

# Independent

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## IMF approves \$3bn stand-by arrangement for Pakistan

**Monitoring Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Wednesday approved a 9-month Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) for Pakistan for an amount of about \$3 billion days after reaching a staff-level agreement with the country.

"Today, the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a 9-month Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) for Pakistan for an amount of SDR2,250 million (about \$3 billion, or 111 percent of quota) to support the authorities' economic stabilization program," the global lender said in a statement.

The development comes hours after Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said that Pakistan received \$1 billion from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as part of its financial commitment to help Pakistan se-

cure the International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout package.

"We have received \$1 billion from the UAE. The UAE has deposited the amount into the State Bank account," the financial czar announced in a televised media address on Wednesday.

A day earlier, the finance minister said Saudi Arabia deposited \$2 billion in the SBP account to help the boost the country foreign reserves and fulfill the global lender's condition to bridge external financing gap.

Islamabad signed a short-term IMF deal on June 30 under which the country will receive \$3 billion over nine months, subject to approval by the IMF's board.

The Executive Board's approval allows for an immediate disburse-

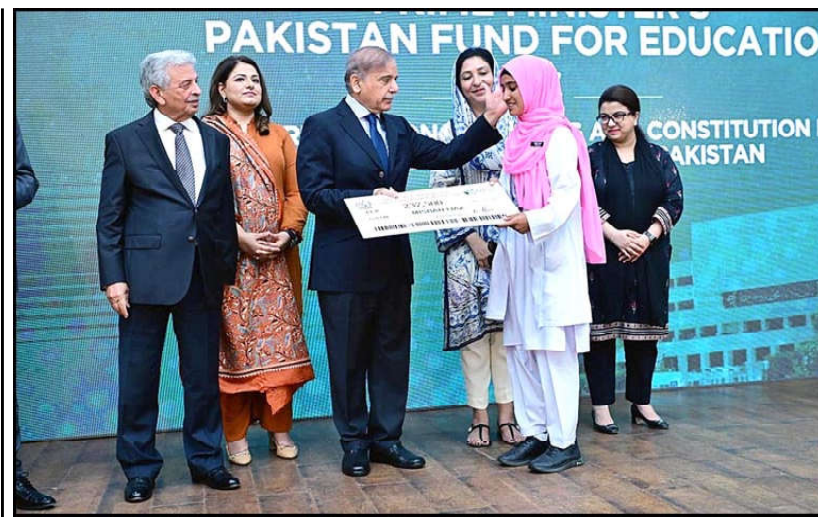
ment of SDR894 million (or about US\$1.2 billion), the IMF said in the statement today.

The remaining amount will be phased over the programme's duration, subject to two quarterly reviews, it added.

The IMF said the SBA was signed at a "challenging economic juncture for Pakistan".

"A difficult external environment, devastating floods, and policy missteps have led to large fiscal and external deficits, rising inflation, and eroded reserve buffers in FY23," it added.

Pakistan's new SBA-supported programme, the IMF said will provide a policy anchor for addressing domestic and external imbalances and a framework for financial support from multilateral and bilateral partners.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif distributes scholarship cheques among high-achieving students on merit basis under the Pakistan Endowment Fund for Education.

## Governor Sindh visits SSU HQs Police playing key role to restore peace in the Sindh province

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori on Wednesday visited the Special Security Unit (SSU) Headquarters and lauded the Unit's professionalism in administrative, security, and counter-terrorism functions by paying tribute to martyrs of Sindh Police. He said the Police were playing a key role to restore peace in the province, according to a news release. Upon his arrival at the SSU headquarters, Governor Sindh was welcomed by the DIG Security and Emergency Services Division Dr. Maqsood Ahmed. He was presented a guard of honor by a special contingent of SSU. Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori accompanied by DIG Security visited the armory, firing range, and different sections of SSU.

Dr. Maqsood Ahmed briefed the Governor about the journey of SSU since its establishment to a state-

of-the-art and modernized unit. He also informed about the foundation of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team (S.W.A.T), the first ever in the country, comprising highly trained commandos and lady commandos equipped with modern tactical weapons, capable to challenge any emergency situation, round the clock.

The Pakistan Army was also providing training to further enhance the professional techniques of commandos including lady commandos at its different training institutes, he added. The DIG Security and Emergency Services Division further briefed about the up-gradation and advancement made in Madadgar-15 which was one of the sub-units of Sindh Police as the response time of the Madadgar had been reduced to 7 to 10 minutes from 30 to 40 minutes in any emergency situation.



Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting inaugurating a podcast studio titled "Planet FM 87.6" at Radio Pakistan, Islamabad.

## Problems of 75 years cannot be solved in 75 days: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Wednesday said that the problems of 75 years cannot be resolved in 75 days and assured that he would fight to resolve problems of the city with all his energies to serve the citizens.

