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# Pakistan firmly upholds one-China principle: Asif

President Zardari's remarks on One-China principle, highly appreciable: Wang Wenbin

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has reiterated that Pakistan firmly adhered to the one- ers of the two countries.

ond time in March. Recalling the rapport

between the previous lead-China principle as the coun- Zardari said, "My late father-



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori

condoling with Iranian Ambassador Dr. Reza Amiri

on sad demise of Iranian President Dr Seyyed

Sindh govt establishes

rapid response unit to

combat drug trafficking

Ban on transfer/posting, leaves of Excise

Dept staff to achieve tax collection target

thoughts, Memon said:

"Round-the-clock opera-

tions by the rapid response

unit will guarantee swift

and effective measures

against drug trafficking. Legislation will be

done against drug traffick

ing in schools: Memon

Few days back, Memon

said that the legislation will

take place against drug traf-

thoughts, Memon said:

"Both the central and pro-

vincial governments have

decided to launch a crack-

down against the drugs. Now bad days have started

Expressing

ficking in schools.

his for the drug traffickers."

Ebrahim Raisi in helicopter crash.

**Independent Report** 

KARACHI: The Sindh

government on Wednesday

established the rapid re-

sponse unit to combat drug

trafficking in the province.

Sindh Minister Sharjeel

Inam Memon had ordered

the establishment of a rapid

response unit within the

Sindh Excise Department.

The unit will operate 24/7

to ensure continuous action

against drug-related activi-

ties. Meanwhile, the work-

ing hours for excise officers

have also been extended to

enhance the efficiency of

According to details,

try always chooses to stand on the right side of history.

"Pakistani people loved China as "there is no conditionality between us," the president remarked in an interview with the Chinese media published on Wednesday, marking the 73rd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. This was the first such interaction of President Zardari with any foreign media after being re-elected for the sec-

in-law, Pakistan's former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto told the nation to look East, to look towards China." President Zardari, who had visited China nine times during his first term as Pakistani president, reaffirmed Pakistan's stance of upholding the one-China principle, rejecting any form

of "Taiwan independence." "Taiwan is part of China. There's no other way," the president said, adding that Pakistan will al-

ways stand with China and safeguard China's core interests. Commenting on the development of Gwadar Port, a starting point of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Zardari said a lot of work had been done at the Gwadar Port since the launch of the CPEC 11 years ago, noting that the Port would always welcome investors from all over the world. Zardari said Pakistan is encouraging more schools to adopt the Chinese language into their compulsory curriculum.

Emphasizing the importance of strengthening people-to-people exchanges between the two countries, he called for more policies to facilitate the movement of people be-tween the two countries.

Appreciating the achievements made by the Chinese people, Zardari said that ensuring the continuation of policies is one of the key reasons behind China's success and Pakistan hoped to be more involved in China's development process.

### PM to visit **UAE today**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising key ministers of his cabinet, on Thursday, will pay a visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

This will be the prime minister's first visit to the UAE since his election.

During the visit, the prime minister is expected to meet President of the Inited Arab Emirates and Ruler of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed.

The two leaders will discuss bilateral relations between Pakistan and the UAE with special focus on trade and investment. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is also likely to hold meetings with other Emirati dignitaries, ousinesspersons, and heads of financial institutions," the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press statement.

### Ministry of Interior launches 'No Hajj Without a Permit' mobile exhibition

MADINAH (SPA/APP) The Ministry of Interior is holding the mobile exhibi-tion "No Hajj Without a Permit" in Madinah, between May 20 and 25, 2024, to raise awareness among the residents about safe and secure Hajj prac-

Visitors gain insights into the ministry's use of artificial intelligence to manage crowds during Hajj, but also get familiarized with the Makkah Route Initiative, which is part of the broader ?Pilgrim Experience Program, which falls under Šaudi Vision 2030 and whose goal is to serve pilgrims. This year, the initiative is being implemented for the sixth time at 11 airports in seven countries, facilitating the arrival of pilgrims.

### **Over 9100** SIM cards of non-filers blocked

ISLAMABAD (INP): The telecommunication companies on a recommendation of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) blocked over 9,100 SIM cards of non-tax filers.

Talking to a private Tv channel on Wednesday, Spokesperson Bakhtiar Ahmed Khan said that they have provided data of 30,000 non-filers to cellular companies, hinting that more SIM cards will

be blocked. Bakhtiar Ahmed Khan said that the FBR will provide data of 5,000 non-filers daily to telecom companies so that strict action could be taken against them.



# Dialogue only way to

# solve problems, says Gilani

KARACHI (INP): Acting president and Senate Chairman Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani says dialogue is the only way to solve the prob-

He expressed these views during his visit to the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah to pay homage to the Father of the Nation on Wednesday.

The acting president laid a floral wreath and offered fateha. He also recorded his impressions in the visitors' book placed at the mausoleum. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah was also present on the occasion.

Speaking to the media, the acting president said Q u a i d - e - A z a m Muhammad Ali Jinnah was a true and genuine leader of the Sub-Continent and our youth should be aware of the fact that he (Quaid) was the true leader and he had created Pakistan therefore we should not be running after a 'black cat in a dark room'

Gilani said that his father was an associate of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and when Quaid visited Lahore in 1940 and he was asked why he did not come to Multan, he had said that Gilani was there to represent me therefore no need of my visit to Multan.

Mohtrama Fatima Jinnah had visited our Dargah He said that for the first time he visited the basement of the Mazar of Quaid Azam and offered Fateha at the Mazars of

Quaid e Azam, Nawab Liaquat Ali Khan, Mohtrama Fatima Jinnah, Noorul Amin and all our forefathers buried here. "Our country has confronted with so many problems but we are lucky enough that 65% youth consisting the total population of Pakistan. Youth

will play important role and they would be the future

leaders," he added.

### Gilani, Bilawal discuss political situation

KARACHI (INP): Acting president and Senate Chairman Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani called on PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at the Bilawal House on Wednesday.

Both the leaders deliberated on the matters of mutual interests and overall situation of the country.

Gilani said Quaid did not Earlier, Gilani visited visited Multan but tomb of Quaid-e-Azam and offered fateha. The acting president laid a floral wreath and offered fateha. He also recorded his impressions in the visitors' book placed at the mausoleum. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah was also present on the occa-

> Speaking to the media. the acting president said Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was a true and genuine leader of the Sub-Continent and our youth should be aware of the fact that he (Quaid) was the true leader and he had created Pakistan therefore we should not be running after a 'black cat in a dark room'.



KARACHI: Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi chairing a meeting with the representatives of various federal government departments/agencies at the Ômbudsman Secretariat.

# Federal Ombudsman resolves over 0.2 million complaints in past year, sees increase in public trust

KARACHI (APP): Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi announced on Wednesday that the Ombudsman's office resolved over 200,000 complaints last year, with 150,000 coming from over-

seas Pakistanis. Addressing a news conference, Ejaz Qureshi highlighted that most complaints were related to electricity and gas bills, as well as issues with passports and National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) services.

He mentioned that around 180 federal depart- relief to citizens.

ments and agencies fall under Ombudsman's jurisdiction. Ejaz Qureshi noted a 24% increase in complaints, indicating growing public trust in the Ombudsman's

Ombudsman The emphasised that their office resolves complaints within 60 days, and citizens do not need to hire lawyers to have their issues addressed. He also stated that the Federal Ombudsman's office is enhancing coordination with Provincial Ombudsman offices to provide maximum

# 29 terrorists killed in

Security Forces, in addition to other areas along Paki-stan-Afghanistan border, are conducting effective operations in general area Sambaza in Zhob District of Balochistan, since April that helped in neutralising 29 terrorists

ter Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Wednesday, "Off late, Pakistan has witnessed a surge in terrorist incidents orchestrated from Afghan soil.

