

# Independent

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Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 06. No. 128 Zilhajj 05, 1445 AH Wednesday June 12, 2024 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

## Deputy PM Dar calls for an embargo on military supplies to Israel, deployment of impartial int'l force

**Dar urges UN chief to resolve Kashmir dispute, condemns Israeli aggression**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday called upon for an embargo on all the military supplies and sales to Israel, besides proposing to consider the deployment of an impartial international force for the protection of Palestinian civilians in Gaza and the West Bank.

In a statement at the High-Level Conference on Urgent Humanitarian Response for Gaza, in Amman, Jordan, the deputy prime minister urged that they must ensure the immediate withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces from Gaza in accordance with resolution 2735. At this critical juncture, he said they must undertake concrete steps to effectively redress the situation.

Spelling out the need of urgent steps, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that they must ensure the ceasefire called for by the UN Security Council was complete, durable and unconditional.

It must also halt the violence in the West Bank; he said, adding that it should step up the provision of humanitarian assistance to the beleaguered Palestinians in Gaza and meet their needs for food, medicines, energy and other essential supplies.



KARACHI: China Consul General Yang Yundong meeting with Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at governor house.

## City administration takes steps to solve civic issues of industrial areas: Commissioner

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi Syed Hassan Naqvi said that the Sindh government is making all out efforts for the development of all industrial areas in the city and its administration is taking steps to solve the civic issues of industrial areas.

He was addressing the members of the Landhi Association of Trade and Industry during a visit to their office on Tuesday.

He said that the purpose of his visit was to get acquainted with the issues of the Landhi industrial area and to take measures to solve the problems in collaboration with the industrialists.

On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Korangi (holding the charge of DC Malir) Jawwad Muzafer, Additional Deputy Commissioner Malir, all Assistant Commissioners of Malir, office bearers and members of LATI were in attendance.

The association apprised the Commissioner of the issues of non-desilting of storm water drains, damaged roads, traffic congestion, and other issues.

It was decided that before the expected monsoon rains, the cleaning of drains would be started from June 20, and with the cooperation of the Karachi Municipal Corporation, the Landhi industrial drain would also be cleaned.

## IGP reviews security measures for Chinese nationals

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh, Ghulam Nabi Memon, announced on Tuesday that the Special Protection Unit (SPU) will ensure comprehensive and foolproof security for Chinese citizens residing and working in the province.

During a review meeting focused on the security arrangements for Chinese nationals, IGP Sindh emphasized that the responsibility for security clearance at the provincial level, as well as in residential areas of Chinese nationals, rests with the district police. Ghulam Nabi directed the relevant units and departments to immediately allocate additional personnel to the SPU. He also ordered a thorough security audit of the residences, workplaces, and project locations associated with Chinese residents, experts, and staff.

The IGP announced the

formation of a four-member committee to oversee the security of Chinese nationals' residences and movements. This committee will include the Deputy Inspectors General of Police (DIGPs) from Headquarters, Establishment, SPU, and Special Branch. The committee will regularly review and update security measures in accordance with established rules and regulations.

In the meeting, DIGP SPU provided an in-depth briefing on the current security measures and strategies implemented for the protection of Chinese nationals at the provincial level. The meeting, held at the Central Police Office in Karachi, was attended by several high-ranking officials, including the Additional IGP Karachi and DIGPs from the Counter-Terrorism Department, Special Branch, SPU, Headquarters, Traffic, South Zone, Training.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding load shedding, the anti-power theft campaign and reforms in the power sector.

## Economic Survey of Pakistan 2023-24 Significant progress made in achieving macroeconomic stability: Finance Minister

**Country's Per capita income increase by US\$129 to US\$1680 in FY 2024; Investment to GDP ratio stands at 13.14 percent in FY 2024; Agriculture sector posts 6.25% growth in FY 2023-24; Economic Survey; NHA portfolio comprises 123 projects with Rs 156.50 bln allocation; Economic Survey; Manufacturing, Mining sectors contribute 13.6 % to GDP in FY 2024; Pakistan, CoD narrowing down to US \$ 0.5 billion during July-March FY 2024**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday said that despite challenges, the country had made significant progress in achieving macroeconomic stability, with a remarkable 30 percent growth in revenue collection, a reduced current account deficit, reduction in inflation and a stable currency.

Addressing a press conference at the launching ceremony of Economic Sur-

vey of Pakistan 2023-24, the minister said, this situation indicated a remarkable turnaround from a precarious economic situation, characterized by a 0.2% GDP contraction, 29% rupee depreciation, and a shrinking foreign exchange reserves, which had declined to just two weeks' worth of import cover.

He said, despite challenges in the large-scale manufacturing (LSM) sector due to interest rates and energy issues, the country's GDP growth

had found a silver-lining in the agriculture sector, which had been boosted by bumper crops.

He said, the agriculture and the dairy and livestock sector were expected to remain a key driver of growth in the years to come.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said the economic journey of Pakistan in the current fiscal year commenced under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif before caretaker administration, who took the bold

step of approaching the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and signing of 9-month Standby Agreement, which was very important part of the progress the country had been witnessing today.

He said had it not been signed, the situation would have been very different and there would have been discussions on economic figures in a very different context. He said the decision of going to IMF had proven fruitful for the country's economy.

## Sindh Home Minister seeks report of injured policemen

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar sought a detailed report of three policemen, who injured during exchange of fire between bandits and police in Tharo Shah area of Noshero Feroze. While directing the concerned officers on Tuesday, Sindh Home Minister said that all possible medical facilities should be provided to the injured policemen. He further directed that police teams should be tasked to arrest culprits involved in the firing incident.

## Govt approves three days holiday on Eid ul Adha

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government has approved a three-day holiday on the occasion of Eid ul Adha from June 17 to 19.

Sources said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has approved the summary forwarded by the Cabinet Division. The development comes as Pakistan will celebrate Eid ul Adha on June 17 after the Zil Hajj moon was sighted on June 7 last week.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Prof Ahsan Iqbal, is also present on the occasion.

## President, PM discuss public relief in upcoming annual budget

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday met with President Asif Ali Zardari where they discussed the country's overall economic situation with a particular focus on extending relief to the people in the upcoming annual budget 2024-25.

Federal Minister for Planning and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal also attended the meeting, according to a President House press release.

President Zardari emphasised that the inter-

## 11 terrorists killed in Lakki Marwat operation

RAWALPINDI (APP): The security forces on Tuesday killed 11 terrorists during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Lakki Marwat District to bring the perpetrators of IED blast to justice.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, the operation was carried out to bring the perpetrators of the recent improvised explosive device (IED) explosion that claimed the lives of seven brave soldiers including Captain Muhammad Faraz Ilyas and Subedar Major Muhammad Nazir, to justice.

"The security forces, on the night between June 10 and 11, 2024, launched the intelligence based operation in the Lakki Marwat District, and effectively engaged the terrorists' location. As a result, 11 terrorists were successfully neutralized & sent to hell while multiple terrorist hideouts were also busted," the ISPR said.

It added that sanitization operation was carried out to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area.

## Sindh fertile for investment in energy: Nasir Shah

**Directs Secretary Energy to remove all obstacles in Pak-Iran Wind Power Project**

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: Sindh Provincial Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has said that Sindh province is very fertile and rich in natural resources in the energy sector and is very suitable for domestic and foreign investment.

