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Sindh cabinet okays Hub Canal project;100 acres land allocated for Inclusive City for PWDs

over a cabinet meeting, ap-proved several initiatives, including launching the concerned secretaries and Hub Canal project using others. The CM taking a Hub Canal project using provincial government re-sources, additionally, 100 acres of land were allocated for an Inclusive City for Persons with Disabilities.

The cabinet meeting also saw the decision to impose property tax collection in cantonment board areas, acquire 50 electric buses on a Rent Own Financial Model, launch S-BOSS for a consolidated business registry, and form a Sindh-based home workers council.

Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi.

the chief secretary, the pended upon the water sup-chairman P&D, SMBR, ply from Hub Canal. The cabinet was told that an effort was made to undertake the Hub Canal Rehabilitapolicy decision in the interest of Karachi decided to tion Project under Publicrehabilitate Hub Canal Private Partnership (PPP) through his government for Rs. 75 billion in PPP funding. Karachi has two major mode, but the project could

not move forward. water supply sources – the Indus River through The water board has submitted a proposal to re-Keenjhar Lake providing about 570 million Gallons habilitate the existing Hub Canal and construct a New Canal of 100 MGD paral-Daily (MGD) water and Hub Dam. Hub Canal built lel to the existing one. in 1982-84 has outlived its The proposal has a filife and its capacity reduced nancial cost for construct-

hdh-based home work-ouncil. The meeting was held from 100 MGD to 70 MGD ing the New Canal and reha-bilitating the existing Canal for Rs. 9.8 billion and Rs.

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah presided Murad Al water board to expedite the process and start the work.

The cabinet approved a plan to levy and collect property tax from the cantonment areas as per Supreme Court decisions.

formed that the Supreme Court had ruled that the provincial government would be responsible for imposing and collecting taxes on immovable prop-erty in the Cantonment areas. Currently, the Cantonment boards have been levying and collecting the property tax and entertainment duty.

net that the provincial gov-ernment has devolved the collection of Property Tax from the Excise & Taxation department to the Local Government in July- 2022. He added that the levy and collection processes were still under the purview of the E&T dept with human and another resource, this procedure would continue

for the next three years. The cabinet policy decision approved the plan that the cantonment boards would keep levying and collecting Property Tax in their respective areas keep two per cent service charges and hand over the

rest of the amount to the Minister Local Govt provincial government. **MQM** delegation calls on PM, presents

budget proposals ISLAMABAD (APP): A ted to addressing its issues as

Minister for Education and Professional Training Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui Thursday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and discussed with him matters pertaining to the Federal Budget 2024-25.

The MQM delegation presented their proposals regarding the budget to the prime minister. Pm Shehbaz appreciated the party's input for the budget. He acknowledged the significance of Karachi - the country's largest city and economic hub, and assured that

The 83rd Formation Com-

manders Conference on Thursday affirmed the resolve to neutralize all threats to the security and stability of the country with the full backing of the proud nation.

eral Syed Asim Munir, underscored that politically motivated and vested digital terrorism, unleashed by conspirators duly abetted by their foreign cohorts, against the state institutions was clearly meant to try to induce despondency in the Pakistani nation, to sow discord among national institutions, especially the armed forces, and the people of Pakistan by peddling blatant lies, fake news, and propaganda.

It, however, noted that the nation was fully cognizant of their ugly and ulterior motives and surely smuggling, hoarding, elec- side Pakistan.

KP governor

calls on PM;

political,

provincial

matters discussed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim

Kundi on Thursday called

on Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif here wherein they

discussed the matters re-lated to the KP province

and overall political situa-

ated the prime minister for

his government's pro-busi-

ness and investment poli-

cies which led to an en-

hanced investment in the

In the meeting, they also discussed the issues facing the KP province and

Ahad Khan Cheema and

Advisor to PM on Political

Affairs Rana Sanaullah also

Two TTP

terrorists

killed in Lakki

Marwat operation

PESHAWAR (APP): The

Counter-Terrorism Depart-

ment (CTD) on Thursday

killed two terrorists affili-

ated with the banned outfit

Tehreek e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) during an operation

in Lakki Marwat district of

According to a CTD spokesperson, the law en-

forcement personnel con-

ducted an intelligence-

based operation in Lakki

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

attended the meeting.

Commerce Minister

their durable solution.

The governor appreci-

tion.

country

RAWALPINDI (APP): the designs of the nefari- tricity theft, implementaous forces would be com-

prehensively defeated. The forum noted that rule of law, stability in Pakistan would ever remain hostage to the machinations of such elements. The conference was

attended by Corps Commanders, Principal Staff Officers, and all Formation Commanders of Pakistan Army, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The forum also resolved to continue to fully support the government's initiatives in various domains for sustainable economic growth and curbing to target security forces illegal activities, including and innocent civilians in-

ISLAMABAD (APP): camps of Palestinians dis-Prime Minister Shehbaz placed from across Gaza in Sharif on Thursday strongly Rafah (bordering Egypt)," condemned the recent Israeli he added. attacks on unarmed Pales-

Strongly condemns Israel's brutality, Sindh Govt to issue 8.5 lac PM calls for global intervention **Benazir labor** to stop Palestinians' bloodshed cards through NADRA

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali The prime minister Shah announced a major said Israel had showed bladevelopment for laborer

The cabinet was in-

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a Pro-vincial Cabinet meeting, held at CM House in Karachi.

Formation Commanders resolve to neutralize threats to country's security, stability

tion of One Document Regime, dignified repatriation of illegal foreigners, and safeguarding of the national database, etc. The conference was briefed on the dynamics of the geo-strategic environment, emerging challenges

to national security, and the Army's strategy to counter multi-domain threats The participants were also briefed on technological innovations to

modernize the Army and optimize logistic support to field formations, in line with fast-evolving operational environment. The forum expressed

serious concerns over continued cross-border violations from Afghanistan and terrorism being orchestrated using the Afghan soil, noting that adversaries were using Afghanistan

departments would be acces-

a project for establishing a

modern hospital, school,

autism center, and play-

have been established

Sharjeel Memon stated

The cabinet approved

sible online from home.



Minister Ishaq Dar, Federal Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar and Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political

Affairs Rana Sanaullah also the government was commit- attended the meeting.

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of MQM Pakistan led by Chairman Dr. Khalid

Maqbool Siddiqui calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

planners, perpetrators, abettors, and facilitators of 9th May needed to be brought to justice for the collective good of the coun-The conference, pre-sided over by Chief of and transparent dispensa-tron of justice to the cultry, and that without swift prits and establishing the

urging the international community to intervene to get stopped the worst barbaric inhuman acts. "I, on behalf of the government and the people of Pakistan, demand that the international community should play its due role to ensure that the people of Palestine and Indian Occupied Kashmir are granted their rightful freedoms and basic human rights," the prime minister said in a televised address.

tinians in Rafah area of Gaza,

He said due to the unprovoked and worst bombardment by the Israeli forces across Gaza, including Rafah, over 36,000 Palestinians, including thousands of children, had been martyred so far.

"After the lapse of Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait eight months, Israel's thirst for blood is still unquenched as it is now bombarding the crammed Palestinians, he added.

tant disregard for internain the province, revealing tional law, without caring plans to issue a staggering for the International Court of Justice's ruling and the Cards. This initiative, United Nations Security aimed at empowering the Council's resolutions. Not a single global

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir pre-

sided over the 83rd Formation Commanders Conference held at General

successful issuance of 1.5 power could prevail on Islakh cards already by National Database Registrarael to get stopped bloodshed of Palestinians, he retion Authority (NADRA). gretted.

The announcement came during a meeting chaired by CM Shah him-PM Shehbaz said,"I am thankful to the Muslim countries that have self. Commissioner City raised voices at different briefed the CM, outlining international forums inthe issuance of an addicluding the Organization of tional 2.5 lakh cards Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the UN Security Coun-

by June. These cards will provide access to free cil against the Israeli ag-gression." The Saudi Crown Prince, and the rulmedical treatment for workers and their families at designated dispensaries ers of the United Arab and hospitals.