He was talking to media during a visit to the Karachi Press Club along with Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad here.

He said that the politics of tolerance, love and brotherhood will be exercised in the city and he is trying hard to further improve the institutions under the control of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation.

He termed bringing people together as the need of the hour to further develop the economic hub of the country which he said should be maintained to continue the process of de-

velopment.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that he is trying very hard to improve the situation in the city and, some time is needed to bring improvement. People will feel the difference in the metropolis as efforts will be made in the next four years to manage the matters in a transparent and fair manner.

He said that he has a close relationship with Karachi Press Club and being the son of a journalist, this organization (KPC) is like his home.

Earlier, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Karachi held a meeting with the office bearers and members of the press club.

KPC President Saeed Sarbazi and General Secretary Shoaib Ahmed also spoke on this occasion.

The Mayor of Karachi visited various sections of the press club and later held media talks.



KARACHI: Mayor of Karachi Murtaza Wahab along with Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad talking to media during their visit to KPC.

## Our govt tenure to expire on August 14, EC will announce schedule for coming election: PM

### Launches Pakistan Endowment Fund for Education, incorporation of coding, constitution in curriculum

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has said tenure of our government will expire on August 14 and Election Commission (EC) will announce the date for next election.

"This is not matter of pride but it is matter of concern. There was a time when we competed neighboring countries.

Today we are borrowing money from every where to save Pakistan from going default", PM said this while addressing Pakistan Education Endowment Fund (PEEF) and reforms in National

Curriculum ceremony here Wednesday.

He went on to say this journey was started in 2008 from Punjab. Punjab Endowment Education Fund was established under Nawaz Sharif

The development and prosperity of country is possible through modern education, he stressed. Whichever government comes in future should raise education fund, he added.

Today there is meeting of IMF Executive Board. Pray for it that our program is approved in IMF meeting.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Chief of the Naval Staff Pakistan Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi at CM House.

## Murad launches Book 'story of Indus Civilization' at Sindh archives

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday said that the book 'Story of Indus Civilization' was a literary continuation that encapsulates the culture and heritage of the province and was aimed at preserving and promoting the diverse culture, heritage, history and traditions that make Sindh the bastion of a plural society.

He said this while speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the 'Story of Indus Civilization' printed and published by Sindh Archive's dept at the Ar-

chives auditorium. The CM said that publishing the book was an attempt to fill the scholarly void of what was the cradle of civilization.

"It aims at contributing to a more intelligent and meaningful discussion on the origins of the modern man who started setting up communities and flourished along the enriched River Indus," he said and added that the book looked to excavate through thousands of years of preserved history to bring us closer to the riddle of understanding our raison d'être.

## Acting CS inaugurates tree planting campaign by planting saplings in Sindh Secretariat

KARACHI (APP): Acting Chief Secretary Sindh Baqaullah Unar inaugurated tree planting campaign by planting saplings of Palm and Neem in Sindh Secretariat on Wednesday.



During the ceremony held at the Sindh Secretariat, Secretary Services (SGA&CD) Khalid Haider Shah and Secretary General Administration Muhammad Ali Khoso also planted saplings.

Addressing the officers present at the event, Baqaullah Unar emphasized the need to plant more trees to mitigate environmental changes.

## Excise department collects taxes of over Rs.124 billion in FY22-23

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister for Excise, Taxation and Anti-Narcotics, Mukesh Kumar Chawla, on Wednesday, informed that the department has achieved tax targets for the fiscal year 2022-23 with a collection of over Rs.124 billion. The minister, while releasing details of tax collection by Sindh Excise and Taxation department through a statement, said that taxes and cess amounting to a total of Rs.124632.802 million were collected in the financial year 2022-23.

He informed that collection of motor vehicle tax reached at Rs.10303.825 million, Rs.107497.898 million were collected in the form of infrastructure cess, Rs.707.890 million as professional tax and Rs.4.322 million cotton fee while the remaining amount was collected in the form of other taxes. Mukesh Kumar Chawla appreciated officers and staff members of the Excise Department for achieving more than 100% tax targets and said that due to their good performance, the department has been able to surpass tax targets for the past several years.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori is being briefed by DIG Maqsood Memon on professional skills Special Security Units.

## Sharjeel Memon says: FM Bilawal raised desecration of Holy Quran issue internationally

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: Minister for Information Transport and Mass Transit Sindh Sharjeel Inam Memon Wednesday said Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in his capacity as a foreign minister of Pakistan has brought the issue of the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden to draw the attention of the international community towards the issue.

Bilawal has emphasized the importance of respecting all religions and urged for the sanctity of Islam to be upheld in the same manner, said Memon while speaking at the media corner before the meeting of the Sindh Assembly.

Sharjeel Memon stated that the foreign minister effectively conveyed his commitment to advocating for religious respect

worldwide, anticipating the international community to devise a comprehensive action plan on promoting religious tolerance, ensuring that the sentiments of followers of all religions are safeguarded from any form of harm in the future.

