# ndenemannent

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# NA passes Finance Bill-2024 with majority vote

FM Aurangzeb says economy has achieved stability; PPP supports govt in passing budget

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly on Friday passed the Finance Bill 2024 after a clause-byclause consideration, incorporating specific amend-

Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb moved the motion for consideration of the Finance Bill, 2024 to give effect to the financial proposals of the federal government for the year, com-mencing on July 1, 2024. The motion was passed with majority vote

which led to the passage of Finance Bill-2024 after clause-by-clause reading and adopting amendments after due process of voting.
All the amend-

ments, presented by the opposition members,

18.877 trillion. This budget outlines the government's fiscal policies and budget-ary allocations for the upcoming financial year, re-flecting a comprehensive plan to address various economic and social challenges.

The government has allocated Rs. 1,400 billion for the Public Sector Devel-Programme opment (PSDP) in its current budget, and an additional amount of Rs100 billion would be allocated under Public-Private Partnership, bringing the total to Rs1,500, the highest in the

lion for the promotion of The total outlay of the federal budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 is Rs. The total outlay of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Gilgit-Baltistan, merged districts of KP, Higher Education Commission, Railways, and IT sectors have been allocated.

To ensure equitable development in AJK, GB, and merged districts of the KP, the government has allocated at 10 percent and around 11 percent for other sectors development including IT, telecom, science and technology, governance, and

production sector.

The House also held discussion on the Charged Expenditure that included Demands for Grants and country's history. Appropriations for the fi-In the budget grants amounting to Rs1,777 bil-30, 2025.



QUETTA: A3-member delegation of Dawoodi Bohra Community including Ali Asghar Jamali, Kumail Younis and Ali Hussain Kumail meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori.

#### Tarar assures to form committee on journalists protection

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Friday assured the protesting reporters covering parliamentary proceedings of forming a committee on the protection of journalists and develop a mechanism in that regard in consultation

with the provinces. The reporters staged a walk-out from the National Assembly's Press Gallery to raise their concerns about the security of journalists facing violence across the country and reservations on working environment in the Parliament

The minister flanked by Press Information Officer Mubashir Hassan came to the Press Gallery to hold negotiations with the protesting journalists.

Speaking on the occasion, Tarar said, "We have a very strong relationship with journalists. When the gates of Parliament House were closed for us, we used to sit with you and convey our voice to the people." He said efforts were

being made to solve the problems of journalists on

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was working to address the issues of journalist commu-



mittee for Climate Change, Sherry Rehman addressing during the seminar title "Building Resilience by Strengthening the Community (BRSC) -II Project Ends".

#### Mayor Karachi opens special recreational facilities at Safari Park

Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Friday inaugurated the special recreational facilities, Amusement Multi-Adventure and Junior Multi-Adventure Challenge Course, at Safari Park. Talking to the media after the inauguration, he reiterated the promise to restore Karachi's vibrancy. Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad and other elected representatives and officials were also present on this occasion.

Murtaza highlighted the improvements seen in the park and the revival of previously closed spaces. During holidays, the park will be bustling.

He mentioned that these projects will provide modern recreational faciliadults, operated under public-private partnership. Children aged 8 to 15 will have access to multi-adventure amusement facilities, and there is also a Dino Park at the Safari Park, he said.

He said that we have introduced a zip line in Safari Park along with the Dino Park and aim to provide more affordable and quality recreational facilities to Karachi's citizens. Murtaza clarified that the Quaid-e-Azam Park in Gulshan-e-Hadeed is not under KMC but belongs to

the Steel Mills. He reminisced about visiting Aladdin Water Park in his childhood, which was demolished following an order by former Chief Jus-

#### **SC** withdraws show-case notices of Vawda, Mustafa ISLAMABÁD (APP):The

Supreme Court on Friday accepted the unconditional apology of Senator Faisal Vawda and Mustafa Kamal of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement, and withdrew its show-cause notice in the contempt case. A three-member SC bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa heard the case.

Mustafa Kamal's lawyer Barrister Farogh Naseem adopted the stance that his client had tendered an unconditional apology and also expressed his regret in a press conference. The chief justice asked Faisal Vawda whether his lawyer had not come and whether he had also sought an apology. Vawda answered in the affirmation. The chief justice said that under Article 66 of the Constitution "you can speak in the Parliament. However, the court is accepting your unconditional apology". He asked the two persons to be careful in this matter in the future.

#### China, US ambassadors meet DPM Dar; review bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of China Jiang Zaidong on Friday called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

Reaffirming Pakistan-China All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, the two sides expressed the resolve to implement the bilateral consensus reached during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China, a Foreign Office press release said

Both sides also resolved to further strengthening of Pakistan-China friendship and up-gradation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Meanwhile, Ambassador of the United States in Islamabad Donald Blome separately met Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar.

The two sides reviewed the latest developments in bilateral relations and discussed ways to move the relationship for-

# ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif interacts with

Chairman PPP, MNA Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in the National Assembly.

#### In a tit-for-tat move NA passes counter-resolution, criticizes US understanding of Pakistan's democracy

"Pakistan not to tolerate any kind of interference in internal affairs as a sovereign state," states resolution; US should pay attention to human rights violations in Gaza, Kashmir; Opposition MNAs oppose resolution, chanted "Shame-shame" slogans.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly (NA) on Friday adopted a counter-resolution criticizing the United States' understanding of Pakistan's democratic system.

The United States (US) House of Representatives, in a resolution passed on June 25, expressed support for democracy in Pakistan, prompting the NA to pass a counter-resolution with a majority vote. While acknowledging the US as an important and valued partner, the NA emphasized the principles of the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan and reaffirmed its commitment to upholding democracy and fundamental human rights.

It reiterated Pakistan's ongoing efforts to safeguard those principles, reflecting the aspirations of its people and the vision of its founding fathers. The NA expressed deep regret that the US resolution demonstrated an incomplete and incorrect understanding of

Ît highlighted the enthusiastic participation of millions of Pakistanis in the general elections held on February 8, 2024, as evidence of the country's vibrant democracy.

Pakistan's political and elec-

toral processes.

The NA also asserted Pakistan's status as an independent and sovereign ate the suffering of people nation, rejecting any exter- in Gaza and IIOJK.

nal interference in its internal affairs. It viewed the US House's action as an attempt to undermine the state's autonomy.

In a call for a broader perspective, the NA urged the US Congress to focus on more pressing global issues, such as the ongoing acts of genocide in Gaza, human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), and state-sanctioned atrocities against minorities, particularly Muslims, in India.

It called on the international community to take immediate steps to allevi-



NEW YORK: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Nagyi addressing the special session of UN Chiefs of Police Summit at United Nations headquarters.

#### **CM Murad directs** solarization of govt office across Sindh

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Friday. Murad Ali Shah em-Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has directed the Minister Energy to expedite the solarization of government offices across the province during daytime

The directives were issued by him while chairing a meeting in Karachi on nancial year.

phasized that converting government buildings to solar power will lead to substantial reductions in electricity expenses

He directed Energy Minister Nasir Shah to accelerate the solarization efforts starting from new fi-

#### **Khursheed Shah floats** proposal of 4-year govt constitutional term

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa-kistan Peoples Party's (PPP) senior leader Syed

Khursheed Shah re-Khursheed Ahmed Shah on Friday reiterated his proposal of a four-year constitutional term for a govern-

"If we want the system to function properly, the term of the government and assemblies should be four years," Khursheed Shah said in statement.

"Although the term is said to be five years, in reality, the government has never lasted more than three

called that about a decade ago, the then Pakistan Mus-lim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government had also suggested that the fouryear term should apply from the next government, and "I had proposed that we should make the constitutional amendment for the purpose now". He said the government's four-year term would bring stability in the system and institu-



KARACHI: Opposition members in Sindh Assembly are holding protest demonstration against prolong electricity load shedding, Sui Gas load shedding and shortage of drinking water in Karachi, at Sindh Assembly in Karachi.

#### CJP calls JCP meeting to appoint CJs of

LHC and SHC ISLAMABAD (INP) Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa has called a meeting of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) on July 2 to discuss the appointment of the chief justices (CJs) of the Lahore High Court (LHC) and Sindh High Court (SHC).

