

# Independent

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 06. No. 113 Zeeqad 16, 1445 AH Saturday May 25, 2024 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

## ICJ orders Israel to urgently halt Rafah military operation against Palestinians

**Court also orders Israel to keep the Rafah crossing into Gaza open for the "unhindered" provision of humanitarian aid; Hamas welcomes ICJ decision on Rafah, says not enough, urges end to Israel's offensive on all of Gaza**

### Monitoring Desk

THE HAGUE, Netherlands: The top United Nations court ordered Israel on Friday to immediately halt its military operations in the southern Gaza city of Rafah. While Israel is unlikely to comply with any such order, it will ratchet up the pressure on the increasingly isolated country.

Criticism of Israel's conduct in the war in Gaza has been growing — even from its closest ally, the United States, which warned against an invasion of Rafah, where hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have sought shelter from fighting elsewhere. And this

week alone, three European countries announced they would recognize a Palestinian state, and the chief prosecutor for another U.N. court requested arrest warrants for Israeli leaders, along with Hamas officials.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is also under heavy pressure at home to end the war, which was triggered when Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel, killing 1,200 people, most civilians, and taking some 250 captive. Thousands of Israelis have joined weekly demonstrations calling on the government to reach a deal to bring the hostages home, fearing that

time is running out.

While the ruling by the International Court of Justice is a blow to Israel's international standing, the court does not have a police force to enforce its orders. In another case on its docket, Russia has so far ignored a 2022 order by the court to halt its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Israel signaled it, too, would brush off an ICJ order to stop its operations. "No power on earth will stop Israel from protecting its citizens and going after Hamas in Gaza," Avi Hyman, the government spokesperson, said in a press briefing Thursday.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanging views with Dr. Mehmet Pacaci, Turkish Ambassador during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

## PM invites Chinese firm to invest in Pakistan's mining sector

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister Shehbaz has invited Chinese firm MCC Tongsin Resources to make investment in Mining sector of Pakistan and assured provision of all-out facilitation in this connection.

The Mining and Mineral sectors have been on the priority list of Special Investment Facilitation Council and a significant headway has also been achieved in this sector.

The Chinese firm MCC Tongsin Resources is a research and investment company and a part of Metallurgical Group Corporation, which has been enlisted among the major Metallurgical Construction Contractors of the world.

The Chinese com-

pany expressed keen interest in enhancing its investment in Pakistan's mining and minerals sectors and also briefed the Prime Minister about its plans for investment in Mining sector of Pakistan.

The visit of the Chinese company to Pakistan is aimed at cementing ties between China and Pakistan and to assure that Pakistan would ensure security of Chinese nationals, working on different development projects.

China has so far made investment of more than sixty-five billion dollars in energy and infrastructure projects in Pakistan under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

## PM hails International Court's ruling on Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday welcomed the decision of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on a petition filed against genocide in Palestine.

The prime minister paid tributes to the courage of the 13 ICJ judges who made the decision and thanked South Africa for filing the petition.

In a statement, he reiterated Pakistan's support for the Palestinians and pledged to continue fighting for their rights. He said Pakistan had extended support to the petition filed by South Africa.

## IHC rejects request to suspend PEMRA notification

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday rejected the request to immediately suspend the PEMRA notification regarding media coverage of the court proceedings and sought comments from respondents in the petition till May 28. IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the petition filed by Islamabad High Court Journalists Association's (IHCA) President Fayyaz Mehmood and Press Associations of Supreme Court's (PAS) President Aqeel Aizal challenging the notification of Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority.

## K-Electric proposes Rs10.69 per unit increase in tariff

KARACHI (INP): Karachiites to be fried this summer as the electricity supply company K-Electric has proposed an increase of 10.69 rupees per unit in the base tariff under the seven-year Multi-Year Tariff (MYT) plan.

The current average base tariff is Rs34 per unit, and K-Electric has proposed raising it to Rs44.69 per unit.

As per the report, K-Electric has submitted its Multi-Year Tariff (MYT) proposal for the period from 2023 to 2030 to National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA).

## Sindh CM, Turkish Ambassador discuss ways to enhance bilateral trade

KARACHI (INP): Turkish Ambassador Dr. Mehmet Pacaci called on Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in Karachi and discussed ways to enhance bilateral trade.

Syed Murad Ali Shah invited Turkish companies to invest in the province as there are vast investment opportunities available in various sectors in the province. He said both countries could work jointly in sea boat industry and find new avenues of cooperation to increase export.

## Tarar terms economy, SIFC lifeline & redline; sees great investment in days ahead

**UAE's \$10 b investment, a testament to business-friendly policies: Jam Kamal**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Atta Tarar on Friday pointed out that the economy and Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) were the lifeline

and redline, expressing the optimism that development process would definitely move forward in the country with great investment days ahead.

"Surely, the economy is our lifeline and redline, which is linked with the jobs of millions of people," he said, adding curtailing inflation, ensuring bright future for the youth, and enhancing exports and foreign reserves were the prime objectives of the government's policies.

"These are our redlines which some disgruntled elements are trying to violate and trespass and they are surely doomed to fail," the minister said while addressing a press conference flanked by Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal.

Atta Tarar said that the efforts led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to woo investors were bringing positive results with the clear signs of economic stabilization.

Steps were underway to create an enabling environment for the foreign investors, he added.

Unfortunately, he said, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership was engaged in such steps which were against directly inimical to the national interests, thus misleading the nation at the critical juncture.

"Don't be mistaken, the foreign investment will definitely come to the country and we will take all steps to ensure the welfare of the people," he said.

Regrettably, they were the same people who had made a botched attempt in the past to make the GSP Plus status of Pakistan controversial and now were resorting to a malicious campaign against the crucial platform of SIFC, the government and the armed

## Sharjeel visits Iranian Consulate, offers condolence

KARACHI: Sindh senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon visited the Iranian Consulate in Karachi and met with the Iranian Consul General Hassan Nourian here Friday.



Chairman District Council Tando Muhammad Khan Qasim Naveed Qamar and People's Party leader Rawal Sharjeel Memon were accompanied the minister. Sharjeel Inam Memon offered feteiha and prayed for the departed soul of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, and others who lost their life in a recent helicopter crash. He conveyed his heartfelt condolences to Iranian Consul Hassan Nourian on the death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi. Sharjeel paid tributes to the late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi for his efforts in promoting peace in the region.

## Karachi's historical building declared as national heritage: Mayor

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that due to importance of city in terms of history and civilization, the government has declared historical buildings in Karachi as a national heritage.

He expressed these views while visiting Frere Hall along with the Ambassador of Spain, Jose Antonio de Ory on Friday.

He said that during the British era many Historical buildings including the Frere hall, Mereweather tower and, KMC Building were built.

Besides Muslims, a



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of representatives from Chinese companies in Pakistan meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

## Pakistan rejects Indian SC orders failing to recognise J&K's disputed status: FO

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Friday rejected the fresh order of the Indian Supreme Court upholding its earlier ruling that had endorsed the Indian government's unilateral decision of revoking the special status of Jammu and Kashmir by abrogating Article 370 of the Constitution through legislation in 2019.

