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

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

RAWALPINDI (APP): Paying tributes to Chief of Army Staff Shuhada (martyrs) and (COAS), General Syed Ghazis, the COAS said, Asim Munir on Monday conferred military awards upon Army personnel for their acts of gallantry during operations and meritorious services rendered to the nation during an Investiture ceremony held here

at General Headquarters.
A large number of senior Army officers and families of awardees at-

tended the ceremony. The officers & soldiers were awarded medals including Sitara-I-Imtiaz (Military) and Tamgha-I-Basalat. Medals of Shuhada were received by their familv members, an Inter Services Public Relations and resilience for the na-(ISPR) news release said.

'There is nothing more noble than laying one's life for defence of motherland and the sacrifices of our martyrs strengthen our resolve to fight with utmost dedication and spirit of sac-

The Army Chief also lauded brave families of Shuhada for their high spirits and sacrifices rendered by them. The COAS said, "Shuhada and Ghazis are our national heroes and the nation owes its independence and security to the sacrifices of its valiant warriors. Our Shuhada are, indeed, the beacons of hope



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

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

ISLAMABAD (INP): Af- ment-Pakistan (MQM-P), ter the Supreme Court order on Sunni Ittehad 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 (PML-N), the Pakistan Muttahida Qaumi MoveDozens of members of

Council's (SIC) petition re- the PPP, PML-N, MQMgarding reserved seats, the P, JUI-F and others had Pakistan (ECP) Monday in different assemblies across the country following the PHC's verdict.

The ruling PML-N is the biggest loser as 44 of its members have been suspended while 15 lawmakers from PPP, 13 from Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Fazi (JUI-F) and one each from MQM-P, Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party, and Awami National Party, Pakistan Muslim League and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamen-



**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 Fifth Pakistan-China For-Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Monday met with Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Ambassador Zhang Ming here wherein he emphasised an effective collaboration among SCO member states to harness the region's potential for sustained progress and

minister is on a four-day visit to China to co-chair the opment cooperation agenda

eign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue with Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi which would cover the full spectrum of Pakistan-China relations.

Senator Ishaq Dar reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the SCO Charter and the Organization's fundamental ideals as enunciated in the 'Shanghai Spirit.' He exprosperity. pressed Pakistan's strong commitment to advancing

#### 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 Muslim League – Nawaz (PML-N).

This decision came following the approval of the Executive Board of NAB to cease the ongoing investigation related to corruption in the procurement

The closure of the in-

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 food department while, the case of thousands of sacks of wheat being stolen was also under came under investigation



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on the matters related to Balochistan province.

# Prime Minister reiterated

# Government's resolve to ensure development of Balochistan

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday reiterated his government's resolve to ensure develop-ment of Balochistan, say-ing 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 the youth of the province to play role in the develop-

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

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has tendered resignation Election Commission of taken oath on reserved seats 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 invaluable leadership.

#### SC deems investigation into attacks on journalists unsatisfactory

SLAMABAD (APP) The Supreme Court of Pakistan 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.

The court expressed dissatisfaction over the investigation report on torture of journalists including Asad Tur and Absar

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 one month.

#### **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 declines on Monday amid signs of weak fuel demand and as comments from U.S. Federal Reserve officials dampened hopes of interest rate cuts.

He was chairing a high level meeting to review the key issues of Balochistan province at the Prime Min-

The meeting was attended by Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Planning Minister Zahoor Ahmed Bilidi and Finance Minister Shoaib Noshirwani, Parliamentary Secretary Fisheries Haji Barkat Rand, Provincial Assembly Members Mir Rehmat Saleh Baloch and Haji Muhammad Khan, Zmarak Khan Achakzai, and Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir.

During the meeting, the prime minister emphasizing the importance of Balochistan's development and prosperity, hoped that the new provincial cabinet under the leadership of Chief Minister Sarfraz Ahmed 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 Balochistan and said that the Federal Government would provide all possible assistance regarding the conversion of agricultural tubewells to solar energy.

He directed that till

directed that the pace of work on important development projects of the South Balochistan Package be expedited. The meeting was also attended by Federal Fi-

the conversion of agricul-

tural tube-wells to solar

energy, load shedding of

electricity should be mini-

mized in Balochistan to en-

sure that production from

crops and gardens was not

The prime minister

Muhammad Aurangzeb Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan and other high officials concerned.