He expressed these views today at his office during a meeting with a delegation headed by Consul General Iran Hassan Nourian, First Counsel Amir Jafri, CO Pakistan-Iran Wind Power Project Khuram Tariq Saeed, Secretary of Energy Department Sindh Mossadiq Ahmad Khan and Director of Alternative Energy Mahfouz Qazi were also present on this occasion.

Iranian delegation told the energy minister that the Pak-Iran wind power project, which was started some time ago but could not be started due to various reasons, if the hurdles in the project are cleared, we will



be able to start the project and generate electricity very soon.

Minister Nasir Shah said that the use of alternative energy is the need of the hour, which can not only meet the energy needs to a large extent but also help in overcoming the energy crisis.

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto has special instructions regarding alternative energy and especially solarization. Apart from this, the provision of free and low price electricity to the

they will also be provided with all possible facilities by the government.

Minister Energy directs Secretary Energy Mossadeq Ahmed Khan and Director Alternative Energy Mahfouz Qazi present on the occasion to take steps to remove all the obstacles in Pak-Iran Wind Power Project on a priority basis.

Iranian Council General thanked the Minister Energy and Sindh government for their assurance of all possible cooperation and said that they will encourage Iranian investors to invest heavily in the energy sector in Sindh province.

Nasir Shah also said on this occasion that if work is done through STDC and SEPR in connection with the wind power project, more facilities can be created for the project. On this occasion, business to business option was also considered to make the project functional.

## Sindh government working to restore natural waterways: CM Murad

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah Tuesday said that in the wake of the 2022 floods and the impact of climate change, Sindh government was working to restore natural waterways so that rainwater can be disposed of naturally.

This, he said while talking to Ambassador of the Netherlands Mrs Henny de Vries who called on him here at the CM House.

The CM emphasized the need to strengthen our canal system, irrigation network, and drainage system in response to the floods of 2010, 2011, and 2022, in order to mitigate heavy damage from flash floods or riverine floods.

Ambassador de Vries said that the heavy rains that caused floods in Pakistan, particularly in Sindh were the result of climate change, therefore the on-ward development needed to make climate resilient.

At this, the CM said

that his government was working to restore natural waterways so that flood water could be disposed of in its natural gravity.

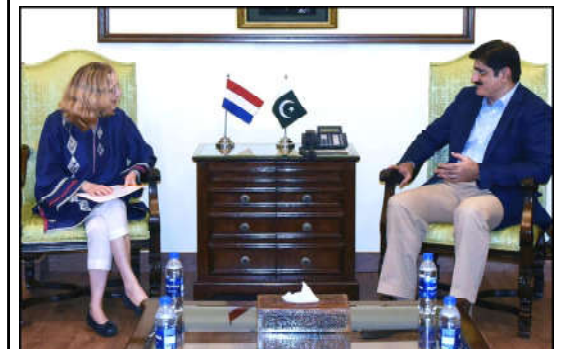
The chief minister and the Dutch ambassador discussed investment opportunities in Sindh.

Mrs Henny de Vries said that the Dutch Agriculture Bank was interested in advancing loans for agriculture development and added that flood-resilient crops were needed for the ongoing climate change era.

The CM thanked the ambassador and said that his government's investment department would contact the Dutch Embassy and discuss the modalities for agricultural support.

The CM offered Dutch firms to come over and invest in wastewater treatment plants in Karachi.

The treated water would be used for industrial purposes and investment in the treatment of water would give good returns.



KARACHI: Ambassador of Holland to Pakistan Henny de Vries meeting with Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah.

## KMC to get an income of Rs 4 billion from MUCT: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) will get an income of Rs 4 billion, by collecting Municipal Utility Charges Tax (MUCT) through Karachi Electric bills, from which development work can be done in all the UCs. He said this while addressing a press conference after the city council meeting on Tuesday. This is not a new tax, rather, it has been in force since June 2, 2008.

On the order of the court, we have passed the resolution from the city council and 195 members have voted in favour of this resolution.

Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, Parliamentary

Leader Najmi Alam, Deputy Parliamentary Leader Dil Muhammad, Juman Darwan, Mayor Karachi Spokesperson for Political Affairs Karamullah Waqasi and other leaders and members of the City Council were also present on this occasion.

The Mayor said that we want to work equally in all areas of Karachi, he said that today this resolution has been a great success with the approval and this council of 2024 will always be remembered. He said that no land, no property of KMC is being given to anyone and, all the lands will remain the property of KMC but work will be continued under public-private partnership for the improvement and development of the city.



JORDAN: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar meets with UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the high-level conference on "Urgent Humanitarian Response for Gaza".

## MQM-P's Farooq Sattar demands security citing life threats

KARACHI (INP): Senior MQM-P leader Farooq Sattar has demanded security from the concerned officials in view of threats to his life.

In a letter to Sindh Inspector General of Police (IGP) Ghulam Nabi Memon, Additional IG Imran Yaqub and the commissioner Karachi, Sattar has informed them that even before the February 8 general elections he had started receiving life threats from unknown persons.

"Later when I brought it to the notice of the authorities, I was provided with a police mobile van, which would escort me to different places;

however, later that facility was withdrawn," he has said, adding, "Similarly from two security guards, who remained deployed outside my house during nighttime, have also been called back."

The MQM-P leader has informed that last year he had seen some armed men strolling outside his residence. "It was then when Javed Alam Odho, who was then the additional IG had ordered the deployment of two guards outside my house."

Giving more details, he has said that he has received threats from MQM-P London, Balochistan Liberation Army and other banned outfits.



## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Interest rate cut

Citing a better-than-anticipated decline in May's inflation figures, the State Bank ceded to rate cut demands on Monday, by slashing its policy rate by 150bps to 20.5pc, after having held it steady at a record 22pc for nearly a year.

The bank also mentioned the uptick in economic activity, and improvements in the external sector outlook and international reserves, resulting from a lower current account deficit, as factors leading to its decision. The bank had been resisting mounting pressure to start reversing monetary tightening ever since inflation began slowing in January.

Critics of the bank's restrictive policy stance insisted that higher rates could not go on forever without damaging the economy. Even the finance minister repeatedly expressed hopes for rate cuts in "line with inflation". The big drop in May's inflation to 11.8pc, however, was widely seen as evidence justifying the bank's shift to a slightly less restrictive stance, amid the growing clamour for respite from crushingly high lending rates.

Recent market expectations regarding the size of the rate cut have swung between 100bps and 200bps, but the majority of market polls showed that most analysts did not anticipate a reduction of more than 100bps. That the SBP decision comes just ahead of the announcement of the budget, and in the midst of negotiations between the government and the IMF for another bailout package, it underscores the bank's confidence that economic stability is gaining traction and that concluding a new agreement with the Fund is just a matter of time. The monetary policy decision is based on the bank's understanding that inflation out-turns last month were better than expected, and that underlying inflation pressures are receding amid appropriate fiscal and monetary policies.

However, the bank also mentioned that the upcoming budget and uncertainty regarding future energy price adjustments pose an upside risk to the near-term inflation outlook. But it is hopeful that the impact of the earlier monetary tightening will keep new inflationary pressures in check. Regarding the outlook, the bank is clear that room for further interest rate cuts will depend on budget assessments and IMF measures.

For now, the bank is said to have modelled the budget and IMF measures according to known factors. However, the actual measures may cause a deviation in the inflation outlook.