"We reject the fresh order of the Indian Supreme Court just as we had rejected the earlier order of December 11, 2023. Two verdicts fail to recognize the internationally recognized disputed nature of Jammu and Kashmir... Indian Supreme Court judgments

cannot distract the international community's attention from the gross and systemic human rights violation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir." Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said at her weekly press briefing.

She said the Kashmiris had an inalienable right to self-determination as enshrined in the UN Security Council's resolutions.

India has no right to make unilateral decisions on the status of disputed territory against the will of parties in the dispute - Kashmiris and Pakistan, she added.



LAHORE: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz.

## Spanish Ambassador visits Bhanbhore archeological site

Independent Report KARACHI: Spanish Ambassador to Pakistan Jose Antonio de Ory has visited archeological and historical site Bhanbhore, located in Thatta district of Southern province of Sindh.

The Spanish envoy inspected archeological monuments in life museum and the historical mosque.

The provincial Culture and Tourism Minister Sayed Zulfiqar Ali Shah received the Ambassador on his arrival at Bhanbhore and briefed the dignitary about the archeological site and its historical background.

The Ambassador showed interest in the history, culture and heritage of Bhanbhore and expressed the idea of mutual cooperation in the field of joint research on archeology.

Ambassador Jose said history and monuments of Bhanbhore are the manifes-

tation of the past glory and prosperity of the region.

Speaking on the occasion, Sindh Culture Minister Zulfiqar Shah said Pakistan and Spain have long historical and cultural ties and there was a need to further promote these relationship in the field of tourism.

He wished to utilize the Spanish expertise for promotion of archeological tourism in Sindh.

He said the provincial government was providing favourable environment to foreign tourists in Sindh.

The Spanish envoy was also presented traditional gifts of Ajrak, Sindhi cap and the 'King Priest' memento.

The Director General Antiquities Sindh Abdul Fattah Shaikh and MD STDC Fayaz Shah were also present on the occasion.

## Murad Shah grieves over tragic death of journalist Nasrullah Gadani

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the death of Mirpur Mathelo based journalist Nasrullah Gadani.

The CM said that the Sindh government shifted Nasrullah from Rahim Yar Khan to Karachi by air ambulance but he could not survive, said a statement issued by the CM House spokesman here Friday morning. 'I am deeply in grief and sorrow along with Nasrullah's family and media organisation he is affiliated', CM added.

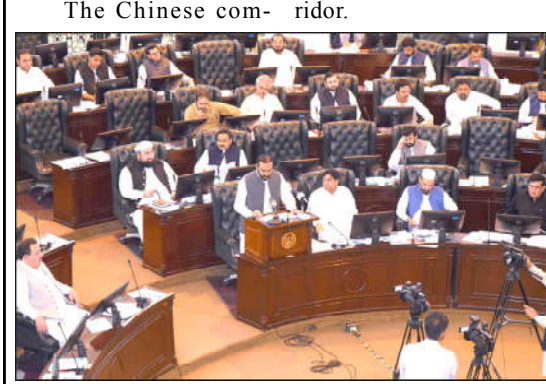
## Journalist Nasrullah succumbs to injuries

KARACHI (INP): A journalist of a Sindh newspaper known for his bold reporting against feudal lords and waderas, who was seriously injured in a gun attack a few days ago, succumbed to his wounds at a hospital in Karachi on Friday morning. Journalist Nasrullah Gadani was left fighting for his life after he suffered serious gunshot wounds in the attack by unidentified assailants near Mirpur Mathelo in Ghotki district on Tuesday last.

## K-Electric agrees to restore power of consumers on paying current bills: Nasir

Independent Report KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Energy Syed Nasir Hussain Shah on Friday said that K-Electric has agreed to restore electricity of consumers on paying the bills.

Maximum relief would be provided to the poor consumers consuming less units without discrimination, he said.



PESHAWAR: KP Finance Minister, Aftab Alam presents the proposed Rs 1754bn Provincial Fiscal Budget 2024-25 with a surplus of Rs 100bn at KP Assembly.

## Commissioner alerts relevant agencies to get ready for upcoming monsoons

Independent Report KARACHI: Commissioner Karachi Syed Hassan Naqvi Friday summons all the relevant agencies of the city to set their directions to tackle the upcoming monsoon forecasts and urban flooding preparedness.

He emphasized on them to immediately prepare emergency and contingency plans about utilizing available resources, clear distribution of work and sharing responsibilities.

The meeting was attended by all Deputy Commissioners of city, officials from Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Karachi Municipal Corporation (KMC), Karachi Development Authority (KDA),

Town Municipal Committees (TMC), Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB), Traffic Police, Fire Brigade, Cantonments and other relevant agencies of the metropolitan.

Briefing the meeting about the predictions of upcoming monsoon, Director General, PDMA, Syed Salman Shah said that although June was expected to receive a below to normal range of rainfall, and July might receive rainfall equivalent to the rainfall received in 2022.

However, after mid July to late August Karachi may receive 100 percent extra rainfall than that of 2022.

He quoted Meteorological department for forecasting relatively more rainfall than 2022.



The government appreciates this initiative of K-Electric and has expressed hope that K-Electric could restore its reputation among the public through good conduct, he added. He urged the people to pay outstanding dues of the bills of Electricity department so that relief could be provided to them without delay.

A meeting of parliamentary leaders and assembly members of all parties was held in Sindh Assembly under the chairmanship of Provincial Minister of Energy and Planning Development Sindh Syed Nasir Hussain Shah.

Provincial Minister Local Government Saeed Ghani, MNA Nabeel Gabol, MPA Yousuf Baloch, Asif

Khan, Najam Mirza, leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Ali Khurshedi, Muhammad Farooq of Jamaat-e-Islami, President of People's Party District South Khalil Hot, K-Electric CEO Munis Ali, CDO Sadiq Dada, Consultant KE Shizi Hussain, Regional Head Sheikh Humayun, Farah Naz, Nand Lal Sharma, Energy Ministry Consultant Hasan Raza and others were also present.

The increasing load shedding in Karachi, non-payment of K-Electric bills and shutdown due to faulty PMTs in various areas were discussed in the meeting. MPA Nabil Gabol and MPA Yousuf Baloch raised the issue of long hours load-shedding in Lyari and registered their reservations.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### IMF's unease

The first round of 'engagement' between Pakistan and the IMF over the former's request for a larger and longer programme appears to have concluded — with some bumps still visible. Both sides are believed to have reached an understanding on the reform measures that Islamabad must include in the budget for the next financial year and get approved by parliament before an agreement on a new bailout facility is signed.

A report in this paper has quoted a government official as saying that the IMF mission is leaving the country without announcing a formal staff-level agreement, because the "Fund wants a stamp of approval from parliament for the reforms and policy actions [to be implemented as 'prior actions' for the new programme] given the unpredictable political environment".

This is not a new condition in Pakistan's context, nor is it surprising, considering the endless political instability roiling the country. The IMF had recently noted that high political uncertainty and the resurgence of social tensions could undermine economic stabilisation.