Ishaq 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

Hashim Khan Ghilzai, Vice

Chancellor of BUITEM

University Dr. Khalid

Hafeez and DG Higher Edu-

cation Dr. Zahoor Ahmed

Bazai were also present in

the meeting. The Governor

said that all higher educa-

tion institutions in the prov-

ince were common assets

of all of us and to ensure

the provision of quality

education in Balochistan

Principal Secretary to solve all the financial prob-

to provide the poor stu-

dents of remote areas with

the jewel of higher educa-

tion. He said that the fed

eral government would give

us full attention to provide spe

cial packages to Balochistan

which could be required for im-

provement of educational in-

stitutions. He made it clear in

blunt words that if both the

federal and provincial govern-

ments would not increase the

Finance minister

welcomes IMF team

for completing

**SBA** with success

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance

and Revenue Muhammad

Aurangzebwelcomed the

International Monetary

Fund (IMF) team and ex-

pressed gratitude for them

for completing Standby Ar-

rangement (SBA), with suc-

cess. The minister for fi-

nance and revenue

Muhammad Aurangzeb met

with the delegation of IMF

Mission led by IMF Mis

sion Chief Nathan Porter, said

budget allocation.

Governor Balochistan lems faced immediately and

OUETTA (APP): Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jafar Khan Mandukhel on Monday said we would have to make some tough decisions along with creating new sources of income in order to take the public sector universities on the path of self-sufficiency.

He expressed these House Ouetta.

views while talking to Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman of Higher Education Commission at Governor's

public sector universities to Electricity, flour prices slashed in AJK after PM Shehbaz

# orders release of Rs23b ISLAMABAD (INP):

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday ordered an immediate release of Rs23 billion to resolve the issues confronting the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and to ease the

Shehbaz Sharif decided to provide funds after thoroughly examining the situation in the territory, in a special meeting chaired by him on the subject in Islamabad, a PM

Office press release said. Different parts of the AJK witnessed protest demonstrations during the last coupe of days with the people seeking reduced electricity bills and taxes as well as subsidized wheat

Azad Jammu and Kashmir prime minister, AJK cabinet members and senior leadership attended the meeting besides the fed-



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

#### Khawaja demands imposition of Article 6 against violators of constitution

Minister for Defence mocracy has struggled to on Monday called for imposing Article 6 on those who violated the Constitution and suggested that it should begin with Field Marshal Ayub Khan.

Speaking at the forum of National Assembly, he said, "I fully endorse the opposition leader's proposal to invoke Article 6, but it should be started from 1958 up to 2022, when the then Deputy Speaker Qasim Khan Suri breached the constitution during the no-confidence

The minister high-lighted the Supreme Court's intervention at that time, which restored the National Assembly and overturned

the unconstitutional order. Khawaja Asif said that Pakistan has faced chal-

ISLAMABAD (APP): wards, indicating that de-Khawaja Muhammad Asif take root in the country. He asserted that leaders engaged in unlawful activities must face justice.

The minister accused the opposition leader in the NA of consistently supporting dictatorship and unlawful actions, mentioning that his party had previously apologized for supporting General Zia-ul-Haq and now seeks the 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 against the country's interests will be held accountable by the

Khawaja Asif alleged that opposition has not yet finalized the name for the Pakistan has faced challenges from that period on-tee (PAC).

#### Pakistan, US reaffirm commitment to continue counter-terrorism coop.

kistan 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 most pressing challenges to regional and global security, including Tehreek-e-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-

nator for counter-terrorism,

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- Ambassador Elizabeth Richard, co-chaired the dialogue. Discussions centred on the counter-terrorism landscape in the region, with a focus on areas of mutual interest.

Pakistani and US senior officials emphasized the importance of expanded counter-terrorism collaboration and capacity building, including exchanges of States in addressing the technical expertise and best practices, investigative and prosecutorial assistance. provision of border secuing, 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 such as in the UN and the Global counter-terrorism forum.



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

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 traf-

fic 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.

(APP) 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 circum-

> 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

#### **IGP** reviews counter terrorism efforts, advocates for enhanced measures

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh, Ghulam Nabi Memon Monday conducted a comprehensive visit of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), delving into the operational challenges across various crime-fighting units under its jurisdiction and issuing

directives for further action. Upon his arrival, IGP Sindh was warmly received

by the Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP) -CTD and Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs).

