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## Bilawal vows free solar energy for Karachi

PPP chairman addressed a crowd in Lyari during a birthday celebration for late Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto

KARACHI (INP): Paki- the city's development, regions like Sindh, stan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari announced plans to provide free solar energy to Karachi residents to alleviate load-shedding.

hope that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would fulfill promises made to the PPP as budget discussions with the government con-

Speaking at an event in Lyari celebrating Benazir Bhutto's birthday on Friday, Bilawal emphasised the PPP's long-standing commitment to Karachi, highlighting their efforts against two military dictators and their continuous support for the city's resi-

noting his own political journey with the people of Karachi, the city where both he and Benazir Bhutto

He expressed grati- gling to pay their bills. He also expressed tude to the people for electing the PPP to form the Sindh government again and urged Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah to focus on addressing Karachi's

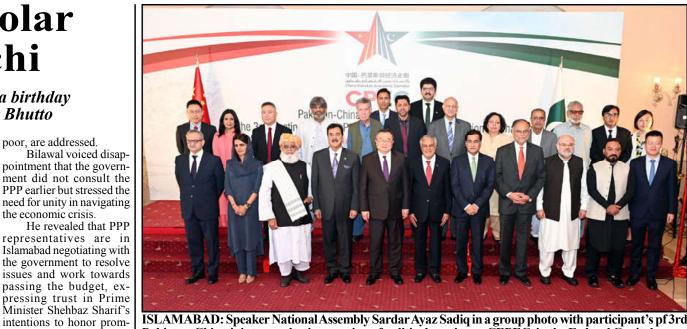
He praised Shah and his team for resolving problems that arose during the caretaker government's tenure. He acknowledged the efforts to improve law and order and expressed optimism for further im-

Balochistan, southern Punjab, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa face 16 to 18 hours of power outages daily, with residents strug-

He announced plans to introduce a project in the upcoming budget to provide free solar power to the poor and subsidised rates for those who can afford it, aiming to mitigate loadshedding effects.

Bilawal also discussed the current economic challenges and ongoing budget negotiations with the gov-

He emphasised the importance of including PPP in budget discussions Addressing the national load-shedding crisis, their constituencies, mainly Bilawal reiterated his Bilawal pointed out that representing the country



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a group photo with participant's pf 3rd Pakistan-China joint consultative meeting of political parties on CEPEC, in the Federal Capital.

## Pak-China friendship vital for peace, development of both countries & region: PM Shahbaz

Ministér Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that the Pakistan-China

poor, are addressed

the economic crisis.

Bilawal voiced disap-

He revealed that PPP

pointment that the govern-

PPP earlier but stressed the

representatives are in

the government to resolve

issues and work towards

passing the budget, ex-

pressing trust in Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's

friendship was indispensable for peace and development of both the countries as well as the region and beyond. Emphasizing on historic and unique significance of bilateral re-

lations between the two countries, the prime minister reaffirmed that the Pakistan-China friendship was timetested and enduring. He was talking to

Minister of International Department of

RAWALPINDI (APP):

Minister of the Interna-

tional Department of the

Central Committee of the

Communist Party of China

(IDCPC), Liu Jianchao on

Friday met Chief of Army

Staff (COAS), General

Sved Asim Munir here at

During the meeting, they discussed matters of

mutual interest, including

regional peace and stability.

and reviewed progress on

the China-Pakistan Eco-

nomic Corridor (CPEC), an

Inter Services Public Rela-

tions (ISPR) news release

said. The COAS reaffirmed

Pakistan's unwavering

commitment to the strate-

gic partnership with China

and pledged full support

for the successful imple-

mentation of CPEC, a flag-

General Headquarters.

**COAS Asim Munir pledges** 

full support for CPEC

Liu Jianchao lauds Pakistan Army's role in providing security to Chinese nationals

Jianchao who along with a delegation called on him at the PM

While welcoming the Chinese dignitary and members of his delegation to Pakistan, the prime minister congratulated him as well as political leaders of Pakistan on the successful organization of Pakistan-China Political Parties Forum and the 3rd round of Joint Consultative Mechanism (JCM) of Political Parties on

China Pakistan Eco-Corridor (CPEC). He said it was the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) Liu faction that there was

ship project of China's Belt

and Road Initiative (BRI).

lighted that he is visiting

Pakistan as a follow up of

the successful meetings be-

tween the leadership of the

cance of the longstanding

brotherly relations between

the two nations and ex-

pressed satisfaction with

the progress achieved on

CPEC, reiterating China's

commitment to its timely

The visiting dignitary also commended Pakistan's

efforts in maintaining re-

gional peace and stability,

acknowledging the support

of the Pakistan Armed

Forces in providing secu-

rity to Chinese nationals

and projects in Pakistan.

completion.

He emphasized the signifi-

two countries in China.

Liu Jianchao high-

complete political consensus in both countries on the China-Pakistan Economic Corri-

Reflecting on his recent visit to China where he held fruitful and productive meetings with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang, the prime minister commended the vision of the Chinese leadership for the continued growth of Paki-stan-China strategic relations and the shared desire of both countries to work together to ensure success of the and upgradation to the next

Khuda Baksh Bhutto.

early completion and implementation of all ongoing and new CPEC projects would

contribute significantly towards Pakistan's economic growth and inclusive development. Appreciating the role of IDCPC in the deepening of bilateral ties, he stressed the importance of enhanced exchanges between the political parties of two countries for experience-sharing, capacity building and peoplecentered governance.

He lauded the CPC for its full support to strengthening of Chinese delega China's iron-clad which was also at

brotherhood with Pakistan.

Liu Jianchao, in his remarks, stressed that Pakistan and China were iron brothers, strategic partners and mosttrusted friends.

He further emphasized that China accorded a special place to Pakistan in its foreign policy and would continue to support Pakistan's economic development and jointly work for the upgraded version of CPEC.

The prime minister hosted a banquet in honour of Liu Jianchao and the accompanying Chinese delegation

## PPP celebrates 71st birth anniversary of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto

KARACHI:: Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing during 71st

birth anniversary ceremony of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto at Liyari

LARKANA (APP): The Bhutto, and others. 71st birth anniversary of the anniversary of the world revolutionary leader and 'Daughter of the East' former elected Prime Minister, Slain Chairperson of PPP Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, was celebrated on Tuesday with great zeal and enthusiasm by PPP amidst the arrival of a large number of PPP leaders and workers at the Garhi Khuda Bakhsh Bhutto and at Bhutto House Naudero Larkana to pay

homage to her leadership. Quran Khawani was arranged at the mausoleum of the martyrs of Bhutto's family in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh Bhutto, which was attended by the elected representatives as well as the leaders and workers of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and its sister's organizations. On the occasion, collective prayers were also held for the departed souls of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali cut in the birthday gather-

The divisional and district leaders and workers went to Garhi Khuda Bux Bhutto Ali Bhutto and offered fateha on the graves of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the Founder Chairman of PPPP, and assassinated Chairperson of PPP Benazir Bhutto and others.

Besides, hundreds of people belonging to various walks of life also visited the Mazar of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, placed wreaths, and offered fateha. PPP Larkana district arranged a big public gathering of the cake cutting ceremony at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Stadium Larkana on Tuesday evening on the eve of the 71st birth anniversarv of former Prime Minister and slain Chairperson of PPP Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. The function was presided over by Chairman of PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. While a 71st-pound cake was also

ing by the Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, President PPP Sindh Senator Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah. and others. Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardarii, President PPP Sindh Nisar Ahmed Khuhro Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, PPP President Larkana Division Mir Aijaz Khan Jakhrani, Aajiz Dhamrah, and others also addressed on the occasion. Syed Qaim Ali Shah, Moula Bux Chandio. Waqar Mehdi, Souhail Anwar Siyal, Nazir Ahmed Bughio, Kharsheed Ahmed Juneio. Muhammad Ali Bhutto. Sardar Khan Chandio, MNAs. MPAs, and a large number of the PPP leaders and prominent workers attended the function, at which the speakers paid glowing tributes to the Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto for her invaluable services to the country and for

# the welfare of the poor **US supports**

direct talks

between Pakistan, India WASHINGTON (APP) The United States support "direct discussions" be-

tween India and Pakistan, saying the two neighbouring countries should work out the mode for the talks themselves. State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller

nas said. 'We value our important relationships with both India and Pakistan,' he said in response to a question from a Pakistani TV channel reporter at his daily news briefing on Thursday.

