

# Independent

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## Pakistan, China agree to explore opportunities under CPEC

Frequent leadership's engagements, people-to-people contacts characterize Pak-China deep rooted ties: PM

SHENZHEN (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday noted that the deep-rooted ties between Pakistan and China were characterized by frequent engagement and dialogue at the leadership level, people-to-people contacts, cultural and educational exchanges.

The prime minister met with Meng Fanli, Party Secretary of Shenzhen Municipal Committee, and Deputy Party Secretary of Guangdong Provincial Committee in Shenzhen, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The prime minister lauded the impressive economic growth and exemplary innovative spirit of Guangdong province and also termed Shenzhen a trade

gateway for China's business linkages with Pakistan. Reaffirming 'the time-honoured All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and China', the two sides agreed on the need to explore opportunities for increased cooperation between Pakistan and the Guangdong province particularly under CPEC.

Prime Minister Shehbaz and Party Secretary Meng underlined the importance of robust linkages and exchanges between scientists, innovators and businessmen to harness the true potential for enhanced partnership in science and technology, innovation and trade and economic cooperation. They also agreed

that Pakistan-China Business Conference being held on Wednesday (tomorrow) could make an important contribution in that regard.

The prime minister also attended a banquet hosted by Meng Fanli. Earlier Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday arrived here on the first leg of his five-day official visit to China from June 4 to 8, to meet the Chinese leadership and the business community. As the prime minister landed at the Shenzhen Airport, he was warmly received by Vice Mayor of Shenzhen city of China Luo Huanghao, Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, Pakistan's Ambassador in Beijing Khalil Hashmi and senior diplomatic officials.



SHENZHEN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif shaking hands with Meng Fanli, Party Secretary of Shenzhen Municipal Committee, and Deputy Party Secretary of Guangdong Provincial Committee, Shenzhen.

## Sindh governor distributes cheques among families affected by Preetabad cylinder blast



HYDERABAD (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori on Tuesday distributed cheques among families of the martyrs and injured of the Preetabad cylinder blast incident at Hasrat Mohani library.

Expressing deep sorrow over the incident, the Governor extended condolences to the bereaved families, stating, "This money cannot bring back their loved ones, but it is an effort to help sustain their households."

Governor Tessori

mentioned that he visited Hyderabad to meet the grieving families affected by the Preetabad tragedy, which has so far claimed 18 lives. He said the JDC Foundation had pledged 2 million rupees per family of the martyrs, and he also distributed additional aid from his side. He appreciated the responsible coverage of the incident by Hyderabad's media representatives.

The Governor also announced the distribution of 50,000 ration bags for

the deserving people in Hyderabad. He also emphasized the need for strict action against substandard gas cylinders and added that LPG cylinder shops be located away from residential areas and called for the formation of an inquiry commission to identify those responsible for the incident.

Governor said that he will request the chief minister Sindh and the provincial health minister in Hyderabad, as the provincial government had done a good job in the health sector. He said after Karachi, Hyderabad city was paying a huge amount of taxes but there was a lack of facilities for the city.

He further said that the Governor house was executing a program to provide breakfast to children through which the needy children were being supported.

## CM Murad inaugurates training centre for persons with disabilities

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah inaugurated a Vocational Training Centre for Persons with Disabilities here on Tuesday.

The ceremony was attended by provincial secretaries, notables and heads of different NGOs working for persons with disabilities.

The CM was told that 240 persons with disabilities, including 120 girls

have been enrolled at the Vocation Centre and they are being imparted vocational training.

Out of 240 students, 60 have been enrolled in Computer Science, 72 in Tailoring, 48 in Beautification and 60 in Mobile Repair.

The CM directed the Secretary DEP to run the centre effectively and he would provide more facilities and equipment if needed.



KARACHI: Chairman Senate, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani exchanging views with Kamran Tessori, Governor of Sindh during meeting held at Governor House in Karachi.

## Till completion of hearing IHC stops implementation of death sentence on five former Naval officers

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has stopped implementation of death sentence order in respect of five former NAVY officers till the completion of hearing of petition in the court.

These six former officers were court martialled for their involvement in attack on Navy Dockyard in Karachi.

Justice Babar Sattar issued written order on the petition of NAVY officers that they were not given right to fair trial in attack on NAVY Dockyard in Karachi.

It was said in written order as per petitioners they were awarded death sentence in general court martial. They were not provided the assistance of any lawyer during court martial.

The counsel for petitioners said evidence and documents of court of inquiry were also not shared with the accused.

The order said that according to counsel for the petitioners appeal was filed against death sentence without access to these documents which was rejected.

## CPEC phase-II to grow business links between Pak-China: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal Tuesday said that the economic and cultural connections between the people of China and Pakistan are strong and focused.

In a video message ahead of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China, he said that a delegation comprising of one hundred and twenty six Pakistani businessmen is also visiting China, PTV

news channel reported. "China has an important role in Pakistan's development. It has always helped Pakistan in difficult times," he added.

He said there is a big opportunity for us to export the country's products to neighboring China, adding, Pakistani business delegation will sign investment and export agreements with their Chinese counterparts during the visit.

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi calls on Federal Minister Science and Technology Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddique in Islamabad.

Mayor for integrated efforts by all departments to facilitate masses on Eid-ul-Azha

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Muratza Wahab while presiding over the meeting of Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) called for coordination among the officials concerned and elected representatives of local councils to provide relief to the citizens on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

He directed to ensure spraying of limestone at the offal collection points and other places, said a spokesperson of the SSWMB on Tuesday. MD SSWMB Syed Intiaz Ali Shah gave a detailed briefing on the occasion regarding the arrangements and monitoring of cleaning work on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

He informed about all the strategies in relation to the operation for disposal of



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah along with disabled persons unveils the plaque during inauguration ceremony of the Vocational Training Centre for Persons with Disabilities Anchohi, held at CM House in Karachi.

## Interior Minister meets Pope Francis in Vatican City

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday met Pope Francis at the Vatican City during his visit to Europe.

The Minister was accorded a warm welcome upon his arrival in the Vatican City.

During the meeting, both sides discussed ways to promote peace, brotherhood, interfaith harmony and dialogue.

Pope Francis commended Pakistan's efforts towards immediate repair and reconstruction of Churches in the aftermath of Jaranwala tragedy.

The Pope said that his message to the people of

Pakistan was peace, adding "We all should work together for establishing peace in the world."

He also stated that the Prime Minister of Pakistan had invited him for a visit and he would try his best to visit Pakistan soon.

The Pope expressed concern over the situation in Palestine, stating that it was a cause of huge concern. He added that he stayed updated on the humanitarian situation in Palestine through daily briefings with workers engaged in relief efforts.

He emphasized that the interfaith dialogue and harmony was the key to resolve issues.



VATICAN: Federal Minister for Interior shaking hands with Pope Francis.

## Commissioner reviews progress on development schemes

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi, Syed Hassan Naqvi Tuesday directed officers concerned to include projects of construction of footpaths along Jahangir road and repair of triangles at Guru Mandar in Annual Development Plan.

The commissioner during visit to various ongoing development projects in the metropolis, has taken notice of dilapidated condition of three triangles at Guru Mandar and stressed the need of their repair for convenience of citizens, said a statement issued here.