Although the rate cut signifies the taming of inflation for the moment, it is mostly symbolic since borrowing costs are likely to remain high as the SBP chases its medium-term target of 5-7pc inflation by September 2025. The rate cut will substantially accrue debt payment savings to the government, bring down financial costs of businesses and perhaps provide a boost to the stock market and real estate. However, it is unlikely to unlock investments in the real sectors.

### No child's play

Ali Khayam

In March this year, the UN General Assembly declared that the International Day of Play would be observed annually on June 11. This announcement has come after a long advocacy campaign led by Unicef, global civil society, and organisations such as Right To Play.

So, today the world is celebrating its inaugural Day of Play with the object of encouraging more conscious efforts to ensure that children across the world can exercise their right to play. For some, it may seem frivolous for the international body to declare a day dedicated to celebrating play. However, as natural and accessible as it may seem, children, globally, are finding it difficult to have access to a healthy, joyful playtime.

Data from global research across 36 countries by the Lego Group reveals that 73 per cent of children believe that adults don't take play, and its importance to learning, seriously. Research conducted by the Child and Youth Advisory Board, an international platform, indicates that over 20pc of children in Asia are of the view that they are not allowed to play; the figure is less than 10pc for Europe and America. Additionally, 38pc of children in regions impacted by natural disasters express concerns about the lack of safe play spaces.

Play is a biological and cognitive necessity and is absolutely essential for children's holistic development. Play is instinctive; it comes naturally to every child, and adult. It is vital to build 21<sup>st</sup>-century skills among children, such as problem-solving, creative thinking, collaboration and resilience.

Play is also a great

equaliser, if only access to it is made equitable. This, unfortunately, seems like a distant dream at present. Children and other young people, particularly those with special needs, face many barriers to play. One in three children and young people do not have time to play; one in five lack safe spaces to play; and one in five have no one to play with. Global conflicts, such as in Gaza and Ukraine, and frequent natural disasters, such as Pakistan's floods in recent years, have left millions of children at risk and without any opportunities to learn and play. Which is why it is more important than ever before for more organised and robust calls for global and local action to ensure that children get a conducive environment to play in and learn, regardless of their race, social class, etc.

It is important to stress that for our governments and policymakers, ensuring equal access to play opportunities for all children, is no child's play. It should be considered serious business and must not be taken for granted as it has been in our country. Pakistan's National Curriculum Framework and National Education Policy do not take into account the foundational significance of play. Pakistani children and youth spend the least amount of time playing during the school day when compared to other countries in South Asia.

According to education statistics by the Academy of Educational Planning and Management, only a limited number of schools in Pakistan provide adequate play-ground facilities. Many schools, particularly in the urban areas, lack

the space or resources to offer recreational activities to students.

A survey conducted by the Children's Global Network Pakistan highlights that in many public schools, playtime is often neglected due to the overemphasis on academic performance. Our policymakers focusing on education must understand the importance of play in overcoming learning losses. It is time to call upon parents, teachers, school managements, local and national governments, the UN and civil society, as well as businesses, to take action in their respective domains so that children's right to play can be ensured at every level.

The issue of access becomes more horrifying when we talk about girls' right to play and sports. Misplaced ideas regarding menstruation and puberty, along with several other cultural barriers, limit their participation in play even within the confines of their homes. This has resulted in the drastically low participation of girls in play and sport; millions of girls reach adulthood without experiencing the simple joy of playing and understanding the full potential of their minds and bodies.

There is a dire need for religious leaders and scholars to break these barriers by influencing and educating society to open up space for millions of girls to participate in play activities.

As a society, we need to bring back board games in family gatherings to help revive the culture of play in our lives. This will strengthen social connections, and improve the physical and mental health and well-being of children as well as adults. — Courtesy Dawn

### Global reversal

Dr Niaz Murtaza

Thirty years of history since Francis Fukuyama pronounced the end of history, given the apparent triumph of Western democracy, show democracy in retreat even in the West. The Economist's Democracy Index score has fallen since 2000, globally, including in the West. It now even calls the US, the oldest one, a flawed democracy. It is not just autocracy, but also populism and religious extremism that undermine liberal tenets. The 15 largest states by population, each numbering over 100 million people and together accounting for nearly two-thirds of the global population, show a sharp reversal towards autocracy after some democratic gains.

India has seen autocracy rising, especially against the minorities, under Narendra Modi since 2014. It's too early to see his recent electoral setback as a permanent reversal. China's one-party autocracy has become a personalised populist one under Xi Jinping since 2013. Xi has nixed the term limit for presidents and cemented his philosophy into the constitution, while cracking down against minorities. The US, too, fell prey to a xenophobic populist autocracy under Donald Trump who may yet win a second term, in which he promises to be more autocratic. Staunch US support for Israel's brutal genocide have undercut its democratic claims.

We next have five states in post-army transitions. After Suharto's fall in 1997, Indonesia has had regular elections and steady democratisation. But the 2024 elections were won by Prabowo Subianto, an ex-army man accused of

serious past abuses, thus raising fears he will rule autocratically. Pakistan moved towards democracy with two free elections in 2008 and 2013 after a decade of Western army rule, but since then has had two controversial polls and autocracy under hybrid regimes led by the populist Imran Khan and then PML-N.

Nigeria has had regular elections since 1999, but many of them, including the 2023 one, were seriously flawed. The Economist calls Nigeria a hybrid regime with illiberal governance. Brazil, too, has broken from its military past to hold regular elections but saw five years of rule by the xenophobic Jair Bolsonaro who ruled autocratically. He lost to Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva last year. But it is too early to write off populist autocracy. Bangladesh has become a one-party autocracy with its third rigged polls after it ended its neutral caretaker system.

Russia has become a personal fiefdom for the populist Vladimir Putin who may rule for another decade. Mexico bucks the trend in at least not showing a sharp autocratic shift though it is still a hybrid state for the Economist. Five years of relatively successful rule by the leftist (seen by some as a bit populist) Andrés Manuel López Obrador and the recent win of the feminist Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo augur well for Mexico. Ethiopia made promising democratic moves under Abiy Ahmed, which won him a Nobel Prize. But since then, it has seen autocracy with the brutal war in Tigray.

Japan has kept its bearings and escaped even populism. The Philippines has held regular elections since the fall of Ferdinand Marcos but had a populist autocracy under Rodrigo

Duterte, who has now been replaced by Marcos's son as president and his own daughter as vice president. Egypt is back to a military-backed autocracy after a brief period of elections won by the Muslim Brotherhood. Finally, Congo, after Mobutu Sese Seko's fall, saw one to two free elections but has since seen a series of rigged elections and autocratic rule.

Thus, 13 of the 15 states have seen de-mocratic reversals, about half have seen the rise of populist politics, and about a quarter the rise of religious extremism. The trend affects developed as well as underdeveloped states, Western and non-Western ones, states of multiple faiths, and the three largest regions — Asia, Africa and the Americas. The widespread scope suggests that global factors, too, are feeding the trend beyond national ones.

A key factor has been the failure to democratise capitalism and the increasing inequality it has given. After triumphing against communism, capitalism vanquished the gains of even welfare democratic states for the lower classes. A second factor has been the failure to institutionalise democracy globally as the internally democratic West maintains brutal autocracy outside its borders. Thirdly, increased uncertainty spawned by globalisation and new technology has also made it easier for autocrats to stoke fear and consolidate power.

Against all this is the absence of a new global progressive ideology to address current global challenges. Only such an ideology can reverse the global reversal of democracy and attract the masses. — Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Govt to review entire power sector completely in next 2-3 years: Senate told

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari on Tuesday informed the Senate that the government would revive the entire power sector completely in next two to three years.