"Downside risks remain exceptionally high. While the new government has indicated its intention to continue the [Stand-by Arrangement's] policies, political uncertainty remains significant," the IMF had said in its staff report on the conclusion of the second and final review of the \$3bn SBA. It added that "the resurgence in social tensions reflecting the complex political scene and high cost of living could weigh on policy and reform implementation".

Despite its concerns that the political situation might create obstacles in the way of parliamentary approval of the new budget, the IMF has also expressed its confidence in the present political administration. "The return of the outgoing government to power after the elections means continued commitment to the reform agenda agreed at the time of the SBA. This not only means a higher likelihood for the continuity of reforms but also political stability for the next five years. The current coalition government consists of almost the same political parties, which despite heavy political cost implemented all the actions committed under the [Extended Fund Facility] programme and approved all the prior actions under the SBA," it said.

It is thus anticipated that the Fund will conclude a new loan latest by early July. However, a new arrangement is the least of the common man's problems. The real issue for most is the additional financial burden in the shape of new levies — such as a hike in the petroleum levy, an increase in indirect taxes, more taxes on salaries — and enhanced energy prices that they will have to bear as the cost of the new loan. Going by the just-concluded engagement with the IMF mission, it is clear that the next phase of economic stabilisation will be very tough for most of the population.

## Imagination in education

Aqsa Zainab

Imagination is not an escape from reality or simply a tool of fantasy among creative types. It influences how we perceive reality and even re-shape it. As such, it is not necessarily opposite to reason. The two can complement each other to offer deeper insights. Thoughtful, innovative works in science, social studies, language, and even mathematics can all benefit from imaginative thinking. Imagination must not be confined to curriculum discussions on arts and crafts or restricted to preschool and elementary school years. Its relevance must be taken seriously across all levels of education.

Perhaps it's symptomatic of our modern times that we have become accustomed to viewing reason and imagination as dichotomous to each other. Moreover, each is often attributed solely to a self-contained individual, whose origin is further reduced to neurological functions of the brain. We seem to have moved away from a holistic way of perceiving and relating to the world. In Greek and Roman thought, creative spirits inspired philosophers and poets alike. Carl Jung tried to break out of modern individualism by proposing the notion of a collective unconscious. Within irfan, or Muslim mystical thought, imagination was viewed as a faculty of perception and intellect that enabled the discovery of new horizons, even allowing one to attain truth and certainty. Reason and imagination were not dichotomous as such.

In Henry Corbin's reading of Muslim esoteric traditions, one's ability to tap into the higher realms also depended on one's himma, or power of the heart. Various wayfaring manu-

als also indicate that the mystic teacher would prescribe the initiate to engage in rigorous spiritual exercises in order to control the inner powers of imagination and discern divine inspirations from distracting whispers. In contrast, it seems that we have reduced imagination to just manipulating ideas creatively and expressing oneself creatively. And creative pedagogies keep on stimulating the imaginative powers of children without helping them learn how to handle these powers. For comparison, one might consider the pedagogies of Muslim and Japanese traditional calligraphy that approach the work of art and the heart of the artist as interconnected components of a holistic experience involving self-awareness, self-discipline, and self-transformation.

Yet even in its reductive modern sense, imagination today is often relegated to early years of education. Beyond elementary school, there is only lingering space for imagination as found in the subjects of humanities. In contrast, math, science, and even social studies increasingly rely on analytical reasoning skills. Thus the demarcation between imagination and reason gets more rigidified. Perhaps this is partly why students find math and science challenging in upper school as these subjects no longer involve the whole self, if they ever did in previous years. Even preschool environments operate under immense pressure to rapidly meet narrow academic benchmarks, for children must pass highly competitive entrance tests and interviews for school admissions. Imagination thereby gets stifled.

Exceptions exist, even in upper school, where an individual

teacher or curricular component may adopt an interdisciplinary or holistic approach to a topic. So students may discover the patterns and beauty of trigonometry in the cosmos, delving into not only quantitative but also qualitative aspects. They might explore how innovative scientists use analogies and visualisation to come up with new theories. In social studies, it requires imaginative abilities to grasp the interconnectedness of all life forms within an ecological framework. Perhaps students might also glean some lessons from the complicated biographies of math and science geniuses of the past century, who spoke of tapping into the transpersonal horizons of knowledge and creativity, and yet also the toll it took on their well-being.

It is said that knowledge points to what exists, while imagination points to what could be. The external senses perceive the manifest, while the sublime imagination reveals the unmanifest. Imagination facilitates abstract thinking, allowing one to move beyond the world of images. With imagination one can also empathise and walk in another person's shoes. But here is the challenge for educators. Imagination isn't that simple or straightforward to teach, if it can be taught at all. It's likely that whatever we try to teach directly or indirectly will only scratch the surface, representing a mere fraction of the boundless imaginative potential within human beings.

However, we can become more aware of the deeper possibilities of imagination and more cautious regarding the separation of imagination from reason. -- Courtesy Dawn

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

Pakistan is burning up. And so is much of its neighbourhood. The Indo-Gangetic plain, spanning the breadth of the subcontinent, is currently the hottest place on the planet. Extremely high temperatures are not unusual in these parts for this time of year, but the swing from the exceptionally wet and cool weather of a few weeks ago is hard to ignore. One can only hope that the next extreme is not a monsoon like 2022.

Then again, hope should not be the only fall-back plan. It is not as if global warming is an unknown phenomenon, or that most people are unfamiliar with the lexicon of climate change. There are many, in fact, who whip out terms such as 'mitigation', 'adaptation' and 'resilient development' at will. And 'experts' are said to be working in tandem with donors, governments and businesses to usher us towards a 'just transition' away from fossil fuels.

Pakistan's quota of experts has increased markedly since the 2022 floods. They gather increasingly regularly at conferences on climate change, both at home and abroad. Consultants are hired and reports written. But virtually nothing changes.

The global political economy continues to be structured around what Swedish scholar-activist Andreas Malm calls 'fossil capital'. For 200 years, coal and then oil have functioned as the ultimate global commodities, and the struggle to control them still shapes world politics. The continuing centrality of fossil capital makes a mockery of the notion that the rich and powerful are interested in reducing carbon emissions sufficiently to prevent the planet from becoming uninhabitable for

## Hot capital

humans.

The Indo-Gangetic plain is one of the regions which will experience widespread desertification if the current rate of heating continues. Yet Western governments and corporations who milked the benefits of colonial-era expropriation, continue to disproportionately emit carbon to the detriment of South Asia's working masses. The Gulf states and rapidly growing East Asian economies like China, too, are producing and guzzling oil. They may not be as big contributors to the rule of fossil capital as Western imperialist powers but any meaningful analysis of our present and future must include the growing role of the powers of the 'East'.

The history and ongoing evolution of fossil capital is absent from the mainstream debate on climate change, let alone the policy prescriptions about so-called resilient development. Yes, Pakistani 'experts' do bring up the question of climate financing and the historic responsibility of Western emitters, but there is much silence on domestic economic policy, and particularly the nexus of state and class power that presides over ecologically destructive 'development' with no end in sight.

