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

Big relief for PTI

Imran, Qureshi acquitted in cipher case

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

The CJ IHC Aamir Farooq inquired has pros-Khan. Prosecution case had tack during the protests by all the time.

Minister for Information

and Broadcasting Attaullah

Tarar on Monday termed a

historic and record decrease

in inflation a positive indi-

cator for the country and

reaffirmed the government's

commitment to work hard

till the complete revival of

ference here at the Pakistan

Muslim League-Nawaz

Secretariat at Model Town,

the federal minister said,

"The inflation rate has

dropped to 11 percent dur-

ing this month beyond ex-

pectations, as reported by

the Pakistan Bureau of

Bloomberg, Asian Development Bank, UNDP,

World Bank and other in-

ternational departments

are also acknowledging

progress of Pakistan's

economy and also see it on

Addressing a press con-

the economy.

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 registered 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. Army installations, including Corps Lahore, had come under at-

commitment to revive economy

Attaullah Tarar high-

lighted the government's

tireless efforts from day

one, focusing on the

economy, leading to several positive outcomes.

"These include a signifi-cant drop in inflation, lower fuel prices, unprec-edented growth in the stock

exchange, increased foreign

reserves, enhanced direct

investment, and record tax

collection by the Federal

Board of Revenue," he more pace.

to mention that the PTI founder is named as main accused in all the May 9 ri-

Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Omar Ayub hailed the verdict and called for their immediate release.

"A big day for the leader and the party. A fake, frivolous and fraudulent case is sent packing by IHC. Other cases will also meet their Waterloo soon. Khan will step out of Adiala as the undisputed leader of a resurgent nation. Congratulations everyone," said PTI spokesperson Hasan. Talking to the media, PTI leader Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said: "The nation saw today that the just verdict came and the banner of justice was held high and that baseless case was eliminated in which Imran Khan spent around

added. He expressed opti-

mism about Prime Minis-

Sharif's upcoming historic

egation of approximately

bolster the country's sta-

Chine 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 Min-

ister of Punjab, in ensuring

their swift completion. He

ensured these projects

would be completed with

To a question about

Tarar anticipates fruit-

100 businessmen.

Barrister Aqeel Malik says Cipher case a reality which cannot be denied

Spokesperson says prosecution to decide on challenging verdict. Govt, army to

never compromise on national security SLAMABAD (Agencies): After the Pakistan Tehreek--Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and Vice-Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi got relief from the Islamabad High Court (IHC) in cipher case, a federal government's pokesperson on legal affairs said on Monday that the courts should be "mindful" of national security while deciding on the sensitive matters.

Barrister Aqeel Malik, the federal government's pokesperson for legal affairs, stated this while addressing a press conference in Islamabad shortly ifter the IHC acquitted the top PTI leaders in the sipher case. In a major relief to the embattled former uling party, the IHC annulled Imran and Qureshi's onviction in the infamous cipher case containing charges of misusing and misplacing the classified dip-omatic document. "Detailed verdict of the case is lue to arrive," Barrister Malik said, insisting that the cipher case was a "reality" which cannot be denied. He said that the former prime minister waved a classified document at a public gathering, whereas, then-principal secretary Azam Khan also confessed about "missing copy of the cipher".

Highlighting historic decrease in PM directs immediate inflation, Tarar reaffirms govt's abolishment of Pak PWD

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed for immediate dissolution of the Pakistan ter Muhammad Shehbaz Public Works Department (Pak PWD) due to years' visit to China with a dellong poor performance and corruption. The prime minister issued the directive during a high level meeting ful B2B meetings, business conferences, and the signheld on reducing the government expenditures and the ing of agreements, which he believes will further size of its infrastructure, the

> 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

PM Office Media Wing said

asked for an alternate mechanism for the development projects which were

relevant senior officials.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Min-Muhammad ister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, PM's Adviser on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Jehanzeb Khan and other

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 in-

cident 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

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.

Pakistan relations. The

is his first visit to China af-

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 factory 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

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, Addi-Home, Zahid Saleem, Incipal Secretary to Gover- province.

the view that the overall law and order situation is satis-Muhammad Shafqaat 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 tional Chief Secretary people and elimination of crimes can open up the avspector General of police, enues of sustainable peace Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, Prin- and development in the



addresses during seminar on Provincial Assessment of Students Learning organized by Balochistan Assessment and Examination Commission (BAEC) held at local hotel in Quetta.

PM to embark official visit to China today

ISLAMABAD (Online) Shehbaz Sharif will undertake a fiveday 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 Eco nomic and Agricultural Zones in China.

Finance Minister meets with representatives from Korean **Companies working in Pakistan** ISLAMABAD (APP): underscored the significant

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

Minister for Finance and 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 opera-

The Korean Ambassador appreciated the government's economic initiatives and strong bilateral relations between Pakistan



Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with the Korean Ambassador and Representatives of Korean Companies working in Pakistan.

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

Independent Report

OUETTA: 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

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 na-

He said that the deceased mine workers belonged to Sawat area of Khyber Pakhtunkhaw. Meanwhile,

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

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-

ter assuming the office this

and issues of mutual inter-

ambassador in an interview with APP, a day be-Highlighting the comfore the prime minister's ponents of the visit, he said five-day visit from June 4the prime minister would 8, 2024 to China, said that meet and have talks with Chinese President Xi all preparatory works had Jinping, Premier Li Qiang entered the final stage, and and the Chairman of the discussions on Memoran-Standing Committee of the dums of Understanding National People's Con-(MoUs) were infull progress. At the invitation of Pregress Zhao Leji. The leadmier Li Qiang, Prime Miners will have an in-depth ister Shehbaz will pay an exchange of views on official visit to China. This China-Pakistan relations

est, 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 Chinashared future in the new electricity and 886km of trade liberalization.

