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

Also acquitted in Azadi March, rioting cases

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

Rigorous imprisonment of 10 years each was awarded to Imran Khan and Shah Mehmood Qureshi on January 30 this year. Appeal was filed against this conviction in IHC. Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamir Farooq announced short

Barrister Suleman broken out across Pakistan Safdar counsel for PTI after former prime minister 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

Farooq inquired has prosecution nothing more than the statement of Azam Khan. Prosecution case had

been easy when they would PTI workers. It is pertinent have presented copy of cipher in the court.

Justice Gulhasan Aurangzeb remarked why one man is imprisoned in jail on the sition in the National Asmisplacement 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

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 The CJ IHC Aamir and order. Army installations, including Corps Commander's house in Lahore, had come under at-

tack during the protests by

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

Leader of the Opposembly 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 after former prime minister a resurgent nation. Congratulations everyone, said PTI spokesperson Raoof 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 10 months in jail and for which he was kept in jail all the time



KARACHI: Police staffs restore baton charge and using water cannon to repel protesters moving towards Red Zone area during protest demonstration of Basic NCHD Teachers Committee Sindh for acceptance of their demands, held at Karachi press club.

Barrister Ageel 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

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): After the Pakistan Tehreeke-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 spokesperson 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 spokesperson for legal affairs, stated this while addressing a press conference in Islamabad shortly after the IHC acquitted the top PTI leaders in the cipher

In a major relief to the embattled former ruling party, the IHC annulled Îmran and Qureshi's conviction in the infamous cipher case containing charges of misusing and misplacing the classified diplomatic document.

"Detailed verdict of the case is due 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 a "missing copy of the cipher".

PM directs immediate abolishment of Pak PWD

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

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

During the meeting, the prime minister ob-served that the Pak PWD as a department had failed to achieve its objectives and asked for an alternate mechanism for the development projects which

were tasked to it.

It is up to PPP to decide about joining Federal Cabinet: Gilani

ate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Monday said that it was up to the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) to decide about joining the Federal Cabinet.

The party already had constitutional posts in the federation and provinces, he said while responding to media persons' queries after perform-

was known for taking people.

KARACHI (APP): Sen- mature decisions. It was the PPP which had restored the 1973 Constitution, besides abolishing the 58-2B clause, he added. Replying to a question, he said that the future of political parties was linked to the people's liking and disliking.

Karachi

To another question, he said that all institutions should work within their constitutional groundbreaking of limits As regards the residential towers in construction of tow-Askari 2. ers in different cities, The Senate chair-man said that the PPP ate jobs for the



KARACHI: Sindh Minister of Local Government, Housing Town Planning, Public Health Engineering and Rural Development, Saeed Ghani being briefed by officials during his inspection visit to inspecting construction work of Nehr-e-Khayyam, in Karachi.

Pakistan, Afghanistan agree to implement mechanism TAD

ISLAMABAD (APP): downloadable. The Ministries of Comimplement the Temporary tions. Admission Document (TAD) streamline mechanism and regulate the movement of cargo vehicles carrying bilateral trade between the two countries.

Applications for TAD for Afghanistan-registered vehicles will be collected on all working days of Pakistan Embassy Kabul and Pakistan Consulate, Kandahar from 1100-1200 hours daily, said a press release on Monday.

Applications TAD from Pakistani registered vehicles will be collected on all working days at Afghanistan Consulate Generals, Quetta, and Peshawar from 1000-1100 hours.

Both sides have ensured the availability of application forms in Embassy/Consulates and on websites which is freely

The TAD will be ismerce of Pakistan and Af- sued within five working ghanistan have agreed to days of receipt of applica-

> The TAD shall become valid from the date of issuance A separate Temporary

> Admission Document will be issued, for vehicle, driver and cleaner.

> The fee will be charged for issuing TAD of Vehicle only, however, the TAD pass for drivers and cleaners of that vehicle will be free of cost.

