Indenendent

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Armed men kidnap 10 **Punjab residents** from Quetta

QUETTA (INP): Unidentified armed men kidnapped 10 people hailing from Punjab from Shuban picnic point in Zarghon Ghar, Quetta.

According to details, armed men took 16 people hostage who were enjoying at Shuban picnic point in Zarghon Ghar. The DG Levies said the armed men released six hostages after checking their Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs).

The ten people who

have been abducted include a Customs Officer and others, who are residents of Punjab province.

PM urges political parties to work together for development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Shehbaz Sharif and tation will continue Prime Minister Shehbaz Bilawal Bhutto Zardari through committees. Sharif has urged all the political parties to work together for the development and prosperity of the sion, the Prime Minis- stan Peoples Party delgether for the development country and public wel-

delegation of Pakistan People's Party headed by Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari that called on him in Islamabad today. The delegation included Chairman Senate Yusuf Raza Gilani, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Syed Khurshid Shah, Syed Naveed Qamar and Sherry Rehman. Prime

Minister Muhammad

held discussions national political issues.

ter said further consul-tation was held with Pa
egation.

Spea He was talking to a legation of Pakistan Peoples Party relegation of Pakistan garding the budget 2024-2025. He said economy is showing positive indicators while stock market has witnessed historic

The Prime Minister said steps have been taken to provide relief to the common man in the budget of the new financial year. He said more consul-

A dinner was given by the Prime Minister

Speaker National As-sembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar were also present in the meet-



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Pakistan People's Party headed by Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

Thursday.

Promulgating presidential ordinance is insult of parliament: CJP

Supreme Court (SC) has sent can the ordinance be mission (EC) against Lahore law by parliament.
High Court (LHC) decision What was reason for regarding constitution of bringing ordinance? Was election tribunals to judges there any emergency. The

tute larger bench next week by parliament. This is too in respect of these appeals. interference in election. Attorney General (AG) be- parliament.

sides seeking details about constitution of tribunals in other provinces from EC.
The Chief Justice of PaThe Chief Justice of PaThe Chief Justice of PaThis ordinance was of parliament is more or kistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa value of cabinet. The deci-has remarked the matter be sion of high court was neplaced before the committee gated through this ordias soon as possible. Promulnance. The constitution is

appeals from Election Com- brought after enactment of

ordinance came from where Committee will consti- after the enactment of law SC has issued notice to Election act was desire of

This ordinance was of gating presidential ordinance very clear. The powers of is insult of the parliament. If constitution of election triordinance has to be brought bunals rest with EC. Secthen shut the parliament. tion C of article 219 has

A two members bench of SC presided over by CJP Qazi Faez Isa took up for

SC made constitutional inelection tribunals. Sikandar Bashir counterpretations, complications came into being, the CJP gave these remarks on

Through the letters the lists

of name of judges were sought from all high courts.

The CJP directed Sikandar Bashir coun-Suleman Akram Raja not to sel for EC opened the argucome in uniform being rements. He told the court there spondent in the case.

is matter of interpretation Justice Naeem Akhtar of article 219 © in the case. Afghan remarked we want The CJP inquired tell to see as to why the probus some facts of the case.
The counsel for EC lem of constitution of tribunals was not created in other provinces. The prosaid EC wrote letters to all ceedings of tribunals is near high courts for constitution to completion in Balochistan. When I was of tribunals on February 14. The constitution of tribunals is mandate of EC.

chief justice of Balochistan high court I had said in clear terms the powers to constitute tribunals rest with

hearing appeal plea filed by

ISLAMABAD (Online): ment has enacted law. How courts decisions. Whenever EC against constitution of judges were notified for election tribunals. More two judges were notified as elecsel for EC and Suleman tion tribunals on April 26.

CJP stopped the coun-Akram Raja counsel for PTI sel for saying the word respectable for high court. appeared in the court.

The CJP Qazi Faez Isa remarked you are saying respectable to high courts. This is said

for judges.

He inquired English language is of England. Is the word respectable used for parliament there.

He remarked here the parliamentarians don't give respect to each other. They exchange abuses with each other. We want there should be respect. Why EC is not called respectable. Is EC not respectable.

The panels of judges name were sought from high Counsel for EC said no courts. Lahore High Court dispute arose to the extent gave name of two judges of establishment of 4 elecon February 20 Both the tion tribunals.



during Hajj, say authorities

RIYADH (INP): The Minton that the pilgrims were istry of Religious Affairs has confirmed deaths of 35 Pakistani pilgrims.

According to Haji Mission DG Abdul Wahab Soomro, nine Pakistanis died in Mashair four in Mina, three in Arafat and two in Muzdalifah.

The Hajj DG says 20 Pakistani pilgrims lost their lives in Makkah and six in Medina.

The DG said the deaths were caused by intense temperature of 50 degrees Celsius. He said the allega-

not taken care of was unfounded.

He said the dead bodies were notified by the Saudi government and arrangements of burials were made in accordance with wishes of the families of the deceased. Arrangements of bringing the bodies to Pakistan had also been made,

Soomro said. The Saudi government, he said, had always cooperated with the Pakistan government in such mat-



LAHORE: Director Hajj Punjab Muhammad Rizwan Sharif, Deputy Director Hajj Lahore Mujeeb Shah and others welcoming Hajaj Íkram and garlanding them with flowers

Tarar regrets 'smear campaign'

against Pak-China friendship

by a political party on Eid

Federal budget an insult to aspirations of masses, thunders Omar Ayub

ISLAMABAD (INP): Leader of the opposition in National Assembly Omar Ayub termed the budget

documents as illegal. As per the parliamentary traditions, the opposition leader opened the general debate on budget on Thursday with his fiery speech in National Assem-

"We couldn't run our election campaigns due to the crackdown of police, said the opposition leader and added that the cases under the sections of terrorism are being registered against the PTI workers even today

We are the real heroes of Form-45 as people gave us the mandate, he added.

According to opposition leader, the economy of country destabilised in result of the no-trust motion that was

moved to oust the government of Imran Khan. Speaking on floor of the

house, the opposition leader said that the government has dug a grave for itself through this budget. 'This budget was pre-

pared by economic hitmen who wanted to shake the foundations of the country," said Omar Ayub. The opposition leader was of the view that the PTI

founder is still in illegal de-Omar Ayub said that the budget is against the people of Pakistan.

"Muhammad

Aurangzeb was made finance minister but he was then stabbed in the back as he was removed from the chairmanship of Executive Committee of the National

ISLAMABAD (APP): stood that some powers taught nothing but sacrifice Minister for Information, which were stunned by the Broadcasting, National Heri-Pakistan-China friendship, tage and Culture Attaullah were resorting to undue and Tarar on Thursday took exunfounded criticism toception to a "smear camwards the CPEC, but nothpaign" launched by a speing could harm the enduring cific political party against bond between the two nathe Pakistan-China friendtions. "The people normally ship on the occasion of Eidcelebrate Eid-ul-Azha by ul-Azha. Addressing a news slaughtering sacrificial aniconference, the minister mals and sharing sweets brushed aside the propawith their loved ones but ganda against Pakistanthere was one political China friendship particuparty that exerted all its enlarly surrounding the upgradation of the Chinaergies for conspiring against Pak-China Dosti," he regret-Pakistan Economic Corridor

The minister lashed out "Undoubtedly, the lobbies against the Pakistanat the political party, which, he said, was bent upon run-China Dosti are active, and are completely perturbed by the CPEC's upgradation, but such botch attempts are destined to fail," he added. The minister said the The minister said the unity in accordance with dor (C government fully under-the spirit of Eid which projects.

ning a "smear campaign" against Pakistan-China friendship instead of reflecting on the possibilities to resolve the issues to forge

and altruism. The whole nation

should celebrate the enduring bond of a friendship between Pakistan and China that had stood the test of time and was growing with each passing day, he added.

