

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XIX No. 120, Zil Hajj 04, 1445 AH Tuesday June 11, 2024, Pages 04, Price Rs.15

NEC approves 13th 5-year National Development Plan, economic growth target for 2024-25

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Economic Council on Monday approved in principle the 13th five-year National Development Plan along with the annual economic growth targets for the fi-nancial year 2024-25 and macroeconomic framework for annual planning.

The NEC meeting, presided over by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, was informed that the key objectives of the plan in-cluded development of every part of the country, especially the less developed areas; increase in exports; promotion of the small and medium industry; social protection and poverty alleviation; increase in the capacity tect from the impacts of cli- ers so that as a result of mance and the annual devel-

mate change. the collective vision for the development of the cour-Planning Ministry to en-sure the positive role of the provinces in the national and involved the consent activity of the upcoming fiscal and involved the consent activity of the upcoming fiscal year 2024-25. It was told in the meeteconomy and to present a of all. comprehensive framework

to increase the exports. The ministry was also directed to include the decisions regarding the provinces in the consultation process to achieve the will be used for important overall economic growth

target of the country. The prime minister emphasized that the government would ensure the Economic Council to set best utilization of the ex- up a committee which in isting resource for revival consultation with the provof the economy and prosinces and other stakeholders, should formulate the perity of the people.

He further said that in proposals to not only make all important decisions rethe Council active but also garding the economy, the federation would ensure modern requirements. modern requirements. building of the work force; consultation with the prov-and a framework to pro-inces and other stakehold-formed about the perfor-

the collective vision for the development of the country, such decisions were als for the upcoming fiscal duction of export products, innovation of agriculture sector, artificial intelligence

ing that the growth rate tar-'The National Ecoget for the upcoming fiscal nomic Council is the bigyear had been increased siggest forum for important nificantly.

The prime minister on the occasion said that as the country's economy, which agriculture sector was the decisions for the recovery backbone of the country's of the economy," he added. economy, therefore consul-The prime minister tation with the provinces for also directed the National its development was very important.

He directed to ensure inclusion of the provinces' proposals regarding agriculture and other sectors in the plan. The Council was also informed about the national goals for the recovery of the economy and the measures to achieve them.

The meeting was told that measures such as pro-

Minister Muhammad

Shehbaz Sharif on Monday

attended Namaz-e-Janaza

of Shaheed Captain Faraz

Ilyas in Kasur who was

martyred in an improvised

explosive device (IED) at-

tack in District Lakki

The funeral prayer

was attended by Minister

for Information and Broad-

casting Attaullah Tarar, IG

Police Punjab and a num-

ber of senior military of-

threat

tõ

Marwat,

residents.

Pakhtunkhwa.

Khyber

and information technology sector in line with international standards, sustainable and renewable energy, effective use of water resources, development of youth and women, effective and speedy implementation of the second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would ensure development of the country's economy in next five years. The review of the development budget 2023-24

and proposed development budget 2024-25 was also presented in the meeting. It was told that in the

upcoming development budget, priority would be given to the projects under CPEC, those of foreign in-vestment and the ones close

loss with fortitude.

to completion.

Debt of soldiers, citizens

to be repaid by relentlessly eliminating terrorism: PM

Attends Namaz-e-Janaza of Shaheed

Captain Faraz Ilvas

land.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with the Chief Minister of all four provinces prior to the meeting of National Economic Council in Islamabad

CM Bugti assures to provide every possible facilities to zayreen during movement in Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Min-ister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has accured that the previncial assured that the provincial zayreen during their move-

elevated place in Jannah, he said, adding that a large also assured that the hardships and issues of zayreen would be resolved on priority basis in the jurisdic-

The prime minister said that the nation was proud of its brave sons and the coward terrorists could not succeed in shaking their strong resolve. Separately, on X ac-

said that he was deeply The prime minister saddened by the martyralso met with the parents dom of Pak Army person-

nel including a captain in a

targeted attack in District

our nation. Heartfelt con-

Lakki Marwat.

posted.

on Monday.

Monday. vide every possible facili-During the course of meeting, matters about provision of facilities to the zayreen and other related

issues were discussed. Speaking to the members of delegation, Chief Minister assured that improvement would be brought in the traveling facilities to zayreen from Taftan border and Balochistan.

He also assured that number of immigration counters would be increased for facilitation of zayreen at the Taftan border on occasion of Ashura and Arbaeen.

He said that the provincial government would pro-

ties to the zayreen. Meanwhile, there was consensus on running Pa-

kistan House Taftan under the Public-Private partner-The delegation of Jafria Zayreen Group Organizers

Association thanked the Chief Minister Balochistan on assurance made by him for resolving issues of zayreen and providing them the necessary facilities.

The members of delegation hoped that the hardships of zayreen would be removed by increasing number of immigration counters and running Pakistan House Taftan under public-private partnership



Kamran Akhtar, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Govt set to present President directs payment of **FY2024-25** budget compensation to 1500 affectees

AHORE (APP): Prime reaved family to bear the government would provide every possible steps to the Under the Quranic teachings, a shaheed had an ment in the province. The Chief Minister

number of Jawans of armed forces had laid down their lives for the mothertions of Balochistan. The Chief Minister was speaking to a represen-

tative delegation of Jafria Zayreen Group organizers who called on him along with the Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhaw, Faisal Karim ficers, civil authorities and count, the prime minister Kundi, in Islamabad on

of Diamer-Bhasha Dam

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday directed the authorities concerned to ensure the payment of compensation worth Rs 4.7 million each to 1500 affectees of the Diamer-Bhasha Dam.

The president said this in separate meetings with Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engineer Amir Mugam and Energy Minister Dr Musaddik Malik, according to a President House press release.

Highlighting the necessity of establishment of a medical college and hospital in GB, he instructed the relevant departments to take measures on priority for the purpose.



KASUR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif participates in the burial of Shaheed Captain Muhammad Faraz Ilyas who was martyred in Lakki Marwat.

tomorrow of shaheed captain and expressed condolences. ISLAMABAD (APP): He announced to Amid challenges both at intransform the native vilternal and external levels, lage of martyred officer as

the incumbent government model village and renamed it as "Faraz Ilyas is all set to present its first budget for the fiscal year Shaheed". 2024-25 in the Parliament He told the parents on June 12 (Wednesday). that the sacrifice of their

The budget will be preson would not go in vain and prayed for the besented by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue. Muhammad Awareness seminar at BUITEMS:

Aurangzeb. Climate change posing serious The budget had been formulated while considerthreat to Balochistan, says ing the existing challenges being faced by economy at domestic and international **Governor Mandokhail** fronts. Hence, mitigating the people's sufferings. **Independent Report** transforming the agriculture QUETTA: The Governor sector, promoting informa-Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar tion technology (IT), and Khan Mandokhail has boosting exports would be noted with concern that the the main focus of the docuchanging climate is posing

Senator

ment, sources said serious In addition to fiscal nanagement, revenue mobilization, measures for eco-

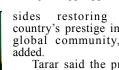
nomic stabilization and growth, reduction in nondevelopment expenditures, job creation.

Pakistan's enemies perturbed over its rapid progress under PM: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting and National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Monday said Pakistan's fast-track progress under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had stunned its enemies in contrast with their dreams of its downfall economi-

cally. The disgruntled elements were fully perturbed as the prime minister had charted the country on path of progress and development, he said while front. addressing a press conference.

