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## **Ruling alliance suffers major blow** PA speaker suspends 27 MPAs in light of SC's decision on reserved seats

minorities.

in Punjab, provincial assembly Speaker on Friday suspended reserved seats for had women and minorities in accordance with the Supreme Court's (SC) May 6 verdict.

Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan read the decision in the House, citing the apex court's ruling, and or-dered the de-seated mem-bers to vacate their seats immodules. A three-member bench bers to vacate their seats Mansoor Ali Shah and in-curable legal defects and curable legal defects and immediately

opposition member Rana an SIC appeal against the seats"

LAHORE (INP): In a ma- Aftab on certain reserved PHC order, denying seats jor blow to ruling alliance seats, leading to the de-seat- for women and minorities. ing of the Punjab ruling alliance members.

suspended the won the Feb 8 elections as Peshawar High Court's their party had been de-(PHC) verdict denying the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) prived of its electoral symbol 'bat'

the new home for PTI lawmakers-elect — reserved seats for women and

cluding Justice Muhammad The Speaker upheld Ali Mazhar and Justice provision of submission the point of order tabled by Athar Minallah — took up of party list for reserved



The Election Com-mission of Pakistan (ECP) had ruled that the level review meeting regarding Ease of Doing Business. SIC was not entitled to violation of a mandatory

plants on PPP mode KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that on Murad Shah said that Ali Shah has said that on

the demand of union council representatives, he has decided to enhance the funds of union councils so they could serve people of their respective areas.

their respective areas. "I'll give you [UCs] more funds and will make you accountable for their judicious spending". Shah said that in the last election of 2018, PPP won three MNA seats and this time we have bagged seven we have bagged seven MNAs and 12 MPA seats which is the manifestation of the party workers' hard work and ability to reach the message of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to the people of Karachi. The chief minister said that on the recommendation of party workers, his government would provide the people of Karachi with water supply, sanitation, and transport facilities, particularly in the under developed areas and directed the

Excise & Taxation & Nar-

**CM** announces enhancing

UCs funds, starting treatment

treatment plant would be initiated for Rs135 billion in PPP mode so that treated wastewater could be used for industrial usage. He said this on Friday while speaking at an inter-active session of PPP rep-

resentatives and party workers for budget 2024-25. The meeting was held at Banquet Hall of CM House and attended by Sindh PPP President Nisar Khuhro, General Secretary Sindh Waqar Mahdi, provincial Ministers-Sharjeel Memon, Nasir Shah, Saeed Ghani, Sardar Shah, Shaheen Sher Ali, Advisor Najmi Alam, Mayor and deputy mayor Karachi, MNAs – Qadir Patel, Hakim baloch, Nabeel Gabol, Dr Akhtiar Baiq,

Senators - Nadeem Bhutto, Masroor Ahsan, MPAs, district presidents and general secretaries, representacotic Control Minister to tives of local bodies and be promoted.

party workers. Ms Sadia Majeed, the President PPP Women wing Malir district pointed out that the wastewater of the city and industrial waste was being released untreated in the sea damaging mangroves and marine life badly. At this, the CM assured her that the provincial government was trying to install Treatment plant so that wastewater could be treated and used for agriculture.

She pointed out that narcotics was being used by children in Rehri, Lath Basti and other nearby villages openly. The chief minister directed Commissioner Karachi to take strict action against the drug mafia in the areas. He added that his government has already inityiated targeted operation against the drug mafia in the city. Ms Sadia urged the

chief minister to establish a separate arts council and digital library in Malir so that healthy activities could

#### The prime minister, on the pattern of one winwho chaired a high-level redow operation in coordinaview meeting on Ease of tion with all the ministries Doing Business (EoDB) for and provincial governinvestment and business ments He also called for the activities, said the mini-

Board of Investment with

the target to bring more ease

for attracting investment

and pave way for more

businesses in the country.

country manifested the ef-

forts by the government

team for which they de-

served an applause.

mum impediments were a devising a strategy, in colmust to attract investment. laboration with the business He told the meeting community and provincial that during his previous tengovernments, to make the ure, he had taken priority new investors and busimeasures to promote innessmen face minimum vestment and business and hurdles in their ventures. that the Special Investment He also instructed for Facilitation Council had engaging experts of interna-

**PM tasks BOI to bring** 

further EoDB for more

investment, businesses

ISLAMABAD (APP): ness delegations from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday tasked the Deard of Immunot from the stock market reflected

the trust of local and for-

eign investors in the gov-

to formulate a mechanism

He instructed the BOI

ernment policies.

also played a supportive tional repute for the purrole in achieving the goals pose Federal ministers Jam of economic revival. Kamal Khan, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Abdul Aleem He said the promotion of foreign investment and business activities in the Khan, Rana Tanveer

Hussain, Azam Nazeer Tarar, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission, parliamentarians and relevant The prime minister senior officers attended the

said that the visits of busi- meeting.



ISLAMABAD: The Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan, Mr Mukhtar Babayev, along with his delegation, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

#### **CPEC** the crown jewel in China. Pakistan

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Sved Murad Ali Shah presides over a meeting of the Provincial Selection Board-I at CM House.

#### SC fixes govt's plea summons NA against verdict in NAB amendments case

ISLAMABAD (INP): The case under the SC Practice

Supreme Court (SC) on Fri- and Procedure Law and day fixed govt's plea chal-lenging the verdict in the National Accountability Accountability Bu-

**May 13** ISLAMABAD (APP) President Asif Ali Zardari has summoned the session of the National As-Monday

President

session on

a scheme of a sewerage

Bureau (NAB) amend-ments case for hearing.

On September 15, 2023, the Supreme Court of Pakistan struck down amendments made to National Accountability Bureau laws as it announced its reserved verdict on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder's plea. A five-member bench

headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa will take up the plea on May 14.

Justice Amin-Ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Mandokhail, Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Hassan Azhar are also part of the bench. The SC registrar's office has served notices to the respondents for May 14.