Afghanistan attempt to

operations, during an inteligence based operation on May 14, Major Babar Khan also embraced Shahadat, while fighting gal-

lantly.
"Pakistan's Security Forces are determined and remain committed to secure the borders and ensure safety of its citizens against the scourge of terrorism,' the ISPR said.

### PM meets Turkish VP, FM, **Emir of Qatar**

TEHRAN (APP):Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednes-Muhammad day met Vice President of Turkiye Cevdet Yilmaz and Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan at a commemoration ceremony organised in honour of late Iranian President Dr Seyyed Ebrahim

Raisi and his companions During their meeting, both sides discussed the bilateral and other issues of mutual interests, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. They also agreed to further enhance the bilateral ties between Pakistan and Turkiye in di verse fields. Separately, the prime minister also met with Emir of State of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani.

### Raoof Hasan attack case registered

ISLAMABAD (INP): Islamabad police on Wednesday registered a case into attack over Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) spokesperson Raoof Hasan by transgender persons. Four individuals – who were apparently transgender persons – launched the assault The assailants used a sharp blade to target the PTI leader, inflicting injuries on his face. The case was registered at Aabpara police station at the complaint of Raoof Hasan un der charges of attempt to murder and others

# Meets Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei PM expresses unwavering solidarity with Iran at time of national tragedy

day met the Supreme
Leader of Iran Ayatollah
Seyyed Ali Khamenei and expressed condolences on the tessie double of Iran. the tragic death of Iranian President Dr Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi and his com-

The prime minister underlined that President Raisi was a visionary leader who manifested steadfast dedication to serving his

country and people.

Recalling late President Raisi's recent visit to Pakistan in April 2024, the prime minister highlighted his commendable role in further strengthening of Pakistan-Iran bilateral relations, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press re-

Prime ity with the Iranian breth-

TEHRAN (APP): Prime cal juncture in history and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to further strength

He expressed the resolve to continue the vision of late president for strengthening of the bilateral relationship and trade between the two countries.

He said that President Raisi's contributions for the unity of Muslim Ummah as well as for the besieged people of Gaza would be etched in history.

The prime minister was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi, Federal Minister for Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan, and Fed-Shehbaz expressed solidar- eral Minister for Information and Broadcasting



KARACHI: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani talking to media persons during his visit at Mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

# Tarar lauds Intl organizations' support to strengthen electoral process in Pakistan

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Wednesday that the cooperation of international organizations to strengthen the electoral process in Pa-

kistan was commendable. During a meeting with the United Nations Electoral Needs Assessment Mission, the minister appreciated the services rendered by the mission for the transparency of electoral process in Pakistan.

In the meeting, provision of technical support to Election Commission of Pakistan through UNDP Election Support Programme, fake news, misinformation. disinformation and other important issues were dis-

"Election campaigns process.

in Pakistan have changed in the digital age," the minister said adding the rise of social media had given a new shape to political engagement

In the present digital era, where the way for digital-based strategies was being paved, there were also challenges of fake news. misinformation disinformation. news, misinformation and disinformation are the problem of the whole world." he maintained. The minister informed the members of the UN mission that Election Commission of Pakistan was working on the digital front as per the requirements of the present era. He said it was very important to provide awareness to the voters about the election



Sharif meets Acting President of Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Mohammad Mokhbar and offers condolence over the sad demise of Iranian President Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi and his companions.

# **Fact-finding committee formed** on Bishkek violence as over 4,000 students return: Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): With the return of around 4,000 students to Pakistan from Bishkek consequent to an incident of violence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has formed a factfinding committee to look into the factors leading to the happening besides assessing the role of Pakistan's mission there in handling the situation.

'For our own satisfaction, for the satisfaction of the ministry and the prime minister, we have decided to form an inquiry committee under Additional Secretary (Admin) Muhammad Saleem. This will carry out

the fact-finding as how these developments took

It will interact with the relevant people including at Pakistan mission and the Kyrgyz government," Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said addressing a press conference on his return from

Ishaq Dar, who visited Astana to attend the meeting of the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers flew to Bishkek from there along with his Kyrgyz counterpart, said the committee would submit its report within two weeks.

### General calls on Sindh Culture Minister Independent Report KARACHI: Turkish Consul General in Karachi, Cemal Sangu, here on Wednesday met with Provincial Minister of Tourism, Culture, Antiquities and Archives Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah and discussed the promotion of bilateral tourism and matters related to culture.

Turkish Consul



Basaran, DG Libraries Ejaz Sheikh, MD Sindh Tourism Development Corporation Fayaz Shah were also present

The Turkish Council General informed that Turkiye government would set up cultural centers in the libraries In the first phase, the Turkish government will set up

a cultural center in the Liaquat Memorial Library, while in the second phase, cultural centers will be established in the libraries at the division level, he said. The Consul General said that undergraduate stu-

dents would be sent to Turkiye on scholarship by the

Turkish government. The provincial minister said that Turkiye appreciates the government's cultural center and scholarship program. He said there was need of the accessibility of the people of both the countries to multifaceted cultures.

# operations along Pak-Afghan border since April 21: ISPR

RAWALPINDI (APP): The successfully in the past one

According to the Inwherein, terrorists from infiltrate through Pakistan-Afghanistan Border and target Security Forces as well as the innocent civilians. In the same series of

ment blocks. These prised to discover that

# Daily soice of Masse Independent

# **Bulldozed bill**

Why is the Punjab government so keen on imposing dangerous legislation that would be unacceptable to any self-respecting society? The forced passage of the Defamation Bill 2024 over the protestations of both journalists and opposition lawmakers in the Punjab Assembly on Monday is a troubling reminder of how the PML-N has abandoned its principles ever since it returned

Where once the party was championing the people and their voices, it is now devising new means to silence them. It has been said before but needs to be stressed again: this new law will likely come back to bite it. The party had previously introduced the Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act, which became a noose around its neck once it fell out of favour with the establishment. Those who were urging the Punjab government to get all stakeholders on board merely wanted it to avoid repeating that mistake.

In a demonstration held after the Monday session of the Punjab Assembly, the Lahore Press Club president recalled that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz had joined the protests when the PTI had been attempting to strengthen Peca to make it more effective in suppressing public criticism. But here she was now, going ahead with equally condemnable legislation "aimed at gagging the media"

Was her earlier position based merely on political expediency? Has her party considered what the consequences of such a law would be in case it once again runs afoul of the powers that be? The last time this happened, its leadership was still able to vent its frustration and publicly name those whom it held responsible. The ability to do so kept it alive politically. The next time it happens, the party and its leaders would be condemned to suffer in silence thanks to the law they

Defamation is a societal problem, not something that concerns the Punjab government alone. The journalists' community had merely asked the Punjab government for a week to reconsider the law and arrive at a consensus. Meanwhile, the opposition had suggested certain changes to the law, some of which, it seems, could have improved it considerably. By involving these two stakeholders in its deliberations, the government in Lahore would have had the opportunity to make the law fairer and acceptable to everyone. That it chose to push them aside suggests a disinclination to honour the democratic principles of the legislative process and, instead, a tendency to impose its will on the people. This disregard for the opposition and other dissenting voices — now seen in multiple successive governments — is the primary reason why the Pakistani political process seems unable to deliver. The Punjab government must withdraw this dangerous bill and engage with other stakeholders. There is still time.

# Preparing for crises

### Naveen Hussain

If the society you live in catastrophe or collapse due to climate change, rising geopolitical tensions and all-out war, or growing inequality leading to civil unrest, what would you do to protect yourself and your family?