Tarar said a high-level Chinese delegation led by Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee (IDCPC) Liu Jianchao would arrive in Pakistan today on a three-day visit till June 22.

He said the IDCPC minister had not only been in close coordination with the political parties of various countries but also had a critical role in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) related

Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui says

Govt aims to transform entire education system of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Thursday said we aim to transform the entire education system of Pakistan. He pointed out the high number of out of school children and the adverse impact it is having on the society. He was talking to a high level delegation led by Kevin Kells, Managing Director, Google for Education, which called on him. The delegation included Farhan Qureshi, Country Director Pakistan Google, Aron Saether Jackson, CEO Allied, Umar Farooq, CEO Tech Valley amongst other senior officials of Google. The meeting was also attended by senior officials of the education ministry led by Secretary Education Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani.

Dr. Khalid welcomed the diverse Google delegation that comprised of officials from seven different countries including USA, UK, Australia etc.

He said under his leadership, the ministry was working tirelessly to bring this number down. He said that this crisis has been given the highest priority.



LEAs to counter terror in Balochistan

Says prosecution system needed to be improved so that the terrorist elements could not escape justice

Independent Report

Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), posting competent officers in Balochistan, and improving the prosecution mechanism to effectively counter terrorist elements

Balochistan. The President expressed these views while chairing a meeting on the security/law and order situation in Balochistan, in

Gwadar, on Thursday. Minister for Interior, Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, MNA Malik Shah Gorgaij,

Foreign Secretary.

Minister of the Interna-

tional Department of the

Central Committee of

the Communist Party of

China (IDCPC) Liu

Jianchao arrived here

Thursday on a three-day

the Islamabad Interna-

tional Airport by Addi-

He was received at

briefed about the overall province as well as the role of LEAs in successfully countering terrorist attacks in various districts of

Balochistan. provincial government had adopted a targeted approach to improve the se-

situation in Balochistan. It the initiatives taken by the LEAs had resulted in im-

Home Minister, Mir tion in the province. The Ziaullah Langov, MPA President was informed GWADAR: President Asif Maulana Hidayat-ur- that the provincial govern-Ali Zardari has called for Rehman, senior civil and ment was taking steps to enhancing the capacity of military officials attended provide fool-proof security The President was tionals.

The President apprecisecurity situation of the ated the efforts of the provincial government as wel as the sacrifices of the LEAs in combatting terrorism.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that It was informed that the prosecution system needed to be improved so that the terrorist elements could not escape justice. curity and law-and-order He said that compensation for the families of martyrs was further apprised that of LEAs in Balochistan should be enhanced bringing it at par with the rest of proving the security situathe provinces.

Deputy Prime Minisister

Republic of Türkiye Hakan Fidan.

reviewed the bilateral relationship between ISLAMABAD (APP): (Asia & Pacific) Ambas-Pakistan and Türkiye, sador Imran Ahmed a Foreign Office press Siddiqui, a Foreign Ofrelease said.

sation. thev pressed satisfaction on the robust strategic partnership between the two countries and agreed to further deepen bilateral cooperation and engagement across multiple domains.

Pakistan, Turkiye agree to further deepen bilateral cooperation ISLAMABADO (APP):

ter and Foreign Min-Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday held a telephone conversation on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha to exchange Eid greetings with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the

The two ministers Islamabad on three-day visit

During the conver-



tor, Google for Education, call upon the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

Amid intense heat Salik hails Saudi Govt for exemplary Hajj arrangements ISLAMABAD (APP): stalling water sprinklers

tional Foreign Secretary Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

ISLAMABAD: Minister of the International De-

partment of the Central Committee of the Commu-

nist Party of China (IDCPC), Liu Jianchao received

at the Islamabad International Airport by Additional

Chinese Minister arrives

Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Chaudhry Salik Hussain has applauded the Saudi Government for its exemplary arrangements for pilgrims

even amidst intense heat. During a consultation meeting at the Pakistan

Hajj Mission in Makkah,

Chaudhry Salik Hussain

highlighted that the Saudi

authorities had imple-

mented various measures

to alleviate the adverse im-

and organizing a system to distribute cold water and beverages.

fice press release said.

Jianchao will call on

Sharif and hold extensive

bilateral talks with Deputy

Prime Minister and For-

eign Minister Senator

Minister

Shehbaz

Minister

Muhammad

He also mentioned that mobile health units and dispensaries had been set up at key locations to safeguard the

pilgrims' health. According to a press release, he said hundreds of volunteers and Saudi forces were deployed at multiple sites to facilitate over 2 million pilgrims to smoothly pact of heat, including in- perform the Hajj.

Daily Soice of Masse Independent

Friday June 21, 2024

Killing of terrorist commander in **Afghanistan**

Certainly, the killing of a high value target terrorist commander Abdul Manan alias Hakimullah in Afghanistan is a serious blow to Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), a designated global terrorist group, involved in multiple acts of terrorism including target killings, IED blasts against security forces and other heinous crimes like extortion.

According to the reports, the terrorist Commander Abdul Manan alias Hakimullah was neutralized by unknown men in Chagasarai, District Asadabad Kunar province of Afghanistan the other day.

Needless to mention is that Abdul Manan also remained involved in facilitating terrorist activities in different areas of the country including Bajaur.

He was an important figure of TTP and member of TTP Shura Malakand, who is reported to be a close associate of TTP's Malakand Chapter Commander Azmat Ullah Mehsood (Azmat Lala).

As per the reports, Abdul Manan remained involved in multiple acts of terror including target killings, IED blasts against Security Forces, extortion and played a key role in facilitating terrorist activities in Bajaur.

The reports coming from across the border suggest that Abdul Manan's killing is result H.U. Beg, V.A. Jafarey, Saeed Qureshi, I.A. Hanfi on what terms, and who of internal conflicts within different groups operating inside | management in those Afghanistan. His presence in Afghanistan further reinforced TTP's use of Afghan soil to perpetrate terrorism in Pakistan.

Pakistan has mentioned time and again that the fugitive commanders and combatants of the TTP are using havens in Afghanistan to launch deadly 2012, The New York cross-border attacks against Pakistanis, including security

As a matter of fact, a report released by The Washingtonbased Center for a New American Security last month had mentioned that the TTP and other regional militant groups "are active and face few constraints on their activities from the Taliban—with whom they share core ideological beliefs."

The study warned that terrorist threats emanating from Afghanistan "are intensifying and an Afghan-based Islamic State affiliate, the Islamic State-Khorasan, or IS-K, "constitutes the main international concern."

The given situation although travel without a 50-strong manifests bad governance by the so-called government in Afghanistan but still needs prompt action against the terrorist groups operating inside country and using the soil for the cross-border attacks against Pakistan.

Undoubtedly, it would be a forthcoming UK general test case for the Taliban regime to take result-oriented action against the terrorists' groups and prove their ability to improve governance in the country.

Climate-smart finance bill

Ali Taugeer Sheikh The finance bill or proposed budget for the next

fiscal year has refused to commit any resources or even set the national direction for climate resilience.

