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Bugti emphasises crucial role of education in democracy and societal advancement

CM announced the inauguration of a new graduate scholarship aimed at empowering a deserving Balochistan student to pursue STEM subjects at Oxford

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Oxford Pakistan Programme ("OPP") hosted its annual dinner & fundraiser at the University of Oxford.

The dinner was attended by around 150 distinguished guests, including Malala Yousafzai, Chief Minister of Balochistan Sarfaraz Bugti, Aamir Ibrahim, Mohammed Khaisghi, Farooq Sheikh OBE, Professor Kamal Munir (Pro-Vice-Chancellor at the University of Cambridge), Farmida Bi CBE, Senator Anwar ul Haq Kakar, and Sarwar Khawaja.

Senior academics and administrators from within the University of Oxford were also in attendance, in-

cluding Professor Stephen Blyth (Principal of LMH), Helen Mountfield KC (Principal of Mansfield College), Professor Jonathan Michie (Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford), Professor Petra Schleiter (Joint Head of the Politics Department), Professor Paul Chaisty (Head of the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies), and Dr Samina Khan (Director of Undergraduate Admissions & Outreach), said a press release.

On this occasion, Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, commemorated the profound legacy of Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, whose tenure at this historical college

symbolises a bridge between past leadership and future aspirations.

Speaking to a distinguished audience, he emphasised the crucial role of education in democracy and societal advancement.

He stated that this dinner marks a significant milestone in our commitment to nurturing future leaders from Balochistan and in his address. On this note, the CM announced the inauguration of a new graduate scholarship aimed at empowering a deserving Balochistan student to pursue STEM subjects at Oxford. He articulated how this initiative not only addresses educational dispari-

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QUETTA: Different delegations meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail



Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti witnessing signing of scholarships agreement between Oxford Pakistan program and University of Oxford for the students from Balochistan

Those talking of isolation of Pakistan living in fool's paradise: Ishaq Dar

Deputy PM urges healthcare professionals to serve needy, deserving with compassion, empathy

ISLAMABAD (Online): Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and foreign minister Ishaq Dar has said those talking of isolation of Pakistan at international level are living in fool's paradise.

"Young doctors have pivotal role in the society. Saving life of one man is tantamount to save the whole humanity. Doctors should work in professional manner, he said this while addressing convocation of HBS Dental and Medical college here Saturday. He held the services of

Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Share are commendable in education field. Significant steps are being taken for betterment in health department.

It is obligation of doctors to work in professional manner. They should treat the patients in friendly manner. Government is continuing work on fast paced basis for betterment in all sectors.

We will soon succeed in restoring our lost prestige, he added.

APP adds: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday urged healthcare professionals to stay committed to their noble profession by undertaking the responsibility towards the needy with compassion and empathy.

Addressing a convocation ceremony of HBS Medical and Dental College, the deputy prime minister said that in the

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Federal minister calls for minority judges in higher judiciary

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights Senator Azam Nazir Tarar has expressed his aspiration for judges from minority communities to join Pakistan's higher judiciary.

Speaking at the Justice A.R. Cornelius Conference held at a local hotel on Saturday, he emphasized the importance of religious freedom and minority rights in Pakistan. The event was organized by the Bright Future Society and Implementation Minority Rights Forum Pakistan.

He highlighted that Pakistan's Constitution guarantees complete religious freedom, aligning with Islamic teachings on the rights of minorities. He lamented the decline

in religious tolerance post-Afghan war but reiterated Q u a i d - e - A z a m Muhammad Ali Jinnah's vision of a united, tolerant society. He mentioned ongoing efforts to establish a Minority Rights Commission and proposed reserving quotas for minority law officers and legal advisors.

He praised retired Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani for his landmark decisions benefiting minorities, and lauded Justice Cornelius for his legacy of equal justice. Supreme Court Justice Mansoor Ali Shah echoed Tarar's sentiments, noting the Constitution's protection of minority rights and advocating for the appointment of minority judges to the higher judiciary.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Azam Nazir Tarar, addressing the Justice AR Cornelius Conference 2024.

Vietnamese envoy's wife found hours after going missing in Islamabad

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: The wife of Vietnam's ambassador was found by federal police within an hour of Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's notice. She had gone missing after leaving home in a distressed state. According to police sources, the ambassador reported to the Margalla police station and the police helpline on Sunday afternoon that his wife had left their residence at 11am for a beauty parlour but had not returned after several hours.

The search for the ambassador's wife. He also directed Rizvi to personally visit the ambassador's residence, brief him on the efforts, and gather more information.

Following Naqvi's notice, seven additional police teams were formed. They were provided with photographs of the ambassador's wife and utilised Safe City cameras to trace her movements from F-8/1, where she had left her home.

The police located her using a combination of surveillance footage and cellular technology. The entire search operation took four hours, with the final hour being the most crucial following the minister's notice. She was subsequently

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Pakistan reports fourth polio case of 2024

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan on Saturday reported the fourth poliovirus case of the current year, sources within the Ministry of National Health said.

A 2-year-old boy from Bharkan union council in Sindh's Shikarpur district became the latest victim.

The health department official said the virus was detected in stool samples collected from a child, adding that he had developed symptoms of paralysis on May 21.

This is the fourth polio case in 2024 as Pakistan had earlier reported three cases. All of the previous three cases reported this year were from Balochistan.

Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only two countries in the world where the poliovirus, which causes paralysis and can be a life-threatening disease, is endemic.

Last year, six polio cases were reported in the country which included four from the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province and two from the southern port city of Karachi.

