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QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail being about law and order situation in the province

Overall law & order situation satisfactory in 8 divisions & 36 districts: Establishment of sustainable peace inevitable for political stability & economic dev: Governor Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has categorically stated that establishment of sustainable peace is inevitable for the political stability and economic development. He said that there is a key role of owners of mines and minerals in economy and trade of the province. If all traders especially mines and minerals' owners were not provided complete protection, then other sectors may also be affected. Therefore, the living standard of the people would be raised by improving law and order, promoting economic activities and protecting traders' community, but new opportunities of livelihood would also be available to the people. The Governor was of

the view that the overall law and order situation is satisfactory in all eight divisions and 36 districts of the province, but still there is a need to take some more steps in this regard. He also stressed the need to establish strong coordination among the law enforcement agencies to cope with the terrorism in the province including Quetta. The Governor was speaking during the briefing conducted on the latest situation of law and order in the province, here on Monday. Those who were present on the occasion were: Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Zahid Saleem, Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, Principal Secretary to Govern-

nor, Hashim Khan Ghilzai, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat and Director General Levies, Naseebullah Kakar and others. The Governor on the occasion expressed concern over increasing crimes in urban areas of the province for comprehensive strategy is needed. Taking notice of the incidents of increasing street crimes, traffic issues in the provincial capital, the Governor directed to the district administration to take result-oriented steps for bringing improvement in the situation. He strongly believed that the protection of life and property of the people and elimination of crimes can open up the avenues of sustainable peace and development in the province.

PM directs immediate abolishment of Pak PWD

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed for immediate dissolution of the Pakistan Public Works Department (Pak PWD) due to years' long poor performance and corruption.

The prime minister issued the directive during a high level meeting held on reducing the government expenditures and the size of its infrastructure, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

During the meeting, the prime minister observed that the Pak PWD as a department had failed to achieve its objectives and asked for an alternate mechanism for the development projects which were tasked to it.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Min-

ister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Economic Affairs Ahmad Khan Cheema, PM's Adviser on Political Affairs Rana Sanaulah, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Jehanzeb Khan and other relevant senior officials.

For reduction of government expenditures, the prime minister was apprised of a report compiled by a committee headed by Chairman Deputy Planning Commission Jehanzeb Khan. The committee had recommended for abolishment of certain government entities and merger of others. The prime minister directed the committee for finalization of further recommendations.

Coal mine company Manager, contractor among 11 persons suffocated to death in Sanjdi

Independent Report

QUETTA: At least 11 persons including a Manager of private coal mine company, contractor and nine mine workers died due to suffocation in a coal mine located in Sanjdi mine field near Quetta on Monday evening.

The Chief Mines Inspector Abdul Ghani confirmed the casualties occurred due to the suffocation after poisonous gas filled in the coal mine while they were busy in mining activity.

He said that the bodies of all dead persons have been retrieved from the affected coal mine.

The coal mine has also been sealed, he added.

The Chief Mines Inspector further informed

that the bodies of the ill fated mine workers are being dispatched to their native areas. He said that the deceased mine workers belonged to Sawat area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Meanwhile, the spokesman, Government of Balochistan, Shahid Rind said that the preliminary report of the Mines and Mineral Development regarding the coal mine mishap has been received.

According to the report, the poisonous gas was spread in the coal mine which caused suffocation and death of 12 persons including a contractor and Mines Manager.

Shahid Rind said that the incident was occurred in coal mine of a private mines company.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Revenue Mir Asim Kurd Gailu meeting with Provincial Minister for Communication and Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa

Elimination of crimes & protection of life & property of citizens basic responsibility of Police, says IGP

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Inspector General of Police Balochistan, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh has stated that it is basic responsibility of the police to eliminate crimes from the society and protect life and property of the masses.

The IGP was addressing the passing out parade of the recruit course at Police Training College, Kalat on Monday.

In all 334 male and female police personnels participated in the passing out on completion of their training.

The senior police officers were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the passing out parade, the IGP said that police is a noble profession, and as such he exhorted the police personnels to become source of increasing honour and dignity of the force while serving the public to their best.

He also urged them to make pledge to perform their duties while considering it as public service and worship.

He particularly exhorted those newly joined the police force to perform their duties honestly and with dedication.

Meanwhile, the personnel participating in the passing out took oath of protection of the common man's life and property and render sacrifice of their lives for establishing peace.

