

# Independent

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## If we have to eliminate begging bowl, we will have to stand on our own feet: PM

**Stresses for creation of enabling equal opportunities for women empowerment**

PESHAWAR (Online): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has said if we have to eliminate begging bowl we will have to stand on our own feet. "We have not accepted IMF program willingly. If we have to eliminate begging bowl then we will have to stand on our own feet, PM said this while inaugurating first phase of FATA University in Peshawar Tuesday.

"I and other dignitaries go abroad on visits. When we are received therein I see their faces. The faces of those who welcome us are saying we have come here to beg money from them, he remarked. Despite all hardships we are distributing laptops among students, he said adding. In the coming few years Pakistan will be prosperous and developed country in the region, he hoped.

We have evolved comprehensive plan for the development of agriculture, IT and minerals. Today our neighboring country has surpassed us. For this we are at fault.

Today we will have to look into our mistakes. We have to decide either we have to keep our hand lofty or we have to roam with begging bowl, he observed. There was time when our cotton export was more than India. We have to learn a lesson from the past. Country never turned prosperous with wailing mindset, he said. We have to bring revolution in agriculture and national industries, he stated. The process of distribution of lap tops was started from Nawaz Sharif era. We will distribute one lakh lap tops. No lap top will be given under favoritism. Lap tops will be given on the norms of merit only, he announced.

APP adds: Prime Minister Muhammad

Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday stressed upon provision of equal opportunities to the womenfolk as they consisted of half of the country's population and were playing varying roles at different strata of society. He was addressing the launching ceremony of the 'Prime Minister's Initiative for Women Empowerment' which is being initiated at a total cost of Rs 10.4 billion.

The prime minister said that the country's womenfolk were an effective and energetic segment, playing effective roles in families and society as mothers, sisters, wives and daughters. He observed that in the last 75 years, the required opportunities for the women empowerment were not sufficient and stressed upon making of further efforts for securing women rights.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses the ceremony of Prime Minister's Initiatives on Women's Empowerment.

## President says: Pakistan offers huge potential for Gandhara tourism with Buddha's message of peace

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday said Pakistan offered the world a valuable window to Gandhara civilization with its unique blend of ancient history, and the Buddha's message of peace and compassion.

"In today's world where hatred is on the rise and increasing polarization is fueling conflicts, it's time to rediscover the role of cultural diplomacy to promote dialogue among civilizations," he said in his address here at the three-day Gandhara Symposium 2023. The symposium titled 'Cultural Diplomacy: Reviving Gandhara Civilization and Buddhist Heritage in Pakistan' was organized by Prime Minister's Task Force on Gandhara Tourism, Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), and the Directorate

of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The event gathered monks and inter-faith experts from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Thailand, China, Malaysia, South Korea and Vietnam with an objective to explore Pakistan's rich Buddhist legacy and create an enabling environment for Gandhara tourism.

President Alvi said Buddha's quest rekindles the spirit of inner reflection with a precept to abstain from taking lives of the living beings and caring for the environment. He highlighted that the Gandhara civilization, which thrived in Pakistan centuries ago, could serve as an informative place for the visitors from across the globe to explore exquisite Buddhist sites. He urged collaborative efforts to raise awareness

## World must stand united against hatred, discrimination, intolerance: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday called upon the world to stand united against hatred, discrimination and intolerance, and promote mutual respect, understanding, and tolerance.

Virtually addressing the session of an urgent debate held by Human Rights Council on acts of religious hatred including the desecration of the Holy Quran, the foreign minister said unfortunately, the deliberate desecration of the Holy Quran had continued under government sanction and with the sense of impunity.

Increasingly, he said these acts were designed to maximize propagating hate. "We must see this incitement to hatred, discrimination and attempts to provoke violence. We must join

hands in condemning it, we must isolate those who stroke hatred," he said. The minister said three months ago the first international day to combat Islamophobia was observed where the first ever session was held to mark the occasion at the UN General Assembly. He said the Holy Quran was a spiritual anchor for two billion Muslims. "It is important to understand the deep hurt that at public and premeditated act of Quran's desecration causes to Muslims," he remarked.

Termining the desecration of the Holy Quran as an attack on the Muslim's faith, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said the call in the draft text presented before this council for prevention and accountability was reasonable and necessary.

KARACHI: High Commissioner Ghana, Eric Owusu Boateng calls on Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

## Politicians must face cases instead of cloaking themselves: Sharjeel

Independent Report KARACHI: Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has said that politicians should face cases instead of cloaking themselves.

Taking to media in Karachi on Tuesday, he said that Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has dictatorial thinking and today the party alleges that it was not given opportunity to present its viewpoint. Sharjeel Memon said that general election will be held shortly but we will not show narrow-mindedness despite all out fake allegations of PTI. We will talk to PTI on election day and after success with majority will again form government, he added. The information minister claimed that today Karachi is number one regarding health facilities. He said that PPP never came to power from backdoor and rendered more sacrifices than any other political party of the country. Sharjeel Memon said that PPP always fought against dictatorship and judicial activism. Out fight is not against political parties but against system and poverty, he added. He alleged that ducky was granted bail while sitting at home but attitude of judiciary towards PPP always remain stringent.

KARACHI: Minister for Information Sindh Sharjeel Inam Memon talking to media persons after visiting press club in Provincial Capital.

## PM expresses deep gratitude KSA deposits 2 billion dollars in SBP: FM

ISLAMABAD (Online): Finance Minister (FM) Ishaq Dar has said Saudi Arabia has deposited 2 billion dollars in State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

FM said in a statement loan has come in SBP account. This has raised reserves of Pakistan. The friendly country had made a commitment in this regard in the recent past. He said these deposits have enhanced the country's foreign exchange reserves from 9.67 billion dollars to 11.67 billion dollars. On behalf of the people and government of Pakistan, the Finance Minister thanked the Saudi leadership especially King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud for always standing by Pakistan in difficult times. He said the Saudi leadership has always proved to be true brothers of Pakistan.

The Finance Minister said the country will witness more positive developments in the days ahead and it will now move towards growth trajectory. I hope the economic situation in Pakistan will soon grow stable. Improvement has already come therein, he remarked. APP adds: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday extended his "deep gratitude" to the leadership and brotherly people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the US\$2 billion deposit with the State Bank of Pakistan. "I would like to especially thank my brother Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister His Royal Highness Mohammed bin Salman for ensuring this financial support to Pakistan," he wrote on Twitter. The prime minister hoped that the deposit would strengthen Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves and reflected the growing confidence of the brotherly countries and the international community in the country's economic turnaround.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the International Gandhara Symposium 2023.