FIA issues notices to PTI bigwigs over uploading of controversial video

ISLAMABAD (INP) - The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) issued notices to senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders Barrister Gohar, Omar Ayub and Raouf Hasan over the issue of uploading controversial video by the official account of PTI founder Imran Khan.

All three bigwigs of PTI have been summoned to appear before FIA on Tuesday at 11am.

"An attempt was made to incite the people against the state and its institutions by uploading the video through official account of PTI founder," said the notice issued by the FIA.

According to FIA sources, on May 26, a propaganda video was tweeted with reference to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from the official X handle of PTI's founder. A tweet from his account surfaced in which he urged people to read the Hamoodur-Rehman Commission report on the 1971 debacle.



Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal in a group with Chinese businessmen during a visit to Chengdu city in Sichuan, China

Planning Minister urges Chinese entrepreneurs to participate in CPEC Phase II

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal visited Chengdu city in Sichuan, China and had a comprehensive tour of the Chengdu High Tech Development Zone (CDHT).

According to press release issued by Planning Commission here Saturday, the minister also met with Chengdu based entrepreneurs, and businessmen, interested in becoming part of Phase-II of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and members of the Pakistani diaspora.

During Minister's tour of CDHT, he was briefed by Chengdu Municipal leaders, and zonal officials, on the High Tech Development Zone's history, development profile, special policies to attract both domestic and foreign investments, and pillar industries.

The CDHT, established in 1988, is one of the first national high-tech zones in China. In 2023, the CDHT realized a zonal GDP of over US\$ 43 billion. Covering an area of 237 sqkm, the zone includes a financial district, biotechnology city, and a science and technology park, employing more than 750,000 people, and registering over 4300 enterprises.

The minister thanked the local officials for their briefing and invited them to participate in Pakistan's development, especially vis-à-vis CPEC Phase-II, and to develop technology parks in Pakistan, sharing their valuable experiences and expertise.

The minister also invited relevant experts to visit Pakistan, and engage with authorities and businesses, so that meaningful cooperation could take place. This was greeted positively by both the Municipal leaders and zonal officials.

QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Minority Affairs Sanjay Kumar and Spokesman of Government of Balochistan Shahid Rind giving away amount of Rs. 01 million to widow of Rashid Masih

Live-streaming of NAB amendments case can be misused politically: SC

Says apprehensions about hearings being used for "political purposes and point scoring" proved correct when Imran Khan detoured in speech

ISLAMABAD (INP) - The Supreme Court on Saturday issued detailed verdict while justifying its earlier rejection of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's plea for live-streaming the NAB amendments case hearing.

In the detailed order issued on Saturday, the apex court said that the plea of KP government was rejected as it wasn't a case of public interest.

"The broadcasting of the court proceedings of cases involving politicians can be used for political point-scoring", the SC stated in its detailed order.

Not every case can be live-streamed, observed the top court.

This was a paramount

consideration when we had dismissed the application. And, our apprehension proved correct later in the day. When Mr. Niazi [PTI founder Imran Khan] addressed this Court on (30 May 2024) he also mentioned other cases, the general elections held on 8 February 2023, a commission of inquiry and his incarceration, all these matters have nothing to do with the subject matter of these appeals. This cannot be permitted as it would thwart the proper administration of justice," read the order.

The case was heard by a five-member SC larger bench headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa and comprised

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KHALIQABAD: Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango listening problems of people at Kot Lango

Finance Ministry defies PM directives to cut petrol price

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Finance Ministry has defied the directives of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to slash the prices of petroleum products.

The premier directed the finance ministry to cut petrol price by Rs15.4 per litre and diesel price by Rs7.9 per litre for the next fortnight to bring relief to the public grappling with inflation.

However, the finance ministry brought the price of petrol by Rs4.74 per litre and the price of diesel by Rs3.86 per litre.

The press release issued by the finance division states: "The prices of petroleum products have seen a decreasing trend in the international market during the last fortnight. The Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has worked out the con-

sumer prices, based on the price variations in the international market.

According to a PMO press release, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has directed the Finance Ministry to reduce the price of petrol by Rs15.4 per litre and diesel by Rs7.9 per litre.

It cited the premier as saying: "As a result of the people-friendly policies of the current government, there has been a clear cut in inflation."

Petrol is used in motorbikes and cars and is considered an alternative to compressed natural gas (CNG), especially in the Punjab province.

Diesel is widely used in the transport and agricultural sectors; therefore, a reduction in its price is poised to significantly impact inflation countrywide.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan inspecting development projects at Hanna Lake

Federal govt likely to slash funds for discretionary development schemes

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government is set to slash funds for discretionary development schemes of members of parliament, citing recommendations from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The proposed changes aim to align with IMF conditions in the budget for the upcoming financial year 2024-25.

However, in a departure from previous practices, these funds are now subject to termination.

Furthermore, in line with recommendations from both the IMF and World Bank, funding for provincial projects is also slated to be halted. Notably, there are proposals to reduce the health development budget from 26 billion rupees to 17 billion rupees and allocate 32 billion rupees less for the education sector, compared to the previous year's budget of 83 billion rupees.

CM Maryam says Police must control crime as she accountable to 1.3 billion people

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presided over a special meeting to review the overall law & order in the province here on Saturday.

The IG Police gave a briefing about the overall law and order and police performance.

The CM said, "I am accountable to 13 crore people; the police should control crime and one cannot turn a blind eye to reality. I will not tolerate any no-go area in Punjab. The crime rate will have to be brought down across the province under any circumstance. If the crime rate is on the rise then the people overlook reforms and development projects of the government."

She maintained, "The police are making sacrifices

but black sheep persist as well. I side with the police and stand behind the force. I expressed solidarity with the police force by donning a uniform. We are providing complete resources to the police so that their performance is not affected. We are introducing an analysis and inspection system in order to evaluate police performance and eliminate corruption."