The commissioner directed all Deputy Commissioners to review the ongoing development projects in their respective districts,

hold meetings with relevant departments, and provide guidance and assistance for their timely completion.

Officials of municipal authorities and transport department, on the occasion, briefed the commissioner about their respective development projects including reconstruction of Jahangir Road and rehabilitation of Shahrah-e-Pakistan.

The commissioner was informed that patch work on six kilometer road from Sohrab Goth to Teen Hatti has been completed and traffic signs have also been installed there while another 1.5 km long two way road from Teen Hatti to Guru Mandar has been constructed for resolving the long-standing traffic issues.

## Bilawal expresses sorrow over tragic loss of 13 miners in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Tuesday expressed profound sorrow over the tragic loss of 13 miners in two separate incidents in Balochistan.

In a press release issued by the Media Cell Bilawal House, Chairman PPP conveyed his deepest condolences to the families of the 11 miners who lost their lives due to a gas leak inside a coal mine in the Sanjardi area.

## Vawda refuses to apologise over his anti-judiciary outburst

ISLAMABAD (Online): Senator Faisal Vawda has refused to tender unconditional apology in contempt of court case.

On the other hand Mustafa Kamal has tendered unconditional apology. He has filed reply as well.

Senator Faisal Vawda filed his reply in connection with contempt of court notice in Supreme Court (SC).

Faisal Vawda said in the reply that press conference was not aimed at committing contempt of court. Its purpose was betterment of the country.

## Mustafa Kamal tenders apology in contempt case

KARACHI (INP): Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leader Mustafa Kamal on Tuesday tendered unconditional apology to the Supreme Court for his recent remarks against the judiciary.

The Supreme Court (SC) had issued contempt of court notices to independent Senator Faisal Vawda and MQM-Pakistan MNA Mustafa Kamal over anti-judiciary rhetoric. The apex took suo moto notice of press conferences held by Senator Faisal Vawda and Kamal wherein they demanded evidence of interference in the judiciary. The

## Zulfikar visits Sindh museum, Allama Daudpota library Sindh unveils water sports at Kenjhar Lake to boost tourism

HYDERABAD (APP): Provincial Minister for Culture, Tourism, Antiquities and Archives Syed Zulfikar Ali Shah visited the Sindh Museum and Allama Daudpota Library on Tuesday to review the arrangements.

He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad Zain-ul-Abideen Memon.

During the visit, relevant officers briefed the minister on the available facilities. The provincial minister assessed the arrangements and condition of electricity supply through solar panels.

He also met with students in the library to inquire about their issues and the facilities available to them.

The minister directed the concerned officers to ensure the provision of clean drinking water, new books, furniture and uninterrupted electricity for the students.

He noted that students had previously complained about the heat due to load shedding, which has now been addressed by installing a large solar panel to ensure a steady power supply in the library.

## Mustafa Kamal tenders apology in contempt case

KARACHI (INP): Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) Rabita Committee Senior Deputy Convener, Syed Mustafa Kamal along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Pakistan House in Karachi.

top court then issued notices to both leaders and asked them to submit their response before the court.

Kamal on Tuesday submitted an affidavit in the Supreme Court Karachi Registry.



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) Rabita Committee Senior Deputy Convener, Syed Mustafa Kamal along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Pakistan House in Karachi.

## PTI ready to hold talks with real power: Alvi

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former president and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Dr Anif Alvi said on Tuesday that his party would hold dialogue with the one who has real power to make decisions.

He stated this while responding to a question about the impression that incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan was not in favour of holding dialogue with his political opponents to bring stability to the country.

The statement came after multiple calls from the incumbent government urging the embattled Imran Khan-founded party to hold talks to find a solution to end the political crisis, however, the former ruling party failed to give a clear response so far.

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the offal of sacrificial animals. He told in the briefing that eight trenches at the landfill site Jam Chakru, Gond Pass and GTS Sharifi Goth for safe burial of animal wastes in connection with Eid-ul-Azha will be made. A total of 99 UC-wise collection points will be created in all districts to collect waste. Measures are also being taken to arrange additional vehicles and labor for the five-day operation of Eid-ul-Azha.

The representatives of private contractor of cleaning companies were present. The MD SSWMB further said that for timely redressal of grievances, complaint centers have been set up in all districts, the details of which will be provided to the citizens through social media and print media.

He informed about all the strategies in relation to the operation for disposal of



## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Cipher acquittal

Yesterday afternoon, Imran Khan and Shah Mahmood Qureshi stood acquitted of the charge of compromising state secrets.

'Traitors' for a grand total of about four months and one week, the two have been vindicated by the Islamabad High Court of charges brought against them in the infamous 'cipher case', as it came to be known.

While the detailed verdict is awaited, it is worth recalling that this was the most serious of the three convictions former prime minister Imran Khan had been slapped with in quick succession in the days leading up to the Feb 8 general election. Both Mr Khan and ex-foreign minister Mr Qureshi had been handed 10 years' rigorous punishment each for, in the eyes of the presiding judge, 'leaking' a secret cable and thereby compromising the safety, integrity and credibility of Pakistan's secure communication system with its diplomatic missions abroad.

The conviction had precluded Mr Qureshi's right to participate in the general election; Mr Khan had already been deemed ineligible by an earlier conviction in the Toshakhana case.

The verdict had been secured on the state's third attempt at prosecuting the case. Two earlier trials were aborted by the IHC after it found serious irregularities in the proceedings. Even then, the trial court's sentence was almost immediately slammed by the legal community; many had criticised the abnormal circumstances in which the trial was completed. This was the same case, it may be recalled, in which the court had denied the two defendants their right to appoint their own counsels or cross-examine the prosecution's witnesses, even though the prosecution had sought the maximum penalty of a death sentence.

Even then, the biggest charge the two were found guilty of — compromising the country's secure diplomatic communication system — was undermined by the Foreign Office shortly after, when it affirmed through a statement that its communication system had been audited and found to be safe and protected. There was, therefore, near unanimity in the legal community that the verdict would be overturned: it was not a question of if but when.

In retrospect, Mr Khan and Mr Qureshi committed a historical blunder and caused an international diplomatic incident by using the cipher as a political prop; however, this was never reason enough to punish them under laws originally meant to prosecute traitors and foreign spies. That, as prime minister, Mr Khan chose to use sensitive diplomatic communications for selfish political reasons, imperilling diplomatic ties with the country's largest trading partner, should have been left as something for voters to ponder.

Instead, our state, in its desperation to victimise another ex-prime minister, once again left them looking like more of a hero than they perhaps deserved to be. There are lessons aplenty in this saga: but will our state ever learn?

## Tyranny of learning

Nasira Habib

School education in Pakistan plays no constructive role in cultivating a civic sense in students. It fails to prepare responsible citizens. The social studies school curriculum claims a paradigm shift to an inquiry-based approach, focusing on 'student constructed' learning, instead of teacher-transmitted information. It also recognises that learning experiences must be relevant to students' daily lives.

The prerequisites of such an approach are relevant cultural context, understanding of students' prior knowledge, immersive teaching, active participation, and recognising the critical importance of their voices. However, these essential elements are missing in textbooks.