"As we have said, we support direct discussions between India and Pakistan, but the pace, scope and character should be determined by those two countries, not by us,' Miller added. Relations between India and Pakistan have deteriorated since August 5, 2019, when New Delhi unilaterally annexed the disputed Himalayan region of Jammu and Kashmir, leading to heightened tensions between them Official talks between the two countries have remained suspended since then.



partment of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) Liu Jianchao, met with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir, at General Headquarters.

#### Five soldiers martyred in Kurram district landmine blast

RAWALPINDI (APP): Five soldiers of Pakistan Army on Friday embraced martyrdom after an improvised explosive device exploded on a vehicle of the Security Forces in general area Sadda, Kurram District.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, five brave sons of soil identified as Havildar Aqeel Ahmed (age: 33 years, resident of District Okara), Lance Naik Muhammad Tafeer (age: 30 years, resident of District Poonch), Sepoy Anosh Rufun (age: 24 years, resident of District Attock) Sepoy Muhammad Azam Khan

(age: 26 years, resident of

District Haripur) and Sepoy Haroon William (age: 29 years, resident of Islamabad Capital Territory), made the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat (martyrdom).

perpetrators of this henious act will be brought to justice.

kistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," the ISPR said.

lauded the martyrs.

China ties as Pakistan hosts first JCM ISLAMABAD (APP): All Communist Party of China (IDCPC) and member of the the mainstream political parties of Pakistan on Fri-Communist Party's Central day displayed exemplary Committee Liu Jianchao consensus to back the who is on a three-day visit China-Pakistan Economic here. esides Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani Corridor (CPEC) with the leaders reiterating their unand National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, wavering commitment to the senior leadership of all further strengthen the bilateral relationship between major political parties at-Pakistan and China by tended the event including Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, MQM's Khalid thwarting all nefarious de-Maqbool Siddiqui, Maulana Fazlur Rehman of JUI-F, The political consensus was shown at the CPEC Pakistan-China Political Hina Rabbani Khar of PPP, Parties Forum and 3rd Meeting of CPEC Political Par-Senator Syed Ali Zafar of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, ties Joint Consultative Munazza Hassan of Istehkam Pakistan Party, Mechanism co-chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and National Party's Senator Jan

LARKANA: President Asif Ali Zardari showering petals over the grave of

Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto on her 71st birth anniversary, in Garhi

Cross-party consensus backs CPEC, stronger

In his opening remarks, Deputy Prime Minister Senator Ishaq Dar said the CPEC played a catalytic role in Pakistan's socioeconomic development.

He said besides ridding the country of a chronic issue of load-shedding, the development projects under the CPEC helped create hundreds of new employment opportunities for the Pakistani people which the people of Pakistan would never forget. Recalling the recent visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China, the deputy prime minister said both sides showed unanimity to execute the second phase of Muhammad, senior politi-CPEC besides signing the cians Afrasiab Khattak and modalities for third-party participation in the project.

"Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists present in the area and

Security forces of Pa-

President Asif Ali Zardari strongly condemned the attack and

#### Sindh Govt to provide Rs 1.5b for dues of retired officers, employees of local bodies: Mayor Karachi KARACHI (APP): Mayor

Wahab Friday said that the Sindh government will soon provide a package of Rs 1.5 billion for the dues of retired officers and other employees of local bodies. He said this while talking to Leader of the Oppo-

Karachi Barrister Murtaza

Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar

and Minister of the Interna-

tional Department of the others.

sition in the City Council. Saifuddin Advocate, in his He said that KMC

owes 10.5 billion rupees in dues to its retired officers and employees. A package of 1.5 billion rupees from the Sindh government is expected soon to pay the dues of retired employees. Previously, KMC had paid the dues of retired employees from its resources and this process will continue in the future, he said.



need to adopt a joint strategy for municipal issues and development of Karachi. Development schemes for the upcoming fiscal year will be initiated with the advice of all political parties present in the City Council.

He said that high-rise buildings in the city are cre-

Mayor also called for a ating municipal problems, and many buildings are being constructed without master leases. City Council members are requested to help bring these buildings under regulations, he noted. Municipal Commissioner Afzal Zaidi and Financial Advisor Navab Saeed were also present on this occasion.

Tessori arranges get

together for diplomats

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Muhammed Kamran

Tessori once again arranged a get together for Consul General of China, United States, Russia, Turkiye, Japan,

France and Kuwait at Governor House on Eid ul Âzha.

tics and efforts of Governor Tessori who made history in

Governor House with sacrificing of 100 camels and dis-

tribution of meat along with grocery (Rashan Boxes) during the three days of the Eid ul Azha at the Governor

effort for the promotion of I.T in Pakistan specifically in the province of Sindh through the I.T courses program

for thousands of the underprivileged students, who can

earn thousands of dollar for their family after completing

recognized Governor's effort of gifting two camels to a

poor man of interior Sindh who's camel leg was cut by a

culprit.

During the informal chatting foreign diplomats also

The topic of discussion remained International poli

Foreign Diplomats also appreciated Sindh Governor's

ISLAMABAD: Sahibzada Hamid Raza along with delegation of Sunni Ittehad Council called on speaker NA Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House, SIC presented the name of Zartaj Gul for the newly Parliamentary Leader of National Assembly.

## Daily Soice of Masse. Independent

Saturday June 22, 2024

## KP's 'power struggle'

An ongoing dispute between Peshawar and Islamabad over loadshedding in KP has flared up once again, with the provincial government now demanding that power cuts not exceed one of those who was fired. 12 hours in any area.

However, though the PTI's ment first announced stance appears to be 'propeople', it also risks creating tion, and later, with impediments in the fight against electricity theft, and the it to last year's level, it party will soon realise it should story. And the governreconsider its policy on the ment also expects us to matter.

It is pertinent to mention versities keeps going up here that Pesco, which powers most parts of KP, is among new charters and upthose distribution companies grade colleges. But the Higher Education that regularly report high theft and loss of electricity, with 'line losses' climbing to as high as 60pc on average on its network. This means that Pesco customers, on average, pay only Rs4 for every Rs 10 of electricity they consume. The rest is picked up by other bill-paying customers across the country, as it is factored into the uniform national tariff.

To penalise delinquency in the payment of bills, many electricity distribution companies imposing been loadshedding in low-recovery areas, due to which even billpaying customers may suffer garding thought and life. hours of no electricity for no fault of their own. The same is by practical considertrue for those in KP who are dutifully paying their bills but still suffering because Pesco is is a substitute for one unable to recover the money Scholars and philosophers others owe.

However, while Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's gungho response to his province's electricity crisis may endear Niccolo Machiavelli their lot through the acquihim to his party's supporters, he seems to be taking a counterproductive approach to an issue that needs to be resolved responsibly.

Instead of emboldening protesters who keep breaking into

Collectively, we are all humans, yet we are divided electricity grid stations, Mr in various segments. We Gandapur should encourage his provincial subjects to clear (4:1) but mutually we are their due bills and use his audifferent in many ways
and can be identified acthority to ensure that theft is minimised. This seems to be In a family, siblings from the same parents the surest way of ensuring that have various physical honest citizens do not continue traits distinguishing them, such as a different height, to suffer.