It has failed to acknowledge that Pakistan is one of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries. and perhaps the least prepared. It has missed, once again, the opportunity to determine the course of action for Pakistan's sustainable economic development. Worse, the proposed budget has not outlined a vision for climate-resilient

The finance bill has not shown any particular appetite for institutional or olicy reforms that could help stop the economic bleeding caused by repeated climate-induced disasters or the slow onset that is threatening GDP growth rate and per capita incomes. Ironically, despite heavy osses. Pakistan has not explicitly adopted climate onsiderations into the budgetary process.

The government has, nstead, opted for a simplistic formula for generating

tax and non-tax revenues, particularly by cutting subsidies. Economic development is a secondary target, and climate-resilient development is not even on the horizon. As seen in several other countries, the government can ensure that public finance is aligned with climate change mitigation

and adaptation goals.

The Planning Commission has still not embedded adaptation and mitigation in PC-1s that are the backbone of annual public sector investments. The finance ministry has not initiated the tracking of climate expenditures, despite attempts over the years by several development partners. The office of the Accountant General Pakistan Revenues has not climate-proofed reporting of federal transactions, nor has the Auditor General upgraded its auditing standards and disclosure rules

related tax expenditures, nor has it supported the development of climate-resilient infrastructure by ensuring that tax policies and regulations promote investments in climate-resilient projects and infrastructure. In fact,

none of the major govern-

ing and reporting climate-

The FBR is not track-

ment players have strengthened climate-smart budgeting by embedding climate considerations into their processes. These lacunae are mirrored in the provincial

Some of Pakistan's neighbours have begun to climate-proof their annual budgets. Bangladesh is now graduating from least developed country status to become, like Pakistan, a lowmiddle income country. It stands out for its long journey towards human development and climate resilience. As part of broader efforts to mainstream climate finance across its public financial management systems, Bangladesh set up the Climate Change Trust Fund in 2010 with a governmental equity of \$350 million. Designed to help communities recover from climate disasters by supporting the construction of houses in cyclone-affected areas, the CCTF has supported the construction of embankments and provision of solar home systems.

While our finance bill announced government's intent to set up a similar fund, following the Climate Change Act of 2017, the finance minister

has clouded its future by not committing any equity from the government, without which it will remain a fictional fund

Another example is the Climate Fiscal Framework that Bangladesh has implemented since 2014. Revised 2022, the CFF emphasises institutional coordination between the planning, finance and other divisions to ensure effective implementation of climate policies and fiscal programmes. The CFF is designed to ensure that their vulnerabilities are integrated into national development and resource mobilisation strategies. It made way in 2018 for a budget-tagging system that tracks and reports on all climate-related expenditures, enabling them to identify, classify, and mark climate-relevant allocations in the budget system. There is a lesson for Pakistan: such tracking systems not only help improve policymaking to address climate vulnerabilities, but also add to transparency and accountability in its budgeting. A climate-smart budget

would typically rest on five anchors: i) an assessment of the potential impacts of climate change on different sec-

tors and regions, ii) a mechanism to track and report on related expenditures, iii) an alignment with national policies and targets, such as the Nationally Determined Contributions. prioritising resource alloca-

tion for mitigation, adapta-

tion, and resilience-building,

and v) accessing domestic and international climate finance to fill the resource In other words, rather than treating it as a standalone issue, Pakistan needs to integrate its climate considerations into the overall budget-planning processes. Governments across the world are routinely focusing on domestic financing through national budget reallocations, the establishment of national/subnational climate funds, and partnerships with the local private sector, civil society, and local authorities. No such intent is outlined in the proposed budget. Likewise, the

mobilise climate finances. True, Pakistan's fiscal

budget bill has not commit-

ted to systematically pur-

suing innovative green fi-

nance mechanisms, such as

green bonds, green loans.

and green guarantees to

follow traditional debt relief involving rescheduling, forgiving, or reducing a portion of a country's debt, often through bilateral or multilateral agreements. This approach focuses on reducing debt burdens without necessarily addressing environmental and climate concerns Debt-for-climate swaps, on the other hand, involve converting debt into funds dedicated to environmental conservation and climate mitigation. This approach addresses both debt distress and climate change by redirecting debt payments toclimate-smart wards projects.

Several developing countries have used debtfor-climate swaps to finance climate projects. This approach focuses on reducing debt burdens without necessarily compromising environmental or climate concerns. Debt-for-climate swaps, on the other hand involve converting debt into funds dedicated to environmental conservation and climate change mitigation. This can help address both debt distress and climate change by redirecting debt payments towards cli mate projects. -- Courtesy

Accounting for change

Khurram Husain

The resistance to change in Pakistan is an old problem but it wears a new face every few years. hese days the resistance to change is wearing the face of an accounting problem. In other words, everything from our debt nanagement to reforms in the power sector and tax machinery appears to us as little more than an accounting problem.

This resistance to change has been the country's key defining theme for decades now. It laid down by Ghulam Ishaq Khan as the principal strategy with which the country would deal with the massive changes sweeping the world, starting in the 1980s and accelerating through the 1990s. GIK and a small coterie of bureaucrats around him, including but not limited to people like A.G.N. Kazi, H.U. Beg, V.A. Jafarev.

men, rightly famous for

their professionalism and intellect, and they operated like an exclusive club of power-wielding civil servants where admission was by invitation only. Mahbub ul Haq hovered on the outer edges of this group, a one-man army ing to champion change at a time when this coterie manned the ramparts to keep all change at bay and protect the status quo.

What was the change they were trying to keep at arm's length? In a nutshell, it was the declining ability of the state to shoulder all the responsibilities it had picked up, first during the heady growth years of the 1960s, and then again following the disastrous nationalisations of the

From financing the development of the country's infrastructure to maintaining a pricing gets to invest how much and where, and fetch what returns on that invest-

those days. And this coterie of bureaucrats selected all winners and losers in the economy.

Pakistan was not alone in facing this pressure for change in those days. It was near universal. Around the world, governments were finding their power to hold a preeminent position in all national economic decision-making challenged. Some responded by digging in, others by searching for a way out, and yet others by trying to externalise the costs of staying the course. It was not until the late 1980s and the early 1990s that proper reform strategies began to appear in the global conversation about breaking out of this confinement and finding new ways for economic growth

to continue those Crucially, strategies included a template for tax and power sector reforms. But they eral withdrawal of the tering pricing, credit allocations, ownership of commercial enterprises ment, the state played an and more. Taken to-They were serious overriding role in the gether, these strategies country's economy in came to be called 'the

Washington Consensus' In those days, GIK laid the foundations of how Pakistan would tackle the growing crisis of state and economy. It was his approach to first

agree to wide-ranging re-

forms, then find ways to

blunt their impact, stymie their implementation and where necessary, simply renege on commitments once the funds promised under the agreements had been released. The first Benazir Bhutto government was overwhelmed by the scale of the challenges it had to — the aftermath of the Afghan jihad was smouldering to the west, while to the east, an Indian arms build-up had drained Pakistan's coffers. A bankrupt economy at home and a strident

time have struggled to implement them. The first Nawaz government brought in some of the changes envisaged. They changed the debt manage-

IMF programme signed

by the interim govern-

ment prior to her taking

power necessitated struc-

tural reforms so deep that

governments since her

Bank governor in the per-Muhammad Yaqub, undertook the privatisation, liberalised trade, passed the Sales Tax Act (by a sleight of hand where they disguised it under a money bill), and opened up the capital account to free up the flow of capital into and out of the country. They also successfully wrested control of economic policy from GIK and his coterie and brought their own people into key positions, such as Sartaj Aziz and Ishaq

This is what lay at the heart of the big fight between Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Nawaz Sharif, ending eventually with both being brought down. But what started as a fight over changing the direction of the economy, eventually became little more than a changing of the guard. The inflow of dollars through ment strategy, brought in an albatross around the strategy.

the first non-DMG State government's neck by the nd of the decade.

