and rural areas, and between boys and girls, further complicates matters. The authorities must prepare a solid plan of action if they truly aim to tackle this beast. First, increasing the allocation of GDP to education by the provinces and the centre is non-negotiable. This increase must be used judiciously to improve school infrastructure and ensure all children have access to basic educational facilities. Furthermore, teacher recruitment, training, and retention strategies must be overhauled to address the gap of 200,000 vacant teaching positions nationwide, as highlighted by Malala Yousafzai.

Additionally, the authorities should implement targeted interventions to bring out-of-school children, especially girls, into the educational system. Initiatives like the school meal programmes, as suggested by the World Food Programme, can be effective in increasing school attendance, while addressing nutritional deficiencies that affect learning.

The curriculum needs to be revamped to focus on foundational literacy and numeracy. Integrating technology can help bridge the gap between different regions and provide remote learning opportunities. Moreover, collaborative efforts with international partners and NGOs should be harnessed to bring best practices and funding to the fore. International organisations are poised to support, but they require a dispensation that is transparent and committed in its approach. Lastly, the commitment to establish the 'Pakistan Skill Company' and the 'Pakistan Skill Development Fund' is a step in the right direction. It acknowledges the broader spectrum of education beyond primary schooling, which is crucial for economic independence and growth. With a strategic, well-funded, and inclusive approach, it is possible to transform the educational landscape of Pakistan. It is hoped that the education authorities deliver an actionable plan that will stand the test of time and political change. For once, let this not be a missed opportunity.

Crisis of empathy

There are many con-

cepts that are shared by human beings across the globe. One of is empathy. Through many of my previous articles in focused on universal values, attitudes and to the core values of who we are as human beings, highlighting our humanness to promote universal brotherhood and sisterhood. In this, my 50th article for Dawn, I wish to dedicate this piece to a very cherished human concept empathy.

'Empathy' is part of a family of words that denote a moral concept dinary ethics, such as sharing feelings as if person's pain. Empathy is generally described as the ability to take on another's perspective, to understand, and possibly share and respond to their experience.

Empathy can also refer to a sense of harmony between people this attitude, we need to with the same taste, disposition, or opinion. When a person feels empathy towards a cause or an organisation, they have feelings of approval, loyalty, or support. Sympathy, compassion and care are brutality and savagery, acts that belong to the

family of empathy. Meanwhile, the polar opposite of empathy are concepts like being unconcerned, remaining indifferent, apathy, or worse still, justifying the suffering of others. When a section of humanity — such as a person, a locality, a community, a nation or a state less. - falls prey to human

some who do not see them favourably feel that it is 'God's punish-

Jan-e-Alam Khaki people, when they hear able. And yet, we seem ing of others, are not disturbed.

On the other hand, there are others who, upon hearing or seeing the pain of others, 'feel' their suffering. If they these columns, I have can do something, they go forward and support them. If, on the other beliefs that connect us hand, they cannot do anything, they at least pray for the relief of their pain. Each one of us can have an introspective reflection to see which category we belong to.

Aga Khan, a great humanitarian of our times, in an interview called it an "extraordinary ability", describing it as "... the ability to step away which goes beyond or- from ... [one's] own value system and put sympathy, affection, themselves in another person's shoes in order one feels the other to better understand and help that person." Concluding his admiration for the quality of empathy, he said, "I deeply admire it as an irreplaceable talent that is unfortunately all too

> In order to develop encourage such attitudes in our children, family, in fact, within the larger community.

Today (not that it was less in the past), in our societies, where we tend to see too much we need to revisit our humanity and rethink what we have become. It is not a communal or party or tribal quality; it depends on each person. It is an individual a family may feel the same way when they see human suffering; some feel more, others Educationist Farid Punjwani thinks or natural disasters, there is an "empathy "without empathy, the

of or observe the suffer- to suffer from a crisis of empathy at the collective level". Interestingly enough, probably all religions, communities and tribes value these feelings, but their adherents vary in actually adopting them in their daily lives. Some people are so conscious of the sufferings of others and feel so strong-

ly about them that they establish instituthat help tions mi-tigate these tra-Describing the vails to an extent. value of empathy, the Many such inspired vails to an extent. people do global hu--manitarian work re--gardless of colour, creed and ideology. They have saved mi---llions across the globe. They live am--ongst us and deser--ve support from us A great woman

served a literally untouchable community in a particular country for over 40 years, leaving her luxurious life in her own country. This is empathy personified. Is it really that impossible for each one of us to adopt this great quality no matter in how small a measure? Let us practise it in our daily life, demonstrate the same to our children, include it in our textbooks, and make it a part of the discourse in places of worship.

It is not just a job of teaching or preaching about human acts of empathy, but everyone becoming conscious about the suftrait. Not all members in ferings of fellow humans. As Sheikh Sa'adi rightly says: if you are unconcerned about the sufferings of others, you do not deserve to be called a 'human'. Indeed, becrisis" and argues that ing human means feeling the pain of others, edifice of ethics and and supporting them ment', and that they de- human relations as a in whatever way posserved it. These kinds of whole is inconceiv- sible. -- Courtesy Dawn

Farmers' march

the iconic peasant movement on the Okara military farms reached its zenith. Having been intimately intenant-farmers to secure 17,000 acres of prime agricultural land in the heart of Punjab, I can testify to the conscious effort made by the movement to remind society that peasants remain a political force in the 21st century, whilst also arthis and beoparis challenging taboos about the military's corporate interests.

Today, farmers are once again on the roads. Under the aegis of the Kissan Ittehad, thousands of landowning farmers are protesting the inexplicable decision to import millions of tonnes of wheat in the face of a bumper harvest at home. The refusal of the government to purchase home-grown produce at a reasonable price has resulted in a glut and major losses for many wheat

While centred in Punjab, the Kissan Ittehad mobilisation is far more geographically diverse than the peasant movement of two decades ago, which was based largely in Okara and revolved around the fate of tenantfarmers on state-owned land. It is also notable that the Okara protagonists were landless peasants demanding proprietary tonomous government rights, whereas the present movement features owner-proprietors that are contesting agrarian policies.