To be fair, the KP govern- ture, blood group, etc. There are also differences ment does seem to realise in their personalities, hobwhere the problem lies: just last month, it amicably concluded answers to the enigma of discussions with the federal what makes one person open and honest, and angovernment on the same mat- other closed-minded. Sciter. However, the onset of summer has brought with it immense public pressure for a their environment, upbringing, education and quick resolution to the other factors impact a loadshedding issue, which is a tall order given the complexities of the economics of electricity and the arms and the earth and the interest and the earth and the interest and the earth and the interest and the earth and the e tricity supply.

Mr Gandapur has suggested guages and your colours. Indeed, in that are signs for on multiple occasions that the those of knowledge" (30:22). dues owed to KP by the centre should be used to offset the province's electricity liabilities, but while he is justified in seeking his province's fair share, it plants, insects and animals, etc are unique in creappears unlikely that it will ation, serving their own materialise given the centre's purpose; they are a part of diversity and yet don't severe resource constraints.

Peshawar Both and Islamabad must, therefore, find unique and different in a way out of the mess. Till then, however, protesters must not be allowed to interfere with the Understanding helps electricity grid. It seems dangerous and irresponsible and should not be condoned by the KP government.

# Higher education up the creek

#### Faisal Bari

right, the following is from one of Mushtaq Yousufi's books, possibly Zargazisht. He says that every time he went to his boss, who was a Scotsman, to ask for a raise, his boss would say, as soon as Yousufi entered the room, 'Yousufi, it is good you are here, we have to fire some people'. Ten minutes later, Yousufi would leave the office very grateful that he was not

When the governthat it was cutting the budget for higher educagreat magnanimity, announced it would restore reminded me of this be thankful

The number of unias provincial and federal governments bestow

have not been increased for several years. This despite the inflation. It is not surprising that many universities, even the more established, older ones, are under grave financial stress.

This year, too, while the HEC budget did not go up, salaries went up by 20 per cent and inflation has been around 15pc. Publicsector universities. which the agency funds, will continue to hurt and the hurt will keep getting deeper. Some might face default on salary or pension payments as

But this year's budget has more bad news for the higher education sector. Teachers and researchers had a 25pc income tax rebate (it was 50pc for the first few years) that had been given a couple of decades back. This has been taken away in this budget. This implies even if universities give a 15pc raise this year, with the removal of the rebate and with the income tax slab adjustments that have

teachers/researchers, the strike not-for-profit latter will have less universities. Currently, take-home than they did last year. And these are times of high inflation!

We have a shortage of teachers in Pakistan. At the higher education level, it has been hard to find or hold on to faculty. Our application pools have dwindled. Those with PhD degrees do not want to come back to Pakistan, and many of those who are here want to leave. Many have left, and many others continue to look for opportunities abroad

Hitting the salaries of teachers and researchers in this manner and in these times clearly shows that the government does not attach much priority to education despite all the rhetoric about an education emergency. It is not as if this measure is going to give the government any sizable amount of revenue. But it will have a big impact on individuals who have been hit and on universities and their budgets.

Another taxation been imposed on salaried proposal is also set to

the tax commissioner is empowered to issue exemption certificates in cases where a person's income is exempt from tax as is the case with not-for-profit universities. These universities rely on this certificate to ensure that no tax is withheld on their behalf by withholding agents.

The Finance Bill

2024 proposes to withdraw the commissioner's power to issue exemption at 100pc and allows him/her to only issue exemptions at a lower rate. This will hurt in two ways. For not-for-profit universities this means that tax will be held in their name but they will not be able to adjust this tax as they will not have any tax liability to adjust against at the end of the year. And getting refunds from the FBR is not easy and everyone knows that it will not happen. So, the working capital needs of universities will be hurt and a liability will be created against the FBR for no

favouritism and rishwat where commissioners will be lobbied to issue exemption certificates at a higher percentage rate. It is a harsh proposal that will not give the government any revenue and will not raise tax income but will open the door for lobbying for refunds as well — again, leading to

more graft and nepotism. If all of this were not enough, the govern-ment, in its belief that the Pakistani people read too much and should be doing other things, has raised the general sales tax on books. Books have become a lot more expensive over the last two to three years due to a) an increase in the price of paper and b) devaluation. As it is, the local book business is not a huge one and the recent price hikes have hit it badly.

The rise in GST will hurt even more. Imported books have become expensive and retailers have been seeing the impact. Raising GST on books will make it even more difficult to sell This change will books. Educationists Dawn

also create opportunities were already very connepotism, cerned about the lack of a reading culture vis-à-vis our youth. On the one hand and as part of the education emergency, the government has been introducing 'reading' hours in schools to improve foundational learning, and on the other, GST on books has been raised. More taxes are

needed. But it cannot be a policy that we just impose taxes blindly wherever we see an opportunity to be able to extract or extort taxes. We have to realise that taxes have consequences. We are doing poorly in education already. We have been cutting funding for higher education and funding for school education is barely keeping up with inflation. Parents are hurting due to rising tuition fee and other costs

To hit the education sector through the various tax measures mentioned seems very unfair. One hopes that the Senate and House debate on the budget will take these issues into consideration. -- Courtesy

# Pakistan's Hobbesian nightmare

#### Shahid Mehmood

Human history is replete with governance innovations. Some of these have changed the course of history. But perhaps none was as cataclysmic and transformational as the founding of the 'nation state'. There were two primary sources of the rise of the nation state: power struggle between the Italian city states and the Church, and the intellectual contribution of the 'scholastic' school of thought, both aimed at freeing the affairs of men from the centuries-old ecclesiastical moorings re-

But if the affairs of men were to be governed ations, what ought to be the justification of having a set-up (government) that based on divine law? of the later mediaeval period remained seized with swer, two came from (1469-1527) and Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679).

The Florentine diplomat and political adviser, Machiavelli, was crystal clear on the raison d'être of the existence of a government (or sovereign). In his celebrated book. The Prince, he stated: "He ought accordingly to encourage his subjects by enabling them to pursue their callings, whether mercantile, agricultural, or any other, in security so that this man shall not be deterred from beautifying his possessions from the apprehension that they may be taken from him, or that other refrain from opening a trade through fear of taxes; and he should provide rewards for those

ness of his City or State." (Three centuries later, the same was to be restated by the celebrated Adam Smith, albeit in

who desire so to employ

themselves, and for all

who are disposed in any

way to add to the great-

riod remained seized with this question for some of his fears. Like more than 2,000 'safe city' time. Of the earliest at- Machiavelli, he acknowltempts to furnish an an- edged that people have an innate desire to better sition of riches. Various groups of people have a

social equilibrium among themselves, which keeps the wheels of development and commerce well-oiled. Hobbes, though, foresaw that a particular group may have an incentive to break that equilibrium in order to establish its hegemony or to impose its will. To keep that fine balance between different groups intact, he advocated giving the state the monopoly on violence. Otherwise, as he wrote, life would be "nasty, brut-

You do not need to be an Einstein to grasp the role of the state in light of what Machiavelli and Hobbes eschewed. Let us then start with the most fundamental aspect: how safe are we as citizens?

ish and short"

Just before Eidul Fitr and recently, Islamabad, the federal capital, witnessed record crime, which is but a small reflecslightly different words). tion of what is happening Hobbes' advocacy of around the country. Its cameras could do nothing

> plight The Pakistan's main commercial hub, Karachi, is wellknown: killings occur

tendency to establish a daily during muggings and petty theft has been the norm for decades. The same is the case for all

other urban centres. What of "the apprehension that they may be taken from him"? There is little or no enforcement of property or intellectual rights in Pakistan. Properties are forcefully occupied or taken, and people are picked up by the 'deep state' at will

What of the "refrain from opening a trade through fear of taxes"? The state's oppressive, extractive taxation system ensures that a huge informal economy prevails and citizens are put under an increasing burden of taxes to finance an unproductive leviathan that guzzles money to preserve its colonial ways (read PIDE-PRIME Tax Reform

Commission report). Lastly, what of the "rewards for those who desire so to employ them-Dr Abdus Salam, who put Pakistan on the map of Nobel Prize winners? How did the Pakistani state and its people re-

ward him? Short of hanging him in public, we did (and still are) doing everything to tarnish his legacy and achievements!