During the visit, the DIGP - CTD provided IGP Sindh with an extensive overview of CTD's performance over the past four months. Notably, 87 cases were filed following 763 intelligence-based operations between January and April

# Daily Soice 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 devastating floods of 2022 are still waiting to be rehabili-

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

College across the US have even the US. The return erupted into student of Benazir in 1988 had demonstrations and sitins protesting the genocide in Gaza. Students across every religious denomination are in- government felt fresh volved. Columbia Uni- and exciting, and his versity, my alma mater, choices for who would has been most prominently in the news. Not only for being the first set of students to call scent 'Minouche' emat

progress Great around women's and minorities' rights has place. been made since the turn of the century. More and more, we see of 'white' Westerners. There was much celebration when Shafiq announced Columbia's next president. In the UK, Rishi Sunak became the first prime minister of South Asian origin. Pakistanis had witnessed the jourof Malala Yousafzai

ern political and social elites. While controepitomised struggle and achievement to me.

Today, conversely, as we watch six months of the Israel-Palestine the view from the other tinuing genocide occur- of the apartheid govrole of women and mi- and Nelson Mandela's the old colonial mantra selves could achieve. of divide and rule.

different period, espe- that was also present. will tell.

tory in the air campuses whether in Pakistan or galvanised hope in our breasts — and it was still alive and kicking. President Bill Clinton's join him in his adminis-

desire inclusivity. Take, for exout 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 to myself that if there were more like him in the the 20th century. The US administration, the world would be a better mantra has led to a deci-

tration showed a genu-

The hope that globalisation meant carving a better future 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 Trade Organisation, historically dubbed the 'Battle of Seattle', and studying it later, it became clear to me that there were 'protesters' on both sides of the barricades. Those on the inside believed they 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 achieve global publicversy surrounded her, ity. I read the columns of the inimitable Robert Fisk, writing on the Middle East, with awe and delight in the way he clearly understood war unfold, with a con- side (our side). The fall ring before our eyes, the ernment in South Africa nority-origin leaders in reconciliation process

The 1990s were a preclude the darkness destiny lies? Only time

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 changed forever.

The two decades

of the 21st 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 'with us or against us' mation 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 for-

Shafiq realise the responsibilities 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 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 power today, but who But this did not can predict where one's

Will

Minouche

# **Shadow of the moon**

#### **Huma Yusuf**

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 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 telehealth, rural banking, and virtual education. To be truly inclusive, economies and societies must

now look to the stars.

uses international satelmust 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

Writing for Chatham House in 2022, Val Munsami, a former CEO of the South African National Space Agency, argued that for a developing country to make the programme, 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 domesonly if there exists an appropriate pedagogical culture that values scientific curiosity and a rothe space policy acknowledges this gap, hopes to improve the 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 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 sustainmost of a space able policy pla-nning. Intentions 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 countic space programme, but tries are playing an impressive game of catchup. The African Union, for example, has ranked its space strategy as one bust educational sector. of 15 key programmes in This we sadly lack. While its Agenda 2063, and more than 20 national space institutions have been established across quality and reach of the continent in recent

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 holisinvesting in indigenous tic foreign and economic

# Commerce News

# 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 suspension of two senior officers of PASSCO over their negligence in this audit of PASSCO's stock, process.

chairing a high-level meeting to review the demand and supply and procurement of wheat by the federal government, ordered the suspension of

Procurement for their failure to implement the country. earlier directives of utilising the technology in the wheat procurement.

Calling for crops' he instructed the The prime minister, organization to procure members an additional 400,000 through a transparent process.

The prime minister the Managing Director of not tolerate any economic senior officers attended the

Storage and Services resolved to take all-out Corporation (PASSCO) measures for their and Meneral manager prosperity and bringing food security in the

He assured that the government would reward the outstanding PASSCO centers and officers insurance and a third-party during the procurement

Federal cabinet Muhammad Aurangzeb, Rana Tanveer metric tonnes of wheat Hussain, Ahad Khan Cheema, Jam Kamal Khan, Shaza Fatima Khawaja Coordinator to PM Rana said the government would Ehsan Afzal and relevant



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

# PCJCCI, FTO hold awareness session on redress of taxpayers complaints

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

LAHORE (INP): The attracted by huge interest 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 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 deal and resolve the complaints within 45 days.

#### **PSX stays** bullish, gains 713 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the 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 total of 721,597,885 shares valuing Rs 25.649 billion were traded during the day

compared 741,196,400 shares valuing Rs 25.268 billion the last day. Some 387 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 241 of them recorded gains and 120 sustained losses, whereas the prices of 26 remained unchanged.



regarding wheat stocks.