TAD shall be valid for one vehicle at a time and only for the carrier to whom it was issued; it shall not be transferable to other carriers. The TAD is issued against the admission fee of US \$100 and its validity is for 6 months with multiple journeys and the mechanism of Temporary Admission Document (TAD) is notified vide SRO 702(I)/ 2024 by Federal Board of Revenue.



Naeem-ur-Rehman along with others addresses to media persons during press conference, at Idarae-Noor-ul-Haq in Karachi.

Anti-polio campaign kicks off across Sindh

KARACHI (INP): A criti- health workers and ensure cal anti-polio campaign begun on Monday across Sindh province, including Karachi. The drive aims to vaccinate over 540,000 children under the age of five between June 3rd and 9th. More than 35,000 health workers will be administering the polio vac-cine, with over 4,000 security personnel ensuring

their safety. This campaign coincides with similar efforts in Punjab, where Lahore, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Multan, Mianwali, and Okara are also launching anti-polio drives. Health officials warn that summer heat creates ideal conditions for the polio virus to spread, making this vacci-

nation campaign crucial. Everyone in Sindh is urged to cooperate with

that all children under five receive the life-saving polio drops.

Meanwhile, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a five-day anti-polio drive in 23 districts started on Monday, with more than 3.5 million children expected to be administered anti-polio drops during the campaign.

In Pakistan's south-

western Balochistan province, a seven-day anti-polio campaign began in 14 districts during which over 1.8 million children would be administered anti-polio

drops.
"Due to expected heat-wave in Naseerabad, Sibi, Jaffarabad, Usta Muhammad, Dera Bugti and Sohbatpur, the antipolio drive will begin on 8th of this month," said



meeting with Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad

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

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

Addressing a press conference here at the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Secretariat at Model Town, the federal minister said, "The inflation rate has dropped to 11 percent during this month beyond expectations, as reported by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics while Bloomberg, Asian Development Bank, UNDP, World Bank and other international departments

LAHORE (APP): Federal are also acknowledging progress of Pakistan's economy and also see it on right direction

Attaullah Tarar high

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

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



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar talking to media persons during press conference.

Provincial Minister celebrates mango festival in Mirpurkhas

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Sindh's Provincial Minister for Culture, Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah attended the closing ceremony of the 56th Mango Festival at the Sindh Horticulture Research Institute in Mirpurkhas, on Monday.

According to APP Correspondent, the provincial minister praised the unique qualities of the Mango fruit, particularly the Sindhri Mango which he said is Mirpurkhas' identity and a source of global recognition.

He emphasized the importance of modern techniques and research in agriculture especially mango production to sup- Committee.

port the region's agricul-

The government is working to address issues in the agriculture sector and improve the lives of growers, the minister said.

He also announced plans to promote Sindh's culture through publicprivate partnerships and mentioned the upcoming Lahoti festival in Lahoti festival Tharparkar.

Awards were given to the top three winners in each category of the mango exhibition with cash prizes donated by Arif Khan Bhurguri, chairman of the Mango Festival Management

takes notice of policeman martyrdom in Sohrab Goth ARACHI (APP): Sindh

Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar on Monday took notice of martyrdom of a policeman by unknown culprits in the jurisdiction of Sohrab Goth.

He had also sought details of the incident from SSP East, a Spokesman for the Minister said.

Lanjar said that evidence available at the crime scene should be collected to

ascertain the facts. The Home Minister said that the arrest of the culprits be ensured as soon as possible.

PM to embark on five-day official visit to

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

Premier Li Qiang.
During the three-segment trip, the Prime Minister will visit the cities of Xi'an and Shenzhen, be-

sides 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 tech-

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

He will also visit Economic and Agricultural Zones in China



mentation of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

LARKANA (APP): Sindh Minister for Energy Syed Nasir Hussain Shah on Monday congratulated the successful candidates in the Larkana Press Club (LPC) elections for the year 2024-

In his message, the minister felicitated President Ghulam Murtaza Kalhoro, General Secretary LPC Naveed Ahmed Larik, Treaserer Abdul Qadir Jagirani and others winning

office bearers. He also congratulated Vice President Abdul Khaliq Mughiri, Joint Secretary Mansoor Abbas Abro and elected members of the governing body Dr. Badruddin Sheikh, Mashuque Odhana, Ashiq Pathan, Younis Ditho, Yasin Abro and Nadeem Akhtar Soomro.