This may sound trite, but the profound repercussions of an unsafe, risky Pakistan are hardly understood. Theft, robberies and pilferage, be it by governments or individuals, constitute a trans-If it is easy to whisk away years of hard-earned wealth (vehicles, smartphones, etc) in a day from its rightful owners, what is the incentive to

work hard? Given such an environment, why do we bemoan 'Dubai Leaks'? Would you like to keep vour wealth here? Sure, those who earn wealth in a dubious manner do send it to safer havens, but crying hoarse over corruption cannot take away from the City or State"? How about sults in its flow to other places.

> yourself why Pakistan's best brains have been fleeing the country for de-

Tick tock

cades now. Gloating needlessly about \$30 billionplus in 'remittances' does not account for the aggregate loss to our economy due to our diaspora's contributions elsewhere

Pakistan is a Hobbesian nightmare since what Hobbes feared the most (life being "nasty, brutish and short") is at play in Pakistan. And the governfer of hard-earned wealth. ment that he envisioned, which was supposed to act as a bulwark against this possibility, is nowhere to be found.

Let everyone be very clear: Pakistan's state has a legitimacy problem. Its citizens have lost trust in the ability of the state to provide them with an environment where they can pursue their well-being without any fear. No amount of foreign tours for begging dollars, SIFCs, outlandish financial returns, etc, can fact that citizens have convince foreigners when little to no confidence in a state's own citizens are selves, and for all who are a state's ability to safe- so disenchanted and disdisposed in any way to guard their legitimately illusioned. And neither add to the greatness of his earned wealth, which resasti roti, public sector freebies, SNC, mega in-Even better, ask frastructure projects or government-sponsored cash handouts bring back that confidence

## **Unity in diversity**

last few decades, it has

been observed that the

worship places of minor-

ity groups have been dis-

respected, they have faced

violence, and overall har-

mony is on the decline

with the rise of intoler-

ance. There are some ar-

eas where mediaeval

mindsets prevail, and hu-

man life and dignity are

these challenges, under-

standing about diversity

needs to be cultivated in

these areas. We learn about

ent faiths once lived to-

gether peacefully, yet

these societies have be-

come victims of extremism

and intolerance. This has

driven a wedge between

various segments of soci-

world livable and peace-

ful, it is necessary to un-

derstand the reality that

no two persons are iden-

tical, no two persons have

the same level of under-

standing. Everybody

needs to show tolerance

while maintaining differ-

ences so that our society

tal level each one of us has

different ways of thinking

and we have a right to

form opinions while oth-

ers should respect them.

This is essential for

smooth working in soci-

achieve peace unless it ac-

cepts and embraces the

diversity of views and

opinions and welcomes

differences of opinion.

However, no one should

be allowed to force his

one community. Thus, Is-

lam accepts unity along

with the concept of diver-

The Holy Quran

views on others.

No society can

Similarly, at the men-

becomes more peaceful.

In order to make this

In order to counter

worth little.

#### **Amin Valliani**

cording to many criteria.

eye colour, facial strucbies, habits and beliefs.

People have sought ence explains that every person has unique genetics; these together with the diversity of your lan-

Upon reflection, we find that the world is a wonderful blend of unity and diversity. Natural bodies like the earth, lose their unique identity. This is the beauty of the world that things are their shapes and texture.

Unity in diversity makes our world and relaachieve harmony among dissimilar individuals or groups. However, the lack of understanding always leads to conflict, disharmony, intolerance and dis-

sity. Humanity is like a We are facing chal- tree with innumerable lenges in understanding leaves, all different in shape, but raised from one diversity, especially at the national level. During the

Similarly, the Muslim world consists of people with vast differences in culture, language and other demographic characteristics, but we have one base.

In Islamic history, we have the excellent example of the life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) who always welcomed his companions' views about different matters. He used to consult his companions before going to war and respected their fi--ghting

We are part of Divine many societies where creation; a multitude of people belonging to differcolo-u--rs, languages and cultures, yet bound to--gether by our hu--m-anity. We are gifted with Divine attributes; in other words, there is a Divine thr--ead running acr-oss humanity, connecting each individual with the Creator. Everyone born in this world is human first, then takes on his family's identity as a Muslim, Christian or a believer of any other faith. In some cases, the family's faith takes precedence in a way that renders the person oblivious to his/her prime responsibilities as a human to-

wards fellow beings. The Holy Quran says: "O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another" (49:13).

It implies that every individual is born from a single soul. He is different from others though part of the whole, carrying a lot of potential.

Every individual must make an effort to became a good human being and realise what nature has hidden in his or her says that all humans are personality. After all, humans have the potential to become the 'crown of creation'. -- Courtesy Dawn

#### Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

Almost five months since one of the most manipulated general elections in our checkered history, there is an ominous quiet before yet another impending storm. What form it takes is unknown, but it is clear that the current hybrid regime is devoid of legitimacy and has neither the will nor the capacity to resolve Pakistan's many structural crises.

The PTI is convinced that it is the answer to Pakistan's problems, and can viably claim to being the party with the most popular support across what is an extremely divided polity. But for all of the repression that the PTI has experienced over the past two years, there is little lynching campaigns evidence that it would be able to lead a process of structural change to overhaul Pakistan's militarised political economy and state ideology and resolve deeply rooted class, gender and ethnic-national contradictions.

Those political forces that I believe do offer at least the ideological depth and political commitment to challenge the establishment-centric order are not sufficiently strong to do so. In this category are some ethnicnationalist forces — particularly youth-led moveas well as the ments political left.

So we are faced with a medium-term prognosis of deepening structural crises while mainstream parties slug it out in a zero-sum game for governmental power. There is also the resurgence of religious militancy of ferent geographies of the

significant swathes of the Pak-Afghan borderlands, the re-

lished what is virtually a parallel governing system while the state abdicates its writ. We have been here before and the story does not end well. The so-

called Pakistani Taliban and other more mainstreamed Deobandi organisations have deep wells of support in the highest echelons of power and this is reflected as much in the resurgence of militancy as the regular bouts of state repression visited upon peaceful movements like the PTM and the Baloch long march.

In the core areas of newer and distinct religiopolitical organisations are also gaining steady ground. The TLP stands out amongst all of them, and has recently been at the forefront of organised against Punjabi Christians as well as Ahmadis. Such groups not only do the politics of hate, they also undertake welfare and other societal activities that deepens their social base in the absence of state-led welfare and recreational schemes. It is worth bearing in

mind that most of these organisations boast an extremely youthful rank and file, and they will continue to grow so long as the underlying socioeconomic decay is not arrested. The way in which the current regime treated import scandal, unrelenting inflation and unemployment, as well as the disdain for workers' rights and unionisation tell us that the potential pool of support for militant organisations will only grow.
Meanwhile, even

varying kinds across dif- higher up the class ladder, relatively educated segments continue to be fed a stylised set of facts in the name of the 'two-nation theory' that inhibit

ligious right has re-estab- critical thinking and innovation, while rewarding those who want to become cogs in the state's bureaucratic machine.

It is also well-documented that a huge number of young people are trying to get out of the country by hook or by crook, and this is not limited to those who are dirt poor. In other words, the classic brain drain is also continuing to play out, with no sign of reversal.

All told, the situation is dire, and likely to get worse. I do not mean to spread doom and gloom but it is essential that existing realities are the country, relatively ack-nowledged so that we stop going around in circles. Interrup-ting the worsening cycle requires those who have recently experienced repression here I am referring particularly to the PTI look beyond messiahs.