There has been no effort to locate the teaching of citizenship in students' socio-cultural realities in primary school textbooks. On the contrary, the text is context-neutral and abstract. The language is dull, monotonous and difficult. Not only linguistically but conceptually as well, it is age-inappropriate. The content is uninteresting and the vocabulary and concepts far more advanced than their comprehension level. A chapter on general knowledge uses six sentences to educate six-year-old Grade 2 children on rights and duties, including the right to religious freedom. Without explaining human rights, a table gives four types of rights and five kinds of responsibilities.

The rights include the freedom to choose an occupation, the right to shelter homes for destitute people, and the right to electricity, gas, clean drinking water, a safe environment, housing, education, protec-

tion, and healthcare. Furthermore, the textbooks want children to 'define' a government and its roles and responsibilities.

The chapter on the role of the government and citizens for Grade 3 is no less pathetic. The curriculum expects seven-year-old children to link water shortages in some areas of Pakistan to the increase in population, a lower water table, absence of water storage facilities, poor water supply management and irrational water use. The textbook also asks them to give suggestions on how a government and citizens can collaborate to meet the needs of a community.

At the end of the lesson, they must know the qualities of good citizens, for example, being law-abiding, responsible, trustworthy, gender-just, tolerant, and respectful of others' rights. The relevant chapters for Grade 4 take children farther away from their reality and achieve new heights of abstraction. The chapter on citizenship describes at least 33 complex concepts in 26 sentences. Almost every sentence presents a new idea.

Students are required to memorise the definitions of an 'ordinary', 'digital' and 'global' citizen. They have to endlessly repeat and commit to memory complex concepts like the caste system, international affairs, conflict resolution through dialogue, the UN Declaration of Human Rights, protection of language and culture, religious freedom, right of movement, speech and expression, payment of taxes, and changes in rights and responsibilities over time. In addition, 26 bullet points present an array of rights and duties for the three categories of citizens.

There is an absence

of sensitivity in the textbooks pertaining to children's lived experiences, the extent of their exposure, location, access to technology, etc. The textbooks also appear to overlook teachers' ability to deal with such intellectually challenging concepts. The borrowed format of the presentation and layout of the text makes a mockery of the thought behind the format.

Such imposed and undemocratic education is a tyranny for learners. It leads them to using hollow words, having no democratic values and convictions, and lacking the courage to stand up for civic ideals. Poor governance, slackness in law enforcement, and rampant corruption reinforce their ignorance and disbelief in democratic values. People without a value system, logical thinking, and decision-making tools become conformists and follow the crowd.

We must teach democratic behaviour and form habits from the first day of school. Instead of talking about J.S. Mill and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, education must be structured around everyday happenings involving children, inviting them to express their views, listening to them, and giving them ownership in decision-making, such as developing classroom rules.

School life presents many situations in the classroom, in the lab, in the library, in the garden and on the playground, which themselves relate to issues of rights and duties, justice and fair play, gender equity and responsibility, and need resolution. Such immersion would help children think and act democratically. Textbooks must facilitate these processes. Otherwise, they are counterproductive.

-- Courtesy Dawn

## Monsoon menace

Naseer Memon

With the approach of the monsoons, timely precaution is needed. The South Asian Climate Outlook Forum has anticipated above-normal rains in the region during the season. Rainfall and temperature outlook maps from the SACOF-28 report forecast heavy rains in all the provinces and excessive temperatures in Pakistan's snow-capped mountainous belt. This suggests looming flood conditions.

Sindh is the most vulnerable province as it is the final destination of glacial melt in the north and the hill torrents of southern Punjab and eastern Balochistan. A closer look at the temperature and rainfall maps of the report indicates the following perilous scenarios for Sindh:

(1) Scorching temperatures in the north triggering snowmelt and consequent flooding of the Indus river.

(2) Excessive rainfall in southern Punjab unleashing hill torrents from Koh-i-Suleman, which will eventually join the Indus river to swell its flows.

(3) Abnormal rains in eastern Balochistan, which can produce gushing spate flows entering Sindh from the Kirthar Hills. This flow can exert stress on the Flood Protection (FP) Bund and embankments of the Right Bank Outfall Drain (RBOD), turning Lake Manchar into a threat.

(4) Heavy downpours in Sindh can choke malfunctioning drainage networks on both sides of the Indus and create ponds in case there are breaches and spill-overs. Sindh witnessed a combination of the first two scenarios in 2010, while an amalgam of the latter two was endured in 2022, causing calamity.

The next monsoon season is set to begin in a few weeks. The authori-

ties remain in a state of slumber until disaster knocks. Precautions are delayed. They should realise that urgent actions can mitigate the repercussions.

A monsoon monitoring and coordination cell should be established at the Provincial Disaster Management Authority and equipped with technical, financial, logistical and human resources to enable swift action in case of an adverse situation. In 2022, a major disaster was unleashed due to record-breaking rains in eastern Balochistan in July and August. An enormous quantum of water entered Sindh along the foothills of the Kirthar range. The FP Bund couldn't withstand the water sheet and was breached at five locations. The banks of the RBOD and Suprio bund also collapsed, inundating vast areas in Kambar Shahdadkot and Dadu districts. The Sindh irrigation department should devise a communication mechanism that can be put to use by the department and its counterpart in Balochistan to obtain timely updates on the rainfall and the consequent flows likely to veer towards Sindh. The FP Bund and the banks of the RBOD need critical surveillance to avert breaching.

After entering Sindh, the floodwaters travel the length of the 277-kilometre-long FP Bund before reaching Manchar. The irrigation department has to ensure the timely emptying of the lake to absorb these flows. In 2022, delayed emptying resulted in breaches and relief cuts to save Sehwan town. Dozens of villages between Sehwan and Dadu towns were inundated. Dadu, Johi and Mehrar just about managed to avert a disaster, thanks to the concerted efforts of the local community and authorities.

Clogged natural waterways are a chronic cause of flooding. In a bid to appease a few political favourites, the government exposes millions of poor people to flooding risks. A study commissioned by the Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority in 2012 enlisted all blocked waterways and suggested a plan for the rehabilitation of the drainage network on the left bank side. In January 2021, the Sindh High Court ordered the removal of encroachments from irrigation department lands by June 30.

More recently, the court's Sukkur bench issued a verdict in February 2023, asking the government to improve the drainage of storm water from both sides of the Indus by reviving the natural waterways via the construction of new surface/storm drains in the remaining area. The verdict identified 11 obstructions in waterways from Balochistan to Manchar on the right bank side, and advised the authorities to rectify matters. These efforts yielded no result. Obstructions created by the Left Bank Outfall Drain against the natural flow of the Puran river caused havoc in Jhudo in Mirpurkhas and put parts of Badin at risk in 2022. LBOD underpasses and regulatory infrastructure at zero point need to be completed before the monsoons. Similarly, the Aral Wah canal, which has been adequately remodelled, was meant to drain the surplus flows of Manchar to the Indus, but the old regulator on the Indus Highway has not yet been removed. It can potentially cause a bottleneck and make Sehwan and Dadu vulnerable as in 2022. Devastation due to delayed action can cost far more than investment in resilience. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Gilani inaugurates commercial production of Kia Shehroze

SUJAWAL (APP): Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Tuesday inaugurated the commercial production of Kia Shehroze at the Dewan Industrial City near Sujawal.