Take the minor but illustrative murmurs about government plans to tax solar power. The private market for solar panels has exploded lately; even katchi abadi residents and small farmers unable to access the formal power grid have bought relatively cheap panels and batteries to meet some electricity needs. The rumoured tax on solar power consumers provoked an uproar and was subsequently played down by the authorities. But to the extent that there was any truth to the rumours,

they reflected the rigged game which is state — and IMF-dictated — policy; on the one hand is the unaddressed and decades-old IPP scandal, and on the other, the fleeing of working class and white-collar salaried populations through indirect taxes to meet revenue obligations.

More generally, Pakistan's political economy is centred around real estate, oil and coal-fired power, big infrastructure (especially roads and bridges), and logistics. Demand is consumption-driven, differentiated across class brackets (expensive imported goods and entertainment for the rich; cheap consumer durables for the mass). Trade dominates manufacturing, mostly in the black.

The establishment is top dog, all other state and private profiteers competing for its largesse. There is no respite for vulnerable ecosystems, no matter which combination of landlords, real estate moguls, traders and manufacturers sit in government with Big Brother hovering over them. The core areas continue to be 'developed' intensively, which makes them progressively hotter, while the peripheries are expropriated and turned into 'tourist havens', making them hotter too.

Pakistani capitalism is a never-ending disaster story with even the rich diaspora providing a stream of hot capital for real estate, absent the slightest concern for future generations of working people. But then, fossil capital has never been characterised by foresight or humanity. Profit and power rule while most of the world's people and ecosystems burn. We will need more than lip service for the tide to turn. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Jam Kamal invites Korean companies to invest in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Republic of Korea's Ambassador to Pakistan, Park Kijun Friday called on Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan and discussed strategies on boosting bilateral trade and investment.

Jam Kamal Khan extended an open invitation to Korean companies, urging them to explore and invest in Pakistan's commercial and strategic projects.

He emphasized that over the past three months, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's top priorities have focused on enhancing business connectivity and simplifying the process of doing business in Pakistan, said a press release issued

here. He briefed the Korean envoy on government's proactive measures in stabilizing the economy, which he believes are making Pakistan an increasingly attractive destination for foreign investment.

Ambassador Park Kijun expressed a strong desire to collaborate closely with Pakistan to enhance trade volumes and explore new business opportunities.

Minister Khan assured the ambassador that the government stands ready to promptly resolve any problems to ensure smooth and efficient operations for foreign businesses in Pakistan.

Additionally, Jam Kamal Khan invited Korean investors to capitalize on upcoming privatization opportunities within various government departments. This move aligns with the Prime Minister's vision of increasing private sector involvement in the economy to improve efficiency and service delivery.

Key sectors highlighted for potential investment included energy, port and shipping, fisheries, and agriculture—areas deemed critical for Pakistan's economic development and offering substantial opportunities for international investors.

During the meeting, the minister also briefed the

ambassador on the successful holding of the recent Saudi Arabia-Pakistan Investment Forum 2024 which was attended by the top investors from Saudi Arabia.

He informed the ambassador that Pakistan can organise a similar match-making event for the big Korean conglomerates and investors wishing to invest in Pakistan.

In conclusion, Jam Kamal Khan reiterated the government's commitment to making business operations in Pakistan more accessible and reliable.

He expressed optimism Pakistan is now progressing towards a phase of prosperity and growth.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Industry production and food security Rana Tanveer chaired high level meeting regarding supply chain and prices of fertilizer.

### Businessmen should support & cooperate in advancing mandate of SAARC: Golam

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: "Urge the business community of SAARC member states to support and cooperate in advancing the mandate of SAARC and its initiatives," said Md. Golam Sarwar, Secretary General, SAARC.

This was stated by Hon'ble Ambassador Golam Sarwar, Secretary General SAARC during his maiden visit to Pakistan

striving to unlock the full potential of SAARC. Expressing concern, Mr. Sarwar stated that since the last SAARC summit held in 2014, no major events at the government level have taken place to overcome the procedural issues of SAARC Apex bodies. This lack of activity has impacted all the Apex and recognized bodies of SAARC. Excellency, called for a renewed and dedicated

effort to overcome the longstanding challenges that have impeded SAARC's progress. He emphasized that the organization's future success hinges on member states putting aside political differences and focusing on regional cooperation.

### BOI Minister to visit Kuwait to enhance bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level delegation headed by Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan will visit Kuwait by end of current month for boosting investment in Pakistan.

The Pakistani delegation is expected to have meetings with Prime Minister of Kuwait and Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Power and Petroleum while Trade Minister of Kuwait will host, said a news re-

lease issued here on Friday. Trade and business activities between the two countries will also be finalized and the visit to Kuwait will be made more useful in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Commerce.

Abdul Aleem Khan presided over the important consultation meeting regarding the visit to Kuwait in which the necessary issues were finalized.

The minister said that during his visit to Kuwait,

there will be progress in providing employment to more workforce from Pakistan, especially health professionals and skilled labor, as well as taking the business community into confidence and the private sector.

"Pakistan will increase cooperation through taking on board Pakistan's export companies for dairy farming, meat products, rice and other food items to move forward through accelerated measures", he added.

### SBP injects over Rs241b into market

KARACHI (APP): State Bank of Pakistan, Friday, injected Rs241.350 billion in the market through reverse repo purchase and Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operation (OMO).

According to OMO results issued here, the SBP conducted Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) on May 24, 2024 for tenors of 7 and 28 days.

### IPRI, OGDCL enter in collaboration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) on Friday entered into a collaboration with the Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), wherein the latter came up with an Endowment of Economic Security Chair.

The kick-off ceremony was attended by Chairman Board of OGDCL Zafar Masood and CEO Bank of Punjab Ahmed Hayat Lak, CEO/Director OGDCL, and

senior officials of the industry, said a press release issued here.

President IPRI, Dr Raza Muhammad and Dr Aneel Salman, Chair Economic Security IPRI, presented their welcome remarks and apprised the delegates of their think tank's profile, and how it has made inroads in the world of research.

The Endowment of Economic Security Chair at IPRI is for a period of three years, and it will be known as 'IPRI-OGDCL Chair'.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja chairing 49th Universal Service Fund (USF) Policy Committee meeting.

### Chief Collector Customs Appraisal interacts with SCCI members

SIALKOT (APP): Chief Collector Customs Appraisal (Punjab) Lahore Saima Shehzad, along with Collector Customs Sialkot Saima Aftab, visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) on Friday for foster cooperation of the business community and addressing customs-related challenges to bolster regional trade.

SCCI President Abdul Ghafoor Malik, Senior Vice

President Wahub Jahangir, Vice President Amer Majeed Sheikh, and Dr. Mariam Nouman, president of the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WCCIS), welcomed the officials. In a meeting held at the SCCI Auditorium, the SCCI president apprised Chief Collector Saima Shehzad of the hurdles confronting local businesses. Highlighting Sialkot's pivotal role as an export hub, he emphasised

the city's contribution to foreign exchange earnings and national economic prosperity. President Malik lauded SCCI's pioneering efforts in fostering a culture of export promotion and community development. Notable initiatives spearheaded by the SCCI, including the establishment of Sialkot Dry Port, Sialkot International Airport Limited (SIAL), and AirSial, were hailed as milestones in the city's progress.