Nasir Shah said that the elected office-bearers was a proof people trust in them. Journalists have an important role in the construction and development

of the country, he added He hoped that the newly elected office-bearers would play their role for the prosperity of the journalists.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad

The minister said that these newly elected office bearers will uphold the splendid traditions of journalism and will continuously play their vital role in the progress of the coun-

He said that we believe in the expression of

However, the Sindh Government fully supports the problems of press clubs across the province for resolving on priority.

Besides, Director Public Relations Information





KARACHI: Inspector General of Police Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon presiding over a meeting regarding reforms in police stations at Central Police Office.

Aurangzeb called on by Jason Lamb, Deputy Director, Focus Country Imple **KMC General** meeting on June 10

KARACHI (APP): The general meeting of the council of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation will be held on June 10 at 3 pm at the Coun-

at 3 pm at the Council Hall of the KMC Building M.A Jinnah Road, here.

The meeting will be chaired by Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab.

Zilhaj moon likely to be sighted on June 7

ISLAMABAD (INP): The anticipation for the sighting of the Zilhaj moon is building up, as an official of the Ruet-e-Hilal Research Council predicts that the moon for Eid is likely to be seen on June 7. According

Ruet-e-Hilal search Council Secretary General Khalid ljaz Mufti, Eid-ul-Azha is expected to fall on Monday, June 17. Khalid Ijaz Mufti, in his prediction, states that the moon will be born on June 6 at 5:38pm, and with the moon's age being 25 hours by sunset on June 7, its visibility is highly probable.

research council of the committee suggests that if the weather remains, the moon for Eid-ul-Azha will be sighted clearly.

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

vances,

calling Bensouda numer-

ous times on her per-

sonal number with veiled

showed Bensouda sur-

veillance photographs of

an unknown nature of her

husband in an effort to

get her to play ball and

leaked those photos to

global godfather — the

United States of America

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 Pal-

estine case. Later, in a

very familiar echo to Pa-

kistan, he also accused

par for the course for the

Such thuggery is

her of corruption.

- also did its part: the

At this point Israel's

other diplomats.

Zarrar Khuhro

Tuesday June 04, 2024

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 crimes in Gaza, the West

see all this. What would Bank and East Jerusalem. 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, and both the civilian and invasion of Iraq, when miliar? -- Courtesy Dawn

military legal systems". America was building a 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 head of the Organisation for the Prothen chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda was a hibition of Chemical Weapons, wasn't playprime target. The mission was to enlist Bensouda ing ball, and America wanted him to step promise her. The first few down. Bustani refused, and that's when US officontacts were 'friendly' but when Bensouda apcial John Bolton threatparently rebuffed the adened him, saying: "We have ways to retaliate the

York.

Over at the ICC, so-veiled threats, and Be--n-souda was repla-ced by Karim when she asked how he Kĥan, whose appointhad obtained her contacts he replied: "Did you ment Israel in--itially welforget what I do for a livcomed. Karim also seemed to be playing The harassment and ball with the Empire by surveillance stepped up ensuring that a war when, in December 2019, crimes inv-estigation in Bensouda announced Afgha-ni-stan did not fothat she had grounds to cus 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 want to be getting into things that could compro-Western diplomat that the ICC was for Africa mise your security or that and "thugs like Putin". of your family." He also

against you ... we know

where your kids live. You

have two sons in New

Consider that this is just what we know, and imagine the kind of tactics these states and leaders have and continue to use to further their blood-soaked imperial interests.

and not, naturally, for

the sainted leaders of the

Free World

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 unemployed or self-employed individual should be able

The existing EOBI ought to be dissolved, remanagement, 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 simphone app; it should require no human interaction, visiting offices or banks, filling forms or producing photocopies. The EOBI monthly contribution rate ought to be standardised across Pakistan to enable seamless continuity for workers changing jobs or loca-

to obtain EOBI registra-

tributing the requisite

amount.