## CM Sindh vows to eliminate dacoits, foresees Bilawal Bhutto as next PM

**Announces formation of Provincial Finance Commission for local bodies**

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said that the newly elected representatives of the local bodies have taken over, therefore he has decided to announce the next Provincial Finance Commission (PFC) for the vertical distribution of available resources.

"We have started spade work to design the next PFC and it will be finalized within a month." This he said while talking to media just after performing the concluding ceremony of the three-day Urs of Abdullah Shah Ghazi at his Mazar on Tuesday.

Replying to a question, CM Sindh said that the cabinet had decided to announce the PFC award within a month of the formation of local bodies. "Now the elected representatives of the local bodies have taken over and we are going to form the commission and then the commission decides the formula of the award," he said and added that his government would financially strengthen the third tier of the government.

It may be noted that the PFC ascertains the share of available resources between provincial and local bodies, generally known as vertical distribution. It also formulates a criterion for the distribution of allocated funds to local government horizontally

among different tiers and local councils. This mechanism of distribution is known as Provincial Finance Commission (PFC) Award.

To another question, the chief minister said that the digitalization of the salaries of the KMC and some other local bodies' employees have unearthed a large number of employees who were drawing double salaries - from KMC and another provincial department.

"This is a crime and punishable under the law," he said and added his government has decided to dismiss such employees after fulfilling the legal requirements.

PTI leader, four others booked in robbery case in Sindh

MATYARI (INP): Police in Matyari city of Sindh on Tuesday arrested three persons after registering a case of dacoity of millions of rupees against five people, including PTI leader Makhdoom Fazal Hussain, his son Makhdoom Mohsin and Imran Taj Memon.

According to a copy of the FIR case, registered under sections 397-504-507 (2) of the PPC on the complaint of three persons, including Mumtaz Hanguru, read that the complainants were travelling from Saeedabad to Hala when they were intercepted by five men, including the PTI leader, who robbed them of Rs500,000 cash, a gold ring, and other valuables. Police later stormed residence of the PTI leader at Hala and took into custody three persons. However, the Force refused to give any further details.

On the other hand, Makhdoom Fazal Hussain, the PTI leader, giving his version, said that the police had registered a false case against him and his associates. "We are not at Hala these days. But the police are bent upon harassing us," he has said, adding, "An effort is being made to malign us.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah meets with Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Karachi at CM House.

## India-Israel nexus with PTI now stands exposed behind May 9 mayhem: Sherry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Senator Sherry Rehman on Tuesday strongly condemned the statement of Israel regarding Pakistan at the United Nations and alleged that the Israel-India support for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and its chief had fully exposed the sinister nexus behind the May 9 mayhem.

Addressing a press conference flanked by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Interior and Legal Affairs Attaulah Tarar, Sherry Rehman lambasted the PTI chairman for his reported venomous campaign against the state, who, she claimed, was ever ready to do anything to please Israel.

"He (Imran Khan) believes that Israel's violations in Palestine are fine. Today Israel also becomes an ambassador of human

rights but in reality she is doing the opposite," the minister added.

She denounced the PTI chairman for criticising and opposing his arrest. "He asks why the government did this to me? He says he was arrested in a disgraceful way, but he should know that no one is above the law," she added.

The minister there were some sinister designs behind the curtain. Today the PTI was the best friend of Israel and Indian Prime Minister Modi, and its leader was being "baptized" in the waters of Israel.

The PTI workers, she alleged, had desecrated and harmed the monuments of martyrs on the behest of their leader, who now wanted to harm Pakistan as a whole. "Israel is supporting Imran Khan today and what does that mean?" she quipped.



PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ms. Marriyung Aurangzeb inaugurating Rehabilitation of Radio Pakistan Peshawar building after the incident of 9th May.



BELJING: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal met with Mr. Zheng Shanjie, Chairman, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC). They reviewed progress on ongoing CPEC projects and exchanged views on its future direction in line with the important consensus between the leadership of the two brotherly countries.

## Special Branch asked to increase surveillance against increasing menace of drugs

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon on Tuesday directed the Additional IGP Special Branch Sindh to increase surveillance against the menace of drug supply at educational institutions and other places.

In a letter to all officers concerned, the IGP ordered to set up a coordination mechanism between Special Branch and ranges/zones to ensure elimination of the menace of drugs.

The letter read that the synthetic drugs and narcotics were being supplied to teenagers/children/students and other buyers at schools, restaurants, cafes, and other places with impunity.

In this context, the Additional IGP Special Branch Sindh was directed to increase surveillance at the said places while DIGP Special Branch Sindh was asked to coordinate with Range/Zonal DIGPs to eliminate the menace of drugs.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Aiding investment

The new Pakistan Investment Policy 2023 appears to have been driven by the government's short-to-medium-term objective of facilitating 'promised' investment from the Gulf countries, and the longer-term goal of improving the overall business environment at home to enhance investment-to-GDP ratio to 20pc.

The World Bank estimates that investment will plunge to 13.3pc as a ratio of GDP during the present financial year from 15pc in FY20. Designed in collaboration with multilateral financial institutions, the policy is expected to attract \$20-25bn in investment over the next few years.

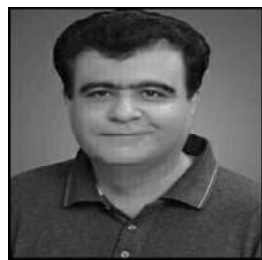
The government has indicated that the GCC nations are very interested in investing in different segments of Pakistan's economy to support development. The prime minister has already formed a Special Investment Facilitation Council to overcome any obstacles in the way of the project.

The policy will focus on reducing the cost and facilitating the ease of doing business, streamlining business processes and promoting the convergence of trade, industrial and monetary policies. It offers numerous incentives to foreign investors, including elimination of the minimum equity requirement and permission to invest in all sectors, barring a few.

The investors will be able to remit their entire profits back home in their own currencies and receive special protection. They will be also allowed to lease land without restriction, and transfer any land they hold without limitation. The policy lifts restrictions on foreign real estate developers. Foreign investors will be permitted to hold a 60pc stake in agricultural projects and 100pc equity in corporate farming.

Recent trends show that FDI flows are directed mostly towards politically and economically stable economies that have strong foundations for future growth and can access broader markets. Other factors that influence foreign investors' decisions include tax rates, regulatory transparency, policy consistency, technological infrastructure and a secure environment. Sadly, we lag far behind even regional countries on these counts. No wonder foreign firms are exiting our market. Even Chinese firms looking for relocation of their manufacturing facilities for export back home and elsewhere in the world are reluctant to invest here. Pakistan stands at a critical juncture in its history: it can turn its economic crisis into an opportunity by quickly implementing governance and structural reforms to attract investment or suffer on account of inaction. The new policy will likely woo official investment from friendly foreign governments. But private foreign investment flows will not materialise unless we fix all our systems that can affect an investor in any way.