The agenda of the JCP meeting on July 2 includes the consideration of a permanent Chief Justice for the Lahore High Court.

Sources indicate that Justice Shujaat Ali Khan, Justice Ali Baqer Najafi, and Justice Alia Neelam are being considered for the position of Lahore High Court's Chief Justice.

Additionally, the meeting will also consider the appointment of a permanent Chief Justice for the Sindh High Court.

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa will chair the JCP meeting, which will be held in Islamabad on July 2.

Justice Shujaat Ali Khan is the Acting Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court (LHC). He took the oath of office on July 25 following the elevation of former CJ Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmed Khan to the Supreme Court on June 25.

#### Govt announces public holiday in Karachi on June 29

KARACHI (INP): The local government has announced a public holiday in Karachi on June 29 (Saturday) on account of Urs of Abdullah Shah Ghazi.

All offices under the jurisdiction of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) will remain closed on the occasion, according to the notification.

The 1294<sup>th</sup> three-day

annual Urs of the great Sufi saint of the subcontinent Syed Abdullah Shah Ghazi began from Tuesday (June

According to a statement issued by the Auqaf Department, the threeday Urs celebrations will continue till Saturday (June 29)

#### Elite class to be brought to tax net, vows PM after Budget 2024-25 approval

Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif on Friday hailed the approval of the budget 2024-25 in the National Assembly (NA), vowing to bring elite class and tax defaulters to tax net. The remarks came

during the prime minister's meeting with Finance Min-Muhammad Aurangzeb as he lauded the latter and his team preparing a "pro-people budget" that prioritises welfare of common man and promises to steer the country towards economic prosper-

Talking to the finance minister, PM Shehbaz expressed his satisfaction over the active participation of all the treasury and op-position members in the budget session.

He also appreciated the efforts of the officers from ministries of finance, planning, other relevant ministries and Federal

ISLAMABAD (INP): Board of Revenue (FBR) in

preparation of the budget. The government, he said tried its best to utilize all possible resources to provide maximum relief to the common man. He said the government provided relief to the salaried class, pensioners and workers.

The prime minister highlighted that a special attention was given in the budget to various important sectors such as health, education, agriculture and information technology.

He said the elite class and the tax defaulters would be brought to the tax net. It is not possible for the poor pay the taxes and the elites enjoy tax exemptions, he added.

Expressing satisfaction over the economic situation, the prime minister said the country's economy had now been put on the right path and that Pakistan's journey of prosperity had begun.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar met with Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy, in the Federal Capital.

#### PM questions KP govt's failure to establish CTD despite receiving Rs590 b funds

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday questioned the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government for its failure to establish the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) despite receiving Rs590 billion during the last 14 years.

The prime minister, responding to a point of order raised by Sunni Ittehad Council member and formed NA Speaker Asad Qaiser, highlighted that under the NFC, an additional one percent share was allocated for the KP province just to augment its

efforts against terrorism. He said the last NFC Award was agreed upon in 2010 by the government of Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani when terrorism was at its

suffered the most, followed by Balochistan and other provinces.

The prime minister said that KP people had been the frontline soldiers against terrorism which would always be remem-

He said the additional one percent share for KP in NFC was still intact and no other province including Balochistan got such funds nor objected to it despite immense sacrifices by their law enforcement agencies and people against terror-

He told the House that from 2010 till now, the KP province had received Rs590 billion but could not yet establish the CTD for which the funds were



LAHORE: Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz addresses the budget session at Punjab Assembly.

#### IGP orders committee to implement Habitual Offenders **Monitoring Act, 2022**

(İGP) Sindh, Ghulam Nabi Memon, on Friday ordered the formation of a committee consisting of Deputy IGPs from Telecommunication and Transport (T&T), CIA, Investigation, and others to advance the implementation of the Sindh Habitual Offenders Monitoring Act,

Speaking at a meeting at the Central Police Office (CPO) Karachi to review the progress on e-tagging of habitual offenders, IGP Memon emphasized that the committee should perform its duties efficiently and complete the assigned tasks.

IGP Sindh stressed the need to eliminate any loopholes or errors by refining the rules and regulations for the technical support and procurement of and the Project Director IT

KARACHI (APP): In-spector General of Police ging.

He highlighted the importance of implementing the Sindh Habitual Offenders Monitoring Act, 2022, to curb crime and ensure justice, noting its significance for maintaining peace and benefiting soci-

Ghulam Nabi Memon expressed satisfaction that the Sindh Police is gradually moving towards modern policing. During the meeting, DIGP T&T provided a detailed briefing on the goals and objectives of the e-tagging project for habitual offenders and its effectiveness.

The meeting was attended by DIGPs of Investigation and Crime, T&T, Headquarters, CIA, Finance and Investigation, along with AIGPs of Operations, Admin, Finance,

# Daily Soice of Masse Independent

#### PM spurned

An attempt by the prime minister, perhaps a tad belated, to mend fences with the PTI has been shot down before it could take flight. The PTI seems to be in no mood for any talks with the government until its incarcerated workers and leaders, including former PM Imran Khan, have been released by the state. In answer to PM Shehbaz Sharif's surprise offer for dialogue, made during the Wednesday session in the National Assembly, PTI lawmakers, one after the other, recounted the indignities they had been made to suffer by the state.

Their anger was justified; still, it was an unfortunate response to an otherwise positive development. It now seems the door has closed on the possibility of a quick political breakthrough. The acrid hostility between the government and opposition has festered for too long, and unless one side softens its position, a messy showdown seems inevi-

In retrospect, the government's biggest folly was believing that the PTI would eventually break under the same repressive tactics used against its own leaders in the past. However, while these tactics were initially able to cut the PTI to size, the party endured.

Further, the Feb 8 election made clear that the Pakistani citizenry was rallying against the tactics employed by the state. This should have been signal enough for a new government battling for legitimacy to immediately launch the reconciliation process and prevent further victimisation of its political opponents. It chose not to.

To make matters worse, over the past few weeks, at least two different PML-N lawmakers signalled that the government was now considering 'extending' Mr Khan's detention, presumably through freshly fabricated cases. This seemed like a deliberately provocative act by a party that still does not realise it is on very thin ice.

The government should realise that intimidation, coercion and fear tactics have only worsened the political disequilibrium and precipitated even stronger feelings of social unrest. They have also weakened its moral position and emboldened the PTI to dictate terms.

If the prime minister is serious about turning a new page, he must ensure the release of all political prisoners forthwith and make sure the PTI is allowed to function just like any other political party. This simple gesture alone will earn him much-needed goodwill and help create an environment more conducive to talks. On the other hand, the PTI must not set rigid conditions that may preclude a meaningful dialogue. This country does not 'belong' to any particular political entity or political leader: people ascribing to all hues of political opinion should be given equal respect.

Talks must be welcomed and given a fair chance simply because no government can endure in Pakistan without first securing some guarantee from its opponents on political stability.

# **Defying nature**

sons understandably

Zubeida Mustafa

It seems that the guard- to reverse the few gains ians of our morality be- the transgender persons lieve a major threat to had managed to win after Pakistan's existence a hard struggle. We saw from transgender citizens. A ments belatedly file a peconsiderable section of religious scholars is un- Shariat Court challenging able to explain how a small community of 10,478 (census 2023) vul- the court gave a verdict nerable souls can pose a turning down the self-dedanger to some 240 mil- termination clause and lion who constitute the requiring a transgender Islamic Republic of Paki-With their lively

imagination, they conjure up all sorts of hypothetical situations that they believe will destroy the moral fibre of the nation. It is strange that those who actually resort to both illegal and immoral actions escape the wrath of our religious scholars. When have they called a conference or uttered a word of condemnation when women are gangraped, little girls sexually abused and murdered, and thousands of young women trafficked in an illegal multimillion-dollar trade with the connivance of the police? Does their silence on such matters indicate a tacit acceptance of these horrific crimes? But when there is talk of the constitutional rights of the transgender community, it throws them into a state of moral panic. Is this not bizarre?