He mentioned that the Israeli statement has confirmed its alleged support for Pakistan Tahreek-e-Insaf (PTI). He highlighted a previous incident where the Chairman of PTI supported his Jewish brother-in-law over a candidate of Pakistani origin Sadiq Khan in the election for Mayor of London. The Sindh Information Minister expressed concern over the recent revelation of connections between certain politicians and Israel, which is a significant matter of concern for the entire Pakistani population.

## Pak receives \$1 billion from United Arab Emirates: Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday said that the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has received a deposit of \$1 billion from the United Arab Emirates, which would further strengthen and improve the foreign exchange reserves of the country.

Addressing a press conference he said that SBP as Federal Reserve Bank, has also confirmed and said that an amount of \$1 billion had been received from the brotherly United Arab Emirates as this inflow would further increase foreign exchange reserves, held by the SBP.

## Largest seizure of smuggled vapes from Karachi

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Customs authorities on Wednesday made the largest-ever seizure of smuggled vape from a building at Shahrah-e-Faisal.

According to Director Anti-Smuggling Organization of Pakistan Customs Inam Wazir, the Customs officials raided a building at Shahrah-e-Faisal on a tip-off and recovered approximately 20,088 pieces of assorted smuggled vapes, 1,378 kg accessories of vape and 578 liters vape flavor. The approximate value of the seized items was Rs.90 million. The owners/possessors could not produce any documents showing the legal import of these goods accordingly they were arrested.



KARACHI: Minister for Information Transport and Mass Transit Sindh Sharjeel Inam Memon addressing at media men before the meeting of the Sindh Assembly.

## IGP chairs meeting to review reforms in Special Branch

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the reorganization/reform measures of Special Branch Sindh as the Sindh government had approved the summary to upgrade the Special Branch.

The meeting reviewed and discussed in detail the available and required resources, budget/shortfall and others, according to a spokesman for Sindh Police.

Additional IGP Special Branch Khadim Hussain Rindh and DIG Special Branch Aijaz Ahmed Sheikh briefed the meeting that during the financial year 2022/2023 X-

ray machine bomb locator/mine detector, explosive detectors, voice recorder, sneak cameras and other things were procured.

The meeting was also briefed about the funds of Rs. 146 million issued by the Sindh Chief Minister for Special Branch for the procurement of plant and Rs. 846 million for the purchase of transport. From the funds issued for transport 548 motorcycles, 37 Toyota mobiles, 13 vans, 6 Revo, 7 Hi-Lux, and a Shehzor truck etc were purchased.

The meeting was also informed about the amount of 256.577 million for new vehicles and 1500 nine mm pistols required for the Special Branch.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Kurram clashes

Considering the troubled history of sectarian tensions in KP's Kurram tribal district, and the impact violence in the region can have on communal relations in the rest of the country, the authorities need to act with alacrity as soon as disturbances emerge.

Unfortunately, the district has again witnessed bloodshed, with several deaths and injuries reported after a tribal clash erupted on Friday — apparently, the result of a quarrel between the residents of two settlements over a disputed parcel of land in upper Kurram. The violence has continued since. In fact, there are numerous land disputes — some dating to the pre-partition era — among tribes in the district. Worryingly, tribal and communal disputes often take on a sectarian colour in Kurram.

Even more distressing are the claims of some local residents that terrorists of two banned groups, the TTP and Lashkar-i-Jhangvi, have been involved in the latest episode of bloodletting.

The authorities face two major challenges in the current situation: to end the violence and prevent land disputes from descending into bloodshed, and to ensure that sectarian narratives, amplified by social media, do not inflame the situation, especially as Muharram approaches.

Firstly, Kurram itself must be pacified and calm restored, as a humanitarian situation is developing, with people facing shortages of food, fuel and medicine due to the clashes. This is the second major outbreak of tribal/sectarian violence this year; earlier in May, the region experienced a bout of bloodshed as several people, including teachers, were killed in targeted attacks. That episode was also linked to land disputes. After calm returns, the land commission formed by the KP government should address the land disputes that are at the heart of these clashes judiciously, while the parties involved must abide by their commitments, with violators penalised by the state.

Secondly, the situation requires the security forces to keep a vigilant eye on the movement of banned sectarian militants in this sensitive region. If these elements are not checked, they can further endanger Kurram's fragile communal peace. With Muharram just a week away, the state as well as the clergy need to put in extra effort to prevent the Kurram clashes from being exploited by vested interests that want to fan sectarian hatred across the country. In particular, social media accounts that promote violence and hatred, and spread unfounded rumours likely to fuel violence in society, should be monitored. Secondly, clergymen from both sects need to use the pulpit to defuse tensions, instead of fanning the flames.