## Breakaway states



Dr Niaz Murtaza

Most states today are either historical ones or were made by colonisers. Only a few broke away from larger states after World War II. Excluding non-UN member breakaway regions like Somaliland, this includes Singapore, Timor-Leste, Bangla-desh, Pakistan and Lebanon in Asia; Eritrea and South Sudan in Africa; six ex-Yugoslav states; Slovakia and 14 ex-USSR states (eight Christian-dominated ones in Europe and six Muslim-dominated ones in Asia). The ex-USSR states and Singapore were evicted; the rest pursued freedom.

Singapore, Croatia, Slovakia, Latvia, Slovenia, Lithuania and Estonia are doing very well politically and economically. Sixteen other states have political stability and moderate economic growth (including Ukraine until the Russian invasion). Conversely, South Sudan, Lebanon, Pakistan and Bosnia have weak economies, political instability and insecurity. Eritrea, the fond site of my PhD research where I spent months living in tiny villages studying how stable traditional human systems were undermined by external intrusion over 100 years, has become a totalitarian, reclusive, pariah state.

To explain this divergence, I look at three factors: their mode of freedom, homogeneity and prior existence as a free state or a regional unit with its own governance structure that could aid post-freedom governance. The seven

doing well are religiously and ethnically homogeneous — with at least 70 per cent of the people belonging to one identity group — and were at least regional units for long. Those doing moderately well are only slightly less homogeneous but were still at least regional governance units for long.

The last five are all diverse, with no ethnic group having even a 50pc majority. Pakistan, South Sudan and Lebanon had never existed as even distinct regional political units — Eritrea only for 90 years under Italian rule after 1890 that created some unity, and Bosnia rarely through history. South Sudan, Eritrea and Bosnia became free via civil war and Pakistan and Lebanon via colonial division. South Sudan and Eritrea had faced huge abuse for decades under Sudan and Ethiopia, creating unity. The Pakistani, Lebanese and Bosnian freedom drives were pre-emptive, driven by elite fears of future risks. Ours was led by elites that hardly belonged locally after 1947.

Thus, most of the problems of the five are embedded in their DNAs, which lacked both a natural nation (where most people belong to one social group) or historical state (even as a regional unit) strand. They faced the huge task of creating both a state and nation almost from scratch after freedom. States lacking both can progress via a cultivated nationhood, where diverse groups adopt a new national identity based on mutual benefits perceived from being part of a larger state. But cultivated nationhood requires devolved democracy, which we have struggled with.

This is all the more surprising as the demand for Pakistan was first made in March 1940 based on a charter that

embodied devolved democracy as its driving force, a novel, brilliant idea that was decades ahead as a governance model among decolonising regions then. It's a surprise that an elitist, drab outfit like the Muslim League gave it. It was only adopted under regional pressure and to get regions on board. But the League leadership took no steps to operationalise it before or after 1947. The Muslim elites who feared Hindu-majority democratic rule before 1947 feared even Muslim-majority democratic rule after independence. Thus, some say that while the Indian and Bangladeshi freedom drives were pursuing democracy, the Pakistani one was not.

The devolved democracy idea was dangled by the British in the Cabinet Mission plan, seen as an option against the majoritarian, centralised democracy Congress sold and the partition Muslim League wanted. Ironically, Muslim League accepted it while Congress didn't. Yet in their respective post-freedom turfs, Congress adopted it much more. Hence, today, we lack ancient statehood, natural nationhood and even cultivated nationhood. The first two cannot be created. But cultivated nationhood through devolved democracy is still possible.

Yet, our elite-dominated state structure supports patronage elite politics to crush grassroots, egalitarian politics and supports autocratic, extremist religious, populist and ethno-populist politics when even the elitist politician becomes too autonomous. In short, this review highlights a key fact: a thriving nation and state cannot be created easily based on real elite fears alone if there isn't an ancient state and a natural nation. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Idle & unemployed



Zofeen T. Ebrahim

Our chief census commissioner Naemuz Zafar's words failed to cause a stir when he said recently that there were 249,566,743 of us in the country. That we are too many is stating the obvious. But maybe if he had said it, it may have sunk in. Or maybe if 'we are too many' becomes a mantra of sorts, and is repeated from different platforms, we may hear it. We need to hear it from the pulpit, on television and radio, social media, in the national and provincial assemblies and the Senate. We need to hear it in schools and universities. Maybe, Hasan Raheem could come up with a song, maybe Coke Studio could devote a whole season to the population explosion we just witnessed, and maybe then we will stop breeding like rabbits.

Pakistan's population has doubled twice since 1951, when the first census was held, and is estimated to double again within four years, ie, 2027, registering an eightfold increase since 1951, which is "unacceptably high" if you ask demographer Dr Farid Midhet.

For years, our leaders have been telling us that our youth bulge (currently 58.7 million) is our demographic boom. They are not telling the truth. The government needs to abandon spinning this tale about the population dividend. According to economist Dr Hafiz A. Pasha's calculations, 17m youth in Pakistan are either 'idle' or unemployed; of these almost 7m are young men. Does the government have a plan

for the uneducated, malnourished, stunted, unhealthy and unskilled cohort of this country? Because that is what Pakistan will eventually be left with.

The young educated, tired of wading through chest-deep corruption, is fleeing the country at the first opportunity. In 2022, more than 800,000 people left the country to work abroad. These are the recorded numbers; the real figures could be manifold. Many from the same educated fraternity, using both legal (on the pretext of pursuing a higher degree, never to return) and illegal (such as last month's Greek boat tragedy) channels, could be far more.

Then there is the frustrated brigade of graduates stuck in Pakistan but unable to find work matching their skillset and education. A 2022 Pakistan Institute of Development Economics study revealed that the unemployment rate among university graduates in Pakistan was over 31pc.

The government can continue building more schools, universities, hospitals, even dams to store water. It can plan youth development programmes too, but will these ever be enough?

Dr Midhet wants to set up a 'Population and Development Research Centre', a kind of a think tank, where new knowledge is generated around population, specially the youth bulge. This knowledge, he says, can then be shared with stakeholders to channel the unemployed (even uneducated) and idle towards more productive use. While there is some donor interest in establishing the centre, he says, it needs to be set up in a government academic institution.