Responding to a Calling Attention notice raised by Saifullah Abro about expected installation of three power plants (2100 MW), the minister said that the power sector was very complicated and it had been divided into three sub-sectors including generation, transmission

and distribution. Every sub-sector has its own problems, he added.

He said despite availability of electricity in the system, it could not be despatched due to transmission issue. No investment was made in Matiari to Rehim Yar Khan transmission project in last 10 years, he added. Regarding the three power plants (2100 MW), the minister said that the projects were part of CPEC-2015 Framework. The said projects could not be initiated due to some technical issues like

feasibility, insurance, tariff determination and financial closure, he said. He said if these projects achieved financial closures now, it would take 6-7 years to start power generation. All these three projects were justified and would help provide relief in term of foreign exchange component, he added. Regarding GENCO-I, GENCO-II and Lakhra Power Plant, the minister said these power plants were not in operation and their employees were drawing over Rs7.5 billion under heads of salary and other perks and privileges.

### Gold rates increase by Rs.1,900

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of per tola of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.1,900 and was sold at Rs.241,300 on Tuesday against its sale at Rs.239,400 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increase by Rs.1,629 to Rs.206,876 from Rs.205,247 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.189,639 from Rs.188,143, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

Per tola and ten gram silver remained stagnant at Rs.2,750 and Rs.2,357.68 respectively. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$15 to \$2,307 from \$2,292, the Association reported.

### RCB offers a 10% discount on tax deposit in June

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Cantonment Board announced a 10% tax rebate. Tax bills including property and other taxes have been distributed among the payers by the RCB officials. According to the details, the 10% discount on the payment of T-tax and other taxes can be availed by depositing the taxes by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024.



ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Committee to assess and facilitate the reconstitution of Board of Korangi Fisheries Harbour Authority (KoFHA) held under the Chairmanship of Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh. Federal Minister for Industries & Production Rana Tanveer Hussain also present as member of the committee.

### FWCCI to establish women export display center in collaboration with FPCCI

Independent Report LAHORE: Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FWCCI) will establish a Women Export Display Centre in collaboration with the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) at Faisalabad to facilitate 'Access to Market' for women products. These products particularly handmade articles have very well in demand in traditional and non-traditional markets abroad.

FWCCI President and Chairperson of FPCCI Standing Committee on Think Tank, Mrs. Rubina Amjad stated this while addressing participants in a symposium on 'Digital Transformation of Women Businesses in Pakistan', organized by Think Tank Committee in collaboration with FPCCI here on Tuesday.

She said that Pakistan export volume can go further high if we are able to facilitate and fetch best price for women particularly hand made products in international markets.

Agri minister says: Farmers to be provided tractors on subsidy under green tractor scheme

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Agriculture Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani on Tuesday chaired a review meeting regarding the green tractor scheme by the chief minister of Punjab, at Agriculture House. The minister said a green tractor scheme was being launched for farmers on the directives of the chief minister Punjab. Under the scheme, small, medium and large tractors would be provided to the farmers on

### SBP injects over Rs 329b into market

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Tuesday injected Rs 329.7 billion in the market through Reverse Repo Purchase and Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operation (OMO).

The SBP conducted Open Market Operation through Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) for a 3-day tenor and received 13 quotes amounting to Rs 239.7 billion offered at the rate of return ranging between 20.55 to 20.62 percent. The SBP accepted all the 13 quotes at 20.55 % rate of return.

### Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where six ships, Xpress Antila, Lotus-A, MSC Lisbon, Block Island, Asia Liberty and Al-Jassasiya carrying Container, Steel Coil, Palm oil and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal-1, Liquid Terminal and Elengy Terminal respectively on Monday.

Meanwhile two more ships, MSC Positano and DA Xin with Container and Wind Power also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim on same day.

### PSM to be revived by Sindh govt after federal govt's consensus: Rana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain on Tuesday apprised the Upper House that Sindh government was going to take over the Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) for reviving the state-owned enterprise after consensus with the federal government.

The minister was responding to the query of Senator Mohsin Aziz of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) pertaining to losses of PSM at present and the number of individuals employed.

Rana Tanveer said that caretaker government had formed a committee under Minister for Investment

with Chief Minister Sindh for working out a plan to revive the PSM.

He said that Sindh government was demanding 200 acres of more land than the 550 acres of covered area of the existing plant of PSM.

Moreover, he said the federal government had also approved 700 acres of the total 19,000 acres land of the PSM to use it for industrial purposes and Sindh Cabinet had also approved its rules for using the land. The Minister said that PSM had around 5,000 employees whereas the Mill was closed that remained dysfunctional during the previous governments.



FAISALABAD: President Chamber of Commerce in PHA Faisalabad Dr. Khurram Tariq is holding the press conference.

### Oil demand declines in nine months of FY 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (APP): The demand for oil declined to 12.3 million tonnes during July-March Financial Year 2023-24, down from 13.3 million tonnes during the same period last year.

According to the Economic Survey 2023-24 unveiled by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, the declining trend may be attributed to a decrease in demand for High-Speed Diesel (HSD), Motor Spirit (MS), and Furnace Oil (FO), which together

comprise more than 95 percent of the total demand.

The total demand for petroleum products remained at 17.5 million tonnes during FY 2023.

Furthermore, the transport and power sectors are major petroleum consumers, accounting for 77.3 percent and 10.7 percent of total demand, respectively.

Overall, the total demand for petroleum products decreased by 7.23 percent during July-March FY 2024 compared to the same period last year.



ISLAMABAD: Ms. Leslie Scanlon, High Commissioner of Canada to Pakistan, calls on the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Mr. Ahad Khan Cheema.

### Saudi Electricity Company unveils details of its major investments, projects for Hajj

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Saudi Electricity Company (SEC) has issued a press release informing of its important projects and investments in Makkah, Madinah, and other holy sites for the 1445 AH Hajj season, which aim to improve the electricity network and provide a stable and reliable power supply for pilgrims and residents, boost the quality of service and ensure the comfort of pilgrims during Hajj.

One of the main projects is automating the distribution networks at

the holy sites by linking smart stations to the fiber-optic network.

This project costs SAR200 million and involves extensive groundwork and concrete closures, covering distances of 335 km and 312 km, respectively.

Over 2,400 stations have been connected to the fiber-optic network, boosting the efficiency and sustainability of the electrical network in densely populated areas, and reducing emergency response times to fractions of a second.



## Governor regrets prolong delay in Arbab Niaz Stadium reconstruction

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday said Arbab Niaz Stadium has a sentimental value for us as late Benazir Bhutto addressed her last public gathering at this stadium. Talking with media at the under-construction stadium here, the Governor added that Arbab Niaz Stadium also has a historical value for having the status of oldest cricket stadium of Peshawar.

Most of the cricket players in the national team were from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said, adding that sadly there was no cricket academy or international level cricket ground in the province. The Governor regretted that despite passage of around eight years the construction work at historical Arbab Niaz Stadium was yet to be completed. For the last 10 years, he said PTI held the reins

of the province and pretended to be a sport promoting government but contrary to this there was nothing on the ground to prove their tall claims. The construction work at Arbab Niaz Stadium started in 2017 but despite passage of around eight years there were no signs of its completion in near future. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Governor added that there was no activity of First Class Cricket.