Big relief for PTI Imran Khan, Qureshi acquitted in cipher case

Also acquitted in Azadi March, rioting cases

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has acquitted PTI founder Imran Khan and former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi in cipher case.

Rigorous imprisonment of 10 years each was awarded to Imran Khan and Shah Mehmood Qureshi on January 30 this year. Appeal was filed against this conviction in IHC.

Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamir Farooq announced short order.

Barrister Suleman Safdar counsel for PTI founder said Azam Khan gave cipher to PTI founder. There are no documents in

this regard. This is responsibility of prosecution to prove. Law is very clear. Decisions of Supreme Court are there. Prosecution has to discharge this obligation.

The CJ IHC Aamir Farooq inquired has prosecution nothing more than the statement of Azam Khan. Prosecution case had been easy when they would have presented copy of cipher in the court.

Justice Mian Gulhasan Aurangzeb remarked why one man is imprisoned in jail on the misplacement of a paper.

It is pertinent to note that two cases were regis-

tered against Imran Khan, Shah Mehmood and other leaders in Golra police station in 2022. Earlier, former PM Imran Khan was acquitted in two May 9 cases.

Violent clashes were broken out across Pakistan after former prime minister Imran Khan was arrested on May 9, 2023. The protests were held in remote and major cities as the party workers were agitated due to their chairman's arrest, with Balochistan, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad summoning the armed forces to ensure law and order.



QUETTA: Provincial Education Minister, Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani addresses during seminar on Provincial Assessment of Students Learning organized by Balochistan Assessment and Examination Commission (BAEC) held at local hotel in Quetta.

Highlighting historic decrease in inflation, Tarar reaffirms govt's commitment to revive economy

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Monday termed a historic and record decrease in inflation a positive indicator for the country and reaffirmed the government's commitment to work hard till the complete revival of the economy.

Addressing a press conference here at the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Secretariat at Model Town, the federal minister said, "The inflation rate has dropped to 11 percent during this month beyond expectations, as reported by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics while Bloomberg, Asian Development Bank, UNDP, World Bank and other international departments are also acknowledging progress of Pakistan's economy and also see it on right direction".



Attaullah Tarar highlighted the government's tireless efforts from day one, focusing on the economy, leading to several positive outcomes. "These include a significant drop in inflation, lower fuel prices, unprecedented growth in the stock exchange, increased foreign reserves, enhanced direct investment, and record tax collection by the Federal Board of Revenue," he

added. He expressed optimism about Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's upcoming historic visit to China with a delegation of approximately 100 businessmen.

Tarar anticipates fruitful B2B meetings, business conferences, and the signing of agreements, which he believes will further bolster the country's stability.

To a question about China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Tarar praised the historical rapid pace of work on CPEC projects during Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif's tenure, highlighting the commendable role of Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the then Chief Minister of Punjab, in ensuring their swift completion. He ensured these projects would be completed with more pace.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with the Korean Ambassador and Representatives of Korean Companies working in Pakistan.

Finance Minister meets with representatives from Korean Companies working in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday met with the Korean Ambassador and representatives of Korean Companies working in Pakistan and discussed matters relating to mutual interest for benefit of both the nations.

The Secretary Ministry of Communications, Chairman National Highway Authority (NHA), MD Private Power & Infrastructure Board (PPIB) and senior officers from relevant ministries were also present in the meeting, said a press release.

The Finance Minister underscored the significant

macroeconomic improvements and noted the positive trend in foreign exchange reserves. Furthermore, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb reiterated the commitment of the government to address the challenges faced by Korean companies operating in Pakistan and in this regard urged the relevant authorities to ensure their facilitation for smooth business operations.

The Korean Ambassador appreciated the government's economic initiatives and strong bilateral relations between Pakistan and Korea. He emphasized the need to fully exploit the untapped potential for further collaboration.

PM to embark on five-day official visit to China today

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif will undertake a five-day official visit to China from tomorrow at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang.

During the three-segment trip, the Prime Minister will visit the cities of Xi'an and Shenzhen, besides Beijing.

Shehbaz Sharif will meet President Xi Jinping and hold delegation-level talks with Premier Li Qiang in Beijing.

He will also hold meetings with Chairman of Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Zhao Leji and heads of key government departments.

An important aspect of the Prime Minister's visit will be meetings with corporate executives of leading Chinese companies dealing in oil and gas, energy, ICT, and emerging technologies.