The federal governing the amendments to ment filed the review plea in the NAB amendments Bureau laws. National Accountability

#### reau and PTI founder respondents. Citing no violation of basic rights with the NAB amendments, the federal government pleaded with

the SC to nullify its deci-sion in the case. "Legislation is the right of the Par-

liament," the plea said. In a majority 2-1 verdict, the top court ap-proved Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's petition challenging amendments made to the country's accountability laws during the ten-

ure of the previous Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)-led government. The top court also restored graft cases against public office holders that were closed down followroyal family of the United

Arab Emirates (UAE). The prime minister

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and members of the royal family. He prayed to Allah

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

According to the 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 2019. The body of the deceased was laid to rest

## **Eight unfrequented** routes closed to secure Karachi

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior

Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Ambassador of Italy

KARACHI (APP): The University and 8. (N-18) Commissioner Karachi Division in exercise of powers has imposed a complete ban/closure of eight unfrequented routes under section 144 Cr.PC in order to secure Karachi and to curb the possible movement of miscreants for a period of 02 months w.e.f. 08.05.2024 to 07.07.2024 within the local limits of

H.E Marilina Armellin.

Karachi Division. The routes included 1. (S-3) Soomar Goth 2. (S-5) Salu Goth 3. (S-6) Salu Goth 4. (N-9) Noor Muhammad Goth 5. (N-14) Hamdard University 6. (N-15) Hamdard Univer-

Dureji Trash Road. The Station House Officers (SHOs) of Police Stations concerned are authorized to register com-

plaints under Section 188 PPC in writing for the violation of Section 144 Cr.PC. Furthermore, for the facilitation of general public, the following routes shall remain opened for the use of general public and

inter-provincial transport between Sindh and Balochistan: 1. (S-1) Abbas Goth. 2. (S-2) Murad Goth. 3. (S-4) Wadera M Goth 4. (S-7) Western Bypass Road. 5. (Ssity 7. (N-16) Hamdard 8) Raees Goth 6.

(May 13) at 04:00 pm. 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): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday expressed grief over the demise of Sheikh Hazza bin Sultan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, a member of the

offered condolences to the UAE President

tation to the governor for leading the 2<sup>nd</sup> business and trade delegation to Ethiopia from May 26 to 31, an embassy press release said. Matters of mutual interests including bilateral, regional

at the Al Bateen cemetery in Abu Dhabi. **Cabinet accords** 

#### approval to remove chairman federal education board

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal cabinet has accorded approval to remove Qaisar Alam, chairman Federal Education Board from his post.

Syed Junaid Ikhlaq has been appointed as acting chairman federal education board. Cabinet has given approval in this regard.

Junair Syed Ikhlaq has been given additional charge. Notification in this regard has been issued.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori presenting souvenir to Ambassador of Ethiopia Jemal Bekar Abdullah.

#### **Ethiopian envoy calls** on Sindh Governor

KARACHI (APP): Ethiopian Ambassador to Pakistan Jemal

discussion.

Meanwhile, Ambassa-

dor Jemal Beker

Abdula addressed

a large gathering

of students at the

IT Facility and ap-

preciated the ini-

modern skills. Beker Abdula on Friday said Pakistan had talented youth that made more called on Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at the Governor's than 60 per cent of its total popu-House. During the meeting,

lation. Equipping them with modern the ambassador skills was crucial extended an invito spur economic growth and development in Pakistan, he added.

the Sindh gover-

nor for empower-ing the youth with

said the modern technologies would help them connect with the global market which would

eventually enable them to contriband multilateral ute to strong nation building. e ambassador said cooperation between the two countries also the Government came under the

of Ethiopia was ready to work with the Government of Pakistan for expertise, skills and knowledge sharing for ensuring equitable development across



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

**PPP's Saleem** Haider takes oath as Punjab

Governor LAHORE (INP): Pakistan People's Party's (PPP) Sardar Saleem Haider on Friday took oath as the 47 Punjab Governor.

Chief Justice Lahore High Court (LHC) Chief Justice Shehzad Khan administered the oath to Sardar Saleem Haider in a ceremony held at the Gov ernor House.

trajectory. CPEC, which was Sardar Saleem Haider took oath in Urdu. The swearing-in ceremony was also attended by the outgoing governor belonging to the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Balighur Rehman and Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz.

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was also present on the occasion

The oath-taking ceremony was postponed twice as the outgoing gov-ernor was abroad. The swearing-in ceremony was initially scheduled for May 5, which was later postponed to Tuesday, the 7th May at 6:00 pm.

#### **IMF** demands pension tax on retired government 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 demands is the taxation of pensions for retired govern ment employees.

According to media reports, the IMF seeks additional 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 on salaried individuals and businesses

The IMF is emphasizing the need for Pakistan's Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to focus on increasing tax collection. Furthermore, the IMF reportedly advocates for the elimina tion of tax exemptions currently enjoyed by several pension schemes

## friendship: Ahsan Iqbal

tween the two countries,

Federal Minister for Plan-

ning, Development and

Special Initiatives, Prof

Ahsan Iqbal said there has

always been "spring" in the

relations between Pakistan

and China which are al-

launched in 2013 and a flag-

China-proposed Belt and

Road Initiative, has "ben-

efited Pakistan's economy

immensely", he said in

Beijing. Pakistan looks for-

ward to further cooperat-

BEIJING (APP): Calling shared economic growth as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) an second phase, he added. exemplar of friendship be-

"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 ways moving on an upward transforming the development landscape of, creating jobs for and building connectivity for his country, ship project under the 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 be shared across various regions of Pakistan," Iqbal said.