The minister said a socalled leader while being at the helm of affairs in 2018



minister's historic visit to China was "highly suc-cessful", which had been marked by an unprec-edented level of enthusiasm and mutual cooperation

had adversely affected Pakistan's relations with during the visit, fostering the brotherly countries thus causing serious problems on the diplomatic

On the other hand, the government led by PM Shehbaz Sharif had not only mended relations with the brotherly states, be-



vironment by cutting trees A multitude of issues. and contributing to the environmental pollution". "It he said, were addressed would take at least 300

vears to restore Quetta in the dawn of a new era in its actual condition.' the bilateral relations of These and similar other two countries which had views were expressed by been enjoying exemplary the Governor while adbonds for decades. Their unparalleled dressing an awareness semi-

QUETTA: Provincial Advisor for Environment Naseem ur Rehman Mulakhail presenting a shield to Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail during a ceremony held on eve of World Environmental Day

cerned high ups, environ-The Governor said that mental experts and others participated in the seminar. we have destroyed out en-Addressing the semi-

nar. Governor said that while the climate change issue is taking heavy toll of the environment, therefore, there is a direnced to improve the environment and nature

He said that improving nature and environment is vital for improving environpollution



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Mir Ali Madad Jattak and others addressing a ceremony for distribution of appointment orders on deceased quota in Irrigation Department

greets Modi on swearing in

"The sacrifices of our as Indian PM brave soldiers and citizens ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz is a debt on us that we must repay by relentlessly Sharif on Monday felicieliminating terrorism from tated Narendra Modi as he took the oath of the office of the Prime Minister of dolences to the bereaved families," he further

India. "Felicitations

to Narendra Modi on taking oath as the Prime Minister of India," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline.

Modi was sworn in as Indian PM on Sunday for a third term after the BJP-led National Democratic Information Technology, Engineering and Manage-Alliance won the general election with 293 seats - a ment Sciences (BUITEMS) much lower margin than The Advisor to Chief predicted, contrary to the Minister for Environment, 234 seats won by the oppo-Nasimur Rehman, consition.

> Naqvi hints at 'major surgery' in team after loss to India in T20 World Cup 2024 NEW YORK (INP): Paki-

stan Cricket Board (PCB) meeting, different matters Chairman Mohsin Naqvi of mutual interests came up has hinted at a 'major surgery' in the team after a poor performance against Îndia în the T20 World Cup Minister Balochistan for the public welfare, the 2024

Addressing a press con-Governor KP expressed the ference in New York, after hope that the incumbent the Green Shirts' defeat, Mohsin Naqvi said the defeat against India was disappointing in every way. "It seemed that a minor surgery would suffice for the Pakistan cricket team, but after the extremely poor performance, it has become clear Federal Minister for Wathat the team needs major surgery," the PCB chairman ter Resources Musadik said. Naqvi said that he was Malik informed the Nawell aware of what was tional Assembly on Monhappening within the team day that there is currently no water shortage in the country, and all provinces mentioned that Pakistani are receiving their full wacricket is currently at its ter share as per the agreed lowest performance level. accord in the Indus River Our biggest challenge is to System Authority (IRSA) improve the team's performeeting mance

Responding to a call-The nation will soon ing attention notice regardsee a major surgery taking ing a 29 percent water place. We have to prepare shortage observed in Sindh the team for the Champiprovince during the early ons Trophy, and it is time Kharif season and the dito give opportunities to the version of flow into the talent sitting outside. The Link Canal, he said that PCB chairman said that the the IRSA meeting on goal is to make the Pakistani May 13 decided that wacricket team one of the best in the world.



ISLAMABAD: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi.

Governor KP praises CM Sarfraz Bugti's endeavours for welfare of people in Balochistan

Independent Report

Faisal Karim Kundi has

him in Islamabad on Mon-

for threadbare discussion.

During the course of

While praising the ef-

forts being made by Chief

the province.

day.

resolving the public issues QUETTA: The Governor while meeting their expec-Khyber Pakhtunkhaw, tations

On the occasion, Mir praised the endeavours of Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti in-Chief Minister Balochistan vited Governor KP to visit Balochistan. While acceptfor welfare of the people of ing the invitation of Chief The Governor KP was Minister, Governor KP asspeaking to Chief Minister sured that he would visit Balochistan who called on Balochistan.

The Chief Minister informed the Governor KP that we are working to bring improvement in good governance, health and education sectors in Balochistan.

He said that we are determined to put the province on path of development and prosperity as per the vision of President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman provincial government PPP, Bilawal Bhutto would play active role for Zardari

No water shortage, provinces given 100% share: Minister told NA SLAMABAD (APP):

their shares.

"At present, there is no shortage of water, and all provinces are receiving 100 percent of their water share as agreed in the ac-

cord," he said. He said that IRSA included representatives from all provinces and that all decisions are made by consensus

Regarding the Link Canal, he mentioned that only provinces with canals can decide on the provision of water to canals

He also shared the water release figures to canals with the lawmakers

The minister further informed the lawmakers that there is no water ter would be provided to shortage for the Kharif provinces according to season.

and the reasons for the defeat. The PCB Chairman

Page 02

matter?

test.

OPINION

Daily **Independent**

Daily A oice of Masse, Independent

Approaching budget

The constitution of the National Economic Council to review and approve the macroeconomic budget ary framework, as well as proposed federal and provincial development spending plans for 2024-25 gives hope that the announcement of next year's budget will not be delayed beyond June 12. Considering that the Annual Plan Coordination Committee had firmed up its macro targets for FY25 at the beginning of this month, the delay in the announcement has been surprising, if not perplexing. Apparently, it was done to facilitate Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif undertake his China visit, which had many guessing about its purpose just ahead of the budget presentation. Rumour has it that the visit was undertaken in connection with IMF-dictated budget targets and programme goals concerning Chinese debt and power purchase agreements with Chinese companies.

That the government is making its budget in exceptionally challenging conditions is an understatement. The present macroeconomic environment is probably the most demanding any government has faced in years — despite the newfound economic stability under the IMF's short-term SBA facility. Macroeconomic conditions remain vulnerable to the slightest shock. Politically, too, the situation is tough. On the one hand, a court decision has, at least for now, deprived the fledgling government of an absolute majority in parliament. On the other, it must find a balance between stringent IMF demands and the public's expectations of relief. Caught between a rock and a hard place, the finance managers have repeatedly reassured the people that the burden of 'adjustments' to be made in the budget under an agreement with the IMF would fall on the affluent. Yet few have faith in those commitments, given the stern IMF conditions that would require drastic direct and indirect taxation and withdrawal of subsidies in the next budget, and a significant increase in energy prices at the beginning of FY25 to qualify for a new bailout.

In this context, the government's budget priorities are clear: economic stabilisation by containing the current account deficit in the balance-ofpayments, and reduction in the budget deficit and borrowing requirements through primary budget surplus. Stabilisation is crucial for Pakistan to make its external debt payments on time, bring up its dwindling foreign exchange reserves to a safe level, and achieve debt sustainability by narrowing the gap between its income and spending by mobilising additional tax revenue and cutting public expenditure. It goes without saying that these goals require extensive policy reforms. Both the prime minister and finance minister have time and again expressed their commitment to carrying out the required structural reforms under the new IMF programme. The budget for the next year will be their first test. Many are sceptical of them translating their words into welldefined actions in the budget. Will they prove their doubters wrong?

In protest mode

Huma Yusuf aligned with the pro-Pal-In a year of elections, estine protest movement some signs of democratic early on, arguing that clirevival were inevitable. mate justice has to be un-These have come in the derpinned by basic huelectoral outcomes in Inman rights and security dia, Mexico and South and freedom from occu-Africa, where leaders pation. Climate activists

have been held accountable at the ballot box. You have been pointing out can almost hear those the immense climate toll who believe in due proof the war: greenhouse cess breathing a collecgas emissions from war tive sigh of relief after activities, plus the signifiyears of authoritarian cant emissions expected creep. But what impact from future reconstrucwill these democratic tion activities. They have stirrings have on public also accused Israel of carprotest, and why does it rying out ecocide, for example, by razing olive In recent months trees that have stood on

alone, Pakistan has seen the land for centuries. Given the West's current protests against inflation, food prices, border polifocus on tackling climate cies that hamper local change, the disregard for these issues in Palestine trade, energy prices, alleged poll rigging, censoris highlighted as further ship, disappearances, etc. We are not alone. Inproof of double standards, an argument that deed, we are living resonates with the core messaging of pro-Palesthrough a new age of protine protests.