Calling China and Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partners and ironclad friends, he said "Our friendship has stood the test of time and remained rock-solid and—to use a Chinese expression— "steady as Mount Tai."

He said in recent years, both countries had close high-level exchanges, conducted fruitful and high-quality cooperation on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and maintained sound communication and coordination in interna-

tional and regional affairs. Regarding CPEC, he said the landmark BRI project brought a total of investment, 236000 jobs, 510km of highways, more Pakistan community with a than 8000 megawatts of

era," the envoy remarked. core transmission network, generating a strong impetus to Pakistan's economic and social develop-

Under the second phase of CPEC, he said both countries would implement the important consensus reached by their leaders including the strengthening synergy of development strategies and policy coordination and accelerate progress on mega projects including upgradation of ML-1, the Gwadar Port and realignment of Karakoram Highway Phase II. Moreover, the two countries will strengthen cooperation in industry, agriculture, mining, new energy, US \$25.4 billion in direct information technology and other fields based on local conditions and further negotiate and promote

Daily Soice of Masse 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 appar-

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

military legal systems".

vances,

Zarrar Khuhro

ten by six judges of the Islamabad High Court alleging interference by intelligence agencies and state actors? The list of complaints included allegations of illegal surveil- and, if that failed, to comlance of the judges and their families — presumably in the hopes of uncovering compromising material — all the way to direct and indirect changed. Cohen began threats. None of this came as a huge surprise to those who know how the system works, nor is blandishments and notthe 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 open a full criminal invesand how embarrassing it tigation into alleged war must be for the world to

they think? think? At this point Cohen told If you're one of Bensouda: "You should those people, I have help us and let us take some good news for care of you. You don't 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,

The mission was to fake casus belli for at-Remember the letter writ- derail a possible war tacking Iraq, it turned crimes investigation into out that José Bustani, Israel by the ICC, and then chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda was a prime target. The mission was to enlist Bensouda promise her. The first few contacts were 'friendly' but when Bensouda ap-

parently rebuffed the adthe calling Bensouda numerous times on her perhave two sons in New sonal number with veiled York. Over at the ICC, so-veiled threats, and Be--n-souda when she asked how he had obtained her contacts he replied: "Did you forget what I do for a liv-The harassment and surveillance stepped up when, in December 2019, Bensouda announced that she had grounds to crimes in Gaza, the West see all this. What would Bank and East Jerusalem.

> want to be getting into things that could compromise your security or that of your family." He also showed Bensouda surveillance photographs of an unknown nature of her Free World Consider that this is husband in an effort to get her to play ball and leaked those photos to other diplomats. At this point Israel's

global godfather — the United States of America - also did its part: the Trump administration acting in tandem with its most allied of allies placed visa restrictions

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 and both the civilian and invasion of Iraq, when miliar? -- Courtesy Dawn

America was building a 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

was

repla-ced by Karim Kĥan, whose appointment Israel in--itially welcomed. Karim also seemed to be playing ball with the Empire by ensuring that a war crimes inv-estigation in Afgha-ni-stan 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

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 published, a Haaretz journalist came forward to say he had all these details in 2022 but was warned not to publish them by Israel's authorities. He was told that if he were to publish he would "suffer the consequences and get to know the interrogation rooms of the Israeli security authorities from US. In the run-up to the the inside". Sound fa-

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 dustry 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 em-

stani 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, the EOBI scheme. 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 behalf. The system outside the ambit of the should automatically EOBI for no fault of their

own. Even an unem-

ployed or self-employed

individual should be able

to obtain EOBI registra-

tributing the requisite

amount.

The existing EOBI ought to be dissolved, replaced with professional to accept the lump sum management, completely digitised, and linked with Nadra. The bureaucratic and cumbersome procedure for enrolment of a that turn the wheels of in- new worker and payment of his/her monthly contribution ought to be simplified with a mobile ing the worker in a buphone 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

> 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'.

changing jobs or loca-

The EOBI ought to isting 657 employees, and control all its funcployees (and there are database should reflect Courtesy Dawn

millions of them) to not each registered register their employees employee's name, CNIC, with the EOBI. No Pakiphone 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

Every registered worker must receive an automatic SMS, by the 10th of each month to confirm the am--ount contributed on his/her in--v-oke progressively increasing penalties for employers delaying payme-n--ts beyond the 10th of any month. On tion by personally con- reaching the age of 60 years, workers should be given the choice to either opt for the regular monthly pension or 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 involvreaucratic 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 compensation 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 Pakijettison all its inspectors stan to end its fixation and two-thirds of its ex- on the rich, and instead, focus on the 80m abandoned statetions using a handful of less children awaiting professionals and elec- recognition, minimum tronic databases. A pub- wage, the EOBI and a licly accessible online sliver of humanity. --

Commerce News

CPI inflation decelerates further to 11.8& in May

The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation came down to 11.8 percent May 2023. According to month and 4.2% in May during the month of May 2024 as compared to 17.3 percent recorded during April 2024, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported Monday.

inflation during the same month of last year was recorded at 38.0% (May

On month-on-month (MoM) basis, it decreased to 3.2% in May 2024 as increased to 8.2% on year-

data, CPI inflation Urban, previous month and 35.1% According to PBS in May 2023. On month-data, the CPI based on-month basis, it on-month basis, it decreased to 2.8% in May 2024 as compared to a increase of 1.5% in May

0.4 in the previous month as compared to an increase and an increase of 1.6% in of 14.5% in the previous 2023.On month-on-month increased to 14.3% on basis, it decreased to 3.9% year-on-year (YoY) basis in in May 2024 as compared May 2024 as compared to to a decrease of 0.9% in the an increase of 19.4% in the previous month and an increase of 1.7% in May

The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) inflation on YoY increased to 15.3% in decrease of 0.1% in the May 2024 as compared to previous month and an increase of 21.6% a month earlier and 43.0% in May 2023. On MoM basis, it decreased by 4.0%

ISLAMABAD (APP): compared to a decrease of on-year basis in May 2024 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 compare 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.



with Regional Head of Technology and Tax, McKinsey & Co. Tom Isherwood.