GILGIT: Deputy Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Sadia Danish called on Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan at CM Secretariat.

## Governor Punjab honors Dubai-based Pak journalist Syed Mudassar Khushnood

LAHORE (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan presented the Best Journalist Award to Syed Mudassar Khushnood, a prominent Pakistani journalist based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), at a prestigious ceremony organized by Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Gulf and the Middle East in Dubai. On this occasion, PPP Gulf and Middle East President Mian Munir Hans praised Syed Mudassar Khushnood, emphasizing that he is recognized as the number one journalist in the United Arab Emirates, particularly in Dubai. His extraordinary services have

brought immense pride to Pakistani journalists in the UAE. The award, presented personally by the Governor of Punjab, recognizes Syed Mudassar Khushnood's role as an important bridge between the UAE and Pakistan. Syed Mudassar Khushnood has been honored with numerous awards in the past, cementing his reputation as the best journalist in the UAE, including the region. Syed Mudassar Khushnood is the first Pakistani journalist in the UAE to receive a 10-year golden visa and the highest immigration award from the UAE government.

## Khokhar calls on CM, discuss development initiatives

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif met with Member National Assembly (MNA) Malik Afzal Khokhar here on Tuesday.

Important issues related to the Lahore Development Plan and social welfare were discussed during the meeting. The CM said public welfare required joint efforts at local level, adding that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) was a public party and believed in resolving public problems in a democratic manner. The CM said the Lahore Development Plan included construction of water supply and drainage system, connecting roads and paved streets, installation of street lights and maintenance of parks. She highlighted the need to complete this project at the earliest besides undertaking new projects to ensure welfare of citizens. PML-N MNA Malik Afzal Khokhar appreciated the special interest and vision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz.



PESHAWAR: Governor KP Faisal Karim Kundi giving shield to Assistant Professor SBBWUP Dr. Hamida Bibi during a conference on Enhancing Regional Connectivity for the Betterment of the Shared Future of Mankind at SBBWU.

## Sub-Cabinet committee reviews law & order, Eid security measures

LAHORE (APP): The seventh session of the Sub-Cabinet Committee on Law and Order was held in the Department of Interior under the chairmanship of Provincial Health Minister and Chairman of the Committee Khawaja Salman Rafique here, on Tuesday. Provincial Minister of Industry and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain and Provincial Minister of Transport Bilal Akbar Khan participated as committee members. Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique conducted a detailed review of the law and order situation across the province, security arrangements for Eid-ul-Adha, and the release of prisoners on parole, during the meeting, whereas the concerned officers also gave a briefing. Khawaja Salman Rafique, while expressing his views, said that extraordinary security arrangements would be ensured for Eid-ul-Adha. During the meeting, Deputy Commissioners were approved to appoint Price Control Magistrates in various districts.

## DG RDA briefs officers of 37th PSMG course

RAWALPINDI (APP): The participants of the 37th Public Sector Management Governance (PSMG) course for the promotion of the officers from BPS-17 to BPS-18 here on Tuesday visited Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA). According to RDA spokesperson, the Director General (DG) RDA, Kinza Murtaza, along with Additional DG, Awais Munzoor Tarar, briefed the course officers on the administrative affairs of the RDA. The briefing was arranged aimed to equip the officers with insights that would be beneficial in their professional development. During the visit, Additional DG RDA provided an overview of RDA's inception and ongoing projects, including the Ring Road Project, Nullah Lai Expressway Project, and initiatives such as the Business Facilitation Center, Estate Management Information System, Regional Development Plan of Rawalpindi, and the E-Filing & Office Automation System (E-FOAS). Kinza Murtaza on the occasion emphasized the value of such courses for the government officials.

## Deputy Commissioner directs to remove illegal cattle market

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad Zain-ul-Abideen Memon took notice of a report circulating on social media regarding the establishment of an illegal cattle market near the Comprehensive School in Latifabad Unit No. 10. He directed the concerned assistant commissioner to restore the traffic flow by removing the said cattle market, upon which assistant commissioner Latifabad Saud Baloch took action and immediately cleared the said unauthorized market. The Deputy Commissioner also directed all assistant commissioners of the district to ensure that no illegal cattle markets are established in their respective areas and to strive to prevent any inconvenience to the public.

## Ch. Shujaat, Ch. Shafay visit Iranian Consulate

LAHORE (APP): Former Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain visited the Iranian Consulate, here on Tuesday. They offered condolences to Iranian Consul General Mehran Movahedfar for the tragic helicopter accident that claimed lives of the Iranian President and his companions, and also offered prayers for the departed souls. Iranian Consul General Mehran Movahedfar expressed gratitude, stating, "You have come to your own home. We deeply appreciate your sympathy. The love and support shown by the people of



LAHORE: Rana Sikandar Hayat, Provincial Minister for School Education Department addressing a seminar.

## Minister for expanding e-learning 'POHA' program

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Education Faisal Khan Tarakai has lauded the Elementary and Secondary Education Foundation's e-learning programme - "POHA", directing the officials concerned to expand it to all districts of the province. He said that program had fully digitized the attendance of students and teachers, online classes, and the entire teaching process, successfully meeting the requirements of the modern age. Chairing the review meeting of the Elementary and Secondary Education Foundation, the minister directed the Foundation's officials to expand this program to all districts and introduce further reforms in the system to provide more facilities to students.

## International News

## UNSC adopts US-drafted resolution on Gaza ceasefire

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations Security Council on Monday adopted a US-drafted resolution supporting a ceasefire plan in Gaza, as Washington leads an intense diplomatic campaign to push Hamas to accept the proposal. The text — passed with 14 votes in favour and Russia abstaining — "welcomes" the truce and hostage release proposal announced on May 31 by President Joe Biden, and urges "parties to fully implement its terms without delay and without condition." The resolution says Israel has accepted the truce plan, and "calls upon Hamas to also accept it." Hamas in a statement, referring to its demands that include a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and a complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from the territory said it "welcomes the Security Council resolution ... (and) would like to reaffirm its readiness to cooperate with the brother mediators to enter into indirect negotiations regarding the implementation of these principles." The United States, a staunch ally of Israel, has been widely criticised for having blocked several previous UN draft resolutions calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. But Biden late last month launched a new US effort to secure a truce and hostage release. "Today, we voted for peace," US ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said after the UN session. The first phase of the truce would see an "immediate, full and complete ceasefire, the prisoners exchange, and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the populated areas in Gaza". This would also allow the "safe and effective distribution of humanitarian assistance at scale throughout the Gaza Strip to all Palestinian civilians who need it". US Secretary of State Antony Blinken earlier held talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi on Monday. His visit comes after US President Joe Biden on May 31 outlined a three-phase ceasefire proposal from Israel that envisions a permanent end to hostilities, the release of Israeli and Palestinian prisoners, and the reconstruction of Gaza. US officials have considered negotiating a unilateral deal with Hamas to release five American prisoners held in Gaza if ceasefire talks involving Israel fail, NBC News reported on Monday. It was not clear what the United States might offer Hamas in exchange, according to the report, which cited two current and two former US officials.



US Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield votes during a UN Security Council meeting on the situation in the Middle East at UN headquarters in New York.