For ethnic-nationalists and the left, who are the only forces immediately committed to taking on the challenge of building a popular politics for social transformation, there must be a willingness to find allies within the mainstream that can be coaxed into deepening their political positions.

None of this will happen through wishful thinking. It requires conscious recognition of the situation we face and viable strategies to redress it. The clock is ticking and the urgency of our farmers amidst the wheat myriad predicaments increasing, and here I have not even considered the growing likelihood of climate breakdown events. It is under this backdrop that hateful ideologies and molecular violence are deepening across the social formation.

Appealing to the good sense of the powerful does us no good. The oppressed must come together to take things into their own hands. -- Cour-



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of leading exporters of Pakistan calls on Prime Minister Muhammad

## Economic growth directly linked with fast sustainable upsurge in exports: PM

Sharif on Friday said the was directly linked with the fast sustainable growth of exports. He was talking to a delegation of exporters,

which called on him here at

the PM House. The prime minister said the exporters being the back bone of national economy, were extremely important for the government as they were playing a key role in the country's development. country's economy would

when the export sector showed fast growth, he added. PM Shehbaz said the government was providing all possible facilities to promote the non-traditional exports. He expressed the government's resolve to take all the decisions in the larger interest of the people and the country. The government, he said, was taking measures to boost the export to GDP ratio. The payment of sales tax refund to the traders and industrialists was also being ensured timely, he added. The prime minister

tolerated in that regard. He directed the federal tation with the delegation

to ensure resolution of all

The exporters expressed gratitude to the prime minister and the government for announcing a historic cut in the electricity prices for the industrial sector, terming it a breath of fresh air.

They also expressed their full confidence in the policies and assured their

(APP): attain sustainable growth warned the relevant authoriall-out cooperation. They port the government in taking action against tax evaders and those adversely affecting the revenue for national exchequer.

Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik, Power Minister Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari, Minister of State for Finance Ali Pervaiz Malik, Minister of State for Information Technology Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Salman Ahmed government's economic and relevant high officials attended the meeting

## Lawmakers urge govt to provide more relief to agriculture, IT sectors

Lawmakers in the National Assembly on Friday urged the government to focus on people-oriented policies and provide more relief to the agriculture and Information Technology

Muttahida Qaumi viduals. Movement (Pakistan) leader Muhammad Farooq Sattar, while participating in the budget debate, termed the budget for 2024-25 as traditional, reflecting a continuity of policies from the past 77 years. "The country's cur-

rent debt servicing issues, noting that most budget allocations are used for this purpose," he highlighted.

He said, "It is the government's responsibil-

He said, "Unfortu- Council's Rana Atif nately, every budget seems

to favor the wealthy." Sattar urged the government to focus on the agriculture sector and criticized the imposition of more taxes on salaried indi-

He called for relief measures for the poor in the budget and asked the government to revise the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award.

He stressed the need to resolve Karachi's water issues and to allocate more funds to improve the city's

He also advocated for more incentives to attract Foreign Direct Investment and for policies that enity to prepare the budget courage a growth-oriented with the public's issues in economy.

#### The weekly inflation measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.94 percent for the combined consumpthanked his party for giv-

ing him the opportunity to contest the elections and promote the party's vision. He highlighted the issues of his constituency and asked the government to solve these issues of every

district without discrimina-He called for the government to address the issue of IPP capacity pay-

ments and to take steps to

# up by 0.94 percent

Weekly inflation

The weekly SPI with the base year  $20\tilde{1}5-16=100$ covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

The SPI for the low-

stan Bureau of Statistics est consumption group of up to Rs 17,732, increased by 1.58 per cent and went up to 309.10 points from the last week's 304.28

The SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,732-22,888, Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175, increased year, the SPI for the combined consumption group by 1.44 percent, 1.20 percent, 1.11 and 0.69 percent in the week under review respectively.

## **Shaza appreciates Google** for creating local assembly of Chromebooks in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The delegation of All Pakistan Fertilizer Dealers Associa-

tion (APFDA) calls on the Federal Minister for Industries and Production

Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Friday appreciated Google for Education for creating lo-

Rana Tanveer Hussain

assembly of Chromebooks in Pakistan, saying that provision of digital tools to both teachers and students will help in reducing education divide in the country.

During a meeting with high-level delegation of Google matters related to effective use of technology in the field of education, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital economy were discussed, said a news re-

The Google delegation comprised Andrew Ure, Head of Trade and Economic Affairs, Asia-Pacific for Google.

Kyle Gardener, Government Affairs and Public Policy Lead, South Asia, and Farhan Qureshi, Google's Country Head for The delegation briefed

the Minister of State for IT about Google literacy pro-

Shaza Fatima said that equipping the youth with digital skills for their capac-

students must be trained in using digital tools, she said, adding that better employment opportunities can be acquired through digital lit-

She said smart schools are vital for remote learning. Ministry of IT and Telecommunication will fully cooperate and support Google in the implementation of its initiatives, she added.

Additional Secretary, MOITT Aisha Humera Moriani, Member IT Syed Junaid Imam and Member Telecom Muhammad ity building is the need of Jahanzeb Rahim were also the hour. Both teachers and present in the meeting.

## **Investment of approx. \$50m Engro fertilizers completes** largest-ever EnVen plant turnaround

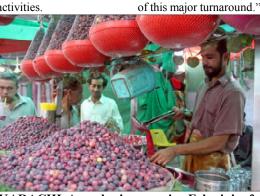
ISLAMABAD (APP): Engro Fertilizers has in-50 million in a plant turnaround to enhance its reliability and operational efficiency and the company USD 1.1 billion, the EnVen Plant has an annual production capacity of 1.3 million tons and is the most energy efficient fertilizer plant in Pakistan, with the lowest consumption of gas per ton of urea said a news release

The project scope of the turnaround included over 5,000 technical activities, including the first-ever replacement of the waste heat boiler, overhaul of the furnace convection section. ammonia storage tank inspection and a comprehensive overhaul of six major turbo trains and gas tur-

At peak, more than 6,000 people were engaged round-the-clock at the Plant site for these turnaround

According to Ali Rathore – CEO of Engro vested approximately USD Fertilizers, "The safe and successful completion of this major turnaround, despite extreme weather conditions, showcases the ensuccessfully completed the largest-ever scheduled maintenance activity for the EnVen Plant, spanning 55 days, as planned on June 18, 2024. Established in 2011 with an investment of 2011 hillian days as planned or June 2011 hillian days as planned on June 2011 with an investment of of everyone involved in the June 2011 hillian days as planned or specific projects within planned schedules and budgets, while prioritizing the safety of everyone involved in the activity. These critical projects were executed inhouse by our talented engineers using innovative techniques and global best practices of safety and quality. He added that, "The

meticulous planning and execution ensured that the availability of urea to our hardworking farmers was not impacted, demonstrating the entire Engro Fertilizers team's firm commitment to our purpose of enabling the food security of Pakistan. We would like to thank our employees, contractors, global technical partners, local administration, and all other key stakeholders for their seamless support and guidance that contributed to the success



KARACHI: A vendor is preparing Falsa juice for customers at his roadside setup, in the Provincial

## **CCP** approves acquisition of Luxembourg firm with presence in Pak solar market

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the 100% acquisition of M/s. Actis Holdings S.a.r.l (Actis Holdings), a Luxembourg-based company having a presence in Pakistan's solar power market, by M/s. General Atlantic Partners, L.P. (GA), a US-based firm.