2023.CPI inflation Rural,

Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan presided meeting of Privatization

Trade deficit contracted 15.25% in 11 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): billion in the same period The trade deficit contracted 15.25 per cent deficit 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 year, according to the trade figures released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics on Monday.

Meanwhile, imports period under review decreased by 2.37 per cent as it was registered at the imports of \$51.010 per cent.

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 cent as it was recorded at the country were recorded \$28.070 billion as at \$2.792 billion as compared to the exports compared to the exports of of \$25.368 billion of the \$2.197 billion, whereas the same period of the last imports into the country were recorded \$4.902billion against the imports of \$4.304 billion of May 2023

On month on month into the country during the basis, the trade deficit narrowed by 15.43 per cent as in May 2024 as exports grew by 18.76 per cent and \$49.802 billion as against imports increased by 1.16

Shipping activity at **Port Qasim**

KARACHI Shipping activity was report at the port where three ships, Zhida-6, Shalamar and TRF Kobescheduled to load/ offloadRice. Furnace oil and Chemicals, berthed at Multi-Purpose Terminals, 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 Enjnanare expected to sail on today.

06 parties pre-qualify for PIACL divestment ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Privatization

The Board of the Privatization Commission on Monday decided to prequalify 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 divestment of PIACL.

Commission, Abdul Aleem Khan, said a press release.

reviewed 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

Punjab govt to set up **Sahulat Centres for** farmers

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

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

Monday. The chief secretary directed the commissioners Bahawalpur, Multan and

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 paisa against Dollar ISLAMABAD (APP):

Pakistan Rupee on Monday lost 04 paisa 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 paisa 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, loosing 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.

total 441,261,756 shares valuing Rs 18.634 billion were traded during the day compared 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

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Chairman Central of Employers (EFP) and Chairman

that gender equality is a fundamental human right which is essential for the Federation of Pakistan promotion of sustainable economic development. FPCĆI TVET and Skill He pointed out that Development Committee compared to other



Mian Akbar Farid has regional called on Federation of Commerce and Industry, International Labor Organization Employers' Federation. A seminar was held on the issue of Pakistan's gender equality and elimination workplace

While addressing, Atif Ikram Sheikh President FPCCI said

discrimination.

countries women's participation Pakistan Chambers of 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.

KP CM directs admin for immediate repairing of power transformers

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief on Finance Muzzamil letter and spirit in their Khyber Amin Khan Gandapur, in view of the current scenario of power load-shedding has directed all Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners to immediately make arrangements for the repair and maintenance of out of electricity transformers in their respective areas.

He issued these directives while chairing a meeting of Divisional Commissioners Deputy Commissioners held here at Chief Minister's House on

Advisor to KP CM management schedule in

electricity in the port city.

Director General Health

Sindh in his rebuttal regard-

ing a news story published

in an english national daily

related to acute shortage of

ORS and other medicines at

Civil Hospital Karachi and

other hospitals of the prov-

the news story as con-

cocted and baseless.

of the province.

KARACHI: Workers of Mohajir Qaumi Movement

participating in the protest demonstration against

the worst load-shedding and over-billing of

Director General Health terms

story regarding shortage of

ORS, medicines baseless

HYDERABAD (APP): the news story it was re-

ince on Monday termed the also published the state-

He said that there was no shortage of Oral Rehythat 300 to 400 patients

dration Solution (ORS) in were treated in last week

Karachi and other hospitals which was clear evidence of

He further said that in other medicines.

Aslam, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Additional Chief Secretary Syed Imtiaz Hussain Shah, Principal Secretary to CM Amjad Ali Khan and other relevant authorities attended the meeting.

Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners via video link.

The chief minister added that the provincial government will provide all required funds to district administrations for this purpose. He also directed them to work together with WAPDA teams to implement the power load

respective districts

Tuesday June 04, 2024

said that Divisional and District Administrations are frontline team of the government implementation of its policies and reforms initiatives at grass root level, they need to work out of the book for the participated in the meeting enforcement of good governance strategy and providing relief to general

> He stressed that nobody will be victimized on political grounds, government machinery service delivery with enthusiasm

Cop injured in attack on polio team

PESHAWAR (APP): A police constable sustained bullet injury in an armed attack by unknown persons on a polio team in Vargari area, district Lakki Marwat.

Accroding to Rescue-1122 the police constable was shifted to Tajazai hospital after necessary first aid and treatment.

Former CM GB announces land donation for special school

ASTORE (APP): Former Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Khalid Khurshid on Monday announced the provision of 30 kanals of land for the construction of a special school for hearing-impaired children in Skardu.

The school named Nargis Khatoon Hair Improvement School is currently operating in a rented building.

During his visit to the school, Khurshid met with the students and staff and was briefed on the school's operations.



photo with children during his visit to Aghosh Orphan Care Home. Khuram Nawaz Gandapur, Barrister Amir Hassan, Colonel (retd) Mubashir Iqbal and Raja Zahid Mehmood are also present.