## Gaza's hospitals overwhelmed by injured from Israel's military aggression

Monitoring Desk DEIR BALAH: Hazem Farjallah wails as he lies in the Gaza hospital corridor, his head bandaged and his aunt by his side, days after he was injured by Israeli bombardment and with little prospect of adequate medical care. Hazem, 10, has not spoken since he was injured in Thursday's strike on a UN school being used as a shelter and the shrapnel wounds are visible on his back, chest and head. "He's been lying on the ground for days. He's supposed to be in the intensive care unit. There are no mattresses," said his aunt, Umm Nasser in a video obtained by Reuters. Hazem is now in a bed but had to manage on the floor until Monday. His plight shows the dire condition of Gaza's damaged, understaffed hospitals eight months into Israel's military campaign. The collapse in Gaza's health system in the face of massive Israeli bombardment has complicated a host of other unfolding disasters, from the hunger crisis to spreading disease. It has left those with chronic conditions unable to access basic care. But

## UN denounces politicisation of migration in EU polls

Monitoring Desk GENEVA: The United Nations' refugees chief on Monday denounced the politicisation of migration in European elections. He warned that demonising refugees, will only make the issue more difficult, to deal with. Filippo Grandi told reporters that his "main concern after the weekend's European Parliament elections, was that "the refugee-migration theme has become so politicised in these elections". The European elections handed significant gains to "far-right parties", across much of the continent.

## South Korea resumes loudspeaker broadcasts after North's balloons

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: South Korea resumed loudspeaker broadcasts directed at North Korea on Sunday, its military said, following through on a warning demanding Pyongyang stop sending balloons carrying trash into the South. The decision to resume the broadcasts, as a form of psychological warfare, was made after North Korea began launching on Saturday about 330 balloons with trash attached, with about 80 of them dropping over the border, South Korea's military said. "The measures we will take may be unbearable for the North Korean regime but they will send a message of hope and light to the North's troops and its people," South Korea's National Security Council said. S. Korea had warned the North it would take retaliatory measures which could include propaganda broadcasts from huge loudspeakers set up at the border. The broadcasts were made on Sunday afternoon and whether more will follow depends on how North Korea responds, South Korea's military said. The South Korean military said that more balloons had been launched by the North and could fly into the South, warning residents to not touch any objects they find attached to balloons. It gave no other details.

## Armed conflicts in 2023 highest since end of WWII: study

Monitoring Desk OSLO: More armed conflicts took place worldwide in 2023 than any other year since the end of the Second World War, according to a Norwegian study published on Monday. Last year saw 59 conflicts of which 28 were in Africa, the Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO) showed. But the number of countries which experienced conflicts declined from 39 in 2022 to 34. The number of deaths in combat also halved to around 122,000 over the previous year, according to data collected by Sweden's Uppsala University from NGOs and international organisations. That number remained nonetheless the third highest since 1989, against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine and the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Hamas movement. "Violence in the world is at an all-time high since the end of the Cold War," said Siri Aas Rustad, PRIO researcher and the main author of the report covering trends during the period 1946-2023. "The figures suggest that the conflict landscape has become increasingly complex, with more conflict actors operating within the same country," she explained. According to PRIO, the increase in the number of conflicts can be partially attributed to the militant Islamic State group spreading across Asia, Africa and the Middle East, and the involvement of a growing number of non-state actors such as the Al Qaeda-affiliated Group to Support Islam and Muslims (JNIM).

## Gunmen ambush Manipur CM's security team

Monitoring Desk GUWAHATI: Armed men ambushed a convoy carrying the security team of the chief minister of India's troubled northeastern state of Manipur on Monday, wounding two people, but the leader was not with them at the time, officials said. Fighting between Manipur's majority Meitei and minority Kuki communities over sharing economic benefits and quotas given to the latter has killed at least 220 people and displaced 60,000 in the last year, with sporadic clashes continuing. Chief Minister N. Biren Singh was due to visit the state's Jiribam region on Tuesday, after violence flared there following the discovery of the body of a 59-year-old Meitei man last week. The security team attacked on Monday was going to make "arrangements and checks" for his visit, officials said.

## Experts blame air pollution for 135m premature deaths

Monitoring Desk SINGAPORE: Pollution from man-made emissions and other sources like wildfires have been linked to around 135 million premature deaths worldwide between 1980 and 2020, a Singapore university said on Monday. Weather phenomena like El Nino and the Indian Ocean Dipole worsened the effects of these pollutants by intensifying their concentration in the air, Singapore's Nanyang Technological University (NTU) said, unveiling the results of a study led by its researchers. The tiny particles called particulate matter 2.5, or "PM 2.5", are harmful to human health when inhaled because they are small enough to enter the bloodstream. They come from vehicle and industrial emissions as well as natural sources like fires and dust storms.

## Japan's economy is shrinking, although slightly less than previously thought

Monitoring Desk TOKYO: The Japanese economy shrank at an annual rate of 1.8% in the first quarter of this year, slightly better than the initial estimate at a 2.0% contraction, according to revised government data Monday. The revision was due to private sector investments, at minus 0.4%, up from the previous minus 0.5%. Seasonally adjusted real gross domestic product, or GDP, a measure of the value of a nation's products and services, remained in negative territory, as exports and consumption declined from the previous quarter. Quarter-to-quarter, the economy slipped 0.5% in the January-March period, according to the Cabinet Office, unchanged from last month's results. The annual rate measures what would have happened if the quarterly rate lasted a year. Wage growth has been slow, and prices on imports have risen amid a decline in the Japanese yen against the U.S. dollar. The dollar is trading at nearly 157 yen lately, up from about 140 yen a year ago. Another negative is the ongoing scandal involving improper vehicle model tests at several major automakers, including Toyota Motor Corp., which form the pillars of Japan's brand power. Production was halted on some models. Government officials raided the Tokyo headquarters of Honda Motor Co. Monday. Japanese media reports said a raid was coming soon on Mazda Motor Corp. Toyota and Suzuki Motor Corp. have already been raided. Last week, Toyota Chairman Akio Toyoda apologized for the wide-ranging fraudulent testing involving the use of inadequate or outdated data in collision tests, incorrect testing of airbag inflation, rear-seat damage in crashes and engine power.



## SC orders to close all restaurants including Monal in Margalla Hills

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered closure of all restaurants, including Monal, running in the area of Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP).

A three-member bench of the apex court, headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, in its orders in the petitions filed by Monal Restaurant and the Wildlife Department, directed the authorities to close down all the restaurants within the period of three months as their leases stood terminated.

The court declared that the commercial activities were not allowed in the area of National Park to protect the natural environment.

It further said that the restaurants would have priority if the leases were granted outside the National Park area.

The court observed that all unnecessary notices served to the restaurants running in other areas stood terminated as in the instant case it was focusing only to the extent of MHNP.

During the hearing, Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa asked the lawyer of Monal Restaurant to give a time frame for shifting their infrastructure voluntarily, otherwise, the court would issue orders of its sealing.

The advocate prayed the court to grant a four-month time for the task. The court, however, approved three months for the shifting of Monal Restaurant.

The chief justice remarked that the Capital Development Authority (CDA) had also included the Pak-China Friendship Center, Sports Club, Arts Council and National Monument in its report pertaining to the structures in the National Park.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb presenting a copy of Economic Survey of Pakistan 2023-2024 to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif prior to its official launch.

## Imran Khan gives green signal for talks with govt: Barrister Gohar

RAWALPINDI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar said Tuesday party's founder Imran Khan has given a green signal for talks with the government.

"We told the PTI founder that dialogue is necessary, as the distance is widening. He agreed with us [on this]," said Gohar, when speaking with journalists outside the Adiala jail.