This not the first time that relatively pros-perous middling farmers have taken to the The Kissan Ittehad has been mobilising for some years now, taking up issues such as electricity costs (tube well use), seed, fertiliser and pesticide prices, as well as the erosion of agricultural

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar staple crops.
The poorest peas-It has been 20 years since ants — landless or owning a modicum of land are, of course, also impacted by agrarian marvolved with the struggle of that even more comfortable farming segments their historic claims to are protesting underlines the changing contours of peasant politics.

> the profiteering of middlemen — known as agribusiness firms have role in Pakistan's agrarian markets. These are companies — domestic and multinational — that try and exercise monopoly control in the supply (including patmachinery, transportation and storage of produce, and the circulation of commodities.

Agribusiness garners astonishing annual government subsidies in North America and Western Europe. Its takeover of agriculture in countries like Pakistan has been less conspicuous, in part because, as is the case with the manufacturing sector, at least not taxed. That needs to some multinationals sub- change, as does the lack contract to local firms.

Meanwhile state has completely reneged on support for larly smallholders. Auentities like the National and Punjab Seed Corpolargely toothless in the face of big private companies, as well as the policy dictates of the World Bank and Asian Development Bank and other donors that sing the praises of the 'free market' by eliminating support prices and facilitating agribusiness.

functionaries engage in such steps on their own, brazen pursuit of profit support measures like of their own accord guaranteed prices for when they feel like it. hand. -- Courtesy Dawn

The current wheat import scandal is a classic example, dictated by the (caretaker) federal government despite some opposition by the provket logics, but the fact inces. Former caretaker prime minister Anwaarul-Haq Kakar claimed that the decision was good for consumers, conveniently neglecting While the struggles mention of the private of small and middling sector businessmen farmers is in part due to who were given licences to bring in the imp-or-ted stocks and

earn windfall profits. The rhetoric also come to play a dominant confirms that government officials cl---early prioritise ur--b-an 'consumers' over peasantfarmers. A meaningful policy matrix would not be based on such a zero sum game between rural enting) of inputs and and urban; it is possible to ensure both that peasant-farmers are supported and urban consumers also catered to.

Last but not least. big landowners and rich farmers are not on the roads, in part because they operate like capitalist businessmen. They earn money through a host of diversified assets and then declare it as agricultural income, which is regulation agribusiness and middle-

More generally, the peasant farmers, particu- state must acknowledge its responsibilities towards small and landless farmers. Land reform, if Fertiliser Corporation undertaken in both agricultural and peri-urban ration have become areas where agriculture is being swallowed up by real estate mafias, could change the fate of almost 30 million peasants who as pastoralists who have been almost completely invisibilised as common lands are grabbed by state and capital alike.

Those who decide Of course, state our fate will never take so farmers will have to keep marching to force their

Commerce News

PM for trade policies to facilitate businesses and enhance export

Calls for strategy to evaluate performance of TIO in Pakistan embassies in other countries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed the authorities concerned to formulate the trade policies with a core objective of facilitating the business sector, calling for urgent measures to enhance the competitiveness of the country's exports.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting on the trade sector, called for steps to promote exports of non-traditional goods and instructed for immediate payment of the certified duty drawback of the exporters.

Highlighting the significance of the private the export sectors.

sector, he instructed to

The prime minister

ensure consultation with prime minister was told them during the policymaking and implement the Free Trade Agreement deletion policy to uplift between Pakistan and the the auto sector. Prime Gulf states was in the final Minister Sheghbaz directed stage and transit trade the relevant ministry to agreements devise a comprehensive strategy to scrutinize the had performance of trade and investment officers posted in Pakistan's missions abroad, by rewarding the good performers and removing the incompetent

told the meeting that he would personally carry out the fortnightly review of



Kick off meeting between Karandaaz Pakistan, FBR and Ministry of Finance on Digitalization of tax system took place at FBR Headquarters in Islamabad.

Short-term inflation eases by 1.39 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation measured the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the by the Sensitive Price combined consumption Indicator (SPI), witnessed a decrease of 1.39 per cent for groups during the week

According to the groups.

PBS data, the SPI for the The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group up to Rs. 17,732, decreased above-mentioned group was recorded at 312.56 by 0.99 per cent and went points as compared to 316.95 points during the from last week's 306.26 past week. As compared to points

group in the week under review witnessed an

the combined consumption groups during the week

increase of 22.32 per cent. The weekly SPI with ended on May 09, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure

already materialized. It was told that during the recent Pak-Conference, around 450 business-to-business meetings were held and

Uzbekistan and Tajikistan

that the discussion on the

that the volume of ecommerce trade was witnessing a constant increase with the enlisting of over 3,000 firms on the Pakistan Trade Portal

Rupee gains 08 paisa against **US** dollar

SLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Friday gained 08 paisa against the JS dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.12 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.20.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market, however, stood at Rs 277.10 and Rs 279.60 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs 1.31 to Rs.299.93 from Rs 298.62, according to the latest economic data of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen remained constant at Rs 1.78 whereas an increase of Rs1.48 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 348.59 compared to the last closing of Rs 347.11.

The Emirates Dirham decreased by 03 paisa whereas Saudi Riyal went down by 2 paisa and were traded at Rs 75.72 and Rs 74.15 respectively.



Economic Affairs, and Mr. Bonhyun Koo, Director of the Asia Team, EDCF Mission signs an Aide-Mémoire to chart a mid-term plan for implementation of development projects between 2024-2026, The signing was witnessed by Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and other officials from the MoEA and EDCF.