Pervaiz Elahi could not be indicted in fake recruitments in PA case

(Online): the plea in the petition Former Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi gave job in (CM) Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi could not be indicted in fake recruitments in Punjab Assembly (PA) case. Anti corruption court

accepted exemption from attendance plea of Pervaiz Elahi on medical ground. Hearing of alleged illegal recruitments in PA case against Pervaiz Elahi

and others was held in Anti corruption court Anti corruption took June 14.

examination. Anti corruption has filed challan in the court against the accused persons. The court had summoned Pervaiz Elahi

failed

and other accused for indictment but Pervaiz Elahi filed exemption plea in the court on medical grounds. The court while accepting exemption plea adjourned the hearing till

grade-17 to those who had

KP private schools reject imposition of tax

PESHAWAR (APP): Hub of Private Education (HOPE), an organization of the private schools Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has rejected the imposition of fixed tax on private educational institutions, termed it an enmity towards education and demanded forthwith withdrawal of the antieducation tax.

The Sunni-Ittehad-PTI led provincial government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has imposed taxes on the private educational institutions varying from Rs.50,000 to Rs.2,50,000 on each such institute

Addressing a press conference here at Rs.7500/- per child in the Peshawar Press Club public sector schools (PPC), Sidra-tul-Muntaha, respectively.

general secretary HOPE (Women) Pakhtunkhwa said that private schools are playing crucial role in increasing literacy rate through giving education to millions of children in their institutes.

She said that they are contributing in the noble cause with their own investment, but on the other hand the provincial government instead facilitation has resorted to anti-education policies. She said that 3.6 million children in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are out of the schools and the number is further growing. She said that a child in primary school cost Rs.5000 and Rs.7500/- per child in the

Two dacoits killed in

VEHARI (APP): Two unknown dacoits were sustained injuries after an exchange of fire between police and dacoits in the limits of Thingi police station, district Vehari.

encounter

According to police sources, a police team tried to intercept two suspected motorcyclists but they managed to escape. The police team

chased the dacoits. Meanwhile, the dacoits opened fire at the police

retaliated. During the exchange of fire, two unknown dacoits were

Similarly, one police constable named Farhan also sustained injuries. Police also seized stolen from possession.

Four drug dealers among seven held in **DI Khan**

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The district police have tightened a noose around anti-social elements, arresting seven five accused including four drug dealers recovering over 1.6 kilograms narcotics from them.

According to a police spokesman, the police have intensified operations against anti-social elements following the directions.

6 resolutions passes unanimously by **KPAssembly**

PESHAWAR (APP): The was moved by MPA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ikramullah regarding non-Assembly on Monday payment of salaries to the unanimously passed six teachers of the Elementary resolutions, while one and Secondary Education resolution was withdrawn Foundation for the last after the government's

The House passed a recommended resolution of MPA Sajjad government to m ullah and demanded the provincial government to trace the culprits involved in an attack on MPA Riaz Khan in Mansehra and bring them to justice. The speaker said that the police have identified the accused and some have been arrested.

The other resolution

three months.

government to make these teachers permanent like other employees and increase their salaries immediately.

Speaker Babar Saleem Swati said that the minimum monthly wage in the province is 32 thousand rupees but these teachers were receiving Rs 21,000



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health and Emergency Services, Chairman Cabinet Committee for Disaster Management Khawaja Salman Rafique presenting cheque t Commander of Pak Army for flood affectees.

Director PAC says: Literature is an artistic depiction of society's diverse facets

Claudia Sheinbaum

makes history as Mexico's

first woman president

RAWALPINDI (APP): Literature reflects society's culture, history, and collective experiences. It is expression through which thoughts, emotions, and experiences are artistically presented. Literature is not only a means of entertainment but also a source of intellectualism and emotional training for individuals. This was said by Director Punjab Arts

Council (PAC) Rawalpindi, Sajjad Hussain while chairing a meeting which held on Monday Punjab Arts Council.

here at the Arts council. Highlighting the role of the council in the promotion of literature, the director a beautiful form of informed that over the past three months, more than 20 literary events have been organized at the Arts Council. These included the weekly meeting and poetry session of Halqa Arbab-e-Zaug every Sunday, the book launch event of Dr. Saiid Raheem, a memorial reference for Farzana Naz, daily poetry sessions during Ramadan and the inauguration of Allama Igbal Public Library by the

International News

Beijing 'won't allow war, chaos' in Asia-Pacific

ported from the official

source of civil hospital Karachi that 40 to 45 pa-

tients of heat stroke were

given first aid of fluid

therapy and fever manage-

ment and discharge them in

few hours. The news story

ment of additional medical

superintendent of Civil

availability of ORS and

Monitoring Desk SINGAPORE: China will not allow any country or force to create war or chaos in the Asia-Pacific, its defence minister said on Sunday, warning that there were "limits" to Beijing's restraint on the South China Sea and over the deployment of ballistic missiles in

In a keynote speech at the Shangri-La Dialogue, AFP quoted Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun as saying: "China has maintained sufficient restraint in the face of rights infringements and provocation, but

there are limits to this" The Philippines and the United States are longstanding treaty allies, and Manila is a key focus of Washington's efforts to strengthen alliances and Pacific region, which has enraged Beijing.

Given its position in the South China Sea and proximity to Taiwan, which China claims as its own, Philippine support would be crucial for the US in the event of any conflict.

missiles" was "severely damaging regional security and stability", Dong said. "Acting in this way

will ultimately burn oneself." Dong also warned of "limits" to Beijing's restraint on the South China Sea, following a series of confrontations bet-ween vessels near disputed reefs.