A 2021 report on More powerfully, World Protests from the the two movements have Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung identified that many fithink tank and Initiative nancial institutions or for Policy Dialogue found corporates that fund or that the number of profacilitate the fossil fuels tests worldwide had sector are the same that tripled between 2006 and facilitate the Israeli de-2020. The research found fence sector or Israeli that 54 per cent of the companies that operate protests recorded were in or profit from settled artriggered in response to eas. By joining forces, the perceived failure of pogroups have been able to litical systems or represhare tactics and intensentation", while 28pc insify pressure on ecocluded demands for "real nomic institutions. Similarly, global

democracy" The year 2022 saw women's rights and femieven more protests — nist movements have 11.000 across 145 coun- aligned with pro-Palestries — largely against tine protesters given the high costs of living. In excessive impact of the 2023, protests erupted in conflict on women and 83 countries, on prolifer- children, who account for ating matters as wide at least half the lives lost ranging as the Israel-Pal- in Gaza since October. estine war, cost of living Beyond the death toll, crisis, climate justice, aswomen have also been saults on democracy, subject to sexual viowomen's rights and govlence, healthcare, miscarriages ernment service proviand lack of nutrition. sion. Т

intersectionality of protests is also increasing. feminist imperative. Take, for example, the global protests against elections reduce some of rather than across each

Climate change activists tensify it? Will there be a coalescing of demands or further diversification? The growing intersectionality of protests has been a fascinating development, forcing disparate groups to engage with each other and find common

> velopment in polarised But in the context of vibrant democr-acies, multifaceted protests are less ef---f---ective in holding democratic gov--ern-ments to account or effecting policy chan-ge. As I recently wrote in relation to pro-Palestine prot-ests on US camp-uses, the most effective protests are the ones with local, relevant

and tailored demands. The activist community must consider how the gradually shifting political landscape will affect protest movements, because the ultimate goal must be to keep the spirit of protest and accountability alive. And as much as we live in an age of protest, we also live in an age of crackdowns, and the threat from authoritarianism and censorship continues to loom large, including in

'democratic' contexts. For lasting, positive change, protest activity is essential. As political scientist Erica Chenoweth has pointed out, civil disobedience is the most effective way of changing political trajectories, with protests twice as likely to achieve their goals than violent means or any form of conflict. Chenoweth also found that it takes around 3.5pc of a population actively participating in protests to effect meaningful politiinadequate cal change. In all scenarios, that means we should remain ready to take to the streets (literally e Allyship with Gazan women is becoming a or metaphorically), and remain open, once we're there, to talk to each other

Will this epic year of Israel's atrocities in Gaza. this protest activity or in- other. -- Courtesy Dawn

Neda Mulji on the PSX offer formal training to their employees. These companies have a collective annual turnover of over Rs8 trillion. It wouldn't take ground, a refreshing demuch to calculate the impact on productivity if they were to invest in

their employees' learning and development and development (L&D) helps employees identify their strengths, unlocks thinking potential, and opens lines of communication. Employees can hugely benefit from sim-

ply being heard as they sit for conversations with a workplace coach or mentor. Typical questions that a workplace coach may ask are: what skills can help you do your job better? How can you develop these skills, and what are your priorities for career growth? Ongoing reflection with a mentor or coach not only motivates but can also help align the emplovee company's goals and strategy, as well as drive

individual career growth. Most employees strive for significance to be seen and valued for work. their value employees comes to the table in terms of ficiency and productivity. Often, employees complain about churning the same wheel, but lots can change if they take action to drive innovation within their teams.

A McKinsey report on successful L&D strategy by Nick van Dam points out key elements of employee development that are beneficial to companies. Besides

Unlocking potential value-based culture looking towards invest-

Not even 10 per cent of body the company's ambassadors are not just driven by data analytics on productivity, but also the perceived significance of their work, loyalty to the company and ownership of their role. To be successful,

L&D opportunities need incorporate to opportunities. Learning programmes that are sustainable. From in-person, on the job training and collaboration with colleagues to coaching and creasingly choosing mentoring, programmes can be delivered online. Online training is often viewed with suspicion, as it has been historically considered inferior to in-person interaction. However, company's values, studies have shown that

online training is a 'safer' place giving opportunities for self-expression and individual work to employees who may not be comfortable speaking in public or in a face-toe set-up.

Those with full schedules during the day with the are more receptive to online sessions that they can attend sitting at their desk or at home, rather than clearing their calendar for a physical meetup. Online learning is of-An ten also easier to moniemployer's motivation to tor if followed by assessments that gauge learnfrom what they can bring ing impact and key takeaways. In fact, online teamwork, capability, ef- training programmes are all the more necessary in Pakistan to empower professionals to use technology and digital tools with greater ease in this fast-evolving era of learning management

systems. Ninety-one per cent of Fortune 500 companies offer mentoring and coaching programmes. This correlation be- Ford once said, "The tween investment in only thing worse than building individual capa- employee development training your employees bilities and retaining tal- and the companies' sucent, companies create cess is not coincidental. their own 'brand ambas- An increasing number sadors'. This results in a of global companies are Courtesy Dawn

where employees em- ment in professional development, particularly the 531 companies listed reputation and competi- reskilling and coaching tive advantage. Brand as a way of increasing produc-tivity. Not only does L&D target goals, it also ensures a continuous learning culture so that employees are able to respond to the fast-changing work and external environment.

Development opportunities have come to be recognised as a deciding factor for the 'employer of choice' The 'millenials' are inthese companies that can commit to their gro-wth. Most employees choose to stick with a company that caters to their well-being, keeping them enga-g--ed in the goals and te--amwork as opposed to reporting on day-to-day tasks.

Investing emplo-yees not just saves the company the costs associated with a high turnover, it also ensures that skills are not misdirected, with employees stuck in roles not suited to their ability. It helps employers make conscious decisions for placement, promotion and professional development. It also ensures that employees stay motivated, learn how to manage themselves and rise up to challenges as a team. The employee engagement that results from these efforts helps safeguard and promote the company's reputation with its customers.

Understandably many companies avoid the costs of training employees for fear of losing them to competitors, but the price of avoiding training will always be higher. As Henry and having them leave is not training them and having them stay."

Commerce News

SBP cuts down policy rate to 20.5% amid easing inflationary pressures

the policy rate by 150 basis points to 20.5 percent owing to subsiding inflationary pressure and in inflation ease expectations amid tight policy stance that was also supported by fiscal consolidation and administrative measures by government.

"The reduced policy regarding future energy rate of 20.5 % will be effective from June 11, monetary policy statement monetary tightening is Monetary Committee (MPC). The MPC found

The MPC found While reviewing key decline in inflation since development, the MPC February broadly in line noted that the real GDP with expectations and May out turn better than earlier at 2.4% in FY24 as per anticipation and assessed provisional data, reduced underlying current account deficit

KARACHI (APP): The inflationary pressures were subsiding as reflected by continued moderation in \$9 billion despite large debt core inflation and ease in repayments while the inflation expectations of government has also both consumers and businesses in the latest surveys. The

viewed some upside risks inflows that would help in to the near-term inflation outlook associated with buffers. the upcoming budgetary price adjustments noting

that "the cumulative 2024," the SBP said in its impact of the earlier continued to inch up. issued after the meeting of expected to keep terming it an appropriate Policy inflationary pressures in

check.