8.5 lac Benazir Labor

workforce, comes after the

Secretary Labor and other countries were elaborated on the verificapersistently voicing their tion process, highlighting support for the hapless the use of National Identity Cards to ensure trans-

parency. CM Shah's vision extended beyond just card issuance. He emphasized the importance of small loans for workers, proposing the use of the labor card as a channel for facilitating such loans. Recognizing agriculture's significance for the national economy, he called for subsidizing seeds and fertilizers to encourage farmers. He also stressed the need for the agriculture

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza department to educate farmers on modern agricul-Gillani welcoming the Foreign Minister of tural techniques. Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Satellite PAKSAT-MM1

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a technologies that will historic development, Pakigreatly enhance the satelstan Space and Upper Atlite-based communication mosphere Research Comservices of the country and mission (SUPARCO) has will fulfill the needs of comannounced the successful mercial as well as governlaunch of Pakistan Multi ment users. High Throughput

Mission Communication System (HTS) technology



Pakistan's multi mission

satellite PAKSAT-MM1

launched successfully

from XiChang Satellite on board PakSat-MM1 will Launch Center (XSLC), China on Thursday. The satellite PakSat

MM1 has been jointly designed and developed by Pakistan. SUPARCO and China This will be the key Great Wall Industry Corpoto connect the unconnected ration (CGWIC). with the rest of the coun-According to the SUPARCO, this is a Geo-

try. PakSat MM1 will ensure affordable bandwidth stationary Satellite based on with higher reach within the country



Marwat during which the ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Forterrorists opened fire. In the eign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and prompt retaliatory fire, two Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Jevhun Bavramov terrorists were shot dead addressing a joint press stakeout at Ministry of while others managed to Foreign Affairs. escape.

Sindh to introduce e-logistics portal, e-payment facilities for ease of people: Sharjeel

KARACHI (APP): Sindh added that after digitization, Information Minister, all public services in those Sharjeel Inam Memon, Thursday, stated that provincial government will introduce an e-logistics portal and provide e-payment facilities for the ease of people and ensuring transparency.

ground for special children Sindh Senior Minister on 100 acres of land along Sharjeel Inam Memon, ad-Malir Expressway, the mindressing a press conference ister informed adding that after the Sindh Cabinet previously, many centers meeting, said that 16 out of total 48 departments of prothrough the efforts of the vincial governments includ-Sindh government and Sindh ing food, revenue, environ-Chief Minister Murad Ali ment, Sindh Building Con-Shah for persons with diftrol Authority and local govferent abilities. He said that ernments will be digitized 41 agenda items were disand their official work be cussed in detail and all decicomputerized so that sions made in the cabinet people's problems could be meeting were aimed at weladdressed online.

fare of the people of Sindh. The World Bank supported project will be comthat "Roti, Kapra, Makan" pleted this year and instrucis the slogan of the People's tions have also been issued Party and its Sindh governto the departments for framment had planned to build ing the necessary rules for housing societies for various the initiative, he said and departments.



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit, Excise Taxation and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon addresses to media persons during press conference, in Karachi.

Acting president for maximum public relief through upcoming budget

Thursday stressed the need

for extending maximum re-

the upcoming federal bud-

said this in a meeting with

Minister of Finance and

Revenue Muhammad

The acting president

enhance the revenue.

ISLAMABAD (APP): him here at the Aiwan-e-Acting President Syed Sadr. Yusuf Raza Gilani on

The finance minister briefed the acting president about the ongoing preparalief to the masses through tions for the upcoming people-friendly budget and get, and the formulation of the government's measures a comprehensive strategy to to reduce inflation.

The minister said that a remarkable reduction in the inflation rate manifested the government's constant and undeterred actions by Aurangzeb, who called on the government.

WB team acknowledges progress on infrastructure activities in flood hit areas He disclosed that at

KARACHI (APP): The World Bank Mission, reviewing progress on the activities of Sindh Flood Emergency Rehabilitation Project (SFERP) and its component P&DD, acknowledges the overall progress made so far is quite impressive both from the timeline and the quality of work, point of view.

This was stated by Shoaib Siddiqui, Senior Advisor to the Bank, during a review meeting held here on Thursday.

The meeting was and would be handed over chaired by Senior Disaster to Rescue Service for op-Risk Management Specialerations by December of ist, Ahsen Tehsin and also the current year. attended by Rehan Hyder and Nihan Rafique from pital emergencies after refurbishment had been the World Bank while Ghulam Asghar Kanasro handed over to the conand Aslam Leghari repre- cerned authorities, he sented the Project side, a added.

press release said. DG Rescue Service Dr Abid, during the review session informed that 16 satellite stations on Indus highway (N-55), N-5 and M-9 are complete and in the process of being finetuned. All these stations will become operational by almost two billion rupees August as the staff selected for handing these and Rs 672 million were stations is being trained in Rescue 1122 Academy,

Ten district head-

Moreover, Ten hos-

quarters are 68% complete

Lahore

present six thousand calls dealing with emergencies were being attended by rescue on daily basis.

During the meeting, it was informed that under livelihood program (Cash for Work program), had been disbursed so far in the process of being disbursed for the rehabilitation of almost two thousand schemes to 140,000 community workers who worked to develop community infra-

structure of their own villages. Out of these community workers 40% were female workers. All these workers were paid through mobile wallets making them bankable persons.

substantially boost connectivity to the last mile and will reshape the future of satellite communication in

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MW by 2018.

deposits

in

OPINION

Daily **Independent**

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

Debt trap

Pakistan's debt stock has grown exponentially in recent years. So have debt payments, putting pressure on the budget. With the government running an unsustainably high fiscal deficit that averaged 7.3pc of the economic output in the past five years, it is not surprising that the national debt has already surged to Rs78.9tr — including a domestic debt of Rs43.4tr and external loans of Rs32.9tr.

The country is in a debt trap where it must borrow more to pay back its existing debt domestic and external loans both. It is thus only natural for annual debt payments to also spike. For example, the authorities had anticipated debt servicing to jump to Rs7.3tr or almost 58pc of the budgeted expenditure for the ongoing fiscal. However, according to a report, they have now revised these estimates to Rs8.3tr.

The finance ministry's Mid-Year Budget Review Report for the outgoing year confirms these concerns. The report shows that the nation's debt payments spiralled by more than 64pc to Rs4.2tr during the first six months to December, an increase attributable not only to the mounting stock of debt accumulated to finance the fiscal deficit but also to the surge in the cost of domestic debt because of a record-high interest rate of 22pc. The report says the expenditure on debt servicing during the six-month period far outpaced tax revenue growth, bringing "spending on development to zilch"

In the report, the ministry has blamed elevated domestic interest rates for our growing debt servicing woes. With the government covering nearly 80pc of its fiscal deficit through commercial bank loans amid drying official foreign flows, the interest rates are of primary concern as domestic debt payments accounted for nearly 90pc of the total debt servicing costs during the first half of the fiscal. The cost of borrowing has proved to be a major shock for the entire economy, and not just for the government, as new private investment has come to a halt and growth has stagnated.

What the report doesn't discuss are the reasons behind this debt trap. While the higher interest rates are a burden, the main challenge is the government's failure to control its fiscal deficit that is forcing it to accumulate more debt every day. Indeed, a reduction in interest rates will provide relief but will not solve the issue of burgeoning deficit and debt accumulation.