A Karachiite of my

acquaintance owns a small farm which has previously been used for weekends in the country. He fears that with rising inequality and hunger, civil unrest will increase. And if the US initiates another regional war, Pakistan may get dragged in again. He is preparing to move to his farm to become a full-time homesteader. He believes that this will be the safest place to ride out any com-

Homesteading is an off-grid, self-reliant lifestyle. His farm is well stocked with fruit and vegetables, and he rears a few chickens and other animals. Solar panels provide electricity, and he has a water bore for clean drinking water. This is classic homesteading. All that's needed is to store non-perishable foods and pickle and preserve surplus fresh foods.

Adapting lifestyles to survive is human nature, and yet popular culture depicts homesteaders as eccentric and possibly extremist. The Good Life, a popular BBC comedy, which aired in the 1970s, depicted a couple who gave up corporate life to start rice, batteries, candles, homesteading in their middle-class suburban house, much to the dismay of their wealthy neighbours. More recently, the Netflix film Leave the World Behind showed us what life might look like if the world we knew became hostile

Not everyone owns a farm they can retreat to. Most city dwellers live in urban settings like apart-

people are more likely to be 'preppers' rather than was about to experience homesteaders. Preppers stockpile essentials against inevitable economic and climate crises. In the past, the most prepping an urban person might do was to carry a map, a torch, a spare tyre, and a tyre iron in their car boot. Drivers in harsh climates might also have kept blankets, dry clothes, energy bars, and water, as a precaution

against the car breaking

down.

Covid-19 was the first time that most people born into a globalised world experienced a truly global supply chain disruption. People in Europe began stockpiling dry pasta while those in Asia stockpiled rice. Hand sanitiser became a luxury item; my personal supply was stolen from my desk by 'persons unknown' and replacing it became a mission that took weeks for more sanitiser to be shipped, at great cost, from abroad. Most of us

Online prepper guides and videos focus on the US and Australia, which are now regularly subject to large uncontrolled forest fires or hurricanes and require emergency evacuation from their homes. Increasing flooding in the UK has locals turning to prep-

stockpiled something.

The basic needs of the prepper relate to water, food, and energy. They stockpile bottled water, tinned foods, dry matches, first aid equipment and essential medication. They have backup torches, solar-powered lamps, and a solar panel charger for mobile devices. Travel documents and ID are kept with other essentials in a 'go' bag or 'bug out' bag which can be trust and put disaster grabbed easily if evacuation becomes neces-

You may be sur- Courtesy Dawn

kistan are also prepping. I have met families in ground floor apartments who have installed solar panels on their patios. Those who cannot instal

your neighbours in Pa-

solar are ensuring they have portable, affordable solar lanterns. Increasingly, families who can afford to are stockpiling essentials and non-perishables, hedging against ever-increasing food prices. They may not discuss prepping, but they are taking comm-on sense precautions agai-nst uncer-

Climate shocks, rising geopolitical tensions, and a global costof-living crisis mean many people cannot afford to stockpile essentials. As rising prices force the middle class to devolve into the working poor, they become as vulnerable as the unemployed. The betw-een the haves and have-nots becomes ever more extreme. When disaster strikes such unequal societies, what happens next? How far will people go to save their family?

Our species thrived because we lived in communities. Homesteading succeeds when the fruits of your labour are shared with labourers and other homesteads. Prepping works best when people share their skills and pool their knowledge within their neighbourhood. As climate events become more brutal, individual survival becomes more difficult; we must look to our distant past and recognise that the manual labourer is as critical to our survival as the scientist or strategist.

We need community leaders neighbourhoods and apartment blocks to build provision plans in place now. It will be too late after a disaster strikes.

# Unusual trifecta

### Mahir Ali

There appears to be no reliable source for the quote that there are decades when nothing happens and weeks when decades happen, commonly (and possibly apocryphally) attributed to Vladimir Lenin, but the beginning of this week felt a bit like that. The likelihood that

Iran's president and foreign minister had perished in a helicopter crash alongside seven others seemed obvious long before Tehran officially acknowledged the tragedy and announced five days of mourning. This was followed by reports that the International Criminal Court's (ICC's) chief prosecutor had sought warrants against leading figures in Israel and Hamas. Soon afterwards came the news that a pair of British judges had allowed Julian Assange the right to appeal against the British government's determination to extradite him to the US for a trial on patently absurd and politically motivated espionage charges. Ebrahim

Raisi, elected president in 2021 on a low turnout, and his foreign minister, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, were guests in Islamabad last month after a period of tensions between the two countries and an exchange of hostilities targeting purported militants on both sides of the Balochistan border. Last Sunday, they were returning from a dam inauguration on the border with Azerbaijan also attended by the latter nation's president, Ilham Aliyev the scion of Heydar Aliyev, who segued easily from a reliable Soviet apparatchik to a typical

Central Asian potentate. For the Iranians, the transport back to Tabriz relied on an old, US-designed helicopter, flying through hilly terrain in poor weather. A 'hard landing' was the initial

Tehran, although seg-ments of Iranian media were talking about a crash early on, and the supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, tried to reassure the nation that the consequences would not be disruptive long before official sources admitted that there were no survi-

Raisi will be succeeded by his unelected first vice president, Mohammad Mokhber, in an interim capacity, with fresh presidential elections due within 50 days. There is no reason to expect the pattern will be any different from the recent past, with the clerical hierarchy effectively picking the favoured candidate while offering the mirage of a democratic contest. It hasn't always been easy, though, with the clergy occasionally from the likes of Rafsanjani, Khatami and Rouhani. Even the militantly conservative Ahmadinejad was too much of a loose cannon

With Khamenei now 85, Raisi was considered a contender for the top iob. The former is the second supreme leader since 1979. When Ruhollah Khomeini died 10 years later, the Khaleej Times put out a special edition. The only picture we could find of Khomeini with a foreign leader featured Yasser Arafat soon after the revolution. That found a prominent place in the paper — and one of the KT's photographers came close to being roughed up by Iranian mourners at a mosque in Dubai because of that image. The Palestinian leader had apparently turned into persona non grata since the early days of the revolution, after which the regime had welcomed arms from Israel as part of the Iran-Contra deal under

Reagan set-up. Iran has lately stood

official description in out as the only significant Middle Eastern power to meaningfully rage against the genocide in Gaza, but its motivations are suspect. Raisi had been implicated for decades in the repression that has stood out as a key characteristic of the regime that smothered the best aspects of the rebellion against the Pahlavi monarchy 45

years ago. Iran might have been very different country had the US not conspired seven decades ago to turn it into an Israelfriendly Middle Eastern satellite. Today, it is determined to defend Israel, with Joe Biden denying any 'equivalence' posited by the ICC between Hamas and the Zionist regime, notwithstanding their deadly inclinations - let alone the Israeli Defence Forces' military sufacing mild resistance premacy, courtesy of a steady supply of US military hardware. Assange

WikiLeaks exposed the brutal absurdity of military America's endeavours in places where it has no right to be, which is why the Trump and Biden administrations have conspired to permanently silence him. It would make sense for Biden's government to drop the ridiculous charges, given that the British establishment would reprehensibly be unwilling to liberate him without Washington's imprimatur. The ICC's endeavour has been condemned by Hamas, Israel and Biden. That alone suggests it might be worthy, even though the prosecutor's request is yet to be processed by the judges. It is, of course, highly unlikely that either the Israeli or the Hamas leadership will ever find itself in the dock at The Hague, but pushing this genocidal conflict in the direction of accountability just might bring it to a halt. -- Courtesy Dawn

# Commerce News



# Gold rates dip **by Rs 300**

### per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs 300 and was sold at Rs 248.200 on Wednesday compared to its sale at Rs 248,500 on the last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs 236 to Rs 212.791 from Rs 213.048 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went down to Rs 195,059 from Rs 195,295, the All Sindh Jewellers Sarafa Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten-gram silver remained constant at Rs2,850 and Rs2,443.41, respectively. The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$3 to \$2,415 from \$2,418.