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

Independent Report KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised that the Chaman border has been closed once again for the past one week; and, thousands of trucks and other vehicles have been stuck under vulnerable. uncertain and hostile circumstances. It is complete chaos once again on the important and indispensable trade route between Pakistan and

Afghanistan, he added.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, henceforth, demanded that Chaman border should be opened

immediately to alleviate the sufferings and financial losses of the traders – and, allow essential supplies like food and medicines to get through the border. It is a humanitarian and socioeconomic crisis as well, he added.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh explained that Chaman border nestled in the heart of the region's complex geopolitical landscape; and, has long been a significant point of interaction between Pakistan and Afghanistan, particularly as a hub for cross-border trade between the two neighboring countries.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): The flour prices across the country, including the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi have witnessed a notable decline in recent weeks, offering relief to consumers.

According to official documents of Ministry of Food Security and Research, the cost of a 20 kg bag of flour has dropped significantly in various cities. In Islamabad, for instance, the price has plummeted an 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

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

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 International Goat & Bull Association will organize the 26th 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.

#### Maryam to establish Punjab's first plug and play garment city level committee led by Independent Report

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 added,"Organize technical training of workers of the garment industry."

Madam Minister directed the authorities concerned to solicit expressions of interest from major apparel industries for the Garment

Minister for Industries Chaudhry Shafey Hussain for the purpose.

Earlier, Madam Chief 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 systems.

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

transformer after installation has also been energized, according to a statement issued by NTDC. This project was enhancement program to the SEPCO region.

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, 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

# CM orders sustainable water drainage system for Lahore

Reviews C&W's road construction, maintenance projects

**Independent Report** LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz 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 Sharif said that the Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA), Metropolitan

Nawaz Corporation Lahore (MCL) and other bodies concerned should work in close coordination, adding that people cannot bear the inconvenience caused by

**Development Initiative.** 

Medical Superintendent

Liaquat University Hospi-

tal Hyderabad/Jamshoro

Dr Aijaz Ahmad Abbasi has

said that according to the Meteorological Depart-

ment, a possible heat stroke

is encountered during the

increase in the intensity of

pital will immediately im-

pose emergency measures

and all the doctors, and

para-medical staff leave

will be cancelled.

In this regard the hos-

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz

Sharif alongwith students addressing the

inaugural ceremony of Chief Minister Skills

Heat stroke units

setup at LU Hospital

HYDERABAD (APP): in Hyderabad and its vicin-

ity, we have set up air-con-

ditioned units in University

Hospital Hyderabad and

Jamshoro to provide medi-

and medicines, senior Dr

Rajput whose mobile

number is 0311-3077700

for Civil Hospital

Hyderabad and Dr

Faheem Lashari RMO

whose phone number is

Jamshoro Hospital . They

Along with supplies

Aslam

for

cal treatment.

Muhammad

0332-1318881

standing water in a street. relevant officers were also She said it is painful to see present. water overflowing sewerage in 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 on streetlights, parks and horticulture in suburban

Pervaiz Senator Rashid, Senior Provincial Marriyum Minister Aurangzeb, Provincial Minister Local Government Zeeshan Rafique and Special Assistant Zeeshan Malik attended the meeting. Chief Secretary, Chairman P&D. Secretaries, Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner Lahore, DG LDA and other

Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif reviewed the carried out Communication and Works (C&W) department, here on Monday.

During a meeting with Punjab Minister for Communication and Works Soheb Ahmed Malik, she was briefed about the maintenance and construction of roads across Punjab.
The CM was briefed

that the work on repair and rehabilitation of 590 roads covering a distance of 11500 kilometers across Punjab has been started.

#### Father and daughter-in-law murdered by unknown gunman

MANSEHRA (APP): Two 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, Shankiyari police handed over the bodies to their heirs. Later, the funeral prayers for both victims were He said that in view of the increase heat stroke Heat Stroke Focal Person. Tarnain Bala.



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi with a high tea at Gilani House.

### 100,000 people avail free health facilities under Sehat Card: Minister

**Independent Report** PESHÂWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Health Syed Qasim Ali Shah on Monday said that so far 100,000 people of the province have availed free health facilities under

Ramadan. In a release issued here, he said that the treatment was provided to the citizens of KP admitted to different hospitals of the country and the province, adding that so far 2.7 billion

Sehat health card initiative

since the month of

He appreciated the Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur for reviving the health card soon after coming to power and termed it a gift to the deserving people of the 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 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 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Dr Ibadullah, while starting debate on said that there is confusion regarding the budget as the chief minister is saying that there is no fund in the province while the Finance Advisor is claiming that

the budget is surplus. Dr Ibadullah said that the province has been destroyed from all aspect which is financially or law constituency of chief ransom.

raised question that police stations have the budget on Monday established in public property and rented buildings at merged districts so where is the Rs1000 billion in the context of the war on terror He said that the

situation has reached such a point that the session judge is being kidnaped. According to media reports, a transaction was and order. He said that the made for payment of

#### **PFA cracks** down on fake beverages, **seizes 1,100**

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 Hassanabdal, on Monday.