Actis Holdings is a sustainable infrastructure investor with a diverse portfolio in energy infrastructure, long-life infrastructure, digital infrastructure, real estate, and private equity sectors. Funds managed by Actis hold a majority interest in Solis, which is a majority shareholder in Yellow Door, Yellow Door is actively engaged in the less than 1%, remaining un-

The acquirer General Atlantic Partners, L.P. (GA), founded in 1980 and headquartered in New York, is a growth equity firm that provides capital and strategic support for global growth companies. GA boasts an impressive port-folio of 225 companies across six global sectors: climate, consumer, financial services, healthcare, life sciences, and technology.

The CCP's Phase-I competition assessment identified 'Power Generation – Solar' as the relevant product market. The assessment revealed Actis Holdings indirect presence in Pakistan via Yellow Door which has a market share of solar electricity business in changed post-transaction.

#### further enhance the country's import. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's Asia Naz Tanoli said that in 2018, the

government solved the issue of load-shedding and that during the PML-N tenure, more funds were allocated for development Gold rates up

#### by Rs.1,600 per tola ISLAMABAD (APP)

The price of per tola of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.1,600 and was sold at Rs.242,900 on Friday against its sale at Rs. 241,300 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs. 1,372 to Rs.208,248 from Rs. 206,876 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.190,894

whereas the share prices of ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Paki-62 remained unchanged. stan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Friday gained 8.96

**PSX** gains

8.96 points

78,810.49 points against 78,801.53 points the previous trading day. A total of 471,344,897 shares valuing Rs.20.475 billion were traded during the day as compared to 452,637,253 shares valuing Rs. 20.675 billion the last

points, a positive change of

0.01 percent, closing at

tion groups during the week

ended on June 20, the Paki-

(PBS) reported on Friday. According to the PBS

data, the SPI for the week

under review in the above-

mentioned group was re-

corded at 316.88 points as

compared to 313.93 points

corresponding week of last

As compared to the

during the past week.

Some 436 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 137 of them recorded gains and 237 sustained losses, Rs.582.49.

The three top trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 43,051,185 shares at Rs.1.27 per share, Hum Network with 41,927,277 shares with

11.13 per share and Pervez

Ahmed Co with 37,352,634

shares at Rs.1.84 per share.
Pakistan Tobacco
Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.75.60 per share price, closing at Rs.1,026.91, whereas the runner-up was Mehmood Textile Mills Limited with a Rs.40.83 rise in its per share price to



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in a meeting with Google delegation.

#### **SNGPL** disconnects four more connections

MULTAN (APP): The Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited (SNGPL) disconnected four more connections over different charges here on Friday.

The Sui Gas Task Force continued its daily operations, disconnecting four more meters and removing five extensions. Four consumers had

illegally transferred their meters from the service to their homes, causing leakage losses to the department. After thorough inspection, the task force disconnected all four connections. Additionally, a meter of a non-billing consumer was also disconnected and sent to the laboratory for further departmental action. Five consumers who were illegally supplying gas to more than one house had their extensions removed.

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

KARACHI (APP): Four ships, Maersk Chicago, Navios Constellation, OM Shanghai and Khairpur carrying Container, Chemicals and Gasoline, berthed at Container Terminal, Engro Terminal and Oil Terminal respectively on Thursday. Meanwhile two more

ships, High Loyalty and Canopus with Edible oil also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim on same day. Seven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Simaisma and Navios Constellation left the port on today morning while four more ships.

## **FPCCI holds FBR's top** anomalies committee meeting: Atif Ikram

**Independent Report** KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI and Dr. Gohar Ejaz, former federal commerce minister - who are jointly chairing FBR's Anomaly Committee 2024 from the business side – called a high-profile meeting of all chambers, trade bodies and associations at FPCCI; and, discussed the glaring anomalies in the Finance Bill and federal budget 2024 - 25 in detail on a sector-to-sector

It is pertinent to note that Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, will be presenting the dossier of anomalies from the entire business, industry and trade community of Pakistan to the federal minister reviewed immediately.

for finance and revenue to be reviewed by federal government's economic team and the prime minister to remove or resolve anomalies from the federal budget 2024 – 25. Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh

explained that, being the apex body, FPCCI will provide the government with the collective, aggregated, comprehensive and descriptive list of anomalies that are creating confusion, discontent and apprehensions. We deserve a friendly budget for the businesses, industry, exporters and the economy as a whole, he added. Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh maintained that one of the primary measures in the budget that need to be

## **IESCO** examines 1,310,874 meters across all six operational circles

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) in the light of government and the Ministry of Energy Power Division directives has checked 1,310,874 meters since September 7, 2023 during anti-power theft campaign in all its six operational circles.

Sharing details, Chief Executive Officer of IESCO, Dr Muhammad Amjad said that fines amounting to Rs 627.75 million have also been imposed on the power pilferers. Some 1,872 FIRs have also been registered against

the electricity thieves while 1450 individuals have been arrested so far.

Dr Amjad said that a sum of Rs 3,338.66 billion has also been recovered from 130,019 running and dead defaulters during the campaign.

He said crackdown against electricity theft and the recovery of dues would continue across all operational circles, including Islamabad. Rawalpindi City, Rawalpindi Canton-ment, Attock, Chakwal, and Jhelum, with the cooperation of the FIA, police, and other law enforcement

#### SBP injects over **Fertilizer** dealers meet Rs2.6trln into market with Minister

for Industries State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Friday, injected ISLAMABAD (APP): All Pakistan Fertilizer Dealers Rs2,601.55 billion in the Association (APFDA) delmarket through reverse egation, led by Chairman repo purchase and Shariah Ghulam Ahmed on Friday Compliant Mudarabah met with Federal Minister based Open Market Operafor Industries and Production (OMO). According to OMO tion Rana Tanveer Hussain to discuss specific issues of results issued here, the SBP

retailers about the withconducted Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo association Purchase (Injection) on sought the minister's sup-port for the redressal of the June 21, 2024 for 7-day and 28-day tenors and accepted all the 31 received bids issues, affecting the fertilamounting to Rs2,471,550

The minister said that The central bank regovernment was committed to support the fertilizer inceived 20 quotes for 7-day dustry for the betterment of farmers. tenor amounting to

He pointed out that expanding the tax base to generate revenue was also a priority of the government.

holding tax.

The

izer industry.

#### Rupee gains 09 paisa against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Rupee on Friday gained 09 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.51 against the previous day's closing at Rs

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market, however, were Rs 277.8 and Rs 280.7 espectively. The price of the Euro

decreased by Rs1.21 to close at Rs 297.56 against the last day's closing of Rs 298.77, according to the State Bank of Pakistan

percent. For the 28-day tenor an amount of Rs486.85 billion was offered through 11 quotes at the rate of return ranging between 20.55%

> The SBP accepted all the 20 bids for 7-day tenor at 20.56% and 11 bids for 28-tenor at 20.55 % annual rate of return. Meanwhile, the cen-

tral bank also injected Rs130 billion in the market through Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operation for 7day and 28-day tenors.

The SBP received one quote amounting to Rs130 billion (face value of collat-Rs1,984.7 billion offered at eral) at 20.58% rate of rethe rate of return ranging turn while no bid was rebetween 20.56 to 20.63 turn while no bid was received for 28-day tenor.

## Minister for providing egg-laying hens to farmers at subsidised rates

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Dairy Development Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani on Friday directed the Rawalpindi Poultry Research Institute (RPRI) to resume its programme of providing egg-laying hens to farmers at subsidised rates. During his visit to the

institute, the minister said, 'We are committed to supporting our farmers and promoting the poultry in-dustry in the province. Resuming this programme will help reduce the cost of production for farmers and increase egg production, making eggs more affordable for vear.

emphasised the need to increase the growth of egg-

mand of eggs in the prov-He directed the RPRI to take steps to increase the growth of egg-laying hens. including improving breedand nutrition

laying hens to meet the de-

programmes Agriculture and Live-stock Minister Ashiq Hussain Karmani said that last year 91 thousand sets of chickens were distributed among the farmers by the institute and the number should be increased this



HYDERABAD: Labourers busy in packing mangoes in wooden boxes at fruits market.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif attends a session of National Assembly.