# PM for steps to grant industrial status to gems, precious stones sector

Sharif on Wednesday directed the relevant authorities to take the required steps for granting the industrial status to the gems and precious stones sector of the country.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting on the gems and precious stones sector, called for necessary legislation and consultation with the provinces and the private sector to uplift the sector besides immediately activating the Gems and Jewelry Development Company.

ISLAMABAD (APP): He said that most of products, and carry out the Prime Minister Shehbaz the country's areas geological mapping of KP, particularly Pakhtunkhwa, Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir were rich with immense natural resources which needed to be fully exploited.

Prime Shehbaz also called for ensuring the international products and their display international exhibitions.

He also instructed for launching training programs to promote value officers attended the addition of the stone meeting.

geological mapping of KP, GB and AJK on the availability of precious The participants of

the meeting were told that a strategy was being formulated to promote investment in the fields of gems and rare stone

Federal ministers certification of stone Ahad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Jam Kamal Khan and Dr Musaddik Malik, State Bank Governor Jameel Ahmed and relevant senior

# Musadik Malik says: Govt. to enhance indigenous production of petroleum products ISLAMABAD (APP): reassured attendees that increased utilization of

Minister for Petroleum, Musadik Masood Malik expediting oil and gas renewable said on Wednesday that exploration within the resources, especially as the government will enhance the indigenous foreign companies to energy costs have production of petroleum invest in this sector. products, including gas and crude oil. Addressing

said that the government been digitized and long period.
has put blocks for simplified to facilitate Regarding the TAPI bidding and is actively trying to attract global players in exploration activities.

Pakistan is open for business and committed to completely digitizing the cost of electricity reserves and limited the regulatory process to increase transparency. Malik highlighted

the importance of the TAPI gas pipeline project, which he said the hi would provide cheaper gas.He reaffirmed the g o v e r n m e n t 's commitment to ensuring an uninterrupted and recognizing it as a top priority. He said that currently spends over \$18 billion annually on energy

minister

He said that investment processes and an information regarding oil energy symposium, he and gas exploration have

To reduce electricity tariffs, the government is working on various Pakistan He said that proposals, he said. By supplying local gas to h i g h l i g h t e d efficient power plants, Turkmenistan's vast gas

> He acknowledged the high theft and losses their energy security. in the gas sector, particularly in Balochistan, where gas systems, comprehensive

implemented.

the government is Pakistan's abundant country and welcomes the country's solar significantly decreased.

He said, that multiple policies have been formulated to boost local production after a

framework, he said that project financing would be jointly provided by Turkmenistan.He

could be reduced to Rs 12 market, primarily China, per unit, compared to Rs 24 per unit when using European countries LNG. European countries purchase LNG from Turkmenistan to enhance

Не said Pakistan has proposed to European countries the losses have increased in idea of purchasing LNG Sui-Southern. To combat from Turkmenistan, affordable energy supply, urban gas theft, modern which would provide including energy security to Europe. He explained monitoring of the gas that a gas pipeline will network using come from Turkmenistan technology, are being to Pakistan, and gas will then be supplied to He advocated for Europe via a train.

# Atif Ikram says: Govt should make border

# management system more active to prevent smuggling

**Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Atif Ikram Sheikh has said that the government should make the border management system more active to prevent smuggling.

Movement country is affecting tax revenue which can be community is ready to help the government in increasing increased only through the tax net.

prevention of smuggling. We support the government's measures against non-filers in the upcoming fiscal year budget, Tax should be collected from those who are not in the tax net. Federation President Atif Ikram said that the tax target should be kept closer to of reality in the next financial smuggled goods into the year. The business

# **Green Energy Transition** to help Pakistan build sustainable economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): The experts at the Green Financing Summit held here on Wednesday underscored the need for Pakistan to embrace a paradigm shift in its policy to achieve renewable energy transition through subsidized energy frameworks helping to achieve a sustainable

Network for Clean Energy Transition organized the virtual conference titled "Green Financing Summit: **Driving Energy Transition** through alternate and Green Financing Mechanisms"

In his opening remarks, Deputy Executive Director, SDPI, Dr Sajid Amin said the discourse on clean energy economy. The Sustainable transition was crucial as shift Development Policy over green energy was the Institute (SDPI) under its country's journey.

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Park Ki Jun called on Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain.

### Shipping activity at **Port Qasim**

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was report at the port where five ships, Hope Island Conti Courage, Tethis-7 Al-Thakhira Advantage Paradise carrying Container, Palm oil, LNG and Gas oil, berthed at Container Terminal, Liquid Terminal Elengy Terminal and Oil Terminal respectively on

Tuesday.

Meanwhile two more ships, Marathopolis and Torm Venture carrying Container and Gas oil also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim on same day. A total of twelve ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships.

# **Industries Minister meets** Korean envoy, discusses bilateral cooperation

Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Wednesday met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Park Ki Jun to discuss the bilateral cooperation.

The delegation from leading South Korean companies accompanied ambassador, said a news

release issued here. The minister said that both countries enjoyed historical and cordial relations and engaged in multifaceted bilateral cooperation in

ISLAMABAD (APP): many areas including in Federal Minister for the field of economic and

The matters of mutual interest, including bilateral cooperation and the challenges faced by Korean companies in Pakistan also came under discussion.

The also assured the visiting delegation for prompt resolution of all pending matters. Rana Tanvir apprised the visiting ambassador that the government had taken a number of steps to boost up industrial activities in the country.

# **KP CM distributes** scholarship certificates among 65 students

Chief Minister Education Endowment Fund scholarship award distribution ceremony at Chief Minister's House Peshawar on Wednesday with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur as the chief

Provincial Minister total of 444 scholarships for Higher Education worth Rs. 546.47 million Meena Khan Afridi, MNA Shahid Khan Khattak, officials of Higher Education Department and other concerned officials attended the ceremony.

The chief minister on this occasion, distributed scholarships and certificates among 65

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Health Khawaja

Salman Rafique inaugurates In-door Pharmacy at

**DIG Operations meets** 

**business community** 

order situation of the of our law enforcement

(LCCI) on Wednesday. police department and the LCCI President LCCI.He said that during

Adnan Khalid Butt and a police verification of

large number of members employees and workers in

including presidents of factories and markets.

LAHORE (APP): DIG various

Lahore

(Operations)

Muhammad Faisal Kamran

held a meeting with

business community to

discuss security, law and

markets and the liaison

between LCCI and Police

Department, here at

Lahore Chamber of

Commerce and Industry

Kashif Anwar, Senior Vice

President Zafar Mahmood

Chaudhry Vice President



According to the details, 107 graduate announced increase in the scholarships worth Rs. 47 seed amount of Endowment and Fund from Rs 940 million million undergraduate scholarships to Rs 2.00 billion aimed at worth Rs. 302 million, awarding more scholarships have been awarded in the as well as supporting the approved leading national orphan students in the institutes. Similarly, 3 MS

### Azma expresses deep condolences to acting Iranian **Consul General**

LAHORE Provincial Minister for Information Azma Bokhari expressed her deep condolences to the Acting Iranian Consul General Ali Asghar Moghari on the death of the Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister.