\$9 billion despite large debt approached the IMF for an Extended Fund Facility Programme, which was committee likely to unlock financial

further building up of FX The committee measures and uncertainty noted that international oil prices have declined. non-oil whereas commodity prices have The committee

time for reducing the policy rate on basis of recent developments, noted that the real interest rate was still significantly positive growth remained moderate which was important to continue guiding inflation to the medium-term target of 5 to 7 %.

has

also

has

Women export display Pak sees 62.3% surge in IT centre to be set up at exports; report ISLAMABAD (APP): **Faisalabad: FWCCI** Pakistan witnessed

FAISALABAD (APP): The Faisalabad Women Pakistan's export volume Chamber of Commerce & can go further high if we Industry (FWCCI) will establish a Women Export fetch best prices for Display Centre at women products, Faisalabad in collaboration particularly handmade with the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) to facilitate 'Access to Market' for women products.

These products, particularly handmade articles, are high in demand in traditional and nontraditional markets abroad, said Mrs. Rubina Amjad, President FWCCI and Chairperson of FPCCI Standing Committee on Think Tank.

She was addressing the participants in a symposium on 'Digital Transformation of Women Businesses in Pakistan', organized by Think Tank Committee in collaboration with the of more than FPCCI here today

She said that are able to facilitate and products, products, in international markets.

She said that as founder and current President of Faisalabad exports is attributed to the policy reforms and business-friendly policies introduced by Women Chamber and now the Special Investment Chairperson of FPCCI Think Tank Committee, Facilitation Council (SIFC), PTV reported. The stability of the her main emphasis is that women dong business or local currency and the start-ups must be decision to allow facilitated and equipped freelancers to deposit with digital transformation foreign earnings into that offers a pathway to local bank accounts overcome traditional have been key factors in barriers and achieve this growth, the report sustainable growth. By read. It further stated embracing digital tools and that the State Bank of strategies, women Pakistan's relaxation of

entrepreneurs should the retention limit for IT enhance their companies from 35% to competitiveness and market base in this planet 50% contributed to the 200 countries, she added increase.



ISLAMABAD: The Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi calls on the Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain

TCP imports 6,572,430 metric tons of wheat from 2020 to 2023: NA Informed

ISLAMABAD (APP): that the TCP did not Minister for Commerce import any quantity of wheat during the year Jam Kamal Khan informed the National Assembly on 2023-24.

He explained that Monday that the Trading TCP acts as the sole Corporation of Pakistan Limited (TCP) imported medium for purchasing 6,572,430 metric tons of wheat for food security wheat during the period from 2020-21 to 2022-23. During the question

minister said that the TCP minister imported wheat based on The dispelled any rumors regarding the export of wheat flour, stating that such reports are baseless

Talal Chaudhary says: Centre constitutionally authorized to levy taxes for greater national interest

government

irresponsible

Chief

money

FAISALABAD (APP): Central leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Talal Chaudhary said that federal government was constitutionally authorized to levy taxes and nobody could stop it from exercising this right.

Talking to media persons at Jaranwala here, he strongly condemned the statement of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister and said that taxes were the lifeline of a

purposes, while its storage can only import wheat and distribution are under a mandate given by managed by the Ministry the government. hour in the house, the of National Food Security minister clarified that and Research. decisions related to the

import and export of sugar are made by the Sugar Advisory Board, and no decision has been made yet regarding sugar imports.

been made

He said that it was

decided last year that the

private sector would be

responsible for importing

wheat, and TCP would not

engage in wheat imports.

However, he said that TCP

Regarding sugar, the

Jazz ranks leading cellular mobile operator ISLAMABAD (APP): Jazz was ranked as the leading cellular mobile operator in Pakistan, topping multiple categories in the Pakistan. multiple government and the was The QoS survey, determined to collect and carried by the Pakistan

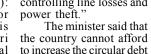
spend taxes for the uplift Telecommunication of the country and welfare Authority (PTA) out in 16 of the masses. He termed the statement of the KP cities of Pakistan during Minister the first quarter of 2024, assessed the performance and unconstitutional and said of Cellular Mobile that a major portion of Operators (CMOs) in taxes collected by the accordance with the federal government is Cellular Mobile Network distributed among the Ouality of Service (QoS) provinces to launch their Regulations 2021, said a projects from this pooled news release issued by the company.

Country holds surplus electricity, ready for 24-hour supply: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): controlling line losses and Federal Minister for power theft." Energy Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari informed the National Assembly on Monday that the country has surplus electricity and we are ready to provide 24-hour power

supply to feeders with zero losses

transmission capacity to demand, and we are ready to provide electricity 24-However, this is not shedding will continue on possible without these high-loss feeders.'



further. 'We don't provide electricity to feeders with high line losses because this adds to the losses in the power sector, which Speaking at the cannot be borne by the country's economy," he he said, "The system has enough generation and stressed that unless

distribution companies, meet the electricity with the assistance of provincial governments, change their course and hours to consumers. control their losses, "load



SARGODHA: A vendor selling seasonal fruits near Shaheen chowk.

KE introduces live App for providing easy access to income tax certificates

ISLAMABAD (APP): As in more efficiency and the fiscal year closes and citizens prepare to file their taxes, K-Electric has introduced a quick and new service for customers to download their tax company. Sharing his certificates through the KE comment on the features, Live App in just four simple clicks. These include sales

tax for our industrial or commercial customers, reduces the need for advance income tax for residential accounts, and withholding tax certificate for net metering customers, said a press can also apply for new release issued on Monday. The initiative is an extension of KE's efforts to digitize its services to bring supply from any location.

customer-centricity in its processes and leverages technology and innovation to bridge the gap between the customer and the spokesperson KE stated We're pleased to expand the portfolio of services on the KE Live App, which customers to physically visit our centers by offering them a digital solution at their fingertips. Customers connections, change of name requests, and get realtime updates on their power

the instructions of the remarkable 62.3% Economic Coordination increase in IT exports Committee (ECC) and the in April this year compared to the same federal cabinet. Jamal Kamal clarified and no such decision has period last year, according to a recent report by the BBC. The surge in IT

ndependent

National News

Page 03

AJK PM vows to use tax money for people's welfare

MIRPUR-AJK (APP): profit. Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister of 19 billion rupee, had money to improve the lives corruption. of the common man.

Speaking at a reception in Dheerkot, the AJK PM said his government's goal is to He expressed hope provide good governance that development works and ensure that tax money would be spent on people's welfare.

strong institutions. The government has made significant progress, turning a 16 billion rupee loss into a 32 billion rupee crore rupee taxes

electric short circuit, in Abbottabad

LAHORE (APP): Punjab

Minister for Primary and

Secondary Healthcare,

Khwaja Imran Nazir said

on Monday that the

province was under

significantly lower number

of confirmed cases and

fatalities compared to other

Speaking to a private news channel, he stated

that while measles cases in

Punjab were fewer than in

other provinces, the

vaccination campaign was

intensified to protect children from infectious

diseases. Khwaja Imran

said out of over 10,000

suspected cases reported,

2,700 were confirmed,

control,

provinces.

with

in Punjab: Minister

а

lower.

representing a 25% ratio, most affected areas, while whereas only 28 deaths the rest of the districts had

were confirmed with the routine patients.

The

The

ensure their safety.

Chaudhry Anwarul Haq on been utilized for road Monday pledged to use tax development without any be a sheer violation.

PM AJK The emphasized the need to end

He expressed hope will be expedited soon, stressing the importance of 'Kashmir tolerance, wisdom and o civil war. The government had

The event was also collected an amount of 11 attended by various government ministers.

domestic dispute

ABBOTTABAD: Fire fighters extinguishing fire at dairy farm warehouse building during rescue operation after fire broke out incident due to wife.