Kurram and its surrounding areas have been witnessing a tense calm for the last decade or so after several years of bloodshed. The local people should not be abandoned again by the state, left to deal with the escalating sectarian violence on their own.

### Give peace a chance



Mohammad Ali Babakhel

Lack of awareness within civil society, weak political manifestation, institutional gaps, misconceptions, and over-expectations from peace talks and amnesty schemes have cast a shadow over a pragmatic approach to dealing with militants and insurgents. Consequently, peace has remained elusive. What lessons have been learned from this process?

Before peace talks and the announcement of any amnesty scheme, the delicate issue of dealing with militancy needs extensive discussion. Can any state afford a prolonged spell of militancy? For sustainable peace, what are the options: persistent efforts to counter terrorism, killing terrorists, countering ideologies, or increasing investments in diplomacy? There is also a need to understand how media speculation can negatively impact the process. It must be asked: how can we develop political and societal consensus regarding issues related to the peace process, including resettlement? How can we identify and overcome any irritants?

During the pre-negotiations phase, the names and other details of militants must be collected, and a screening committee should be entrusted with scrutiny of the process. The benefits of amnesty schemes should not be used to recycle surrendered militants. Those who surrender should go through a rigorous re-training cycle. Eligible persons should be entitled to a fixed monthly stipend and an initial grant that will

only be paid out on the successful completion of training.

Amnesties are used when there is no resolution to an ongoing conflict in sight. To deal with rebels, Uganda tried both kinetic and non-kinetic options. Eventually, in 1999, it opted for peaceful solutions and announced a general amnesty that resulted in the 'Amnesty Act of 2000'. It provided blanket amnesty for all Ugandans engaged in armed rebellion.

To oversee the implementation, a seven-member Amnesty Commission (AC) was established, funded by the Ugandan government and the World Bank's Multi-Country Demobilisation and Reintegration Programme. The Amnesty Act used the term 'reporter' to refer to individuals who had taken steps to secure amnesty. At the time of the establishment of the commission, the approximate number of potential 'reporters' was estimated at 50,000. By the end of 2008, a total of 22,995 people had 'reported' under the scheme.

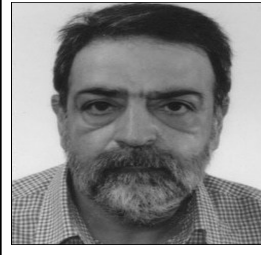
Under the Ugandan amnesty scheme, a reporter was not to be prosecuted for their past crimes. They were given the option of reporting to the police, army, local council, a magistrate, or a religious leader. A reporter who faced insurgency charges had to declare to a judge, a prison officer, or a magistrate that they had surrendered and desired amnesty. They also had to surrender their weapons. Reporters residing outside Uganda were provided the option of reporting to a Ugandan diplomatic mission. After the completion of the process, the reporters were given amnesty certificates. The military and police ensured their security. To ensure their well-being, the government also sought assistance from NGOs like Give Me a Chance, which helped

the AC repatriate, rehabilitate, and reintegrate former militants. Unicef also helped to resettle child soldiers. The armed conflict between militants and the military in Nigeria's Niger Delta continued for two decades, defying all peace efforts. To mitigate conflict in the oil-rich region, the Presidential Amnesty Programme was introduced in 2009. PAP was a special intervention from the federal government to disarm, demobilise, and reintegrate former agitators. The PAP followed a multipronged model: robust stakeholder engagement, strategic and targeted communication, community outreach, peace building, and reconciliation.

In our case, amnesty schemes may be classified differently for 'home-based militants' and 'foreign-based militants'. In 2015, the Balochistan government announced a general amnesty for those who abandoned violence. Point 17 of Pakistan's National Action Plan emphasises the need to fully empower the Balochistan government for political reconciliation with complete ownership by all stakeholders. The idea needs to be magnified, so other areas can also be included in such endeavours.

Since militants are far away from the brighter aspects of human life, bringing them closer to the pragmatic aspects of life is inevitable. Militants need to be convinced that death and destruction are not the way to achieve their ideals. However, general amnesty and offering financial incentives may not prove enough in the absence of skills training and employment opportunities, so picking up a gun may be the only option left for militants trying to reintegrate. Denying such an option requires collective will and response. Let's give peace a chance. — Courtesy Dawn

### Jenin revisited



Mahir Ali

Last week's Israeli 'special military operation' in the West Bank town of Jenin has been compared, in terms of its intensity, to a 2002 assault during the second Palestinian intifada. Smaller-scale incursions, however, have become almost a nightly occurrence in what is invariably described as a hotbed of militancy.

The toddlers who witnessed the depredations of 2002 and survived the sporadic bouts of lethal repression in their formative years are now in their 20s. The despair they have experienced throughout their lives has only deepened over the years. Should anyone be surprised that some of them see little choice other than to join the armed resistance?