Pakistan committed to promote green investment:Aurangzeb

Highlighting Pakistan's vulnerability to the diverse effects of climate change, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Friday emphasized his country's commitment to addressing climate change and promoting green

ISLAMABAD (APP):

investment opportunities He was delivering a keynote speech via online platform at the UK-Pakistan Green Investment due Forum, organized by the risks.

British High Commission in Pakistan, said a press release issued by the finance ministry.

He shed light on Pakistan's disproportionate vulnerability to the devastating impacts of climate change, despite its minimal contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions

He cited a recent World Bank study, estimating potential annual GDP losses of up to 1% due to climate-related

SBP provides practicable foundation for elimination of Riba: Chief Manager

State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has provided a solid and practicable foundation for elimination of Riba by December 31, 2027, though still the share of Islamic banking is only 20pc in the overall banking sector. This was stated by Waqas Kashif Bajawa, Chief Manager SBP, while addressing an awareness session about Islamic export refinance scheme (IERS) at Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). He said regulation had been provided

FAISALABAD (APP): The for the Islamic banking in addition to finalising procedures to issue licences Islamic banks. "Similarly, steps are also taken transformation

conventional banks into Islamic banks," he said and added that on the demand side, a comprehensive awareness campaign had been launched. "During these events, Sharia scholars try to remove the reservations apprehensions of the people about the Islamic banking".

PSX stays bullish, gains 427 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Friday, gaining 427.45 points, a positive change of 0.59 percent, closing at 73,085.50 points against 72,658.05 points the previous trading day.

A total or 741,196,400 shares valuing Rs 25.268 billion were traded during the day as compared to 674,981,699 shares valuing Rs 24.053 billion the last day.

Gold rates increase by Rs.4,600

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold witnessed an increase of Rs.4,600 and was trade at Rs.243,800 on Friday against its sale at Rs. 239,200 the previous

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.3,944 to Rs.209,019 from Rs 205,075 whereas as the prices of 10 gram 22 karat went up to Rs.191,601 from Rs 187,986, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola silver increased by Rs.30 to Rs2,650 whereas that of ten gram silver went up by Rs.25.72 to Rs2,271.94.

for Enhanced Development Cooperation 2024-2026 ISLAMABAD (APP): The Republic of Korea Economic Development press release, the Aide-

Pak, Korea sign Aide-Mémoire

Cooperation Fund (EDCF) and the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MoEA) here on Friday signed an Aide-Mémoire to chart a mid-term plan for implementation development projects between 2024-2026. The Aide-Mémoire, which was signed at the conclusion of visit by EDCF Country Programme Mission from the Export-Import Bank of

(KEXIM), Korea represents a key milestone in deepening economic ties signed, with EDCF between Pakistan and the committing USD 60 million.

Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Sajid Manzoor Asadi and Director of the Asia Team, EDCF Mission, Bonhyun Koo. The signing was witnessed by Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Dr Kazim Niaz and other officials from the MoEA and EDCF. Additionally, a project concept for the construction of a Pediatric Hospital in Jamshoro was

Mémoire was signed by Joint

Atif Ikram says: Korea should benefit by investing in SEZs to increase regional ties

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Office Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Karim Aziz Malik meeting with Ambassador of South Korea Park Kajeon at the Federation Office. President FPCCI Atif Ikram said in his message regarding the meeting that Korea has benefited by

Independent Report

Pakistan is an important country in terms of investment for the world. Pakistan has important sectors like agriculture, gems and jewellery, mines and minerals, marble and granite, entertainment in which Korean investors can invest. Pakistan-Korea Joint Business Council will be formed soon. Chairman Capital



and special economic zones to increase regional connectivity and free trade agreement promotion of trade has proved to be beneficial for both countries.

Pakistan, population of 240 million, is connected to Afghanistan Central Asian countries, due to which

Office Karim Aziz Malik said that bilateral trade between countries is one and a half billion dollars, which requires joint efforts to increase.

Federation of Chambers of Pakistan, Trade Development Authority is organizing Gems and Jewelery Exhibition in September this year

Province's development link with maintenance of law & order: KP Governor

Commandant Frontier Constabulary, Moazzam Jah Ansari, called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, at the Governor's House on Friday to discuss the overall law and order situation in the directed the PESCO chiefto wishes. During the province, including the merged districts.

The praised the role of the Frontier Constabulary in security and law and order, emphasizing that development and prosperity rely on peace. He acknowledged the sacrifices of security forces, FC, and police in

the fight against terrorism.

KARACHI (APP): The li-

brarians of universities of

the country in their 1st All

Pakistan University Librar-

ies Convention, have em-

phasized on development

and upgradation of librar-

ies according to the needs of the digital age.

the role of university librar-

ies for enlightening young generations by providing

conducive atmosphere and

latest literature. The conven-

tion was held in the Bahria

University, Karachi in col-

laboration with all the pro-

fessional associations of li-

They also highlighted

PESHAWAR: Police personnel's showing

recovered artifacts to a media here at Police Line.

All Pakistan University

Libraries Convention held

at Bahria University

braries including Pakistan tor of the Pakistan Federa-Federation of Library tion Library Alumni.

Alumni, Pakistan Library

Association, National Li-

brary Association, Pakistan

Library Club and Sindh Col-

lege Library Association. The

event attracted over 200 reg-

istrations and was attended

by 150 university librarians

from Kashmir to Sindh's uni-

versities, as well as represen-

tatives from college and

school libraries from all over

Pakistan. The Additional Li-

brarian of Sindh Madressatul

Islam University Mahjabeen Ali was the organizer of the

1st University Libraries

Convention and she was

also the founder and direc-

Akhtar Hamid Khan, also discussed electricity supply and load shedding with Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at the Governor's s. electricity supply and Governor minimize load shedding.

> Assembly, Abadullah Khan, provincial assembly members Jalal Khan and Sardar Shah Jehan Yousaf, and former provincial president of Pakistan People's Party,

In a separate meeting, Najamuddin Khan, along Chief Engineer PESCO, with other political and social delegations, met with Governor Faisal Karim Kundi.