BEIJING: Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal participated in a seminar organized by Belt and Road Center of National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

## Sindh Govt committed to clean the environment of Karachi: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab Friday said Sindh Government is truly committed to clean the city environment and also to reduce marine pollution in best possible manner. In this

connection the Sindh Government is formulating a comprehensive strategy to combat environmental pollution, in collaboration with local and international organizations

He said this while reviewing the position of municipal waste-water treatment and its disposal through interceptor in Lyari River. Murtza Wahab said the water quality after the treatment is adhering to the SEQS Standards of BOD and COD. KW&SC shall within a period of two

years enhance this capacity of waste-water treatment to 135 MGD by December, 2027, 300 MGD of waste-water shall be treated as per SEQS Standards, he said

He said the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) is treating 54 Million Gallons Daily (MGD) of municipal waste water which is transported through interceptor in the Lyari River at Mauripur Treatment Plant Kemari.

The Mayor said the Waste-water Treatment Pumping Stations have been revamped by the Sindh Government from its own budget to ensure well standard disposal of wastewater. The upkeep of treatment facility has been maintained, he said.



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them

empathy.

**OPINION** 

# Daily Aoice 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 tangible outcomes.

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 toilets.

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 coning of others, are not cepts that are shared by disturbed.

On the other hand, human beings across the globe. One of there are others who, is empathy. upon hearing or seeing Through many of my the pain of others, 'feel' previous articles in their suffering. If they these columns, I have can do something, they focused on universal go forward and support values, attitudes and them. If, on the other beliefs that connect us hand, they cannot do to the core values of anything, they at least who we are as human pray for the relief of their beings, highlighting our pain. Each one of us can humanness to promote have an introspective universal brotherhood reflection to see which category we belong to. and sisterhood. In this, my 50<sup>th</sup> article for Dawn,

I wish to dedicate this piece to a very cher-Aga Khan, a great huished human concept manitarian of our times, in an interview called it

'Empathy' is part of an "extraordinary abila family of words that ity", describing it as "... denote a moral concept the ability to step away which goes beyond or- from ... [one's] own dinary ethics, such as value system and put sympathy, affection, themselves in another sharing feelings as if person's shoes in order one feels the other to better understand person's pain. Empathy and help that person." is generally described as Concluding his admirathe ability to take on tion for the quality of another's perspective, empathy, he said, "I deeply admire it as an irto understand, and possibly share and respond replaceable talent that is to their experience. unfortunately all too Empathy can also

rare. refer to a sense of har-In order to develop mony between people this attitude, we need to with the same taste, disencourage such attiposition, or opinion. tudes in our children, When a person feels emfamily, in fact, within the pathy towards a cause larger community.

or an organisation, they Today (not that it have feelings of apwas less in the past), in proval, loyalty, or supour societies, where we port. Sympathy, comtend to see too much passion and care are brutality and savagery, acts that belong to the we need to revisit our family of empathy. humanity and rethink

Meanwhile, the powhat we have become. lar opposite of empathy It is not a communal or are concepts like being party or tribal quality; unconcerned, remaining it depends on each perindifferent, apathy, or son. It is an individual worse still, justifying trait. Not all members in ferings of fellow huthe suffering of others. a family may feel the When a section of husame way when they manity — such as a persee human suffering; son, a locality, a commusome feel more, others nity, a nation or a state less. Educationist - falls prey to human Farid Punjwani thinks or natural disasters, there is an "empathy some who do not see crisis" and argues that ing human means feelthem favourably feel "without empathy, the that it is 'God's punishedifice 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

Jan-e-Alam Khaki people, when they hear able. And yet, we seem of or observe the suffer- to suffer from a crisis of empathy at the collective level". Interestingly enough, prob-

ably 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 strongly about them that

they establish instituthat help tions mi-tigate these travails to an extent. Describing the vails to an extent. value of empathy, the Many such inspired people do global ĥu--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 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 personi-

It is not just a job of teaching or preach-ing about human acts

of empathy, but everyone becoming conscious about the sufmans. As Sheikh Sa'adi rightly says: if roads. you are unconcerned about the sufferings of others, you do not deserve to be called a 'human'. Indeed, being the pain of others,

# **Farmers' march**

agribusiness firms have

Agribusiness gar-

Meanwhile

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar staple crops. The poorest peas-

It has been 20 years since ants — landless or ownthe iconic peasant movement on the Okara military farms reached its zenith. Having been intimately involved with the struggle of that even more comforttenant-farmers to secure their historic claims to are protesting under-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 ian markets. These are once again on the roads. companies — domestic Under the aegis of the and multinational — that Kissan Ittehad, thousands try and exercise moof landowning farmers are nopoly control in the protesting the inexplicable supply (including patdecision to import millions of tonnes of wheat in the machinery, transportaface of a bumper harvest tion and storage of proat home. The refusal of the duce, and the circulation government to purchase of commodities. home-grown produce at a reasonable price has reners astonishing annual government subsidies in sulted in a glut and major losses for many wheat North America and West-

ern Europe. Its takeover While centred in of agriculture in coun-Punjab, the Kissan Ittehad tries like Pakistan has mobilisation is far more been less conspicuous, geographically diverse in part because, as is the than the peasant movecase with the manufacment of two decades ago, which was based largely in Okara and revolved contract to local firms. 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), cilitating agribusiness. seed, fertiliser and pesticide prices, as well as the erosion of agricultural brazen pursuit of profit support measures like of their own accord

The current wheat import scandal is a classic example, dictated by the ing a modicum of land — (caretaker) federal govare, of course, also imernment despite some pacted by agrarian maropposition by the provket logics, but the fact inces. Former caretaker prime minister Anwaarul-Haq Kakar claimed able farming segments that the decision was good for consumers, lines the changing contours of peasant politics. conveniently neglecting While the struggles mention of the private of small and middling sector businessmen farmers is in part due to who were given lithe profiteering of cences to bring in the middlemen — known as imp-or-ted stocks and earn windfall profits.