Many of the young fighters are independent of the usual outfits such as Hamas, Islamic Jihad or the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, choosing to resist violence with violence simply because they see no alternative. Even under less extremist regimes, Israeli intent has never seriously shifted from the idea of indefinite occupation. The Palestinian Authority (PA) introduced after the Oslo Accords 30 years ago was always intended to serve as little more than a collaborationist entity.

Briefly optimistic about the possibilities held out by the Oslo settlement, Edward Said rapidly became disillusioned, pointing out that it would turn out to be little more than a reflection of the Nazi-backed Vichy regime in wartime France, increasing the likelihood of militancy, which would

serve as an excuse for re-enforced repression.

There are parts of Jenin where the PA dare not venture, and some Western commentators have suggested Israel's hand is forced because of the authority's inability to subdue the resistance. More pertinently, in Palestinian eyes its weakness stems from its chronic inability to resist the increasingly brutal reality of the occupation. Younger Palestinians in particular hold it in contempt for its designated role as handmaiden to Shin Bet and the Israeli Defence Forces.

The disillusionment has intensified in the wake of what is viewed as the most extremist Israeli government, whose leading ministers proclaim their desire to annex 'Judea and Samaria' by expelling all Palestinians, exterminating as many as necessary. Illegal West Bank settlements are growing by leaps and bounds, with the settlers routinely rampaging through Palestinian villages.

They have been egged on by the likes of ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich neither of whom bothers to disguise his fascist tendencies. That fits into an Israeli pattern whereby, before and during the Nakba of 75 years ago, some of the leading Zionists were perfectly comfortable with invoking the Nazi practices they had recently survived. The security establishment has acknowledged some of the settlers' crimes as indistinguishable from terrorism, and even Netanyahu has urged restraint — although the implication often seems to be: it's not a good look, let us do it for you.

Perhaps they worry too much. The 'international community' seems to be focused on Russia/Ukraine and China/Taiwan. Serial violations of the 'rules-based order' by Israel barely cause a ripple, every now and then

occasioning an expression of concern or a mild reprimand, but never any repercussions. There isn't the smallest sign of the kind of international pressure that persuaded South Africa to dispense with apartheid.

Israeli apartheid is barely acknowledged by any state, even though the designation is commonplace among human rights organisations and growing segments of the Western intelligentsia, and to call it out as a terrorist state would immediately — and absurdly — be termed anti-Semitic. Back in May, writing in Haaretz, Israeli satirist B. Michael asked a series of crucial questions about his country: "What's the difference between a terrorist who murders a mother with her two daughters, and a state that murders — in a single night — a mother and her four-year-old daughter, parents and their son, a 12-year-old girl and her eight-year-old brother, and another two sisters who are neighbours?"

"What exactly is the difference between them? And why is the murderer a terrorist, and not the state? Where does it say that a state can't be a terrorist? And how many innocent people is a state allowed to kill before being called a terrorist state? And how many children?"

The answer, as someone said, is blowing in the wind. And who can say how many times Jenin will again be violated before those who matter open their ears, let alone heed Israeli historian Ilan Pappé's comment in April, in the context of the demonstrations against the Netanyahu regime's tinkering with the judiciary, that "the current protest wave has highlighted Israel's fundamental paradox: it cannot be both democratic and Jewish. It will either be a racist Jewish state, or a democratic one for all its citizens. There is no middle ground." — Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### PM stresses balance in pricing of life saving drugs & pharma sector growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday stressed the formulation of a balanced strategy that could lower the pricing formula of life-saving drugs and also ensure growth of the country's pharmaceutical industry.

Addressing the Pharma Export Summit and Awards (PESA-2023), he said the government was committed to protecting the poor on one hand besides helping the pharmaceutical sector to thrive.

The event organized by Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association

(PPMA) gathered corporate heads of national and multinational pharmaceutical companies and pharma experts.

The prime minister said the country's pharmaceutical industry was playing an important role in meeting the demands of medicine. He paid tributes to the companies for propelling the export of medicines. Because of the steep rise in the cost of raw materials, he said, the prices of medicine witnessed an upsurge.

He, however, stressed that the situation must not lead to conflict with the

production of life-saving drugs. PM Sharif constituted a committee to resolve the issues and demands of the pharma industry within two weeks.

He hoped that before the completion of the constitutional term of incumbent government, the matters pertaining to the pharma industry would be resolved amicably.

The prime minister expressed confidence that the board meeting of the International Monetary Fund this evening would help open more Letters of Credit (LCs) relating to pharma products.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif distributes awards among the highest exporters of Pharmaceutical Industry in Pakistan.

### Speakers term Islamic finance system as solution to economic problems of country

KARACHI (APP): Religious scholars and experts on the economy termed the Islamic financial system as a solution to the economic problems of Pakistan and stressed the need for legislation and academic research on conversion of the traditional financial system into an interest-free economy.