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 connections during its on going crackdown against gas pilferers in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 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 disconnected on illegal use besides imposing Rs 3 million fine.

#### KP CM 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.

During the meeting, the discussion was made on proposed projects of Irrigation, Public Health Engineering and Road sectors to be reflected in the upcoming ADP.

Besides Provincial Minister for Irrigation Aqib Ullah Khan, Minister for Public Health ongoing schemes specially Engineering, Pakhtunyar those which are due for Communications

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 secretaries and other high ups of the concerned departments.

A detailed briefing was also given in the meeting about the on-going and proposed projects of these departments that will be included in the ADP

While issuing policy directives about new ADP, the CM directed the high ups of these departments to give top priority to the 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 projets

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Local Government & Rural Development, Arshad Ayub Kĥan Monday said that all incomplete beautification projects to be completed as soon as possible. Presiding over a 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

concerned also attended the meeting.

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 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.

Israel expanded an

evacuation order for east-

ern Rafah, after 300,000

people had fled the city ear-

"We don't know where to go," said Farid Abu

Eida, who was preparing to

leave Rafah, having already

been displaced there from

tanks, mattresses and other

belongings onto vehicles and

in Gaza that is safe or not

prepared to flee again.

Residents piled water

'There is no place left

lier this week.

Gaza City.

# International News

# 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 un-

rael by the West. Ånkara 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

posal by Qatar and Egypt in a "step in the path to-ward a lasting ceasefire", but Israeli Prime Minister Ben-aid into Gaza, a Turkish security source said. Israel's military con-duct in Gaza has come uniamin 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 continuing and more bloodshed.

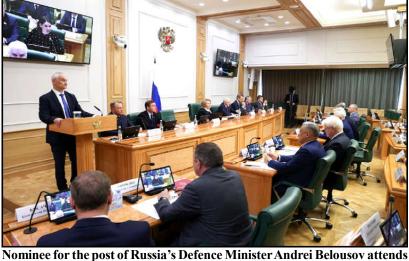
conditional support for Is-"And did Netanyahu see any serious reaction for his spoiled behaviour? No. Neither Europe nor America showed a reaction that would force Israel into a ceasefire." Erdogan's in-Kalin met with Hamas leaders in Doha on Sunday to discuss ceasefire talks and the access of humanitarian

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.



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

clashes in Sudan: UN

Monitoring Desk
TANAH DATAR: At
least 34 people were
killed and 16 more were missing in western Indo-

nesia after flash floods and cold lava flow from one of the archipelago's most active volcanos damaged homes, roads and mosques, officials said on Sunday. Hours of heavy rain

caused flooding in Agam and Tanah Datar districts in West Sumatra province on Saturday evening, people after the down- cal official's office. 27 killed in renewed

pours swept ash and large rocks down Mount

Marapi.
"I heard the thunder and the sound similar to boiling water. It was the sound of big rocks falling," housewife Rina Devina said, adding that three of her neighbours were killed.

"It was pitch black, so I used my cellphone as 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 lo-

# rocket systems.

**Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: The first patient to receive a genetically modified pig kidney transplant died, two months after the procedure, the US hospital that carried it out said. "Mass General is deeply saddened at the sudden passing of Mr Rick Slayman. We have no indication that it was the result of his recent transplant," the Boston hospital said. In a world first, surgeons at Massachusetts General Hospital in March transplanted the genetically edited pig kidney into Slayman, who was 62 years old at the time and suffering from end-stage

#### Seven killed in attack on **Russian flats**

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

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

kidney disease

#### after fresh Rafah evacuation order suspending traffic through

Israel strikes Gaza

**Monitoring Desk** RAFAH: Israeli forces con-

tinued to conduct air strikes on Gaza on Sunday after it expanded an evacuation order for Rafah, with the United Nations warning an outright invasion of the crowded southern city risked an "epic" disaster.