According to Gohar, Khan wants the avenues of dialogue to be opened. He told journalists that Khan is ready to forgive what has happened to him for reconciliation.

"PTI founder has said many times that 'I am ready to forgive what happened to me,'" said the PTI chairman. When asked if the negotiations will take place at the behest of the Supreme Court's advice, Barrister Gohar said: "The option given by the SC is also under consideration."

## 33 illegal cattle markets removed

KARACHI (INP): Commissioner Karachi Syed Hasan Naqvi directed all Deputy Commissioners to take immediate action and remove all illegal cattle markets. He was chairing a meeting at his office.

The Commissioner was informed that all Deputy Commissioners are making efforts to remove illegal markets in their respective districts, and so far, 33 markets have been removed from all districts.

15 markets were removed from Malir, 3 from Korangi, 2 from Central, 10 from East, 2 from Keamari, and 1 from South, and 3 individuals were arrested in district south. The meeting was informed that even the markets authorized by the Karachi Municipal Corporation and Pakistan Railways are being removed.

Both organizations have been told that they are not authorized to issue permission for cattle markets. The Commissioner said that all markets operating without the permission of city administration are illegal. He said that illegal cattle markets are causing traffic problems and difficulties for pedestrians, and immediate action is needed to remove them.



LARKANA: People are drinking cold juice to beat the heat of scorching sun during the hot weather of summer season at a heat stroke camp arranged by Prof. Nusrat Shah, Vice Chancellor of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University, in Larkana.

## Climate coop under CPEC Phase-II is in dire need amid severe heatwave

KARACHI (INP): Climate coop under CPEC Phase-II is in dire need amid severe heatwave. "The constant power cuts are ruining my business. We can't keep our refrigerators running, and customers don't want to sit in a broiling restaurant."

Our electricity bill has also skyrocketed." Muhammad Ilyas, a restaurant owner in Lahore, anxiously staring at the less and less customers, Gwadar Pro reported.

With frequent power outages, keeping his restaurant cool has become nearly impossible for Ilyas.

Perhaps in the past, the consequences of not having round-the-clock air conditioning were not so bad, but everything has changed recently - the temperature in many parts of Pakistan has reached 50 degrees, close to breaking the historical extreme.

In Mohenjo Daro, a town in Sindh known for archaeological sites, temperatures rose as high as 52.2 degrees a few days ago, a senior official of the Pakistan Meteorological Department, Shahid Abbas noted. The power outages are not just an inconvenience. Some businesses have been crippled, leading to financial losses and operational challenges. However, this is not all the evil consequences of extreme weather.

"The situation is extremely worrying. Extreme heatwave has led to accelerated melting of glaciers, causing flash floods in many parts of northern Pakistan, and the butterfly effect has brought about lake bursting, landslides, river diversion and the subsequent forced migration of large numbers of people," noted Shoaib Kiani, Assistant Professor at the University of Karachi's Institute of Marine Science during an interview with Gwadar Pro, stressing that as a developing country, Pakistan is faced with a variety of destabilizing factors thus its ability to adapt to and mitigate climate change is minimal.

"Pakistan urgently needs rigorous short-, medium- and long-term plans that must be based on accurate scientific research and sustained human and financial support before we could discuss environmental stability and sustainability. As far as I can see, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor-Green Corridor is the cornerstone we must build on," Prof Kiani added. Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif kicked off his visit to China on Tuesday, which could be regarded as the unveiling of the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari chairing a meeting to discuss issues related to wheat procurement in the country, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## China visit successful as high powered Chinese delegation to visit Pakistan soon: PM

### Cabinet approves legislation to establish Digital Commission, Pakistan Digital Authority

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that his recent five-day visit to China from June 4-8 remained successful as a high-powered Chinese delegation would visit Pakistan soon. The prime minister, chairing the meeting of the federal cabinet, told the members that the collective efforts by his team including the federal ministers and federal secretaries came to fruition and that the visit was a great opportunity to strengthen the Pakistan-China bilateral relations.

He said that despite the security issue highlighted during the engagements with the Chinese leadership and business community, the visit concluded with a "positive note."

"I can say unequivocally that the visit ended with a positive note. During the conversation with the Chinese ambassador at the banquet hosted by the Communist Party Secretary during my visit to Shanxi province, I got a deep feeling that the visit reminded very successful," Prime Minister Shehbaz remarked while apprising

the cabinet members of his visit. The prime minister thanked all of his cabinet members particularly Ishaq Dar, Ahsan Iqbal, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Dr Musaddik Malik and Shaza Fatima Khawaja, and relevant federal secretaries for their collective efforts which led to the success of the visit. He expressed confidence that the collective efforts would lead to the swift and successful execution of the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Meanwhile the federal

cabinet on Tuesday principally approved the Digital Nation Pakistan Act 2024 providing to establish the National Digital Commission and Pakistan Digital Authority besides ensuring digitization of national economy and paperless governance. The cabinet which met under the chair of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, asked the law ministry to carry out the required review of the Act, which also aimed at digitizing the services sector in accordance with international standards.

## CPEC Phase 2 fueling Pakistan's economic boom: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): In this phase, five new corridors were announced, including the Corridor of Growth, Livelihood, Innovation, Green Corridor, and a Regional Cooperation Open Corridor to work on, he added.

The 5Es framework will be implemented, including Export, Energy, Equity, E-Pakistan, and environment, aiming at growth, livelihood, innovation, green development, and regional cooperation, he said.

He said that creating safe investment environments and a dependable energy supply was important to draw in foreign investors and set Pakistan up for an industrial revolution with China's help.

He highlighted the significant benefits of the CPEC and said that one of the most notable achievements is the installation of 8000 megawatts of electricity, which has helped alleviate the load-shedding issue in Pakistan.

Ahsan Iqbal said that the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was pivotal for Pakistan's economic development.



GOLCUK: Officials of Turkish Naval Forces being briefed onboard PNS BABUR at Golcuk Naval Base, Turkey.

## Commissioner chairs meeting regarding Eid-ul-Azha arrangements

HYDERABAD (APP): The Divisional Commissioner Hyderabad Ahsan Ali Qureshi has said that as Eid-ul-Azha approaching fast therefore all relevant departments should make arrangements to provide relief to people on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha. Commissioner issued such directives while presiding over a meeting with officers of all relevant department of division in his office.

Commissioner directed Municipal authorities to prepare a comprehensive strategy for disposing of remains of sacrificial animals at specified places and ensuring cleanliness drive and do not allow slaughtering of animals at irrelevant spots so that people could not feel any inconvenience.

Commissioner directed HESCO officers to avoid unannounced load shedding during Eid-ul-Azha Holidays. He further instructed to strictly adhere SOPs issued by Local Government department regarding Eid-ul-Azha.

The Deputy Commissioner Zain-ul-Abdeen giving briefing in the media said that the comprehensive strategy had been devised with the assistance of Solid Waste Management for dumping of sacrificial animals at appropriate places.

## DC Matiari directs comprehensive security, cleanliness plans on Eid ul Azha

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Matiari Muhammad Yousuf Shaikh has directed all relevant departments to ensure preparations for Eid ul Azha to avoid any inconvenience to the public.

This he said while presiding over a meeting at DC Office which was attended by SSP Matiari Syed Asghar Shah, Additional Deputy Commissioner Noor Ahmad Khahro and Monis Ahmed, Assistant Commissioners Dr. Mazhar, Hataf Siyal, Town Officers and others.