## Ahsan Iqbal highlights Pak-China partnership as beacon of stability amidst global uncertainties

SLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal here on Friday highlighted the importance of Pakistan-China cooperation under CPEC amidst global un-

Addressing the China-Pakistan Political Parties Forum and the Third Meeting of CPEC Political Parties Joint Consultation Mechanism, the minister, "China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) serves as a beacon of stability, regional integration, and economic interdepen-

The event, attended by high-ranking officials and dignitaries, including Minister for International Department Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Liu JianChao and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, Honorable Mohammad Ishaq Dar, underscored the enduring strength of the Pakistan-China relationship and the pivotal role of

Ahsan Iqbal said, the development of Gwadar Port, a crucial component of CPEC, was noted for its strategic significance, providing China direct access to the Arabian Sea and promising economic revitalization for Pakistan,

He said, CPEC was envisioned as part of a broader vision for regional prosperity, fostering economic cooperation with neighboring countries. Phase-II of CPEC aims to enhance Pakistan's manufacturing capacity through industrial cooperation, attracting Chinese investment, and relocating industrial units to Special Economic Zones. Ahsan Iqbal expressed profound gratitude to the Chinese leadership for their steadfast support in fostering bilateral cooperation and advancing the CPEC initiative and emphasized the unique nature of the meeting, which demonstrated national consensus on Pakistan-China relations and CPEC, transcending domestic political divisions. He appreciated the Chinese leadership for hosting the Prime Minister of Pakistan during his recent visit, resulting in a strong consensus on bilateral matters, with both sides agreeing to enhance the strategic partnership and economic cooperation.

The 13th session of CPEC's Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) was successfully held on May 24 wherein Pakistan and China agreed to upgrade CPEC by introducing five new corridors: Growth Corridor, Livelihood Enhancing Corridor, Innovation Corridor, Green Corridor, and Opening Up/Regional Connectivity Corridor

## PA passes resolution to pay tribute to Shaheed Benazir on 71st birthday

Assembly on Friday unanimously passed a resolution Moĥtrama Benazir Bhutto Shaheed on the occasion of

The resolution was presented by People's Party Sindh President MPA Nisar Ahmad Khuhro.

Sindh Assembly session started with Speaker Syed Owais Qadir Shah in People's Party Sindh

President MPA Nisar Khuhro sought permission from the Speaker to present the resolution; after permission, he presented the resolution, which was unanimously passed by the

The resolution said

Bhutto was a champion of democracy who inspired generations with her courage, vision, and unwavering commitment to the people of Pakistan, and as the first woman Prime Minister of Pakistan, she brought the country peace, progress, and development. Her leadership includes improving education, health, and em-

powering women. According to the reso-Bhutto promoted tolerance, dialogue, and peace and made efforts to rid the nation of the scourge of terrorism, and her mission was to establish a democratic system and an egalitarian society. Democracy is established in the country due to her martyrdom and her sacrifices

occasion of the of the 71st birth anniversary of Benazir Bhutto, reiterates its commitment to carry forward her vision for a progressive and prosperous Pakistan as her legacy lives under the leadership of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, who is continuing her mis-

Speaking on the resolution, Nisar Khuhro said lution, Shaheed Benazir Shaheed Benazir Bhutto was a great leader who gave her life for the country; she went into jails and faced hardships like his father when she was in Sukkui Jail. At that time, Fazi Rahu sent snow to Shaheed Bibi because of the heat, but she refused to get the snow. She said we have the cour



age to bear the heat.

## Pakistan has special place in China's foreign policy, says senior Chinese minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): China's Minister of Central Committee of the International Department of Communist Party of China (IDCPC), Liu Jianchao on Friday said as its "iron brother and time-tested friend", China accorded a special place to Pakistan in its foreign policy and desired to strengthen the allweather strategic cooperative partnership.
The senior Chinese

leader expressed these views in a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister Foreign Mohammad Ishaq Dar, held here in Islamabad.

Liu expressed satisfaction at the steady pace of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and said China would extend full cooperation to Pakistan for the timely implementation of all ongoing and new CPEC projects. He also lauded the

political parties of Pakistan for their steadfast support to CPEC and China-Pakistan friendship. He reiterated China's

keen desire to further enhance linkages between the Communist Party of China and the political parties of Pakistan.

Deputy Prime Miniswas in chair and the Chief ter and Foreign Minister Minister in attendance. Ishaq Dar appreciated the Unveiling the provincial budget, Mir Shoaib positive contribution of CPEC to Pakistan's socio-Nausherwani said that economic development, and while the total volume of progress and prosperity. provincial budget for the next financial year is over

# presented with total outlay of over Rs. 955.602 bn

Rs. 955 billion, the total expenditures are estimated as over Rs. 930.206 billion in the budget show-

Total expenditures estimated in budget are Rs. 930.206 billion:

Balochistan's surplus budget for FY 2024-25

Abdul Khaliq Achakzai ing surplus Rs. 25.395

The Minister Finance mentioned that the budget allocated over Rs. 321 billion for development ex-

penditures As per the budget documents and mentioned by the Finance Minister in his budget speech, Balochistan is set to receive Rs. 862 billion from transfers and the divisible pool.

The budget has allocated over Rs. 93 billion for law and order, over Rs. 146 billion for education, and over Rs. 67 billion for health

#### **Imran claims negotiations** may result in toppling of PML-N govt

RAWALPINDI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Ínsaf (PTI) founding chairman Ìmran Khan stated on Friday that any negotiations with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) could result in the downfall of their

government. During an informal media chat at the hearing of the £190 million reference case, the incarcerated former PM expressed his desire to negotiate for Pakistan's has not reduced its exefit, not for personal or governmental inter-

"I want to negotiate for Pakistan, not for my-

self or the government," he said.

Imran reiterated his willingness to step back if it benefits the country, saying, "Convince me it benefits the country, and I will step back.

He criticised the current government for not reducing expenses and failing to create an investment-friendly environment. "The country is in crisis," the ex-PM said.

"The government penses, which is troubling. The current government has failed to create an environment for investment.

#### Several flights cancelled, delayed at Karachi Airport KARACHI (INP): A num-

**Independent Report** 

Balochistan's annual sur-

plus budget having total

volume of Rs. 955. 602 bil-

lion for the next financial

year 2024-25 was pre-

sented in the provincial as-

ter for Finance, Mir Shoaib

Nausherwani unveiled the

maiden budget of the Chief

Minister, Mir Sarfraz

Ahmed Bugti-led coalition

government while the

Speaker, Captain (Retd)

The Provincial Minis-

sembly here on Friday.

QUETTA:

ber of international and domestic flights were can-celled or delayed at Karachi's Jinnah International Airport on Friday. International flight PA-

171 of AirBlue from Karachi to Jeddah has been cancelled.

According to flight schedule, the domestic Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight PK-369 from Karachi to Islamabad was called off.

Moreover, PIA flight PK-341 from Karachi to Faisalabad was delayed while AirSial flight PF-144 from Karachi to Lahore has been shelved. AirBlue flight PA-401 from Karachi to Lahore was facing a delay.

#### Budget 2024-25: PPP excuses unconditional support to PML-N

Parts of Sindh receive

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has excused unconditional support to Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) led federal government on Budget 2024-25. According to media

reports, the meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), did the budget. Sources said government had re- licwelfare.

quested PPP's support in passing the budget 2024-25, but PPP has demanded implementation of the written agreement on their demands before offering any support. Sources said that the government has not provided a deadline on accepting PPP's de-

Yesterday, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari called on Prime not yield any positive results as PPP did not as-Minister Shehbaz Sharif of their cooperation on 2024-25. The prime minister urged all political parthat the party has stuck ties to work together for the to its previous stance development and prosperon its demands. The ity of the country and pub-

## Ongoing cleaning of 46 major, 500 minor drains to be completed before rains: Murtaza Wahab

RARODERO: Peoples Party (PPP) Women Wing President and MPA,

Faryal Talpur being briefed by officials during her visit the free medical

camp organized by Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Tech-

nology University (SZABIST) Foundation, held at village Chhawan of Ratodero

KARACHI (APP):Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) is cleaning 46 major drains and 500 minor drains and the cleaning process will be completed before the rains start.