The CM said that 14 special check-posts were being established to stop inter-provincial smuggling. "We are meeting every demand of the police force in the shape of the provision of vehicles, gadgets, ammunition and training. It is our foremost responsibility to ensure protection of every police personnel standing on a

check-post. I laud the performance of the IG Police, RPO Sargodha and DPO for protecting and safely evacuating 10 persons from a mob. More than 50 percent decrease in dacoity incidents in Lahore is welcome," she commented.

The CM said labourers being looted after taking their salaries was not only sorrowful but also shameful. "I have given a deadline to the RPO Sheikhupura to overcome dacoity incidents. Snatching and theft incidents of sacrificial animals should be eradicated. A crackdown should continue on a permanent basis for the elimination of drugs. The police should make effective measures to stop firing incidents.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz presides over the meeting to review law and order situation in province.

Minister inspects repair work on Kohat Grid Station

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Finance and Law Aftab Alam Afridi Advocate on Saturday visited fire-affected Kohat Grid Station and inspected ongoing maintenance work.

He was accompanied by Members Provincial Assembly Daud Shah Afridi Advocate and Shafi Jan and Chairman Tehsil Gumbat Sajid Iqbal.

The minister was informed that electricity has been restored to most parts of the city and the remaining areas would be provided electricity within the next five days. He was told that workers are busy round the clock to repair the damaged grid station.

The law minister directed the authorities concerned to immediately restore the electricity and accelerate the repair work.

CM Sindh reviews resource mobilisation, directs revenue generating depts to achieve targets

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has directed the revenue collecting department to achieve their targets so that the scope of development works and poverty alleviation can be ensured.

This he said while presiding over a meeting regarding resource mobilisation here at CM House.

The meeting was attended by Senior Minister ET&NC Sharjeel Memon, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, SMBR Baqaulah Unar, Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatoi, Secretary Excise Saleem Rajput, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Chairman SRB Wasif Memon, and other concerned officers.

The chief minister emphasised that the government's priority for the next financial year is to implement policies and initiatives to stimulate economic growth and raise all citizens' living standards. "Our focus will be on investing in key sectors such as education, healthcare, provision of safe drinking water, sanitation, infrastructure, and agriculture", he added.

The CM said the priorities would be achieved when the revenue-collecting departments would achieve their revenue targets.

He said that the Sindh Revenue Board (SRB) had a target of Rs235 billion for 2023-24 and the track record of the SRB showed that it had been surpassing its collection targets. He directed Chairman SRB Wasif Memon to reach the target and send him proposals for next year's targets.

Murad Shah directed the SRB to suggest relief for the taxpayers and proposals for enhancing the SST net for the next financial year. The SRB chairman assured the chief minister that his organisation would reach the target and he would submit his proposals.

The CM said that the E&T dept has a target of Rs143 billion and it has to achieve it. Minister E&T Sharjeel Memon said that he had taken strict measures to achieve the tax collection target and would hopefully, give him good news at the end of June 2024.



LAHORE: Governor KPK Faisal Karim Kundi in a group photograph with Rangers guards and other officials at Mazar-e-Iqbal.

Pak govt, people hold great love and reverence for Saudi Arabia: Saleem

Independent Report
LAHORE: Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Nawaf bin Saeed Al Maliki called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, issues of mutual interest, Pakistan-Saudi relations and promotion of Saudi investments were discussed. Talking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Saleem Haider Khan said relations between Pakistan and Saudi are deeply rooted in shared religion and culture. He added that the Pakistani government and people hold great love and reverence for Saudi Arabia. He said that Saudi Arabia has always offered support to Pakistan in every difficult time. Governor Punjab thanked Saudi Arabia for its continuous support to Pakistan at international forums. He said that Saudi

investors should invest in Pakistan adding that there is conducive environment for foreign investors in Pakistan. Governor Punjab said that President Asif Ali Zardari and the incumbent government are determined to increase foreign investment. Governor Punjab further said that the Muslim Ummah should raise its voice at international forums against the atrocities of the Israeli army on the Palestinian people.

Saudi ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Maliki said that Pakistan is like his second home. He said that the role of Pakistani workforce in the development of Saudi Arabia is commendable. Later, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan was met with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi at Governor House Lahore.

Governor KP meets with Governor Punjab

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi on Saturday met with Punjab Governor, Sardar Salim Haider Khan and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Both the governors exchanged pleasantries and congratulated each other on assuming new responsibilities.

They both reiterated to further improve relations between two provinces and play role for country's development and progress, said press release issued here.

Various matters including promotion of higher education, enhancing of trade and business activities were also discussed in the meeting.

Sardar Salim Haider and Faisal Karim also agreed to take steps for creating platform for people of both provinces to take benefits of mutual experience.

LGH gynecologists achieve major success in life-saving operation

Independent Report
LAHORE: A team of gynecologists at Lahore General Hospital (LGH) has successfully saved the life of Sumera Amjad, a 48-year-old mother of two, by performing a highly complex operation to remove a 25 kg tumor from her fibroid uterus.

Eventually, she sought treatment at the Gynecology OPD of LGH, where Dr. Laila Shafiq and her expert team conducted comprehensive examinations and discovered the massive tumor in her uterus.

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, the medical team decided to proceed with the operation at LGH. The successful removal of the tumor not only saved Sumera Amjad's life but also alleviated the agony she had endured for so long. Principal of Post Graduate Medical Institute & Lahore General Hospital, Professor Dr. Al-Fareed Zafar, praised the gynecology team for their outstanding performance. "I am pleased that the team of LGH gynecologists was able to relieve the patient from her prolonged suffering."