Addressing the launching ceremony, Gilani felicitated the Dewan Farooque Motors Limited (DFML) and Kia on resuming the commercial production of their 'Special Purpose Kia Commercial Vehicle'.

He said it was a significant milestone not only for the company, but also marked the spirit of progress and development that "we continuously strive for in Pakistan".

Turning over a new page of automotive excellence, hard work and innovation, the launch of Kia Shehroze truck was a testament to Pakistan's growing industrial progress, he added.

The Senate chairman said that the automobile sector served as a cornerstone of progress, driving innovation, employment opportunities, and economic prosperity.

"The success of South Korean automobile giants like Kia significantly boosted the country's GDP, enhanced its global trade standing, and spurred technological innovation,"

he added.

Gilani said that the industry, through such remarkable initiatives, was manifesting "our shared commitment to fostering a robust and self-sufficient automotive sector".

He further said that Pakistan was committed to pursuing a robust geo-economic policy that "prioritizes regional developmental cooperation and trade as a vehicle of shared prosperity".

Gilani said the transportation sector under the Chian Pakistan Economic Corridor had already opened up new avenues of trade and connectivity.



ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Faisal Karim Kundi conferring awards to the traders of KPK during an award giving ceremony which was held at Islamabad Chamber and Commerce & Industry.

### Services exports increase by 1.18 pc in 10 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The exports of services during the first ten months of the current financial year increased by 1.18 percent as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of the last year. During July-April 2023-24, exports of services were recorded at \$6.441 billion as against the exports of \$6.366 billion during the same period of last year, according to the data of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

During the period under review, the services

imports into the country grew by 20.77 percent and it was registered at \$8.347 billion as compared to the import of \$6.912 billion in the same period last year.

On a year-on-year basis, the services exports from the country grew by 16.59 percent in April 2024 as compared to the exports of the same month of last year. In April 2024, services valued at \$646.03 million were exported as compared to exports of \$554.10 million in the same month of last year.

### PSX witnessed bearish trend, losses 908.60 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Tuesday, losing 908.60 points, a negative change of 1.20 per cent, closing at 74,666.66 points against 75,575.26 points the previous day.

A total of 414,479,234 shares valuing Rs 18.311 billion were traded during the day as compared to 441,261,756 shares valuing Rs 18.364 billion the previous day.

As many as 451 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 99 of them recorded gains and 279 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 73 companies remained unchanged.

The top three trading companies were Fauji Cement with 36,618,571 shares at Rs 22.51 per share, K-Electric Limited with 35,198,695 shares at Rs 4.87 per share and WorldCall Telecom with 21,707,630 shares at Rs 1.34 per share.



QUETTA: A delegation led by President Quetta Chamber of Commerce Abdullah Khan Achakzai meeting with Balochistan Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

### ICCI proposes measures for broadening tax base

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Tuesday urged the government to introduce special measures in upcoming federal budget for the financial year 2024-25 for broadening the tax base by taking the business community on board, besides forming joint committees at district levels to address the challenges faced by local trade and investment.

Addressing a seminar on 'Tajir Dost Scheme', President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the chamber had forwarded its budget proposals to the government and urged for incorporating these suggestions in the budget

to flourish local trade and business.

He said that the business community of the country was aware of the significance of the tax for economic development and it always remained at the forefront for ensuring the full tax compliance for the national economy and social prosperity.

The president termed the track and trace system as imperative to check those involved in tax evasion and underlined the need for large scale reforms in Federal Board of Revenue, besides privatization of losing making government entities and promotion of exports to initiate journey towards the economic stability.

### SCCI asks govt to conduct forensic audit of IPPs

PESHAWAR (APP): President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Fuad Ishaq has urged the government to conduct a forensic audit of the IPPs to pull the country out from the hovering net of circular debts.

He was addressing as chief guest at the concluding ceremony of two-day International Solar Energy Expo - ISE 2024 organised by GreenWend Energy/SunSaviour here, said a press release here.

The SCCI chief said hydel and solar energy was the best solution to the rising electricity cost and crisis.

He called upon the government to pay serious attention to the uplift of the solar energy sector. Fuad Ishaq demanded disbursement of loans under KP government interest-free Youth loan scheme worth Rs 10 Billion through the Bank of Khyber and demanded the revival of IDBP.

### China's growing demand for colored gemstone urges Pakistan to react quickly

BEIJING (APP): The 2024 Beijing International Gold, Jewelry, and Gemstone Exhibition concluded on June 3 at the Beijing Exhibition Center. The event featured exhibitors not only from major Chinese cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, and Guangzhou but also from various international jewelers.

Chinese consumers showed consistent enthusiasm for gold, jade, pearls, and other precious items. Notably, there was a marked interest in colored gemstones, with a significant crowd around the booths of exhibitors from Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

"The quality of colored gemstones from Pakistan and Sri Lanka caught my eye, so I stopped to ask about the prices. I might find something good to buy," a consumer shared with China Economic Net (CEN).

"In 2023, the total import and export value of China's jewelry industry reached a record high of \$145.334 billion, an increase of 8.62 percent year-on-year. Chinese consumers show a strong interest in gold and silver jewelry products for both their aesthetic and investment value. Additionally, Pakistan's exports of gems and precious stones to

China saw a 47 percent increase in 2023, indicating growing recognition of the quality of Pakistani gemstones among Chinese buyers. Muhammad Amjad, the owner of PIEDRA, a Pakistani-colored gemstone company, brought emeralds, aquamarines, and other gems from Peshawar to the exhibition. "I came to China in 2006 and have been in the colored gemstone business ever since. The reason for choosing to do business in China is simple: the good relationship between the two countries and the strong purchasing power of Chinese consumers."

### Gold up by Rs 700 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 700 and was sold at Rs 241,000 on Tuesday compared to its sale at Rs 240,300 on the last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 600 to Rs 206,619 from Rs 206,019 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went up to Rs 189,400 from Rs 188,850, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten-gram silver remained constant at Rs 2,820 and to Rs 2,417.70.

### APTMA for regionally competitive energy tariff, cut in mark-up

LAHORE (APP): All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) Central Chairman Asif Inam has demanded reduction in the power tariff to 9 cents/kWh, bringing down the interest rate to 12 percent and restoration of zero rating for the textile industry to enable it to contribute to the national economy through exports, investment and employment.

He was addressing a press conference here at APTMA office on

Tuesday. APTMA Chairman (North) Kamran Arshad, Senior Vice Chairman Asad Shafi, and Secretary General (North) Mohammad Raza Baqir were also present.

Inam said the industry was paying Rs 240 billion in cross subsidies and over Rs 150 billion in stranded cost. He said the supply of electricity at 9 cents/kWh would generate over 300 megawatts in additional grid demand and Rs 500 billion in revenue.



## Cooperation with Qatar will be further increased in various fields: Governor

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: The Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan, Ali Bin Mubarak Al Khatar called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore, here today. Both sides discussed cooperation between the two countries in trade and other fields.