What emerged from all this is a type of economic management that today goes under the name of 'Daronomics', and whose principal aim is no that different from that of GIK. Daronomics aims to find ways to retain the state's pre-eminent role in the economy, while allowing enough space to private sector energies to continue the process of investment and growth. This strategy rarely works, and when it does, it racks up a tremendous bill that eventually lands up in the fiscal and public debt part of national accounts. The challenge of our times has been to find a way to pull the state out of this role and, instead have empowered regulators to safeguard the public interest. But the nature of the political power struggle in our country is such that all power has to reforms of the first Nawaz flow upwards and be sub-Sharif government were not built to do much, servient to the requirements of this struggle. The other than spur short-term non-stop struggle for growth, and encourage an power has paralysed the state at the top, and stythe foreign currency de- mied its attempt to deposit scheme that became velop a sound reform

Food, with thought

F.S. Aijazuddin

It is not a novel idea: which interesting personality would you want to share a meal with? From Times has run a weekly column 'By the Book', in which famous authors are asked to identify three writers (dead or alive) they would like to invite for a literary dinner. Predictably, most chose William Shakespeare — provided he spoke modern

Even earlier, since 1994, the UK's Financial Times ran its series 'Lunch with the FT', in which a singularly important living personality was invited for an interview pense. Out of 1,000 or so lunches, the FT selected 50 interviews, publishing them as Lunch with the FT — A Second Helping (2019).

Intended to be a oneto-one, the FT occasionally had to pay also for accompanying security details. One brought five guards. Modest by Pakistani standards, where no leaders worth their salt police escort, not counting the ambulance team.

Not every interviewee honoured FT's open-palmed largesse. The newspaper tycoon Richard Desmond, for example, ordered a bottle of wine before the FT host could open the menu. It cost £580.

The Brexit spoiler Nigel Farage (who now threatens to disrupt the elections) preferred to drink before, during and after his meal, and then between meals.

Grill, in the basement of

child in Gaza. Donald Trump for his interview in 2013 chose his own Trump

York. The bill for two 1998-2016. He admits became to a modest \$74.

His fellow American Edward Snowden released CIA's and NSA's classified documents to The Guardian and to The Washington Post and then had to seek asylum in Russia. (Putin has since granted him Russian nationality.) Snowden asked his interviewer Alan Rusbridger (formerly editor-in-chief of The Guardian) to meet him in the latter's room in the secluded Golden Apple Hotel in Moscow.

Snowden's choice of food was unexpected: spicy chicken curry, followed by ice cream. His trenchant remarks about the limited choices before the US voter in 2016 over lunch at a location of Donald Trump or Hillary their choice, at FT's ex- Clinton — will resonate among voters of recent elections across the world. He complained: "We're a country of 330 million people and we seem to be asked to make a choice between individuals whose lives are defined by scandal.'

Particularly moving is the interview with the juvenile Bana al-Abed, trapped at Aleppo in the war between the Syrian regime and opposition militias. In the absence of coverage by journalists, she became the voice from the carnage through her Twitter feeds, managed by

Especially poignant were her tweets in December 2016: "My name is Bana. I am seven years old. This is my last moment to live or die." Earlier she had posted: "I am sick now, I have no medicine, no home, no clean water. This will make me die before a bomb kills me." She spoke for every Braille.

Readers of the FT book who savour the pickle of corruption should read the interview his own Trump Towers with Sepp Blatter, the evate reportage into an art on Fifth Avenue, New controversial head of FIFA

ing startled at the 14-8 decision in December 2010 to award the Soccer World Cup 2022 to Qatar. He had tried to rig the vote 'behind the scenes' to ensure that the 2018 and 2022 competitions would go to the 'two superpowers' Russia and the US.

Blatter griped that French president Sarkozy had let him down. After an indecent interval, in April 2015, Qatar bought 24 French Dassault Rafale jets for \$7 billion. (Pakistanis will recognise overtones in the infamous French Agosta 90B submarine deal in 1994. Sarkozy was then budget minister.)

Many of the FT interviews themselves border on literature. The novelist Hilary Mantel who has written best-sellers on the Tudors and Thomas Cromwell was asked whether she was the greatest English prose writer. Her reply was artfully simple: "You're only as good as your next sen-

The best interview it is a personal view is the one of Roger Federer by Simon Kuper, conducted on board a private jet flying from Zurich to Madrid. Federer talks movingly about balancing the demands of worldclass tennis with the imperative of playing Lego with his young son.

Kuper concludes with this paragraph that is an ace in itself: "Federer throws an arm around me, and I put my hand on his back. Every other back I've touched felt like a single undefined mass. On Federer's back you feel every bone and muscle. It's like reading an anatomy textbook

It is sentences like these which subordinate the locale, the food consumed, and the price of the meal. Such interviews elform. -- Courtesy Dawn

Rule of violence

Khadim Hussain

With 245 terror attacks on security forces, police check-posts and public places — mostly in KP and Balochistan — in the first quarter of 2024 alone, it is obvious that terrorism is once again eating into the vitals of Pakistani state and society. However, what is more horrendous is the repetition of the pattern of violence that Pakistan, especially KP, witnessed a few decades ago; terror is once again stalking various parts of the country, especially Malakand Division and the former Fata region.

On May 9, a girls' school was set ablaze in the scenic Shawa valley of South Waziristan. On May 17, the people of lower South Waziristan awoke to the terror of a bomb attack on another girls' school. On May 29, a girls' school was torched in Shakhimir village in Razmak, North Waziristan. Thirty-four schools, mostly girls' schools, are on the verge of closure in central Kurram district due to lack of funds. All this has happened a year or so after Afghanistan banned secondary and higher education for girls there - as happened under the first Afghan Taliban regime. In the latter case, some two decades ago, the terror syndicate in KP followed suit.

The terror syndicate and violent extremists see gender diversity as a threat to their discourse of homogenisation. They are scared of gender diversity as much as they are of aesthetics and cultural diversity. The religious militant discourse constructs women as objects devoid of any human agency. Women must have no public role in the worldview of the proponents of this discourse, who wish to de-

stroy every space that women can use for a public role. Their destructive tendencies start with torching and bombing girls' schools. Destroying girls' schools with impunity at this time marks the beginning of another phase of the rule of violence.

On May 30, a stu-

dent of Malakand University, Musa Khan, died in a heart-wrenching motorbike accident. It was later revealed that the circumstances that led to the accident may have been created inside the university. Musa Khan had been issued a showcause notice and then an expulsion letter by the university, because he had allegedly brought a rubab to a university event. This had put the young student under severe mental pressure, which might have resulted in his accident. On May 31, renowned folk artist Said Wali Wazir of Janikhel, Bannu was manhandled and his musical instruments broken by the local police. This seems to have been on account of the dread spread by the terror syndicate that is opposed to music. Said Wali Wazir's music concerts are already banned in his area.