In a convention held recently in Kara-chi, a section of the clergy lost no time in denouncing some provisions of the Trans-gender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2018, that has been in force for the last six years. To put the record straight, it must be mentioned that this Act has been ap--proved by the Council of Islamic Ideology, while the Supreme Court accepted the principle of self-determination in matters of gender identity/expression in 2012 and Nadra has been issuing CNICs in accor-

ruling.

The aim, it seems, is its some fundamentalist eletition in the Federal the 2018 Act and labelling it un-Islamic. In 2023, person's gender to be identified by a medical board. Transgender per-

consider this violative of their dignity. Now, these elements are claiming that they had been 'deceived' and that the 'nation is a victim of a big "fitna". These are serious charges against the Supreme Court that had set the ball rolling for the transgender community at a time when internationally the trend had been to reform gender feels that recognition laws. According to TGEU (Transgender Europe), to TGEU 'Self-determination is growing in popularity as a model. Gender self-determination means that a person can change gender marker and name on official documents through an easy administrative process. The change is based on the person's self-determined

gender identity. No third party is required.' Since the government has mercifully appealed against the FSC verdict, these conservative elements are in a fix. They now want the government to withdraw its appeal. They even speak of launching a movement against the law protecting the rights of the transgender community. According to the participants of the convention, the Act is a guise to encourage homosexuality and obscenity. These are trying

times for the transgender community. A large numdance with the court's ber of them have been Courtesy Dawn

singled out and killed since 2021, when the hate campaign against them reached fever pitch. They feel insecure, and this has hampered their progress. After the passage of the 2018 Act, the rights activists failed to sustain their campaign to create awareness about the transgender community. Social prejudice against them has still to be rooted out. Many religious parties have taken advantage of this situation and are whipping up hatred against

non-binary people. I feel sad and call up Bindiya Rana, the pioneer of the transgender movement in Pak-istan. She is depressed. "Three tran-s--gender persons have been murdered recently," she tells me. "And do you know who their killers were? They were her own siblings, who have no love for their sister." Bindiya Transgender Persons Act needs to be strengthened and not undermined. It should have a provision for punishing parents who abandon a transgender child before s/he reaches adulthood. But here are some conservative elements trying to make life more difficult for them. I agree and point

out that the real danger comes from bigotry and obscurantism. Those born with birth defects cannot hurt this country. Bindiya remains calm and has no harsh words for her tormentors, who reject her humanity. After all, she is God's creation, and what she has been denied is compensated by her generosity of spirit and sagacity. Bindiya reminds me of the words of the transgender protagonist of Arundhati Roy's book, Ministry of Utmost Happiness: "The word Hijra meant a Body in which a Holy Soul lives.'

# **Death-worth rule**

Shahzad Sharjeel

Ask anyone what a human life is worth, and answers would range between 'priceless', 'incalculable, and more than all the gold in the world'. Incurable nihilists would say 'worthless', and the philosophical-minded would lead you astray with gems like 'every breath is a transaction, decide the price and pay the cost'

Philosophy and romanticism aside, this is a practical question that governments and organisations grapple with daily.

That one's life is not considered equal in worth to someone else's an realisation and sounds unfair. But then, such is the nature of our existence. It was reported in the media recently that families of five foreign workers killed in a terrorist attack in Kohistan cident in Kohistan, a 30some months back would each receive a lion US dollars in compensation from the government. Going by the exchange rate, this would roughly equal a little less than Rs14 crore per family. Meanwhile, the family of the Pakistani driver who was also killed in the attack would get Rs2.5 m. The huge gap between the and that the engineer two amounts notwithstanding, both are insufficient because the victims and relations and emotions associated with them are irreplaceother perspective, the driver and his family were shortchanged. Unfortunately, life is more complex than emotions; all else being 'unequal' applies more to it than the ceteris paribus so often referred to by econo-

It can take the authorities several years to process claims and de-

mining the 'worth' of each life lost. Economic tion is a specialised non-economic losses are considered. economies, its calcula-The former consists of tion is entrusted to VC losses in expected in- attorneys, and indicome in case of death or vidual determinations decreases resulting from disability. The non-economic losses include pain, trauma, and short- aftermath of losses to long-term psychological impacts. To assess economic losses, factors

like the victim's age, academic qualification, means of livelihood, income at the time of death/disability, health condition, and life expectancy are all factored in to extrapolate their trauma that cou---ld be earnings from what is de- covered under the fund unsettling termined to be their expected working life. Depending upon

local laws and other factors, more or different equation. Back to the inyear-old driver earning, let us assume, Rs35,000 more than a 50-year-old engineer earning Rs5m a month possibly for the tion next 10 years, assuming 60 to be the age of superannuation for both. Of course, these formudriver would remain that and will not branch out into entrepreneurship would retain his ability to construct hydropower years. Hopefully, a clearer picture is beginning to emerge by now when it comes down to hard-core, economic number crunching.

this or that socioeconomic framework, let us bear in mind that even in the old tribal codes, still practised today, a chief's blood money is many times higher than that of his family memtermine compensation. bers, whose lives are Why? Because the con- considered far dearer

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The weekly inflation mea-

sured by the Sensitive Price

Indicator (SPI), witnessed

a decrease of 0.73 percent

for the combined con-

sumption groups during

the week ended on June 27.

the Pakistan Bureau of Sta-

tistics (PBS) reported on

data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-

mentioned group was re-

corded at 314.57 points as

compared to 316.88 points

corresponding week of last

vear, the SPI for the com-

bined consumption group

in the week under review

witnessed an increase of

As compared to the

during the past week.

According to the PBS

Friday.

cerned bodies have the than those of a tribe unenviable task of deter-

Victim compensafield; in developed are made by courts or boards of funds set up by governments in the from calamities, disasters, wars, or acts of terrorism. One such VC fund was formed

in 2001 in the aftermath of the twin-tower att-a--cks in New York. Its initial ambit lasted till 2004. As more types of dama-ges, losses, and came to the fore with time, new pieces of legislation were enacted to provide legal cover for the ongoing nature of factors may be thrown in claim filing and settleor removed from the ments. Currently, the fund's tenure extends to 2090.

In our local context, while laws, procedures, little more than half a mil- a month will not earn and protocols to deal with almost any eventuality exist, implementadepends officialdom's whims and political expedience. Every fire or rain deluge results in business and lae assume that the trade bodies exhorting the government to compensate for their losses. Why, one must ask, should the government pick up the tab for their decision to forego insurprojects for another 10 ance? When moveable assets like vehicles are lost or damaged, do we ask the government to able. However, from an- as to how your life may compensate for them? be worth more than mine Either they are insured or they are not. Why should it be any different for other types of Before condemning assets? Governments should incentivise the insurance sector and encourage employers to enlist their workforce. Faiz Ahmad Faiz rued the voiceless multitudes: "No plaintiff, no witnesses; the blood of the down-to-earth, sustains it." -- Courtesy Dawn

# Commerce News

#### **Economy poised for growth in FY2024-25: Finance Ministry**

The growth prospects for Pakistan are expected to remain encouraging during the upcoming fiscal year government's focus on key

sectors is expected to propel the country onto a trajectory of sustained growth, according to a recent report released by the Finance Ministry on here Friday. "Pakistan's growth prospects are expected to

remain encouraging. Budget FY2025 is gearing towards a shift to an era of sustainable and inclusive growth," said the Monthly Economic Update and Outlook for June released by the ministry. Aiming to this, the government is focusing on highpotential sectors like Infor-

mation Technology (IT), proved macroeconomic in-Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (SMEs), mines and minerals, tourism, exports and agriculture, it

"These sectors can balance of payments position. Complementing this, fiscal discipline, effective implementation of homegrown growth program along with bilateral and multilateral cooperation will necessitate the sustainable potential growth path in coming years," the report

The monthly update says that fiscal year 2023-24 was going to end with an economic stabilisation

"The subsiding infla-

tionary pressures, stability in external accounts and exchange rate, fiscal consolidation and gradual recovpay rich dividends and lend ery in industrial activities support to the country's are restoring the confidence of economic agents thus facilitating economic growth," it said. Highlighting the performance of various economic indicators, the report said, the inflation outlook for June 2024 has slightly increased compared to the previous month but remains well below the levels of the same month last year. This rise is primarily due to higher prices of perishable

items driven by Eid ul path accompanied by im-**PSX loses** 

ISLAMABAD: The Second meeting of the Committee to assess and facilitate the reconstitution of Board of Korangi Fisheries Harbour Authority (KoFHA) was held under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Federal Minister for Industries & Production Rana Tanveer Hussainwas also present as members of the committee.