The thoughts were expressed in a seminar on Islamic Finance organised by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) here on Wednesday. Chairman

Shariah Advisory Committee State Bank of Pakistan, Mufti Dr Irshad Ahmed Aijaz, said that the remarkable success and exponential growth of Islamic financial system around the world has negated the perception that financial systems could not work without interest.

The decision of the Federal Shariat Court on interest was a significant decision that provide answers to all questions on the subject, he said adding that share of Islamic banking in the overall banking

sector has surpassed 20% while Pakistan would be the first country in the world heading to conversion of financial system on such a large scale.

All the stakeholders in Pakistan including the bankers and business community have a consensus over conversion to an Islamic financial system, he said and stressed the need for legislation and academic research on the subject along with coordination among stakeholders and unanimity of efforts for the purpose.

### KP CM's aide visit KPRA, stressed on increase of tax base

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Finance and Energy and Power, Himayatullah Khan visited the headquarters of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) here on Wednesday. He was accompanied by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Secretary Finance, Muhammad Ayaz. Director General KPRA, Shah Mahmood Khan gave them a detailed presentation on the structure, working, and revenue achievements

of KPRA with proposed way forward.

The DG KPRA informed that KPRA has contributed 71 percent of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's own source tax-revenue in the financial year 2022-23. Since 2017 KPRA's revenue collection has increased by 180 percent which speaks for the performance and dedication of the KPRA team. The Director General KPRA informed the Advisor on Finance and Energy and Power about the pending amounts of KPRA with FBR.

### PPMA delegation calls on Chairman FBR

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA) Wednesday called on the Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Asim Ahmad and discussed issues related to sale tax regime governing the pharma sector. The delegation was led by Chairman PPMA Syed Farooq Bukhari including members as well as ex-Chairman of the Association, said a press release. The meeting was also attended by Member IR-Policy FBR Afaq Ahmad Qureshi.

### Emerging differences among PDM parties not in favour of country: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that the emerging differences among the PDM parties are not in favour of country as they will create instability in the country.

In a statement issued here on Wednesday, he said that political parties included in the coalition government have differences over the date of elections and the issue of power sharing, as a result of which political instability may increase, which worries the business community.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that Pakistan has narrowly avoided bankruptcy and the fear of default has not ended, therefore, the need for economic reforms is becoming more and more serious.

Politicians should resolve their internal differences and not bring them to public forums so that investors are not harassed, he stressed.

The business leader said that the news of differences in the ruling coalition is everywhere, and the main reason for these differences is that different parties demand more than their right and try to deprive others of their legitimate rights.



QUETTA: Shopkeeper setting up frames of Kulfli to attract customers at Mission Road.

### NA body told Poultry traders, importers' hullabaloo on GMOs import halt exploitative

ISLAMABAD (APP): The poultry traders and importers of Soybean seeds have created an exploitative hullabaloo at the national level pertaining to halt of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) seeds as the importers were illicitly importing the soybean seeds without meeting the legal formalities and protocols.

Additional Secretary Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Musadik Ahmed Malik on Wednesday informed the National Assembly Standing Committee on Climate Change

and Environmental Coordination presided by MNA Nuzhat Pathan that in 1995 GMOs were introduced to create pest and weather resistant crops.

The chairperson raised the query before the Ministry of Climate Change pertaining to the alleged deliberate halt of soybean seeds causing economic damage to the poultry industry and increase in the price of broiler chicken.

Setting the historical context, he said there were two lobbies one opposing and the other supporting the GMOs.



KARACHI: Chairman, Shariah Advisory Committee State Bank of Pakistan, Mufti Dr Irshad Ahmed Aijaz, addressing a seminar on Islamic Finance organized by FPCCI at Federation House.

## CM visits Jhang, Kasur to check flood situation

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday visited various areas of districts Jhang and Kasur to take stock of the flood situation. During his visit to River Chenab in Jhang, the CM reviewed the water situation in Kharor Baqir, other areas and inspected deluged villages.

He met with residents of the inundated village and inquired about their problems, and directed the departments concerned for arranging access to the inundated villages and ordered to monitor 24/7 water situation in the river, besides expediting relief activities there to vacate the localities at the river, according to CM's spokesman here.

The Secretary Irrigation and Commissioner Faisalabad Division briefed the CM about relief activities, arrangements being made for relief and medical facilities and about the entry and exit of water situation in the River Chenab. They said that Irrigation Department, PDMA (Provincial Disaster Management Authority) and Rescue 1122 had been alerted to cope up with any untoward situation.

Later talking to media on this occasion, the CM said that water in 40 villages has entered in bed of River Chenab and affected 48,000 people. Relief and medical camps have been established to provide relief to the affected persons. Evacuation of localities in the river bed was essential for their protection, he added.