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

'settlement'. The EOBI ought to jettison all its inspectors stan to end its fixation and two-thirds of its ex- on the rich, and inisting 657 employees, and control all its functions 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. --

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 placed with professional to accept the lump sum amount accumulated during his/her entire years of contribution.

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

Pakistan is the only country in the world that pays a pension of Rs1 million to superior judges and a pittance of Rs10,000 to its workers. This amounts to an obscene and immoral 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 le-

It is time for Pakistead, focus on the 80m abandoned stateployees (and there are database should reflect Courtesy Dawn

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 2023.CPI inflation Rural,

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.



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

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

Civil Secretariat on

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.

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

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 Advisor to KP CM management schedule in

respective districts

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

grade-17 to those who had failed examination. Anti corruption has filed challan in the court against the accused persons.

The court had summoned Pervaiz Elahi and other accused for indictment but Pervaiz Elahi filed exemption plea in the court on medical grounds. The court while accepting exemption plea nday. adjourned the hearing till
Anti corruption took June 14.

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 encounter

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. 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

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.

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-"Acting in this way 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

Since Russia's full-

tion 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

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.

May 21, the DMC said.

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

first woman president Galvez, who conceded de-**Monitoring Desk** Sheinbaum was elected Mexico's first woman president by a landslide Sunday, making history in

Claudia Sheinbaum

makes history as Mexico's

a country plagued by rampant criminal and genderbased violence. 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 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 politi-

cians 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

elections set to mark a major victory for the far right in the 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

tional Rally (RN). An Ipsos poll released

hard-left France Unbowed

(LFI) and the far-right Na-

cent 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.

Monday suggested 33 per-

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.

scale 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 investiga-

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

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

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

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

Highlighting the components of the visit, he said the prime minister would meet and have talks with

Chinese President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Zhao Leji.

The leaders will have an in-depth exchange of views on China-Pakistan relations and issues of mutual interest, and jointly draw up a blueprint for the growth of bilateral relations. In addition to Beijing, the prime minister will visi Guangdong and Shaanxi.

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

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."



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

Alvi urges politicians, establishment to learn lesson from HRC report

LAHORE (INP): Former president Dr Arif Alvi said that fake and baseless cases were made against the PTI workers. He lauded the judiciary for standing firmly with the rule of law and said that there should be equal justice for everyone.

Talking to media in Lahore, the former president said that military, civilians and politicians should learn a lesson from the Hamoodur Rehman Commission report.

to bring the country out of visit him.

the prevailing crises," Alvi said, adding that the pow-erful quarters should find a way out.

The former president added that Pakistan needs growth and development and we can only move forward through dialogue.

"It is the right of PTI to ask any judge to recuse from the case," Alvi said. According to Arif

Alvi, he went to inquire after incarcerated PTI leader Mian Mehmoodur Rasheed but he wasn't allowed to

DC Larkana visits **RHC Naudero to review** arrangements for patients

Deputy Commissioner Larkana Dr Sharjeel Noor Channa on Monday paid a visit to PPHI Rural Health Centre Naudero to review arrangements made for patients suffering from various diseases. During his visit, the Deputy Commissioner inquired about the problems of patients and directed the Incharge of the Hospital to ensure provision of proper healthcare facilities in all

wards of the hospital. The DC was also informed that better treatment facilities were being provided to patients and more than 200 patients are being examined on daily basis. He visited all the

(APP): wards, fully equipped and gynae, NICU, OPD, x-ray, ultrasound, stock of emergency medicine. However, there was a better manage ment of cleanliness and the

> health facilities in the hospital should be improved and the supply of food, treatment and medicines should be ensured to the patients. He further said that the presence of doctors, para-medics and other related staff should be ensured in the hospitals so that patients can get timely treatment and their food and drink should also be taken care of. No negligence