China Coast Guard vessels have used water cannon against Philippine boats mul-

Claudia Sheinbaum, the presidential candidate of

the ruling MORENA party, reacts as she addresses

her supporters after winning the election, in

French govt faces

confidence motions

ahead of EU vote

partnerships in the Asia- tiple times in the contested waters. There have also been collisions that injured several Filipino troops

According to China Daily, the defence chief said that in the face of common security challenges, no country can remain unaffected, and there is no such The deployment of thing as absolute security 'medium-range ballistic or exclusive security, noting that there is a longstanding tradition of "help

ing neighbours in need".
"We do not allow he gemon-ism and power politics to harm the Asia-Pacific region, we do not allow geopolitical conflicts or cold and hot wars in the region, and we do not allow any coun-Chinese and Philippine try or force to create war and chaos here," he said.

He said that building "a small yard with high fences" has no place in the

Pro-Kremlin activist couple quit Germany, move to Russia

Monitoring Desk ONDON: Two pro-Russian activists in Ĝermany, whose ties to the Kremlin were revealed in a Reuters investigation last year, have left Germany and moved to Russia, the couple's lawyer said in a statement on Monday.

Since Russia's fullscale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Elena Kolbasnikova and her romantic partner Max Schlund have been active in Germany, organising pro-Kremlin rallies to urge Berlin to abandon its military support to Kyiv.

The Reuters investigation last year identified them as among key individuals pushing a pro-Moscow stance in Germany and revealed that they had received financial help from a Russian government agency.

The couple's home in north-west Germany was raided last August by German prosecutors following a Reuters report that funds collected from supporters in Germany were used to buy walkie-talkie radios, headphones and telephones for Russian army division fighting in Ukraine.



mother Amira Al-Breim at the rubble of a house hit in an Israeli strike, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

Israeli strikes in central Gaza kill at least 11 as the US pushes a cease-fire plan

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: Palestinian health officials said Israeli strikes killed 11 people overnight into Monday, including a woman and three children, in central

A strike on a home in the built-up Bureij refugee camp late Sunday killed four people, including the three children.

A second strike early Monday killed seven people, including a woman, in the

Nuseirat refugee camp. The bombardments come days after U.S. President Joe Biden said hunger.

Israel has offered Hamas a three-phase cease-fire and hostage release deal, declaring it was time to end the fighting in Gaza and that Hamas is "no longer capable" of carrying out another large-scale attack on Israel.

Israel is expanding its offensive in the southern Gaza city of Rafah, once the main hub of humanitarian aid operations.

The Israeli invasion has largely cut off the flow of food, medicine and other supplies to Palestinians facing widespread

Sri Lanka rain floods kill 14, schools shut

Monitoring Desk COLOMBO: Flash floods,

mudslides and falling trees have killed at least 14 people in Sri Lanka as the island nation is battered by monsoon storms, the country's disaster centre said on Sunday.

Some drowned, including three members of the same family swept away near the capital Colombo on Sunday. Others were buried alive in mudslides, including an 11year-old girl and a 20-yearold man, the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) said. Nine other people were crushed and killed when trees fell on them in seven districts since the monsoon intensified on

May 21, the DMC said.

While Sri Lanka depends on the seasonal monsoon rain for irrigation as well as hydroelectricity, experts have warned that it faces more frequent floods as the world heats due to climate change. The DMC said 20 out of the country's 25 districts were affected by heavy rain and issued warnings to people living on the banks of main rivers to move to higher ground.

Egypt's Sisi orders prime minister to form new cabinet **Monitoring Desk**

DUBAI: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi reappointed Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly on Monday to form a new government after the latter submitted his cabinet's resignation, following Sisi's reelection for a third term last year, the presidency said in a statement.

Sisi directed the new government to focus on lowering inflation and regulating markets as well as attracting and increasing local and foreign investments the presidency added

Maldives to ban Israeli tourists

Monitoring Desk

Ocean nation of the Maldives will ban Israelis from the luxury tourist hot spot, the office of the president said on Sunday, announcing a national rally in "solidarity

with Palestine" The Maldives, a tiny Islamic republic of more than 1,000 strategically located coral islets, is known for its secluded sandy white beaches, shallow turquoise lagoons and Robinson Crusoe-style

Sheinbaum was elected Mexico's first woman president by a landslide Sunday, making history in a country plagued by rampant criminal and genderbased violence.

Monitoring Desk

Crowds of flag-waving supporters sang and danced to mariachi music in Mexico City's main square celebrating the ruling party candidate's victory. "I want to thank millions of Mexican women and men who decided to vote for us on historic day, Sheinbaum said in a victory speech to the cheering

"I won't fail you," the 61-year-old former Mexico City mayor vowed. She thanked her main

opposition rival Xochitl

feat. Sheinbaum, a scientist by training, won around 58-60 percent of votes, according to preliminary official results from the National Electoral Institute. That was more than 30

Galvez, who conceded de-

percentage points ahead of Galvez, and some 50 percentage points ahead of the only man running, long-shot centrist Jorge Alvarez Maynez.

Voters had flocked to polling stations across the Latin American nation, despite sporadic violence in areas terrorized by ultraviolent drug cartels. Thousands of troops were deployed to protect voters, following a particularly bloody electoral process that has seen more than two dozen aspiring local politicians murdered.

Zelenskyy in Manila to promote peace summit, which he says China and Russia are trying to undermine

Monitoring Desk

MANILA: Ŭkrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met with the Philippine president on Monday in a rare Asian trip to urge regional leaders to attend a Swiss-organized global peace summit on the war in Ukraine that he accuses Russia, with China's help, of trying to undermine.