In Shenzhen, Prime Minister will address the China-Pakistan Business Forum with leading businesspersons, entrepreneurs, and investors from both countries.

He will also visit Economic and Agricultural Zones in China.

PM's China visit to become a milestone in bilateral relations: Chinese ambassador

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Jiang Zaidong said on Monday that under the guidance of two leadership and strong support from the people of both countries, the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China would achieve complete success and become a milestone in the development of China-Pakistan relations.

The ambassador in an interview with APP, a day before the prime minister's five-day visit from June 4-8, 2024 to China, said that all preparatory works had entered the final stage, and discussions on Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were in full progress.

At the invitation of Premier Li Qiang, Prime Minister Shehbaz will pay an official visit to China. This is his first visit to China



after assuming the office this year.

Highlighting the components of the visit, he said the prime minister would meet and have talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Zhao Leji. The leaders will have an in-depth exchange of views on China-Pakistan relations and issues of mutual interest, and jointly

draw up a blueprint for the growth of bilateral relations. In addition to Beijing, the prime minister will visit Guangdong and Shaanxi.

"China stands ready to work with Pakistan through this visit to make greater progress in our all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and take new steps in building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era," the envoy remarked.

Anti-polio drive postponed in six districts of Balochistan due to heatwave

ISLAMABAD (APP): The scheduled anti-polio drive in six districts of Balochistan has been postponed due to the prevailing heatwave in the province.

The drive, set to commence today, has been rescheduled for June 8th in the districts of Nasirabad, Sibi, Jaffar Abad, Ustha, Muhammad, Dera Bugti, and Sohbatpur, private news channels reported.

Those attacking anti-polio team are enemies of safe future of our children: Zia Langove

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has condemned the incident of firing at the anti-polio team in Chaman.

In a condemnation issued here on Monday, the Provincial Minister Home has issued directives to take stern action against the elements involved in the attack at anti-polio team in the border town.

He said that those attacked the anti-polio team are enemies of safe future of our children.

Mir Ziaullah Langove said that the extremist elements have been involved in the attacks at anti-polio teams.

He said that these elements want to create chaos and harass the people through such cowardly acts.

He prayed for early recovery of those injured in the attack at anti-polio team and said that best medical treatment is being provided to them.



QUETTA: Relatives of missing persons are holding protest demonstration for recovery of their loved one, at Quetta press club.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Large projects again?

The PML-N is back with its signature infrastructure development model, which has been responsible for much of our economic crisis.

While setting an ambitious national development programme target of over Rs3tr for FY25, including a federal PSDP of Rs1.2tr, to pursue a growth rate of 3.6pc, the planning ministry is reported to have opposed the finance ministry's proposal to cut development spending to meet IMF goals. How the lender—with whom Islamabad is negotiating a larger and longer bailout to shore up its international reserves and unlock international funding—will react to the proposals will soon become apparent.

The next budget will be part of the prior actions required by the IMF and key to a staff-level agreement for a new Fund programme. The planning ministry has also disregarded the fact that the current cash crunch may force the country to slash its PSDP estimates going forward and hold back funds for the proposed projects in order to meet Fund conditions—projects that only add to the existing development throw-forward of above Rs9.8tr.

The PSDP for the outgoing fiscal year has been reduced to Rs717bn from the original estimate of Rs950bn due to fiscal constraints as well as to create space for a primary surplus of 0.4pc of GDP to meet the most important condition of the last IMF programme. The proposed PSDP focuses on energy, transport and water projects, but it is not yet clear whether the government plans to complete the ongoing schemes or start new ones.

Considering our current financial condition, the growth target of 3.6pc appears overly ambitious. The Planning Commission itself has stated that growth prospects are subject to "political stability, exchange rate stability on the back of improvement in external account and external inflows, macroeconomic stabilisation under the IMF's programme and expected fall in global oil and commodity prices".

Likewise, an inflation target of 12pc for the next fiscal year may also be missed by a wide margin because of taxation measures, such as a 1pc increase in consumption tax to 19pc and a hike in taxes on petrol—to be included in the budget and the IMF's exchange rate depreciation projections.

The government's high indebtedness and its growing expenditure on debt servicing has put pressure on the upcoming budget, especially with the economy and private investment grinding to a halt. Any further fiscal slippages and succumbing to the temptation to showcase "progress and recovery" through large but deferrable infrastructure projects will worsen the situation.