The

Saturday May 11, 2024

congratulated the Governor House. The Governor and expressed good ensure uninterrupted meetings, the Governor electricity supply and expressed determination to solve the province's problems and improve More over,
Opposition Leader in the
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Assambli All III for the welfare and prosperity of the people.

He assured that he would fulfill his

constitutional duties to provide basic necessities and facilities to the people.

16 dead, **1,549** injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least 16 people were killed and 1,549 others injured in 1,434 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24

As many as 655 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 894 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical

Four killed in Bahawalpur road accident

SLAMABAD (APP):

Four people, including three children were killed in a road accident on the Sutlej River bridge in Bahawalpur on Friday. According to rescue officials, the incident occurred after a speeding trailer hit a motorcycle. As a result, four people, including three children, got injured in the same accident. The rescue officials promptly responded to the accident, and the bodies of the deceased and injured have been transferred to the



Chaudhry Salik Hussain bidding farewell to pilgrims at Allama Iqbal International Airport.

KP assembly passes over Rs1360.37bln surplus budget for eight months of FY 2023-24

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Khyber
Pakhtunkhwa assembly on Friday passed a surplus budget of Rs1,360.37 billion for 11 months of the fiscal year (FY) 2023-24 including the last eight months of the interim government and the last two months of the current elected government.

The budget included Rs 1,059.276 billion in ongoing expenses and Rs billion in development expenses. incidents have also Khyber Pakhtunkhwa adversely affected the

LAHORE (APP): Punjab

Information Minister

Azma Bukhari on Friday

said that inflation in Punjab

had reduced from 37 to 17

percent. Addressing a press

conference here she said

that during two months the

price of 20 kg flour bag had reduced by Rs 1,000.

been a big challenge for the

Punjab government to

control price hike during

the holy month of

Ramadan but sincere effort

was made to control it

through

'Ramazan

Nigheban Package'. onion, tomato, por She said today she flour had reduced.

She said that it had

Minister Aftab Alam Afridi presented the budget in the assembly session chaired by Speaker Babar Saleem Swati. He said in his speech that the current financial and economic difficulties have made this budget more difficult because, on the one hand, most of the infrastructure of the province was destroyed due to the disastrous floods of 2022 and on the other hand terrorism.

He said successive

the Punjab government succeeded in controlling

that the common man was

more concerned about

bread not regarding the rate of dollar or GDP.

She further said that Punjab Chief Minister

Maryam Nawaz had taken

landmark initiatives for the

welfare of people during a

short span of nine weeks.

various essential items

including 'Roti', chicken,

onion, tomato, potato and

She said that prices of

Azma Bukhari said

provincial economy, adding that under Article 126 of the Constitution, the caretaker government approved the expenditure for four months from July 2023, to October 31, 2023 after that, the interim government, consultation with the law department, also approved

four months, from November 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024.

the expenditure for another

Meanwhile, general elections were held on February 8, 2024.

Inflation in Punjab **Opposition** decries hurriedly called session of KPAssembly was very happy to tell that

PESHAWAR (APP): The opposition members in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly here Friday criticized government and protested the hurriedly called session of the assembly. The session was chaired by Speaker KP Assembly, Babar Salim Criticizing

government for ignoring the rules and procedures to call the session, they termed the holding of session unconstitutional. They said that it is impossible for members of remote areas to attend the session that was summoned hurriedly and contravening existing rules. | lined the need to curb child established soon.

KP CM outlines measures for province development, prosperity

Independent Report DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Friday said the government was committed to improving law and order situation and overcoming the energy

Addressing a press conference here, he said that the provincial government was going to present a budget soon and the allocations of funds would be made according to priorities.

government's first priority facilities under the health was related to the card system.

improvement of the law and order situation in the

In this regard, he said work had already been started and there were specific districts with poor law and order situation which needed to be improved.

He said the health sector was being improved and health card facility had een restored.

He said that efforts ere being made to improve the condition of government-run hospitals where people could get



Commandant Frontier Constabulary Moazzam Jah Ansari calls on Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at Governor's House

Secretary Human Rights Dept calls for setting up district level offices

Secretary Sindh Human Rights Department Tehseen Fatima has said the role of police and district administration is pivotal for implementing human rights and creating awareness among the people about such rights. She said this while chairing a meeting at Shahbaz Hall of Shahbaz Building here on Friday. She said that the meeting discussed the rights issues, the procedure for registering complaints and the plan of setting up the department's

offices at the district level. The Secretary under-

HYDERABAD (APP): labour in addition to harassment of women and rape cases to protect the rights of the citizens and to improve the country's global image. The Commissioner Hyderabad Division Ahsan Ali Qureshi directed all the Deputy Commissioners to set up district-based offices and take steps to address the issues about human rights violations. During the meeting, all the DCs of 9 districts of the Hyderabad division were briefed about the state of human rights in their respective districts and assured that the department's district chapters would be

International News

reduces from 37 to

17 percent: Azma

inflation.

Israel strikes Rafah as talks yield no breakthrough

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: Israeli tanks and warplanes bombarded areas of Rafah on Thurs-day, Palestinian residents said, after President Joe Biden said the United States would withhold weapons from Israel if its forces mount a major invasion of the south-

ern Gaza city. A senior Israeli official said that the latest round of indirect negotiations in Cairo to halt hostilities had ended and Israel would proceed with its operation in Rafah and other parts of the Gaza Strip as planned.

Israel has submitted to mediators its reservations about a Hamas proposal for a prisoners' release deal and the Israeli delegation was returning from the Egyptian capital, the official

In Gaza, Palestinian

tars at Israeli tanks massed on the eastern outskirts of

Residents and medics in Rafah said an Israeli attack by a mosque killed at least three people and wounded others in the eastern Brazil neighbourhood.