Zelenskyy arrived unannounced and under heavy security in Manila late Sunday after speaking over the weekend at the Shangri-La defense forum in Singapore. He was given a red-carpet welcome with military honors Monday at the presidential palace before meeting with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., after which he left the Philip-

Marcos pledged that his country would take part in the peace summit, Philippine Communications Secretary Cheloy

Garafil said. "I'm happy to hear Beijing.

today from you that you'll participate in our peace steps," Zelenskyy told Marcos. strong signal." Zelenskyy said Ukraine needs more mental health workers for its soldiers. Marcos promised to help and welcomed a decision by Ukraine to open an embassy in Manila this year which would hasten efforts to deliver assis-

tance.
"We have ourselves been trying to promote the continuing adherence to international law in our part of the world," Marcos said. "The issues that you are facing are similar and in parallel to ours and, therefore, the position the Philippines takes is always to pro-mote peace." Both leaders spoke critically of China at the Singapore forum, which was attended by top defense and government officials from around the world, including from Washington and

country. The bids to unseat Prime Minister Gabriel Attal and his government, which have little chance of passing, come from opposite ends of the political spectrum—the

Mexico City, Mexico.

Monitoring Desk

PARIS: France's government

on Monday faced two confi-

dence challenges in parliament

as political temperatures rise

ahead of European Parliament

elections set to mark a major

victory for the far right in the

hard-left France Unbowed (LFI) and the far-right National Rally (RN). An Ipsos poll released

Monday suggested 33 percent of people could vote for the RN list in the June 9 polls, double the likely score for President Emmanuel Macron's governing Renaissance, whose 16 percent placed them just ahead of the chasing Socialists. Launched in rebuke of ministers over budget cuts decreed without parliamentary debate, Monday's votes are the last major political setpiece before campaigning is overshadowed by the 80th anniversary of the World War II D-Day.

PBC condemns PTI's demand of CJP recusal from party's cases

(PBC) has strongly condemned Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf's (PTI) demand for Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa to recuse himself from hearing cases related to the party.

According to the offi-

cial statement, the PBC termed the demand as "unfortunate and unacceptable" saying that it was an attempt to pressure the CJP and undermine the inindependent judiciary.

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Bar Council dependence of the judiciary. The council emphasized that the CJP is a highly respected and impartial judge, and his integrity is beyond question. The PBC also highlighted that the CJP has always upheld the rule of law and the supremacy of the Constitution, and any attempts to malign him or the judiciary would be rejected. The council reiterated its commitment to upholding the principles of an

Rind condemns attack at anti-polio team

Independent Report QUETTA: The spokesman, Government of Balochistan, Shahid Rind has condemned the attack at anti-polio team in Chaman on Monday.

According to an official statement issued here on Monday, the spokesman of provincial government said that four Levies personnels were injured in the attack at anti-polio team in Chaman. The assailants

working in an area of Chaman, the spokesman of provincial government mentioned Shahid Rind said that the district administration is taking action against those involved in the incident. He announced that the case would be registered against the elements under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

He said that the law would take its course in the incident. He said that protest is a constitutional right.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani in a group photo with the delegation of World Football and Pakistan Football League (UK) at Parliament House.

Gilani calls for use sports as a vehicle for positive change in society

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed tential Pakistan has in the Yousaf Raza Gilani on sport of football, he re-Monday called for making concerted efforts to use sports as a vehicle for positive change and transformation in society.

"Football is no ordinary sport, but a bridge that transcends boundaries, unites cultures, and ignites passion in the hearts of millions," he expressed these views while addressing an event arranged in honor of egation at Parliament

tential Pakistan has in the marked that there is no dearth of talent and pas-"All we need is professional coaching and nurturing to produce world-

class players and put Paki-

stan on the map of international football," he added. Gilani expressed his excitement to see football gaining momentum in the country and anticipated a bright future for this wonderful sport in Pakistan.

sible to all, resonated The Chairman Senate deeply with his own vision. The international delegation acknowledged the pivotal

Highlighting the porole of the Pakistan Foot-ial Pakistan has in the ball League (PFL) UK in brings with them a wealth pioneering international of experience, talent, and football in Pakistan, their dedication, which could visionary initiatives, inhelp Pakistan embark on a cluding the impactful "Football 4 Hope," exemjourney to elevate its position in the global football plify their commitment to arena. Gilani assured his all social development, educaout support for the promotion, and inclusivity. "They are not only nurturing talent but also fostering unity and resilience," Gilani observed, adding that their commitment to implement-

tion of state-of-the-art football facilities and nurturing of local talent in Pakistan. "Let us celebrate the spirit of football, embrace diversity, and work together to create a brighter futureone where every child has the opportunity to chase

their dreams on the football field," he added. Advisor to CM

distributes

flour bags to

deserving **families**

HUB (APP): Provincial

Advisor for Industry and Commerce Mir Ali Hasan

Zehri distributed flour bags

to more than 1,500 deserv-

ing families in various areas

of Hub City, on Monday. Mir Ali Hasan Zehri

stated that serving the

needy is the government's

top priority and this effort

administration for their bet-

ter arrangements and prom-

ised to do even better in the

our people, especially the deserving ones," Zehri said. "I will personally oversee

the distribution process to

ensure that everyone re-

Anti-polio

to join the government's

efforts to eradicate polio, a

disease that can cause life

"Poliomyelitis is a dangerous disease," the

deputy commissioner warned, adding "Let us

long disability.

He praised the district

We will keep serving

will continue.

Alvi calls for urgent dialogue among all stakeholders

LAHORE (INP): Former solve the political crisis, president Dr Arif Alvi on Monday called for urgent dialogue among Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and all other stakeholders to help the country navigate out of its current political turmoil.