## Governor Punjab resolves to get the country out of difficulties together

ATTOCK (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Salim Haider Khan Friday said that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was a democratic party and it would not do any unconstitutional work. Together we would get Pakistan out of its problems by giving a gift in the form of University of Attock, he said and added that the workers were determined to make PPP stronger in Punjab.

He was talking to the media on the occasion of the visit of senior Party leader Dr. Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan at the residence of PPP District President Sardar Ashar Hayat Khan in Hassanabdal on Friday.

On this occasion, former National Assembly candidate Sardar Zulfikar Hayat Khan, Party leaders and a large number of dignitaries from the city were also present.

On this occasion, the Governor mingled with the workers and listened to their problems. Tight security arrangements were made on the Governor's arrival.

## Punjab govt appoints judges in special courts, LHC told

LAHORE (Online): Punjab government has filed notification in Lahore High Court (LHC) regarding appointments of judges in special court.

The court gave time of 15 days to federal government for appointment of judges.

Chief Justice (CJ) LHC Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan heard the case of appointment of judges in special courts of Punjab Friday.

Advocate General (AG) Punjab presented the notification regarding appointment of judges in LHC.

The court gave 15 days time to federal government for appointment of judges.

CJ LHC appreciated positive role of AG Punjab.

He remarked all are respectable for us. You have shown good attitude.

AG Punjab told the court judges in all Special courts of Anti Terrorism have been appointed in Punjab.

He further told two judges have been appointed in anti corruption and one each in service tribunal and consumer court. If appointment has to be made anywhere it will soon be made, he added.

During the hearing of the case federal government sought more time. Counsel for federal government said approval for appointment of judges will be obtained in the meeting of federal government. The CJ LHC remarked now Punjab government has made appointment of judges but federal government has sought time for 15 days.

## Two killed, one injured in Katlang firing

PESHAWAR (APP): At least two people were killed when unknown assailants fired at them in Anwar Khan Killay of Katlang Tehsil in Mardan District on Friday.

Police said the incident took place in the vicinity of Jabbar police station where two people identified as Sattar Khan and Afsar were killed by the firing of unknown assailants.

Another unknown man also sustained bullet injuries in the firing. The officials of Rescue 1122 shifted the dead and injured to DHQ Hospital.

Jabbar police have started an investigation into the incident after registering a case.

## Eradication of dengue mosquito priority: DC Attock

ATTOCK (APP): Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza Friday said that people should ensure the implementation of the code of conduct issued by the Punjab government to eradicate the dengue mosquito so that this epidemic can be effectively controlled.

He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting in connection with the anti-dengue campaign at DC Office Attock.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi in a group photo with delegation of elected representative Local Government led by ANP Leader Samar Bilour.

## Minister promises peace, order across province

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique has affirmed that peace and order are being maintained throughout the province.

Chairing the 5th meeting of the Sub-Cabinet Committee on Law and Order on Friday, on the directives of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, he emphasised the ongoing actions against drug dealers, kite-making factories, and electricity thieves.

During the meeting, which was held at the Interior Department on Friday, the committee approved the formation of a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) to probe various incidents. Additionally, ten prisoners were granted parole, and resources were allocated to the Lahore and Rawalpindi administrations in preparation for the New Zealand cricket series. The health minister conducted a thorough review of the province's law and order situation, including security arrangements for Eid-ul-Adha. Briefings were given by relevant officers, commissioners, and Regional Police Officers (RPOs).

## KP Governor visits Mufti Mehmood Markaz to meet JUI leadership

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi here on Friday visited Mufti Mehmood Markaz and met with JUI Senator, Moulana Atta-ur-Rehman.

The governor was accompanied by Provincial President PPP, Najamuddin and former federal minister, Sajid Hussain Turi. JUI Secretary General Moulana Ata-ul-Haq Darwais and City Mayor, Haji Zubair Ali was also present on the occasion.

## Secretary Health says: Doctors issues to be resolved on priority

MULTAN (APP): Secretary Health Punjab, Ali Jan Khan on Friday stated that all issues faced by doctors would be resolved on a priority basis. He said that under the Sehat Sahulat Programme (SSP) it is the doctors' right to receive their share, saying that once the renovation of Nishtar Hospital is completed, it will wear a new look.

He expressed these views while talking to a delegation from the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) during his visit to Nishtar Hospital.

Dr Zulfqarnain Haider, the Vice President of the PMA and others informed him that the doctors of Nishtar Hospital have not yet received their share, while the Director of Finance and his staff are keeping 43 pc of the share, which is against the rules. Similarly, a visit by the University of Health Sciences to the departments of Pulmonology, Gastroenterology, Dermatology, and Nephrology has not yet taken place due to delays in approval.

## Heat wave grips Larkana Division

LARKANA (APP): The entire city of Larkana and its surroundings remained in grip of severe heat on Friday, forcing the people to remain indoors.

The Met Office Larkana recorded 50 Degree Celsius as maximum temperature, but it has feel 52 temperature. The severe heat has affected the daily business adversely and the prices of ice and cold drinks have soared tremendously and traffic flow were slow and people's stay at homes. Mayor Larkana established cold drinking water stalls in different areas of the city.

## Governor KP chairs senate meeting of UoS

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi here Friday chaired the 13th Senate meeting of University of Swabi (UoS) that discussed various matters including financial resource plan and age relaxation.

The meeting among others was attended by Provincial Minister for Higher Education, Meena Khan Afridi, Vice Chancellor (UoS), Dr. Nasir Jamal and concerned officials.

The meeting discussed matters including approval of minutes presented in last senate meeting besides deliberating the reservations regarding financial resource plan of the university.

Meeting also discussed report about amendments that was presented in the meeting after getting approval from syndicate. Participants of the meeting also pondered matters including age relaxation for appointment and abolishing of certain allowances.

Addressing the meeting, KP Governor suggested deciding a time frame for preparation of senate minutes and said that approval of minutes should be delayed.

He also stressed to devise a proper mechanism and policy relating to age relaxation.



LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari addressing a Press conference at DGPR.

## Azma Bokhari says: Country's development top priority of PML-N

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari said on Friday that the Punjab Cabinet had given approval to take legal action against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder and other leaders for adopting hatred narrative against state institutions.

Addressing a press conference here, she said the country's development and prosperity was the top priority of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz.

She said, "Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf promotes hatred on social media in an organized way." Azma said that hatred was being promoted through a propaganda started from Adiala Jail.

She further said that in the 8th meeting of Punjab Cabinet presided over by Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz, a number of development works had been approved.

She said that Punjab Cabinet had paid tribute to the Punjab CM for reducing inflation to a great extent which helped in mitigating the sufferings of common man.

Azma Bokhari said that prices of rice, ghee, flour had reduced while rates of cement, gas cylinder and transport fares had also gone down. She said that Pakistani rupee also got stable against dollar.



KARACHI: Members of Civil Society are holding protest demonstration against the killing of Journalist, Nasrullah at Karachi press club.