> disease, as per the National Institute of Health. with the consent and help of his brother Shah minister

emphasized that every The police shifted child's life was precious measles situation in the and that the government was taking measures to investigation He clarified that a 2both the accused.

3% death ratio was natural in every disease, and the measles ratio was even Punjab

government is utilizing digital monitoring and MULTAN (APP): A bus crushed the youngster to clustering to combat the disease, with Chief death near the Niaz petrol Minister Maryam Nawaz pump on Khanewal Road focusing her attention on Multan the issue. The minister said

1122, a youngster named of Muhammad Sharif, Mulan, was heading to his destination

responsibilities would He advocated for

PESHAWAR

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Chief Minister Ali Amin

Gandapur has directed the

Agriculture Department to

collect detailed data on

agricultural lands across

the province and prepare

for saffron cultivation on

suitable lands by the

Muhammad

(APP):

peaceful resolution of all genuine issues. He was of the opinion

that protest is not the solution of any problem. The AJK PM reiterated his belief in the slogan Banega Pakistan" and urged an end

Man kills wife over

PESHAWAR (APP): A man shot dead his wife over domestic dispute in the vicinity of Pahari Pura police station, police said on Monday. Pahari Pura police

upcoming season. Yar Mul said the incident occurred in Gul Abad No-2, Pahari

Bus crushes youngster to death

literacy

merged areas.

According to Rescue Muhammad Aziz (21) son resident of Block W New

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Local Government Zeeshan Rafique presides over the special meeting. Punjab Minister for Agriculture Syed Ashiq Kirmani is also present.

CM directs expansion of promising Saffron cultivation initiative

costs around Rs 3.2 million per acre, the tentative annual return is estimated at about Rs 6.8 million. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has

127,950 acres of potential saffron-growing area, capable of producing 255 tons of stigma, which could generate an annual economic return of

billions of rupees. The investment in saffron farming in KP will be phased over short (4 years), medium (7 years), and long-term (10 years), periods. Over a decade, this initiative could create

suitable lands. KP govt taking measures to ANF seizes over enhance educational facilities, females' literacy: Minister

Independent Report dropout rates, especially PESHAWAR: Provincial among girls. Education Minister of

He emphasized the launch of community-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa based education centers Faisal Khan Tarakai on under the supervision of Monday said that Khyber the Foundation, including Pakhtunkhwa government the Sabaon Schools has unveiled a series of Program and Middle revolutionary initiatives School Program, to swiftly aimed at increasing female establish schools and rate and immediate address educational facilities for educational needs. During women, particularly in the briefing, Managing Director of the Foundation, Mian Ainullah, informed

Addressing a briefing session organized by the Merged Districts Education Foundation, he that the foundation was operating as many as 207 highlighted the urgent need to expand access to education centers in the education and control province.

International News

With seed and input around 3.6 million direct iobs, employing

laborers per kanal. The Chief Minister emphasized the need for the effective utilization of available agricultural land to make it a significant source of income for the provincial government.

He instructed the Agriculture Department to undertake saffron cultivation directly, rather than leasing the lands, while also encouraging farmers to cultivate saffron on

> 262 kg drugs in five operations RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations across the country seized over 262 kg drugs and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that 1.2 kg heroin was recovered from the possession of a female passenger going to Bahrain at Islamabad Airport.

1 kg heroin was recovered from passenger going to Dubai at Karachi Airport while 63.6 kg hashish and 72 kg opium were recovered from two suspects rounded up near Ravi Toll Plaza Lahore.

Health minister visits Pak Children's Hearth Foundation, reviews facilities

(APP): LAHORE Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique on Monday visited the Pakistan Children's Heart hospital

medical facilities there.

of Lahore Owais Rauf,

Zahid Parvez, Dr Ali Nasir,

Children's

Foundation.

Salman Rafique said that the capacity of cardiology departments in Jinnal Hospital, Mayo Hospital, Ganga Ram Hospital, and Foundation and the hospitals in Wazirabad as under well as Faisalabad was construction in the being increased. The University of Lahore number of children born (UoL) and reviewed the with heart disease in Pakistan was Chairman Farhan Ahmed briefed the minister unfortunately increasing every year, he said, adding regarding the working details of the Pakistan that government cardiology hospitals were trying to Heart

increase the number of surgeries. The minister said Chairman University that Nawaz Sharif was going to build a state-of-Medical Superintendent Dr the-art cardiology hospital in Sargodha, and in this Dr Arsal, Professor Uzmi, regard, Pakistan Children's Heart Foundation was and others were present. Heart For Minister Khawaja with them.



MUZAFFARABAD: University students protesting at Azadi Chowk for the release of poet Ahmed Farhad.

Relief Commissioner Punjab briefed about Monsoon **Contingency Plan 2024**

LAHORE (APP): Relief initiatives and briefed Commissioner Punjab Nabil Javed chaired a meeting about Provincial Disaster Management (PDMA) Authority measures in the committee room on Monday in which construction and restructuring of the PDMA Punjab Complex was discussed. Director General PDMA Irfan Ali Kathia. Secretary Board of Revenue Shafqatullah Mushtaq and other officers attended the meeting. The DG briefed instructions to remove

Javed about PDMA's and canals.

about the Monsoon Contingency Plan 2024. DG PDMA Irfan Ali Kathia said that the probability of monsoon rains this year was higher than before, adding that preparations had been completed in anticipation of monsoon rains and possible floods. He said that warehouses of PDMA would be established in Rawalpindi. Bahawalpur. Sargodha, Rajanpur, and Relief Commissioner Nabil encroachments from rivers

would be known as the Stra-

tegic Alliance Agreement,

would require a two-thirds

majority vote in the US

Senate, a threshold that

achieve unless the treaty

were tied to Israeli-Saudi

modelled loosely on

Washing-ton's mutual se-

curity pact with Japan,

the newspaper cited US

and Saudi officials as say-

The draft treaty is

In exchange for the US

normalisation

Khan Niazi, the Chief Minister's Focal Person Pura where a man shot dead his 27-year-old for Digital Media, reported that the pilot saffron The brother of the planting by the KP Agriculture Department deceased woman told **Measles under control** police that his sister, has shown promising hazia was married to results Shah Saud. He alleged that Shah Saud shot dead Shazia

Khalid.

the body to hospital for post-mortem and started after registering a case against

UN Security Council set to vote on Gaza ceasefire deal today after US call

clustering analysis had identified Bahawalpur,

Jhang, and Chaniot as the

most affected areas, while

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: The United States announced on Sunday it has requested a UN Security Council vote on its draft resolution backing a plan for an "immediate ceasefire with the release of hostages" between Biden on May 31 launched Israel and Hamas.

Diplomatic sources said the vote is planned for Monday, but has not yet been confirmed by South Korea, which holds the Security Council presidency for the month of June.

"Today, the United States called for the Security Council to move towards a vote... supporting the proposal on the table," said Nate Evans, spokesman for the US delegation, without specifying a vote date.

"Council members should not let this oppor- Palestinian militant tunity pass by and must group to accept the docuspeak with one voice in ment in the latest version

support of this deal," Evans of the draft text. said. The United States, a That version staunch ally of Israel, has been widely criticized for having blocked several UN draft resolutions calling for

a ceasefire in Gaza. US President Joe a new push for a ceasefire and hostage release deal, separate from the United Nations.