Addressing a gathering of PTI office-bearers and various wings in Lahore, Dr Alvi congratulated PTI workers, supporters, and the people of Pakistan on the acquittal of Imran Khan, along with former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, in the cypher case. The meeting was chaired by PTI Central Punjab President Ejaz Manhas, with notable PTI senior leaders such as Azam Khan Swati, Brigadier (retd) Ejaz Shah, Dr Azeemuddin Lakho, Sardar Azeemullah Advocate, and Zubair Kisan in attendance. The former president reiterated the im-

stressing that all stakeholders must participate as it is the sole path to improvement in Pakistan. In his address, Dr Alvi criticised the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government, accusing it of rampant corruption and mismanagement. He claimed that the PML-N leadership has fostered numerous new 'Gullu Butts' over the past two years, with corruption escalating since the regime change. Praising the PTI government's social welfare initiatives, the PTI leader stated that Imran Khan had earnestly worked towards transforming Pakistan into a welfare state modelled after the state of Madinah. "Imran Khan aimed to create a society where everyone is equal

ing international standards

and making football acces-

ceives the assistance they need," he added. and has access to basic necessities," he remarked, accusing the PML-N of plotting to overthrow Imran's adminvaccination portance of dialogue to re- istration. drive launched PISHIN (APP): Deputy Commissioner, Jamaluddin Mandokhail here on Monday launched an anti-polio campaign by vaccinating children under the age of According to DC Office, he appealed to parents

LAHORE: Former President of Pakistan and Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Leader, Dr. Arif Alvi talking to media persons, at Punjab Assembly in Lahore.

Rubaba to bear student's expenses participating in "Yaqeen" education camp

Independent Report QUETTA: The Advisor to the Chief Minister of Balochistan for Women Development Department, Dr. Rubaba Buledi has anbear all the expenses of the

stitute for Iqbal Research, Islamabad, at Peshawar University's Bara Gali campus.

Department. Dr. Rubaba Buledi said that education plays vital role in the development of a society and is essential for the progress of a nation. She announced that the government of Balochistan has launched the Benazir Scholarship Program to provide financial support to students pursuing higher education.

She stressed the importance of education in the progress of a nation. She said that education is the backbone of national development and without it, societies cannot survive.

Dr. Buledi also emphasized the importance of women's education, saying that women play a crucial role in shaping society and their education is essential for the development of a family and society as a whole. She said that the government of Balochistan is committed to providing education to all, especially women, and has initiated various programs to

achieve this goal. Dr. Buledi said that the government of Balochistan would provide scholarships to students to study in top universities of Pakistan and around the world, including Oxford University in the UK. She expressed her best wishes for the students participating in the education



Aurangzeb emphasizes significant potential of e-governance in Pakistan ISLAMABAD (INP): & Co. for the ongoing digi-

Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb has emphasized the significant potential of e-governance in

Talking to Deputy Director, Focus Country Implementation of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Jason Lamb in Islamabad, he said the digitization of the tax system is a pivotal step towards modernizing tax collection, which will enhance transparency and revenue growth.

Muhammad Aurangzeb also mentioned the necessary improvements required in existing data sources to effectively utilize them for tax pur-

During the meeting, the Federal Minister conveyed his appreciation for the Bill & Melinda Gates

talization of FBR.

He emphasized the significant potential of egovernance in Pakistan, noting that the digitization of the tax system is a pivotal step towards modernizing tax collection, which will enhance transparency and revenue growth.

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb also mentioned the necessary improvements required in existing data sources to effectively utilize them for tax purposes. The Minister of State Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik discussed the implementation challenges of RAAST, Pakistan's instant payment system, and ways to improve its functional ity. The meeting concluded with a strong note of commitment from all parties involved to continue work-

Foundation's for their sup- ing together towards these port in engaging McKinsey

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb called on by Jason Lamb, Deputy Director, Focus Country Implementation of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Senate committees formation stalled by disagreement

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Mandviwala being handed formation of Senate Standing Committees has hit a deadlock due to a heated disagreement between the government and the opposition. The tussle centers on the allocation of key committees, with the government coalition seeking control over crucial areas such as foreign affairs, finance,

and interior. Despite an important meeting between Senate Chairman Yusuf Raza Opposition Shibli Faraz, no resolution was achieved. According to sources, the process Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has requested the of committees is a weak Finance Committee and the and undemocratic practice Law and Justice Commit- that threatens the integrity

to Farooq H. Naik.

However, Shibli Faraz has firmly rejected the government's proposed distribution formula. He argues that the standing committees, which have traditionally been chaired by the opposition for the last 12 years, should continue to be allocated to them. Faraz emphasized the role of these committees in monitoring government policies and ensur-Gilani, Leader of the House ing parliamentary ac-Ishaq Dar, and Leader of the countability, accusing the government allies of attempting to undermine this

"The unfair allocation tee, insisting on the chair-manship of Saleem of our parliamentary sys-tem," Faraz stated.

Acquisition of IT education vital to compete with modern world: Commissioner Zhob

training was also very imand higher education.

ogy Complex Zhob.

Technology Officer, Engi-

Divisional Information

The commissioner also inspected the Information Technology Training Center, met the teachers and students and discussed the provision of facilities to

Divisional Information

Technology Officer gave a briefing to the commissioner regarding the center and told that at present the number of students were more than 200. who were being trained in different fields. He expressed satisfaction over the ongoing neer Asmatullah Khan gave educational activities and a briefing to the commis- assured all possible support from his side.



QUETTA: A delegation of students of different girls schools and colleges photographed with Provincial Advisor for Women Development Department Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi.

Climate change authority case: **SC** summons climate change secretary, all four provincial secretaries ISLAMABAD (Online): to be looked after as well.