At the same time, policymakers must now look at the 249m figure through the lens of family planning. One does not have to be a demographer like Dr Midhet to understand that the country's total fertility rate — the average number of births a woman would have in her lifetime and which currently stands at 3.32 — is still quite high. Although India became the most populous country this year, its TFR stands at 2.0 (even below the replacement level of 2.1) and its use of family planning methods is 66.7pc. Pakistan's stands at 34pc. The Indian government has attributed the decline in its TFR to the increase in the use of contraceptives and rising education among girls.

It is time to stop exploiting the population issue for political oneness as this may only lead us down a rabbit hole. Dr Sabina Durrani, director general of the population programme wing at the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, finds such formulas rather skewed. Giving the example of each province using its population numbers to influence the NFC award, or to gain more seats in parliament or a larger share in the civil services quota, she asks that if population is given so much weightage why would provinces want to invest in reducing the size of their respective populations.

UNFPA's representative in Pakistan says population issues need to be tackled in novel ways to uproot current biases. One way could be to set up an agency like the National Command and Operation Centre (created during the Covid-19 pandemic) for population matters and to safeguard the health and rights of Pakistan's women and girls, which is the theme of this year's July 11 World Population Day. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### President for skill development, financial, digital inclusion of women

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday underscored the need for skill development, digital inclusion, and financial inclusion of women in Pakistan in order to make them financially self-sufficient. He stated that women, who constituted almost 50 percent of the country's population, needed to participate in all sectors of the economy for their economic empowerment.

Women's and girls' education is a vital component that contributed to gender equality as well as

to the socio-economic development of the country, he added. The president made these remarks during a meeting with the delegation of Women Business Network, led by Sam Ali Dada, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Women Business Network (WBN) is a global network of business professionals and corporate leaders that aims to uplift women for key leadership positions in the industry and create opportunities for their businesses.

During the meeting, the president urged the delegation to increase employ-

ment opportunities for women in the private sector, besides establishing linkages with skill development institutions, such as NAVTTC and TEVTA, to provide women with marketable skills sets.

He also emphasized the importance of skill and educational development of women and girls in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

The president highlighted the need for projecting the success stories of women to encourage and motivate other women to

take part in business and economic activities.

He also called for taking practical and meaningful steps to address gender disparity. He stressed the need for integrating women into the mainstream of economic activities for their financial empowerment.

The delegation briefed the president about the steps being taken by WBN for the socio-economic empowerment of women. He commended the efforts of WBN in providing job opportunities to women and taking steps for their financial inclusion.



President Dr Arif Alvi in a meeting with a delegation of Women Business Network, led by Ms Sam Ali Dada, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



RAWALPINDI: Vendors displaying old vehicles' engines to attract the customers in shop at Chah Sultan.

### Ahsan Iqbal briefs Chinese companies on govt latest steps to facilitate investment

BEIJING (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof Ahsan Iqbal briefed the Chinese companies on the latest steps taken by the Government of Pakistan to facilitate investment and stated that Phase II of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was increasing the bilateral cooperation in industrial, infrastructure and information technology sectors.

The minister hosted a dinner for the Chinese Companies working in Pakistan on CPEC-related

projects, in Beijing.

The dinner was organized as part of celebrations of the Decade of CPEC (2013-23) to acknowledge the contributions of Chinese enterprises and companies in Pakistan's development through CPEC-related projects.

Addressing the participants, he also emphasized on business-to-business collaboration would be the hallmark of this phase of CPEC.

The minister also highlighted that the Government of Pakistan had for-

mulated a Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) for the economic revival of the country.

The SIFC will be chaired by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, with the Chief of Army Staff and Federal Ministers as its members. This is in line with the Government of Pakistan's vision to promote investment and prioritize exports.

Prof Ahsan Iqbal encouraged Chinese enterprises and investors to explore more investment opportunities in Pakistan.

### PBF commends govt's endeavours of renewing agribusiness area

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) lauding Green Pakistan Initiative said that the country's second green revolution will pave the way for progress and prosperity besides attracting massive foreign direct investment.

Vice President PBF, Chaudhry Ahmad Jawad, in interaction with APP on Tuesday, said that the government's historic initiative and the Pakistan Army's special focus on revolutionising the agricul-

tural sector would make farming the significant driver of our monetary development and ensure food security as well.

He said that in Pakistan's agricultural sector, billion-dollar investments are anticipated within the next four to five years through the promotion of cutting-edge technology, collaboration between the public and private sectors, and dividends distributed to local farmers to alleviate poverty.

### UVAS holds stakeholder discussion on livestock development

LAHORE (APP): The University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS) Lahore in collaboration with the Punjab Agriculture Research Board (PARB) arranged a discussion on livestock development and research at City Campus on Tuesday.

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Nasim Ahmed and Chief Executive (PARB) Dr Abid Mehmood co-chaired the meeting and sought suggestions and technical inputs from stakeholders and identified priority researchable

areas for development of the livestock sector and enhancing profitability of poor livestock farming community in the country. Representatives of dairy industry, stakeholders from public and private organizations, researchers, faculty members from different education institutions and professionals were also present. Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Nasim Ahmed sought suggestions from participants on future necessities of research & development for the livestock sector.

### Pakistan eyes GCC's \$40 bln investment in agri sector in 5 yrs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said the government aimed to fetch investment of billions of dollars from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries into the country's food and agriculture sector.

In a tweet, he said, the GCC countries import food items and agriculture products to the tune of \$40 billion annually.

Sharif said the step would be taken under the supervision of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), for which

the ground has been prepared.

In the next four to five years, he said, there would be an investment of approximately \$40 billion in addition to the creation of four million new jobs.

The prime minister mentioned that at the national seminar on agriculture and food security held Monday, he stressed the importance of revitalizing agriculture as a harbinger of the second Green Revolution.

"The second Green Revolution is about making agriculture the major driver

of our economic growth, leading to food security that reinforces our national security," he said.

He said the seminar was not a routine event meant for churning of rhetoric, but it represented the beginning of a long overdue national effort for the economic revival of the country owned by all stakeholders.

"The future holds the promise of departing from loans to building a resilient economy, which stands on its internal strengths," he said. "Together, we will make it happen."

### Rupee gains Rs 1.24 against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday gained Rs 1.24 against the US Dollar (USD) in the interbank trading as it closed at Rs 278.56 against the previous day's closing of Rs 279.80. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market stood at Rs 282 and Rs 284.5 respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 17 paise to close at Rs 306.75 against the last day's closing of Rs 306.58, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

### Chinese, PCJCCI discuss low-cost energy projects

LAHORE (APP): A Chinese delegation from Huzhou visited Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) to discuss the scope of investment in low-cost energy projects here at PCJCCI Secretariat on Tuesday. The delegation was headed by Gan Meilin, Chairman, Xiandong, Hi-Tech Electric Co.