Punjab Governor said that the Pakistani workforce is playing the role of a strong bridge between the two countries. He said that Pakistan is grateful to the government of Qatar for hosting the expatriates. Governor Punjab said that Pakistan wants to benefit from Qatar's expertise in the Oil and Gas sectors. He appreciated Qatar for showing Islamic teachings and values to the whole world during the hosting of the Football World Cup. Governor Punjab said that Pakistan is a peaceful country and its people are loving and hospitable.

Governor Punjab said that the world needs to be shown the real face of Pakistan. Ambassador of Qatar Ali Bin Mubarak Al Khatar said that the Ameer of Qatar will visit Pakistan soon. He said that delegations of experts from Qatar will visit Pakistan and take matters forward in terms of increasing cooperation in various fields.



LAHORE: Consul General of China Zhao Shiren, and Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Syeda Falecha Zahra Kazmi visiting the exhibition regarding Pak-China Culture and Environment at Home Economics College University of the provincial capital.

## Performance of food dept remained exemplary in 100 days: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Food Minister Bilal Yaseen said that the Punjab Chief Minister has fulfilled the promise of providing affordable and quality food to the public and during the first 100 days of the provincial government, the performance of the Food Department remained exemplary.

He said this while addressing a seminar organized by the Pakistan Dairy Association in a local hotel on Tuesday. He said that it was the most valuable relief for 130 million people in the first 100 days of the government and under the leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, Punjab has taken a lead in significantly reducing the prices of food items.

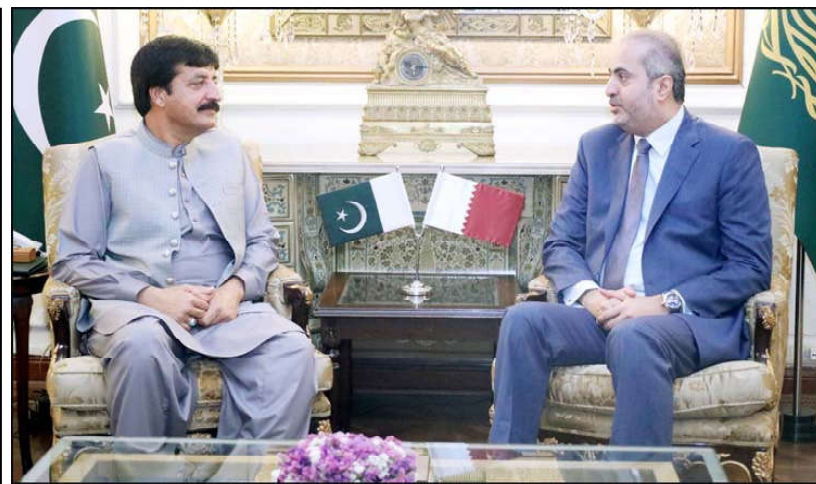
## ANF recovers 49 kg drugs in five operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in its ongoing operations against drug trafficking conducted five raids across the country and managed to recover 49 kg drugs and arrest three accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday.

He informed that 4.4 kg ice was recovered from a parcel booked for Australia at a courier office in Islamabad. 424 grams of ice was recovered from a passenger going to Doha at Islamabad Airport while 35 kg hashish was recovered from Panjgur.

## Efforts underway to control spread of dengue: Zaneera

RAWALPINDI (APP): Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Headquarters Zaneera Aftab on Tuesday said efforts were underway to control the spread of dengue larvae and no negligence would be tolerated.



LAHORE: Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan, Ali Bin Mubarak Al Khatar called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

## PTI's election symbol plea referred to larger bench

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday referred a petition, filed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) challenging the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) authority to withdraw a political party's election symbol, to the LHC chief justice with a request to fix the matter before a larger bench for further hearing.

The court held that identical petitions were already pending before the larger bench, therefore, it would be appropriate that the present petition should also be heard by the bench.

## Meena Afridi says: Federal Govt should pay Rs. 2000 billion arrears to KP

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Higher Education and Libraries Meena Khan Afridi while expressing his extreme concern over the news of the closure of funds for the provincial universities by the Prime Minister, who imposed an educational emergency in the country. The Provincial Minister demanded that instead of closing the funds of the universities, it should be enhanced. Despite this, as

per vision of party leader Imran Khan, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will give full support to the universities and will not let his new generation be deprived of higher education. He said that even if the fake mandate holders don't give us funds, at least they should give us the arrears of more than Rs.2 thousand billion. He announced that we will make full use of every forum for our rights. He expressed these views while addressing the opening ceremony of AQ Khan.

## 153kg narcotics smuggling bid foiled

ATTOCK (Online): The National highway and motorway Police on Tuesday foiled a bid to smuggle 153.60 of narcotics from KP to Punjab through Peshawar-Islamabad motorway (M-1) and arrested two members of interprovincial gang of narcotics smugglers. Sources said that acting on a tip off, patrolling staff of National highway and motorway Police intercepted a car near Chach interchange and during search recovered 153.60 kilogram of narcotics including 117.60-kilogram hashish and 36-kilogram opium. Later the suspects were handed over to Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Police station Attock for further legal action. huge consignment of narcotics from Peshawar to Rawalpindi.

## Anti-Polio drive underway

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief Executive Officer (CEO), District Health Authority, Dr Ejaz Ahmed Tuesday said that the week-long anti-polio campaign, which began in the entire district on June 3 successfully entered into its 2nd day.

## KP Govt to declare Dara Adam Khel as Commercial City, KP Finance Minister

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Finance and Law Aftab Alam Afridi Advocate has said that FATA University is going through an evolutionary process and we are confident that this university will perform better not only nationally but also internationally.

He assured that the provincial government will solve the problems being faced by FATA University on priority basis. He said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is rich enough in great natural resources, but unfortunately the federal government is in control of our resources and has robbed our rights. "We are making full use of every forum to achieve our rights and also recorded its protest to the Federation," he added.

## Religious scholars' conference reaffirms to promote harmony in society

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): A religious conference organized here on Tuesday by Majlis Ulema Azad Jammu and Kashmir in collaboration with the Department of Religious Affairs Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sufi Forum and Ulama Mashaikh Council reaffirmed its commitment to play vital role for creating vitality and harmony in the society and guiding the people to firmly stand with the armed forces of Pakistan for ensuring integrity and security of the country.

The conference was attended by Chief Secretary Azad Kashmir Daood Muhammad Breach, Secretary Religious Affairs and Auqaf Sardar Muhammad Zaffar Khan, member Legislative Assembly Pir Syed Ali Raza Bukhari, besides Ulema and scholars of all sects including Pir Amitaz Ahmed Siddiqui, Allama Kifayat Hussain Naqvi, Maulana Intiaz Ahmed Abbasi, Maulana Zaid Bustan, Maulana Maqsood Ahmad Tauhidi, Allama Asif Akbar Qadi, Maulana Mushtaq Qadi, Allama Azmat Hayat, Mufti Abdul Khaliq, Allama Syed Sadiq Naqvi, Dr. Shaheen Kausar, Maulana Abdul Majid, Maulana Saleem Ijaz, Qazi Shahid Hameed, Maulana Ayub Khan Saqib, Maulana Mumtazul Haque Qasmi, Syed Tofail Kazmi, Maulana Abdul Ghaffar Salafi, Mufti Muhammad Ahmad Khan, Maulana Daniyal Shahab.