KARACHI: Badruddin Baloch and others holding

Promotion of sports activities need of the hour:

Director Culture and Sports, KMC Raza Abbas Rizvi while addressing the participants of the Softball Championship in Karachi said that the promotion of sports activities is the need youth an opportunity to highlight their skills. The participation of teams from all four provinces in the Softball championship

at Karachi is welcoming. dinner organized by KMC

Senior Director Media Management Ali Hasan Sajid, Director Sports Aftab Qaim Khani, Softball Federation President Asif Azim, Secretary Naseem Khan and other of various teams with a large number of players were also present on this

He said that it was a successful effort which was appreciated all over the country. Karachi Metropolitan Corporation always patronized sports





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

Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Monday called for making concerted efforts to use sports as a vehicle for posiive 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 international football delegation at Parliament ouse, said a news release.

Highlighting the potential Pakistan has in the sport of football, he remarked that there is no dearth of talent and pas-

'All we need is professional coaching and nurturing to produce world-

Police badly failed

to maintain

law and order

situation in Sindh

SHIKARPUR (INP): Po-

lice failed to maintain law

and order despite tall claims

as a man abducted and cold

bloodedly murdered by

dacoits in Shikarpur

district's Khanpur taluka.

Iqbal Napur, a nephew of local landlord Raees Karim

Bux Napur, was taken hos-

tage by a gang of bandits

from agricultural farm in

Napur Kot police jurisdic-

tion. The abductee was

subjected to severe torture

and killed within few hours

the body of their victim in

Kot Shahu Katcha area.

After getting information,

martyred, and another was

injured during an exchange

of gunfire with alleged

street criminals within the

iurisdiction of the Sohrab

Goth police station on

officials, the encounter oc-curred near Jamali Bridge,

where personnel con-fronted the robbers. During

the confrontation, Con-

stable Yaseen was martyred, and Constable

Salman Abbas sustained in-

juries. The robbers managed

ceased was shifted to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital,

while the injured constable

was taken to Aga Khan

agencies have launched a

search operation to appre-

hend the culprits involved

K-Electric denies

Hospital for treatment.

The body of the de-

Law enforcement

to flee the scene.

in the incident.

According to police

Monday.

The bandits thrown

of his kidnapping.

According to police,

class players and put Pakistan 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. The Chairman Senate

acknowledged the pivotal role of the Pakistan Football League (PFL) UK in pioneering international football in Pakistan, their visionary initiatives, including the impactful "Football 4 Hope," exemplify their commitment to social development, education, and inclusivity, "They are not only nurturing talent but also fostering unity and resilience," Gilani observed, adding that their commitment to implementing international standards and making football acces-

sible to all, resonated deeply with his own vision. The international delegation of football community brings with them a wealth of experience, talent, and dedication, which could help Pakistan embark on a journey to elevate its position in the global football

Gilani assured his allout support for the promotion 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 future one where every child has the opportunity to chase their dreams on the football $field, \H{}^{"}\ he\ added.$

In his closing remarks, the chairman senate thanked Farhan Ahmed Junejo, Chairman of Paki-

stan Football League UK, Ahmer Kunwar, CEO of PFL UK, and other distinguished representatives of PFL for their efforts to promote football in Paki-

Speaking on the occasion, Michael Owen, famous football star and official ambassador of the Pakistan Football League, observed that Pakistan has huge potential in sports and such opportunities would help explore hidden talent, bringing youth into the game of football. He thanked Chairman Senate for his remarks.

Talking to the participants of the gathering, Chairman PFL, UK, said that they aimed to explore talent and provide opportunities for youth to come forward and show their

DC urges parents to administer polio drops to their children

HYDERABAD (APP) Deputy Commissioner Zain-ul-Hvderabad Abideen Memon conducted a visit to review per formance of polio vaccination teams in the Hyderabad Rural Medical Center (HRMC) and slum populations of Hyderabad on Monday during the ongoing polio vaccination cam-

During his visit, he engaged with parents of two refusal cases and personally urged them to administer the life-saving vaccine to their children He emphasized the

importance of vaccination, stressing that two drops of the polio vaccine can secure their children from a life-time disability.