#### Minister chairs meeting to reconstitute BoD for KoFHA ISLAMABAD (APP): press release. The second meeting of the

committee tasked with as-83 points sessing and facilitating the ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakireconstitution of the Board of Directors (BoD) for the stan Stock Exchange (PSX) Korangi Fisheries Harbour on Friday shed 83.29 Authority (KoFHA) was points, a slight negative change of 0.11 percent, closing at 78,444.96 points against 78,528.25 points held here Friday. The meeting was chaired by the Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs,

on the last working day. A total of 347,671,672 shares were traded during the day as compared to 283,542,503 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 11.899 billion against Rs 11.067 billion on the last trading day.

#### **Shipping** activity at **Port Qasim**

KARACHI (APP): Seven ships, Wan Hai-316, Maersk Cairo, Express load/offload Container, nal. Multi-Purpose Terminals and Bulk Terminal respectively on Thursday.

Meanwhile two more ships, Afra Rossie and Samaisma scheduled to load/offload Furnace oil and LNG also arrived at outeranchorage of the Port Qasim on during last 24

The committee was formed to ensure that the reconstitution of KoFHA's Board of Directors complies with applicable laws; as the core focus of the committee lies in meticulously scrutinizing the Federal Government's selection of five Board members

During the first meeting, held on June 11, the committee meticulously reviewed the criteria and guidelines for the selection process. The discussions focused on ensuring that the nominated members would bring a diverse range of skills, experience, and excommittee members, said a pertise to the board, align-

2023. In its second meeting today, the list was reviewed followed by threadbare discussion and would finalize the names after necessary consultation with stakeholders. Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh em phasized the importance of transparency meritocracy in the nomination process. He added that we focus to reconstitute a Board of Directors that

ing with the objectives out-

lined in the KoFHA Ordi-

nance and the SOE Act,

upholds the highest standards of governance and is equipped to drive KoFHA towards greater efficiency and success.

#### FCCI to sign MoUs to Rupee gains 03 paisa facilitate its members against Dollar

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) will sign a series of Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with different organizations to project this august trade body in addition to ensuring maximum concessions and facilitation for its ten thousand members.

Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh,

while Federal Minister for

Industries and Production,

Rana Tanveer Hussain, Sec-

retary Maritime Affairs

Syed Zafar Ali Shah and

other senior officers of the

Ministry of Maritime Af-

fairs were in attendance as

Senior Vice President FCCI Dr Sajjad Arshad along with Vice President Haji Muhammad Aslam Bhalli inked two separate MOUs with Sahil Hospital and Pure Gold Jewelers respectively.

kistan Rupee on Friday gained 03 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.34 against the previous day's closing at Rs 278.37.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market, however, were Rs 277.7 and Rs 280.6 respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 13 paisa to close at Rs 297.68 against the last day's closing of Rs 297.55, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

# 22.88 per cent.

Weekly inflation

falls by 0.73 pc

The weekly SPI with

the base year 2015-16=100

covers 17 urban centres and

51 essential items for all

expenditure groups.

The SPI for the low-

est consumption group of up to Rs 17,732, decreased

by 0.80 per cent and went down to 306.62 points from

last week's 309.10 points.

tion groups of Rs 17,732-22,888, Rs 22,889-29,517;

Rs 29,518-44,175 and

above Rs 44,175, decreased

by 0.85 percent, 0.77 percent, 0.79 and 0.67 percent

of 51 items, prices of 18

(35.29%) items increased

8 (15.69%) items decreased and 25 (49.02%) items re-

During the week, out

respectively.

mained stable.

The SPI for consump-

SLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## At MWC 2024 Huawei redefines connectivity with 5.5G advancements

(APP): Li Peng, Huawei's ered a keynote focusing on maximizing the value of 5.5G for carriers.

He highlighted the industry's readiness for large-scale commercial use of 5.5G through years of concerted effort in network, service, and business ecosystem prepara-

According to Li, busicarriers to integrate net- dustry growth.

SHANGHAI (China) work, cloud, and AI capabilities to offer differenti-Corporate Senior Vice ated connected experi-President and President of ences. This shift, Li ar-ICT Sales & Service, deliv- gued, moves beyond traditional traffic monetization to monetizing the user experience itself, thereby driving industry develop-

Drawing a parallel with the aviation industry's evolution, Li underscored the importance of high-quality supply in stimulating new demand. He highlighted ness model innovation and the need for the mobile capability integration are communications industry critical for carriers to to integrate advanced techachieve optimal return on nologies as it transitions investment in 5.5G. He to 5.5G, aiming to meet emphasized the arrival of new and latent user dethe mobile AI era, urging mands and accelerate in-

munication and ICT services provider, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G) has collaborated with STech.ai to integrate an innovative AI-based platform that leverages advanced technologies, including Urdu-based Large Language Models (LLMs), Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR), Natural Language Processing (NLP), and Machine Learning (ML) to enhance its customer services system. The platform aims to enhance quality management systems by provid-

ing enriched customer sen-

able insights, driving

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Pakistan's largest telecom-

PTCL's overall customer experience strategy, said a

FAISALABAD: Farmers using modern agricul-

ture machine for seedling of rice crop in their field.

**PTCL Group integrates** 

advanced AI to achieve

customer service excellence

news release. The strategic initiative underscores Group's commitment to excellence in customer experience. Customer centricity is paramount at PTCL Group, which inspires the Group's commitment to excellence in both customer experience and services delivery. The company continuously invests, innovates, and refines its business processes. It leverages innovative technologies and customer feedback to enhance every interaction and ensures that each service timent analysis and valu- touch point is seamless, re-

Athens, Alora, Southern Anoa, Gaschem Fuji and Clipper Barolo scheduled to Rice, Chemicals and Coal. berthed at Container Termi-

# ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa-

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Sajjad Arshad said that Sahil Hospital would provide 15-20 % discount to FCCI members on laboratory tests, X-rays, ultrasound and other services. "However, FCCI employees would be entitled for a discount of 20-35 % on these tests and services",

he added. He also signed an MOU with Pure Gold Jewelers and said that this organization would offer 100 % discount in labor charges on making of gold ornaments

#### Punjab Governor says:

# Political parties should play positive role for development and prosperity of the country

LAHORE: A delegation of ther said that good govermembers of the Punjab Assembly, headed by the Parliamentary Leader of the Pakistan People's Party, Punjab Assembly, Syed Ali Haider Gillani, met Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at the Governor's House, Lahore. During the meeting, the members of the delegation congratulated Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider on assuming the office of Governor.

Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that all political parties including the opposition should play a positive role for the development and prosperity of the coun-

Muhammad Ismail.

Independent Report

LARKANA: In a success-

ful operation, the Larkana

Range Police, led by DIGP

Nasser Aftab, in collabora-

tion with the Shikarpur

Police and Sindh Rangers,

rescued two kidnapped in-

dividuals, Gulzar Phulpoto

and Asif Sethar, from the

Gharhi Tegho area. The op-

eration was conducted based

on intelligence reports of the

presence of criminals and

area. The police teams citizens.

GILGIT: Fateh Ullah, Chairman Board of Invest-

ment Gilgit-Baltistan addressing a post budget

press conference along with Finance Minister Engr.

Larkana police crack down on

kidnappers, rescue two victims

in joint operation

kidnapped individuals in the safety and security of the

nance and improving the quality of education in universities is a priority. He said that all resources would be utilized for the welfare of the people. He further said that he was committed to provide the facilities of higher education to the backward tehsils of far flung districts of Punjab. Punjab Governor said that the sub-campuses of major universities in the backward tehsils of Attock District would be established in the shortest possible time.