Supreme Court (SC) has summoned secretary climate change and all the four secretaries on next hearing in the case pertaining to establishment of Climate

Change Authority (CCA). all the four chief secretaries to appear through video link. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah remarked why the Punjab government could not frame policy regarding climate change so far. What steps have been taken by Punjab government to deal with the floods. Half of the trees planted under billion tree project have finished. Only planting the trees is

We will ask from all chief secretaries what progress in making policy and implementing the policy. During the hearing of

the case government presented notification on establishment of climate change authority. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah inquired authority has been set up but when it will become functional. Additional attorney general told advertisement has been given for appointment of members of authority. The process will be completed within two months. The court further inquired tell us if any solid step has been taken in connot enough but they have nection with climate change.

made an attempt to snatch but if the course of violence international football delis adopted then the State weapons from the Levies cops and anti-polio vaccine would take action in accor-House, said a news release dance with the law



100 more Green **Buses approved for** Quetta city: Hamza

Independent Report QUETTA: The Commissioner Quetta Division, Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat has stated that 100 more Green Buses have

media persons here at the office of Quetta Metropolitan Corporation on

The Commissioner Quetta was speaking to the

cility of public transport has been made available to

the citizens with provision

been approved for the Quetta city and in first phase, at least 25 buses be

He said that better fa-

He added that at the moment, only eight buses have been operating under private contract in Ouetta

More than 11,000 people travel by these Green buses daily, which is That's why, 100 more buses have been approved for the city, the Commissioner Quetta

maintained. He expressed the hope that 25 buses would come within one and half

month in the first phase. These buses would be plied on other routes of the

of Green bus service in city.

QUETTA: Opposition leader Mir Younis Aziz Zehri meeting with Provincial Food Minister Haji Noor

Ahsan Iqbal 'stunned' over no consultation on **development budget**ISLAMABAD (INP): held due to the non-forma-

ning and Development, Ahsan Iqbal, has expressed his reservations over the approval of the development budget and annual plan without his consulta-

According to media reports, the deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, Jahanzeb Khan, did not consult Ahsan Iqbal before approving the PSDP worth Rs 1221 billion on May 31. Moreover, the minister was also not consulted on the GDP growth targets of 2.4% for the current year and 3.6% for the

next year, sources added. It stated that annual Plan Coordination Committee meeting is likely to be cation, and infrastructure

tion of the National Economic Council. The PSDP and annual plan will require approval from the Prime Minister-headed National Economic Council, sources

In a separate report, it was revealed that due to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) target, the development budget of Pakistan is reportedly being affected, ARY News reported on Friday. According to reopment budget of Rs 950 billion only Rs 379 billion was utilized to meet IMF targets this year. These budget reductions have damaged the various sectors including health, higher edu-

convened again, it was not projects in Pakistan

QUETTA: Member Election Commission Shah Muhammad Jatoi addressing women MPAs during Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Framework meeting

ing June 8 rally to Swat after the federal capital's administration refused to permit the party to stage its The top leadership of

PTI announces

to hold public

rally in Swat

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa-

kistan Tehreek-e-Insat

(PTI) leadership has de-

cided to relocate its upcom-

rally in Islamabad. the party rejected the slamabad administration's offer that it should hold a public meeting on June 8 at

Rawat. According to a party spokesperson, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur also attended the meeting.

The meeting was attended by party Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan, who is also the Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly. Asad Qaiser and other prominent leaders. The . Islamabad district administration last Friday allowed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insat (PTI) to hold a public rally in the federal capital.

Edu ministry, **Taleemabad** transform a neglected

school ISLAMABAD (APP): In a remarkable turnaround, the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training and Taleemabad transformed a neglected school in Quetta in just two weeks, showcasing the power of ove and care that knows no

According to the Education Ministry, the said school in Quetta, once plagued by decades of neglect, lacked even the basic essentials - maintenance.

furniture, and books. This incredible feat is testament to the impact of dedication and collective effort, breathing new life into a forgotten institution and illuminating the path to a brighter future for its students, the ministry added.

Ashrafi calls for justice in Nazir Masih's death case

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Mehmood Ashrafi on Monday called for justice in the death case of Nazir Masih in Sargodha.
The PUC chairman, expressing deep grief over the killing, said in a state-

ment that taking the law

into one's own hands in

matters of blasphemy was

both unlawful and illegal.

nounced that she would students participating in the "Yaqeen" education camp, organized by the In-

She made the announcement while talking to the students from various schools and colleges in Quetta, who called on her at Women Development

camp and encouraged them to pursue their dreams.

QUETTA: Iranian Consul General, Hassan Darvesh Wand being briefed by Dr. Sohail Khan during his visit to Aria Hospital in Quetta.

QUETTA (APP): Commis- ment of IT Web Division.

sioner Zhob Division Tariqur Rehman Baloch on Monday said that the acquisition of information technology (IT) education was necessary to compete with the modern world and information technology portant along with quality

work together to protect our children from this debilitating disease. Get your He expressed these children vaccinated to save them from a lifetime of disviews while visiting Divisional Information Technol-

ability."

The five-day campaign aims to vaccinate all children under the age of five in the district, to ensure a polio-free future for sioner about the Depart-

The parents are urged to bring their children to the nearest vaccination center to for immunization.

Heatwave persists in country, rain forecast in some areas

the next generation.

ISLAMABAD (INP) Heatwave continues to dominate most parts of the country, particularly in the southern districts, according to the latest forecast from the Meteorological Department, with a mix of hot and humid conditions and sporadic rain in some

The southern districts remain under an intense heatwave, with temperatures soaring to extreme levels. Coastal areas, including Karachi, are experiencing hot and humid weather, though there is a slight pos sibility of drizzle along the coastline, offering minor

In contrast, northeast Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) have a chance of rain accompanied by thunderstorms at a few places. Specifically. Íslamabad and its sur rounding areas are expected to stay partly cloudy with intermittent rain, providing some respite

The court has directed