The task before the government is to boost its tax-to-GDP ratio to the global average by tax-ing the economy's untaxed and undertaxed secvears tors, as well as eliminating wasteful expenditure to cut the fiscal deficit to sustainable levels to minimise its borrowing requirements for financing the budget. Do the authorities realise this and are they moving in this direction? We will know once the budget is announced next more

The heat is on

F.S. Aijazuddin projections of 54,000 MW. The installed capac-One day it was the cool comfort of spring. The ity for imported coalnext morning summer arbased power projects is rived with the force of an 3,960 MW, while local unwelcome intruder. Uncoal, sourced from Blocktil October, life will be hell I and Block-II of the Thar on earth, especially in coal mines, contributes 2,640 MW (2.6pc of hell's scorching suburb called Pakistan. 1994's ambitions). Feed-Yet again, our nation

stock of coal-based is caught between misplants is imported, like the matched policies and expensive ore used to their endless impact, bebankrupt Pakistan Steel tween our energy re-Mills. It comes from quirements and erratic South Africa and Indoneavailability. Over the past sia under long-term con-30 years, every governtracts, their price "unment has laid a Humpty regulated, lacking over-Dumpty egg of an energy policy. In March 1994, a sight in terms of price dete mination"

new energy policy, is-The 1994 policy insued with the benedictroduced an innovative tion of the World Bank, bulk power tariff, comprisaddressed three aspects: ing an energy price and a our inadequate capacity capacity price at a no-(then 10,800 MW), the tional total of 6.5 cents growth pattern of demand per kilowatt hour. The energy price covered fuel over the previous 25 years (eight per cent per cost and the variable opyear), and an anticipated erating costs of the equirement of 54,000 power plant (2.2 cents). Responsibility for fuel In September 1994, supply lay on the governthe US secretary of enment through Pakistan ergy, Hazel O'Leary (a State Oil or Sui Southern political version of Tina Gas. The capacity price of Turner and later presi-4.3 cents was calculated dent of an insolvent Fisk to cover debt repayment University), led a delegaobligations, fixed operattion of 90 American busiing and maintenance ness persons to Pakistan. costs and return on eq-During her visit, 16 agreeuity (17pc). The private ments were signed envissector plants were proaging an investment of \$4 tected against Wapda billion in Pakistan's enwaywardness through 'take or pay' provisions in power purchase agreeergy sector. Within two months, the Power and Infrastructure Board ments. Under the 'take or boasted that it had repay' clauses, Nepra tells ceived "an overwhelming us, "payments are made response ... with applicafor contracted capacity, tions for over 25,000 MW regardless of whether it against the target of is consumed or not. The about 5,000 MW till Dec. unutilised capacity places 1997". It also announced a financial burden on electhat the discovery of coal tricity consumers, who the end up paying for unused Tharparkar area of Sindh power. During FY2022-23, was "so large that even if the utilisation factor was half of it is extracted it can 34pc [...] and the amounts provide fuel for 100,000 paid to power plants MW power plants for 30 amounted Rs46.59bn'

Thirty years have In the 1990s, to impassed. According to prove efficiency in trans-Nepra's State of Energy mission and distribution, Report 2023, Pakistan's the World Bank perinstalled capacity in June suaded the government nance is weak. -- Cour-2023, stood at 45,885 to unbundle Wapda's tesy Dawn

MW, well below the 1994 downstream monopoly, creating independent localised distribution (Lesco, companies Pesco, etc.). Today, there are 12, each operating at varying levels of ineffi-Distribution ciency. losses involve a loss of Rs160.5bn. Pesco alone accounts for half the losses — at Rs77.35bn an unnecessary threat to inter-provincial harmony. Government officials watch mindlessly as the energy sector circular debt "jumped to Rs5.7 trillion as of November 2023". Rs2.7tr is owed in the power sector and Rs3tr in the gas sector.

Yet, the World Bank still advises that "companies specialising in infrastructure development can participate in projects aimed at enhancing the energy dis-tribution network". And the Asian Development Bank has committed \$250 million for "the Power Transmission Strengthening Project, which will help boost national grid stability, energy security, transmission capacity, and effective national transmission system

management" Meanwhile, consumers faced with daily power outages and escalating monthly energy bills wonder whether there is a solution to this power conundrum. Or are we condemned to scavenge for private sector alternatives (like home generators and rooftop solar panels) to compensate for public sector incompetence? One is reminded of

the response given by P. Chidambaram (then India's finance minister) to an inquisitor who asked him how he intended to implement his government's plans. His to terse reply was: "By doing it." Pakistanis can do it. They succeed every-

where else. Their flesh is willing; only their gover-

Commerce News

ArifAzad economic location marginalisation status.

ferences in life expectancy, which is a key indicator of population's health stasense, health inequality expectancy, which is intimately bound with socioeconomic status. The relationship is expressed in terms of the social gradient in health, which is measured by the gap between the least and the

terms of life expectancy. that in 2017-2019, women up to 86.4 years as commost deprived areas hope to live beyond 78 vears — an eight-year gap in life expectancy. Other factors influencing the trajectory of health inequalities are: limited or no access to healthcare, quality poor healthcare and risky behaviour such as smok-

The wider determinants of health such as transportation, education, housing, environment and incomes are also system-level coordinates that contribute and progress of health inequality in a society. Together, these factors create conditions that bottom of the socioeco-

Plugging the gap

In Pakistan, health

The term 'health inequalities' is understood as avoidable, unfair and systemic differences between health outcomes for different groups in a society. Different groups experience health inequalities differently based on their social and status, his work as the panethnicity, geographical and

One measure of the poor, elderly, and health inequality is difthe inequalities. inequalities. His work is the issue of health inequalities everywhere. inequalities are visible most deprived areas in to the naked eye. A highlevel government offi-

For example, one cial, who has a secure UK-based study found lifelong job, decent tages can ameliorate housing, hefty pension in the least deprived ar- and medical and health eas could expect to live cover, tends to live much longer than the orpared to those in the dinary Pakistani. A case in point is that of vinwhere they could not tage bureaucrats and military officers often making it into their 90s and even hitting a century. On the other hand, even among government services, those who are of not covered by substantial pension, housing and medical benefits

are less likely to make it beyond their 60s and 70s. Those beneath these tiers seem to fare poorly when it comes to life expectancy. At the end of the spectrum are those whose lives, hugely to the evolution blighted by poverty and structural disadvantage, continue to live shortened lives. It is not rare expose groups at the from poorer backgrounds dying in their 30s and 40s, nomic heap to the worst reflecting the health ineffects of health inequal- equalities they face.

ity, resulting in short-Pakistan remains a ened lifespans thanks to deeply unequal society as evidenced by the disease and deprivation. growing wealth, residential and geographiglossy housing societies and gated communities sitting side by side with slums is an indicator of the wealth gap mirroring the health gap. These gaps are being widened by policies that government-linked groups and privileged sections of society, thus worsening poverty. Such policies influence allocations, transp-ort guards, all of which have a bearing on the health outcomes of different groups in social

> Other key measures such as reducing the deprivation gap, increasing access to fully funded healthcare and removing social advanhealth inequalities to a great extent. The introduction and maintenance of universal health coverage, with a focus on primary healthcare and prevention, can further the project of reducing the rich-poor divide in life expectancy.

Furthermore, improving the quality of care and expanding social safety nets can also play a big part. The restoration of the local government system, which, among other things, keeps a vigilant eye on the status of health inequalities in a particular locality, as evidenced in the work of Prof Marmot, can go a long way in addressing long-term health inequalities. More importantly, more focused reto see men and women search on the patterns of health inequalities in Pakistan is what is immediately needed. --Courtesy Dawn

Prof Michael Marmot has done commendable work on cal gaps. The sight of health inequalities in the UK. Though he has been ploughing this lonely academic furrow for a long time, Covid-19 gave new salience to demic exposed health inequalities in a startling favour economic elites, new way, showing how ethnic minorities ended up bearing the brunt of Covid-exposed health More wider aspects of health broadly, the pandemic such as housing tus. In its broadest exposed inequities in ed--u-cation and health the worldwide distribuis effectively unequal life tion of vaccines, which and environmental safeexacerbated local health of vital importance and has wider application to systems.