The Provincial Minister also inked condolence comments in the Guest Book at the Iranian Embassy.

She said that the entire Pakistani nation is deeply grieved over the death of the Iranian President and Pakistan equally shares the grief of their Iranian brothers and sisters.

"We express our deep sense of sorrow and condolence over the martyrdom of the Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Abdollahian."

Azma Bokhari said that the President of Iran Ebrahim Raisi was a great Muiahid and revolutionary leader of the Islamic World.



A delegation of People Lawyers Forum District Dir meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at Governor's House Peshawar.

# **Kundi vows to present** province's development case at every forum

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Kundi Karim on Wednesday had said that the province is currently facing security and economic challenges, and he will present the case for the province's development at relevant forums, including the merged districts.

The Governor said that unemployment and law and order issues are the root causes of terrorism and emphasized that all political parties and the nation must unite with zero tolerance to eradicate menace of terrorism

He expressed these views during a study tour of the 35th Senior Management Course participants at the Governor's House in Peshawar. participants included officers from various service groups and ministries.

Governor

apprised them on his constitutional obligations, powers. responsibilities, answered their questions about security, higher education, law and order, Afghan refugees, and political and economic

The

# **Government committed to** improve treatment facilities in hospitals: Health Minister

FAISALABAD (APP): Provincial Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafiq on Wednesday said that the government under the dynamic leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz was committed to improve medical treatment facilities in all hospitals on modern lines. During his visit to Allied Hospital-I here, he said that huge funds were being spent up-gradation and revamping of government hospitals where nursing staff

would also be recruited soon

to overcome their shortage in

contemplating Health providing Professional Allowance which would help improve performance of this sector. He visited various sections of the hospital and directed to complete revamping work till June 10. He said that Rs.2.7 billion were being spent on upgradation of this hospital and this project would be completed on war-footing. Medical Superintendent (MS) Dr Muhammad Faheem Yousuf briefed the Health minister and said that 68 ventilators were in working condition in the

### PA Deputy **Speaker visits** site of Arts Council

BAHAWALPUR (APP) Punjab Assembly Deputy Speaker Malik Zaheer Iq̂bal Channar Wednesday visited the ongoing construction work of the Divisional Arts Council Bahawalpur.

D e p u t y Commissioner Zaheer Anwar Jappa and Director Arts Council Sajjad Hussain was also present on this occasion. The Deputy Speaker

visited various sections of the under-construction building and inspected the progress. He emphasized importance of completing the development work of the Bahawalpur Arts Council building or time with high standards.

### Three die in separate incidents in DI Khan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Three people were killed on Wednesday in separate incidents took place in different localities of Dera Ismail Khan district. According to details, a dumper fell into Chashma Right Bank Canal (CRBC) near Saidu-wali area of Tehsil Paharpur resulting, driver drowned into the canal while four other people were rescued by the local people. Later, the body of the deceased driver was also fished out by the local people.

According to the Rescue 1122 team the He said that the hospital while pediatric dumper was also took out by using heavy machinery.

# **Punjab Governor says:** Ibrahim Raisi great supporter of the unity of the Muslim Ummah

**Independent Report** LAHORE: Punjab, Sardar Saleem the Embassy of the Islamic condolences to Iranian Moghadam on the martyrdom of the Iranian president and his companions in a helicopter crash. He offered Fateha and prayed for the elevation of ranks of the deceased and patience to

the bereaved families. Punjab Governor, that they equally share the grief of Iranian people and them in this difficult time.

Governor Punjab said that Ibrahim Raisi was a visionary leader Haider Khan today visited He added that Ibrahim Raisi was a great supporter of the Republic of Iran in unity of the Muslim Islamahad to extend his Ummah. He said that the late Iranian president had Ambassador, Raza Amiri recently made a successful visit to Pakistan in which important agreements were signed. Governor Punjab also signed the condolence book. Iranian Ambassador Reza Amiri Moghaddam expressed his gratitude to the Pakistani people and government on behalf of the government and people Saleem Haider Khan said of Iran for sharing their

the government. Governor



LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider writing his condolence remarks during his visit to Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

# New school building constructed in different rural areas with support of FFC inaugurated

Palestinian state is

recognized by several

**European countries** 

By Tanveer Ahmed Soomro

MIRPUR MATHELO: Resident Manager of Fauji Fertilizer Company Mirpur Mathelo Brig (Retd) Muhammad Saleem Muhammad Saleem Cheema, Col Shakeel Ahmed Chatha, Col Shujaat Minhas, PRO FFC Amanullah Shar and Ahmed Ali Soomro along with F. F.C. Inauguration of the new school building constructed in different rural areas with the support of FFC, the school administration and local residents appreciated in relation to education. In administration.

addition to providing, pay attention to the education of boys and girls because an educated man is the foundation of an educated society, resident manager Brigadier Muhammad Saleem Cheema told reporters,

According to the details of Fauji Fertilizers Company, an industrial enterprise of district Ghotki. Resident Manager Brigadier Muhammad Saleem Cheema, along with Colonel Shakeel Ahmed Chatha. Colonel Shujaat Minhas, PRO FFC Amanullah Shar the efforts of Brigadier and Ahmed Ali Soomro, Muhammad Saleem Cheema with the support of FFC

# International News

# Iran's supreme leader prays for late president and others killed in helicopter crash

participated in the meeting.

President Kashif Anwar

said, "We sit safely in our

homes due to the presence

agencies." He said that the

police lay down their lives

to protect the citizens. He

said that there is a very good

relationship between the

the previous visit of DIG

(Operations), few issues

were discussed including

In his address, LCCl

DUBAI: Iran's supreme leader prayed Wednesday over the coffins of the country's late president, foreign minister and other officials who were killed in a helicopter crash earlier this week. Later, hundreds of thousands of people followed a procession honoring the dead down Tehran's main boulevard.

Iran's Shiite theocracy views mass demonstrations as crucial evidence of its legitimacy and the people's

Still, Wednesday's funeral service for President Ebrahim Raisi and others saw a turnout that onlookers described as noticeably lower than the 2020 pro-

cession honoring Revolutionary Guard general Qassem Soleimani, who was killed in a U.S. drone strike in Baghdad.

Many of the participants said they came to Tehran for the ceremony from other cities and towns across the Islamic Republic. an indication of how those in Iran's capital viewed Raisi. who won the presidency in a record low turnout and later oversaw repeated crackdowns on dissent including in the wake of the 2022 death of Mahsa Amini that sparked street protests over Iran's mandatory hijab. or headscarf. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who openly

citing the standard prayer for the dead.

"Oh Allah, we didn't see anything but good from him," Khamenei said in Arabic, the language of Islam's holy book, the Quran. Iran's acting president, Mohammad Mokhber, acting stood nearby and openly

been discussed as a possible successor to Iran's supreme leader, the 85-year-old

Palestinians evacuate Kamal Adwan hospital following an Israeli strike in Beit Lahia, the north-

# German defence minister not ready to compromise on 2025 budget demand

**Monitoring Desk** LITHUANIA: German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said on Wednesdav he was not prepared to lower his demands for the 2025 defence budget or accept a compromise right now. Speaking during a visit to the Pabrade training ground in Lithuania, he told reporters he would neither disclose his negotiating strategy in talks with the finance minister nor send any signal whether he

saw room for compromise. "I am not prepared to do either," he said, responding to a question whether demand of topping up the 2025 defence budget by 6.7 billion euros (\$7.3 billion). Due to the spending

he might step back from his

requests from ministries, the ruling coalition of Social Democrats (SPD) Greens and Free Democrats (FDP) will hold further talks on next year's budget.