# International News

## Biden woos Kenya's President Ruto with key state visit

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden is rolling out the red carpet Thursday for his Kenyan counterpart William Ruto with a diplomatically-heavy state visit and a lavish White House dinner with all the trimmings. It is the first state visit to Washington by an African leader in more than 15 years.

As Biden seeks to counter geopolitical headwinds across the continent, he will formally ask Congress to grant Kenya the status of "major non-Nato ally," according to a senior administration official. The label officially confers military and diplomatic privileges on the countries—currently 18 around the world—that are so designated, albeit without any formal security guarantees.

Kenya would become the first sub-Saharan African nation on the list.

"Democracy is obviously on the back foot globally and we see Kenya as an important, stable democracy in East Africa," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Hence the pomp and circumstance that awaits Ruto on Thursday—a day after he met with Biden at the White House—during a visit expected to touch on the issue of global peace and security, and notably an upcoming role for Kenya in a mission to restore order to chaos-torn Haiti.

Ruto will first be received with military honors in the morning, followed by a bilateral meeting with Biden, then a joint press conference, before a gala dinner featuring the two first ladies.

Distinguished guests will gather in a vast pavilion on the White House lawn, where tables will be adorned with African orchids and American roses.

On the menu: Heirloom tomato soup, fruitwood-smoked beef short ribs and butter-poached lobster, with banana ganache for dessert.

Entertainers will include country music star Brad Paisley and a gospel choir. The White House has promised partnership announcements in health and the battle against climate change, as well as private sector investment.

## Vietnam votes in public security minister as president

BANGKOK: Vietnam's rubber-stamp parliament voted in public security minister To Lam as the country's new president on Wednesday, after a major anti-corruption campaign forced his predecessor to resign.

Thousands of people—including several senior government and business leaders—have been caught up in the Southeast Asian country's "blazing furnace" crackdown on graft, led by Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong.

Analysts have said that Lam, who is deputy head of the steering committee on anti-corruption, has weaponised its investigations to take down his political rivals.

In his first remarks as president, Lam said he was "determined to fight corruption and negative phenomena".



Delegates attend a ruling on South Africa's request to order a halt to Israel's Rafah offensive in Gaza as part of a larger case accusing Israel of genocide at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

## Macron says extra security to stay in riot-hit New Caledonia as long as needed

MONITORING DESK: NOUMEA: Police reinforcements in New Caledonia will stay as long as needed, President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday after viewing areas devastated by deadly riots triggered by a contested electoral reform in the French-ruled Pacific island.

Macron's hastily arranged visit comes after six people were killed in riots that have left a trail of looted shops, torched cars and businesses since they began more than a week ago.

"In the coming hours and days, massive new operations will be scheduled where necessary, and republican order in its entirety will be re-established because there is no other choice," Macron said during a meeting with political and business leaders in the territory's capital Noumea. Roads across the island remained blocked by protester barricades, and residents shared advice on social media on safe routes to find food, petrol and medicine.

## Russia says IS behind deadly Moscow concert hall attack

MONITORING DESK: MOSCOW: Russia on Friday said for the first time that the militant Islamic State group coordinated the March concert hall assault in Moscow, the country's deadliest terror attack in two decades.

IS has claimed responsibility on multiple occasions for the March 22 attack which killed over 140 people, but Moscow has repeatedly tried to link Ukraine and the West to the attack. FSB chief Alexander Bortnikov was quoted as saying by the RIA Novosti news agency that "preparations, the financing."

## Trudeau signals Canada's readiness to recognise Palestine 'at the right time'

MONITORING DESK: TORONTO: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Wednesday said Canada is "prepared to recognise the state of Palestine at the right time—not necessarily as the last step along the path." Trudeau's statement came in response to a challenge from New Democratic Party (NDP) MP and foreign affairs critic Heather McPherson in the House of Commons, as she urged him to "take a stand" on the matter.

"We urgently need to build a credible path towards lasting peace. We oppose efforts by the Netanyahu government to reject a two-state solution.

At the same time, Hamas, a terrorist group, currently controls areas in Gaza and has not laid down its arms or released its hostages," Trudeau added. The debate in the House of Commons was sparked by recent decisions from Norway, Ireland, and Spain to recognise Palestine, prompting Canadian lawmakers to discuss the issue. Several Liberal MPs have urged Prime Minister Trudeau to follow suit and the call within Canada's Parliament for formal recognition of a Palestinian state is growing.

## Thai hospital says 20 people from Singapore Airlines flight remain in intensive care

MONITORING DESK: BANGKOK: Twenty people who were aboard a Singapore Airlines flight that hit severe turbulence and diverted to Bangkok for an emergency landing on Tuesday remain in intensive care, a hospital official said on Thursday. Of the 40 people on the flight still under treatment, 22 patients have spinal cord injuries and six have brain and skull injuries.

## 12 Palestinians killed and 25 wounded in Israel's 2-day West Bank operation

MONITORING DESK: NEW YORK: The Israeli military said Thursday it has completed a two-day operation in the occupied West Bank that the Palestinian Health Ministry says killed 12 Palestinians and wounded 25.

Rippling tensions from the Israel-Hamas war were also felt in the Red Sea, where a missile splashed down in the water near the crucial Bab el-Mandeb Strait on Thursday, but caused no damage, and in Lebanon, where state-run National News Agency says an Israeli drone strike killed one person and wounded three school students who were passing nearby in a bus.

More than 400 people have been killed in Lebanon since Israel and Hezbollah began exchanging fire the day after the latest war in Gaza began.

Norway, Ireland and Spain said Wednesday they were recognizing a Palestinian state, a move welcomed by Palestinians as an affirmation of their decades-long quest while Israel recalled its ambassadors to the three countries.

It was the second blow to Israel's international reputation this week after the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court said he would seek arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his defense minister.

The International Court of Justice is also considering allegations of genocide that Israel has strenuously denied.

## US will announce \$275 million more in artillery and ammunition for Ukraine, officials say

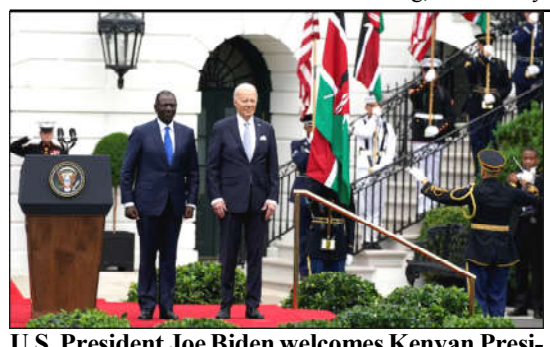
MONITORING DESK: WASHINGTON: The United States is expected to announce an additional \$275 million in military aid for Ukraine on Friday as Kyiv struggles to hold off advances by Russian troops in the Kharkiv region, two U.S. officials say.

This will be the fourth installment of military aid for Ukraine since Congress passed a long-delayed foreign aid bill late last month and comes as the Biden administration has pledged to keep weapons flowing regularly and to get them to the front lines as quickly as possible.

The package includes high mobility artillery rocket systems, or HIMARS, as well 155 mm and 105 mm high-demand artillery rounds, according to the two U.S. officials. They spoke on the condition of anonymity to provide details of the aid package before the public announcement.