Rana Tanveer says Government to import 200,000 metric tons of urea fertilizer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Industries, Production and National Food Security, Rana Tanveer Hussain on Thursday said that the government would import about 200,000 metric tons of urea fertilizer to ensure an uninterrupted supply of the commodity to farmers across the country.

He said this while chairing the second meeting the high-level committee, which reviewed the measures taken for fertilizer supply chain and pricing, said a press release.

Rana Tanveer said that adding that the smooth supply of urea comprehensive strategy distribution system and

added.

The

during Kharif season was had been formulated to overcome exploitation of priority of incumbent control the black marketing government, adding that all and smuggling of the Urea. necessary steps were being He called upon the taken to prevent smuggling provincial government to of fertilizers.

implement the initiatives The minister said that of the federal government protecting the interests of and enhance vigilance on farmers was top priority of distributions, adding that the government and all dealers would be strictly monitored for maintaining measures would be taken to ensure availability of transparency.

agriculture inputs, he The minister said that dealers and distributors minister involved in black marketing expressed the commitment would be dealt with with to supply of urea at iron hands, adding that affordable price to the measures would also be farmers in the country, taken to ensure merit and a transparency in the

the farmers. Minister for Power, Sardar Owais Leghari, Minister for Energy, Petroleum Musadik Malik attended the meeting. Member National Assembly, Syed Shah, Khursheed Muhammad Moin Watto, Azhar Khan Leghari Fatehullah Khan Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani also attended the meeting. Federal Secretary Food Security Muhammad Fakhar Alam and Federal Secretary Industry Wasim Ajmal

Chaudhry were also

present in the meeting.



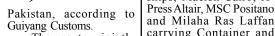
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with the representatives from Pakistan Association of Large Steel Producers (PALSP), Pakistan Steel Melters Association (PSMA), Pakistan Steel Re-Rolling Mills Association (PSRMA) and Pakistan **Steel Pipelines Association (PSPA).**

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication, Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in a meeting with tech company Lenovo.

New air cargo route to strengthen trade ties between China, Pakistan

BEIJING (APP): A new air Pakistan, according to cargo route inaugurated on May 28, linking Guizhou, China with Karachi, Pakistan will further strengthen trade ties between China and Pakistan. The route was launched with the departure of an all-cargo plane carrying 6 tonnes of freight, including clothing, electronics, and various commodities, from Guiyang, the capital of Guizhou, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

After nearly six hours of flight time, the plane arrived in Karachi. It will return to Guiyang loaded with blue crabs from Initiative (BRI) country.



and Milaha Ras Laffan carrying Container and The route, jointly opened by Guizhou Civil LNG berthed at Container Terminal and Port Gas Aviation Industry Group Co. Terminal respectively on Thursday. Meanwhile Ltd and China Logistics Group Co. (China Logistics three more ships, Maersk Group), is planned to be Pelepas, Zhida-6 and TRF carried out three times a week. Kobe scheduled to load/ carrying goods including offload Container, Rice and hardware accessories, clothing Chemicals also arrived at fabrics, electronic accessories outer-anchorage of the Port and so on. This air route is Qasim on during last 24 hours. A total of 10 ships significant as it marks the first direct connection between were engaged at PQA berths Guizhou and Pakistan, as during the last 24 hours, out well as the first air freight of them four ships, Atlantic route linking the province with a Belt and Road Ibis, X-Press Altair, MSC Positano

Shipping

ICAP hosts conference on 'Driving Economic Change 2024'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Accountants of Pakistan Speakers at a conference on (ICAP), said a press change and ensure a greener future for economic development and social prosperity in the country. The conference titled

"Driving Economic Change: Working Today for a Greener Tomorrow," was activity at organized by the Economic Advisory Committee of **Port Qasim** the Institute of Chartered KARACHI (APP): Four ships, Maersk Cairo, X-

Revenue

Speakers at a conference on (ICAP), said a press Thursday emphasized the release. Addressing the critical importance of conference Mohammad adopting sustainable Zubair, Former Governor economic practices to effectively combat climate urgent need for urgent need for collaborative efforts to address environmental challenges and promote sustainable practices in the country

He highlighted the roles of the government, private sector and civil future.

KPRA surpasses revenue collection target for FY 2023-24

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Authority members of the provincial (KPRA) has surpassed the revenue collection target for the financial year 2023-24 and has collected Rs.37 billion against the assigned revenue target of Rs.35 billion. This was told during a meeting of the Revenue Policy Board held here with Chief Minister Ali Amin the Khan in the chair, said an

ISLAMABAD (APP): ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) gained 41.82 points on Thursday, a slight positive change of 0.06 per cent, closing at 74.878.12 points against 74.836.30 official press release issued

here on Thursday. Besides, cabinet administrative secretaries and other concerned authorities also attended the meeting. The meeting was briefed in detail regarding the steps, success, and other matters of the revenue authority relating to the increase in

provincial government's income

Minister for Privatisation, Board of Investment and Communication Abdul Aleem Khan held a meeting Thursday with on prominent business figures from Tajikistan to discuss prospects for enhancing

bilateral trade and investment cooperation between the two countries. Over ten major

business groups from the textile, pharmaceutical, construction, IT, banking, and airline sectors attended market. the meeting. The investors

the previous day.

of Tajikistan ISLAMABAD (APP): expressed keen interest in businessmen constructing a goods Pakistan's private sector is terminal for import and ready to engage in trade export near the Pakistanwith other countries. He added that the government Tajikistan border, said a would incentivise foreign press release. investors to invest in free

Aleem Khan holds meeting

with prominent businessmen

The minister assured are open to businessmen from Central Asia. He emphasised that Pakistan could be a significant agricultural and trade

all possible support and economic zones and other patronage for business-toareas to promote industrial business activities, stating that all economic sectors

development in the country. Abdul Aleem Khan expressed hope that the bilateral business volume between Pakistan and Tajikistan would further increase with the frequent exchange of trade

that

He informed the and business delegations.

CNDS prioritize automation, digitization in institution

The Central Directorate of National Savings points against 74,836.30 (CNDS) is continuously points the previous day. A total of 410,575,241 shares valuing Rs 14.922 billion were traded during undergoing a process of institutional reforms in which automation and digitization are the main the day as compared to 408,073,662 shares valuing Rs 16.500 billion priorities.

The CDNS reforms programme was approved by the Cabinet

ISLAMABAD (APP): for structural changes in the prime institute in economic significance to provide better delivery service and equipped with modern tools for shifting from manual to innovative Information Technology (IT) services, the senior official of CNDS told APP here on Thursday.

society in driving positive change toward a greener **PSX** gains 41 points

ndependent

Friday May 31, 2024

National News

Page 03

Governor Punjab for strengthening Numbardari system in villages

Independent Report LAHORE: A delegation of Numbardar Pak Association Rawalpindi Haider Khan today at Governor House. The delegation congratulated Sardar Saleem Haider Khan on assuming office as the Governor of Punjab.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider said that the usefulness of Numberdari system cannot be denied. He said that strengthening the Numberdari System could

reduce the burden of work on various departments.

PESHAWAR

Pakistan Peoples Party

(PPP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

on Thursday has rejected the

provincial budget of the PTI

government for financial year

2024-25 saying it would

multiply the financial woes

of the people. Addressing a

press conference at Peshawar Press Club (PPC),

the Deputy Secretary

Information PPP Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa Gohar Inqilabi

said that budget used to be

annual economic planning

covering financial estimates

for the whole year, so it

should be based on actual

MULTAN: Staffers of Rescue 1122 participating in

pre-flood mock exercises at Head Muhammadwala.