On the city's eastern edge, residents said a helicopter opened fire, while drones hovered above houses in several areas, some close to rooftops. Israel claims Hamas

fighters are hiding in Rafah, where the population has been swelled by hundreds of thousands of Gazans seeking refuge from bombardments elsewhere in the coastal enclave, and it needs to eliminate them for its own security.

One of the displaced,

Jihad said their fighters fired Rahman, said he feared the saged an invasion of the city. Ceasefire talks in

hospital.

Egypt's capital made some headway, but no deal was reached, according to two Egyptian security sources. The Hamas delegation

left for Doha for consultations, blaming Israel for the lack of agreement so far.

Israel has said it is open to a truce, but has rejected demands for an end to bombing as it has vowed to demolish Hamas. Biden, who says Israel

has not produced a convincing plan to safeguard civilians in Rafah, issued his starkest warning yet against a full ground inva-"I made it clear that if

they go into Rafah, ... I'm not supplying the weap-ons," Biden told CNN in an interview on Wednesday.



Smoke billows from a building which caught fire after fresh Israeli attacks in the Zaytoun neighbourhood of Gaza City.

Putin reappoints his prime minister, a technocrat who has kept a low political profile

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin reappointed Mikhail Mishustin as the country's prime minister on Friday, a widely anticipated move to keep on a technocrat who has maintained a low political profile. Mishustin and other technocrats in the Cabinet have been credited with maintaining a relatively stable economic performance despite bruising Western sanctions for Russia's role in Ukraine.

bers are expected to keep their jobs, though the fate of Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu appeared uncertain.

In line with Russian law, Mishustin, 58, who held the job for the past four years, submitted his Cabinet's resignation on Tuesday when Putin began his fifth presidential term at a glittering Kremlin inauguration. Mishustin, the former head of Russia's tax service, steered clear of political statements and avoided media interviews during his previous tenure.

Most other Cabinet mem-Ireland and Spain could recognise Palestinian state this month

Monitoring Desk DUBLIN/LJUBLJANA: Ireland and Spain alongside

various European Union member states, are considering 'recognising' a Palestinian state on the 21 of May, according to a report published by Ireland's national broadcaster. 'RTE News' stated on

Wednesday evening that contacts between Dublin and Madrid and between Slovenia and Malta, had intensified with a view to the countries jointly recognising' Palestinian statehood

The report reveals that countries have been anticipating a vote of the United Nations General Assembly, on May 10. The vote may well lead to the recognition of Palestinians as 'qualified' to become a 'full members of the United Nations'. In a joint statement issue on the 22 of March, Spain, Ireland, Malta and Slovenia said they had 'agreed to take the

NEW DELHI: The Maldives pledged "endur-ing friendship" with India on Thursday ahead of a between President first steps' towards recognising a Palestinian state. Spain and Ireland have been champions of Palestinian rights, for quite

Several dead

in protests in

Afghanistan Monitoring Desk KABUL: Several people were killed when a demonstration broke out in eastern Afghanistan on Thursday after Taliban authorities ordered houses cleared to make way for a building construction, a provincial

official said. The Taliban authorities had ordered residents to vacate the land on the road between provincial capital Jalalabad and the border with Pakistan to make way for a new customs building, said Arafat Mohajer, the head of the information and culture department for the Torkham border point.

Maldives moves to mend ties with India **Monitoring Desk**

deadline for New Delhi to withdraw a troop garrison from the luxury tourist destination that has strained

neighbours. Pro-China Mohamed Muizzu won office last year while campaigning on a promise to downgrade ties with India, and has since reoriented the strategically placed archipelago nation towards Beijing.

UN to vote on resolution that would grant Palestine new rights and revive its UN membership bid curity Council must recom-

Monitoring Desk JNITED NATIONS: The

U.N. General Assembly is expected to vote Friday on a resolution that would grant new "rights and privileges" to Palestine and call on the Security Council to favorably reconsider its request to become the 194th member of the United Nations. The United States vetoed a widely backed council resolution on April 18 that would have paved the way for full United Nations membership for Palestine, a goal the Palestinians have long sought and Israel has worked to prevent, and U.S. deputy ambassador Robert Wood made clear Thursday the Biden administration is opposed to the assembly resolution.

Under the U.N. Charter, prospective members of the United Nations must be 'peace-loving," and the Se-

mend their admission to the General Assembly for final approval. Palestine became a U.N. non-member observer state in 2012. "We've been very clear

from the beginning there is a process for obtaining full membership in the United Nations, and this effort by some of the Arab countries and the Palestinians is to try to go around that," Wood said Thursday. "We have said from the beginning the best way to ensure Palestinian full membership in the U.N. is to do that through negotiations with Israel. That remains our position. But unlike the Security Council, there are no vetoes in the 193-member General Assembly and the resolution is expected to be approved by a large majority, according to three Western diplomats.

Philippines calls for expelling Chinese diplomats as South China Sea row escalates

Monitoring Desk MANILA: The Philippines' national security adviser called on Friday for Chinese diplomats to be expelled over an alleged leak of a phone conversation with a Filipino admiral in a significant escalation of a bitter row over the South China Sea. China's embassy in Manila had orchestrated "repeated acts of engaging and dissemination of disinformation, misinfor-

mation malinformation", with the objective of sowing discord, division and disunity, Eduardo Ano said in a statement. Those actions "should not be allowed to pass unsanctioned without serious penalty", he said.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian called the comments provocative and said Chinese diplomats in the Philippines had to be allowed to do their job. "China solemnly requests the Philippine side to effec-

tively safeguard the normal performance of duties by Chinese diplomatic personnel, stop infringing and provoking, and refrain from denying the facts," Lin said at a regular press briefing in

The office of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr and the foreign ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment. The two countries have been embroiled in a series of heated standoffs this past year in disputed areas of the South China Sea as the Philippines, emboldened by support from the United States and other allies, steps up activities in waters occupied by China's vast coast guard.