According to a hand-out, during the meeting DC directed for comprehensive contingency plans for security of Eid congregations in open grounds and major mosques, increased police patrolling on national highways and establishment of check posts where necessary.

SSP Matiari Syed Asghar Shah informed that nearly 500 police personnel will perform their duties for security, and the number of security personnel will be increased for major Eid Gahs and mosques, for which a contingency plan has been prepared.



KARACHI: Sindh Human Rights Commission and Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child, hold a walk taken out from the Scout Headquarters on the occasion of Child Labor Day.

## Court denies bail for activist Sarim Burney in child trafficking case

KARACHI (INP): The City Court Karachi (East) has rejected the bail application of social activist Sarim Burney, who is charged with illegally sending children abroad and forging documents.

In a reserved verdict delivered by the judicial magistrate (east), the court emphasized the need for further evidence collection, aligning with the argument presented by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) prosecutor. The prosecutor contended that granting bail to Burney could potentially jeopardize the integrity of the evidence.

"The suspect, if granted bail, might tamper with the evidence," the FIA prosecutor asserted during the proceedings.

The court had earlier reserved its decision following the completion of arguments from both Burney's defense and the FIA's legal team in the case of sending children abroad illegally and forging documents. The defense argued for bail on the grounds of insufficient evidence, while the FIA insisted on the necessity of keeping Burney in custody to ensure a thorough investigation.

## Gillani, Jane Marriott discuss issues of mutual interest

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani and British High Commissioner Jane Marriott on Tuesday discussed issues of mutual interest, including bilateral relations, trade, investment, and parliamentary cooperation.

The Senate chairman, during the meeting, said Pakistan and the United Kingdom had been enjoying longstanding cordial relations, and expressed gratitude for Britain's support during challenging times and its various welfare initiatives, according to a news release.

## DC distributes cheques to land owners

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Shahryar Gul Memon distributed cheques as cost of land to five land owners who gave their land for the purpose of establishing Cantonment at Sakrand.

The cheques distribution program was held at the office of Deputy Commissioner on Tuesday.

## Study workshop to review of textbooks held

HYDERABAD (APP): Sindh Language Authority organized a study workshop under title 'Review of text books of class six to 10<sup>th</sup>' here on Tuesday.

Eminent Sindh scholars, writers, intellectuals, teachers and representatives of relevant departments attended the workshop.

Describing objectives of training workshop Secretary Sindh Language Authority Dr. Ehsan Danish said that Sindh Language Authority was conducting two types of workshops including one based on training and another based on Study workshop.

## SHOs to get Rs4.5 bln direct budget in FY2024-25

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Inspector General of Police (IGP) Ghulam Nabi Memon on Tuesday announced that station head officers (SHOs) in Sindh will get a budget of Rs4.5 bln in FY2024-25.

In an exclusive interview with a private TV Channel, Sindh IGP Ghulam Nabi Memon said with the direct provision of budget, the SHOs are being made autonomous.

The Sindh government also desires a dedicated budget for the police force, the Sindh IGP said and added previously, a lump sum budget was directed to senior officers for police stations, but the new plan aims to send this budget directly to the police stations.

Memon further said the SHOs will now have the authority to utilize the budget directly, facilitating expenses such as vehicle maintenance and other operational costs.

Running police stations and conducting investigations require funds, and the lack of money often leads to corruption issues. "This solution is expected to bring some improvement."

Sindh IGP Ghulam Nabi Memon also announced Rs5 bln package for police welfare. The plan includes providing medical facilities to Sindh Police, which were previously unavailable.



JAMSHORO: Deans, Directors, Members Syndicate, Faculty Members, Officers and staff of LUMHS, protesting against the negative and immoral propaganda against the Vice Chancellor Prof. Ikram Din Ujjan.

## SFA strives to create awareness on salt iodization: DG SFA

Independent Report KARACHI: Director General Sindh Food Authority (SFA) Agha Fakhar Hussain has said that SFA has been actively creating awareness on salt iodization in collaboration with its stakeholders.

This, he said while talking to Muhammad Ajmal Khan National Officer USI (Universal Salt Iodization) here at his office.

On this occasion Dr. Fatima Saad Salt Iodization Program Nutrition International was also present.

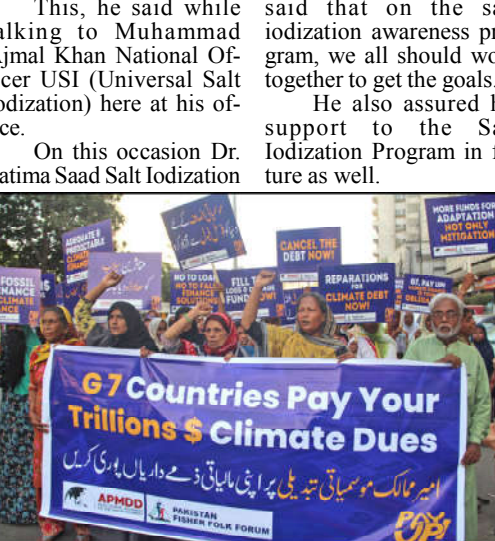
Muhammad Ajmal Khan appreciated the role of SFA in creating awareness on the issue through walks, seminars and media.

Agha Fakhar Hussain said that on the salt iodization awareness program, we all should work together to get the goals.

He also assured his support to the Salt Iodization Program in future as well.



KARACHI: Fishermen affected by climate change protest outside the Karachi Press Club under the auspices of Pakistan Fisher Folk Forum.



KARACHI: Fishermen affected by climate change protest outside the Karachi Press Club under the auspices of Pakistan Fisher Folk Forum.

## PIA's pre-Hajj flight operation concludes

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) pre-Hajj operation had been completed with the last PIA flight operating from Karachi to Jeddah on Monday night, a spokesperson for Pakistan's national carrier said on Tuesday.

Pakistan kicked off its Hajj flight operations on May 9 for pilgrims who will perform the pilgrimage under the government's scheme.

"A total of 35,030 pilgrims departed for the holy journey through 171 flights," PIA said in a statement.

"About 19,500 official pilgrims, 14,900 private pilgrims and 630 pilgrims departed for Madinah and Jeddah through these flights."

## Sohail Jabbar Malik appointed as Special Judge on deputation basis

KARACHI (APP): Federal Government has appointed Sohail Jabbar Malik District and Sessions Judge as Special Judge (Customs, Taxation & Anti Smuggling-I) Karachi on deputation basis.

According to notification issued by Ministry of Law and Justice, Sohail Jabbar Malik has been appointed as Special Judge (Customs, Taxation & Anti Smuggling-I) Karachi on deputation basis for period of the years in his own pay and scale from the date he assumes charge of the post.

## Principal of private school held after attempt to rape matriculation student

KARACHI (INP): Principal of a private school attempted to rape a student of class 10 in Sector 11 1/2 of Orangi Town Karachi on Tuesday. Police arrested the accused.

According to details, Principal Manzoor Al Hadi called the girl to his office and attempted to rape her.

However, the girl after scuffle with the accused managed to escape from his office.

## Hot, humid weather forecast for Karachi

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Meteorological Department on Monday predicted very hot weather in most upper districts of the Sindh province during the next 24 hours.

However, hot and humid weather is forecast in coastal areas including Karachi.

Moreover, dust raising or gusty winds are predicted in central/southern districts during afternoon.

Mainly, very hot weather is likely to prevail in the province.