PPP rejects KP budget,

says it would multiply

budgets

ahead

(APP):

He added that the various problems faced by government has also started them. The delegation to realize its significance. demanded the Governor Governor Punjab said that Punjab to revive the led by Malik Khalid the Numbardari system is Numbardari system. Numdar met Governor an effective system in Governor Punjab assured Punjab, Sardar Saleem solving the problems of the the delegation that he will people related to various talk to the Chief Minister departments in the villages. Governor Punjab said that by making the numbering system effective, many issues related to agriculture, land and revenue departments could be solved at the grass root level. He said that an empowered Numberdari System would facilitates the government officials.

On this occasion, the delegation informed the Punjab Governor about the Authority.

of Punjab to solve their problems. Meanwhile Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan met Vice Chairperson Punjab Social Protection Authority (PSPA) here today at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, Vice Chairperson PSPA briefed Governor Puniab about the ongoing welfare programmes of Punjab Social Protection

One more kidnapped

HIKARPUR: One Loader Rekshaw driver accompanied with his Loader was Kidnapped from Chak on Thursday.

some group of 10 armed men intercepted the two loader rekshaws and after looting them took away one of Loader Rekshaw driver forcibly named Arif Ali son of Barkat Ali Soomro in-

cluding with his Loader Rekshaw on gun point towards katcha area of Chak.

in Shikarpur

Independent Report Thursday in the jurisdic-tion of Dakhan police sta-

LAHORE: A delegation of Pak Numbardar Association Rawalpindi led by Malik Khalid Numdar photographed with Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

Pre-flood

mock exercise

held at river

Chenab

Syed Qasim Ali says: **'Cancer is a serious** health problem'

Pakhtunkhwa Health

Pakhtunkhwa on Tourism,

Culture and Archeology, Zahid Chanzeb, has said

that in the provincial

budget of the new financial

year, a huge chunk of Rs9.66 billion has been

allocated for promotion of

tourism industry in the

province and this amount

is 25 per cent more than

the past few years. exchange This, he said, was from it.

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Khyber issued here.

MULTAN (APP): Rescue Health Minister Syed 1122, along with line departments, conducted a Qasim Ali Shah and MNA Arbab Sher Ali attended the pre-flood mock exercise at ceremony as special guests. the Chenab River to avert Chairman Board of an expected flood-like Governor Dr. Umar Ayub situation. Khan, MD Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ayaz Khan,

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Revenue, Chairperson General Surgery Prof. Dr. Mah Faizan Ahmad Riaz. inspected the exercises and Munir Khan, Assistant Prof. Dr. Irum Sabir, and camps established by district departments.

Emergency Officer Rescue 1122 Engineer Bilal gave a briefing about preparations regarding floods and initiatives.

drills The demonstrated various rescue operations, including shifting flood victims to safer places via boats, providing first aid to the injured, and moving them to field hospitals.

PESHAWAR (APP): proof of the interest of Adviser to the Chief Chief Minister Ali Minister Khyber Amin Gandapur to Rescue personnel also showcased their develop tourism in the swimming skills to rescue individuals without boats, During an informal and divers demonstrated conversation with some techniques to save drowning individuals. media representatives here on Thursday, he clarified Faizan

ADCR that tourism is the only Ahmad, on this occasion, sector in which there were said that the district investment administration was fully opportunities and huge alert regarding the expected revenue and foreign flood under the directions exchange could be incurred of the Punjab government. with the martyrs' Suleman.

Khawaja Salman regret over Rs. 347bln annual wastage on smoking in Pakistan

Independent Report AHORE: Punjab Health Department of Primary and Secondary Healthcare to Ministers Khawaja Salman Rafique and Khawaja address the pressing issue Imran Nazir expressed deep regret over the annual wastage of Rs 347 billion on smoking in Pakistan.

The ministers made these remarks while speaking as special guests at an awareness seminar on 'World No Tobacco Day" held at the Institute of Public Health on Thursday. The event was cigarettes, contribute organised by the Non-communicable Disease addiction.

of tobacco addiction. Khawaja Imran Nazir, Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare, highlighted this year's theme of"World No Tobacco Day", which focuses on protecting the young generation from smoking. He pointed out that different forms of smoking,

(NCD) programme of the

including shisha and e-

Scholarships awarded to martyrs of Tank police children

DERA ISMAIL KHAN children and heirs. (APP): District Police Officer (DPO) Tank, Abdul Salam Khalid on Thursday awarded educational scholarships to children of the police martyrs.

Raisi in a helicopter crash,

Ahmad Vahidi told state TV.

successor to Supreme Leader

Avatollah Ali Khamenei -

hardliners to influence the se-

lection of Iran's next leader.

istration period, the Guard-

After the five-day reg-

Once seen as a possible

According to a police spokesman, the scholarship cheques RashId, were handed over at his Constable Samiullah,

On this occasion, he addressed the families and children of Shaheed ASI Amir Azam Shah, Shaheed Constable Muhammad Tariq, Shaheed Constable Mohsin Ali, Shaheed Constable Abdul Shaheed office where he met and Shaheed Constable

public woes mere assumptions. He said that being a federal parliamentary system, the provincial governments were used to present their annual after announcement by the federal government. However, this year, he said the PTI government in KP violated this tradition announced it the federal government. The PPP leader said

that before the budget, the session of the provincial assembly was delayed to prevent the oath taking of the women and minorities facts and figures and not on legislators.

Independent Report

Minister, Syed Qasim Ali Shah, announced on According to initial reports reached here that Thursday chemotherapy used in the treatment of breast cancer will be included in the

health card very soon. He made announcement while speaking at an important function on breast cancer services organized at Khyber Teaching Hospital, according to a press release

One more vehicle snatched

HIKARPUR: The law and order situation of District Shikarpur could not be improved which caused one more vehicle car was snatched and the travellers were deprived of Mobile Phones, Cash and other valuables on

tion. According to reports, some group of armed men came on roads again and snatched one vehicle car (Alto) on Shikarpur.

other faculty members participated in the management of Khyber Teaching Hospital. **Rs9.66 billion allocated** for tourism uplift in KP budget: Advisor Tourism

province.

more

International News

that

this

Slovenia recognises Palestinian state following in footsteps of Spain, Ireland, Norway

Monitoring Desk LJUBLJANA: The Slovenian government on Thursday approved a decision to recognise an independent Palestinian state, Prime Minister Robert Golob said, following in the steps of Spain, Ireland and Norway. Today the government has decided to recognise Palestine as an independent and sovereign state," he said at a news conference in Ljubljana.

Parliament speaker Urska Klakocar Zupancic told a press conference in Liubliana that Slovenian lawmakers are to vote on Tuesday on whether to recognise the Palestinian state. "The session is scheduled for Tuesday from 4pm (1400 GMT)," Zupancic said.

The move is part of a wider effort by countries to coordinate pressure on Israel to end the bombardsince a cross-border October 7 attack by fighters in which some 1,200 people were killed and over 250 taken hostage, according to Israeli tallies. Nearly 130 hostages are believed to remain captive in Gaza.

Gaza health authorities say more than 36,000 Palesstate tinians have been killed in the Israeli bombardment over the past seven months that has generated global criticism. PM Golob also called for the immediate cessation of hostilities between Israel and Hamas in Gaza and the release of all hostages. "This is the message of peace," he said. The Slovenian government raised a Palestinian flag alongside the flags of

Slovenia and the EU in front of its building in downtown Ljubljana. On May 28, Spain,

ian state.

fighting in European **Parliament election**

Monitoring Desk BRUSSELS: Voters in the 27 countries of the European Union will elect 720 lawmakers to the European Parliament for the next five years on June 6-9 and are expected to deliver a shift to the right.

The parliament has for the past five years been governed by a three-group majority of the centre-right European People's Party, centre-left Socialists and Democrats and liberals of Renew Europe.

Together they have steered EU policy, which has included the Green Deal and the EU response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and divided between them top jobs at EU institutions.