Under the proposal, Israel would withdraw from Gaza population centers and Hamas would free hostages. The ceasefire would last an initial six weeks, with it extended as negotiators posal. seek a permanent end to

hostilities. The United States is full, placing primary responsibility for accepting the tages taken by Hamas, and proposal on Hamas, specifically calling on the prisoners" plus "with-

That version, which was distributed to member states on Sunday and was seen by AFP, "welcomes" the new ceasefire proposal

while stating, unlike in previous versions, that Israel has already accepted. The draft resolution "calls upon Hamas to also accept it, and urges both parties to fully implement its terms without delay and without condition.3

In response to requests from several member states, the latest text clearly lays out the pro-

South Africa's

Ramaphosa to

miss G7, focus on

finding partners

to govern

Monitoring Desk

This includes a first phase with an "immediate, and complete ceasefire," release of hos-"exchange of Palestinian drawal of Israeli forces from the populated areas in Gaza

Putin set to visit North Korea, Vietnam, **Vedomosti reports**

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit North Korea and Vietnam in the coming weeks, Russia's Vedomosti newspaper reported on Monday, with an official telling Reuters the Vietnam visit was planned for June 19-20 but has not yet been confirmed. Putin's visit to Pyongyang is being "actively prepared", Russian Ambassador to North Korea Alexander Matsegora confirmed to the newspaper.

The newspaper reported that Putin could visit Vietnam as early as June and most likely immediately after his visit to North Korea. An official in Vietnam told Reuters the dates of the Hanoi visit had been agreed, but the agenda was still under discussion. Energy, military cooperation, settlement of payments and an agreement in the educa- the date of the visit.

tion field are among the main issues expected to be dis-JOHANNESBURG: South cussed, the official said.

African President Cyril Vedomosti quoted Ramaphosa will not attend Russia's trade representathis week's Group of Seven tive in Vietnam as saying (G7) summit in Italy, his last month that the most spokesperson said on pressing trade issue be-Monday, as his party tween the two countries rushed to find partners to was banking support for govern the country.

settling payments. Ramaphosa's African Vietnam's foreign ministry did not reply to a reholding talks with a wide quest for comment. range of other parties, say-North Korean leader

Kim Jong Un visited Russia last September for talks with Putin. He toured Russia's

apartheid in last month's Vostochny Cosmodrome election. Diplomatic sources space launch centre in had said Ramaphosa was Russia's Far East and Putin due to take part in the G7 promised to help North summit from June 13-15 at Korea build satellites. The the invitation of Italy, which Kremlin has said Russia holds the rotating presiwants to build a partnership dency of the G7 and wants with North Korea "in all arto broaden the gathering beeas" but has not confirmed yond the usual seven industrial democracies.



Italy's PM Meloni comes out on top in EU vote, strengthening her hand

Monitoring Desk ROME: Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's arch-conservative Brothers of Italy group won the most votes in the European parliamentary election over the weekend, results showed, boosting her standing both at home and abroad. With 96% of the ballots counted, Brothers of Italy won 28.8% of the vote, more than four times what it took in the last EU election in 2019

and exceeding the 26% it secured in the 2022 national 5-Star Movement.

Macron calls snap legislative elections

Monitoring Desk PARIS: French President

Emmanuel Macron on Sun-National Congress (ANC) is day announced he was dissolving parliament and called snap legislative elecing it wants to form a nations after the far-right tional unity government aftrounced his centrist alliter losing its majority for the ance in EU polls. first time since the end of

The first round of elections for the lower house National Assembly will take place on June 30, with the second round on July 7, Macron announced in an address to the nation.

The outcome of the EU elections, he acknowledged, is "not a good result act of confidence.

ballot, when it rose to power. "I am proud that WARSAW: The United Italy will present itself to States announced Monday the G7, to Europe with the that it is setting up an opstrongest government of all. eration in the Polish capital This is something that has to help neighboring Ukraine not happened in the past but counter is happening today, it is a disinformation. satisfaction and also a great responsibility," Meloni said early on Monday from the party's headquarters. The opposition centre-left Democratic Party came in second with 24%, while another opposition group, the

jointly launched a Ukraine Communications Group. Mexico ruling party wins lower house

for parties who defend Europe". Macron noted that, super-majority including the top scoring but falls short National Rally (RN), farright parties in France manin Senate aged to take almost 40 per **Monitoring Desk** cent of the vote in the EU elections in France. "Far MEXICO

right parties... are progress-Mexico's ruling Morena ing everywhere in the conparty and its allies have tinent. It is a situation to won a super-majority in which I cannot resign mythe lower house of Conself." he said. gress but not the Senate,

"I decided to give you the party's president said the choice... Therefore I on Sunday, falling just will dissolve the National short of the two-thirds Assembly tonight. majority needed in both This decision is serihouses to change the conous and heavy but it is an

stitution. Preliminary results from the June 2 vote.

US, Saudi Arabia close to finalising security treaty, says WSJ treaty, which the WSJ said

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: The Biden administration is close to finalising a treaty with Saudi Arabia that would commit the US to would be difficult to help defend the Gulf nation as part of a deal aimed at encouraging diplomatic ties between Riyadh and Israel, the Wall Street Journal reported on Sunday, citing US

and Saudi officials. The possible deal, widely telegraphed by US and other officials for weeks, is part of a wider package that would include a US-Saudi civil nuclear

commitment to help defend Saudi Arabia if it were atpact, steps toward the estacked, the draft treaty tablishment of a Palestinwould grant Washing-ton ian state and an end to the Israeli aggression in Gaza, access to Saudi territory and airspace to protect US where months of ceasefire efforts have failed to bring peace.

interests and regional partners, the newspaper re-Approval of the ported.

International investors grab 'majority' of **Aramco shares**

Monitoring Desk RIYADH: Oil giant Saudi Aramco said on Sunday that international investors had snatched up the bulk of shares sold in its latest offering, which was set to raise \$11.2 billion.

The secondary offering was expected to provide a short-term boost to Saudi Arabia's finances as the Gulf kingdom builds large-scale projects including resorts and stadiums, part of a reform drive to prepare for an eventual

post-oil future. "The majority of the shares constituting the institutional tranche of the Offering was allocated to investors located outside of the Kingdom," the company said in a statement before the Saudi bourse reopened on Sunday.

Aramco ended trading on Sunday at 28.60 Saudi rivals (\$7.63) per share, after opening at 27.95 rivals, giving it a market capitalisation of around

\$1.85 trillion. Sources close to the

situation said that around 58 per cent of shares were allocated to international investors, up from around 23pc for the company's initial public offering in 2019 which was the biggest flotation in history.

The sources said around 70pc of orders outside the local market came from the European Union and the United States, while others came from Japan, Hong Kong and Australia.

Aramco, the mostly state-owned jewel of the Saudi economy, an-nounced on May 30 that it would sell 1.545 billion shares, or approximately 0.64pc of its issued shares, on the Saudi stock exchange.

It was widely seen as a test of foreign investor interest more than halfway through the kingdom's campaign known as Vision 2030, whose ambitions are reflected in so-called gigaprojects such as NEOM, a planned futuristic megacity in the desert.

The U.S. Department's Global Engagement Center, which works to highlight disinformation by what it considers hostile states, said in a statement that the U.S. and Poland have

launching group

to help Ukraine

counter Kremlin

disinformation

Monitoring Desk

Russian

State

CITY

Daily **Independent**, Hub

PM invites AKDN to invest more in Pak tourism sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday invited the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) to increase its investment in Pakistan's tourism sector.

He extended the invitation in a meeting with Chairperson Executive Committee of Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development Prince Rahim Aha Khan, who called on him along with a five-member delegation.

The prime minister also congratulated Prince Rahim Aga Khan on receiving the Nishan-e-Pakistan Award from the Government of Pakistan.

tude to Prince Rahim Aga of Aga Khan Development Khan for establishing vari- Network.

ous social welfare projects in less developed and remote areas of Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral.

He said setting up of various welfare projects in Pakistan's education, health, agriculture, tourism, IT and other sectors was commendable. The establishment of a software technology park and solar power plants organized by the Aga Khan Development Network in Hunza were also highly commendable. the prime minister said.