Two die in road accidents

SARGODHA (APP): Two people were killed in road accidents on Saturday.

According to Rescue1122 sources, a speeding truck hit a motorcycle near the wood market in Darya Khan. Consequently, the motorcycle rider, Muhammad Hanzila (20), died on the spot due to multiple injuries. In another incident, Muhammad Ibrar, a resident of Sahiwal, along with his mother, was traveling on a motorcycle on the Sahiwal-Farooqa road when a rashly driven car coming from the opposite direction.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department Khawaja Imran Nazir and Minister for Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department Khawaja Salman Rafique addressing a Press conference regarding increased in measles cases.

Punjab ministers acknowledge media's role in health policy awareness

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department Khawaja Imran Nazir and Minister for Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department Khawaja Salman Rafique have recognized the crucial role of media in disseminating government policies to the public.

The acknowledgment came during a meeting with a delegation from the National Press Club held on Saturday. Khawaja Imran Nazir emphasized the collective responsibility in enhancing the health system, stating, "We all have to play a role in improving the health system." He welcomed the journalists to the Health Department, underscoring the media's function as a vital conduit between the government and the people.

Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique assured the delegation of swift action to address their concerns and accepted an invitation to visit the National Press Club in Islamabad and its Camp Office in Rawalpindi. He reiterated that under the leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, significant efforts are being made to improve patient care. The delegation, which included President PFUJ Afzal Butt, Secretary National Press Club Nayar Ali, Secretary Finance National Press Club Waqar Abbasi, and President Lahore Press Club Arshad Ansari, discussed mutual interests and the challenges faced by journalists regarding healthcare and treatment facilities in Punjab's hospitals.



LAHORE: Provisional Minister for Information Azma Bukhari addressing a press conference at D.G.P.R office in the Provincial Capital.

PTI has another May 9 plan in their minds: Azma Bokhari

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari on Saturday said the PTI had another May 9-like plan in their mind and added that a commission should be formed on why the PTI founding chairman Imran Khan "is doing all this" against the national institutions and the country.

"Does he wants to do politics or something else is his agenda," she remarked and said that the anarchy and violence was in the genes of PTI, adding that the party not only executed the May 9 violence but had also written letters to the IMF for derailing the talks between the two sides.

Addressing a press conference, Bokhari said the tweet [the post on X

which was formerly known as Twitter] eulogising Sheikh Mujibur Rehman was still the pinned post on the X account of Imran, as she rejected the claims that the PTI founder and his party have nothing to do with it.

Zain Qureshi of PTI made it clear on a TV channel the other day that the nothing was posted on Imran's X account without his permission, while Naem Haider Panjutha said that their leader had praised the social media team, Bokhari reminded the reporters.

Raoof Hassan, another PTI leader, talked about dragging the provinces into a fight against each other, she said and added that dividing the country was their party agenda.

Salt mines inspected

SARGODHA (APP): In-charge Federal Ombudsman Regional Office Sargodha, Mushtaq Ahmad Awan, inspected salt mines in Kalabagh, in Mianwali district.

According to a press release issued by the Federal Ombudsman Regional Office on Saturday, the in-charge Wafaqi Muhtasib met the labourers working on the site and inquired about their problems. He went inside the salt mines and reviewed the ongoing work. Mushtaq Ahmad Awan took a detailed briefing from the management of the Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation and told them that the minimum wages fixed by the government should be strictly enforced.

Hearing of case against Abid Boxer, others on June 14 in

ATC Lahore
LAHORE (Online): Hearing of case against former inspector police Abid Boxer and others will be held in Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Lahore on June 14. Case of snatching official arms from police and escaping from police custody is registered against Abid Boxer.

The hearing of the case against Abid Boxer, Hamid Ullah and others will take place on June 14.

Several new schemes approved for developing tourism in Chitral

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: In the new budget of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, several new schemes have been approved for the development of tourism in Chitral and sufficient funds have been allocated.

This was disclosed by the Advisor to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tourism and Culture Zahid Chanzeb in his office in Peshawar in a meeting with various delegations from Chitral who thanked the provincial government for allocating new schemes and additional funds for the tourism sector in Chitral.

He said that new schemes include government-level organisation of Jashan Tirth Mir and schemes to provide easy loans to residents of Chitral to construct additional rooms with all amenities in their homes to accommodate foreign tourists. In addition to celebrating the traditional Kalash festivals and the Shandur Polo Festival in a more organized manner, new projects have been added so that tourists can enjoy visiting Chitral twelve months of the year, he maintained. He said that the experience of visiting foreign tourists in rented houses has proved to be quite successful in Gilgit-Baltistan, which not only increases the number of tourists but also increases the income of the local people. He assured that the tourists of Chitral will go back to their countries with pleasant memories of the hospitality and a good image of the place.

Zahid Chanzeb said that a new scheme called Families Based Accommodation for the Foreign Tourists.

FIA Peshawar Zone recovers fake medicine

PESHAWAR (APP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Peshawar Zone recovered a big consignment of fake medicines worth millions of rupees here on Saturday.

FIA conducted the first raid in Gulbahar Anam Sanam Chowk, the accused named Dawood, Sulaiman and Muhammad Ali were arrested. Fake medicines worth Rs 250,000 were to be smuggled to other districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Afghanistan were seized.

In its second raid, at the house of the accused named Shoaib, the value of seized fake drugs of worth Rs. 40.35 million.

In the initial statement Shoaib confessed that Dr Fawad had given fake medicines on the partnership.



LAHORE: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi meeting with Punjab Governor, Sardar Salim Haider Khan at Governor House.