It follows a monthly gathering Monday of about 50 defense leaders from Europe and elsewhere who meet regularly to coordinate getting more military aid to Ukraine. At this latest meeting, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Ukraine was in a "moment of challenge" due to Russia's new onslaught on Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city. He pledged to keep weapons moving "week after week."

Russia has sought to take advantage of Ukrainian shortages in manpower and weapons while the war-torn country waits for the arrival of more U.S. assistance, which was delayed for months in Congress. Ukrainian forces have been pushed backward in places, while Russia has pounded its power grid and civilian areas.



U.S. President Joe Biden welcomes Kenyan President William Ruto during an official White House State Arrival ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, U.S.

## Hundreds of Tunisian president's supporters protest against 'foreign interference'

MONITORING DESK: TUNIS: Hundreds of people demonstrated in Tunis on Sunday in support of President Kais Saied amid widespread criticism at home and abroad after a wave of arrests that included journalists, activists and lawyers.

The European Union, France and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed concern at the arrests and at a police raid on the headquarters of the bar association this month in which two lawyers critical of the president were detained.

Police this month arrested 10 people, including journalists, lawyers and officials of civil society groups, in what was described as crackdown by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

## Sindh govt to construct Ring Road by connecting Port with Malir Expressway, Murad says

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in his meaningful meeting with the FPCCI delegation led by its President Atif Shaikh announced the construction of a Ring Road facilitating freight traffic and outlining the boundaries of peripheral growth. The purpose of the meeting with the FPCCI delegation is to interact with industrialists, listen to their grievances, and seek their proposals for industrial growth by developing new economic zones and infrastructural facilities. Murad Shah said and added that the FPCCI has proposed the construction of an alternate bridge to reduce only dependence on native Jetty locally called Netty Jetty. "We are going to constitute a group to take industrialists on board for the development of Commerce & Industry and facilitate serious industrialists to establish their industrial units by providing them security, and necessary facilities."

This he said while talking to a 15-member delegation of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry at CM House. Minister Industries Jam Ikram Dharejo, Minister Labour Shahid Tahim, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Secretary Industries, Secretary Labour, Chairman SRB Asif Memon and other concerned officers also attended the meeting. Mr Shah said that his government was planning to construct an Expressway from Karachi Port to Malir Expressway at Korangi to facilitate freight traffic from the port to the Motorway. "Work on Malir Expressway is going on the fast track and after its opening another Expressway from Port to Korangi would be constructed to make the entire segment a Ring Road. The FPCCI representatives told the CM that street crime was creating problems, particularly in the industrial areas. The CM said that his government had taken strict measures and had made the SHOs of the area responsible for any crime. "We have considerably brought the street crime under control and it further be reduced," he said. Talking about the measures the Sindh government is taking to deal with repeat criminals, the CM said a mechanism has been developed under which the repeat criminals would be worn with GPS anklets to keep an eye on their movement. The FPCCI members complained that the development of the Dhabajo Economic Zone's infrastructure was slow, and the price of the plots was high. The CM said that he was not happy with the pace of development works and would call a meeting to fix the problem. "As far as the price of the plot is concerned, we would look into it and may evolve a facility for the industrialists/buyers," Mr Shah said.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah in a meeting with the Federal of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) led by its President Atif Ikram Shaikh held at CM House in Karachi.

## IMF, Pak make significant progress towards new loan programme

ISLAMABAD (INP): An International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission and the Government of Pakistan have made significant progress towards reaching a staff-level agreement for an extended fund facility. In a statement posted on its website on Friday, the IMF said the Fund has opened discussions with Pakistan on a new loan programme after Islamabad last month completed a short-term \$3 billion programme, which helped

## Home Minister assures late journalist Nasrullah Gadani's family of justice

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hasan Lanjar on Thursday has expressed his deep sorrow over the death of journalist Nasrullah Gadani. He directed to authorities concerned to arrest the culprits involved in the attack on the journalist. He assured the bereaved family of justice. He also prayed to Allah Almighty for higher ranks of the deceased in Janmah.

## Minister says: Action against political party office taken in accordance with law

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Azam Nazeer Tarar, informed the Senate that action against a political party office had been taken in accordance with the law and for violating building bylaws. Responding to a point of order raised by opposition leader Shibli Faraz, he further explained that the

## Dania Shah resorts to SHC for registration of murder case

KARACHI (Online): Dania Shah third wife of late MNA Aamir Liaquat Hussain while declaring death of her husband murder has resorted to Sindh High Court (SHC) for registration of murder case. She claimed that death of late Liaquat Hussain MNA is not natural but he has been murdered. I am resorting to SHC for registration of murder case. Later SHC while ordering to file reply within 3 weeks adjourned the hearing of Dania Shah petition.



KARACHI: Patron-in-chief of Pakistan Hindu Council Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani addressing press conference at Pakistan Hindu Council Secretariat.

## Mayor Sukkur discusses arrangements of cattle market

SUKKUR (APP): Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arslan Sheikh on Friday chaired a meeting regarding the establishment of cattle market in Sukkur for Eid-ul-Adha. The meeting was attended by all relevant departments' representatives, including district administration, Sukkur Municipal Corporation (SMC) Municipal Commissioner Muhammad Ali Shaikh, police, traffic police, livestock, Cattle Market Management, and others. The Mayor informed that 10 cattle market will be established near city by pass Sukkur for the buying and selling of sacrificial animals. Responsibilities for the arrangements in these

## One-day PHC job fair, education expo on May 27

KARACHI (APP): The Patron-in-chief of Pakistan Hindu Council (PHC) Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani on Friday said that a PHC job fair and education expo 2.0 would be held on May 27, Monday from 9am to 7pm. He said that a total of 120 companies had been invited to establish their stalls in the fair. While addressing a press conference at PHC Secretariat, he said that the upcoming job fair would be more big than the last one.

## Child dies in hit-and-run accident

KARACHI (INP): A 10-year-old child died in hit-and-run accident at Lyari Expressway Karachi on Friday, police said. According to details, an over speeding vehicle ran over a 10-year child near Teen Hatti Bridge killing him on the spot. The driver responsible for accident sped the scene. The body was shifted to hospital for post-mortem and police after registering a case against unidentified driver started search for him.



Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal co-chairing the 13th JCC meeting with China on CPEC in Islamabad.

## Ahsan Iqbal terms CPEC a transformative force in the region

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal on Friday said that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has become a transformative force in the region as the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), especially for Pakistan. The minister said that CPEC will enhance cooperation and development for both countries in the fields of agriculture, industry, information technology and science. The minister and Vice Chairman National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) Li Chunlin jointly chaired the 13th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting. At the beginning of the meeting, Li Chunlin praised the Pakistani minister of planning for his deep commitment to CPEC and his active role in promoting it. Ahsan Iqbal chaired 10 of the 13th JCC meetings held so far, which is quite an honour in itself, said Li Chenlin. Federal Minister for Privatization, Minister of Communications, Federal Minister of Information Technology, Secretary Planning, Secretary Energy, Secretary Communications, Secretary Board of Investment, and senior officials of federal and provincial ministries participated in the meeting. In the JCC meeting, the Pakistan side appreciated the vision of Chinese leadership to upgrade the second phase of CPEC with the inclusion of these new corridors which are in harmony with Pakistan's 5E framework. Meanwhile speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Iqbal said, "We are ready to work with NDRC to finalise the scope and implementation plan on these corridors. Both sides are highly committed to this shared vision, and together, both countries have embarked on a journey of shared dreams, working hand in hand to build high-quality development projects." Last year, Pakistan and China celebrated a decade of successful high-quality development and ever closer collaboration under CPEC, he said.