Naqvi said, "It is our utmost endeavour that no human loss occurs. Water up to four feet is present in a few villages. There is a lower level flood at the place of Kharor Baqir in River Chenab."

Mohsin Naqvi disclosed that snake bite treatment vaccines and other essential medicines were made available in the medical camps. He said that he had also sought a report from Commissioner Faisalabad about flood in River Chenab.



**KARACHI: Former Sindh Governor Muhammad Zubair calls on Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House.**

## Murtaza Abbasi says: Assemblies to be dissolved after allies' consultation

RAWALPINDI (APP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi on Wednesday said that the dissolution of the assemblies including the National, Sindh, and Baluchistan assembly would be decided in consultation with the allies.

Talking to journalists at Commissioner's office after listening to the complaints of people in an open court, he said that Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz's (PML-N) stance was clear on the issue of the conclusion of the constitutional assemblies term, and election to be held in time. Abbasi said that consultations were underway in the party over the return of Nawaz Sharif, who will lead the election campaign. Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs said that the government's policy about Israel had not been changed and there was no U-turn on the issue of relations with Israel.

Answering a query, he said that every political party has its opinion according to the party policy, adding Chairman PTI was responsible for his politics and policy. "A furious leader of a political party is weakening the democratic system," Chairman PTI may declare India as his benefactor tomorrow, and "We should not think so much about him," he added.

Murtaza Abbasi added that the country was in a better situation when the government was taken away from PML-N in 2018 and the election was rigged.

He said that the PML-N government had ended inflation, terrorism, and energy crises during his five-year government. "We are facing economic difficulties and returned to IMF for loans due to policies of the previous government, he said adding the higher cost of electricity was being charged due to the IMF agreement. He said that Imran Khan's best effort was to make the country default and the country had reached this point, but the coalition government saved the country from default with the help of friendly countries.

## Minister express concern over unavailability of funds in Info department

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Auqaf, Hajj, Religious and Minority Affairs Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel expressed concern over financial difficulties faced by the information department and said the matter would be brought to the notice of the chief minister. He expressed these views during his visit to the KP Information department. Director General Information Department Basir Ali Rehman, Director Public Relations Liaquat Amin, Director Administration Saleem Khan and other officers were also present.

The caretaker provincial minister inspected various sections of the information department and reviewed the records and performance of various sections. He also presided over a meeting of Public Relations Officers (PROs) and directed them to highlight the performance of the caretaker provincial government. During the visit, the provincial minister was also informed about problems faced by the department due to the unavailability.



**HYDERABAD: Railway staffers of Anti-Encroachment Cell demolishing encroachments at Makki Shah area.**

## Dr Jamal Nasir says: Provision of medical facilities to health dept shows countries' confidence

RAWALPINDI (APP): Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare and Population Welfare Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir Wednesday said that funding provided by the developed countries' institutions for increasing medical facilities in primary and rural health centres was an expression of confidence in the transparency and efficiency of the Punjab government.

He said this while inaugurating the completion of renovation work of selected rooms in the Rural Health Center of Khayaban Sirsryed by the Norwegian government here.

Under this project, besides the renovation of the labour room, the family planning room and lady health visitor's rooms were also completed while required medical equipment had also been provided.

He informed that the government institutions of the US, Norway and Denmark had provided support to the public health sector of Punjab, adding comprehensive measures were also being taken to improve discipline and administrative affairs. Dr Jamal said that the pilot project of the hepatitis screening campaign was underway in eleven high-risk Union Councils of Rawalpindi with the support of the US Task Force for Global Health organization.

## 1400 Afghan children enrolled in NFE schools at refugee camps

PESHAWAR (APP): Around 1400 non-school-going Afghan children involved in child labour are enrolled in Non-Formal Education (NFE) schools in refugee schools for equipping them with the treasure of education.

The initiative was taken by Helvetas Pakistan, a Swiss-based development organization, through its humanitarian response to address the immediate life needs of vulnerable Afghan communities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Initially, we have confined our focus to three districts of KP including Peshawar, Charsadda and Mardan, informed Irshad Ahmad, an official of Helvetas Pakistan.

Talking to APP, Irshad said among these 1400 Afghan children around 25 were disabled including 13 girls and 12 boys.

## DIG Hyderabad announces interview schedule

HYDERABAD (APP): The Deputy Inspector General of Police Hyderabad Range Syed Pir Muhammad Shah who is also the Chairman Selection/Recruitment Committee has announced schedule of interviews of the candidates for their appointment to different posts from BPS-1 to 4 in Hyderabad Range Police. According to announcement here on Wednesday, the interviews of the candidates will be conducted at Police Headquarters Hyderabad on July 15 and 16, 2023 from 9 a.m.