172 govt buildings to get 47mw electricity under solarization

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has said that 172 public sector buildings will initially be provided with 47 MW of electricity through solarization in three different phases.

He expressed these views at the Energy Department during a meeting with a delegation of the World Bank's technical mission, according to a communique on Saturday.

The World Bank mission was led by Senior Energy Specialist/Task Team Leader Dmytro Glazkov while Project Director Sindh Solar Energy Mahfooz Qazi and others were also present on the occasion.

The Minister Energy gave more details and said that in the first phase of solarization 21.7MW of electricity was being provided through the solar panels to 34 public sector buildings.

While in the second phase will be completed by 2024 and 23 government buildings will be provided with 10 MW of electricity through solar panels.

Similarly, in the third phase, there was a plan to provide 15 MW electricity to 100 government buildings through solarization from July 2024. Nasir Shah said that 4MW floating solar will be installed at Hyderabad Qasimabad treatment plant. He told the delegation that according to party manifesto and directions of the chairman of PPP Bilawal Butto Zardari free electricity should be provided to the people as soon as possible.



KARACHI: Cantonment Board Clifton Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Syed Zaki Haider Rizvi exchanges views with Member Provincial Assembly MPA Dr. Fauzia Hameed during meeting held at his office in Karachi.

Pakistan, China sign MoU to help invest in key projects for promotion of industrial coop.

BEIJING (APP): The National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) has agreed to partner with China-Pakistan International Silk Road Industry Investment Management Company Limited by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate investment in key projects for promotion of industrial cooperation between China and Pakistan and supporting the establishment of special economic zones and other sectors of economy and bilateral trade.

Economic Minister, Aslam Chaudhary, Liu Jiang Hua from China-Pakistan International Silk Road Industry Investment Management Company Limited, Representatives from Dan Zhou Government, Hai Nan Province, Zhang Yu Bo, MCC & Bank of Tianjin witnessed the signing ceremony held at Pakistan Embassy here on Saturday. The event was also joined virtually by Riaz Hussain, SEVP and Group Chief, International, Financial Institutions and Remittances Group and Hasan Jamal, SVP, Investment Banking Group National Bank of Pakistan, Head Office, Karachi.

Addressing the participants on occasion, Aslam Chaudhary briefed them about the incentives offered by the present government to attract the foreign investment especially from China.

He informed that special economic zones are being established across Pakistan where the Chinese enterprises could relocate their industry and export products to different countries taking advantage of preferential agreements signed by Pakistan with various countries.

The Economic Minister said that Pakistan having a population of over 225 million is itself a big market and the Chinese companies could benefit from it.



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail in a group photo with President Anjuman-e-Tajiran Double Road Malik Nadir Khan Achakzai and other traders.

Resilient energy can save 175,000 lives, contribute \$296m to Pakistan's economy: UNICEF

ISLAMABAD (INP): A new report by UNICEF finds that ensuring a consistent energy supply for health facilities in Pakistan could save over 175,000 lives by 2030 and contribute US\$296 million to the economy by 2044.

The report, titled "Reliable energy to save 175,000 lives, boost Pakistan's economy," emphasizes the importance of "resilient energy" - reliable, flexible, and accessible power that can withstand disruptions like power outages and floods.

This type of energy supply is crucial for improving health, education, and water services across Pakistan. The study, conducted by the Economist Impact Unit, estimates that investing in resilient energy could yield returns up to three times the initial investment.

The report highlights benefits beyond just healthcare. Providing stable electricity to schools could reduce dropout rates and improve learning outcomes, potentially adding US\$2.3 billion to the economy by 2040. This is particularly relevant considering Pakistan's recent declaration of an education emergency, where millions of children are out of school. Resilient energy could also power nearly 20% of off-grid schools in two provinces.

Pakistan has faced extreme heatwaves recently, with temperatures exceeding 50 degrees Celsius. This strains the power grid and makes it difficult to maintain cooling systems in hospitals and schools, endangering children's health.

"Children rely on schools, health centers, and safe drinking water, but these facilities often lack a stable electricity supply,"

participants regarding the Sindh Industrial Policy. Points of Sindh Industrial Policy for industrial development in Sindh were discussed.

In the meeting, the proposal for the establishment of the Sindh Industrial Development Corporation under Public Private Partnership was appreciated. Industrial development in other districts of Sindh along with Karachi was emphasized. The Provincial Minister Jam Ikrumullah Dharejo speaking in the meeting said that new industrial zones would be established under the Sindh Industrial Policy.

Economist Qaiser Bengali along with his team briefed the meeting

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"Children rely on schools, health centers, and safe drinking water, but these facilities often lack a stable electricity supply,"

Business and trade delegation from Pakistan ends its visit to Ethiopia

SIALKOT (APP): As a business and trade delegation from Pakistan concluded its visit to Ethiopia, improve infrastructure, and create an investor-friendly environment. He reiterated the Sialkot chamber's commitment to facilitating collaborations between Sialkot-based exporters and Ethiopian businessmen, seeing immense potential for mutually beneficial partnerships.

On the occasion, Abdul Ghafoor Malik presented souvenirs to Jamal Beker Abdula in honor of his contributions to promoting bilateral trade and managing the delegation with perfection.

Earlier, Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ethiopian Investment Commission to facilitate consortium-based investments in sectors such as sports goods, sports wear, leather products, surgical instruments, gloves, and workwear.

Malik praised his commitment to strengthening ties between business communities of both nations. The SCCI president emphasized the delegation's visit.