He said this while visiting various storm-water drains on Friday. Municipal Commissioner Syed Afzal Zaidi and other relevant officers were also with him on this occasion.

He said that the process of cleaning storm-water drains is ongoing and the choking points of the storm-water drains are being cleared using heavy machinery as well as manually. The Mayor Karachi

cerned authorities

KARACHI (INP): In a hor-

rific accident, two motorcy-

clists were killed when a

trailer run over them in Port

driver of the trailer lost con-

trol due to over-speeding and

hit two people who were

riding motorcycle near Port

Oasim, resulting in their

tified as Zahoor and Fahad.

The deceased were iden-

death on the spot.

According to police, the

Oasim Area on Friday.

Drain, Garden Drain and Culvert, Guru Mandir Drain, and Zehri House PECHS Drain, where municipal services officers briefed him on the current

situation of the drains. Barrister Murtaza Wahab, while reviewing the drains, issued on-the-spot instructions and directed to expedite the cleaning pro-

He said that the choking points must be cleared before the rains at all costs. It is necessary to complete the preliminary arrangements to prevent the drains from overflowing.

He said that the available machines, pumps, and vehicles of KMC have been

ties. Following the incident,

the driver fled the scene,

while the police impounded

lost their lives and over

18,000 were wounded in

road accidents in Karachi in

2023. According to reports

from rescue sources,

overspeeding and riding mo-

torbikes without helmets

remained the major causes

behind the deaths and iniu-

More than 1,400 people

LARKANA: View of stagnant rainwater after heavy

downpour due to poor sewerage system, creating

problems and difficulties in transportation for com-

muters and residents, showing negligence of con-

Two motorcyclists

crushed to death

the trailer.

visited Soldier Bazaar repaired so that the draindiately after the rains.

> In the event of immediate rain, water drainage through storm-water drains will be possible. We are making every effort to minimize the inconvenience to the public during the rainy

days.

The Mayor Karachi said that cleaning the drains is a continuous process, being carried out systematically, yielding positive re-

The current city administration has been present on the streets durng the previous rains and will continue to fulfill its responsibilities effectively in the future as well, he said

**KU** declares results of

**MA Final External** 

Annual Exam 2022

CARACHI (APP):The

Iniversity of Karachi on

Friday announced the re-

sults of various MA (Final)

External, Annual Examina-

The gazette shows that

77 candidates were regis-

tion-2022

47.28 percent.

# **Ambassador Munir exposes**

outside press club in the Provincial Capital.

Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations, Munir Akram highlighted that several countries including Pakistan have been a victim of disinformation and cyber

Akram made these

tered for MA Economics The ambassador reiterated Pakistan's stance, (Final) exams and 423 students appeared in the papers of which two candidates cleared their exams with first division, 196 students with second division. and two candidates managed to pass their exams with third division. The overall pass percentage was

It also shows that 489 candidates were registered for MA IR exams of which 458 students appeared in the papers, 145 candidates were declared passed with first division, and 210 students with second division. The overall pass percentage was 77.51 percent. The gazette further shows that 66 candidates were registered and 61 students appeared in the MA Islamic History papers of which three candidates cleared the



comments while speaking to the Security Council's High-Level Open Debate on Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Addressing Evolving Threats in Cyberspace".

emphasising on the necessity of a legally binding global document formed on the guidelines provided by the Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

While explaining, Akram referred to the 2019 and 2020 reports by EU DisinfoLab, which exposed activities, and cyber war-fare. He said: "The 2019  $report\,provided\,proof\,of\,15$ vears of massive disinformation operations against Pakistan, involving more than 10 so-called NGOs fraudulently accredited to the UN Human Rights Council, over 750 fake media outlets, and 550

recting dead people." The Pakistan envoy stressed that the EU DisinfoLab's exposé on disinformation campaigns requires global attention.

fake websites, even resur-

Furthermore, Ambassador Akram discussed the Pakistan sponsored UN General Assembly resolution, titled "Countering Disinformation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

### **Suspected street criminal** arrest by GOR police

HYDERABAD (APP). The GOR police rounded up a suspected outlaw in injured condition in an encounter near Wadhu Wah road. The police spokesman Awais Rajput informed here on Friday that the police signalled 2 suspects riding on a motorbike to stop during the snap

checking adjacent to Shahbaz Building. However, he claimed, the suspects tried to escape by opening fire on the police. According to him, one of the suspects sustained a gunshot to his leg during the exchange of fire and was apprehended but his accomplice

#### KARACHI: Former President Dr Arif Alvi addressing during PTI protest Robbers kill youth over

resistance KARACHI Armed robbers gunnéd down a youth over resistance in Mawach Goth area of Karachi on Friday.

According to details, two armed men riding a motorcycle attempted to snatch cell phone from a youth present in street outside his residence and shot him in head over resistance which proved fa-

The culprits fled the scene with snatched mobile phone after killing the youth.

rain with thunderstorm KARACHI (INP): Rain 42milimeter rain from last with thunderstorm in parts night. of Sindh on Friday brought Shikarpur, Jacobabad and the mercury down and proadjoining areas also revided much-needed relief to ceived showers. Separately, the masses from hot the weather became pleasant in Lahore due to dusty As per details, Larkana, winds, significantly lower-Shikarpur, Shahdakot, Jacobabad and other parts

of Sindh province received rain with thunderstorm. Heavy rain in Larkana badly affected the electricity supply system in the area as 40 feeders of Sukkur Electric Supply Company (SEPCO) got tripped. The low-lying areas of Larkana are submerged with rainwa-

According to MET of-fice, Larkana has recorded needed relief from the heat.

ing the temperature on Thursday.

The temperature in Lahore was forecasted between a minimum of 28 degrees and a maximum of 38 degrees. Residents of Lahore anticipated cooler conditions and possible thunderstorms, offering a respite from the typically high summer temperatures. The strong winds and po-

#### NEPRA proposes fixed charges up to Rs 1,000 for domestic electricity users

ISLAMABAD (INP): NEPRA has proposed introducing fixed charges for domestic electricity consumers, starting from July 1, potentially impacting millions of households nationwide.

According to sources, the proposal has been submitted to the federal government for final approval. The proposed fixed charges are integrated into the average basic electricity tariff.

The charges are tiered based on monthly consumption: Rs 200 for 301-400 units, Rs 400 for 401-500 units, Rs 600 for 501-600 units, Rs 800 for 601-700 units, and Rs 1,000 for usage above 700 units. Previously, fixed charges were not included in the tariff for domestic customers. The final decision on the new tariff structure will be made following the federal government's review.



HYDERABAD: PPP MPA, Nuzhat Pathan, PPP ladies wing member Ishrat Mughal, Norinnisa Abro and workers cutting the 71st birthday cake of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto at Mughal House, Qasimabad.

ries in road mishaps in the ongoing year of 2023. The bodies were moved to ran away on their motorbike. the hospital for legal formaliexam with first division. Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah printed at Dhoom Printing Press Building No. RY/9/11/6X11/7, Mashoor Mahal, Off: I. I. Chundrigar Road, Karachi and Published from Room # 44, 3rd Floor, Handicraft Building, Abdullah Haroon Road, Saddar, Karachi Cell No. 0300-3898091 E-mail: dailyindkhi@gmail.com, khi.editor@gmail.com