China has accused the Philippines of trespassing and of treachery, while Manila has scolded Beijing for what it says is a policy of aggression and dangerous manoeuvring

groups Hamas and Islamic Mohammad Protesters carry a Palestinian flag during the Stop

Israel demonstration against Israel's participation in the 68th edition of the Eurovision Song Contest (ESC), amid the ongoing conflict in Gaza between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, in Malmo, Sweden.

Georgia to push ahead with foreign agent bill despite 'misled' protesters, PM says

Monitoring Desk TBILISI: Georgian Prime Irakli Kobakhidze said on Friday that the government would push ahead with the bill on 'foreign agents" despite opposition from what he cast as "misled" youngsters who feel resentment

towards Russia. would require organisations official to do so.

receiving more than 20% of their funding from abroad to register as agents of foreign influence, has sparked street protests in Georgia by those who see it as authoritarian and Russian-in-

Georgia's envoy to France resigned in protest over the bill on Thursday, The legislation, which becoming the first senior

court releases jailed Modi opponent Kejriwal on bail Monitoring Desk

India's top

NEW DELHI: India's top court on Friday ordered a jailed opponent of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to be released on bail, allowing him to campaign in an ongoing national election.

Arvind Kejriwal chief minister of the capital Delhi and a key leader in an opposition alliance formed to compete against Modi in the polls, was detained in March over a long-running corruption

probe.

He is among several leaders of the bloc under criminal investigation, with one of his colleagues describing his arrest the month before the election as a "political conspiracy" orchestrated by the ruling Bharativa Janata Party (BJP). Supreme court Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta said Kejriwal could leave custody until June 1, the last day of voting in the sixweek election.



ISLAMABAD: The Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan, Mr Mukhtar Babayev, along with his delegation, called on President Asif Ali

Cabinet committee principally approves 24 entities for **Privatisation Programme**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Cabinet Committee on Privatisation (CCOP), principally and for the time being, on Friday approved 24 State Owned Enterprises for the Privatisation Programme, directing the Privatisation Ministry to deliberate the phasing of each entity in consultation with the respective ministries. The committee, which met here under the chair of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, was

presented with a phased

Privatisation Programme

(2024-29) by the Ministry

of Privatisation, based on

the recommendations of PC

Board, said a press release.

attended by other committee members including the finance minister, minister for commerce, minister for privatisation, minister for industries and production. governor State Bank of Pakistan, chairman SECP besides federal secretaries of various ministries and divi-

The CCOP recommended that priority shall be accorded to privatisation of loss-making entities while the federal footprint shall be limited only to the Strategic and Essential SOEs under the federal government's domain.

The CCOP emphasized that even the SOE

The meeting was also making profits shall be con-

sidered for privatisation.

After deliberating on the privatisation policy guidelines, the CCOP considered 84 SOEs in detail in light of SOE Act and Policy.

Following the deliberations, the committee recommended that 40 SOEs, categorized as Strategic or Essential, shall be placed by respective ministries before the Cabinet Committee on State Owned Enterprises (CCoSOE) for their categorization as Strategic or Essential;

Those SOEs which would not be categorized as Strategic or Essential shall be included in the Privatisation Programme

PR decides

to operate

Chaman

passenger

from Quetta

on daily basis

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Pakistan

Railways has decided to

operate the Chaman Pas-

senger train from Quetta to

Chaman from May 13,

Quetta to Chaman at 08:00 AM daily and reach Chaman at 12:30 PM.

senger) would leave

Chaman for Quetta at 01:45

PM and would reach Quetta at 05:45 PM the

here that the Passenger

train used to run from

Quetta to Chaman thrice a

PTA urges to

block all social

media accounts

of Adil Raja
ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa-

kistan Ex-Servicemen Society (PESS) has registered a

complaint with the Paki-

stan Telecommunication

Authority (PTA) to close

the social media accounts of

anti-Pakistan propagandist

to the PTA and made it clear

that the Society has noth-

ing to do with what Adil

Raja posts on social media.

letter that Adil Raja, who is

spreading negative propa-

ganda against the country,

started misusing the PESS

platform after fleeing

Raja was the media coordi-

nator of the PESS till 2018.

While escaping, Adil Raja took with him the pass-

words of social media plat-

forms of the Society includ-

SC fixes govt's

plea against

verdict in NAB

amend. case

ISLAMABAD (INP): The

Supreme Court (SC) on Fri-

day fixed govt's plea challenging the verdict in the

National Accountability

On September 15

Bureau (NAB) amend-

2023, the Supreme Court of

Pakistan struck down

amendments made to Na-

tional Accountability Bu-

reau laws as it announced

on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

headed by Chief Justice of

Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi

Faez Isa will take up the

A five-member bench

its reserved verdict

founder's plea.

plea on May 14.

ments case for hearing.

ing X (Twitter accounts).

The letter said Adi

abroad in 2022.

The PESS sent a letter

It has been said in the

fugitive Adil Raja.

The same train (Pas-

It may be mentioned

2024 on daily basis.

onward.

same day.

Pakistan, Italy agree to enhance cooperation to combat human trafficking

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met Italian Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E Mirelena Armellini at the Ministry of Interior here Friday. During the meeting, bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest were discussed.

The interior minister reiterated Pakistan's commitment to combat human trafficking, stating that a zero-tolerance policy has been adopted against human

He emphasized that those involved in human trafficking would not only face imprisonment but also further stated that skilled Pakistani workers would be sent to Italy through legal channels, who wil contribute to the remit-

During the meeting, i was also agreed to sign an agreement to prevent illegal entry of Pakistanis into Italy and to enhance mutual cooperation in this regard.

The minister directed the concerned authorities to finalize the agreement at the



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Ambassador of Italy H.E Marilina Armellin.