Malik commended the Ethiopian government's vision and dedication to economic growth and development. He particularly acknowledged Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan Jamal Beker Abdula for his tireless efforts and meticulous planning in executing the delegation's visit.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Local Government Zeeshan Rafique inspecting the stall at Property exhibition at Expo Centre.

Shah lays foundation stone of Sukkur Industrial Enclave

SUKKUR (APP): The pace of industrialisation in the country and enhancing the volume of exports by creating an enabling environment for investors to initiate ambitious export-oriented projects in the Zones which would, as a corollary, create job opportunities, bring in new technology and attract foreign investment, he added. On the occasion Board Director SSMC Qasim Naveed Qamar, Chief Technical Officer, Farid Ahmad Sheikh, Former President of Sukkur Chamber of Commerce Aamir Ghorri, Divisional Commissioner Sukkur, Fayyaz Hussain Abbasi, Deputy Commissioner Sukkur Dr MB Raja, Dharejo, Assistant Commissioner Naeem Sheikh, Marketing Head Hammad Shams and officers and employees.

Member of National Assembly (MNA), Syed Khurshid Ahmad Shah on Saturday laid the foundation stone of Sukkur Industrial Enclave, a project the Sindh government spread over 400 acres of land under a public-private partnership to promote industrial development.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Sindh Economic Zones Management Company, Abdul Azim Aqili briefed MNA Syed Khurshid Ahmad Shah about the project at the project site.

On the occasion, Syed Khurshid Ahmad Shah said that the Sukkur Industrial Enclave is a Sindh Government venture, conceived and designed to increase and improve the exports of the country. Its main objectives are accelerating



PESHAWAR: CM KPK Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur chairing a meeting of Mineral Investment Facilitation Authority.

Power generation from Thar coal reaches 2,640mw, Poised to hit 3,280mw by year's end: Malik

HYDERABAD (APP): Thar coal is currently contributing approximately 2,640 MW of electricity to the national grid from its two blocks, with power generation expected to reach about 3,280 MW by the end of this year. Azhar Malik, Vice President of Site Operations at Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) for Thar Coal Block II, disclosed this while speaking to the media in Islamabad, Tharparkar.

Malik mentioned that each block produces 1,320 MW of electricity.

He highlighted that Thar coal could save Pakistan \$8 billion annually by generating cheaper electricity and suggested shifting cement and urea fertilizer plants to Thar coal to strengthen the country's economy.

He noted that the cost of electricity from furnace oil is Rs 49 per unit, from RLNG Rs 51 per unit and from imported coal Rs 41 per unit, while Thar coal generates electricity at Rs 24 per unit and with increased production, this cost could drop to Rs 20 per unit, benefiting both domestic and industrial users. He added that Pakistan's electricity demand peaks at 35,000 MW in summer, but Thar coal reserves could generate 100,000 MW of cheap electricity for 200 years.

Currently, SECMC generates approximately 1,320 MW from Block II, with an additional 1,320 MW produced by China's Shanghai Electric Company.

New industrial zones to be established: Dharejo

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister for Industries and Commerce Jam Ikrumullah Dharejo has said that the new industrial zones will be established under the Sindh Industrial Policy.

He stated this during a meeting held in Sindh Secretariat that was attended by Secretary Industries and Commerce Muhammad Yasin Shar Baloch, MD SITE Ghazanfar Qadri, other officers and representatives of Chamber of Commerce from all over Sindh including Karachi.

Economist Qaiser Bengali along with his team briefed the meeting

Stone crusher market tax objections addressed

SARGODHA (APP): A delegation of the Supreme Council Crusher Market, led by PML-N Member National Assembly Dr Zulfiqar Ali Bhatti met with Regional Tax Office Chief Commissioner Dr. Faheem Muhammad at his office on Saturday.

According to a press release issued by RTO, the Supreme Council Stone Crusher Market team raised objections to data collected by Federal Board of Revenue Sargodha, to which the Chief Commissioner assured them of the correctness of the data and his full cooperation in this regard.

General Secretary Supreme Council Stone Crusher Market, Rana Muhammad Irshad Khan, requested the Chief Commissioner to give time till 3 June for a detailed reply with reference to the statistics and suggested that notices related to the figures be postponed for one week according to the actual data.

It was decided in the meeting after consultation that a detailed meeting should be held with all stakeholders on June 3.

Afghan consul agrees over joint efforts to solve problems faced in Pak-Afghan mutual trade

PESHAWAR (APP): Transport Afghan Consul General of the Afghan Consulate Peshawar, Hafiz Mohibullah Shakir has agreed to make joint efforts to solve the problems faced in Pak-Afghan mutual and transit trade to remove the obstacles. The agreement by the Afghan envoy came during a meeting held at the Afghan Consulate with businessmen dealing in Pak-Afghan trade, said a press release issued here on Saturday.

Coordinator Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Ziaul Haq Sarhadi, former senior vice president of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), Engineer Manzoor Elahi, Director



FAISALABAD: Owners proudly display their pets during the competition 26th International camel and Goat contests of beautification, weigh and milk, contest is jointly arranged by the Faculty of Animal Husbandry (FAH), UAF and International Goat and Bull Association at UAF Stadium.

FBR faces Rs33bn tax revenue shortfall, needs Rs1,289bn in June

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) is grappling with a tax revenue shortfall of Rs33 billion for the current financial year.

From July 2023 to May 2024, the FBR collected Rs8,126 billion, slightly below the target of Rs8,159 billion intended to be collected for the 11 months of this financial year, according to informed sources. To achieve the overall tax revenue target of Rs9,415 billion for the fiscal year, the FBR must now collect an additional Rs1,289 billion in June.

Despite this daunting task, there are positive indicators in the revenue collection trends. Compared to the first 11 months of the previous fiscal year, there has been a remarkable 31% increase in tax revenue.