Like women, primary victims of the empire of violence include music, art and poetry. The terror syndicate demonstrated its abhorrence for music, art and poetry two decades ago; the pattern is now being repeated: as they are an expression of aesthetics and the beauty of life, music, art and poetry must be banished from the social structure and cultural norms. Instead, the narrative of ugliness must be injected into life. This entire discourse hinges on erasing our natural feelings for beauty and artistic ex-

cultural gatherings; the terror syndicate wishes to keep the people isolated. Music, art and poetry keep the people rooted in their home soil, while the terror syndicate wants them to be

When one looks at this saga, along with the attacks by violent mob ransacking severalchurches Jaranwala Faisalabad, in August 2023, and an attack on a Christian house and factory in Sargodha on May 26, 2024, one reaches the conclusion that religious diversity is also under severe threat in Pakistan. The torching of girls schools and targeting music, art and poetry by the terror syndicate in KP and attacks on religious minorities by extremists in Punjab clearly indicate a pattern of the rule of violence in the Political parties, civil

society organisations, the intelligentsia, media persons, women associations and youth groups need to wake up to the danger zone ahead. Folk music concerts, poetry recital sessions, cultural fairs, arts exhibitions, study circles and other cultural activities need to be regularly organised in educational institutions and public places, especially in KP. Policies that facilitate violent extremist private militias and the use of religion for political interests need to be challenged. A paradigm shift in foreign policy formulation needs to be advocated at all forums. Genuine federalism and a constitutional dispensation need to be underscored. sociopolitical and sociocultural activism must be facilitated in educational institutions and the larger

PM Shehbaz says:

Govt bringing reforms in energy sector to reduce electricity tariff

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said the government was bringing reforms in the energy sector to reduce electricity tariff.

He was talking to a delegation of foreign experts in the energy sector, led by former Georgian Prime Minister Nika Gilauri which called on him at the PM House.

The prime minister said that circular debt, line losses and electricity theft were the major challenges in Pakistan's

Emphasizing the importance of energy sector for the country's economic growth and development, he ex-

pressed his government's commitment to implement policies for reducing circular debt and improving the efficiency of electricity bill collection personnel.

He said privatization and outsourcing of the power distribution companies was the top priority of the government. "In this regard the government desires to take benefit from the Georgian experience.

The prime minister expressed his government's desire to promote alternative energy sources, particularly solar energy, and reduce reliance on expensive energy sources. He said the government would also promote public private partnership in the energy sector. The prime minister directed the federal ministers to consult with the delegation regarding the basic reforms of the country's energy sector and to evolve a comprehensive strategy regarding the reforms immediately. Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Petroleum Minister Musadik Malik, Power Minister Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari, Minister of State for Finance Ali Pervaiz Malik, and relevant high officials attended the meeting.



Power Sector led by Nika Gilauri Former Georgian Prime Minister, in Islamabad.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain presides over a meeting of the Fertilizer Review Committee.

Multiple agri projects underway to unleash green revolution: Kundi

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday said that multiple agriculture development projects were underway in the province which on completion would brought a green revolution in the re-

The Chashma Lift Canal project, once completed, would help irrigate over 250,000 acres of land, and its irrigation area would be increased to 600,000 acres if its height were raised to 90 feet, he added

The governor was addressing a ceremony held at the District Bar Dera Ismail Khan to distribute grant cheques of Rs 7.8 million among bar councils of the

He said the Federal Tank Zam and Daraban They people here were fac-

Zam projects, which would ing numerous problems, inbring a green revolution and help meet the food requirement not only of the region but also of the neighbouring

The governor said the the federal budget, I perrole of bar councils was very important in resolving the social issues of the people and providing leadership to the nation. The bars also helped maintain the supremacy of law.

The lawyers' movement had proved that they were united to achieve their goals, he added. Kundi said that there

was a shortage of 10 judges in the merged tribal districts and he had taken up the matter with the Federal Government in order to enlocal people.

ng on the proposals of Khan was his mission.

Minister directs for audit of fertilizer companies to determine production costs

environment for investment

try and Production Rana day directed that a thirdparty audit be conducted to determine the cost of production of fertilizer companies, in order to ensure transparency and fair pric-

ing in the industry.

He issued the directive while chairing a Fertilizer Review Committee meeting which was attended by Federal Secretary Industries and Production, Dr. Muhammad Fakhre Alam Irfan, said a news release.

The meeting reviewed the stock availability, demand, and prices of urea in inces SIFC provides enabling

ISLAMABAD (Online):

Special Investment Facili-

tation Council (SIFC) has

provided an enabling envi-

ronment for investment and

business development in

the country by working

with utmost diligence and

dedication over the last one

year. The most important

of the measures is the pro-

vision of facility for inves-

tors in the IT sector to re-

patriate up to fifty percent

of their profits. According

to data released by the

State Bank of Pakistan, IT

exports have grown by

lishment of the Office of the Investment Ombudsman

Similarly, the estab-

sixty two percent.

the country.
Rana Tanveer said that there was no shortage of urea fertilizer in the country and added steps were taken to ensure uninterrupted supply of gas to fertilizer companies for smooth production of urea.

He also directed fertilizer companies to review the performance of dealers and agencies, and instructed provinces to verify fertilizer dealers and agencies, with any ghost dealers and agencies to be blacklisted.

The minister emphasized that fertilizer companies must ensure the supply of fertilizer to the prov-

with confidence.

Appellate Tribunals

have also been established

in the privatization and

telecom sectors so that in-

vestors can seek guidance

on legal issues related to

their investments. Since

June last year, the SIFC has

made many amendments at

the policy level due to

which the efficiency of the

government system has

greatly improved. Under

the policy measures, the

visa policy has been revised

by removing unnecessary

barriers, which has in-

creased the confidence of

opment and Regulatory Au-

foreign investors.

has provided a platform to thority has been set up to

investors to resolve their provide high quality seeds

issues efficiently and invest to the farmers.

China, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan to construct new railway to enhance trade, economic cooperation BEIJING (APP): China, China, Kyrgyzstan, and It is estimated that the

Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan will construct a new railway starting in China Kashgar and traversing Torugart, Kosh-Dobo, and Kazarman in Kyrgyzstan, culminating in Andijan in eastern Uzbekistan, to enhance

A trilateral intergovernmental agreement on the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway project was signed at a ceremony in Beijing last week.

trade and economic coop-

Chinese President Xi Jinping, President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov, President Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev hailed the event as a sign of unity and

shared progress. The governments of Rupee sheds 10 paisa against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Rupee on Thursday witnessed a devaluation of 10 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.60 against the previous day's closing at Rs 278.50. According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP). the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market, however, were Rs 277.7 and Rs 280.6 respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 55 pasia National Seed Develto close at Rs 298.77 against the last day's closing of Rs 298.22.

Uzbekistan agreed to embark on constructing the new railway at a Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit held in the Uzbek city of Samarkand in September 2022. The project feasibility study was updated following the comple-tion of field surveys by

"All three countries have diligently prepared for the construction, which is expected to commence later this year," China Daily re-

Chinese engineers in De-

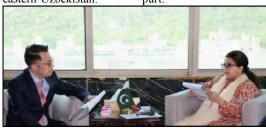
cember last year.