# International News

## UN experts urge all countries to recognise Palestinian statehood

**Monitoring Desk**  
GENEVA: A group of United Nations experts called on Monday for all countries to recognise a Palestinian state to ensure peace in the Middle East.

The call came less than a week after Spain, Ireland and Norway officially recognised a Palestinian state, prompting anger from Israel, which has found itself increasingly isolated after nearly eight months of aggression in Gaza. The experts, including the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the Palestinian territories, said recognition of a Palestinian state was an important acknowledgement of the rights of the Palestinian people and their struggle towards freedom and independence.

"This is a pre-condition for lasting peace in Palestine and the entire Middle East beginning with the immediate declaration of a ceasefire in Gaza and no further military incursions into Rafah," they said. "A two-state solution remains the only internationally agreed path to peace and security for both Palestine and Israel and a way out of generational cycles of violence and resentment." Israel's Foreign Ministry did not respond immediately to a request for comment. With their recognition of a Palestinian state, Spain, Ireland and Norway said they sought to accelerate efforts to secure a ceasefire in Israel's war with Hamas in Gaza.



Sebastien Delogu, deputy for La France Insoumise (LFI) party attends a pro-Palestinian protest in central Paris, France.

## Kremlin welcomes Turkey's reported desire to join BRICS

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russia welcomes Turkey's reported desire to become part of the BRICS group of nations, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday, saying the subject would be on the agenda of the organisation's next summit.

Peskov said there was heightened interest in BRICS - a group comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Ethiopia, Iran, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates - from various states, but said it was unlikely the grouping could completely satisfy all interested nations.

## Japan's Nagasaki holds off inviting Israel to peace ceremony

**Monitoring Desk**  
TOKYO: The Israeli ambassador to Japan has not yet been invited to Nagasaki's annual peace ceremony, said city officials who instead sent the embassy a letter calling for a Gaza ceasefire.



A Palestinian man and children push a cart with water containers, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, in southern Gaza City, in the Gaza Strip.

## Iran's top diplomat confirms talks with US

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: Iran's acting foreign minister Ali Bagheri said on Monday his government was engaged in negotiations with arch-foe the United States hosted by the Gulf sultanate of Oman.

Asked about the issue at a news conference during a visit to Beirut, Bagheri said "we have always continued our negotiations... and they have never stopped." Washington and Tehran have not had diplomatic relations since the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran.

## Houthi Red Sea attacks decline in last week as navies act

**Monitoring Desk**  
ATHENS: Closer international cooperation between naval missions in the Red Sea has reduced the number of attacks by Yemen's Houthis over the past week, Greek Shipping Minister Christos Stylianides told Reuters in an interview on Tuesday.

Greece is the home of the headquarters of the European Union's naval operation in the Red Sea, which is dubbed "Aspides" and in Greek means "Shields". "For us, it is a satisfaction that during the past week, we have seen a notable reduction in the number and intensity of attacks. This is the reality," Stylianides said, speaking on the sidelines of the Posidonia shipping week in Athens. "It is another proof that the international community with decisiveness can stop this." Aspides was set up this year to guard vessels against attacks by Iranian-aligned Houthi militants, who have launched repeated drone and missile strikes in the Red Sea region since November and have expanded attacks to other busy waterways.

## China accuses MI6 of using state workers to spy for UK

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: China on Monday accused Britain's Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) of recruiting a couple who worked for the central government to spy for the UK, adding to months of mutual espionage allegations between Beijing and Western powers.

The Ministry of State Security said in a post on its official WeChat that MI6 operatives convinced a man named Wang, who worked in a "core confidential role" in the central state apparatus, to defect along with his wife.

## US urges UN Security Council to support cease-fire plan in Gaza announced by President Biden

**Monitoring Desk**  
UNITED NATIONS: The United States urged the U.N. Security Council on Monday to support the three-phase plan announced by President Joe Biden aimed at ending the nearly eight-month war in Gaza, freeing all hostages and sending massive aid into the devastated territory.

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said the United States circulated a draft resolution to the 14 other council members to back the proposal for ending the conflict that began with Hamas' surprise attack in southern Israel on Oct. 7 that killed some 1,200 people, mostly Israeli civilians. "Numerous leaders and governments, including in the region, have endorsed this plan and we call on the Security Council to join them in calling for implementation of this deal without delay and without further conditions," she said in a statement.

## Ukraine says extending use of Western arms will weaken Russia near border

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's chief of staff said on Tuesday that using Western weapons to strike inside Russia was a vital decision that would impact Moscow's tactical aviation and its capability to operate in border areas.

Following pressure from Ukraine and some of its European allies, the US agreed last week to change its policy and allow Kyiv to strike inside Russia with Western weapons as part of its campaign to repel Russia's full-scale invasion. Kyiv said the step would help push back Russian advances and better defend territory in the northeast Kharkiv region. "Permission to use Western weapons on the territory of the Russian Federation is a vital decision," Andriy Yermak said on the Telegram messaging app. "This will impact the conduct of the war, planning of counteroffensive actions, and will weaken Russians' abilities to use their forces in the border areas." The decision would also help to better fend off Russian aerial attacks, Yermak said. Ukraine has frequently targeted occupied Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014, with Western-made weapons. But outgunned and outmaneuvered on the battlefield, Kyiv had pleaded with Washington to allow it to strike targets on Russian soil with US-made weapons, as Moscow launched a new front in the northeastern Kharkiv region.



## President reaffirms Pak commitment to protect environment through innovative solutions, partnerships

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to protect environment and surmount environment related challenges to ensure a healthier, safer and more resilient planet for the future generations.

The president, in a message on the occasion of World Environment Day being observed on June 5, said that the Day highlighted "our shared responsibility" to protect the environment for the future generations.

"Today, we reaffirm our commitment to overcoming these issues by pioneering innovative solutions and fostering international partnerships," the President Secretariat Press Wing, in a press release, quoted the president as saying.

Today, he said, they were commemorating the 'World Environment Day' to raise awareness about the issues of land degradation, desertification, and droughts.

"Pakistan is among the few countries that have been most affected by the adverse impacts of climate change. During the past few years, Pakistan has witnessed diverse climate phenomena, including floods, droughts, heatwaves, and forest fires," he added.

The president observed that the focus of the Day on land restoration, desertification combat, and drought resilience was quite pertinent.

"Pakistan's unwavering resolve to tackle environmental challenges is showcased through initiatives like the Green Pakistan Programme, which has

made significant strides in afforestation and ecosystem restoration," he added.

The president said the initiatives such as the National Adaptation Plan and the Climate Smart Agriculture reflected their dedication to sustainable agricultural practices and land degradation mitigation.

Although Pakistan was taking steps to tackle desertification, land degradation and drought through the restoration of degraded forests, and agricultural lands, but much more needed to be done, he stressed.