Gaza's civil defence agency said two doctors were killed on Sunday in the central town of Deir al-Balah amid heavy gunfire from Israeli helicop-

Witnesses said Israel had carried out strikes in Rafah near the crossing

with Egypt on Saturday and smoke was seen rising over the city.

international opposition and entered eastern areas of

overcrowded... There's nowhere we can go." Residents were told to go to the 'humanitarian zone" of Al-Israeli troops defied Mawasi, on the coast north-

west of Rafah. International outrage the city, effectively shut-ting a key aid crossing and tions in Rafah. mounted at Israel's opera-

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

**Monitoring Desk** President Vladimir Putin

on Sunday replaced Sergei Shoigu as defense shakeup that comes as he begins his fifth term in law, the entire Russian

Cabinet resigned Tuesday following Putin's glittering inauguration in the Kremlin, and most members have been widely expected to keep their jobs, while Shoigu's fate had appeared uncertain. Putin signed a decree on Sunday appointing Shoigu as secretary of Russia's Security Čouncil, the Kremlin said. The appointment was announced shortly after Putin proposed Andrei Belousov to become the country's defense minister in place of Shoigu. The announcement of Shoigu's new role came as 13 people were reported dead and 20 wounded in

Russia's border city of Belgorod, where a 10story apartment building partially collapsed after what Russian officials said was Ukrainian shelling. Ukraine hasn't commented 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

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

# Police officers detain a demonstrator during a protest

against a bill on "foreign agents" in Tbilisi, Georgia.

# India inks 10-year deal to operate Iran's Chabahar port

**Monitoring Desk** NEW DELHI: India signed a 10-year contract with Iran on Monday to develop and operate the Iranian port of Chabahar, the Narendra Modi-led government said, strengthening relations with a strategic Middle Eastern nation.

port goods to Iran, Afghani stan and central Asian countries, bypassing the ports of Karachi and Gwadar. US sanctions on Iran. however, slowed the port's development.

Oman as a way to trans- Asian Countries.

"Chabahar Port's significance transcends its role as a mere conduit be-India has been develtween India and Iran; it oping the port in Chabahar serves as a vital trade aron Iran's south-eastern tery connecting India with Afghanistan and Central coast along the Gulf of

#### it downs 16 Ukraine-launched missiles, 31 drones **Monitoring Desk** MOSCOW: The Russian

Russia says

defence ministry said on Monday its air defence systems destroyed 16 missiles and 31 drones that Ukraine launched at Russian territory overnight, including 12 missiles over the battered border region of Belgorod.

Five houses were damaged in Belgorod, but according to preliminary information, there were no injuries, Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov wrote on the Telegram messaging

On Sunday, 15 people were killed in Belgorod when a section of an apartment block collapsed after being struck by fragments of a Soviet-era missile, launched by Ukraine and shot down by Russian forces, Russia said.

The Russian defence ministry said on Monday the 12 guided missiles were launched from a Ukrainian Vilkha multiple rocket

**Monitoring Desk** PORT SUDAN: Clashes reignited 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 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 reports", as the city suffers a

near-total communications

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 Doctors 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 devastating war between the army, headed by the country's de facto leader Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Bosnia & Herzegovina in Pakistan, Emin 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

Deputy Prime Minister Group is a subsidiary of tion of Gezhouba Group to and Foreign Minister Energy China, which is Pakistan's economic devel-Mohammad Ishaq Dar China's leading company opment, the Deputy PM on Monday invited the undertaking multiple Chinese Gezhouba Group to expand its operation in Pakistan under the second phase of China Pakistan Eco-Corridor

"Under the Phase-II of CPEC, Pakistan offers generous incentives to Chinese investors which the Gezhouba Group can use to expand its business footprints in Pakistan," he said while talking to the Chair- tice and to assure fool- Pakistan and would further

Gezhouba power generation projects needed to further expand its in Pakistan, a press release issued by the Foreign Of- in renewable and hydel sec-

pressed condolences to the role. Chairman at the tragic incident in Shangla in which five Chinese and one Pakistani national were Pakistan's firm resolve to this heinous attack to jusnationals in Pakistan.

underscored that Pakistan power generation capacity tors for which Gezhouba The Deputy PM ex- Group can play a leading

Chairman thanked Pakistan for taking effective steps to ensure the security of Chinese namartyred. He expressed tionals in Pakistan and expressed firm resolve that bring the perpetrators of the company would timely complete all its projects in proof security of Chinese expand operations to new areas of cooperation.