On this occasion, PCJCCI President Moazzam Ghurki said, "We are fully confident that the future of China-Pakistan relationship is broad and bright." He said

that low-priced energy was produced in China through incineration of waste materials. This model could prove to be a solution to energy crisis and environmental pollution in Pakistan. He also said that many Chinese companies were willing to invest in Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) incineration for power generation. Gan Meilin, Chairman, Xiandong, Hi-Tech Electric Co said that in Pakistan about 3,000 MW electricity could be generated using agricultural residue and municipal solid waste.

## PM launches Laptop Scheme for KP students, inaugurates Fata University

PESHAWAR (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif here Tuesday launched the Prime Minister National Laptop Scheme for the talented students of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including merged areas enabling them to continue their studies and contemporary research.

The laptop distribution ceremony was held at Governor House and attended by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali, Caretaker Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan, Federal Minister for Information Marriyum Aurangzeb, Deputy Speaker National Assembly Ziad Akram Durrani, Special Assistant for Youth Affairs Shaza Fatima, PM Adviser Engr Amir Muqam, Federal and Provincial Ministers, Chairman HEC and students in large number.

The prime minister distributed laptops among the position holder students of different universities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the laptops scheme was launched for all the talented students of the country including KP that was being distributed strictly on merit. No favouritism or nepotism would be tolerated in its distribution, he added.

The prime minister said that 100,000 laptops would be distributed among students in the country this year. A total of one million laptops were distributed so far among students under the PM scheme in the country.



LAHORE: Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman in a group photo with Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi along with his cabinet members after meeting.

## Dr Jamal expresses annoyance over SSH's poor management

RAWALPINDI (APP): Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare and Population Welfare Dr Jamal Nasir on Tuesday expressed annoyance over the poor management at the Social Security Hospital (SSH) Rawalpindi and apprised the Caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab Mohsin Naqvi of the situation.

During a visit to SSH, he directed the relevant officials to utilize the available resources judiciously as the patients were suffering and delayed in treatment due to mismanagement.

The minister warned the hospital's administration to improve the management of the hospital within a week or else strict action would be taken against them.

Dr Jamal Nasir took rounds of the emergency, OPD, laboratory, X-rays room and other parts of the hospital.

He interacted with the officials and asked about the treatment facilities and the doctor's and hospital staff's attitude.

## Meeting of District Peace Committee held in Sukkur

SUKKUR (APP): A meeting of the peace committee of Sukkur district was convened at Commissioner's office Sukkur on Tuesday and chaired by Deputy Commissioner Sukkur Dr Shahzad Thaheem.

The meeting was attended by SSP, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Assistant Commissioners (ACs), commissioner, representatives from the district administration, peace committee members, and license holders of majalis and processions were also present. The objective of the meeting was to ensure public peace and security during Muharram.

The meeting underscored the necessity of implementing enhanced security measures at Imambargahs, including security checks, walk-through gates, metal detectors, and the installation of CCTV cameras.

The activation and involvement of peace committees were emphasized as crucial components in upholding peace and tranquillity.

## World Population day celebrated in Sukkur

SUKKUR (APP): World Population Day was observed in the district, like in other parts of the country on Tuesday. District Health Office Sukkur with USAID Global health supply chain observed the day. A walk was planned at District Health Office where people from various Walks of life including District Health Officer Sukkur, Agha Samiullah, Dr Javed Talpur, doctors, nurses, Lady Health Workers Lady Health Visitors and many other participated. Speakers highlighted that population is a great asset but at the same time if we don't utilize its potential it becomes a liability.

## HMC passes budget of Rs 4.0113 billion

HYDERABAD (APP): The maiden session of the newly elected members of the Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (HMC), was held in Mumtaz Mirza Auditorium instead of the HMC hall here on Tuesday and approved the budget of Rs 4.0113 billion.

The newly elected Mayor Kashif Ali Shoro presided over the session and presented the day's 5-point agenda.

The Deputy Mayor Sagheer Qureshi and Municipal Commissioner Anis Ahmed Dasti were also present on the occasion besides hundreds of elected and reserved seats local government representatives in the House of 240.

Speaking on the occasion, the Mayor condemned the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden and the May 9 attacks on military installations by supporters of a political party.

The 5-point agenda introduced by the mayor included the introduction of the members; approval for the fiscal budget 2023-24; forming the council's committees; desilting of the drains before rainfall; and presentation of 2 resolutions. The session also gave its nod to the budget 2022-23.

works in all parts of Hyderabad. The session also passed 2 resolutions condemning the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden and the May 9 attacks on military installations by supporters of a political party.

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"The people of Hyderabad have elected me with a huge mandate to serve the city. I will try to employ all my abilities to serve," he assured.

The mayor vowed to undertake development

## Awareness walk arranged on World Population Day

LARKANA (APP): An awareness walk was organized by the District Population Welfare Department Larkana to mark World Population Day on Tuesday. The walk was led by the District officer Population Welfare department Larkana Karim Bux Bhutto, Dr. Muhammad Ayub Bhutto, Dr. Jamila Qureshi, Saifdar Soomro, District Manager Mary Stopes Society Farman Ali Barro officials of the Population Welfare Department.

It was largely participated by doctors, notables, para-medical staff, lady health workers, female and male mobilizers, social workers, students, and others.

The walk started from the Dargah Qaim Shah Bukhari Larkana and marched all the important thoroughfares of the Larkana city and concluded in front of Larkana Press Club.



HYDERABAD: Women and children belong to Oadh tribe hold a protest against demolishing their makeshifts during an anti-encroachment drive on Autobahn road.

## Conference on foundational learning, early childhood care begins

KARACHI (APP): A two-day Conference on 'Foundation Learning and Early Childhood Care & Education in Emergencies' has commenced at a local hotel here on Tuesday.

The conference has been organized by the Sindh School Education and Literacy Department in collaboration with United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

Sindh Minister for Health Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, Sindh Education Minister Syed Ali Sardar Shah, Secretary Education Ghulam Akbar Laghari, Chief of Field Office UNICEF Sindh Prem Bahadur Chand, Dr. Junaid Samo Chief Program Manager RSU, Dr. Fauzia Khan and representatives from UNICEF, the World Bank, Save the Children, Idara e Taleem-o-Agahi, AKU, and other national and international organizations attended the event the first day.