The rhetoric also come to play a dominant confirms that government officials cl---early role in Pakistan's agrarprioritise 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 turing sector, at least not taxed. That needs to some multinationals sub- change, as does the lack of regulation of agribusiness and middlethe men

state has completely re-More generally, the neged on support for peasant farmers, particu- state must acknowledge its responsibilities tolarly smallholders. Auwards small and landless entities like the National farmers. Land reform, if Fertiliser Corporation undertaken in both agriand Punjab Seed Corpocultural and peri-urban ration have become areas where agriculture is largely toothless in the being swallowed up by real estate mafias, could face of big private companies, as well as the change the fate of almost policy dictates of the 30 million peasants who World Bank and Asian are now landless, as well Development Bank and as pastoralists who have other donors that sing been almost completely the praises of the 'free invisibilised as common market' by eliminating lands are grabbed by support prices and fastate and capital alike.

Those who decide Of course, state our fate will never take functionaries engage in such steps on their own, so farmers will have to keep marching to force their guaranteed prices for when they feel like it. hand. -- Courtesy Dawn

fied. 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.

**Commerce** News

support farmers

# **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.

groups during the week

above-mentioned group

past week. As compared to points

Friday.

sector, he instructed to ensure consultation with them during the policymaking and implement the deletion policy to uplift between Pakistan and the the auto sector. Prime Minister Sheghbaz directed the relevant ministry to devise a comprehensive strategy to scrutinize the had performance of trade and investment officers posted in Pakistan's missions Saudi abroad, by rewarding the good performers and removing the incompetent

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

ones.

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

In the meeting, the prime minister was told that the discussion on the Free Trade Agreement Gulf states was in the final stage and transit trade agreements with Uzbekistan and Tajikistan already beer materialized. It was told that during the recent Pak-Business Conference, around 450 business-to-business meetings were held and that the volume of ecommerce trade was

witnessing a constant increase with the enlisting of over 3,000 firms on the Pakistan Trade Portal



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.



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Sajid Manzoor Asadi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of 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

British High Commission ISLAMABAD (APP): Highlighting Pakistan's in Pakistan, said a press vulnerability to the diverse release issued by the effects of climate change, finance ministry. Federal Minister for

He shed light on Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Pakistan's disproportionate vulnerability to the Aurangzeb here on Friday devastating impacts of emphasized his country's commitment to addressing climate change, despite its minimal contribution to climate change and global greenhouse gas green emissions investment opportunities

He cited a recent World Bank study, estimating potential annual He was delivering a keynote speech via online GDP losses of up to 1% platform at the UK-Pakistan Green Investment due Forum, organized by the risks. due to climate-related

for

being

transformation

reservations

taken

try to remove the

apprehensions of the people

about the Islamic banking".

and

#### **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 ot 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 addition to finalising procedures to issue licences day.

Islamic banks. The price of 10 grams "Similarly, steps are also of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.3,944 to Rs.209,019 from Rs conventional banks into 205,075 whereas as the prices of 10 gram 22 karat Islamic banks," he said and added that on the demand went up to Rs.191,601 side, a comprehensive from Rs 187,986, the All awareness campaign had Sindh Sarafa Jewellers been launched. "During Association reported. these events, Sharia scholars

The price of per tola silver increased by Rs.30 population of 240 million, is connected to Afghanistan to Rs2,650 whereas that of ten gram silver went up by and Rs.25.72 to Rs2,271.94. countries, due to which

## Pak, Korea sign Aide-Mémoire for Enhanced Development Cooperation 2024-2026

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Republic of Korea Economic Development 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 of 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.

According to MoEA press release, the Aide-Mémoire was signed by Joint 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

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

Pakistan is an important Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Chairman country in terms of Capital Office Federation investment for the world. of Pakistan Chamber of Pakistan has important Commerce and Industry sectors like agriculture, Karim Aziz Malik meeting gems and jewellery, mines with Ambassador of South and minerals, marble and Korea Park Kajeon at the granite, entertainment in Federation Office. President FPCCI Atif which Korean investors can invest. Pakistan-Korea Ikram said in his message Joint Business Council will regarding the meeting that be formed soon. Korea has benefited by

Chairman Capital



and special economic

with a

Central Asian

agreement

both countries.

Pakistan,

investing in CPEC projects Office Karim Aziz Malik said that bilateral trade zones to increase regional between the connectivity and free trade countries is one and a half for the billion dollars, which promotion of trade has requires joint efforts to proved to be beneficial for increase.

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

eases by 1.39 percent ISLAMABAD (APP): The the corresponding week of weekly inflation measured last year, the SPI for the by the Sensitive Price combined consumption Indicator (SPI), witnessed a group in the week under decrease of 1.39 per cent for review witnessed an

the combined consumption groups during the week The weekly SPI with ended on May 09, the Pakistan Bureau of =100 covers 17 urban Statistics (PBS) reported on centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure

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 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



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

promoting

ndependent

# National News

Page 03

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

PESHAWAR (APP): 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 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.

In a separate meeting, Najamuddin Khan, along Chief Engineer PESCO, with other political and Akhtar Hamid Khan, also discussed electricity supply and load shedding with Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at the Governor's House. The Governor and expressed good order situation in the directed the PESCO chief to wishes. During the

> 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,

social delegations, met with Governor Faisal Karim Kundi. visitors The

congratulated the Governor ensure uninterrupted meetings, the Governor electricity supply and expressed determination to solve the province's problems and improve Moreover, Opposition Leader in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ascembly: A the transformation of the province and the federation 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

different hospitals, while

894 with minor injuries

were treated at the incident

site by the rescue medical

Four killed

teams.

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony

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 Minister Aftab Alam Afridi presented the budget in the assembly session chaired by Speaker Babar Saleem Friday passed a surplus Swati. He said in his speech budget of Rs1,360.37 billion for 11 months of the that the current financial fiscal year (FY) 2023-24 and economic difficulties have made this budget more including the last eight difficult because, on the months of the interim one hand, most of the government and the last infrastructure of the two months of the current province was destroyed The budget included Rs 1,059.276 billion in due to the disastrous floods of 2022 and on the other hand terrorism.

ongoing expenses and Rs He said successive billion in development expenses. incidents have also Khyber Pakhtunkhwa adversely affected the

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, ın consultation with the law department, also approved the expenditure for another four months, from November 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024.