These are the political groups of the outgoing parliament. The groups of the hard and far right have proved the most fluid, regrouping, renaming and relaunching since the last elec- cieties fairer.

ment in Gaza. Israel has Ireland and Norway offibeen fighting against Hamas cially recognised a Palestinian state, prompting an angry reaction from Israel. Of the 27 members of

the European Union, Sweden, Cyprus, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria have already recognised a Palestinian

Malta has said it could follow soon. Britain and Australia have said they are also considering recognition, but France has said now is not the time.

Germany joined Israel's staunchest ally, the United States, in rejecting a unilateral approach, insisting that a two-state solution can only be achieved through dialogue.

Denmark's parliament on Tuesday voted down a bill to recognise a Palestin-

heat in a year

due to climate

Monitoring Desk

Heat is the leading

flows.

Seven political groups

change: report tion. The centre-right group is the largest in the European PARIS: The world experi-Parliament, dominated by enced an average of 26 more German Christian Democrats, with a fair smattering days of extreme heat over of Poles and Romanians. the last 12 months that The group has forged would probably not have occurred without climate

an alliance with the socialists and liberal Renew Euchange, a report said on rope for the past five years, Tuesday. dividing up senior posts and cause of climate-related driving through policies such as the "Green Deal" death and the report further But it has become more points to the role of global sceptical towards the green warming in increasing the push in the lead-up to the frequency and intensity of extreme weather around the election

The centre-left group world For this study, scienis the second-biggest in the tists used the years 1991 European Parliament, with its largest bloc of MEPs to 2020 to determine what from Spanish Prime Mintemperatures counted as ister Pedro Sanchez's Sowithin the top 10 per cent cialist Workers Party. for each country over that It became the focus of period.

Next, they looked at the Qatargate cash-for-lobthe 12 months to May 15, bying scandal in late 2022 after the arrest of some of 2024, to establish how its MEPs and staff. It says many days over that period its priority is to fight unexperienced temperatures employment and make sowithin — or beyond — the previous range.

BRUSSELS: Protesters hold smoke bombs as they attend a demonstration in support of the people of Gaza in front of the embassy of Israel. **Israel undermines goals**

by harming civilians in Gaza, US tells UN

Hamas militants and had the enclave, the United not intended to harm civilians. Algeria on Tuesday States told the UN Security put forward a draft UN Se-Council on Wednesday. 'The continued patcurity Council resolution that essentially orders Is-

tern of significant civilian rael to "immediately halt harm resulting from inciits military offensive" in dents like Sunday's Rafah. On Wednesday, airstrikes undermines Wood told reporters that Israel's strategic goals in Gaza," deputy US Ambas- Washi sador to the UN Robert ing it. Washington was review-

Indonesia volcano belches ash tower 2 km into the sky

BUKIT TINGGI (INP): A a statement.

volcano in western Indo-The volcano — one of Indonesia's most active nesia erupted on Thursday, spewing an ash cloud - has been at the secondtwo kilometres into the highest alert level of the sky as authorities warned country's four-tiered residents over potential system for weeks, with dangers from cold lava authorities advising people to stay outside a Mount Merapi in 4.5-kilometre exclusion zone around its crater.

West Sumatra province erupted at 1:04 pm (0604 Local residents are advised to be vigilant GMT), spewing thick grey clouds of ash two over threats of cold lava flows following the eruption , BNPB kilometres (1.2 miles) above its peak, the naeruption spokesman Muhari said tional disaster mitigation agency, or BNPB, said in

Abdul

Black woman lawmaker set to be barred from elections **Monitoring Desk** LONDON: Britain's first

UK's first

Black woman lawmaker, Diane Abbott, said on Wednesday she was dismayed the opposition Labour Party looked set to bar her as an election candidate over comments she made over a year ago about Jews and racism.

Abbott, 70, is Britain's longest-serving Black member of parliament.

French film director recounts ordeal after arrest in India for attending Dalit march PARIS (INP): French film

director Valentin Hénault has spoken out about his harrowing experience of being arrested and jailed in India for attending a Dalit march in Uttar Pradesh last October. Hénault was arrested by police on October 10, 2023, after attending an "Ambedkar's people's march" led by peasant women demanding land rights for Dalits. He was accused of violating visa conditions and was taken to Gorakhpur prison, where he was subjected to harsh conditions.

Iran registers presidential candidates for early vote after Raisi's death Monitoring Desk

most two weeks for the election campaign," Vahidi TEHRAN: Iran on Thurstold state TV day began registering candi-

The Guardian Council next month following the will publish the list of qualified candidates on June 11.

Moderate politicians have accused the 12-member hardline Guardian Council of disqualifying rivals to hardline candidates, who are expected to dominate the upcoming presidential race. Turnout may be hit by redeath triggered a race among stricted choice on the ballot and rising discontent over an array of political, social and economic crises

Within Iran's complex ian Council, which overmix of clerical rulers and sees elections and legislaelected officials, Khamenei tion, will vet the candihas the final say on all state dates running for the presidency. "The vetting matters such as nuclear and foreign policies, but the process will be seven elected president will be in days and then qualified candidates will have al-

Haiti transition council taps former PM Conille to again lead country dential powers, and its

Monitoring Desk head, Edgard Leblanc, act-Haiti's transition council ing as a de facto president, are now tasked with holdtapped former Prime Mining elections before Feb 7. ister Garry Conille, who 2026, as laid out in Haiti's briefly led the country over constitution. a decade ago, to return to the role as the Caribbean sions within the transition nation works to restore stacouncil after hearings with bility and take back control the candidates for prime

from violent gangs. minister, Dr. Garry Conille The transition council voted 6-1 to install Conille was chosen by consensus to lead the government duras interim prime minister, a ing this transition period," member told Reuters.

Leblanc said on X. Conille's extensive re-The presidency's press office later published sume in development, working largely with the United Nations, is considered key to shoring up international support as Haiti prepares to launch a UNbacked security mission led by Kenya, though its deployment has faced net.

cil has chosen me as the new Prime Minister of Haiti,' Conille said on X. "Together, we will work for a better tomorrow for all the children of our nation." The transition council, which holds some presi-

a statement saying the transition council, together with the new prime minister, would now move forward with choosing people for the new government's cabi-"I feel very honored ment underscores long-that the Presidential Coun- awaited progress in Conille's appoint-

"Following discus-

Haiti's political process following Prime Minister Ariel Henry's resignation in March after he left Haiti to seek support for the Kenvan security mission and was unable to re-enter the country



Wood told the 15-member Monitoring Desk council. An airstrike on Sun-UNITED NATIONS: Israel must do more to proday set off a blaze in a tent camp in Rafah in southern tect Palestinian civilians in Gaza and should "remove Gaza, killing at least 45 people. Israel — a US ally — said it had targeted all barriers to the flow of 26 extra days aid at scale through all crossings and routes" into of extreme

Pakistan, Azerbaijan resolve to enhance bilateral cooperation including in trade, connectivity

PM for mutually beneficial stronger Pakistan-Azerbaijan trade, investment ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Azerbaijan on Thursday resolved to enhance cooperation in multiple sectors including trade, investment, energy and connectivity to exploit the huge potential of the friendly relationship between the two countries.

The bilateral ties and cooperation were discussed as Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov met here and discussed the multidimensional bilateral and regional agenda encompassing bilat-eral and international matters

Addressing a joint press stakeout, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar told the media that both countries would further enhance cooperation in trade, investment connectivity, energy and defence sectors.

He said the two countries were taking measures

to increase bilateral invest- and principled support or ment, especially in the energy sector. The joint working group on energy would be critical in promoting cooperation in this sector, he added.

He said both countries exchanges to promote business-to-business and academic linkages, besides boosting cooperation in re-

newable energy. The deputy prime minister expressed good wishes for Azerbaijan to host the COP 29 meeting and assured Pakistan's support.