Instructions for preparation of monthly report on cattle vaccination

KARACHI (APP): Adviser to Chief Minister Sindh for Livestock Fisheries and Human Settlement Syed Najmi Alam Monday presided over an important meeting on livestock vaccination, in which the relevant authorities discussed animal vaccination across the province.

The meeting took a detailed briefing about locally produced vaccines and vaccines required from abroad.

Secretary Livestock and Fisheries Dr. Kazim Hussain Jatoi, Director General of Sindh Institute of Animal Health Dr. Nazir Hussain Kalhoro, Director General Livestock Sindh and Director Animal Husbandry Dr. Hizbullah Bhutto, Madan Lal of CVDL and P.D Vaccinations attended the meeting.

Five culprits held during joint action, arm, ammunition recovered

KARACHI (INP): The police and Rangers arrested five culprits during joint action and recovered arms and ammunition during tropolis on Monday.

Sindh Rangers said that the police and Rangers during joint snap checking signaled to stop a suspected vehicle at Qaddafi Road of

During search of vehicle, four 30 bore pistols along with 74 bullets were recovered from secret cavi-

The police and Rangers impounded the vehicle with recovered arms and arrested five culprits in-cluding Abu Baqar, Usman,

ing a case against them.

Finance Minister meets with representatives from Korean **Companies working in Pakistan**

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

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

The Finance Minister underscored the significant macroeconomic improvements and noted the positive trend in foreign ex-

change reserves. Furthermore, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb reiterated the commitment of the government to address the challenges faced by Korean companies operating in Pakistan and in this regard urged the relevant authorities to ensure their facilitation for smooth business operations. The Korean Ambassa-

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

Korean companies briefed the Minister on their concerns regarding project timelines and operational efficiency.



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

Ahsan Iqbal 'stunned' over no consultation on development budget

ISLAMABAD (INP): tee meeting is likely to be Federal Minister for Planning 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 Commit-

convened again, it was not held due to the non-formation 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 recent

documents, the development budget of Rs 950 billion only Rs 379 billion was utilized to meet IMF targets this year.

CM Gandapur hints at long march if demands not met

(INP): ceive Rs90 billion but had Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has stated that the federal government is poised to announce the budget for 2024-25. If the people of KP feel their rights are being overlooked, a long march to the capital will be inevitable, he added. Addressing the KP

Assembly, the chief minister highlighted the sacrifices made by the people of Fata for the creation of Pakistan.

"If the people question us about our unfulfilled promises, what will we answer?" he asked, noting that the province had not received a single rupee for fighting terrorism. Gandapur pointed out that KP was supposed to re-

only been given Rs60 billion, questioning the whereabouts of the remaining funds. He urged those who had allegedly stolen the PTI mandate to step down with dignity. "We have allocated Rs7 billion to the police and will provide more. The province is enacting a death penalty law for the killers of innocent people," he said, adding that around 156-162 feeders facing up to 22 hours of load shedding would soon be converted to solar energy to provide relief to the people. 'We will also grant residential plots to the widows of martyrs in housing societ-

ies," he added, calling on the

people to support him in the

fight against corruption.



Experts visit villages to check on water, agriculture project

team of experts visited villages in Mirpurkhas and Hyderabad districts on Monday to review the progress of the project to improve water management and agriculture prac-According to APP

Correspondent, The project called the Sindh Water and Agriculture Transformation (SWAT) Project, is supported by the Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (SIDA) and implemented by the Sindh Rural Sup-Organization (SRSO).

The team led by Shafique Ahmed Jamro,

MIRPURKHAS (APP): A cluding Fullan Baladi, team of experts visited Punhu Qambrani, Qadir Bux Solangi and Seri in Mirpurkhas district and Baran Laghari Hyderabad district. They checked on

> with community members and reviewed how the project is being imple-The team also at-

housing schemes, met

tended training sessions where villagers are learning new skills in applique work and solar technician

They talked to the trainees about their plans after completing their training and made sure that the training programs are effective and sustain-

the police and family members reached to the spot. Cop martyred, another injured by robbers firing KARACHI (APP): A police constable was

staff was also present.