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

**Opposition** 

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

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

Swati.

Criticizing

## **KP CM outlines** measures for province development, prosperity

Gandapur on Friday said

the government was

committed to improving

law and order situation and

overcoming the energy

that the provincial

government was going to

present a budget soon and

said

crisis.

to priorities.

He

Independent Report improvement of the law and order situation in the DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Chief Minister Ali Amin

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.

Addressing a press conference here, he said 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 allocations of funds would be made according the condition of government-run hospitals the where people could get government's first priority facilities under the health was related to the card system.



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

#### **Secretary Human Rights** Dept calls for setting up district level offices

HYDERABAD (APP): labour in addition to harass-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 undercontravening existing rules. lined the need to curb child established soon.

ment 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

LAHORE (APP): At least 16 people were killed and 1,549 others injured in 1,434 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many as 655 people with serious injuries were shifted to

**PESHAWAR:** Police personnel's showing recovered artifacts to a media here at Police Line.

**All Pakistan University Libraries Convention held** at Bahria University

KARACHI (APP): The librarians of universities of the country in their 1<sup>st</sup> All Pakistan University Libraries Convention, have emphasized on development and upgradation of libraries according to the needs of the digital age.

They also highlighted the role of university libraries for enlightening young generations by providing conducive atmosphere and latest literature. The convention was held in the Bahria University, Karachi in collaboration with all the professional associations of libraries including Pakistan tor of the Pakistan Federa-Federation of Library tion Library Alumni.

in Bahawalpur Alumni, Pakistan Library road accident Association, National Library Association, Pakistan Library Club and Sindh College Library Association. The event attracted over 200 registrations and was attended by 150 university librarians from Kashmir to Sindh's universities, as well as representatives from college and school libraries from all over Pakistan. The Additional Librarian of Sindh Madressatul

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. Islam University Mahjabeen Ali was the organizer of the The rescue officials 1<sup>st</sup> University Libraries promptly responded to the accident, and the bodies of Convention and she was the deceased and injured also the founder and direchave been transferred to the

hospital.

**Inflation in Punjab** reduces from 37 to 17 percent: Azma LAHORE (APP): Punjab

elected government.

301 094

Information Minister Azma Bukhari on Friday said that inflation in Punjab inflation. 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. She said that it had 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. She said that prices of various essential items

was made to control it members of remote areas to including 'Roti', chicken, 'Ramazan attend the session that was through Nigheban Package'. onion, tomato, por She said today she flour had reduced. summoned hurriedly and onion, tomato, potato and International News

#### decries hurriedly called session of KPAssembly PESHAWAR (APP): The

was very happy to tell that the Punjab government succeeded in controlling

Azma Bukhari said that the common man was more concerned about bread not regarding the rate of dollar or GDP.

been a big challenge for the Punjab government to control price hike during the holy month of Ramadan but sincere effort

# Israel strikes Rafah as talks yield no breakthrough

ern Brazil neighbourhood.

some close to rooftops.

its own security.

Âbder-

Mohammad

the city

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 southern 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 Egyp-tian capital, the official added.

In Gaza, Palestinian groups Hamas and Islamic



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 Minister 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-inspired.

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

Jihad said their fighters fired Rahman, said he feared the anti-tank rockets and mor-Israeli bombardments pretars at Israeli tanks massed saged an invasion of the city. on the eastern outskirts of Ceasefire talks in Egypt's capital made some

Residents and medics headway, but no deal was in Rafah said an Israeli atreached, according to two tack by a mosque killed at Egyptian security sources. least three people and The Hamas delegation wounded others in the eastleft for Doha for consultations, blaming Israel for the On the city's eastern lack of agreement so far.

edge, residents said a heli-Israel has said it is copter opened fire, while open to a truce, but has rejected demands for an end drones hovered above houses in several areas, to bombing as it has vowed to demolish Hamas.

Israel claims Hamas Biden, who says Israel fighters are hiding in Rafah, has not produced a conwhere the population has vincing plan to safeguard been swelled by hundreds civilians in Rafah, issued his of thousands of Gazans starkest warning yet against a full ground invaseeking refuge from bombardments elsewhere in the sion.

"I made it clear that if coastal enclave, and it needs to eliminate them for they go into Rafah, ... I'm not supplying the weap-ons," Biden told CNN in an One of the displaced,

interview on Wednesday. India's top court releases jailed Modi opponent Kejriwal on bail Monitoring Desk

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 de-tained 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 Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Supreme court Justices Sanjiv Khanna and

Dipankar Datta said Keiriwal could leave custody until June 1, the last day of voting in the sixweek election



in the Zaytoun neighbourhood of Gaza City.

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

Monitoring Desk bers are expected to keep MOSCOW: Russian Presi-dent Vladimir Putin reappointed Mikhail Mishustin as the country's prime min-

ister on Friday, a widely anticipated move to keep years, submitted his Cabinet's resignation on 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. 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 Pales-tinian 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

were killed when a demontheir jobs, though the fate of Defense Minister Sergei stration broke out in eastern Afghanistan on Thurs-Shoigu appeared uncertain. In line with Russian law, Mishustin, 58, who held the job for the past four

Tuesday when Putin began his fifth presidential term at a glittering Kremlin inau-guration. Mishustin, the former head of Russia's tax service, steered clear of political statements and avoided media interviews during his previous tenure.