## Commissioner, Mayor and DC visits heatstroke camps

HYDERABAD (APP): The Divisional Commissioner Hyderabad Ahsan Ali Qureshi, along with Mayor Hyderabad, Kashif Shoro and Deputy Commissioner Zain-ul-Abideen Memon, on Friday visited the heatstroke camps set up at Nasim Nagar Chowk and Taluka Hospital Qasimabad. The Commissioner said that the district administration and local authorities were working together to provide protection to the people from heatstroke and many heatstroke camps had been set up in the city, where people were being provided with cold water and other facilities. Mayor Kashif Shoro stressed that the provision of relief to the people during the heat wave was the top priority, and the district administration and social organizations were playing a vital role in this regard. The Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad Zain-ul-Abideen Memon informed that 33 cases of heatstroke were reported in Hyderabad so far, and medical facilities were being provided to the affected people. He urged the people to follow the guidelines of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) regarding heat wave and take necessary precautions to protect themselves and their families from heatstroke.



HYDERABAD: A view of smoke rise from burning huts after fire caught some 70 makeshifts turn into ashes in the incident near Alamdar Chowk, Qasimabad.

## Fire engulfs 50 huts, mud houses inhabited by nomads

HYDERABAD (APP): A fire engulfed around 50 huts and mud houses in a village inhabited by nomadic people of Dashti cast here on Friday, destroying valuable assets of the people. He told that three persons with minor burns were provided treatment at the hospital. The DC informed that more than 350 residents of the village were being provided cooked food by the district administration.

## DC Larkana chairs meeting, reviews arrangements for monsoon, heat waves

LARKANA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Larkana Dr Sharjeel Noor Channa chaired the meeting of District Disaster Management Authority on Friday and reviewed the arrangements and measures to tackle monsoon and heat waves. The meeting deliberated on all the sensitive issues, monsoon weather and heat waves and also directed to make proper arrangements in this regard. Deputy Commissioner Larkana instructed the heads of related institutions to ensure the cleanliness of canals and drains so that any potential situation could be handled in time. Health, and livestock teams will perform their duties round-the-clock and all departments have also been directed to remain alert.



LARKANA: People are drinking juice to beat the heat of scorching sun during the hot weather of summer season at a camp of heat stroke arranged by Municipal Corporation, in Larkana.

## Dar emphasizes uniform high quality medical education in country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday underlined the need to improve the regulatory framework for medical education in Pakistan, besides establishing a coordination mechanism between medical institutions, and the public and private sectors to ensure uniform high-quality education. He was chairing the first meeting of the Committee on Medical Education that was constituted by the prime minister earlier this week on May 20. The deputy prime minister emphasized the important responsibility of the committee to address the gaps in medical education in the country. Highlighting the importance of nurturing a conducive environment for medical students to excel and contribute meaningfully to the healthcare sector, Ishaq Dar stressed that the world-class quality of medical education should be ensured in all the provinces. The committee conducted a comprehensive review of the country's medical education system, fee structure, and identified key areas for improvement and development of a strategic plan to align medical education with international standards. It specifically focused on devising a plan to solve the issues faced by Pakistani medical students studying abroad. It also discussed strategies to support and empower medical students in their academic and professional endeavours.



KARACHI: A delegation of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Sindh offers condolences to Iranian Consul General Hassan Noorian over the death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his companions in helicopter crash incident, at the Iranian Consulate in Karachi.

## KP Govt presents Rs 1754b surplus budget 2024-25; proposes 10pc increase in salaries, pensions

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Finance Aftab Alam on Friday presented Rs 1754 billion annual budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 with a surplus of Rs 100 billion. The government has projected Rs 1,654 billion expenses, said the minister during budget speech in the assembly here, adding that as per the instructions of the Chief Minister Ali Ameen Gandapur the budget 2024-25 mainly focused on social protection, peace, employment opportunities, and economic development. The government has proposed 10 percent increase in both salaries and pension of the government employees and increase minimum wage from Rs 32000 to 36000. While giving details of the budget 2024-25, he said that the KP government anticipated receiving a total 1754 billion under different heads during the fiscal year 2024-25 including 1212.036 billion from the federal government under Federal Tax Assignment, one percent of divisible pool on war on terror, Straight Transfer under the head of royalties and surcharge on oil and gas, wind-fall levy and net yield profit. He said that the KP province considerably improve its income during the last few years and had chalked out a mobilization plan and fixed a target of achieving Rs 93.5 billion revenue for the fiscal year 2024-25.

## SFA imposes fine on poor sanitary condition in bakery

KARACHI (SFA) team during the inspection of Ideal Bakery in Muhammad Ali Society district East imposed a fine of Rs 300,000 due to the poor sanitation situation. The team conducted inspection under the supervision of Director General SFA Agha Fakhar Hussain and also temporarily closed the production house of the bakery, said a statement on Friday. DG SFA said that violation of hygiene rules would not be tolerated and people engaged in food items business should get a license from the SFA. He said that action would be taken under the SFA Act against those who do not take license and those who violate the rules of hygiene.



KARACHI: Members of Religious Organization are holding protest demonstration against Israeli aggression and atrocities on the Gaza Strip and solidarity with the Palestinians, outside Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) restaurant branch located on Shahrah-e-Faisal in Karachi.

## MS visits Heatstroke Ward of Liaquat University Hospital

HYDERABAD (APP): Medical Superintendent (MS) Liaquat University Hospital Hyderabad, Jamsoro Dr. Ijaz Ahmed Abbasi has said that with the increase in heat and humidity, the number of heat stroke patients was increasing. In view of such a situation, doctors and paramedics in the Emergency Department (Lal Bati) of Civil Hospital Hyderabad have been directed to supply medicines, injections and other required medicines in abundance, besides putting professors and consultants on high alert for emergency situation. He expressed these views during his detailed visit to various wards including Heatstroke Ward, ICU and other departments established in the Hospital. He was accompanied by Professor Mohammad Iqbal Shah, Director ICU Dr. Kashif Memon, AMS General Dr. Tahir Qureshi, ADS Dr. Aftab Hussain Puhl, Medical Building Block Incharge Dr. Faisal Memon, RMO General II Dr. Faizan Hussain Memon, focal person on heat stroke Dr. Muhammad Aslam Rajput and other administrative officers. During the visit to the Heat Stroke Ward, MS Dr. Ijaz Ahmad Abbasi said that to avoid heat stroke and hot air, the citizens should not leave their homes unnecessarily and if there was any compulsion, they should cover their heads and use cold drinks as much as possible during the heat.