The current state of the economy demands that the government focus on debt sustainability by curtailing its spending and mobilising more resources through the expansion of its tax base. The public has already paid dearly for the rulers' fiscal profligacy in recent years.

Global gangsters

Zarrar Khuhro

Remember the letter written by six judges of the Islamabad High Court alleging interference by intelligence agencies and state actors? The list of complaints included allegations of illegal surveillance of the judges and their families—presumably in the hopes of uncovering compromising material—all the way to direct and indirect threats. None of this came as a huge surprise to those who know how the system works, nor is the subsequent campaign waged against those judges unexpected. Most of us, I presume, simply shook our heads and said something to the effect of "this is Pakistan, this is just how things are", and moved on with a lingering sense of shame at how impure our land is and how embarrassing it must be for the world to see all this. What would they think?

If you're one of those people, I have some good news for you: we are not alone. No, sir! The fact is that the entire world is rotten to the core. In fact, we're amateurs; the smallest of fries when compared to the truly global gangsters who play on a much wider international stage. Literally. In the sense that the court they tried to compromise is no less than the International Criminal Court (ICC) itself.

A detailed investigation by The Guardian and Israel's 972 magazine has unveiled a decade-long operation by Israel to undermine, intimidate and compromise the ICC itself; the operation was led by then Mossad chief Yossi Cohen with the full personal approval of Benjamin Netanyahu and the complete support of "the highest branches of Israel's government, the intelligence community, and both the civilian and

military legal systems".

The mission was to derail a possible war crimes investigation into Israel by the ICC, and then head of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, wasn't playing ball, and America wanted him to step down. Bustani refused, and that's when US official John Bolton threatened him, saying: "We have ways to retaliate against you... we know where your kids live. You have two sons in New York."

Over at the ICC, Be--n-souda was replaced by Karim Khan, whose appointment Israel initially welcomed. Karim also seemed to be playing ball with the Empire by ensuring that a war crimes investigation in Afghanistan did not focus on American actions. But then he went and completed the task Bensouda had begun despite the pressure the likes of which we can only imagine; in a recent interview he alluded to that pressure saying that he had been told by a Western diplomat that the ICC was for Africa and "thugs like Putin", and not, naturally, for the sainted leaders of the 'Free World'.

Consider that this is just what we know, and imagine the kind of tactics these states and leaders have and continue to use to further their blood-soaked imperial interests. Also consider that, after the investigation was published, a Haaretz journalist came and sanctions on Bensouda, with then US secretary of State Mike Pompeo clearly saying that it was due to the Palestine case. Later, in a very familiar echo to Pakistan, he also accused her of corruption.

Such thuggery is par for the course for the US. In the run-up to the invasion of Iraq, when

America was building a fake casus belli for attacking Iraq, it turned out that José Bustani, then head of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, wasn't playing ball, and America wanted him to step down. Bustani refused, and that's when US official John Bolton threatened him, saying: "We have ways to retaliate against you... we know where your kids live. You have two sons in New York."

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Stateless workers

Naeem Sadiq

Of the 79 miners who have died since Jan 1, 2024, in Pakistan's deadly coal mines, not a single one was registered with the EOBI. They were all born as citizens of Pakistan. They were not refugees. They did not give up their citizenship. They did not give up on the state. But the state gave up on them. The state abandoned them, refused to recognise their existence, and reduced them to 'stateless', benefitless nonentities. By excluding them from the EOBI, the state gave them a future of poverty and dependency. This cruelty is orchestrated by a single government department: the Employees' Old-age Benefits Institution (EOBI).

Pakistan has an informal workforce of around 80 million workers engaged in industrial, agricultural, domestic, and commercial activities. It is their sweat and labour that turn the wheels of industry and commerce. In return, 60 per cent of them are not even given the minimum legal wage. The monthly EOBI contribution is deposited for only 4.7m or 6pc workers. The state has no concern or interest in knowing about the remaining 94pc. Do they exist at all? What and where do they work? Who are their employers? How will they survive with zero post-retirement pensions? It is impossible to fathom why a state knowingly designs a dark and miserable old age for its workers.