Parliamentary Leader of Pakistan People's Party in Punjab Assembly, Syed Ali Haider Gillani said that People's Party has always

try. Governor Punjab fur- believed in the politics of reconciliation for stability in the country. The delegation comprised Sardar Raees Nabeel, Malik Wasif Mazhar Ran, Kamran Abdullah Mudal, Qazi Ahmed Saeed, Aamir Ali Shah, Inam Bari, Sardar Habibur Rehman Gopang, Shazia Abid, Neelam Jabbar and Nargis Faiz Malik.

Saturday June 29, 2024

Earlier, Secretary Home Punjab, Noor Ul Amin Mengal called on Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, Secretary Home Punjab briefed the Governor Punjab regarding the peace and order plan during Muharram in Rawalpindi Division, especially in Attock district.

#### Uzma warns anti-state elements for creating chaos in name of religion, politics

ISLAMABÁD (APP) Punjab Information Minister Uzma Bukhari Friday warned the anti-state elements who were involved in lawlessness to destabilize the country and said that government would adopt zero-tolerance policy in that regard.

Talking to a private news channel, she clarified the issue of restoring a hundred-year-old Gurdwara, adding no discussion was held so far in that regard but some anti-state groups were misleading the people.

The minister said law would come into action if there was a threat of damaging public property or harming the people, adding, anti-sate elements were playing every tactic to tarnish the image of the country but would not succeed.

The provincial government would not allow anyone to spread violence and fan anarchy, she added.



with delegation of MPAs, headed by the Parliamentary Leader of the PPP, Syed Ali Haider Gillani at the Governor's House.

# **KP** to start Water Resource Accountability for Pak Prog.

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief (WRP) Minister Khyber Pakhtun Minister Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur presided over the meeting with officials of the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Drainage, International Water Management Insti-

In the meeting, detailed considerations and important decisions were made on issues related to the protection of water reservoirs in the province, better management and efficient use of available water resources.

The decision was taken to start the Water Resource Accountability for Pakistan Program the International Water

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief

Minister Sardar Ali Amin

Khan Gandapur here on Fri-

day officially launched the

campaign by administering

polio drops to children to

be started from July 1, 2024.

The five-day anti-polio

campaign will continue from

July 1 to July 5 with the

Anti-polio campaign in

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa being

Under the campaign, anti-polio drops will be ad-

ministered in six complete

districts of Swabi, Swat,

Tank, North Waziristan,

South Waziristan Lower,

and South Waziristan Up- polio teams.

launched in July 2024.

PESHAWAR

Pakhtunkhwa with the support of the British Government. This program will provide technical support to the provincial government for the conservation of water resources, their better management and wise use. By implementing the program, reliable data related to underground, surface and rain water will be collected in the province. building. As a result of this support, the implementation of the Provincial Government's

Under the program,

Water Act and Water and

Agricultural Sector Re-

forms Agenda will be en-

per. Similarly, this campaign

will also be conducted in spe-

cific union councils of five

districts, including 22 union

councils of Dera Ismail

Khan, three of Peshawar and

one each of Karam, Bannu

and Lakki Marwat. Under

the campaign, a total of

1299000 children have been

set as the target of anti-polio

vaccination, said the Chief Minister of Khyber

The Chief Minister said that 9,921 teams have

been formed for this pur-

pose and about 15,000 se-

curity personnel will be

deployed to protect the

Pakhtunkhwa.

in Khyber Management Institute will provide technical assistance to the provincial government in six different sectors in Pakhtunkhwa. These areas include water accounting and productivity assessment, early draft warning system, water resource management information system, irrigation demand management, water allocation system and capacity This program will be

initially started in Charsadda and Mansehra district which will later be extended to other districts of the province. For this purpose, MoUs will be signed between the relevant provincial departments.

#### Health Dept. KP lifts ban on MTI

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department has decided to lift the ban on the decisions of the Board of Governors of the Medical Teaching Institution.

A formal letter has been issued by the Health Department to the chairmen of the Board of Governors of all MTIs. On March 8, the Chief Minister had banned the Board of Governors of Medical Teaching Institutions from taking important decisions. As a result of the formation of new boards, the ban on taking important decisions has been

#### Minister for minority affairs meets journalists, Sikh pilgrims

LAHORE (APP): Provin- Saeed etc. welcomed the cial Minister for Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora visited the Lahore Press

A large number of Sikh pilgrims from India were present on the occasion while former President of Chandigarh Press Club Punjab, India, and Secretary General of Indian Journalists Union, Balender Singh Jammu, and various Indian journalists were also

President of Lahore Press Club Arshad Ansari, Member Governing Body Imran Sheikh, Rana living a prosperous and Shahzad and Syed Badr peaceful life in Pakistan.

distinguished guests. Ramesh Singh Arora said that he was very happy to come to Lahore Press Club while religious minorities in Pakistan, especially the Sikh community, have complete religious freedom and protection. Sikh pilgrims from India are provided with best facilities and perform their religious rituals without any hindrance. He further said that the facilities that the minorities get in Pakistan are not available to any minority including Muslims in India. "We are



GILGIT: Rescue 1122 staffer busy in lifting car from the ditch after road accident at Nalter Ex-

#### **NADRA Chairman visits Central Police Office**

LAHORE (APP): National Muhammad Munir Afsar Database & Registration Authority (NADRA) Chairman Lieutenant General Muhammad Munir Afsar visited the Central Police Office here on Fri-

Director General NADRA Lahore Sohail Jahangir, AD Rizwan Ali, and Major Nadeem Gondal accompanied him.

IĜ Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar and senior police officers welcomed the NADRA Chairman. A smart police contingent presented a salute to the NADRA Chairman on arrival The NADRA Chairman visited the Police Martyrs' Memorial and offered prayers for the souls of the cess of eradication of crimes NADRA.

paid rich tributes to the sacrifices of the Punjab Police martyrs.

During a meeting with IG Punjab, discussions were held to further enhance strategic partnership, data information sharing and mutual cooperation in cyber security and other professional affairs. The IG Puniab said that NADRA's data sharing in identification of criminals and terrorist elements, verification of citizens, policing issues is highly commendable.

Chairman NADRA Lt Gen Muhammad Munir Afsar indicated to further expand cooperation with Punjab Police in the pro-Chairman and identification of mis-Gen creants and criminals

# International News

Anti-polio campaign

officially launched in KP

(APP):

# Russia warns it can take unspecified measures in response to US drone flights over Black Sea

worked tirelessly to ensure

the safe recovery of the vic-

tims. DIGP Larkana Nasser

Aftab has commended the

Shikarpur Police for their

role in the operation and is-

sued commendation certifi-

nificant blow to the kidnap-

ping syndicates operating in

the region, and the Larkana

Police have proven their

commitment to ensuring the

This operation is a sig-

cates to the team.

fense Minister ordered officials to prepare a "response" to U.S. drone flights over the Black Sea, the ministry said Friday, in an apparent warning that Moscow may take forceful action to ward off the American reconnaissance aircraft. The Russian Defense Ministry noted a recent "increased intensity" of U.S. drones over the Black Sea, saying they "conduct intelligence and targeting for precision weapons supplied to the Ukrainian military by Western countries for strikes on Russian

"It shows an increased involvement of the U.S. and other NATO countries in the conflict in Ukraine on the side of the Kyiv regime," the ministry said in a statement.

It noted that "such flights significantly increase the probability of incidents

risk of direct confrontation Russian Federation." "NATO members will bear responsibility for that," it added. The ministry said Andrei Belousov has directed the General Staff to "make proposals on measures of operative response to provocations.'

On March 14, 2023, a Su-27 fighter jet of the Russian air force intercepted and damaged a U.S. MQ-9 Reaper drone, causing it to crash into the Black Sea. The incident marked the first direct clash between nian attack on Sevastopol the Russian and U.S. forces since the Cold War.

The Pentagon and U.S. European Command said after the incident that two Russian Su-27 aircraft dumped fuel on the MQ-9, which was conducting a routine surveillance mission over the Black Sea in inter-

aircraft, which increases the Ministry said then that the U.S. drone was flying near between the alliance and the the Russian border and intruded into an area that was declared off-limits by Russian authorities.