"We need to adopt sustainable land management practices, and water conservation techniques, besides supporting community action to promote reforestation in the rural and urban residential areas," he opined.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah distributes cheques among the NGOs working for differently abled persons during ceremony held at CM House in Karachi.

## CM distributes Rs 71m among NGOs working for differently-abled persons

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah distributed cheques worth Rs 71.252 million to NGOs working for the purchase of assistive devices for differently-abled persons.

The cheque distribution ceremony was held at the Chief Minister's House and attended by Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Secretary of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPD) Tauha Farooqi, heads of the NGOs and rehabilitation centers.

The Chief Minister said that his government has established rehabilitation centers for disabled persons across the province to facilitate parents to enroll their differently-abled children to become effective members of society.

The NGOs given cheques include Ida Rieu Welfare Association Rs 29.135 million, JS Academy of Noor-e-Ali Trust Rs10 million, Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre (MALC) Rs11.446 million, Autism Care & Rehabilitation Organization (ACRO) Rs 1.557 million, Pakistan Association of Blind (PAB) National Rs 9.430 million, Special Children School Karsaz of Pak navy Rs 4.178 million, Imran Rehabilitation Centre (Shareef Haroon Trust) Rs 3.5 million, NGO for Development of Special Persons (NDSPP) Rs 586,000 and Pakistan Wheelchair Cricket Council (PWCC) Rs 1.425 million.

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## Pakistan seeks to emulate Chinese economic model: PM

'We are coming with serious plans; to return with great dividends': PM conveys to Chinese firms

ISLAMABAD (APP): As Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif departed for a five-day official visit to China, he reiterated the commitment to strengthening bilateral ties by engaging in discussions with Chinese business leaders to secure investments and yield dividends, mutually beneficial for companies on both sides.

"We are coming with serious plans. We will engage with you and return to Pakistan with great dividends that will benefit Chinese and Pakistani companies and the two countries will have their relations strengthened and become much higher than the Himalayas or any other

highest peaks and deeper than the deepest oceans," the prime minister said in an interview with the representatives of different Chinese media groups including Xinhua news agency, national broadcaster CCTV and CGTN Urdu, prior to his first official visit to China after assuming office.

He said through the visit, Pakistan hoped to promote interaction between enterprises in both countries, utilize Special Economic Zones and Pakistan's labor advantages to establish joint ventures, facilitate the transfer of industries and technologies, and enhance Pakistan's

manufacturing output, to promote constructing upgraded China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

In a detailed interaction, the prime minister spelled out his government's priorities to improve the national economy through structural and institutional reforms, cost-cutting, industrialisation and facilitation of the investors.

He said Pakistan intended to learn from Chinese experiences and build the SEZs with the first one to be developed at Pakistan Steel Mills premises already connected with the rail network and located near the port.



LAHORE: President PML (N) Nawaz Sharif shaking hand with Ambassador of Qatar Ali bin Mubrak Al-Khatir. Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz is also present.

## IHC says: If date is not given for LB polls in IBD then contempt of court notice will be issued to FG, EC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has sought report within 7 days for holding Local Bodies (LB) election in Islamabad.

IHC also suspended property tax notices on new rate.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani remarked CDA is causing destruction in all the city in the name of MCI. You levied taxes of millions of rupees without local government.

The case regarding non holding local bodies election in federal capital came for hearing before single bench of IHC led by Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani Tuesday.

Barrister Umar Ijaz Gillani and other lawyers

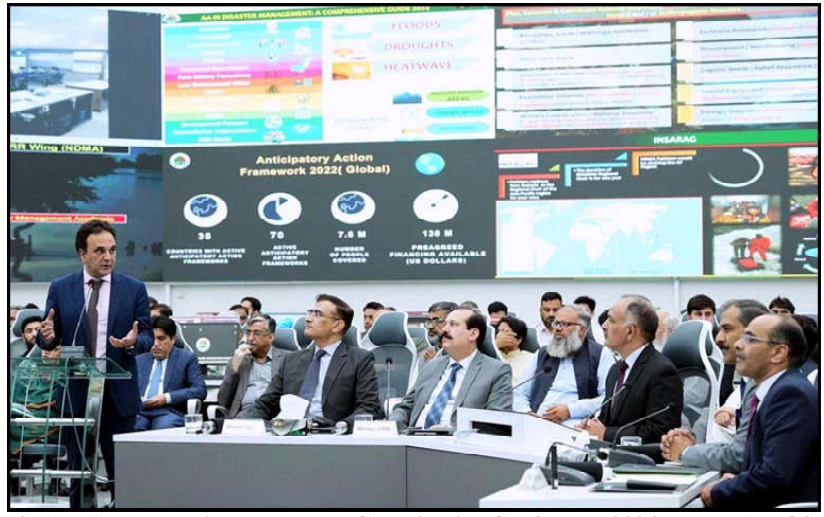
appeared on behalf of the petitioners.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani remarked the petitioners will have to deposit property tax at old rates. They will be able to levy tax following the approval by the local government.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani inquired from Election Commission (EC) authorities why the local bodies election are not being held.

EC authorities told schedule has been given with reference to delimitation of constituencies.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani remarked delimitation has been done to the extent of 125 union councils.



ISLAMABAD: National Monsoon Coordination Conference-2024 at NDMA HQS.

## Naval Chief for addressing grave threats to marine ecosystems due to anthropogenic activities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf on Tuesday demanded the stakeholders and nation as a whole to address the grave threats to marine ecosystems due to the anthropogenic activities posing serious risk to marine life and ecology.

In his message in connection to the World Environment Day issued by the Pakistan Navy, the Admiral said, "World Environment Day" (WED) is observed on 5th of June each year and calls for protecting our natural surroundings. The day, celebrated under the ambit of United

Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) marks an occasion to raise awareness on the challenges facing our environment such as: pollution, illegal wildlife trade, unsustainable consumption, rising sea levels and food insecurity."

This year's theme for the WED is 'Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience'. The occasion will serve as a stark reminder of the urgent need to protect our land, sea, and everything in between.

He said, "Pakistan's long coastline provides access to rich resources of livelihood for millions of people.

## Pakistan Navy, PMSA seize large consignment of drugs at sea

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency have seized a large consignment of drugs at sea.

According to ISPR, in a joint anti-narcotics operation, PMSS Zhub seized a large quantity of narcotics in the North Arabian Sea, worth thousands of dollars in the international market.

This is the third major operation of Pakistan Navy against drug smuggling in the last ten days.

Pakistan Navy and PMSA maintain constant presence to closely monitor sea lanes Successful joint anti-narcotics operation is a result of effective surveillance at sea by Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency.

Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency maintain constant presence to closely monitor sea lanes.

## EAD commends global support at fourth IPSG meeting

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahmad Khan Cheema on Tuesday commended the global support in chairing the 4th meeting of the International Partners Support Group (IPSG) at the Prime Minister's Office Islamabad.

This meeting marked almost two years since the devastating floods of 2022, aiming to review the progress of flood recovery and realign efforts for a resilient Pakistan, said a press release issued here.

The meeting was attended by Romina

Khurshid, the Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, along with secretaries and senior officials from the ministries of economic affairs, Finance and Revenue, Foreign Affairs, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, and the Climate Change division.