Germany has for years been criticized for spending too little on defence, effectively relying on the United States to underpin its security despite being Europe's biggest economy.



cried.

The death of Raisi. Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian and six others in the crash on Sunday comes at a politically sensitive moment for Iran, both at home and abroad.

Raisi, who was 63, had wept for Soleimani, also re-

### Death of Iran's president has delayed talks with IAEA, Grossi says

**Monitoring Desk** HELSINKI: The deaths of Iran's president and foreign minister in a helicopter crash have caused a pause in the UN nuclear watchdog's talks with Tehran over improving cooperation with the agency, the watchdog's chief Rafael Grossi told Reuters

on Wednesday. "They are in a mourning period which I need to respect," International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Grossi said in Helsinki, where he spoke at a nuclear conference

"But once this is over, we are going to be engaging again," he said, describing it as a "temporary interruption that I hope will be over in a matter of days" Grossi said the IAEA was planning to continue technical discussions with Iran but they had not yet taken place due to last weekend's helicopter crash that killed President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian.



for victims of helicopter crash that killed Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Abdollahian and others, in Tehran, Iran.

# Israeli forces raze parts of Jabalia camp, hit Rafah

**Monitoring Desk** GAZA: Israeli forces thrust deeper into the Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza on Tuesday, laying waste to residential districts with tank and air bombardments, residents said, while airstrikes killed at least five people in the southern city of Rafah.

The Israeli army used bulldozers to clear shops and property near the local market in Jabalia refugee camp, residents

said, in a military operation that began almost two weeks ago.

Israel said it has returned to the camp, where it had asserted to have dismantled Hamas months ago, to prevent the group from regrouping.

Health authorities and

Gaza Civil Emergency Service said dozens of bodies were trapped under rubble of houses and on the roads in Jabalia, but were out of reach of rescue teams

# US pushes for G7 response to China's industrial overcapacity

**Monitoring Desk** RANKFURT: US Trea-

sury Secretary Janet Yellen said on Tuesday that the United States and Europe needed to respond to China's industrial overcapacity in a 'strategic and united way' to keep manufacturers viable on both sides of the Atlantic.

Yellen told reporters during a visit to Frankfurt that G7 finance ministers shared US concerns about Chinese efforts to dominate clean energy industries, but did not need "detailed coordination" on trade actions following the imposition of steep US tariffs on Chinese goods. "But I do think that the concerns about China's strategy are shared and all I'm suggesting is that given that many countries share this concern, it's more forceful to communicate to China as a group," Yellen said.

In remarks on the US-European alliance in Fran-kfurt, Yellen said China's excess industrial capacity threatened both American and European firms as well as the industrial development of emerging market countries. "China's industrial policy may seem remote as we sit here in this room, but if we do not respond strategically and in a united way

### DR Congo thwarts Kinshasa 'coup attempt': Army Monitoring Desk

KINSHASA: The DR Congo military on Sunday thwarted an attempted coup near the offices of President Felix Tshisekedi in Kinshasa involving "foreigners and Congolese", the army spokesperson said.

The coup bid took place in the early hours of the morning outside the residence of economy minister Vital Kamerhe, in the Gombe area in the north of the capital, near the Palais de la Nation which houses the president's offices. 'An attempted coup d'etat has been stopped by the defence and security

### **UK's ex-Post** Office boss **Paula Vennells** says she was 'too trusting' **Monitoring Desk**

LONDON: Former British Post Office boss Paula Vennells sobbed on Wednesday after telling a public inquiry the wrongful conviction of hundreds of postmasters had been caused by errors not conspiracy, and if anything she had been "too trusting" of others. More than 700 local post office branch managers, who were often at the heart of small communities, were convicted between 1999 and 2015.

### nized a Palestinian state in a historic move. Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris said on Wednesday it was coordinated with Spain and Nor-

land and Spain have recogway, "an historic and important day for ... Palestine." Several other Euro-

**Monitoring Desk** 

pean countries have in the past weeks indicated that they plan to recognize a Palestinian state, arguing a two-state solution is essential for lasting peace in the region. European countries are recognizing a Palestinian state While dozens of countries have recognized a Palestinian state, none of the major Western powers has done so. The decisions from Norway, Ireland and Spain may generate mo-

mark a significant accomplishment for the Palestinians, who believe it confers international legitimacy on their struggle, especially amid international outrage over the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Here's more on how and why the new European announcements

could be important.
Ireland, Norway and Spain have recognized a Palestinian state. Several other European countries have in the past weeks indicated that they plan to make the recognition, arguing a twostate solution is essential for lasting peace in the region. Meanwhile, France indicated that it isn't ready to join other countries in recognizing a Palestinian state, even if it isn't opposed to the idea in principle.

# **Protesters interrupt** Blinken's testimony over Israel policy

**Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: Secre-tary of State Antony Blinken faced criticism from the right

and left over Israel policy

in Congress on Tuesday.

with Republicans accusing the Biden administration of failing Israel and Democrats saying it's doing too little to help civilians in Gaza. Furious protesters interrupted Blinken as he began his testimony before the Demo-cratic-controlled Senate Foreign Relations Committee. There were shouts that he has "blood on his hands," and Blinken flinched from a protester who approached him from behind waving a sign that said "criminal" before security officers carried her out of the room. Blinken reiterated the support of President Joe Biden's administration for Israel, but insisted it was focused on easing the hu- raeli forces launched a

"In the Middle East were standing with Israel in its efforts to ensure what happened on October 7 never happens again, as we do everything we can to bring an end to the terrible human suffering in Gaza and prevent the conflict from spreading," he said.
Blinken was sched-

uled to appear later on Tuesday before the Senate appropriations subcommittee that oversees diplomatic and foreign aid spending. He returns to Capitol Hill on Wednesday for two more rounds of testimony at hearings of the Republican-led House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee and a House appropriations subcommittee. Republicans criticised Biden for saying this month that he would delay a shipment of bombs withholding others if Ismanitarian crisis in Gaza. major invasion of Rafah.

# **CPEC's projects enhancing** developmental capacity for Pakistan: Chinese Ambassador

China-Pakistan friendship flourish and prosper forever: Jiang Zaidong

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong said here last night that China-Pakistan Friendship will keep flourish and prosper forever.

In his address delivered at "friendship forever" event celebrating China Pakistan establishing 73 years of diplomatic relations held here at Pakistan-China Center, he said he is very happy to celebrate the 73rd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Paki-

On behalf of the Chinese Embassy, he extended his warm congratulations and sincere gratitude to friends from all walks of life who have long been committed to China-Pakistan friendship!

President Xi Jinping said that China-Pakistan friendship is like a thriving tree with deep roots and luxuriant leaves, he said.

ing on Information Technology Parks.

sional Commissioner Sukkur

Favvaz Hussain Abbasi on

Wednesday has imposed ban

on cultivation of paddy for

three months from across the

division. He took the deci-

sion after recommendation

by deputy commissioner

Khairpur Syed Ahmed

Fawad. He said that paddy was a semi-aquatic (high-

delta) crop that required

commissioner said that

Hence, the divisional

plenty of water.