Russia has declared that Defense Minister broad areas near Crimea off-limits to flights. Ever since Russia's 2014 illegal annexation of Crimea and long before Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Moscow has accused U.S. surveillance planes of flying too close to its borders while ignoring the notices issued by Russia.

Friday's Russian statement follows a Ukraiover the weekend with U.S.-made ATACMS missiles, which killed four and injured about 150, accord-

ing to Russian authorities. Russian officials have claimed that the U.S. was directly involved in the attack by providing intelligence and targeting and warned to take retaliatory

neighbourhood, in the east of Gaza City.

#### **Democrats scramble to limit** damage after Biden's wobbly debate showing against Trump

**Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden's allies scrambled to contain the fallout on Friday from his faltering performance at the first 2024 US presidential debate after he struggled to stem a barrage of attacks and false claims from his Republican rival Donald

The Biden campaign had hoped that a strong debate would quell concerns among voters that the 81year-old Democratic incumbent is too old to serve a second four-year term.

and lost his train of thought at times, especially early in the debate.

One Biden donor, who asked for anonymity, called his performance "disqualifying" and predicted that some Democrats would revisit calls for Biden to step aside in favour of another candidate before the party's national convention in August.

Panicking Democrats exchanged messages wondering whether Biden would consider stepping down. One senior Democratic strategist said there would be calls for Biden to

#### Russian satellite breaks up in space, forces **ISS** astronauts to shelter **Monitoring Desk**

WASHINGTON: A defunct Russian satellite has broken up into more than 100 pieces of debris in orbit, forcing astronauts on the International Space Station to take shelter for about an hour and adding to the mass of space junk already in orbit, US space agencies said. There were no immediate details on what caused the break-up of the RESURS-P1 Russian Earth observation satellite, which was declared dead in 2022. US Space Command, tracking the debris swarm, said there was no immediate threat to other satellites.

## **US soldier** charged in Japan over

TOKYO: Japan's government is calling for stricter oversight of US troops stationed in the country after a soldier was charged with the alleged sexual assault of a Japanese teenager in Okinawa, Prosecutors in the southern island region charged the US soldier in March, top government spokesman Yoshimasa Hayashi tolo reporters on Tuesday.

minor's rape **Monitoring Desk** 

#### Israeli forces return to Gaza's north **Monitoring Desk** "back to the stone age" GAZA STRIP: Palestinians

Palestinians flee as

fled eastern Gaza City on Thursday under heavy bombardment as the Israeli military issued an evacuation order for the area it had previously declared clear of Hamas fighters.

The flare-up in the northern Gaza Strip's Shujaiya district, which witnesses and medics said caused numerous casualties, comes as fears grow of a wider regional conflagration involving Israel and Hezbollah, a Hamas ally.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, on a visit to Washington to discuss the Gaza conflict and ways to avoid broader conflict in the Middle East, warned Hezbollah that fighting on a massive scale would send Lebanon the south.

With cross-border tensions between Israel and Hezbollah rising, Gallant said, "We do not want war, but we are preparing for every scenario." In Gaza, fighting has ground on despite comments by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that the "intense phase" of the war now nearing its 10th month was winding down.

The civil defence agency in the Hamas-run territory and medics said Israeli strikes overnight and early on Thursday killed at least five people in Gaza City and another in Beit Lahia, also in the north.

The Israeli military said it had "attacked terrorists who were in a school complex in Khan Yunis" in

#### Turkey welcomes removal from a key money-laundering watchlist, hoping to boost foreign investment

**Monitoring Desk** ANKARA: Turkey on

Friday welcomed a decision by an international watchdog to remove it from a so-called " gray list " of countries that have not fully implemented measures to fight money laundering and terrorism financing.

The announcement by the Financial Action Task Force in Singapore could bolster foreign investments in Turkey, which is trying to rebound from a deep economic downturn. "We succeeded,"

Turkish Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek wrote on the social media platform X, as the decision was being an-

nounced. Vice-President Cevdet Yilmaz said: With this development, international investors' confidence in our country's financial syswill have extremely posi-

tive consequences for the financial sector and the economy.'

Being watchdog's gray list can scare away investors and creditors, hurting exports, output and consumption.

It also can make global banks wary of doing business with a country

FATF President T. Raja Kumar, who is finishing his two-year term, said Turkey was taken off the gray list because of the "sub-stantial progress" that

it has made. Christophe Deloire, the head of media freedom group Reporters Without Borders, has

He was 53Kumar said a FATF team visited Turkey in May and confirmed that the country had taken "substantive steps" to improve its tem has become even anti-money laundering stronger. The decision regime, addressing all the items in its action plan.

## Kenya's young protesters plot next moves after dramatic tax win

**Monitoring Desk** NAIROBI: After their stunning success in forcing the government to shelve \$2.7 billion in tax hikes, young Kenyan activists are setting their sights higher, taking aim at ingrained corruption

and misgovernance. Protesters say the finance bill that President William Ruto abandoned on Wednesday was only a symptom of the problems plaguing a country where many young people have few job prospects despite strong economic growth. The movement has

little precedent in its mass

mobilisation of Kenyans

across ethnic and regional divisions while rejecting any kind of political lead-Protests in Kenya have historically been led by elites,

often ending in power-shar-

ing deals that yielded few tangible benefits for demonstrators. Protesters now face the challenge of maintaining unity and momentum while pursuing broader, less imme-

They will also have to decide how to respond to Ruto's offer of dialogue, made on Wednesday but without specifics. Writer and activist Nanjala Nyabola said most of those involved in the recent protests were motivated by legitimate, strong grievances against the government. "Until those griev

ances are addressed, it's unlikely that they're going to be willing to make concessions." How the diffuse and leaderless movement, which largely organised via social media, pursues its objectives remains an open

#### higher amid crisis in Middle East

Oil edges

**Monitoring Desk** NEW YORK: Oil prices

rose about one per cent on Wednesday despite a surprise jump in US gasoline supplies, as investors worried that a potential expansion of the fighting in Gaza could disrupt crude supplies from the Middle East.

Brent crude futures rose 22 cents, or 0.3pc, to \$85.23 per barrel by 1835 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate crude futures settled 7 cents higher at \$80.90 a barrel.

Cross-border strains between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah have been escalating in recent weeks, stoking fears of an all-out Israel-Hezbollah war that could draw in other regional powers, including major oil producer Iran

#### Instead, a hoarse Biden stumbled over his words step down. **Bolivian President Luis** Arce denies conspiracy after failed coup

**Monitoring Desk** 

LA PAZ: Bolivian President Luis Arce on Thursday denied conspiring with his former army chief, who was arrested after deploying troops and tanks to the heart of the capital La Paz, where they tried to break down a door of the presidential palace.

were wounded by gunfire,

according to the authorities.

Some had to be hospitalized

Fourteen civilians who opposed the coup

and operated on, Luis Arce told the press.
Authorities paraded

handcuffed detainees in front of the media on Thursday, announcing 17 arrests including ex-army chief Juan Jose Zuniga, and riot police kept close watch over government buildings a day after the botched

Tensions in the Andean nation have been rising in recent weeks over surging prices

# **CPEC** success story of resolve for continued Pak-China collaboration in diverse sectors: Gillani

Gilani also observed that

Yousaf Raza Gilani on Friday termed China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a success story and said that the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Pakistan and China for 2<sup>nd</sup> phase underscored the will for continued collaboration in diverse sectors.

He expressed these views while addressing the launch of the Annual Sustainability Report 2023 in Islamabad. The event was jointly organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and China Chamber of Commerce Pakistan at Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS), a news release said.

'CPEC is a non-partisan agenda in Pakistan as all political parties stood with the government while having a detailed session with Liu Jian Chao, Minister of Central Committee of the International Department of Communist Party of China (IDCPC)" Chairman Senate remarked. Sved Yousaf Raza

the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was the first which under the leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari paved the way for the initiation of CPEC and economic cooperation between Pakistan and China and successive governments continued their resolve to have CPEC completed. We are now entering the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of CPEC with consistency in our relations and commitments by all

Chairman Senate said. The PPP's founder Chairman Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Chinese leader Chairman Mao were the architects of strong brotherly relations between the two peoples. Shaheem Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and President Zardari, continued following the footsteps of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Chairman

political forces in Pakistan"

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Chairman Senate observed that Pakistan faced a multitude of challenges on economic, political and socio-economic fronts last year. However, amidst trials and tribulations, there

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meet-

ment departments to facili-

tate the resolution of pub-

lic problems/issues. He ex-

ter for Peace and Develop

ment Initiative at the

Karachi Press Club on Fri-

day where journalists were

informed about the law re-

ing on the matters related to Federal Board of Revenue.