Dialogue, only

option to resolve

national issues:

Rana Sana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Adviser

on Political and Public Af-

fairs, Rana Sanaullah, said

on Monday that in a par-

liamentary democracy,

method to resolve issues:

without it, there is no other

news channel, he said that

the 'leader of the house' and

the 'leader of the opposi-

tion' were two integral com-

ponents of this democratic

the former chairman of PTI.

he lamented that unfortu-

nately, there exists a politi-

cal leader who doesn't be-

lieve in this democratic sys-

tem and parliament.

He alleged PTI founder of attempting to

sow chaos and sedition

Zaman Park violence:

LHC confirms

interim bail of

PTI founder

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC)

on Monday confirmed the

interim bail of the Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

founder in the Zaman Park

PTI founder to furnish surety bonds of Rs 500,000

Amjad Rafiq heard the bail petition filed by the PTI

founder and confirmed the

interim bail upon comple-

tion of arguments by the

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 sub-

mitted that currently, the

PTI founder was in jail and

could not appear before the

Barrister Salman

The court ordered the

Justice Muhammad

violence case.

to avail the relief.

parties

through democracy.

However, referring to

system.

Talking to a private

dialogue was the sole



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

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

PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan says efparty founder related to Toshakhana.

He alleged that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) was being used against the PTI

Speaking to media outside the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi, Barrister Gohar quoted the PTI founder as having said apology should be sought from him (and not the other way round). He (founder) condemned the May 9 violence and uning on the Iddat case and derlined the need for a judicial commission to in-

RAWALPINDI (INP): vestigate the matter. The PTI founder insisted he would pursue diaforts are afoot to file a logue, not deal, for the betfourth case against the terment of Pakistan. He stressed that personal interests would not drive these discussions. However, he lamented a lack of progress by the negotiation commit-

> Addressing concerns raised by the former prime minister regarding tax collection and the IMF programme, Barrister Gohar said power should emanate from democratic channels

Gohar urged the judidecide it without further



QUETTA: Voice for Baloch Missing Persons Leaders, Mama Qadeer and Nasrullah Baloch addressing to media persons during press conference, at a protest camp outside Quetta press club.

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

QUETTA (APP): Addi- nities, adding, the private tional Finance Secretary Balochistan Shujaat Ali Khosa Monday stressed the need for a strong public-private partnership to ensure sustainable economic growth and bringing the country's traders into the tax network to run country' financial matters smoothly. Talking to PTV news channel, he said that Public-Private Partnerships is considered as an important tool to further advance the implementation of the SDGs and to increase private sector tion, he said that in the GDP share and participation in the economy, adding, we have to change the mindset as the country can no longer run on the

old patterns. challenges into opportu- market forces.

sector is currently the priority of the current government which can help the country navigate through current economic challenges.

He said that short medium and long-term strategies are being worked on for macroeconomic stability to bring foreign direct investment in the country. Government has plan

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

present circumstances of the economy we need to privatized that instituions which are not earning, adding, the aim of privatization is often to increase effi-He said that the pro- ciency, competition, and motion of foreign invest- innovation in the economy ment is government's by subjecting previously first priority to turn the state-controlled entities to

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

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

The President expressed 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 Ambassador, the President said that Pakistan's ties with Bosnia & Herzegovina were based on historic and

over almost three decades. He added that both countries should continue bilateral engagements and interactions to further explore the avenues of cooperation in the areas of mutual inter-

The Ambassador said that his country wanted to deepen ties with Pakistan in the fields of economy, security, and culture. He highlighted that there was a vast scope for economic cooperation for Pakistani businesses in different industries in Bosnia & Herzegovina, including food, tourism, and textile

The Ambassador ex-

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 Pakistan would favourably examine Bosnia's request, adding that Pakistan stood in solidarity with the victims of the 1995 tragedy in Srebrenica.

The Ambassador also extended the invitation to the President to visit Bosnia & Herzegovina to strengthen 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 of the inlets and outlets of the three diversion tunnels, the power house and the spillway, said a press re-

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 presided over a meeting at the ohmand Dam to cope in-

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

Additional resources be deployed to squeeze completion time, he further

Earlier, the Chairman was briefed about the progress on diversion works, recovery plan, progress on quarry development and spillway con-

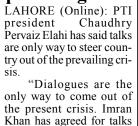
It is important to note that WAPDA is constructing Mohmand Dam Project across River Swat in Mohmand District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It is the 5th highest concreteface-rock-fill dam in the project office. Emphasising upon the significance of uled for completion in

#### Ch Pervaiz Elahi says: Dialogue only way to steer country out of prevailing crisis

Khan has agreed for talks not for his own sake but for 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. .