# moves to mend

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 first steps' towards recognising a Palestinian state. Spain and Ireland have been champions of placed archipelago nation Palestinian rights, for quite towards Beijing. a while

#### UN to vote on resolution that would grant Palestine new rights and revive its UN membership bid

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. Char-

the United Nations must be

'peace-loving," and the Se-

curity Council must recommend 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.3 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, ter, prospective members of according to three Western diplomats.

tively safeguard the nor-

mal performance of du-

fringing and provoking,

regular press briefing in

pine President Ferdinand

Marcos Jr and the foreign

for comment. The two

broiled in a series of heated

South China Sea as the

Philippines, emboldened

China has accused

The office of Philip-

Beijing

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

**Monitoring Desk** MANILA: The Philipties by Chinese diplopines' national security matic personnel, stop inadviser called on Friday for Chinese diplomats to be and refrain from denying expelled over an alleged the facts," Lin said at a 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 Maministry did not immedinila had orchestrated "reately respond to requests peated acts of engaging and dissemination of countries have been emdisinformation, misinforand mation malinformation", with the standoffs this past year in objective of sowing disdisputed areas of the cord, division and disunity, Eduardo Ano said in by support from the

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 Chi-

Philippine side to effec-

United States and other allies, steps up activities in waters occupied by China's vast coast guard. nese diplomats in the Phil-

the Philippines of trespassing and of treachery, while Manila has scolded Beijing for what it says is ippines had to be allowed a policy of aggression and to do their job. "China dangerous manoeuvring solemnly requests the

inside.

ties with India **Monitoring Desk** NEW DELHI: The Maldives pledged "endur-ing friendship" with India on Thursday ahead of a deadline for New Delhi to withdraw a troop garrison from the luxury tourist destination that has strained between ties neighbours. Pro-China President Muizzu won office last year while campaigning on a promise to downgrade ties with India, and has since reoriented the strategically

#### day 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

Several dead

in protests in

Afghanistan

**Monitoring Desk** 

KABUL: Several people

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

the

Mohamed

#### Daily Independent, Karachi

were becoming positive, in-

ternational journals were

also predicting improve-ment in Pakistan's

also taking steps to invest

in infrastructure projects in

Pakistan," the minister said

adding these projects would

not only boost the economy but also create

employment opportunities.

said had established a spe-

cial Investment Facilitation

Council to attract foreign in-

vestment and facilitate in-

The government, he

"The government is

economy.

vestors.

Prime

Muhammad

he maintained.

#### Tarar for measures at global level to counter misuse of social media, spread of fake news

ISLAMABAD (APP): said economic indicators Federal Minister for Information 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 the spread of fake news.

"The Government of Pakistan recognizes the importance of freedom of the press and freedom of expression, and it is determined to protect the rights of journalists", he said while talking to a delegation of Bangladeshi journalists visiting Pakistan who met him here.

In the meeting, various important issues were discussed including freedom of expression and economic initiatives of the government. The minister said that the government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was fully focused on economic stability.

nomic stability. forms were being intro-After the present gov- duced in the Federal Bureau ernment came to power, he of Revenue



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah meets with MNA Ali Jan Mazari and MPA Abdul Rauf Khoso at CM House.

#### **Pakistan's lunar** satellite sends initial images from space deployed in orbit at 1314 hours on May 08 from

Chang'E-6.

6 Mission

IST which is a leading

high-end university of Pa-

kistan had the distinct

honor of launching a Cube Satellite ICUBE-Qamar

(ICUBE-Q) in Lunar orbit

onboard China's Chang 'E-

small satellites used by aca-

demic institutes for experi-

mental and research pur-

poses in Low Earth Orbits

generally with an altitude of

less than one thousand km.

CubeSats are a class of

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's lunar satellite, iCUBE Qamar has sent the initial images from orbit after successfully completing three rounds of the moon.

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 Pakistan Institute of Space However, these satellites Technology (IST), are now finding many ap-Pakistan's lunar CubeSat plications in higher orbits plications in higher orbits iCUBE-Q was successfully and deep space missions.

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori addressing a ceremony held at Governor House.

# **President for global efforts** to address climate change

ISLAMABAD (Online): Minister President Asif Ali Zardari Shehbaz has underlined the need for Sharif was determined to global efforts to address the provide relief to the people, challenge of climate change by adopting environment-Tarar said that the tax friendly technology, procollection system was bemoting afforestation, and ing improved in Pakistan, reducing greenhouse gas and in this context, tax re-

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 impacts. The President expressed these views while

talking to the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan/COP

**KMC** Council

to meet on

**May 13** 

KARACHI (APP): The

general body meeting of the

Karachi Metropolitan Cor-

poration (KMC) Council

has been scheduled for

May 13, at 3 pm in the Council Hall, Jamshed

Nusserwanjee Building

(KMC Building), M.A.

rister Murtaza Wahab, will

improving medical ser-

vices provided by KMC,

collecting parking fees

through the Charged

Parking Department, up-grading the Program Of-

ficer (BS-17) positions in

the KMC's Schedule of

Establishment, renaming

the Pediatrics Depart-

ment of Abbasi Shaheed

Hospital to Waseela

Jahan Pediatrics Depart-

ment, amending the pro-

cedure for appointing

Pesh Imams, approving an

increase in the existing

imprest accounts of vari-

be chairing the meeting.

Mayor Karachi, Bar-

The agenda includes

Jinnah Road.

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 Conference. 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

29 President-designate, Mr Quantified Goal on Finance Mukhtar Babayev, who that would help developing along with his delegation countries fulfil their climate called on him, at Aiwan-efinance needs. He high-Sadr, today. Azerbaijan is lighted that Pakistan had planted mangrove forests going to host the 29th Conover hundreds of thousands ference of Parties to the United Nations Framework of hectares that would help protect the environment, besides earning carbon credits for Pakistan. The President said

that Pakistan highly valued relations its 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 re-

underlined the need for further enhancing bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, particu-

larly in the area of tourism and culture. He also delivered the invitation to the President to participate in COP 29 in Baku in November 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.

lations between the two

Mr Mukhtar Babayev

brotherly countries.

# Cabinet committee principally

Saturday May 11, 2024

approves 24 entities for **Privatisation Programme** 

ISLAMABAD (APP): The kistan, chairman SECP be-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.