Obtaining information from

government departments right

of citizens, Shoib Siddiqui

KARACHI (APP): Federal information from govern

taining information from pressed these views while

government departments is addressing an awareness

the right of every citizen, as granted by Article 19-A Pakistan Information Com-

of the Constitution of Pa- mission and the NGO Cen-

Chief Information Commis-

sioner Shoaib Ahmed

Siddiqui has said that ob-

He emphasized that

He explained that the

He also mentioned

citizen and journalists

should exercise this right to

promote good governance

and transparency in gov-

process of obtaining infor-

mation is simple and can be

done through written or ver-

bal requests and that the

that the commission will

decide on appeals within 60

days and that the Sindh In-

decide on appeals within 45

action on such requests.

ernment institutions.

ience. He observed that Paensuring foolproof security for Chinese citizens and workers undertaking tasks on CPEC projects.

He highlighted that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is working to address these challenges and bottlenecks. He that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor since its inception, has unfolded at an accelerated pace and extended its roots to various sectors, encompassing energy, infrastructure, agriculture, transportation, and

industrial development. Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani said that special emphasis is laid on the development of Special Economic Zones and both countries have expressed their shared commitment to sustaining economic growth while prioritizing environmental sustainability.

Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani said that businesses should get benefit out of using Chinese currency instead of US dollars in Pakistan's financial



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal attending launching ceremony of Annual Sustainability Report 2023, jointly organized by the SDPI and CCCPK held at Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPs).

#### **Interior Minister addresses** UN chiefs of police summit, stresses int'l cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): In- liances, and the nuclear terior Minister, Mohsin Naqvi addressed a special session of the United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit (UNCOPS) - 2024 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York today on Friday.

In his remarks, Mohsin Naqvi emphasised the importance of international cooperation in safeguarding communities and ensuring national security.

He highlighted the various threats faced by the world, including force, foreign interventions, suppression of freedom struggles, resurgence of hate ideologies, poverty, inequality, global tensions, military al-

arms race.

The minister stressed the need for preventive diplomacy to address the root causes of conflicts, praising the UN Charter's principles of self-determination, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and non-interference in preventing conflicts over seven decades.

Mohsin Naqvi highlighted Pakistan's significant contributions to UN peacekeeping missions, including the contribution of 230,000 troops to 47 missions in often challenging theatres. He added that Pakistan has advanced novel concepts, such as multidimensional peacekeeping.

#### PPAF signs Rs183m agreement to enhance education in Sindh, Gilgit-Baltistan

KARACHI (APP): The MIED will oversee 14 new Pakistan Poverty Álleviation Fund (PPAF) has signed grant agreements amounting to PKR 183 million with three key organisations in Sindh and one in Gilgit-Baltistan under its Continued School apport Project (CSSP).

This funding will bol-ster 54 schools spread across seven districts includingTharparkar, Badin, Karachi, Jamshoro, Dadu, Khairpur, and Ghizar, according to a communique here on Friday.

The initiative aims to sustain operations in 40 existing schools managed by Indus Resource Centre (IRC), Baanhn Beli (BB), Badin Rural Development Society (BKDS), and cation and Development (MIED). Additionally,

schools in Ghizar. Over the next 36 months, the project aims to contribute to SDG4 by enrolling 11,500 students, ensuring that 40% of them, specifically girls, have access to quality edu-

Under CSSP, PPAF's support includes the provision of teaching and nonteaching staff, capacity building for teachers and school management committees, classroom renovation and repairs, and the supply of furniture and teaching aids. Furthermore, the

project encompasses initiatives such as transportation for teachers and girl students, health and hygiene awareness sessions Mountain Institute of Edu-sports activities, tree plantation drives, and educational visits.



Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan addressing at the Wilson Center's South Asia Institute in Washington.

# DC Matiari directs foolproof security arrangements for

The Deputy Commissioner Matiari Muhammad Yousuf Shaikh has ordered comprehensive security measures to ensure a peaceful Ashura-e-Muharram. A high-level meeting was held at DC Complex Matiari in this regard, which was attended by SSP Matiari Syed Asghar Shah, ADC-I Noor Ahmad Khahro, DHO Dr. Pir Ghulam Husain, ADC-

Officers and religious scholars representing different schools of thought. The Deputy Commissioner directed all law enforcement agencies to intensify surveillance in Bhitt Shah, particularly in hotels, where a large num-

pected to arrive. He emphasized the need for stringent snap checking on NHA & hotels and instructed that only permitted religious scholars, cleared by the provincial home department, be allowed to deliver speeches. He warned that no banned scholars would be allowed to enter in the district, ensuring a secure and peaceful environment for the Ashura observances.

DC urged Ulemas to promote love, peace and brotherhood in their sermons and discourage fire brand hate speeches. SSP Matiari Syed Asghar Shah announced a contingency plan for security stating that written permission for Majalis and processions is a prior requirement. The DC said that this

time the monsoon season and the days of Ashura are coming together so the concerned departments should work together to complete all the tasks.

He directed the establishment of a central control room at the DC Office and instructed all assistant commissioners to convene meetings with religious scholars at the taluka level for Ashura arrangements and to ensure peace and



front of K-electric office, in the Provincial Capital.

# **Finance Minister announces** tax exemption for health, education sectors inputs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Sena-Muhammad

Aurangzaib on Friday said that tax exemption has been retained on medical surgery equipment including other health and education inputs.

The finance minister said cardiology stents, school books and printing stuff, cardiology surgery and Ex. Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA) and Provincially Administered Tribal Areas (PATAs) tax exemptions were retained. Meanwhile, participating in the discussion on the budget 2024-25, in the National Assembly, he said "We all need pure milk for the good health of the people, but tax exemption cannot be given on packed milk which is not according to the health standard".

Aurangzeb said that the tax exemption for education and health was given in very difficult economic conditions. The minister said that teacher research has also been given tax exemption which has also been given in the finance bill

national development and Chairing a meeting on the matters related to the FBR, he instructed the hiring of top lawyers to pursue various pending cases of the board in courts and

The prime minister nstructed that Customs Appellate Tribunals, along with Inland Revenue Appellate Tribunals, be established to expedite the resolution of tax-related cases.

**PM** stresses

collective

efforts

for national

prosperity

ISLÂMABÂD (ĂPP)

Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif on Friday said that

Federal Board of Revenue

(FBR) played a vital role in

country's economy and

stressed the importance of

collective efforts for the

prosperity.

tribunals.

#### **DGPR** father sovem to be held on Sunday KARACHI (APP): The

Soyem of Muhammad Farooq Khan, father of Muhammad Saleem Khan Director General Public Relation will be held on June 30 between Zuhr and Asr prayers at Jamia Masjid Gulzar-e-Madina Bufferzone here.

The Namaz -e-Janza of deceased was held at Jamia Masjid Gulzar-e-Madina Bufferzone, which was attended by Ex Health Minister Dr Sagheer Ahmed, Officers and employees of Information Department and Governor House and journalists in large numbers. M Farooq Khan was buried at Sakhi Hassan Graveyard.

#### **Coordination Committee for** Nutrition held in **Tharparkar**

HYDERABAD (APP): A meeting of the District Coordination Committee for Nutrition was held under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner-I Tharparkar Asif Ali Khaskheli, to address the issue of malnutrition in the district.

During the meeting, Khaskheli highlighted that various government and non-governmental organizations are running programs to combat malnutrition in Tharparkar.

However, due to a lack of coordination, the benefits of these programs are not reaching the masses.

#### **Banking sector** to observe **Bank Holiday** on Monday

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan and all the banks will observe Bank Holiday on Monday, July 01, 2024 and to remain closed for public dealing.