The farmers are wandering hither and thither to sell wheat but tiktok government is sleeping, he

The powers that be should give positive response to invitation for tary parties will provide talks by former president



PAC on Monday. As per the decision, 27

the opposition.

The sources said the chief whip of the parliamennames for the chairmanship Hussain Jakhrani.

QUETTA: Provincial Minister for C&W Mir

Saleem Ahmed Khosa reviews under construction work of Custom and Gahi Khan Flyover.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): erment. Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan Sardar Ayaz Sadiq 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

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- Special Committee.

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

# **Opposition agrees to lead** 11 standing bodies, PAC chairmanship, govt gets 27

issue of the chairmanship of 38 standing committees, including the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), in the National Assembly has been settled as the opposition agreed to lead 11 and the government 27 committees.

A consensus was reached between the government and the opposition on the distribution of 38 standing committees and

Standing Committees came under the control of the government and its allies, while the other 11 committees, including the PAC, came to

ISLAMABAD (INP): The of the standing committees and the members to the 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

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 Chaudhry, Pakistan People's Party's (PPP) MNA Aijaz

### **World Thalassemia** 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 care of children admitted to BMC Hospital's Thalassemia Center, not only the mortality rate has de- emony.

quency of blood transfusions has increased signifi-

These views were expressed 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 Balochistan Safe Transfusion Professor Dr. Hanif Mengal, Dr. Shafi and other experts addressed the cer-



Quetta Chief, Maulana Abdul Rehman along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Quetta press club.

#### 2-day 'Pakistan Literature Festival' from May 15 QUETTA (APP): The Arts tics, literature, and other

Council of Pakistan Karachi in collaboration with the government of Balochistan would organize two-day Pakistan Literature Festival 2024 in Quetta on May 15-Addressing a press conference at Quetta Press

Club on Monday, the President of Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi, Muhammad Ahmed announced the organizing of Pakistan Literature Festival 2024 (Quetta Chapter) which is scheduled to take place on May 15 at Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) Quetta. He said the renowned

personalities from the fields of arts, entertainment, poli-

sectors, will participate in the festival. Expressing his sentiments, he said that organizing a festival in Balochistan

is a heartwarming endeav-our to embrace all languages and cultures. Shah remarked that Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi is the only council

not governed by the government. He underscored the deep-rooted historical ties between Balochistan and Sindh, noting the active participation of Balochi writ-

He mentioned awarding prizes to Balochi literature and extending support to Pashto literature through the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

ers and poets in Karachi.

#### Advisor to CM Balochistan holds meeting with UNFPA for women empowerment ate support to victims, the QUETTA(APP): Advisor to women segment of society implementation of women the Chief Minister in the region, highlighting the importance of inclusive

NASIRABAD: Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Muhammad Sadiq

Umrani being briefed by Chief Engineer Nasir Majeed and SE Abdul

Balochistan on Women Development Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi in a meeting with Pro-vincial Head of UNFPA Dr Sarmad Khan had deliberated on crucial initiatives aimed at advancing the cause of women empowerment across Balochistan region. During the meeting, they discussed the establishment of a Genand girl-friendly spaces in various districts of Balochistan to foster safe environment and introduction of skill-based education programs tailored to empower women and engage the youth in productive ven-

Dr. Buledi emphasized the significance of collaborative efforts in addressing

and 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 em-

der-Based Violence (GBV) helpline to provide immedi- the challenges faced by DC visits exam center for ensuring power supply on paper time in Lasbela

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Lasbela, Humaira Baloch 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

The center was facing severe load-shedding issues, causing discomfort to several students who were suffering from dehydration.

Taking immediate action, the DC directed K-Electric (KE) to provide an supply during paper timing to prevent any further inconvenience to the stu-

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.

prompt action have been widely appreciated by the students, teachers, and parents, who have expressed their gratitude for her efforts in ensuring the smooth

The timely interven-

The DC's visit and

conduct of the exams

#### NA budget session to commence on June 6 ISLAMABAD (APP):

power women and youth

across the region of

Balochistan.

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 Assembly would continue until May 17.

The meeting focused on the formation of standing committees and the finance committee of the as-



QUETTA: Provincial Finance Secretary Babar Khan participating via video link in the consultation

session of Inter Ministerial Telecommunication Sector. Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah printed at Independent Printers Querry Road Quetta and Published from Bolan market main RCD Road Hub. Ph. 2842938 Fax: 2842941 Cell No. 0331-8383955 E-mail:newsdailyind@gmail.com,dailyindisb@gmail.com