'Route to Makkah' project inaugurated for enhanced services for pilgrims at IIA

(APP):Secretary Religious Affairs, Zulfiqar Haider, alongside Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki, formally inaugurated the 'Route to Makkah' project at Islamabad International

Airport (IIA) on Friday. In attendance were senior officials from Religious Affairs, Civil Aviation Authority, Anti-Narcotics, Airport Security Force,

Addressing the media, the Secretary of Religious Affairs said the Saudi immigration and customs procedures for Hajj pilgrims departing from Islamabad would now be efficiently conducted in Islamabad it self. Consequently, these pilgrims would swiftly navigate through the Saudi airport and proceed to their destinations without delay,

Madinah: 3,485 Pakistani Hujjaj arrive in seamless flight operation

he added.

MADINAH AL flights have been operated MUNAWWARAH(APP): from Islamabad and Karachi :A month-long pre-Hajj flight operation, which started on May 9, is taking momentum with each passing day as different airlines operated 15 flights in two days to transport around 3,485 Pakistani Hujjaj to Madinah Al Munawwarah in first leg of their spiritual journey to perform Hajj.

Out of these, seven

under the Road to Makkah project, an initiative of the Saudi government to streamline the immigration process for pilgrims to

launched in 2019, has so far been implemented in five stan, Malaysia, Indonesia Morocco and Bangladesh.



QUETTA: Activists of Tehreek-e-Labbaik (TLP) are holding protest demonstration against desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden, at Quetta press club.

President for global efforts to address climate change

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Asif Ali Zardari has underlined the need for global efforts to address the challenge of climate change by adopting environmentfriendly technology, promoting afforestation, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. He highlighted that global warming and climate change were affecting the glaciers as well as causing water scarcity and tackling these challenges required global support to mitigate their adverse im-

The President expressed these views while talking to the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan/COP 29 President-designate, Mr Mukhtar Babayev, who along with his delegation called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Azerbaijan is going to host the 29th Conference of Parties to the

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 29) in Baku in November 2024 and the Minister in his capacity as the President-designate of COP 29, is here to invite the President to the Con-

Welcoming the Minister, the President congratulated Azerbaijan on winning the bid to host COP 29 and expressed the hope that COP 29 would result in setting the New Collective Quantified Goal on Finance that would help developing countries fulfil their climate finance needs. He high-lighted that Pakistan had planted mangrove forests over hundreds of thousands of hectares that would help protect the environment. besides earning carbon credits for Pakistan.

The President said that Pakistan highly valued relations with

Azerbaijan and wanted to further expand bilateral cooperation in the areas of common interest. He called for promoting more interactions, bilateral exchanges and people-to-people contacts to further cement relations between the two

brotherly countries.
Mr Mukhtar Babayer underlined the need for further enhancing bilateral co operation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, particularly in the area of tourism and culture. He also delivered the invitation to the President to participate in COP 29 in Baku in Ñovember 2024. The President conveyed his best wishes for the successful hosting of COP 29 and expressed the hope that Azerbaijan would play its role to secure the interest of developing countries in meeting their financing needs for climate adaptation.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary for Religious Affiars Zulafqar Haider alongwith Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan seeing off Hajj Pilgrims.

Ahsan Iqbal meets Vice Chairman, NDRC in Beijing

BEIJING (APP): Minister the two sides have worked for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal held a meeting with Vice Chairman, of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) Zhao Chenxin at the NDRC headquarters here on Friday.

According to the PR sources, the Chaman Pas-The Minister was acsenger would be operated companied by Special Asfrom Ouetta to Chaman on sistant to the Prime Minister Sved Tariq Fatemi, Amdaily basis from May 13 bassador of Pakistan to According to the schedule, the Passenger China, Khalil Hashmi, and other senior officials of the train would depart from

Minister said, The decade of CPEC has been a remarkable journey, since 2013, the

fully implemented key energy and physical infrastructure projects, laying a strong foundation for the next phase of CPEC. Zhao Chenxin appreciated the role and leader-

ship of the Minister of Planning & Development in making CPEC a success. He said you are greatly respected for your valuable contribution towards While reviewing

accelerate the progress on the high-quality development of the Project, as it relevant institutions from transitions to its next

Space Administration

as one team and success-

Recalling the five Cor ridors, announced by Vice Premier He Lifeng during his visit to Pakistan last year, the Minister for Planning renewed the commitment of the Government of Paki stan to even further enhance the socio-economic ben efits of CEPC, with significant improvement to the lives and livelihoods of the people. Emphasizing the importance of deepening bilateral energy cooperation, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal conveyed Embassy. progress during the first phase of CPEC, both sides expressed their resolve to Pakistan to diversify the country's energy mix through the transition towards clean and renewable energy.

Suo motu notice against VCs appointment in government universities fixed for hearing

ISLAMABAD (Online) Suo motu notice on ap pointment of vice chancel lors in government universities has been fixed for hear

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by the Chief Justice (CJ) of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa will hear the case on May 15.

SC had sought report from federal and provincial governments in connection with appointment of vice chancellors during previous

Iran decides to repatriate illegal Afghans in view of terror threat

TEHRAN (Online): Iran has decided to repatriate illegal Afghans in view of the terror threat. According to the Ira-

nian Interior Minister, more than 1.3 million illegal immigrants were sent back from Iran so far. The Iranian Interior Minister also indicated to

take strict measures to prevent the return of illegal Afghan citizens to Iran in the future.

Bodies of 7 labourers of Gawadar incident shifted to Khanewal

bodies of seven labourers who killed in the Gwadar tragedy have shifted to Khanewal The relatives received

the bodies of their loved ones from the Shamkot Motorway Interchange.

On this occasion se nior officers of the district administration and police, public personalities were



Resources of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mukhtar Babyev calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Azeri minister calls on PM Shehbaz

Natural Resources of Azerbaijan Babayev Friday called on Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the PM House and handed over an invitation letter to him from President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev to participate in the COP-29 meeting to be held in

Minister of Ecology &

Baku in November 2024. The prime minister thanked the President of Azerbaijan for the invitation, and congratulated him and the Azeri people on Baku's selection for hosting COP-29, the most important gathering of world leaders this year to deliberate upon the challenges

posed by climate change. He said that Pakistan was one of the most vulnerable countries that had borne the adverse impact of climate change in recent years, including the catastrophic floods of 2022.