He also expressed his appreciation for the establishment of the microfinance banking center of Habib Bank Limited He expressed grati- in Gilgit under the auspices

OUETTA: MPA Zarak Mandokhail meeting with Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango

CM meets Maulana Attaur **Rehman**, inquires about Maulana Fazlur Rehman

Salik attends symposium

on Saudi Arabia's

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti met the senior leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), Maulana Attaur Rehman at

the Quetta airport. The Chief Minister met Maulana Attaur Rehman, the younger brother of JUI-central Ameer, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, at the departure

lounge of Quetta airport before departing for

Islamabad. Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti inquired about the JUI-central Amee from Maulana Attaur Rehman and extended best wishes for him.

Also present on the occasion were the leader of National Party, Mir Kabir Ahmed Muhammad Shahi besides other leaders of JUI.



ISLAMABAD: Prince Rahim Aga Khan calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Over 0.255 mln tonnes plastic bottles discarded per annum in country, Senate told

ISLAMABAD (APP): The tion. Senator Mohsin Aziz ing on-source segregation to Senate session during a motion tabled by the Opwhile explaining the motion said the non-degradable position benches on Monone-time use plastics parday was informed that over ticularly bottles of 500ml 0.255 million plastic bottles and smaller in size have were being discarded per drastically degraded and annum in the country chokdamaged the scenic and ing and polluting its natural pristine natural beauty of water bodies, drains, rivers the country's iconic water and the ocean. Senator Mohsin Aziz of Pakistan bodies and rivers in the past four decades. The rivers, Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lakes, drains, tourist sites moved the motion demandand water bodies were ing the House to discuss the overflown by plastic waste and plastic bottles comneed to ban manufacturing prised a major chunk of it or use of 500 ml plastic including 500ml and below, he said. The Senator noted bottles for drinking water as the same causes environmental hazards, chokes drainage system in the cities and is a source of pollu-

PM greets Israr on election as Oxford

ISLAMABAD (APP) Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday congratulated Pakistani student Israr Khan on his election as the President of the Oxford Union. Israr Khan has been elected Oxford Union President for Hilary Term 2025 with 617 first preferences, winning by a significant margin over Izzy Horrocks-Taylor's 393 first

preferences. of the country's local in-Hailing from dustries including the iron Balochistan province, Israr industry. Khan is pursuing a DPhil in Law at Regent's Park College and served as the Union's Chief of Staff.

the Iran-Pakistan border has been tightened to prevent "I join the people of iron smuggling on border-Pakistan in extending ing areas heartiest congratulations to Ali Pervaiz said that Israr Khan for being elected.

clutches of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) program is through reforms, quoting the examples from countries like Vietnam, In-

he said that appeals involving amounts over Rs 20 million would be decided by appellate tribunals instead sources would be utilized of the Commissioner of Income Tax, adding that artito protect the production ficial intelligence and other methods are being used in

The minister said that Ali Pervaiz said that monitoring on both sides of

the only way to escape the the upcoming budget.

Digital agriculture census to be conducted in August: **Provincial Minister Revenue calls for** putting agriculture sector on modern lines, increasing income sources

Asim Kurd said that there

Tuesday June 11, 2024

Independent Report should be arrangement of QUETTA: The Provincial food for the people in pro-Minister for Revenue, Mir Muhammad Asim Kurd has underlined the need to put agriculture sector on modern lines in the prov-

He also stressed the need to increase sources of income so as to meet the

shortage in this regard. The Minister for Revenue was addressing awareness building workshop on 7th agriculture census – 2024 organized by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics in collaboration with the Balochistan Agriculture College, Quetta here on Monday. The Chief Statisensure effective recycling ticians, PBS, Dr. Naeemuz of the plastics. "It's a non-Zafar (SI) and other federal degradable material that canand provincial high ups not decompose for centuwere present.

Muhammad ince is facing resources con-Mir

added

with the population.

portion with the increasing Referring the forthnopulation. coming agriculture census, He pointed out that he said that collection of the crisis of wheat and other data is necessary to make food stuff was created due assessment of the needs in

to the flashfloods in agriculture and other related Balochistan last year. sectors. Besides, the cattles Earlier, during the briefing, it was informed that the 7th agriculture cenwere also perished along with agriculture because of the drought situation in sus would be conducted in province in the past, he the month of August this

He noted with concern It was informed that that the agriculture is affectthe data of agriculture, liveing due to depletion of unstock and agriculture maderground water table. chinery would be collected in the digital agriculture cen-The Minister Revenue stressed that we would sus have to promote agriculture

The digital agriculture and livestock in proportion census would also determine that which crops are He said that the provcultivated in which districts, it was further informed.

straints, and the develop-ment and non-development

budget is equal.

MAKKAH AL-MUKARRAMAH: Saudi officials welcome the Hajj pilgrims from different countries on their arrival.

Chairperson BISP visits Payment Campsites in Sindh to check facilities

SLAMABAD During her visit, (APP): Chairperson Benazir Rubina Khalid interacted Income Support Programme (BISP), Rubina Khalid made significant visits to the Benazir Income Support Programme payment campsites in Bachal Shah, Sukkur, and Babarloe, Khairpur on Monday. The purpose of these visits was to personally monitor the payment dis-

bursement process and to inspect the arrangements the beneficiaries. and facilities provided for women beneficiaries receiving their Kafaalat and Taleemi Wazaif stipends, said a news release.

as directed by President Asif Ali Zardari. with the women beneficiaries, listened to their con-'We have established cerns, and personally guided the needy and elderly women in receiving their cash amounts. Recognizing the need for efficiency, she directed the of-

ficials to increase the number of Point of Sale (POS) agents at the campsites to reduce the waiting time for Following her inspections, Chairperson Rubina Khalid addressed the media, emphasizing the com-

these payment campsites to ensure transparency in the mechanism of payment disbursement," she stated. We are heading towards a better payment mechanism and soon we will be able to open bank accounts for these beneficiaries for direct payments, minimizing human involvement." She also highlighted the importance of skill development and technical education for BISP beneficiaries to help

the disbursement process

mitment to transparency in them overcome poverty. Stern action to be taken against those keeping private gunmen

Hajj arrangements MAKKAH AL primary platform for intel-MUKARRAMAH (APP): lectual leadership and Minister for Religious Af-knowledge exchange, fosfairs and Interfaith Har- tering deeper understandmony Chaudhry Salik ing, appreciation, and com-Hussain on Monday at- prehension of the spiritual, tended a daylong annual cultural, and social dimen-

Union president nomic Affairs Ali Pervaiz on Monday informed the National Assembly that the government is implementing measures to control iron smuggling at Taftan border

area. During the question hour in the House, the minister said that all out re-

that the developed and defishermen of Pakistan than veloping states recycling fish due to increased plasplastic waste were promot- tic pollution in the ocean. **Govt implementing measures** to control iron smuggling on

border areas: Ali Pervaiz ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Eco-

donesia and India.

ries. There are 13 billion

plastic bottles used globally. The developed coun-

try implementing recycling

and responsibly managing

plastic waste are reporting satellite images of plastic

islands in its territories in-

dicating colossal scale of

mates, by 2035 there would

be more plastic bottles cap-

tured in fishnets of local

plastic waste," he added. According to esti-

To another question, the selection of audits.

minimum wage should be reviewed considering the current inflationary period, adding that he would convey members' views on revising the minimum wage in **Ishaq Dar to**

symposium organized by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to share its elaborate Hajj arrangements for serving the guests of Allah Almighty in the holy land.

The minister was accompanied by Director General (Hajj) Abdul Wahab Soomro, Director (Hajj) and other senior officers of the Pakistan Hajj Mission and the ministry.

The 48th Grand Hajj Symposium, titled "No Hajj without permission," was an initiative of the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and was attended by ministers and religious scholars from various countries.