**Commissioner imposes** 

ban cultivation of paddy

SUKKUR (APP): Divi- time were suitable for

heavy and clay soils that destruction of existing nurs

Awards ceremony held

in Government Boys

Primary School Larkana

LARKANA (APP): Government Boys Primary School Jail

Colony of Larkana city here on Wednesday organised an

award ceremony for the students who got positions in the

ur Rehman Jalbani, Deputy District Education Officer

Larkana Pir Mohammad Shah, Abdul Rashid Chandio,

Shahnaz Memon, Headmistress Najam Nissa, School

Headmaster Muzaffar Ali Lahori, and other school teach-

ers, students and their parents participated in the event.

mary Larkana Anees ur Rehman Jalbani said that on the

instructions of Provincial Minister of Education Syed

Sardar Shah, trained teachers have been appointed in all

primary schools of Larkana district to provide quality

LARKANA: District Education Officer (DEO) Pri-

mary, Anees-ul-Rahman Jalbani is distributing

shields and appreciation certificates to the suc-

cessful students and teachers who got first and

second class positions in the annual examination

of one to five class at Government Boys Primary

School New District Jail Colony in Larkana.

On this occasion, District Education Officer Pri-

District Education Officer Primary Larkana Anees

could hold water for a long eries forthwith.

annual examinations from class 1 to 5.

education to the future architect children.

public of China established diplomatic ties with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in 1951, the two countries have embarked on a new

all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. From the Chinese tallow tree planted by Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai in Shakarparian Park in 1964, to the pine trees planted by President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif at the Prime Minister House in 2015, under the nurturing of the leaders of our two countries and the joint efforts of both sides, China-Pakistan friendship has grown into a towering tree, deeply rooted in the hearts

of the two peoples. Over the past 73 countries frequently vis-

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meet-

paddy cultivation. Other

crops could not survive in

the surrounding of paddy

fields because of destruction

of their roots due to pres-

ence of more than required

commissioners of the

Sukkur, Khairpur and

Ghotki districts to make it

binding on revenue authori-

ties to keep vigilant eve on

rice cultivation in their re-

spective districts and ensure

He directed the deputy

He said, "Since the newly born People's Re-relatives, guiding the development of China-Pakistan relations. In 2015, President Xi Jinping's historic state visit to Pakistan elevated the bilatchapter of China-Pakistan eral relations to all-weather strategic cooperative part-It has evolved into an nership, and set the goal of building an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, which provided fundamental principles and operational guidelines to the development of China-Pakistan

> It has become as solid as rock and as heavy as mountain.

relations

Over the past 73 years, our all-weather friendship has increasingly been transformed into pragmatic cooperation, injecting inexhaustible impetus into the buildyears, leaders of the two ing of the community with a shared future

**Prices of edible** 

items to be

monitored: DC

SUKKUR (APP):Deputy

Commissioner (DC) Sukkur, Dr Raja MB

Dharejo on Wednesday said

no one would be allowed to

earn illicit profits in the

wholesale markets, bazaars

and prices of edible items

would be closely moni-

He stated this while

The meeting was at-

presiding over a meeting in

nis office held to review

tended by additional

sistant commissioners, of-

ficials of the food & agri-

culture department and

other relevant departments.

sioner said prices of food

items in Sukkur as well as

the performance of administrative officials and price

magistrates would be re-

FIA seeks

permission to

file extra evidence

in cipher case

ISLAMÂBAD (APP)

The Federal Investigation

Agency (FIA) on Wednes-

day sought the permission of Islamabad High Court

(IHC) to present the state-

ment of US Assistant Sec-

retary Donald Lu given be-

fore a Congress committee

as evidence in the cipher

case against the PTI

laneous application submit-

ted to the IHC bench of

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq

and Justice Miangul

Hassan Aurangzeb, re-

quested for allowing it to

file more evidence in the ci-

pressed his concern that

the FIA wanted to

present extra evidence

when the hearing of the

appeals was about to

The chief justice ex-

pher case

The FIA, in a miscel-

founder and Mehmood Qureshi.

viewed every week.

The deputy commis-

prices of food items.



delegation of Longi Solar at Governor House.

# Salik praises Saudi govt. for excellent Hajj arrangements

ISLAMABAD (APP): dom of Saudi Arabia for the Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Chaudhary Salik Hussain on Wednesday praised the Saudi authorities for the excellent arrangements made by them to make performing of the Hajj obligation convenient for the pilgrims.

'We are highly appreciative of the assistance and cooperation from the King-

smooth conduct of Hajj every year," he said while talking to the PTV News.

The minister said innovative reforms had been introduced by the Saudi authorities for the facilitation of intending pil-He urged the Pakistani

Hajj group operators to follow the directives of the Saudi Government.

# Journalist Nasrullah not to be shifted to Karachi due to critical condition: Sharjeel

**Independent Report** ARACHI: Senior Miniser for Information Sindh Sharjeel Inam Memon on Wednesday said that condition of injured journalist Nasrullah Ğadani is critical therefore doctors in Rahimyar Khan were not allowing him to be shifted to Karachi. Senior Minister said he was in constant contact with Dr. Jabbar Khattak regarding the con-

Nasrullah Gadani. In his post on the social networking site the X, Memon said rescue 1122 ambulance was also ready to shift the injured journalist Nasrullah from Rahimyar Khan to Agha Khan Hospital Karachi from the day one but doctors in Rahimyar Khan were not allowing him to be shifted to anywhere else due to his critical condition.

# Romina says: **Climate Change ministry** initiates GLOF-III project glacial water resources

ISLAMABAD (APP): PM's Coordinator on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam Wednesday said that the Ministry would initiate GLOF-III project to protect the glacial water re-

sources of Pakistan. In a meeting with

Management Authority (NDMA) and ministry of Climate Change would jointly jointly work on this The both sides reiterated to closely collabo-

Malik and it was agreed

that National Disaster

rate to overcome heat waves, natural disasters Chairman NDMA, Lieu- and upcoming floods in the country



**ISLAMABAD: PM's Coordinator on Climate** Change & Environmental Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam gifts a plant to Chairman NDMA Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik.

### CTD hostage taking: SP-Operation, DSP relieved

KARACHI (INP): IG Sindh Police has removed CTD SP-Operation Imran Shaukat from his post after Rangers conduct raid at the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) office for recovery of a hostage on

Wednesday. Imran Shaukat has been ordered to report at the Central Police Office.

DSP Suhail Akhtar Sulehri has also been suspended and orders issued for inquiry of the hostage taking incident by the CTD. According to details, a CTD team had allegedly kidnapped a citizen and demanded ransom for his

release. The matter disclosed when a special team of paramilitary Rangers reached. The man receiving the ransom money was found to be a CTD official.

The counter terrorism department high ups also reached the spot after a team of rangers conducted raid at the office. DIG CTD suspended four officials inThe police authorities

have initiated a high-level inquiry of the hostage tak-Rangers' personnel

and rescued an abducted citizen from their posses-DIG CTD Asif Aijaz Shaikh in a statement said that the CTD officials had failed to report the detained

his detention. He further disclosed that the CTD initially demanded a ransom of Rs 500,000 from the victim's family, which was later ne-

The DIG CTD announced suspension of four CTD officials, including the SHO, Sub-Inspector, ASI



Chowk in Hyderabad.

### **Bruised PTI** demands judicial probe into attack on

ISLAMABAD (INP) - The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has demanded formation of a judicial commission to investigate the attack on party's Information Secretary Raoof Hasan. The PTI information

Raoof Hasan

secretary was attacked on Tuesday afternoon by unidentified transgender persons with a blade in Islamabad's G-7 area. He suffered a cut in the face.

Addressing a press conference on Wednesday, Leader of the Opposition in National Assembly Omar Ayub said an attempt was made to kill party's spokes-

### **Govt decision** to block SIMs of non-filler still in effect: IHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) stated on Wednesday that the decision of the federal government pertaining to block the SIMs of non-fillers remained in effect as the injunction of the court was not related to blocking the SIMs of non-

Chief Justice Amin Farooq Malik of the IHC heard the case against the federal government's decision to block the SIMs of non-filers.