Both sides held a detailed discussion on the prevailing situation in Gaza and called for an immediate cessation of Israeli hostilities and the establishment of an independent Palestine state with Ouds Al Sharif as its

capital

the Kashmir issue and reiterated Pakistan's support for Azerbaijan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov

also desired to promote told the media that in their parliamentary and cultural meeting, they discussed ways to strengthen cooperation and strategic partnership to take the bilateral relationship to the next level. He said the huge po

tential for economic and trade cooperation remained untapped which necessitated the launch of joint economic projects in energy, tourism, transport, information technology, pharmaceuticals and trans-

He told the meeting that the 8th Pakistan-Azerbaijan Inter-Governmental Commission to be held in

Islamabad later this year Ishaq Dar thanked would give further impetus Azerbaijan for its constant to economic cooperation



calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Universities to function as technology and knowledge incubators: CM Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Sindh short period and continues Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah stated that universities should function as 'technology and knowledge incubators," where innovative ideas are discussed, and future leaders are nurtured.

This he said while speaking at the 4th Convocation of the DHA Suffa University at DHA Golf & Country Club on Thursday evening DHA Suffa Univer-

sity Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ahmed Saeed Minhas, Chairman HEC Sindh Dr Tariq Rafi, Dr Abdul Bari and others also spoke on the accession

He said that it was satbuilding isfying for him to see DHA Suffa University come a long way since it started in the year 2012. Undoubtedly, the University has taken rapid strides in a very

to progress at an unrelent-ing pace. Management Sciences 'DHA Karachi has always Murad Shah congratugiven due emphasis to the lated the University's Vice uplift of quality education Chancellor, senior management, and worthy faculty

and made it accessible to the Pakistani youth. Unmembers for their efforts in doubtedly, the progress and shaping the futures of economic prosperity of any young graduates. Your vision has been a nation rests in the hands of its academia," he said.

Engineering, Computer and

beacon of guidance and has Universities are meant to serve as 'Technology' infused determination among students, he said and and 'Knowledge Incubaadded that DHA Suffa was tors', where innovative well on its way to becomideas are debated, and fuing a globally recognized ture minds are shaped to institution for higher edu-cation and research, which lead the nation, the CM said and added it was a matwould extend the frontiers of knowledge and contribute significantly to nation-Murad Shah said that

Playgroup to Postgraduate level, including PhDs in trepreneurship and Innova-tion Center "Aghaz".

Sherry calls for urgent Law minister chairs meeting climate action at "Road on remission policy

ISLAMABAD (APP) Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Thursday chaired a very significant meeting of the inter-ministerial committee to discuss the Ministry of Interior's Remission Policy of 2002.

The meeting was at tended by representatives from the Ministries of Law and Justice, Interior, Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety along with officials from the Home Department Punjab Home Department Sindh, and Home Department KPK. During the meeting, the participants presented their legal perspectives and suggestions for improving the remission policy 2002. Emmate knows no barriers tion from fossil fuels is

Friday May 31, 2024

Roshan Pakistan programme to end energy crisis: Awais

Awais Laghari said

The Federal Minister

He said that more

that where the losses are less

than 20%, unfortunately,

the power supply to these

feeders also remained off

of Energy said that if they

for a few hours.

SLAMABAD (APP): ederal Minister for Energy"Power Division" Awais Ahmad Khan Laghari on Thursday said that the 'Roshan Pakistan' programme will eliminate the energy crisis in the coun-

start supplying this elec-While holding a press tricity to these areas, the conference with Minister of losses will increase to such State Ali Pervaiz Malik in an extent that the Pakistani economy will be further Islamabad, Federal Energy Minister Awais Laghari said destroyed. "Until our disthat the electricity demand tribution companies deterwas 25,820 megawatts across Pakistan on May 29, mine their direction and address these losses with the of which 21,588 megawatts help of provincial governhave been produced and ments, this load shedding supplied from within our will continue" he informed system. However, he said with certainty. ,232 MW was the load shedding. steps are being taken in the

He said that this load energy sector including shedding was done only on elimination of load shed those feeders, where losses ding and electricity theft. are occurring. "From 20 per He said that the Roshan cent to 100 per cent where Pakistan programme will our losses are occurring, end the energy crisis by showing the data on the demand and supply of 4,232 megawatts of electricity was not provided there" he added. each feeder.



WASHINGTON: Grey Andrulis, Executive Director, DC Soccer Club meets with Ambassador Masood Khan.

CDWP recommends two projects worth Rs609.45b to ECNEC for consideration

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) here on Thursday recommended two projects worth Rs609.45 billion to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Coun-cil (ECNEC) for consideration.

The CDWP met here with Secretary Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives Awais Manzur Sumra in chair and it was also attended by the members of the Planning Commission, as well as of the project was the representatives from fed- construction of 108 MW

cial governments

press release.

The Golden Gol Hydropower Project (108 MW) Chitral, (2nd revised)" worth Rs. 42,002 million was recommended to ECNEC for further consideration. The sources of finance is OPEC Fund for International Development US \$30 million) Saudi Fund for Development (US\$ 97.8 million) Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development (US\$ 52.5 million) USAID (US\$ 35.6 million grant).

The main objective eral ministries and provin- hydropower project with an annual en

Industry Omar Saud Al-Omar signing the MoU. Polio campaign set for June in Mirpurkhas:

the campaign.

Mirpurkhas.

KUWAIT: Federal Minister for Communications, Investment Board and

Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan and Kuwait's Minister of Commerce and

ADC Mirpurkhas MIRPURKHAS (APP): Additional Deputy Com-missioner Mirpurkhas Ghulam Dastgir Sheikh emphasized on Thursday that the urgent need to eradicate polio, citing the permanent lisabilities it causes in chil-

Chairing a preparatory 1,017 mobile teams, 97 meeting for the upcoming fixed teams, 231 area in-

Narayandas revealed comprehensive preparations for Covering 13 districts Matiari across Sindh, the campaign aims to vaccinate 348,465 children under five in with official prices. Accompanied by As-

2 LICMOs at

DC Matiari conducts surprise visit to enforce official prices

HYDERABAD (APP) The Deputy Commissioner Yousuf Shaikh conducted a surprise visit to various hotels, naan and chapati sellers to ensure compliance

sistant Commissioner Abdul Sattar Shaikh and Mukhtarkar Sanaober, he

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Sherry Rehman on Thursday emphasized the need for immediate and genuine action to address climate change.

the chief guest at the "Road to Climate Resilient Pakiof chapati stan: Reducing Our Carbon Footprint" conference, hosted by Islamic Relief Muhammad Pakistan and the National

Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF), Sherry Rehman said. "Climate is one conversalocal to global because cli- marked, "Pakistan's transi-

to Climate Resilient Pakistan" conference pact people and communities anywhere in the world. We have just seen a cyclone

hit Bangladesh, and floods in Brazil and Afghanistan. Pakistan, too, is in the middle of a debilitating, She was speaking as

scorching heatwave. She cited that Mohenjo Daro was re-corded as the planet's hottest place with 53 degrees centigrade, reminding the world that such temperatures don't support human life. Speaking about Pakistan's transition to retion that must connect from newable energy, Sherry re-

ter of immense pride for him to see DHA Karachi mindful of this reality and its academic flagship, DHA Suffa University, is focus-ing on "Be the Job Providappreciated DHA Karachi's role in providing ers Instead of Job Seekers" quality education from through its Centre for En-

uled for June 3-7, 2024, at the District Health Office, Sheikh stressed the importance of enhancing the performance of polio teams and improving the microplan to ensure no child is Dr Mazhar Ali, and other left un-vaccinated.

District Health Officer Dr Jiramdas and District Focal Person for the weather-responsive de-Polio Program Dr ployment of polio teams.

transit points. Assistant Commissioners HI Colonel Akhtar Ali, Abdul Ghaffar Lakhir,

Shehryar Habib, Stuni Commissioner Shujaabad relevant officials participated in the meeting, committing to a strategic and

enforce the official rates of chapati and naan issued by the district administration. During the visit, warnings were issued to violators, which were fixed to provide relief to the public.