Moreover, the FBR exceeded its revenue target for May 2024 by Rs15 billion, collecting Rs760 billion against a target of Rs745 billion.



HUB: Residents of Asad Chowk block road as they are holding protest demonstration against the prolonged electricity load shedding during hot weather of summer season, at RCD Highway road in Hub.

Tanveer stresses for agricultural reforms to develop economy

LAHORE (INP): Federal Minister for Industries, Production and Food Security, Rana Tanveer Hussain has stressed for agricultural reforms to develop economy.

Addressing a ceremony in Lahore, he said prosperous farmers can ensure a prosperous Pakistan. The Minister said provision of relief to farmer community is the government's top priority. He said multiple measures are being taken in the domain of food security as it is a great challenge across the world.

Traders demand pragmatic steps for maintenance of law and order situation

PESHAWAR (APP): Traders on Saturday demanded of the government to take pragmatic steps for improving law and order situation. They urged provincial and federal tax departments and authorities to respect dignity during actions and enforcement of rules and regulations and orders.

During a joint meeting of various trade bodies and associations of Peshawar held under chairmanship of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Fuad Ishaq at the Chamber House here Saturday, the business community asked the government to end issuance of illegal notices, harassment and unnecessary actions by concerned authorities. Traders want permanent solutions to border-related issues. They demanded steps to make a fully functional dry-port. The government should pay attention to developing small and medium scale business and industry, along with the mining, marble sector, they stressed. The traders asked the government to retain tax-exemption for erstwhile FATA/merged district and Provincial.



HYDERABAD: Vendor displaying slippers and sandals to attract the customer at Makki Shah road.

Atif urged govt to announce a new industrial zone in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Capital Area of Pakistan Business Forum (PBF), Atif Ikrum Sheikh has urged the federal government to officially announce a new industrial zone in Islamabad to promote industrial sector and attract investment. Addressing the members of Islamabad Industrial Association on Saturday, Atif Ikrum said Islamabad has seen fast expansion during the last 15 years, and the existing industrial area has no more space to set up new industrial units. As per Master Plan of Islamabad, the industrial area of sectors I-9 and I-10 have come almost in the middle of the city with no adequate space available for establishment of additional industrial units," he pointed out. Ikrum said that industrial estate played a pivotal role in bringing prosperity to a larger extent with poverty reduction through creating plenty of job opportunities. Urging the government to give due consideration to this important issue.

Faisal Kundi says: May 9 mastermind should be punished

LAHORE (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Saturday said the May 9 mastermind should be the first to be punished, as he called for holding those accountable for the violence perpetrated on that day.

Talking to media persons at the mausoleum of Allama Iqbal, he said the PTI were not taking responsibility for the post shared on X and, at the same time, avoided deleting the same.

He was referring to the post shared on the official account of PTI founding chairman Imran Khan, in which he has been equated with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The latest remarks come after the military on Thursday again called for holding the planners, facilitators and executioners of May 9 violence accountable and warned that the country would remain hostage to the elements hatching conspiracies in case of a failure. Kundi said the PTI



LAHORE: Governor KPK Faisal Karim Kundi talking to the media after his visit to Mazar-e-Iqbal.

Pakistan to welcome UK's support to tackle cybercrimes' challenge

ISLAMABAD (INP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi Saturday said Pakistan will welcome UK's support to tackle the challenge of cybercrimes.

He made the remarks during his meetings with Director General of the National Crime Agency James Babbage and Director General National Security of Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office Jonathan Allen in London.

On the occasion, the Interior Minister was briefed about the functioning of British institutions and close cooperation was agreed upon. It was decided that Pakistani officers will be trained by the National Crime Agency regarding cybercrimes and counter-narcotics.

The Interior Minister emphasized the need for greater collaboration between the two countries in the fight against drugs.

Mohsin Naqvi pointed out that Pakistani nation and forces have made unprecedented sacrifices in the war against terrorism. He said there is a need to adopt a common strategy to deal with the menace.

The Interior Minister also visited Cabinet Office National Situation Center in London. He expressed deep interest in the working of the center, noting that the importance of such a center in a crisis-like situation cannot be denied.

The Interior Minister stated the establishment of a National Situation Center will be reviewed in Pakistan as well.



QUETTA: Health and Rural Development (HARD) Balochistan Coordinator, Rubina Baloch along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Quetta press club

Parliament determined to safeguard rights of journalists: NA Speaker

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that the parliament is determined to spearhead the legislation for protecting reporters and journalists, especially the ones attached to print media.

In a felicitation message to the newly elected members of the Council of Pakistan Newspapers Editors (CPNE), he congratulated Arshad Ahmed Arif and Ijaz-ul-Haq on their successful election as Presi-

Hafiz Naem says: Ruling elite rule in Pakistan, make investment in other countries

LAHORE (Online): JI Amir Hafiz Naem Ur Rehman has said 87 percent of tax payment goes to payment of loan and interest. "2800 billion rupees are paid to IPPs under the head of capacity charges. The ruling elite is not ready to cut down its privileges. They shift all the financial burden to the people at the behest of IMF. Fake government cannot bring betterment. The claims for investment are sheer fraud. JI has framed national agenda

against injustice and for the protection of people rights. I will make important announcements in Karachi after two days. Gaza Million March will be held in Karachi today (Sunday), this was said by JI Amir Hafiz Naem ur Rehman while addressing a press conference in Mansoorah here Saturday.

Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline will have to be constructed at every cost to overcome shortage of gas, he stressed. Commence-



QUETTA: A delegation led by President Balochistan Forum Environmental Journalists Zahir Khan Nassar meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Controlling inflation, provision of employment opportunities govt's top priorities: Masadik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Petroleum Division Dr Masadik Masood Malik on Saturday said that controlling inflation and providing employment opportunities to the people were the government's top priorities.

Addressing a press conference here, he said on the directives of the prime minister, maximum relief was being ensured to the masses and inflation witnessed a gradual decrease in the country.

The premier has given targets to all the ministers to serve the people and reduce their burden by controlling inflation and creating job opportunities for

them, he said.

He said factors like floods and natural calamities besides Russian-Ukrainian and Middle East conflicts caused an increase commodity cycle.

However, owing to the efforts of the incumbent government and targets given by the Prime Minister, the ratio of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has decreased from 37 per cent to 17 per cent, he said.

Similarly, the food inflation has also reduced from 40 per cent to 11.5 per cent adding that we were going towards stability. Prices of petroleum products have also been slashed

Unannounced loadshedding in country challenged in LHC

LAHORE (Online): June 01 (Online): Unannounced load shedding continuing in the country has been challenged in Lahore High Court (LHC).

The miscellaneous petition in this regard has been filed by Judicial Activism panel in LHC.

The petition said unannounced load shedding is continuing in the country without any reason.

Load shedding is being observed from 6 to 8 hours in the cities and 10 to 12 hours in the villages.

The petitioner requested the court to order for ending unannounced load shedding in the country.

Pakistan CG meets President PSC Sharjah

DUBAI (APP): Counsel General of Pakistan Consulate Dubai, Hussain Muhammad on Saturday met President Pakistan Social Centre Sharjah (PSCS) Khalid Hussain Chaudry and his team members to acknowledge the organization's outstanding efforts in providing aid to Pakistani families affected by recent floods.

The Consul General paid tributes to the President of Sharjah Social Center for the tireless efforts during the floods in provision of food and water to the stranded Pakistani families.

Four dacoits killed in alleged police encounters

LAHORE (APP): Four robbers were killed in two alleged police encounters in the provincial capital on Saturday.

Police said that the encounters took place in Muslim Town and Kahana during which four robbers involved in robbery and murder cases were killed.

Police said that the accused killed in Muslim Town were identified as Abdul Qadir and Prince Kashif. They had killed a professor during a robbery in Iqbal Tower a few days ago.

Muqam assures provision of funds to AJK for timely completion of development projects

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit Baltistan and Saffron Engineer Amir Muqam has reiterated that Pakistan was committed to the cause of the Kashmiri people till they get the right to self-determination in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

Addressing a press conference here at a local hotel after a briefing by AJK top government officials about progress on federal Public Sector Development Programmes (PSDP)

To enhance pilgrims experience Salik emphasises devotion, effective communication for Hajj welfare staff

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Saturday urged the Hajj welfare staff (Moavineen-e-Hujjaj) to perform their responsibilities with devotion as serving the pilgrims is a sacred duty. He said this on the occasion of orientation sessions held by the Hajj mission for supporting staff in Makkah to make them aware of assisting pilgrims during the Hajj days.

Emphasising the need for effective communication, the minister suggested that guides fluent in various Pakistani languages should be deployed to assist pilgrims visiting the Haram Sharif for Umrah or prayers. "This move would

Pak, China sign MoU to help invest in key projects for promotion of industrial coop.

BEIJING (APP): The National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) has agreed to partner with China-Pakistan International Silk Road Industry Investment Management Company Limited by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate investment in key projects for promotion of industrial cooperation between China and Pakistan and supporting the establishment of special economic zones and other sectors of economy and bilateral trade. Economic Minister, Aslam Chaudhary, Liu Jiang Hua from China-Pakistan International Silk Road Industry Investment Management Company Limited, Representatives from Dan Zhou Government, Hai Nan Province, Zhang Yu Bo, MCC & Bank of Tianjin witnessed the signing ceremony held at Pakistan Embassy here on Saturday. The event was also joined virtually by Riaz Hussain, SEVP and Group



LAHORE: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf bin Saeed Al Maliki meeting with Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan

Supreme Court sends anti-smuggling law to Parliament for review

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan has sent the Anti-smuggling Act 1977 to the Parliament for review with recommendation of amendment in the law on Saturday. The apex court in its verdict said that the anti-smuggling law has scores of lacunae. "The anti-smuggling law only allows accused the right to appeal," the decision read. "Denying the right to appeal to government means the Anti-smuggling Act benefiting accused," the court observed. The copies of the verdict, written by Justice Shahid Waheed and comprised of seven pages, have been dispatched to the Law and Justice Commission, Secretary Law and the Attorney General of Pakistan. Referring a case, the court said that the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in a complaint in year 1998 said that a man Ubaid Khan made property with smuggling.

"The ANF has only a role of reporting the special judge under the Anti-smug-



QUETTA: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) leader, Mir Usman Badini along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Quetta press club

QWP asks government to compensate people of merged districts

PESHAWAR (APP): Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) Chairman Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao on Saturday asked the government to compensate the people of the merged districts who suffered losses during the war on terror.

He was talking to a delegation of tribal elders from South Waziristan at Watan Kor here. The members of the delegation informed the QWP leader about the problems being faced by the people of Waziristan.

The delegation said the government had conducted a survey to assess the damage to the houses so that compensation could be paid to the affected people.

They said after the survey, the government had issued tokens to the people who were supposed to receive the compensation.

However, the elders said the government had not yet issued the promised money to the people yet. They also demanded an increase in the compensation amount and to include the



KARACHI: Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) Senior Leader, Pir Sadaruddin Shah Rashidi presides over the high level meeting, held at Raja House in Karachi