The conference is aimed at addressing the challenges faced by the education system in Sindh and Pakistan. The speakers on the occasion said that COVID-19, the devastating floods, which washed away whole villages across Sindh, Balochistan, KPK and some districts of Punjab, left more than 2 million children in Pakistan inaccessible to education and damaged nearly 27,000 schools in the country.

These emergencies emphasize the urgency to build more resilience and preparedness for such crises and to ensure growing investment and system strengthening to the continuum of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and Foundation Learning in lower primary (up to grade 3).

They said that the growing investment in these two sub-sectors where a majority of the enrolled children are present will create sustainable lifelong learning possible. The Foundational Learning crisis in Pakistan has solid evidence.

Addressing the conference, the Provincial Health Minister, Dr. Azra Pechuho, said that numerous schools in the province were severely affected during the 2022 floods, resulting in extensive delays in their reconstruction.

Consequently, the education of children attending these schools has been disrupted for a period of 4 to 5 years, which are crucial years for their learning and development.

It is imperative for us to embrace e-learning and virtual education as we bring children back into the education system.

Bringing out-of-school children back into the learning environment is crucial. During the COVID-19 pandemic, children remained confined to their homes, and we made efforts to ensure their immunization.

Speaking at the conference, the Provincial Education Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah emphasized the role of mothers as the first and best early childhood educators.

Early childhood education teachers play a vital role in guiding children towards proper education and the right path, just like mothers.

The minister expressed his disappointment at the fact that no philanthropist had come forward to help in constructing schools, unlike Mir Ghulam Muhammad Talpur, who built schools in Tando Bagho during the 1920s.

# International News

## Turkey gives green light to Swedish NATO membership bid

**Monitoring Desk**  
VILNIUS: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan agreed to forward to parliament Sweden's bid to join the NATO military alliance, appearing to end months of drama over an issue that had strained the bloc as war has raged in Ukraine.

Sweden and Finland applied for NATO membership last year, abandoning their policies of military non-alignment that had lasted through the decades of the Cold War in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. While Finland's NATO membership was green-lighted in April, Turkey and Hungary have yet to clear Sweden's bid.

## Ukraine's Zelenskyy says lack of timeframe for membership 'absurd'

**Monitoring Desk**  
VILNIUS: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said it would be "absurd" if NATO leaders gathering for a summit on Tuesday did not offer his country a timeframe for membership, after the alliance head said it would send Kyiv a "positive message".

Kyiv is pushing to be swiftly allowed into the Western alliance, bound together by mutual security guarantees. But divisions among NATO's 31 members mean there will not be a date or straightforward invitation for Ukraine to join.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said Kyiv would get more military aid and security guarantees, an easing of formal conditions to join, as well as a new format of cooperation with the alliance.

Stockholm has been working to join the bloc at the alliance's summit in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius, which begins on Tuesday.

"I'm glad to announce ... that President Erdogan has agreed to forward the accession protocol for Sweden to the grand national assembly as soon as possible, and work closely with the assembly to ensure ratification," NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg told a news conference, describing it as a "historic" step. He had convened Erdogan and Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson for several hours of talks on the eve of the summit as he sought to finally break the deadlock.



NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson react during a meeting, on the eve of a NATO summit, in Vilnius, Lithuania.

## South Korea, NATO to boost partnership on security, cyber threats

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: South Korea and NATO will expand cooperation on global security issues including Ukraine and North Korea their leaders said on Tuesday on the sidelines of NATO's annual meeting in Lithuania, the South Korean presidential office said.

President Yoon Suk Yeol arrived in Vilnius on Monday for the summit of NATO leaders, aiming to step up security ties in the

face of evolving nuclear threats from North Korea and tension over China.

Yoon said security in the Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions were inseparable. "I came to institutionalise the cooperation framework by creating individually tailored partnership programmes, and to discuss cooperation on military intelligence and cyber areas," Yoon told NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.

## Xi wants Russia, China to 'lead global governance reform'

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: China and Russia need to "lead the correct direction of global governance reform", according to Chinese President Xi Jinping, who hailed the two countries' partnership at a meeting with a top Russian politician in Beijing on Monday, state media reported.

Beijing and Moscow have ramped up economic cooperation and diplomatic contacts in recent years, with exchanges only growing closer

since Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year.

On Monday, Xi met Valentina Matviyenko, the speaker of the Federation Council — the Russian parliament's upper house — at the Great Hall of the People, state broadcaster CCTV reported.

Xi said the development of relations between the two countries was "a strategic choice made by both countries based on the fundamental interests of their respective countries and peoples", according to CCTV.

"Both sides also need to strengthen communication and collaboration within multilateral mechanisms such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the BRICS countries, lead the correct direction of global governance reform, and safeguard the common interests of emerging market countries and developing countries," the statement continued.



Rep. Maria Elvira Salazar speaks during a press conference after the roundtable discussion between elected officials and Cuban activists about political prisoners at the Assault Brigade 2506 Museum.

## Indonesia seizes Iranian-flagged tanker suspected of illegal oil transshipment

**Monitoring Desk**  
JAKARTA: Indonesia's coast guard said on Tuesday it has seized an Iranian-flagged supertanker suspected of involvement in the illegal transshipment of crude oil and vowed to strengthen maritime patrols.

A "shadow" fleet of tankers carrying oil from sanctioned Iran, Russia and Venezuela are transferring their cargoes in the Singapore Strait to avoid detection, according to a Reuters analysis earlier this year.

## France to send long-range missiles to Ukraine-Macron

**Monitoring Desk**  
VILNIUS: France will join Britain in supplying long-range SCALP missiles to Ukraine, a move that allows Ukrainian forces to hit Russian troops and supply dumps deep behind the front lines.

Speaking on arrival at a summit of the 31-member NATO alliance in Lithuania, French President Emmanuel Macron said he had decided to boost military aid to Ukraine to help its counteroffensive.

## Kremlin says Turkiye should have no illusions over its EU bid

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Turkiye should be under no illusion that it might one day be allowed to join the European Union, the Kremlin said on Tuesday, as Moscow stressed its desire for strong relations with Ankara despite disagreements, including over Nato enlargement.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov was responding to a question about Nato member Turkiye's decision to lift its

opposition to Sweden joining the alliance on the eve of a two-day Nato summit in Lithuania.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan has sought to maintain cordial ties with both Moscow and Kyiv during the 16-month war in Ukraine. He has refused to join Western sanctions against Russia over the invasion and has invited Russian President Vladimir Putin to visit Turkiye in August.