SSP enquires **SEPA team visits plastic** after health of injured in Civil bags wholesalers shop in Nawabshah

bags across the city.

HYDERABAD (APP): Environment Protection Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) Shaheed Benazirabad team visited plastic bags wholesalers and retailers shops.

According to the details, under the direction of Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Coastal Dost Development Muhammad Rahmon, Secretary Environment, Climate Change and Coastal Development Nabila Umar, Director General SEPA, Naeem Ahmed Mughal, Regional In-charge of SEPA,

Dr Gul Amir Sambal Sindh the rules

KARACHI: Security personals inspect a vehicle, At least two brothers were killed and two others injured after unidentified gunmen opened fire on their car near Guru Mandir in Karachi on Thurs day morning.

Two brothers killed in shooting

KARACHI (INP): At least two brothers were killed after unidentified gunmen opened fire on their car near Karachi's Guru Mandir area on Thursday morning.

According to Superintendent of Police Aleena Raipar. the incident appears to be a case of target killing. According to the police, the attack involved four

suspects who fired multiple rounds at the vehicle. "Two of the victims were critically injured and later succumbed to their injuries while the other two injured have been shifted to the hospital," she said. A 9mm pistol was used in the firing, while 18 bullet casings have been recovered from the incident's site, she added.

The police said it had collected evidence from the crime scene and launched investigation into the incident. the collision.

Hospital HYDERABAD (APP) The Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Dr Farukh Agency (SEPA) SBA team Ali on Thursday visited Civil Hospital and enquired visited shops selling plastic after the health of injured bags in Nawabshah city. taken out after gas cylinder During the visit, it was

observed that most of the blast occurred in pretabad vendors are still buying and area A police spokesman, Medical Superintendent selling banned polythene Civil Hospital, Provincial In this regard, the SEPA team strictly in Minister, relevant DSPs SHO and Incharge DIB structed them to stop this were also present on the activity and use alternative biodegradable plastic bags. occasion.

SSP directed Hospital They were asked to management to provide evstrictly follow the environery possible medical assismental laws otherwise action would be taken as per tance to fire victims.

Talking to media SSP said that police teams were carrying out rescue activities and injured including male, female and children fortunate were being shifted to Civil Hospital.

He said that every ended as ensure best health facilities was our top priority and fire incident would also be investigated.

One killed in added traffic accident

KARACHI (APP): One killed while another sustained serious injuries on Thursday in a traffic accito invest in Pakistan. dent near the Baloch

The business leader

cern.

Colony Flyover on Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi. According to a private news channel, the accident occurred when an over speeding car collided with another car coming from the opposite direction. The deceased was identified as Zaigham, while the injured was identified as Ali. Both the injured and the deceased were promptly transported to a nearby hospital for fur-

ther medical treatment. Po

lice has initiated an investigation into the incident to ascertain the exact cause of

when it changes. It can im- quite doable



KARACHI: The world's largest cargo ship, MSC Anna has made a historic arrival at Karachi Port Trust (KPT) in Karachi.

Foreign investment decline to 50-year lowest level matter of concern: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chairsaid that the prime minisman of National Business ter was trying hard to at-Group Pakistan, President tract investment in the Pakistan Businessmen and country, and Saudi Arabia Intellectuals Forum, All and the United Arab Emir-Karachi Industrial Alliance, ates have assured him of fifand former provincial minteen billion dollars of inister Mian Zahid Hussain vestment said that decline of foreign

However, the prices of electricity and gas, the investment to lowest level of fifty years of the counhighest policy rate, and try is matter of grave conpolitical instability were hampering the PM's plans, Talking to business he noted.

community on Thursday, He said that at the he said the lack of investsame time, some politicians ment could affect the availwere not ready to play a ability of a new IMF proserious and positive role gram, which would be unand were fanning instabil-Mian Zahid Hussain

Mian Zahid Hussain said that some irresponsible said that according to the politicians were bent on latest data, the ratio of inpushing the country into vestment in Pakistan has crisis, which will also cost reached the lowest level in the last fifty years. During them their supporters. Economic stability the current financial year,

has come to the country it remained at 13.1 percent due to the efforts of Prime of the GDP, which is less Minister Shahbaz Sharif, he than the target of 15.1.

Apart from this, there However, political has been a significant destability has not come, crease in the ratio of public and private sector investwhich has caused investors ment to GDP. This rate has to be worried and not ready come to the lowest level in 25 years.



road as they are holding protest demonstration against the prolonged electricity load shedding during hot weather of summer season, at Naundero Chowk in Larkana.

phasizing the need for a more liberal, reformative approach, the minister encouraged attendees to submit their suggestions in writing and assured them of legal assistance on any queries.

Larkana police arrest 10 accused recover weapon, phone, bike

LARKANA (APP) Larkana police arrested 10 accused from different areas while taking action against criminals and recov ered weapons, hashish, stolen motorcycle and valuable mobile phones.

Dari police arrested four accused Wasim Chandio, Rameez Machhi, Fayaz Mangrio and Wasim Soomro wanted by police in different cases, Allahabad police arrested two drug dealers Khalil Abro and Talib Sheikh and recovered 2.5kg hashish, Bakapure police arrested Farid Abro who was involved in more than 20 cases of drug dealing, police arrested Khalid Malik from Tangwani District Kashmore Ratodero with a gun without license and cartridges, police also arrested accused Riyaz in-

volved in more than 10 cases of serious nature and Fatehpure police arrested the wanted suspect Rahab Machhi.

Two abducted labourers rescued after two months

SHIKARPUR (INP): The police safely rescued two kidnapped labourers here on Thursday after two months of abduction.

According to details, the labourers were abducted from limits of Naparkot police station in Shikarpur while were on their back to home after attending gathering of political party some two months earlier and shifted to Kaccha area.

The police on an intelligence tip-off conducted targeted operation in Kaccha area and safely rescued both labourers including Sanaullah Soomro and Bashir Phorr.

SSP Shikarpur said that chase of the kidnappers was underway and they would be arrested shortly.

SC rejects request for live streaming of NAB

said a

amendments case ISLAMABAD (APP):

e Insaf (PTI) appeared before the court through the video link service. The chief justice re-

marked that this case shouldn't be run through live streaming as it was not a matter of public interest.

The court subsequently dismissed the misellaneous application of the KP government with a majority of four and one. Justice Athar Minallah contradicted the decision. On the occasion, the federation's lawyer Makhdoom Ali Khan concluded his arguments while Khawaja Haris requested for three hours to complete the same



HYDERABAD: Firefighters trying to extinguish inferno erupted in a house on Thursday, and cooling the gas cylinders after a blast in a gas cylinder shop in Paretabad area of the city, some 20 people burnt and injured, 5 people shifted to Provincial Capital.

Commissioner urges parents to administer two doses of measles vaccine

sional Commissioner problem and make every Sukkur, Fayyaz Hussain Abbasi on Thursday has directed the health department to administer two doses of measles vaccine to all the children across the Sukkur division.

Presiding over a meeting at his office, he said that parents should also urge to cooperate with the administration. A comprehensive immunization program should be started so that the vaccine can reach as many children as possible, he added. Commissioner

SUKKUR (APP): Divi- officials to solve this possible effort to convince different communities about the safety and benefits of the vaccine. He said that the gov

ernment is committed to provide all necessary support for the vaccination program and urged all stakeholders to work together to tackle this public health issue. In the meeting, some important decisions were taken under the action plan in which the vaccinators have to implement microplans for routine immuni-Abbasi urged the health zation on a daily basis.

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The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Thursday rejected the request of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government for live broadcasting of proceedings on appeals against termina-

tion of NAB amendments. A five-member larger bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Amin ud Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi heard the appeals moved by the federation.

During the hearing, the founder of Pakistan Tehreek

476 GWh.