According to a statement issued here, all banks Development Finance In stitutions and Micro Fi nance Banks shall also re main closed for public dealing on the mentioned date, it said, adding however, employees of the banks, DFIs and MFBs will attend the office as usual.

#### Two more kids tests positive for poliovirus

KARAĈHI (INP): Pakistan on Friday reported two more polio cases from Sindh and Balochistan in the country, bringing the total number of cases in the country to eight in

The National Institute of Health confirmed the two polio cases, a twoyear-old child from Qila Abdullah from Balochistan and a 3-year-old girl from Karachi Kemari.

It has been reported that the symptoms of disability in children appeared on May 22 and June 3, respectively.

#### He said that tax exemption has also been made in the agriculture and fertilizer Sector for providing relief. He said that there were high taxes on the salary class which have been

normalized now.

The minister said "we need to increase tax to Gross Domestic Production (GDP) to 13%, which currently stood at 9.5%. He said that if the country wants to move towards Self-Reliance and go to the last program of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) then revenue collection need to be enhanced. The minister said that the government is committed to go for reconstruction and digitization of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for increasing tax to GDP to 13 percent. He said that there will be no category of non-filer in the tax system and everyone will have to pay tax. He said that if people want relief, then, these economic measures will have to be taken and in this budget 2024-25 the government has given record allocation to potential Information Technology and Agriculture Sector.



Bilawal Bhutto Zardari meets with Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb at Parliament house in the Federal Capital.

#### Karachi Police Chief inaugurate command and control center in Korangi Industrial Area

KARACHI (APP): Addi- Korangi, CPK Executive Police - Karachi, Imran Yaqoob Minhas, inaugurated a new command and control center in the Korangi Industrial Area (KIA). The center, established by Community Policing Karachi (CPK), is equipped with 72 advanced surveillance cameras.

The inauguration cer-Meeting of District emony, held on Friday, was CPK team and other digniattended by a host of dignitaries including DIGP -East Azfar Mahesar, Rang-Brigadier Asim Ashraf, SSP execution.

tional Inspector General of Director Murad Soni, Zeeshan Habib, businessmen, and other police offi-

During the event, Murad Soni and DIGP East Azfar Mahesar provided a comprehensive briefing about the project to Karachi Police Chief Imran Yaqoob Minhas. The City Police chief thanked the taries for their contributions to the project, praising the role of the CPK Chief and ers Sector Commander his team in its successful

#### **SSP** reviews **Muharram security**

SUKKUR (APP): A meeting chaired by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Amjad Ahmed Shaikh and attended by various Addition Superintendents of Police (ASP), Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSP) and religious scholars regarding Muharram security arrangements here on

It was said that 3100 police personnel will be deployed to provide security to 1280 majalis and 145

processions in the district. The SSP said that 400 Rangers will be deployed along with the police to avert any untoward situation and maintain law and order in the district.

He also informed the meeting that no procession would be allowed which hadn't been registered with the authorities.

He also stated that procession timings and The Loudspeaker Act would be strictly enforced.



KARACHI: Mr. Riaz Ahmed Memon (Advisor) Federal Ombudsman and Navid Ahmed Shaikh, Member (Incharge) Secretariat talking to media persons during a visit and inspecting facilities of the Protectorate of Emigrants Office.

#### Experts urge cultivation and investment in palm oil sector to cut edible oil imports, address economic crisis

a major development, the Sindh Agriculture University (SAŬ), Tando Jam has successfully conducted a palm oil production experiment. Experts emphasized the need to develop a marketing mechanism for farmers and encourage them to cultivate palm oil. This initiative can significantly reduce the import of edible oil, helping to address the economic crisis, they said.

A seminar on "Oil Palm Production Technology and Advanced Nursery Management" was hosted by Sindh Agriculture University Tando Jam in collaboration with the Agricul-

HYDERABAD (APP): In tural Linkages Program (ALP) of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) Islamabad at SAU Senate Hall on Friday.
According to the Uni-

versity spokesperson, addressing the seminar, Vice Chancellor SAU Dr. Fateh Mari highlighted that Pakistan imports edible oil worth \$6 billion, which was the second-largest import after furnace oil. During the current economic crisis, the country is striving for policies to secure only \$1.5 billion from the IMF. By increasing domestic edible oil production through the cultivation of palm oil in

# 10 SMIU students honoured to become Brand Ambassador

shop was held on Friday here at the Sindh Madressatul Islam University (SMIU) Karachi, which was chaired by Provincial Ombudsman Sindh Muhammad Sohail Rajput to select students of SMÎU as Brand Ambassadors of Provincial Ombudsman Sindh.

The students will be given task to disseminate information about the role and functions of the Ombudsman among fellow students and general public.

Ombudsman Sindh addressed a large number of students of Sindh Madressatul Islam University at the Sir Shahnawaz Bhutto Auditorium of the varsity where he highlighted the role of Ombudsman Office in providing administrative justice to the public and the key features of his initiative of Brand Ambassador Program initiated through regional subsidy of International Ombudsman Institute (IOI) with aims and objectives which includes disseminating the information, promoting civic responsibilities and raising community through students being inspiring future leaders.

He added that the students selected as Ambassadors will build a bridge between Ombudsman office and students in particular and with the community at large, which will promote good governance, transparency and accountability of government departments. The Ombudsman Sindh said that he feels proud to be present at the historic institution of Pakistan-Sindh Madressatul Islam University which is the Alma-Mater of founder of

the country Quaid-e-Azam

Mohammad Ali Jinnah.

#### offered fateha on the occaon of the annual Urs. He remarked that Karachi is honored to have the blessed shrine of such a great saint, Hazrat Abdullah Shah Ghazi (RA). A large number of devotees from Karachi and other cities come to the shrine during

During the three-day

Munna Bhai

MBBS caught

treating patients

at Karachi

hospital

KARACHI (INP): A quack nicknamed as Munna Bhai

MBBS was caught red-

handed treating patients at a major hospital in Karachi,

it came to light on Friday. Munna Bhai was

reating patients at the

Benazir Trauma Centre of the Civil Hospital in the

megacity when security

guard got suspicious of his

get-up.

The guard got hold of him and handed him over

to the police.

The fake doctor told

the police that he had been dreaming of becoming a

medical practitioner since childhood but could not

make it through as far as his educational qualifications were concerned.

Mayor Karachi

shrine of Hazrat

**Abdullah Shah** 

Ghazi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor

Karachi Barrister Murtaza

Wahab on Friday visited

the shrine of Hazrat

Abdullah Shah Ghazi (RA)

and, on behalf of the citi-

zens of Karachi, laid a

chadar on the shrine and

garding obtaining information from government departments Sindh Information the Urs. Commissioner Shahid Jatoi also spoke at the event, high-Urs, excellent arrangements have been made at the shrine ganization in promoting by the Karachi administra-

lighting the efforts of his orcommission is bound to take awareness and providing information to citizens aswell as journalists.

He encouraged journalists to take full advanformation Commission will tage of this law, which would help them perform days. He urged journalists their duties and enable govto help raise awareness ernment institutions to be about this right and to seek come more transparent.



KARACHI: Former Senate Chairman Raza Rabani addresses on the occasion of death anniversary of political Secretary to Benazir Bhutto Munawar Suhrwardy at Arts Council.

# of Sindh Ombudsman

KARACHI (APP): A work-

In this connection the

Two robbers injured, held with arms after separate encounters ARKANA (INP): Two robbers were injured and

arrested with arms after

separate incidents of ex-

change of fire in different localities here on Friday. SSP Mir Rohil Khoso said that the fire exchanges took place in Areja and Allahabad areas of Larkana after the robbers attacked patrolling police parties.

In cross firings, two robbers including Hubdar Gadahi and Shahmir Abro were injured and arrested along with recovery of arms. The detainees were wanted by police in more than 30 cases of robberies and other crimes and they were shifted to hospital.

# Ashura-e-Muharram HYDERABAD (APP):

II Moonis Ahmad, Assistant Commissioners, Town

ber of outsiders are ex-

KARACHI: Women activists of PTI hold a protest in