Imagine if there was a law that prohibited pension for any Grade 22 government officer, unless there were at least five or more Grade 22 officers working in the same department. Bizarre as it may seem, this is the law we have for Pakistan's workers. It permits all those employers who employ fewer than five employees (and there are

millions of them) to not register their employees with the EOBI. No Pakistani leader has ever understood that every worker above the age of 18 years ought to be registered with the EOBI, regardless of the nature of the work, the number of employees or the type of employment (regular, temporary, contracted, daily wage or through a third-party contractor). Millions of daily wagers and third-party workers in government and statutory bodies are currently outside the ambit of the EOBI for no fault of their own. Even an unemployed or self-employed individual should be able to obtain EOBI registration by personally contributing the requisite amount.

The existing EOBI ought to be dissolved, replaced with professional management, completely digitised, and linked with Nadra. The bureaucratic and cumbersome procedure for enrolment of a new worker and payment of his/her monthly contribution ought to be simplified with a mobile phone app; it should require no human interaction, visiting offices or banks, filling forms or producing photocopies. The EOBI monthly contribution rate ought to be standardised across Pakistan to enable seamless continuity for workers changing jobs or locations.

An alleged 'inspection' system at the institution is said to follow the 10pc rule. You register only 10pc employees, and we look the other way—in return for an amicable under-the-table 'settlement'.

The EOBI ought to jettison all its inspectors and two-thirds of its existing 657 employees, and control all its functions using a handful of professionals and electronic databases. A publicly accessible online database should reflect

each registered employee's name, CNIC, phone number, employer's name, the latest EOBI contribution and the total contribution made thus far. An effective database can monitor and ensure that every single worker in Pakistan is included in the EOBI scheme.

Every registered worker must receive an automatic SMS, by the 10th of each month to confirm the amount contributed on his/her behalf. The system should automatically in--v--oke progressively increasing penalties for employers delaying payments beyond the 10th of any month. On reaching the age of 60 years, workers should be given the choice to either opt for the regular monthly pension or to accept the lump sum amount accumulated during his/her entire years of contribution.

In both cases, the amount must be immediately deposited in the worker's designated bank, instead of involving the worker in a bureaucratic runaround of visiting EOBI offices or providing fresh affidavits, photographs, or certificates.

Pakistan is the only country in the world that pays a pension of Rs1 million to superior judges and a pittance of Rs10,000 to its workers. This amounts to an obscene and immoral pension ratio of 1:100. We ought to slash all government pensions above Rs200,000 to half and increase workers' pension to 75pc of the applicable minimum legal wage.

It is time for Pakistan to end its fixation on the rich, and instead, focus on the 80m abandoned stateless children awaiting recognition, minimum wage, the EOBI and a sliver of humanity. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

CPI inflation decelerates further to 11.8% in May

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation came down to 11.8 percent during the month of May 2024 as compared to 17.3 percent recorded during April 2024, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported Monday.

According to PBS data, the CPI based inflation during the same month of last year was recorded at 38.0% (May 2023).

On month-on-month (MoM) basis, it decreased to 3.2% in May 2024 as

compared to a decrease of 0.4 in the previous month and an increase of 1.6% in May 2023. According to data, CPI inflation Urban, increased to 14.3% on year-on-year (YoY) basis in May 2024 as compared to an increase of 19.4% in the previous month and 35.1% in May 2023. On month-on-month basis, it decreased to 2.8% in May 2024 as compared to a decrease of 0.1% in the previous month and an increase of 1.5% in May 2023. CPI inflation Rural, increased to 8.2% on year-

on-year basis in May 2024 as compared to an increase of 14.5% in the previous month and 4.2% in May 2023. On month-on-month basis, it decreased to 3.9% in May 2024 as compared to a decrease of 0.9% in the previous month and an increase of 1.7% in May 2023.

The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) inflation on YoY increased to 15.3% in May 2024 as compared to an increase of 21.6% a month earlier and 43.0% in May 2023. On MoM basis, it decreased by 4.0%

in May 2024 as compared to a decrease of 0.7% a month earlier and an increase of 1.3% in May 2023. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation on YoY basis increased to 9.9% in May 2024 as compared to an increase of 13.9% a month earlier and an increase of 32.8% in May 2023. On MoM basis, it decreased by 2.5% in May 2024 as compared to a decrease of 0.7% in the previous month and an increase of 1.0% in corresponding month of last year i.e. May 2023.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with Regional Head of Technology and Tax, McKinsey & Co. Tom Isherwood.



Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan presided meeting of Privatization Commission Board.