The DC said that

wards of the Rural Health is to be tolerated in this regard, he warned.



Director Sports KMC

KARACHI (APP): Senior a statement on Monday. of the hour, it gives the officers and administrators

He expressed these views while addressing the in honor of the participants of the championship, said

and players.

unscheduled load shedding amid heatwave KARACHI (INP): K-Electric officials have assured residents that electricity supply in Karachi remains stable, dismissing rumors of unannounced load shed-

"Load shedding is being conducted as per the schedule provided on our website," a spokesperson clarified. "It's incorrect to confuse regional faults

load shedding." They added that the load shedding schedule is influenced by the rate of power theft and technical losses in different areas. Meanwhile, a severe

heatwave continues to grip

much of Pakistan, particu-

larly in the southern dis-

The Meteorological Department reports a mix of hot and humid conditions, with some areas experiencing sporadic rain.

of Harmony' exhibition to start from Aug 2 KARACHI (APP): Presistatement issued here. President KCCI, Commerce and Industry while appreciating the efforts of the special commit-

19th 'My Karachi Oasis

dent Karachi Chamber of (KCCI) Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh, Monday, said that preparations were in full swing to organize 19th edition of 3-day international exhibition "My Karachi Oasis of Harmony" at Karachi Expo Center.

The exhibition, spread over all six halls of the Expo Center in addition to various recreational facilities in the outer area, will start from August 2 and conclude on Aug 4, 2024, he added while speaking at the first meeting of Special Commitover by its Chairman

tee stressed that as My Karachi was one of the most important events of KCCI, all Managing Committee Members must participate enthusiastically in the activities in order to stage the event in a splendid manner.

Chairman Special Committee Muhammad Idrees, highlighted the journey of the exhibition and stated that Late Siraj Kassam Teli launched My Karachi Exhibition in 2004 with a prime objective to tion which was presided project the true and soft image of Karachi and Paki-



RATODERO: Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP) Larkana Range, Nasir Aftab and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Larkana, Mir Rohal Khan Khoso along with others are visiting the streets, main roads and markets of city and reviewing the security situations during disputes between two groups of Jalbani and Veesar community people, in Ratodero.

Role of media significant for deeper Pak-China cooperation: Chinese CG

day we are happy to host you all friends at the Con-

sulate for Chinese dinner,

and my heartiest greetings

to Sarmad Ali on becoming

the Senator. China is devel-

oping very fast, and the

change is many a times a

pleasant surprise for work-

ing diplomats of China,

when they travel back

focus must be on more ex-

changes between the media

of both countries, and APNS

could play a role in bridging

the gap. The Second Phase of CPEC was more impor-

tant with focus on agricul-

ture, industrial cooperation

and trade for increasing ex-

ports of Pakistan and ben-

efiting the lives of people at

He further added, our

home". CG Yang said.

KARACHI (APP): Consul General of People's Republic of China in Karachi, Yang Yundong has said the role of media was significant for deeper Pak - China cooperation in all spheres and Chinese government would create more opportunity for Pakistani friends to visit China. He said this while addressing the office bearers of All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) who were invited for a dinner hosted here at the Consulate on

Sunday night by him. Yang Yundong said unfortunately not many Pakistanis had visited China to this day, but we were working and remain hopeful to create more opportunities so our friends in Pakistan could visit his country. "To-

grassroot level, he added.

HYDERABAD: All Pakistan Wapda Hydro Electric Workers Union President, Abdul Latif Nizamani addresses during the workers session, at Labour Hall in Hyderabad.

joint operation in the me

A spokesman of

Badshah. Muhammad and Attique ur Rehman who were being investigated after register-

Faria and Amin Khushk, visited several villages in- able.