The federal government has filed a separate petition seeking to lift the stay order on the proceedings against the mobile net-

work companies. At the onset of the hearing, the chief justice clarified that the stay order was solely to safeguard the junction was not to block the SIMs. Therefore, the decision of the federal government was still in effect.

### Sukkur **Ombudsman** directs maximum relief for complainants

SUKKUR (APP): The Regional Head Federal Ombudsman Sukkur Region, Syed Mehmood Ali Shah on Wednesday listened to the several complainants filed against different departments including the Employees' Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) offices in Sukkur and Larkana, Pakistan Railways, and Sukkur Electric Supply Company (SEPCO) and

other agencies. After reviewing all registered complaints, Syed Mehmood Ali Shah delivered decisions on each case and directed the gov ernment agencies to address systemic issues, so that maximum relief should be provided to people at their end. He directed the SEPCO authorities to take strict legal action against the meter readers for over reading.

### Three arrested for street

crimes, robberies

KARACHÍ (APP): In a significant crackdown on street crime, the Pakistan Rangers Sindh, in collaboration with local police, apprehended three individuals suspected of involvement in various robberies and other criminal activities. The arrests were made during joint snap checking operations at multiple locations across the

According to a statement released on Wednesday by a spokesperson for the Sindh Rangers, the suspects were detained at the Inspector Muhammad Fazil Shaheed check post, Ghousia Road in the Gulshan-e-Iqbal area and in the Muhammadi Colony of the Keamari

During these operations, authorities seized two pistols, ammunition, and a motorcycle that had been reported stolen

# US believes in supremacy of human rights, stands with Kashmir cause: Terry Meza

of Representatives, Terry Meza has United States of the supremacy of human rights and advocates for peace, peaceful coexistence, and democracy across the

She said this while addressing the Kashmir conference organized by Friends of Kashmir International (FoKI) in Texas, sadi a press release received here on Thursday.
"We stand with the oppressed against the op-

pressor, and soon a resolution will be presented in the Texas House to express solidarity with the Kashmiris," Terry Meza While addressing the

conference, Chief Guest Hurriyat leader and Vice Chairman of FoKI, Abdul Hameed Lone, said that Kashmiris were not only struggling for their inalien-

ISLAMABAD (APP): A able right of self-determinamember of the Texas House tion but also for the comple-

tion of Pakistan. He noted America (US) believed in Kashmiris had resisted Indian aggression by making supreme sacrifices for the past 76 years.

Presiding over the Kashmir Conference, social activist Abdul Hafeez Khan (Tamgha-e-Imtiaz) emphasized that it was high time for the United States to play its role in mediating the Kashmir issue

He stated that the hearts of Pakistanis living in America beat with their oppressed Kashmiri brothers and sisters and that they desired freedom from the clutches of the occupying Indian forces.

Ghazala Habib, the chairperson of Friends of Kashmir International and host of the conference, said that the Kashmiri diaspora would play every possible role in exposing Indian atrocities worldwide.



Bhutto Zardari exchanges views with Acting President and Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani during meeting held at Bilawal House in Karachi.

# **DC** Mirpurkhas launches polio vaccination campaign

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Deputy Commissioner Sono Khan Chandio on Wednesday launched an anti-polio campaign from June 3 to June 7, emphasised the public to actively participate in the upcoming polio vaccination

campaign. According to the DC Office, Presiding over a meeting to review arrangements, the Deputy Commissioner emphasised the need to address any problems or deficiencies encountered during previous cam-paigns. DC stresses the polio teams to work diligently to ensure the success of the upcoming cam- its success.

paign, DC said. The District Health Officer, Dr Jiramdas and District Focal Person Polio Program, Dr Narayandas assured that the health department is fully prepared to make the polio vaccine a success

A comprehensive micro plan is in place, covering 13 districts across including Mirpurkhas where 348,465 children under five will receive polio vaccinations.

The campaign will deploy 1017 mobile teams, 97 fixed teams, 53 transit points, 231 area in-charges

# SFA's Technical Focal officer visits NITB

Sindh Food Authority (SFA) Dr Seema Ashraf visited National Information Technology Board (NITB) of Pakistan and briefly presented the current manual and software system under development by PITB with the helping support of the CLICK project.

It is being done on the direction of DG SFA Agha Fakhar Hussain that NITB of Pakistan is digitizing the food authority system to food safety, she said.

KARACHI (APP): The enhance efficiency, trans-Technical Focal Officer of parency, and traceability in the food supply chain, said a statement on Wednesday

Dr Seema said that the system involved using block chain, IoT, and big data analytics to monitor food safety and compliance and it aimed to streamline operations, reduce errors, and provide real-time access to data. The digital transformation improves regulatory oversight and builds consumer trust in



KARACHI: People affected by the heatwave, receive medical treatment at a Heatstroke Treatment Camp

Mahar takes notice of lack

of furniture in school

**Independent Report** MIRPŪR MATHĒLO:

Provincial Minister Sardar Muhammad Bakhsh Khan Mahar noticed the lack of furniture in the school, Deputy Commissioner Ghotki reached the school near Khanpur Mahar and provided the furniture. nouncement of more

schools to provide facilities. According to the details, the provincial minister for anti-corruption, agriculture and sports, Sardar Muhammad Bakhsh Khan Mahar, taking notice of the lack of furniture in Government Nawaz Khan Mahar Boys Primary School, issued instructions to provide furniture to the school, on which Deputy Commissioner Ghotki Dr.

Syed Muhammad Ali

school near Khanpur Mahar and provided furniture to the administration.

has reached the said

this occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that furniture has been provided to the school on the special instructions of Provincial Minister Sardar Muhammad Bakhsh Khan Mahar. They will mark and provide facilities where a large number of male and female students are studying but there is a lack of facilities.

said that the government of Sindh is trying to improve the condition of the schools so that the students here can study without any difficulty because the collective goal of all of us is the improvement of education.

### one-week Preventive Protection of Manuscripts chives attended the theoretical and practical trainperts on the storage conditions of manuscripts, conservation and restoration routines and the ma-

**TIKA organizes week-long** 

"Preventive Protection of

teen manuscripts libraries

located in different cities of

Turkive to examine the

hundreds of years old manu-

scripts and the workshops

in the library

Training, conducted by Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), in collaboration with the Directorate of Manuscripts Institution and the Directorate of According to a press release issued by Turkish

Aid agency TIKA here

Wednesday, throughout

the program, Pakistani ex-

perts from Punjab Univer-

sity, Quaid e Azam Uni-

versity. Pakistan National

terials used in these rou-State Archives was held at tines and visited different the Book Healing House units of the Institutions to located in the historic see the current situation Rami Library and the State on site in Turkiye. Archives in Istanbul. They also

KARACHI (APP): The Library, Pakistan National ing held by Turkish ex- in the training and experiportunity They also visited Suleymaniye Library which is the biggest one of the eigh-

Manuscripts Training" in Istanbul Lecturer and Manuscripts expert Dr Hamid Ali from the University of Punjab, who participated ence-sharing program in Istanbul, stated that within the scope of the program organized by TIKA, they had the op-Turkiye's great libraries such as Suleymaniye and Rami to see Turkiye's practices in preserving manuscripts. Dr. Ali said that they learned a lot in the one-week program, adding that Turkiye had very good practices in this

field and those who par-

ticipated in the training benefited greatly from it.

Khawaja. The SP and DSP have also been relieved from their posts.

ing incident

yesterday conducted a raid at the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) office

individual - who recently arrived in Karachi from Iraq to higher authorities and had not officially recorded

gotiated down to Rs

the anti-encroachment drive under the supervision of anti-encroachment cell, at Bacha Khan