## Hungarian farm minister to visit Turkey for talks on Black Sea grain deal

**Monitoring Desk**  
BUDAPEST: Hungary's farm minister will go to Turkey on Tuesday for talks with his Turkish counterpart about extending the deal that allows Ukraine to export grain from its Black Sea ports, the minister said on Facebook. The deal is due to expire next week. Moscow has said it sees no grounds to extend it beyond July 17.

The United Nations and Turkey brokered the Black Sea deal between Russia and Ukraine in July 2022.

## Israel occupation makes Palestinian territories 'open-air prison' - UN expert

**Monitoring Desk**  
GENEVA: A United Nations expert on Tuesday said Israel had transformed the occupied Palestinian territories into an "open-air prison" through widespread detentions of Palestinians, an assertion swiftly dismissed by Israel.

Francesca Albanese, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on human rights in the occupied territories, told reporters in Geneva that Israel had carried out widespread, systematic and arbitrary detention of Palestinians since the 1967 Middle East war. "There is no other way to define the regime that Israel has imposed on the Palestinians - which is apartheid by default - other than an open-air prison," Albanese said at a briefing for journalists.

"By deeming all Palestinians as a potential security threat, Israel is blurring the line between its own security and the security of its annexation plan."



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC).

## Sindh Govt's development work in Karachi made PPP victorious in LG polls: CM

KARACHI (APP): Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday said the provincial government had carried out developmental works along with restoring law and order in Karachi, as a result of which the people voted in favour of the Pakistan People's Party in Local Body elections.

He said this while addressing a meeting regarding Local Government here at CM House.

Local Government Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab and Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad

and Secretary Local Govt Department were present in the meeting.

The CM said 'he wants the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to serve the people of Karachi. Karachi city has seen discrimination in the past in terms of development works, sanitation and public issues, CM said, adding that now we wish that people should be served without any discrimination. He said that the PPP government wants local body representatives to be seen solving people's problems in the city.

The CM said there is a need to improve the work of the water board in the

city while further improvement is needed in the work of the Sindh Solid Waste Management Board.

He asked the KMC to increase its financial resources and improve coordination with all towns and cantonments to serve the masses. He directed the Local Government Minister to make new local bodies functional and solve the problems faced by the newly established towns.

The Chief Minister directed the local bodies' representatives to make the system of cleanliness and street lights functional during the month of Muharram.

## Pakistan Wheelchair Cricket team delegation calls on Governor

KARACHI (APP): A six-member delegation of the Pakistan Wheelchair Cricket Team called on the Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House here on Tuesday.

MQM-Pakistan MNA Kishwar Zehra was also present, on the occasion. The delegation included Pakistan Wheelchair Cricket Board President Rukhsana Rajput, Captain Mohammed Zeeshan, Vice Captain Syed Arsalan Ahmed, Sajid Ali Abbasi, Imran Amin and Wassemuuddin. The meeting

discussed the promotion of the Wheelchair Cricket, conduct of tournaments at the regional level, and other issues. Governor Kamran Tessori said that the promotion of Wheelchair Cricket was appreciated. He said that all possible help would be provided for the promotion of Wheelchair Cricket.

Pakistan Wheelchair Cricket President Rukhsana Rajput informed the Governor that the first Asia Cup was won by the national team in 2019 and they would leave for Nepal to play the second Asia Cup in September.



ISLAMABAD: Pang Chunxue, The Chargé d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## Pak, China agree to accelerate implementation on ML-I and SEZs

BEIJING (Online): Pakistan and China agreed to fast-track the implementation of ML-I and Special Economic Zones (SEZs) so that projects can be executed timely.

The agreement was reached between Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal and Chairman, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), Mr Zheng Shanjie during a meeting held in Beijing on Tuesday.

The Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal is on a four-day official visit to China over the 10-year celebrations of

CPEC. During his visit, he co-chaired a special Joint Cooperation Committee meetings (JCC) meeting with the Vice Chairman, National Development & Reform Commission (NDRC). Besides, several meetings were held with key Chinese officials which included Chairman NDRC and other key officials.

During one to one meeting with Chairman NDRC, Mr Zheng Shanjie, the Planning Minister conveyed felicitations of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Chairman Zheng on assuming his new role and assured him of full support in smooth implementation of

CPEC projects.

On the proposal of the Planning Minister, Chairman Zheng offered to share Chinese expertise and knowledge to enhance Pakistan's export earnings and accelerate Special Economic Zones (SEZs) development. Both sides decided to hold regular meetings of the Joint Working Groups (JWGs) to review ongoing cooperation under the CPEC framework and work closely for the next phase which is much wider in scope and focuses more on industrialization, agriculture, Science & Technology and Socio-economic development.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani in a meeting with Federal Secretary of Communications Chairman NHA Capt (R) Muhammad Khurram Agha at Parliament House.

## Naveed Qamar says: Foreign companies, factories likely to move to Dhabiji Special Economic Zone

KARACHI (APP): Many foreign companies and factories from different countries are likely to be shifted to Dhabiji Special Economic Zone, said Special Assistant to the Sindh Chief Minister for Investment and Public Private Partnership Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar.

The expected arrival of factories and companies from China, Turkey and Gulf countries will create their cluster in Dhabiji Special Economic Zone, Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar expressed these views while talking to a delegation of local businessmen in his office here on Tuesday.

Qasim Naveed said that Dhabiji Special Economic Zone is an economic zone with a lot of incentives for investment companies in terms of its prime location and availability of the cheapest labour.

He said that the

Dhabiji Special Economic Zone, located just a few kilometres away from Port Qasim, Karachi Port, Karachi Airport, Main Railway Line and National Highway, will connect its industries and production units not only to all regions of Pakistan but also to countries around the world.

It has excellent bonding ability and the same is the reason why it is just the beginning and companies from most countries have approached for establishing industries in this zone, he informed.

Syed Qasim Naveed said that the Sindh government is trying hard to provide alternative energy and environment-friendly electricity in this zone.

He made it clear that Dhabiji Special Economic Zone will prove to be an economic zone in respect of sustainable development.



KARACHI: A view of the massive traffic jam at M.A. Jinnah road, which needs the attention of concern authority.

## DC visits different protective embankments passing through Qazi Ahmed, Sakrand

NAWABSHAH (APP): Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Shahryar Gul Memon on Tuesday visited different protective embankments passing through the limits of Qazi Ahmed and Sakrand talukas including Mehrab Pur, Mad Band, Lakhat Band and reviewing the water situation.

According to a hand-out issued by the district information office, the DC said that there could be a threat of flood in the Indus River after the likely monsoon rainfall therefore staff should be deputed for strengthening sensitive protective embankments and supervision sensitive embankments while ensuring all arrangements for facing any emergency.