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 commit-

tee members including the

finance minister, minister

for commerce, minister for

privatisation, minister for

industries and production,

governor State Bank of Pa-

The meeting was also

Foreign

Cabinet Committee on sides federal secretaries of various ministries and division. 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 committee, which The CCOP emphamet here under the chair of sized that even the SOE Deputy Prime Minister and making profits shall be con-Minister sidered for privatisation. Mohammad Ishaq Dar, was

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



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

### Vaccination play effective role to prevent the spread of typhoid: Rashid Khan

Member of Provincial Assembly Rashid Khan Advocate on Friday said that vaccination can play effective role to prevent the spread of typhoid and its disastrous consequences.

He expressed these views while addressing a awareness seminar in connection with the campaign to prevent the spread the typhoid.

He said to keep our children safe from various diseases for the bright future of Pakistan it is important that we should play our role to prevent the spread of typhoid.

creating sense of familiar-

ity, connection and coop-

eration among the officers

with the children and the

views while addressing an

orientation program in

DC emphasized it was our

He expressed these

with

Matiari

institution.

collaboration

HYDERABAD (APP): trict Health Officer Dr. Lala Jafar Khan said this dangerous strain of typhoid is causing serious illness due to which the death rate is also increasing. In view of this, the Health Department is launching a cam-paign from May 13 to May 22 to provide an important opportunity for children between the ages of nine months to 15 years to ensure their protection against XDR typhoid.

He urged the parents social organizations belonging to different schools of thought to play their important role in this national campaign so that this cam-

"It is a great pleasure to be here today to see off the pilgrims embarking on this sacred journey," said Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani. The journey from

Multan to Madinah now takes just four hours, thanks to the opening of Multan Airport. Your journey has become much environment for travelers.

satisfaction that Hajj opera-

tion has finally begun from

This was the first flight which, chairman sen-

ate saw off from Multan

on the significance of the

Hajj pilgrimage, the im-

proved travel arrangements,

and the importance of rep-

resenting Pakistan with

His address focused

Multan Airport.

Airport

honor.

#### Gilani urges pilgrims to maintain discipline, represent Pakistan with dignity in Saudi Arabia MULTAN (INP): Address-

easier as a result, allowing ing the Hajj pilgrims, Chairyou to focus on your spiriman Senate Syed Yousaf tual experience. Raza Gilani expressed his

He urged the pilgrims to maintain discipline and represent Pakistan with dignity during their stay in Saudi Arabia. "Hajj pilgrims should conduct themselves with respect and order, ensuring they bring pride to our country," he said.

Chairman Senate also called upon the pilgrims to pray for the progress and prosperity of the country. We are faced with the said the inquiry should threats of terrorism and valiant soldiers and civilians the officers for failing to al have martyred while fighting against terrorists. Remember them in your prayers," he stated. He exterms of damages to the plant pressed gratitude to the security agencies, including

the Airport Security Force and the Federal Investigation Agency, for their diligent work ensuring a safe

**MQM-P MNAs** demand renewed, impartial inquiry of Thermal **Power House fire** 

HYDERABAD (APP) MNAs of Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) Syed Waseem Hussain and Abdul Aleem Khanzada have rejected the inquiry report over the incident of fire which had occurred in Jamshoro Power Company Limited (JPCL), often called Thermal Power House, on March 21.

In a statement issued

here on Friday the MNAs

have fixed responsibility on

low an inferno to cause bil

lions of rupees losses in

not only the fire incident

rendered great damage to the

power plant, the theft of

valuable items from the

plant had also become a fre-

Trade contract

dispute: SHC

orders PTA to

pay Rs17.9

million to TCP

KARACHI (INP): In the contract dispute between

the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) and the Punjab Trading Agency (PTA), the Sindh High Court (SHC) ordered the

latter party to pay an amount of Rs17.9 million

for its negligence in saving

The Court accepted the appeal of the TCP say-

ing the PTA ignored the

terms of the contract and

failed to present concrete

said that due to the negli-

gence of both parties, the

national assets were dam-

aged and PTA continued to

put its responsibility on

is the responsibility of TCP

to protect the assets of this

The SHC said that it

the TCP.

The Sindh High Court

evidence in its favour.

national assets.

quent occurrence.

They maintained that

#### **Farmers problems to** be solved on priority: **Commissionar Larkana**

LARKANA (APP): Com- changes and to ensure the missioner Larkana range, Ghulam Mustafa Phull, along with Deputy Commissioner Dr Sharjeel Noor Channa reached the office of Agriculture House Larkana on Friday and heard the problems of the Abadgars and farmers and said that their problems will be solved on priority.

The commissioner said that solving every problem of the farmers was his priority. Steps will also be taken to strengthen the dams of the river so that the monsoon rains can be faced in view of the climatic

safety of people's lives and property. Wasin Makki Lok Chand, Dewan Ramesh Lal and Siraj Rashidi of Neoudero city requested the Commissioner Larkana that

held at the Assistant the 2 km road named after Commissioner's Office, she Shaheed Benazir Bhutto which is the link road from Small Industry of Larkana lief to the citizens.

city to the Indus Highway. He said the work would be completed soon, which will benefit the citizens of Larkana as well as the Abadgars, whose grain She directed that the can easily reach rice mills

should be accelerated to ensure implementation of prices of food items and action should be taken against profiteers.

operation between Pakistan FIA busts ring

passports KARACHI (INP): The Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Anti-Human Trafficking Circle (AHTC) Karachi conducted a major operation, cracking down on a network involved in producing illegal passports. Four individuals, including an

According to FIA spokesperson, the arrested

Despite being a rela-

# Hot, dry weather

hours

gusty winds are also pre-dicted in most districts of the province.

in the province.