The symposium is a ture

QUETTA: MPAAli Hassan Zehri meeting with IGP Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh

Enemy cannot shake our firm resolve by cowardly actions,: Ali Hassan Zehri tion is fighting terrorists

with determination and

courage alongside its secu-

rity forces and very soon

these cowardly terrorists

will be brought to their end.

nation is with its security

agencies until the elimina-

tion of terrorists from the

country and will not hesi-

tate to make any sacrifice

for this purpose. Mir Ali

Hassan Zehri expressed his

condolences to the families

of all the martyrs, includ-

ing Captain Muhammad

Faraz Ilyas, and prayed

that Allah Almighty grants

the martyrs a high place in

His mercy and gives pa-

mination of the security

forces and the nation will

not decrease until the end

of the last terrorist. Pak

forces and other security

forces are vigilant day and

He said that the deter-

tience to the bereaved.

He said that the entire

Independent Report QUETTA: Provincial Advisor for Industries and commerce Mir Ali Hasan Zehri has expressed deep sorrow and anger over the martyrdom of the security personnel in the barrage attack on the convoy of Pakistan Army in Lakki Marwat. In his statement, he strongly condemned the incident and said that the spirit of the nation will not be weakened by such cowardly acts.

He paid tribute to the sacrifices of all martyred security personnel including Captain Muhammad Faraz Ilvas in the incident and said that every single drop of blood of the martyrs will be counted. The whole nation is standing by the side of the army until the end of terrorism from the country. Terrorists will never succeed in their evil intentions

Provincial Advisor for homeland and stand like a Industry and commerce leaden wall in front of the Mir Ali Hassan Zehri furterrorists and give a full response to any such action. ther said that Pakistani na-

sions of the Hajj rituals Speakers highlighted the Kingdom's achievements in serving pilgrims, showcasing pioneering projects and developments

in the two Holy Mosques. They emphasized the cultural and civilizational role the Kingdom undertook to serve Hajj pilgrims, consolidating the principle of peaceful intellectual dialogue on issues concerning the Hajj season.

The symposium aimed to establish unified principles of collective work for the Islamic world in responding to suspicions about faith, nation, and cul-

مرکزیمسلم لیگ کونٹہ

QUETTA: Activists of Muslim League hold protest outside OPC.

CPEC cooperation to focus on industry, agriculture, IT against timber in next phase: Ahsan Iqbal QUETTA (APP): Assis-tant Commissioner Bela Ali

BEIJING (APP): Federal flagship project of China's Minister for Planning, De-Belt and Road Initiative will velopment and Special Inibe on industry, agriculture and information technology tiatives, Prof Ahsan Iqbal emphasized that in the next in the second phase. phase, the focus of China

Ahsan Iqbal cited the Pakistan Economic Corrirecent successful launch of a Pakistani satellite into space using a Chinese rocket as an example, saying, people used to say that the relationship between Pakistan and China was higher than the Himalayas.

Senators condemns operation at Shibli **Faraz's house**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaking on a point of order, PTI Senator Saifullah Lawmakers in the Senate while condemning opera-Abro said that the House tion at Shibli Faraz's house should not only condemn on Monday called for apthe act but also hold inpropriate action against the quiry into the matter. All officials of the concerned officials besides

referring the matter to the civic agency should be made House Privilege Commitaccountable for their action, he added



DR Abdul Malik Baloch addressing on condolence reference ceremony organized by NP and BSO.

two-day visit to Jordan

embark on

ISLAMABAD (Online): Deputy Prime Minister and Minister Foreign Mohammad Ishaq Dar will embark on a two-day visit to Jordan today to participate in the high-level contaken against those keepference on prevailing situaing private gunmen wearing tion in Gaza. Levies uniform in the prov-

The conference titled ince. "Call for Action: Urgent Humanitarian Response cial press release issued here for Gaza", has been on Monday, the Director jointly organized by King Abdullah-II of Jor-General Levies said that a letter has been issued to dan, President of Egypt Deputy Commissioners of Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi all districts. In the letter, it and Secretary-General has been conveyed to the United Nations Antonio Deputy Commissioners to Guterres.

wearing Levies uniform: DG who keep private guards clad in the Levies uniform. He said that we would

not allow anyone to defame the uniforms of forces at all. Nor we would allow anyone to take law in one's hand, the Director General Levies further warned.

He said that the forces are responsible for protection of life and property of the masses and all of them including Levies and police are ready to perform and control any emergent situation

He asserted that we would not let anyone harm take action against those the province and country.



According to an offi-

QUETTA: Provincial Minister PHE Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran presiding over meeting of WASA Board of Directors

Independent Report

Samina Zehri says

Brave security forces

determined to end

Smart robot

service launched in Madinah to assist pilgrims ISLAMABAD (APP): A smart robot service has

been launched in Madinah to assist pilgrims visiting the Prophet's Mosque.

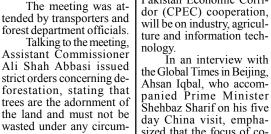
The robot, a project from the Ministry of Health Terrorists will never sucbranch in Madinah province, is positioned in the courtyard next to the Prophet's Mosque. The service aims to display and broadcast educational messages, guidance, and health instructions for the safety and awareness of pilgrims a landmine explosion near a in over 96 languages from security forces vehicle in around the world.

Lucky Marwat area. In her Meanwhile, the voluncondemnation statement, teer and awareness teams of she said that cowardly enthe Health Ministry branch emies cannot shake our firm of Madinah continue their resolve with such actions. fieldwork with 220 male All the martyrs are heroes and female volunteers and of the nation and the entire over 12 teams working nation and their families are around the clock to serve proud of the eternal sacrithe guests of Allah. They fice of the martyrs for the provide health and emercountry. She further said gency services during the that anti-national elements Hajj season at the Prophet's and cowardly enemies do Mosque and its access not have the courage to roads.

scourge of terrorism that's why they attack in QUETTA: The entire nasecret. Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri said that the tion is standing by the side of the army until the end of determination of the secuterrorism from the country; rity forces and the nation will not decrease until the end of the last terrorist. ceed in their evil intentions. Senator Samina Mumtaz These views were expressed by Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri while ex-Zehri said that those who sacrificed their lives for the pressing deep sorrow and regret over the martyrdom protection of the homeland proved that the protection of the Pakistani homeland of 7 security personnel including Captain Muhammad Faraz Ilyas in is in strong hands and any enemy of Pakistan can't see with the naked eye.

She said more that brave soldiers and officers of Pakistan Army sacrificed their lives for the survival of the country, for which the nation pays tribute to the martyrs. The courage, perseverance and patience of the families of the martyrs is a source of strength for the nation and the security forces. Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri said that the Pakistani nation is fighting the terrorists with determicome forward and fight, nation and courage.

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah printed at Independent Printers Querry Road Quetta and Published from Bolan market main RCD Road Hub. Ph. 2842938 Fax: 2842941 Cell No. 0331-8383955 E-mail:newsdailyind@gmail.com,dailyindisb@gmail.com



stances. He vowed to take stern action against the timber mafia, with no leniency towards anyone.

Abbasi warns

stern action

mafia

Shah Abbasi on Monday

held a meeting with trans-

porters and forest depart-

ment officials regarding the

deforestation in Lasbela.

Bilawal expresses

deep sorrow over Neelum river tragedy ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed deep sorrow over the tragic loss of lives following a tourist vehicle's fell into the Neelum River.

According to a press release issued by the Media Cell at Bilawal House, he expressed deep shock upon hearing the news of the Neelum Valley accident. He extended his heartfelt condolences to the victims' families and prayed for night in the defence of the their strength during this difficult time. "I share the grief of the families who lost their loved ones in this tragic accident.

In an interview with the Global Times in Beijing, Ahsan Iqbal, who accompanied Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on his five day China visit, emphasized that the focus of cooperation under CPEC, a than the sky," he added.