The new railway, a beacon of hope and optimism, will start in China's Kashgar and traverse Torugart, Kosh-Dobo, and Kazarman in Kyrgyzstan, culminating in Andijan in eastern Uzbekistan.

railway will shorten the route between China and Europe by about 900 kilometers and reduce freight transit time by eight days

This transformative railway, with its potential to enhance trade and economic cooperation between the countries along its path, holds the promise of a brighter future and instills optimism due to the potential economic benefits it wil

According to an earlier announcement, the planned 523-km railway will be constructed through a joint venture involving three countries. The estimated total cost of the project is \$8 billion, with \$4.7 billion allocated for the Kyrgyz



Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in a meeting with CEO Huawei Pakistan Mr. Ethan Sun in Islamabad.

Exports increase by 28.75% to Rs 7.9trln in 11 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Rs.653,957 million in April exports from the country in the rupee term witnessed an increase of 28.75 percent during the first eleven months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) re-

Exports during July– May (2023-2024) totaled Rs. 7,962,082 million as against Rs. 6,183,949 million during the correspond-ing period of last year, according to PBS provisional

Exports from Pakistan during May, 2024 increased by 25.99 percent to Rs. 790,199 million compared to exports of Rs.627,199 million in

May 2023.
On month-on-month basis, the exports from the country increased by 20.83 percent in May 2024 when

compare to exports of

The main commodi-

ties of exports during May 2024 included knitwear (Rs. 115,022 million) readymade garments (Rs.97,564 million), bed wear (Rs. 77,184 million), rice others (Rs. 75,311 million), cotton Cloth (Rs. 48,117 million), towels (Rs.28,768 million), petroleum products, excluding leum products, excluding top Naphta (Rs.25,393 million), rice Basmati (Rs.20,807 million), madeup articles, excluding towels & bedwear (Rs.18,558 million) and cotton yarn (Rs.17,883 million)

On the other hand, imports during July–May (FY2023-24) totaled Rs. 14,109,047 million as against Rs. 12,272,596 million during the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 14.96%

PSX closes at historic high level of 78,801 points

The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 2,094.76 points, a positive change of 2.73 percent, closing at historic level of 78,801.53 points against 76,706.77 points the previous trading day.

A total of 452,637,253 shares valuing Rs.20.675 billion were traded during the day as compared to 395,897,996 shares valuing Rs. 21.366 billion the last

Some 447 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 256 of them recorded gains and

ISLAMABAD (APP): 133 sustained losses whereas the share prices of 58 remained unchanged.

In PSX, the three top trading companies were Silk Bank Ltd with 53,586,473 shares at Rs. 1.09 per share, the K-Electric Ltd with 23,109,865 shares with Rs.4.72 per share and Habib Bank with 20,943,162 shares at Rs.121.92 per share. Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.86.62 per share price, closing at Rs.7,706.92. whereas the runner-up was Ismail Industries Limited with a Rs.63.93 rise in its share price to



KARACHI: Brokers are busy in trading at Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in Karachi.

New UAF sugarcane varieties suitable for cultivation during April, May: Dr Sarwar

FAISALABAD (APP): Two GM sugarcane varieties developed by University of Agriculture Fairlead (UAF), in addition to engineered traits of top-borer resistance and herbicide (glufosinate, Basta) tolerance, are carrying numerous superior traits like input-responsiveness, high-number of millable canes, high sugar recovery and early maturing making it suitable for plantation in the months of April and May after harvesting wheat, said Pro-Vice Chancellor UAF and developer of GM sugarcane varieties Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sarwar Khan.

In the last week, The Technical Advisory Com- ered it a landmark achievemittee (TAC) of Pakistan ment in GM sector worldunder the Énvironment wide.

Protection Agency (EPA) in its 34th meeting chaired by the Director General of the EPA, Farzana Altaf Shah, approved two GM sugarcane varieties; herbicide (glufosinate)-tolerant (CABB-HTS) and insect borer)-resistant (CABB-IRS) developed by

Vice Chancellor UAF Prof Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan, Director General EPA Farzana Altaf Shah, and many other scientists at the meeting congratulated Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sarwar Khan (Pro-Vice Chancellor/ Dean Agriculture, UAF) and his team for developing these varieties and considsues, and I am thankful to the Federal Government for allocating Rs 19 billion for the canal, whose foundation stone will be be laid down by the end of

cluding in education and

lighted the issues of my area

with the Federation. Before

sonally talked to the

prime minister about the

the Chashma Lift Canal

project, besides other is-

ong-standing demand of

"I have always high-

The canal on completion would irrigate around 600,000 acres of land, he sure speedy justice for the gratitude to Prime Minis-

He again expressed ter Shehbaz Sharif and Fed-The governor said the eral Minister for Water Redevelopment of Dera Ismail sources Musadik Masood Malik for allocating funds for the Lift Canal project.

High-level delegation led by Industries Minister to visit Turkmenistan from June 24

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level delegation led by Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain will visit Turkmenistan from June 24 to 26 to explore new opportunities for bilateral trade and investment.

The minister on Thursday held a meeting with Turkmenistan's Ambassador to Pakistan Atadjan Movlamov to discuss matters relating to the

During the meeting, the minister said that strengthening trade and economic relations with Turkmenistan was the government's top priority and the delegation's visit would play an important role in that regard.

Ambassador Atadjan Movlamov proposed that both countries should organize a joint trade exhibition to promote trade and investment.

Asian markets swing as traders assess rates outlook

HONG KONG (AFP APP): Asian markets were mixed Thursday as investors tried to gauge the outlook for US interest rates, while also keeping tabs on developments in France as it heads for crucial elections.
With Wall Street

closed, there were few catalysts to drive buying, though sentiment has been buoyed this week by recent data indicating the world's top economy is slowing gradually, giving the Federal Reserve some freedom to ease monetary policy

Traders are closely following the utterances of US central bank officials on their outlook for rates, with most warning that while inflation was on a downward trajectory, they wanted to see more evidence before committing to

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari presiding over a meeting in connection with the preparation of forthcoming All Pakistan Chamber President Conference. ICCI all set to host **APCPC on June 25-26**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) will organize "All Pakistan Chambers Presidents Conclave" (APCPC) on June 25-26, 2024

The APCPC will hopefully be attended by Presidents of over 70 Chambers of Commerce & Industry and federal ministers of government's economic team, said a press release issued here on Thursday.

President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that it is at the credit of the ICCI that it took the initiative to organize first APCPC in 2020 to bring Presidents of all Chambers of Commerce and Industry at one platform to discuss the key issues of business community and put forward proposals to the government for resolving them and now it is once again all set to convene the second He said the event aims

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry

to discuss important issues, share ideas and collaborate on initiatives that promote economic growth and devel-The Conclave will fea-

ture keynote speeches, panel discussions, and networking opportunities providing a platform for business leaders to engage with each other and with policymakers. He said that at the

moment, the economy of the country is facing multiple challenges, which have slowed down the business activities, therefore, the ICCI felt the need to bring the leadership of the entire business community at one place and give compre-hensive as well as workable proposals to the government for the revival of business and economic activities.



sacrificial animals at their warehouse at Ring road. | and QICT on Thursday.

Shipping activity at **Port Qasim**

KARACHI (APP):Foui ships, Marathopolis, MSC Positano, Atlantic Crown and Simaisma carrying container, Palm oil and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal, Liquid Terminal and Elengy Terminal respectively on Wednesday.

Meanwhile three more ships, Maersk Chi-Khairpur and Chemtrans Ionian with Container, Gasoline and Mogas also arrived at outeranchorage of the Port Qasim during last 24 hours.