Additionally, representatives from bilateral and multilateral development partners, including ambassadors from Azerbaijan, Sweden, Kazakhstan, Norway, Australia.

## Bilawal condoles death of journalists' mother

MULTAN (APP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhatto Zardari has expressed grief and sorrow over the death of mother of senior journalists Naveed Shah (Nawa-e-Waqt) and Nasheed Anjum Shah (Express News).

In his condolence message, Bilawal Bhatto Zardari expressed sympathy with the both brothers, Naveed Shah and Nasheed Shah, over the sudden demise of their mother.

He prayed to the Almighty rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to members of the bereaved family to bear irreparable loss with fortitude.

## American delegation met DC Nawabshah

HYDERABAD (APP): USAID representative Ms Mercedes Marie Ward met Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Shahyar Gul Memon in his office.

People's University of Medical and Health Sciences for Women Nawab Shah Vice Chancellor Professor Gulshan Memon and professors who received training from American universities were present on the occasion.

On the occasion, the representative of USAID told the Deputy Commissioner that 16 universities of Pakistan, including

People's Medical University Nawab Shah, are being strengthened under a USAID partnership program under which university teachers are trained in various American universities.

He further said that this is a five-year program under which the American government is working for the improvement of higher education in Pakistan and the purpose of my coming here is to see that the professors who have been trained in the university. How they are teaching and how can the university be further supported?

## Police conduct raids after attack on policemen near Sohrab Goth

KARACHI (INP): Police has arrested several suspects after a terrorist attack on the force near Sohrab Goth Ganna Mandi, DIG Karachi East said.

DIG East Ghulam Azfar Mahesar has said that the police and other agencies have launched an operation against the accused involved in the attack. A policeman was killed, and another injured in firing by suspects near the Super-Highway Ganna Mandi area.

The two constables were on duty at the Sachal Police Station for the security of the cattle market. Police officer said that the raids conducted in Sohrab Goth and other areas in the nightlong operation and suspects were arrested.

DIG Mahesar said that a terrorist group has claimed responsibility of the attack.



KARACHI: Residents of Ibrahim Hyderi blocked road burn tyres as they are holding protest demonstration prolong electricity load shedding and non-availability of drinking water during hot weather of summer season, in Karachi.

## DC chairs meeting regarding ongoing special anti polio campaign

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Shehryar Gul Memon presided over a meeting regarding the ongoing special anti-polio campaign and immunization in the district on Tuesday.

Addressing the meeting, the DC said that there will never be any compromise on the health of children and the special anti-polio campaign should be conducted in a better way so that the children coming from other districts can be given anti-polio drops.

The Deputy Commissioner further said that the district in order to protect the children from various diseases, the work of immunization should be intensified to protect the children from measles and other diseases. For this purpose, vaccinators as well as

lady health workers should also be given responsibilities. Steps should be taken to give vaccinations, he added.

In this regard, the assistant commissioners of all the tehsils will fully cooperate with the health department. The list of newborn weak children reported in the centers should be provided to the District Health Office so that these children can also be given polio drops and immunizations on a priority basis.

Dr. Allah Bakhsh Rajpar informed the Deputy Commissioner about the ongoing special campaign against polio and immunization in the district.

Dr. Amina Brohi, District Manager PPHI Arif Abbasi, Deputy Director Information Ghulam Abbas Gorah and other relevant officers participated in the meeting.

## Federal budget 2024-25 likely to be presented on June 12

ISLAMABAD (INP): The presentation of the federal budget 2024-25 is likely to be rescheduled.

Interestingly, it is also unusual that the budget strategy paper (BSP) for the next fiscal year has not yet been 'shared' with parliament, though it is more because of political uncertainties emanating from the legal status of reserved seats and because of the absence of standing committees of the Senate and the National Assembly, particularly those related to finance.

## ABAD delegation meets Karachi Police Chief, expresses satisfaction with security measures

KARACHI (APP): A six-member delegation from the Association of Builders and Developers (ABAD) met with Additional IGP Karachi Imran Yaqoob Minhas at the Karachi Police office on Tuesday.

According to a news release, the delegation expressed their satisfaction with the measures taken by the Karachi Police to maintain law and order in the city.

During the meeting,

they discussed security measures in detail.

The delegation briefed the city police chief about the issues faced by the construction industry, and the Additional IGP Karachi assured that these issues would be resolved on a priority basis.

The delegation was led by ABAD Chairman Asif Sumsum and included Mustafa Sheikhan, Zeeshan Siddiqui, Awaish Thanvi, and others.



BADIN: Hamdam Foundation has started planting one lakh Mangroves trees on the coastal of Badin under Surmi Project. In the initial phase, 20,000 Mangroves seed were planted in the coastal area of Sada Behar Nari Lake.

## Pakistan & Saint Vincent and Grenadines establish formal diplomatic ties

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan and Saint Vincent, an island country in the eastern Caribbean, Monday established formal diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Ambassador Munir Akram, Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations, and his counterpart from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Ambassador Inga Rhonda King, signed a joint communique to formalize the diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Welcoming Ambassador King to the Pakistan Mission, the Pakistan envoy said that Pakistan and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have had a long tradition of a 'warm, close and cooperative' relationship at the UN.

"The establishment of formal diplomatic relationship between the two friendly countries will lead to further deepening of ties," Ambassador Akram said. "We now look forward to more intensive interaction between the tourists, business delegations, and the people of the two countries."

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LARKANA: Members of All Students Action Committee are holding protest demonstration against the worst lack of basic facilities in the Chandka Medical College outside college premises in Larkana.

## Fahmina Arshad's column compilation "Siyah Fahmiyan" launched

KARACHI (APP): Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi and Special Events Committee hosted the book launch ceremony of Fahmina Arshad's column compilation "Siyah Fahmiyan" at Haseena Moyn Hall.

The event was presided over by Mahmood Shaam. Mehtab Akbar Rashdi, Imrana Maqsood, Zeb Azkaar Hussain, Khurram Sohail, Hassan bin Rizwan, and Hira Shabir shared their thoughts. Asif Ali Asif was the moderator of the event. Mahmood Shaam, in his presidential address, said that the blood

of traditions is flowing; revolutionary steps need to be taken to correct the deteriorating situations.

Fahmina has eloquently articulated the mention of the decline in thought, stating that people become blind toward societal evils.

Fahmina has utilized the power of the pen in her book. Mehtab Akbar Rashdi commented that while the topics in the book are old, the style is new. Zeb Azkaar Hussain remarked on Fahmina's special ability to articulate hidden psychological nuances in simple language.

## K-Electric files plea in NEPRA, seeking adjustment for April

KARACHI (INP): Karachi Electric (K-Electric) on Tuesday filed an interim petition in the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), seeking monthly adjustments for April.

From one of the angles, K-Electric has requested for 44-paise increase in electricity prices, while from the other two angles, it also requested for cut in the prices by Rs1.18 and 74 paise. The power distribution company requested the NEPRA to accept either of these three options. The Authority will hear the K-Electric's petition on June 12.



KARACHI: Fishing boats are seen among rubbish accumulated in the waters of the harbor on the eve of World Environment Day in Karachi.