Trade deficit contracted 15.25% in 11 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The trade deficit contracted 15.25 per cent during the first 11 months of the current financial year (2023-24) as compared to the corresponding period of the last year.

During the period from July-May 2023-24, local exports grew by 10.65 per cent as it was recorded at \$28.070 billion as compared to the exports of \$25.368 billion of the same period of the last year, according to the trade figures released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics on Monday.

Meanwhile, imports into the country during the period under review decreased by 2.37 per cent as it was registered at \$49.802 billion as against the imports of \$51.010

billion in the same period of last year. As compared to the corresponding month of last, exports grew by 27.08 per cent in May 2024, whereas the imports into the country increased by 13.89 per cent.

During the month of May 2024, exports from the country were recorded at \$2.792 billion as compared to the exports of \$2.197 billion, whereas the imports into the country were recorded at \$4.902 billion against the imports of \$4.304 billion of May 2023.

On month on month basis, the trade deficit narrowed by 15.43 per cent as in May 2024 as exports grew by 18.76 per cent and imports increased by 1.16 per cent.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where three ships, Zhida-6, Shalamar and TRF Kobescheduled to load/offload Rice, Furnace oil and Chemicals, Terminal at Multi-Purpose Berths, Oil Terminal and Elengy Terminal respectively on Sunday. Meanwhile five more ships, MSC Positano, AU Taurus, Kypros Sea, Chem Leona and Al-Marrouna with Container, Palmoil, Canola, Chemicals and LNG also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim during last 24 hours.

A total of 7 ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them four ships, APL Miami, Shalamar, TRF Kobe and Enjanarare expected to sail on today.

06 parties pre-qualify for PIACL divestment

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Board of the Privatization Commission on Monday decided to pre-qualify 06 interested parties for the divestment of Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Limited (PIACL).

The 219th meeting of Privatization Commission Board was held under the chairmanship of Minister for Privatization and

Chairman Privatization Commission, Abdul Aleem Khan, said a press release. The meeting reviewed the recommendations of the pre-qualification committee in light of the results of the scrutiny/evaluation of Statement of Qualifications (SOQs) submitted by eight interested parties for divestment of PIACL.

Punjab govt to set up Sahulat Centres for farmers

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab government has decided to establish Sahulat centers in every tehsil to provide quality pesticides to farmers at a controlled rate.

Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman presided over a video link meeting of all divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners to review cotton cultivation targets, measles situation and Suthra Punjab programme, at the Civil Secretariat on Monday.

The chief secretary directed the commissioners of Bahawalpur, Multan and

DG Khan to ensure full monitoring of the cotton crop. He said that the deputy commissioners must keep a close watch on the prices, supply and demand of urea fertilizer for the next two months and obtain the data of stocks and sales from fertilizer dealers on a daily basis. The chief secretary mentioned that the improvement of health and education sectors was a priority of the government, adding that on the instructions of the chief minister Punjab, the health sector had been included in the key performance indicators (KPIs) set for the deputy commissioners.

Rupee sheds 4 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Rupee on Monday lost 04 paise against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.36 against the previous day's closing at Rs 278.32.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market, however, were Rs 277.5 and Rs 280 respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 44 paise to close at Rs 301.67 against the last day's closing of Rs 301.23, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

PSX witnessed bearish trend, losses 303 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Monday, losing 303.22 points, a negative change of 0.40 per cent, closing at 75,575.26 points against 75,878.48 points the previous day.

A total of 441,261,756 shares valuing Rs 18.634 billion were traded during the day as compared to 523,299,973 shares valuing Rs 20.574 billion the previous day.

Atif Ikram Sheikh says: Businesses to provide equal opportunities to women to promote gender equality

Gender equality is essential for economic development, M. Akram Farid

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Central of Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP) and Chairman FPCCI TVET and Skill Development Committee

that gender equality is a fundamental human right which is essential for the promotion of sustainable economic development. He pointed out that compared to other



Mian Akbar Farid has called on Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, International Labor Organization and Employers' Federation. A seminar was held on the issue of Pakistan's gender equality and elimination of workplace discrimination. While addressing, Atif Ikram Sheikh President FPCCI said

regional countries, women's participation and contribution to economic development in Pakistan is very low and its basic The reason is women's lack of access to education, training and economic opportunities. FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh said that business organizations have the responsibility to provide a favorable environment and work.