Seven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Nordic Copenhagen and IMO left the port on today morning while two more container ships, Marathopolis and MSC Positano are expected to sail on same day.

Cargo volume of 188,296 tonnes, comprising 140,778 tonnes imports cargo and 47,518 tonnes export cargo carried in 5,276 Containers (2,566 TEUs Imports and 2,710 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24

Five ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them three ships Khairpur, OM Shanghai and Maersk Chicago & another ship 'Navios Constellation' carrying Gasoline, Chemicals and Container are expected to take berths at respectively FOTCO, EVTL

Sri Lankan FM reaffirms unwavering commitment to SAARC

cellency the Secretary General of SAARC Ambassador Golam Sarwar, visited Sri Lanka from 10-14 June

COLOMBO (PR): His Ex- recognizing his esteemed position as a member of the SAARC Council of Ministers, in propelling the SAARC process forward.



2024. During the visit, Secretary General Sarwar paid courtesy call on Minister of Foreign Affairs His Excellency Ali Sabry on 14 June 2024 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Colombo. Discussions focused on ways to further enhance the SAARC process.

The Secretary General provided an update on ongoing initiatives and the challenges of SAARC, seeking Sri Lanka's support for advancing and further energising the process. Moreover, he sought the guidance of the Minister, process.

knowledging the progress achieved and appreciating the Secretary General for his efforts, underscored the need for the Association to take further strides in strengthening regional cooperation. Recognizing the ignificant potential of SAARC as a regional forum, Minister Sabry emphasized its capacity to facilitate extensive regional cooperation in mutually agreedupon domains and assured Srilanka's unflinching commitment for the SAARC

Foreign Minister Sabry, ac-

Visits revamped NEOC

NDMA to become a safety wall for Pakistan: PM

Shahbaz Sharif lauds revamping NEOC; appreciates cutting-edge technology

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday, lauding the revamped National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC) equipped with multiple satellite feeds and artificial intelligence tools, expressed the hope that the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) would prove to be a safety wall for Pakistan against the impacts of the climate

"Due to climate change, Pakistan is in the red zone and among the top ten vulnerable countries. We should not lose our morale rather work hard. After this achievement, I have no doubt that the NDMA, in coordination with provincial PDMAs, will become a safety wall for Pakistan," the prime minister said during his visit to the NEOC here along with the federal ministers and sec-

This was the maiden visit of the prime minister since the revamped NEOC was inaugurated in October last year.

He highly appreciated overcome as the Federal NDMA Chairman Lt Gen Government alone had Inam Haider Malik for realising his dream of focusing on the capacity building and human resource development of the Authority instead of an earlier planned project of building an office tower.

Referring to his previous meetings following the floods of 2022, the prime minister said he had suggested the NDMA chief to and building of the organisation by equipping it with the lions of people. latest technology, input from the provinces and reestablishing a digital hub.

dream has been realised deserves applause. I don't assured think any province has achieved such capacity with the world-class systems. I am happy that instead of a highrise building, you invested in this digital hub," the prime minister remarked.

floods had inflicted a \$30 billion loss to the country model to make Pakistan a which would take years to great nation.

spent Rs 100 billion for the rehabilitation of affected population, besides the funding from provinces as well as aid from the friendly countries.

He said consequent to the efforts by that time Climate Change Minister Sherry Rehman, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and other federal prioritise the the capacity organisations, the country was able to rehabilitate mil-

Prime Minister Shehbaz appreciated the cruitment of permanent merit-based induction of human resources, besides quality human resource and establishing a third-"Today, the way that party validation mechanism at the NMDA, and government's support and funding for the staffers' training and procurement of equipment.

This is not normal. This is not usual. This is far above normal and usual," he said and asked He said the 2022 the federal ministers and secretaries to follow the role



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Resident Representative of United Nations Development Programme in Pakistan, Van Nguyen calls on coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam at her office.

PM grieved over martyrdom of Hujjaj in Makkah

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday expressed deep sorrow and grief over the tragic incident in Makkah, Saudi Arabia, which resulted in the loss of precious lives of Hujjaj, including some from Paki-

The prime minister, in a statement, directed the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Pakistan's Embassy in Saudi Arabia to ensure provision of best possible medical care to the Pakistani Hajj pilgrims who were admitted in hos-

He talked to Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Religious Chaudhary Salik Hussain and Pakistan's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Ahmed Faroog in Makkah and directed them to make arrangements for shifting of the bodies of martyred Hajj pilgrims to

Chairman praises officials for 'good performance' in Eid

ISLAMABAD (APP) Chairman of Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) Saqib Rafiq Thursday praised officials for their good performance and said that RWMC had implemented a comprehensive strategy to effectively collect and dispose of more than 9,000 tons of animal waste during the three days of Eid-ul-Azha while resolving public complaints.

Talking to the PTV news channel, he said that almost 43 transfer stations were being set up at the Union Council level.

IRSA releases 303,400 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 303,400 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 369,800 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1,454.75 feet and was 56.75 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 175,000 cusecs and 110,000 cusecs respectively.

IG Islamabad visits Faizabad checkpoint

Independent Report visited the Faizabad

point. During the visit, IG Islamabad announced fectively and effi- of suspicious vehicles. ciently.

ebrations to ensure the lice.

safety of the citizens.

be given leave in stages. checkpoint on the third Because of these office day of Eid and met with ers, the citizens of the police officers sta- Islamabad celebrated tioned at the check-point. Eid peacefully, he added. He directed the police officers to perform their duties effeccommendation certifi- tively, to treat citizens cates and cash rewards courteously during the for all officers for per- checking process, and to forming their duties ef- conduct effective checks

He further said On the occasion, he said these are the officers who are sacrificing their own family celling. It is a second to the lives and property of citizens is the top priority of Islamabad Police.

Effective Traffic Management ensured during Eid holidays

Independent Report the special orders of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Officer Islamabad Muhammad Sarfaraz Virk

supervised the Islamahad

Traffic Police to implement licenses. an effective plan to main-

ets and impounding dozens ISLAMABAD: Following of motorcycles in various police stations.

CTO Islamabad said that the impounded motor-Nasir Rizvi, Chief Traffic cycles included those without number plates, with incorrect numbers, altered motorcycles, and without

Due to the effective



ways and protect citizens from accidents during Eidul-Adha.

Besides ensuring ef- the federal capital. fective traffic management at public places, a crackdown was conducted

tain traffic flow on high- arrangements by the traffic police, no incidents of onewheeling, racing, or motorcycle accidents occurred in

He further said that the efforts and duties performed by Islamabad Police against motorcyclists in- during Eid-ul-Adha were volved in one-wheeling and appreciated by all segments hooliganism on highways, of society and citizens on issuing 4,154 challan tick-various forums.

Secretary Info, PIO grieved over demise of father of NPC President Jatoi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Secretary Information and Broadcasting Shahera Shahid and Principal Information Officer (PIO) Mobashir Hassan on Thursday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of the father of National Press Club (NPC) President Azhar Jatoi. In their condolence messages, the Secretary Information and PIO expressed heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the bereaved family.

They prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss with fortitude.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses the **National Emergencies Operation Centre.**

Romina Khurshid lauds UNDP, Pakistan's financial, technical support for tackling climate risks

provide and facilitate more

and better pre-arranged

protection against climate

and disaster related risks for

vulnerable people in the

highly climate risk-prone

Shield against Climate

Risks initiative is more and

better pre-arranged and trig-

ger-based financial re-

source, which is immedi-

ately-available fund in re-

sponse to disasters, in the

most efficient, effective and

fastest way for the

economy, businesses, and

communities in the most

climate-vulnerable coun-

tries," UNDP-Pakistan's

Van Nguyen elaborated

during the meeting with

providing countries with

comprehensive support in

further understanding the

climate risks and impacts

and the innovative solu-

tions and support to plug the protection gap and ef-

fectively address losses and

damages caused and exac-

erbated by climate change

is an over-arching purpose of the initiative," the

UNDP-Pakistan's senior

official informed the PM's

aide. "Another key objec-

tive of the initiative is pro-

vision of grant-based finan-

cial and technical assistance

to climate-vulnerable coun-

tries like Pakistan so as to

develop and implement so-

lutions for financial protec-

'More importantly,

Romina Khurshid Alam.

"Basically, the Global

countries.

munities linked with cli-

mate change and adaptation

UNDP-Pakistan official

also assured the PM's aide

Romina Khurshid Alam of

her organisation's all-out

support to access the finan-

cial and technical support

provided by the initiative

to build the country's cli-

thanked and lauded the

UNDP - Pakistan for their

generous offer for helping

Pakistan through the cli-

mate change and environ-

mental coordination minis-

try to build up resilience of

the climate-vulnerable sectors, particularly agricul-

ture, urban flood resilience

and early warning for disas-

ter risk reduction. "I would

leave no stone unturned to

avail any opportunity that

help us protection lives and

livelihoods of the people

and socio-economic sectors

particularly agriculture,

water, energy, health, edu-

cation through climate ad-

aptation and mitigation mea-

sures," Romina Khurshid

Pakistan's senior official Van

Nguyen. "Greater financial

protection and faster and

more reliable disaster pre-

paredness and response pro-

vided under the initiative can

contribute to effectively re-

sponding to the vulnerabili-

ties as well as climate

change-related loss.

Alam told the UNDP

Romina Khurshid

mate resilience.

Meanwhile,

efforts," she added.

I S L A M A B A D Climate Risks initiative to tion of the vulnerable com-(APP):Deputy Resident Representative for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Pakistan, Van Nguyen called on Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change MNA Romina Khurshid Alam here on Thursday whereas the Coordinator lauded the Programme's financial and technical support to the country for tackling climate crisis.

During the meeting held here at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, both sides discussed at length the matters related to the climate risk mitigation, climate finance for adaptation and mitigation measures, agriculture insurance, urban flood resilience, a news release said.

The senior UNDP-Pakistan official Van Nguyen also briefed the PM's aide about the Global Shield against Climate Risks initiative, saying the new global funding mechanism aimed to close protection gaps in climate-vulnerable countries like Pakistan, using pre-arranged finance.

Sharing details, she apprised the PM's aide Romina Khurshid Advisor further said that the Vulnerable Twenty Group (V20) together with the Group of Seven (G7) and other supporting countries launched the Global Shield against

CDA decides to establish Wildlife Safari Park

ISLAMABAD (APP) The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has decided to establish Wildlife Safari Park in the federal capital.

It was decided in a meeting chaired by Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa, said a press release issued here on Thursday.

The park will be developed on a jungle theme and will include tree houses, facilities for close observation of animals and a rehabilitation center for animals. For this purpose, a technical team has been formed to evaluate the technical and financial aspects of establishing the Wildlife Safari Park.

Muhammad Ali said that the experiences of safari parks established at both national and international levels would be uti-

The meeting also decided to launch Pakistan Street, which will feature outlets offering cuisines from around the world. He said that the work on both projects will commence in the next fiscal year following detailed planning.

UNHCR stresses countries to resolve conflicts, share responsibility for refugees

ISLAMABAD (APP) Pakistan UNHCR Spokesperson, Qaiser Khan Afridi Thursday on 'World Refugees Day' said that over 75 percent of refugees were being hosted by middle-income countries where we urged nations to resolve political conflicts and share the responsibilities of displace refugees.

Speaking to the PTV news channel, he said, "These refugee nations are facing rising challenges such as political conflicts, climatic factors, disasters, and growing external debt, hindering their ability to address specific national needs and achieve sustainable development goals and

development aspirations."
"World Refugee Day is a time to recognize the generosity of host countries that have kept their borders and hearts open to people in need of protection, he

Pakistan reaffirms commitment to peaceful space exploration

The Chairman of the Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), Muhammad Yousuf Khan has termed the outer space as a common heritage of humanity and said Pakistan is strongly committed to peaceful use of outer space. Chairman The

Suparco said this while addressing the inaugural session of the 67th session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). The session is held in Vienna and will continue till

natory accessibility, said a space research.

ISLAMABAD (APP): news release received here. Chairman SUPARCO proudly shared Pakistan's recent advancements, including the successful launches of the iCUBE-Oamar satellite and the Pakistan Multi-Mission Communication Satellite. PakSat-MM1, this May. He also revealed fu-

ture plans for a rover mission to the lunar south pole in collaboration with China's Chang'E-8 Mission. Earlier, the Chairman attended the Lunar Conference organized by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) on June 18, Highlighting outer where he discussed space as a common heritage Pakistan's commitment to of humanity, he stressed its equitable and non-discrimination in actional cooperation in



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkmenistan Attajan Mulamov meets Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain.

ICT admin disposes of over 0.2 mln offals, 1750 tonnes waste during Eid days

The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration efficiently managed cleanup efforts, disposing of about 0.2 million offals and over 1,750 tons of waste during Eid ul Azha.

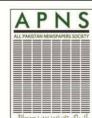
Last year, about 94,000 offals were disposed of in the Federal Capital on Eid. This year, administration worked tirelessly to ensure that offals and waste were collected from every household, said the spokesman for the ICT administration.

Sharing the details, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Íslamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, said that more than 150 citizen complaints were received via the 1334 helpline, city's cleanliness.

sponse teams to address the issues. He said that on the first day of Eid, over 99,000 offals and over 1,750 tons of waste were disposed of, while more than 100 citizen complaints were received via the 1334 helpline, prompting immediate response teams to address the issues.

Similarly, on the second day of Eid, the district administration resumed the cleanup operations and disposed of over 99,000 offals while receiving more than 50 citizen complaints via the 1334 helpline.

The DC congratulated all Assistant Commissioners and the district administration teams for their dedication to restoring the



PRINT OR PERISH

The 10% GST Threatens Free Press

- 1. The newspaper industry is facing an existential crisis due to the 10% GST proposed on newsprint in the recent
- 2. In an environment full of fake news and disinformation, newspapers are a vital source for credible and authentic news. They play an important role in promoting democratic values and shaping informed public opinions. The imposition of this GST will push many newspapers, particularly small and regional newspapers, towards closure.
- 3. Newspapers organisations are already subsidising the cost of their publications for their readers as they are not passing on the cost burden to the readers. Taxing the newspapers will further weaken the economies of the print media and impact the citizens' right to know.
- 4. This tax threatens the survival of an already struggling newspaper industry. While reducing the quality and quantity of news coverage, the tax will increases production costs, endanger jobs, restrict the ability for the industry to pay competitive and timely salaries and will make it impossible for print media organisations to implement the government mandated Wage Board for newspaper employees.

We urge the government to reconsider and withdraw this tax to ensure the survival and continued contribution of newspapers to an enlightened society.