Strict action to take against profiteers: AC SUKKUR (APP): Assistant Commissioner (AC) Sukkur, Sobia Falak Rao on Friday said that the admin-

istration was taking strict action by the law against profiteers. Chairing a Price Control Committee meeting

said all-out efforts were being made to provide re-AC Ms Rao said that strict action would be taken on violation of displaying price list at a prominent

process of inspections

and Mongolia. The Mongolian enmaking illegal

voy, speaking at a meeting during his visit to the Korangi Association of Trade Industry (KATI), highlighted that the volume of bilateral trade between both countries was very low and urgent steps were needed to revitalize bilateral trade relations, said a statement issued here on Friday.

He informed that Mongolia's economic growth rate was impressive and World Bank estimates suggested it may surge from 5.6% to 6.2%.

tively small country in terms of both size and population, Mongolia boasts rapid economic

forecast for Sindh KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Meteorological Department on Friday pre-dicted hot and dry weather for most parts of the Sindh province during the next 24

However, dust raising/

Mainly, hot and dry weather is likely to prevail



**MULTAN: Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza** Gilani in a meeting with Former Federal Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani at Circuit House.

#### Mongolian envoy for boosting bilateral economic ties

KARACHI (APP): Deputy Head of Mission development, with a to-tal trade worth of \$24 bilof Mongolia, Lkhanaajav lion, comprising exports valued at \$15 billion and Munkhtushig, underscored imports at \$9 billion, he added. the significance of expediting efforts aimed at fostering stronger economic co-

added. Drawing attention to Mongolia's burgeoning trade ties with China, Munkhtushig urged Paki-stan to leverage the China-Pakistan Economic Corri-

lateral trade.

country while during the period of five years, PTA dor (CPEC) to bolster eco-nomic linkages with was only doing paperwork. The court directed the Mongolia. He invited Pakistani officials that TCP should take care of the country's investors to explore op-portunities for investment resources in the future and computerize all the stocks. and bilateral trade in Mongolia, reassuring full

**Brother-in-law** government support and facilities, particularly in the arrested in cotton industry. kidnapping, KATI President Johar Qandhari echoed the

murder of sentiment and emphasized 12-vear-old boy the need for reciprocal trade visits and trade pro-KARĂCHI (INP): The motion through local cur-Karachi Police have apprerencies he also proposed hended two suspects in the organizing single-country kidnapping and murder of a exhibitions to facilitate bi-12-year-old Muhammad Ubaid alias Ahsan, from Orangi Town's Madina Colony. According to police, Ahsan was ab-ducted on May 8<sup>th</sup>. His fa-

ther, Muhammad Ishtiaq, registered a complaint with the Mominabad police station (FIR Accused No. 24/ 256 of Section 364A). The next day, the family received a ransom demand of Rs. 15 lakh (approximately \$8,800 USD) from the kidnappers. The case was subsequently

transferred to the Anti-Violent Crime Cell (AVCC) Working on technical leads, a special AVCC team, along with the Citizens-Police Liaison Committee (CPLC).

In this occasion Dis- paign can be successful.

#### **DC** emphasize state should support orphans like mother

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner of orphans and the state should support them like a mother. He assured all Muhammad Yousuf Shaikh on Friday officers administration and citizens are standing together to help these chilsaid that the aim of Aghosh Orphanage Education Center program is to connect children with officers for

The event featured a cricket match between District and Session Judge-11 and DC-11, with Aghosh children participating as team members. Commissioner Hyderabad Ahsan Ali Qureshi emphasized the collective responsibil-Alkhidmat Foundation at leged and deprived seg-ments of society and cation Center in Hala. The ledged full cooperation to ity to care for underprivi-Alkhidmat Foundation for religious duty to take care Aagosh.



HYDERABAD: Mayor Hyderabad Kashif Shoro talking to media persons after visiting Free Health Camp on the eve of Mother Day organized by Agha Khan Hospital and Municipal Corporation Hyderabad, in Hyderabad.

## Meeting decides to adopt zero tolerance against teachers

Monitoring and Evaluation Zain ul Abideen Ansari and Deputy Commissioner Matiari Yousuf Shaikh in the chair on Friday decided to adopt a zero-tolerance policy against absenteeism of

teachers and other staff of schools. During the visit of

various schools by DG (M&E) and DC Matiari, the meeting decided to take action against 27 absent school teachers and other staff as per service rules and to disclose the list of ab-

boy,

HYDERABAD (APP): A sent teachers through mehigh-level meeting with DG dia. According to press release the DG (M&E) made it clear that concerned Education Officer will be held Muhammad responsible for any kind of negligence or delay in taking action against absentee-

Additionally, the School Education Works Department directed to complete the pending work of infrastructure of schools and provide necessary facilities without further delay with a focus on maintaining highquality development work.

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HYDERABAD: Students of matric class solving

paper in examination center during Annual Exami-

nation of Matriculation under the supervision of

Education Board, in Hyderabad.



families through JazzCash (APP): cess to financial assistance JazzCash, a major fintech especially in urban and remote areas. This partnership is a significant step

and flour mills.

company in Pakistan, has distributed Rs 2 billion to flood-affected families in Sindh province in collaboration with Sindh Govern-ment and World Banksupported Sindh Flood Emergency Rehabilitation Project (SFERP). A total of Rs 15 bil-lion will be distributed to ground one million af

KARACHI

around one million affected families.

According to state-ment issued by SFERP here on Friday, Jazz Cash has opened 80,000 mobile wallet accounts for distri-bution of funds in which 45 percent were female beneficiaries while 55 percent male beneficiaries, thereby ensuring equal ac- promote inclusion.

nology for social good and financial inclusion. JazzCash has so far distributed relief money in various districts including Ghotki, Jacobabad Qambar Shaddadkot, Khairpur, Larkana. Nowshehro Feroze.

Sanghar, Benazirabad Shaheed and Shikarpur.

JazzCash not only provides timely financial support to the flood affected sections but also empowers them through

the use of technology to

suspects reportedly in-cluded agents and facilitators who helped clients obtain fraudulent passports. Authorities identified the accused as Mujeebullah, Muhammad Anis, and Ghulam Abbas. towards JazzCash's commitment to leverage tech