ISLAMABAD (APP): for urgent action to enhance climate resilience. In this ources of regard, he assured Mukhtar Azerbaijan of Pakistan's full support and cooperation in ensuring the success of COP-29.

While accepting the invitation, the prime minister said he looked forward to participating in COP-29 where he would also have the opportunity to have detailed discussion with President Ilham Aliyev on the bilateral relationship, particularly to enhance bi lateral trade and investment.

PM Shehbaz also reiterated his invitation to President Aliyev to undertake an official visit Pakistan. The Azeri minister thanked the prime minister for receiving him and offering Pakistan's support for the successful organization of the COP-29. He said the Azeri side would work closely with Pakistan to set an agenda that suitably reflects the needs of climate He stressed the need vulnerable countries

Dar visit to China vital part of institutional exchanges: Lin Jian

BEIJING (APP): Deputy stani side to take this visit Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Mohammad Ishaq Dar's first official visit to China from May 13-16 is an important part of the institutional exchanges between the foreign ministries of Pakistan and China, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson,

Lin Jian said on Friday. Ishaq Dar will pay an official visit to China and hold the fifth round of the Foreign Minister-Level China-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue from May13 to 16, he announced during his regular briefing held here.

Wang Yi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chinese foreign minister, Lin said.

Evaluating the current China-Pakistan relations, the spokesperson said, The visit is Dar first official visit to China after he assumed the post of deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Pakistan, and is also an important part of the institutional exchanges between the two foreign min-

He said, China is willing to work with the Pakias an opportunity to further implement the important consensus of the leaders of the two countries.

Terming China and Pakistan as all-weather strategic partners and ironclad friends, he said, in recent years, the two countries have maintained close highlevel exchanges and exchanges at all levels, joined hands to cope with changes in the international and regional situation, deepened mutually beneficial and win-win cooperation, and pushed forward the China-Pakistan friendship, which has become stronger over

After the completion of the elections in Pakistan this year, President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and Chairman Zhao Leji sent congratulatory messages to the Pakistani leaders at the first opportunity, expressing China sincere congratulations and good wishes, he added.

The spokesperson said, the Chinese side is willing to carry forward the traditional friendship between China and Pakistan, strengthen strategic communication and coordination, deepen practical cooperation in various fields.



QUETTA: Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

25k cattle vaccinated during free mobile vet camps organized in remote parts Rafiullah Mandokhail sion of District Livestock Officer Dr Naseebullah

ZHOB: "The livestock sector plays an important role in the rural economy in poverty-hit Balochistan. The livestock rearing is the primary source of livelihood as the rural economy is heavily reliant on livestock," said District Livestock Officer at Livestock and Dairy Development Zhob Dr Naseebullah

He said, keeping in mind the crucial role of livestock sector in the rural economy, on the special directives of provincial minister Livestock and Dairy Development Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Secretary Muhammad Tayyab Lehri and Director General Dr Farooq Tareen, free mobile veterinary camps have been organized in different villages of Dana Abdullah Zai – a remote and mountainous part of the district and Qamar Din Karez close to Pak-Afghan border.

Kakar, over 25,000 cattle have been vaccinated and free medicines have been provided to the cattle owners," he told journalist Rafiullah Mandokhail. The people of the area have thanked the provincial minister and the livestock

officer for organizing free vet camps and said that Dana Abdullah Zai and Qamar Din Karez are faroff hilly areas, where the only source of livelihood is livestock. By organizing free veterinary camps, various animal diseases have been prevented through vaccination.

Dr. Naseebullah Kakar has said that the livestock sector has potential to support the livelihood of the rural population as it is a key source of employment for a large population of Balochistan. Sheep, goats, cows and camels are reared extensively in

from space a historic day: **Ambassador Hashmi** BEIJING (APP): Pakistan mission and showcases our Ambassador to China, advanced knowledge, design capabilities, and

ICUBE-Q's initial images

technology. "This

Khalil Hashmi on Friday termed initial images by multidisciplinary expertise, he said while speaking at the inaugural data delivery Pakistan's lunar satellite from orbit a historic day and said Pakistan's in-volvement in the ICUBE-Zhang Kejian, head of the China National Q aboard the Change-6 probe is a testament to the handed the data carrier nation's growing prowess in space exploration and over to Pakistan Ambas-

sador to China, Khalil marks Hashmi at a ceremony held Pakistan's first lunar orbital here.

QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Environment Naseemur Rehman meeting with Provincial Minister for Women Development Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi.

Arrears against defaulters reach Rs. 633b: **QESCO** initiates operation for recovery of arrears from defaulters

Independent Report QUETTA: The Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) has launched operation for recovery of arrears of the electricity from

defaulters in the province. According to the spokesman of QESCO, the operation has been launched for recovery of the arrears from the government and private institutions, which run in billions

He mentioned that the arrears of QESCO against the defaulters have reached Rs. 633 billion in the prov-

Out of the total arrears, the amount of Rs. 483.56 billion are outstanding against the agriculture consumers of the province. Besides, the government of Balochistan has to account of the subsidy on agriculture, the spokesman of QESCO informed. Similarly, the federal

pay Rs. 51.48 billion on

government has to pay Rs. 22.55 billion on account of the agricultural subsidy. Besides, the arears of Rs. 37.79 billion are outstanding against the provin-

cial government and its subordinate departments while the arrears of Rs. 2.48 bil-KHANEWAL (APP): The lion are payable against the federal government and its subordinate departments in Balochistan.

Moreover, the dues of Rs. 35.15 billion are outstanding against the domestic, commercial and other consumers in the province.

The QESCO spokesman said that the notices are being issued to the defaulters for payment of arrears. present