He directed Assistant Commissioner Sakrand and Qazi Ahmed to ensure arrangements for shifting people living in the Kacha area to Paka and submit data on people living there to the Deputy Commissioner's office.

Executive Engineer of Irrigation Daad Division Slam Afridi giving a briefing to DC at Lakhat protective embankments told that at present 90,000 cuses of water were passing through the Indus River in the limits of Shaheed Benazirabad.

He told that stone pitching of Protective embankments, assigning staff, setting up check posts in sensitive areas and other necessary arrangements were being ensured.

## Muhammad Sohail posted as DG HDA

KARACHI (APP): Muhammad Sohail, an officer of BS-20 Malir Development Authority was posted as Director General Hyderabad Development Authority (HDA) with immediate effect.

According to a notification issued by the chief secretary, Muhammad Sohail has been posted as DG HDA relieving the DC Hyderabad Fuad Ghaffar Soomro, an officer of PAS (BS-19) of the additional charge.



KARACHI: A six-member delegation of the Pakistan Wheelchair Cricket Team called on the Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

## 140 suspects rounded up in combing operation

KARACHI (APP): As many as 140 suspects were nabbed in a joint intelligence-based combing operation by Pakistan Rangers Sindh and district West Police in Irani Camp, Orangi Town. Arrested accused included alleged terrorists, drug peddlers, street criminals, proclaimed offenders and absconders, according to a spokesman for district West Police on Tuesday.

The two of the arrested accused were named and wanted in the murder case registered at Mominabad police station.

Two rifles, six pistols with ammunition, a large quantity of hashish, ice, crystal, heroin, prepared/unprepared gutka/mawa, tobacco and stolen/snatched motorcycles were recovered from the accused.

## Daughter held over murder of KPT official

KARACHI (INP): The police on Tuesday arrested daughter for murder of a grade 18 official of Karachi Port Trust (KPT) official.

The detained daughter in statement to police said that his father returned home, flattened her on floor and wanted to strangle her to death.

She said that upon resistance with sharp edged weapon, she killed the fire. A case has been registered against the nabbed girl at Dawks police station and further investigation was underway.

## Investigations reveal SSGC director honey-trapped before being murdered

KARACHI (INP): Investigations into the death of Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) Limited Director Rahim Ali Shah have made a startling revelation on Tuesday, according to which the deceased had been honey trapped before being murdered. According to media reports, deceased had been in contact with various people for business matters. He had reached Tariq Road for a business meeting the other night. He had been called to the meeting through a honey trap.

Rahim Shah sensed the danger during the meeting and informed his friend about his location and the situation he had observed.

After an unpleasant incident during the meeting, Rahim Shah's mobile phone was switched off and he

went missing. The police detained four people including a woman for the alleged kidnapping and murder of Rahim Shah.

According to police sources, the accused were said to be the relatives of the suspect involved in the Karachi Airport attack case. The office, where the meeting was held, was also stated to be the property of the suspect. "Rahim Shah's car was recovered from Sarjani Town," police said. "Rahim Shah was shifted to Civil Hospital in critical condition. After he died, the accused left the body in the civil hospital and fled," they added.

"As the body was not identified, it was taken to Edhi mortuary where the police ascertained its identity," they stated.

## Gutka factory located at DMC New Karachi's nursery seized

KARACHI (INP): Karachi police on Tuesday booked eight people including a DMC New Karachi staff member for using a nursery to produce gutka production. As per details, DMC staff Kamran handed over the nursery, located in the limits of Taimuria police station, to Mushtaq Chamachi and Farhan Tension for the production of gutka.

Police during a raid at the nursery recovered nearly 300 kg of betel nuts and ready-to-be-supplied gutka and arrested DMC worker Kamran along with seven others.

## MNAs urge HESCO to improve electricity system

HYDERABAD (APP): The MNAs of Muttahida Qaumi Movement of Pakistan (MQM-P) Salah-ud-din and Engineer Sabir Qaimkhanji has said that despite drawing attention several times, HESCO Management has not yet taken concrete steps for bringing improvement in electricity system, in result whole Hyderabad city turned into darkness after recent down-pour and power supply restored after several hours.

In a statement issued here on Monday, the MNAs said that they had reminded HESCO management to complete necessary maintenance work ahead of rainfall but it failed to expedite maintenance work. MNAs demanded to install more transformers in overloaded areas and make necessary arrangements to avert power failure during monsoon rainfall.

## City Police Chief chairs meeting to discuss Muharram security arrangements

KARACHI (APP): Additional Inspector General of Police - Karachi Javed Alam Odho on Tuesday chaired a meeting to discuss the security arrangements in the megapolis for Muharram-ul-Haram.

The city police chief directed the officers concerned to coordinate with the district administration for timely issuance of NOCs and permits for Majalis and Muharram processions while strict security arrangements be ensured under the devised security plan, said a news release.

He ordered to intensify the actions against

criminal elements and enhance the security of religious scholars.

Javed Alam Odho appealed to the Ulemas to promote the message of peace in Muharram-ul-Haram and play their role in maintenance of peace in the city. He also assured full cooperation of police to Ulemas and organizers of Majalis and processions.

Earlier, Ulemas and organizers present in the meeting expressed their reservations about the delayed issuance of NOCs and permits for Majalis and processions and encroachments on the routes of processions.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Henny Fokel de Vries cuts the cake along with Minister of Climate Change of Pakistan Sherry Rehman on the occasion of the National Day and celebrations of the 75th year relationship with Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in Federal Capital.

## Another monsoon spell likely in country from July 13: PMD

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Tuesday predicted another monsoon rain spell in the country from July 13.

According to Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), more monsoon currents from the Arabian Sea are likely to penetrate in upper and central areas of the country from July 12 and to continue till 17th July.

The monsoon currents will enter in the upper areas of Pakistan on July 14 and bring rainfall with thunderstorm in Kashmir, Murree, Galliat, Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Potohar region, Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) said.

Under the influence of this weather system heavy rainfall is expected

in Azad Kashmir, Hazara division, Gilgit and various districts of Punjab from July 14 to 16.

The recent monsoon rains have killed 86 people and injured 151 across Pakistan since June 25.

As per details, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) report stated that six people have lost their lives and nine others were injured in the heavy rains across the country in the last 24 hours.

NDMA data shows that so far 86 deaths and 151 injuries to people have been reported, which includes 16 women and 37 children, whereas 97 houses have so far been damaged as torrential rain continued to play havoc across the country.



HYDERABAD: Newly elected Mayor Hyderabad Kashif Shoro addressing to Chairmen and District Councilors during Municipal Corporation meeting at Mumtaz Mirza Auditorium, Sindh Museum.