## MUET announces interviews for candidates' admission in new academic year

HYDERABAD (APP): The Director Admissions, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology Jamshoro Wednesday announced the schedule of interviews of all those successful candidates who appeared in computerized admission test for admission in various disciplines in MUET and SZAB Campus Khairpur Mirs.

According to the schedule posted on the varsity's official website, the district-wise interviews will be conducted from July 14, 2023 at the central auditorium of the university.

The candidates who have been called for interviews have been advised to bring original documents and admission fees along with them.

## Police recover TikTokers from Katcha area

SUKKUR (APP): Kashmir-Kandhkot Police on Wednesday claimed to have recovered three TikTok dancing girls from the Katcha area of Garhi Tegho, district Kashmir-Kandhkot.

According to SSP Kashmir-Kandhkot Irfan Samo, during an operation by the Police in Garhi Tegho in the Katcha area, the kidnappers after freeing three dancer girls managed to escape.



**LAHORE: Police personnel stand guard during the protest of Government Employees of Punjab outside Civil Secretariat in Provincial Capital.**

# International News

## North Korea launches ICBM after threatening U.S. over alleged spy flights

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: North Korea launched a suspected inter-continental ballistic missile Wednesday, its neighbors said, two days after it threatened the U.S. over what it said were spy plane incursions into its airspace.

The South Korean military confirmed that North Korea had launched a suspected long-range ballistic missile toward the east from the outskirts of Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, around 10 a.m. Wednesday (9 p.m. Tuesday ET). It said that surveillance had been strengthened and that it was maintaining military preparedness in close cooperation with the U.S.

Japanese government spokesperson Hirokazu Matsuno said that while details were still being analyzed, the missile was estimated to have flown for 74 minutes before it fell into the Sea of Japan about 155 miles west of Okushiri Island in Hokkaido around 11:13 a.m. The missile, which was launched at a lofted trajectory, was estimated to have traveled 620 miles and reached a maximum altitude of about 3,725 miles. Matsuno said that it landed outside Japan's exclusive economic zone and that there were no reports of damage in the area.



**Philippine's Foreign Secretary Enrique Manalo, Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan and Thailand's Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai attend the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' Interface With ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights Representatives as the seat reserved for Myanmar is left unoccupied at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia.**

## South Korea, Japan leaders to meet; Fukushima radioactive water, North Korea missile launch focus

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol is set to meet Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Wednesday on the sidelines of a NATO summit, with the release of radioactive water from the Fukushima nuclear plant and North Korea expected on the agenda. Japan plans to soon start releasing more than a million tons of treated radioactive water from its tsunami-wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant, a move which has stirred anger and concern among South Koreans.

After a two-year review, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said last week Japan's plans were consistent with global safety standards and that they would have a "negligible radiological impact to people and the environment".

A South Korean presidential official has said the Fukushima water discharge plan could be discussed at the meeting. South Korea's government said on Friday it respected the IAEA's report and that its own analysis had found the release will not have "any meaningful impact" on its waters.



**Move Forward Party leader Pita Limjaroenrat greets supporters during a rally to thank voters ahead of the vote for a new prime minister, in Bangkok, Thailand.**

## Thai diplomat meets with Suu Kyi in detention in Myanmar and says she wants to join talks on crisis

**Monitoring Desk**  
JAKARTA: Thailand's top diplomat said Wednesday that he met ousted Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi in detention over the weekend and she conveyed her openness to engage in talks to resolve the crisis in her strife-torn nation.

Thai Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai is the only government official outside of Myanmar to have met Suu Kyi since she was detained with other officials when the army seized power from her elected government on Feb. 1, 2021.

He told his counterparts in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, who are meeting in Indonesia's capital, that Suu Kyi was in good health when he met with her Sunday. "She encourages dialogue," Don told reporters in Jakarta when asked what message Suu Kyi conveyed to him. "Obviously we're trying to find a way to settle with Myanmar."

The military takeover and the crackdown on the armed resistance to it plunged the country into deadly chaos. Western and European governments, including the United States, have imposed sanctions on Myanmar's military government and demanded the immediate release of Suu Kyi and other political detainees.

## Migrants found dead near Tunisia's border with Algeria

**Monitoring Desk**  
TUNIS: The bodies of two migrants have been found in a desert region near Tunisia's border with Algeria, a judicial official and a witness said on Tuesday.

Hundreds of migrants from sub-Saharan countries have fled or been forced out of Tunisia's port city of Sfax after racial tensions flared following the July 3 killing of a Tunisian man in an altercation between locals and migrants.

Many have been left to fend for themselves in harsh conditions in remote desert areas near Tunisia's borders with Algeria and with Libya.

## Iran's president begins a rare visit to Africa 'to promote economic diplomacy'

**Monitoring Desk**  
NAIROBI: Iran's president has begun a rare visit to Africa as the country, which is under heavy U.S. economic sanctions, seeks to deepen partnerships around the world.

President Ebrahim Raisi's visit to Kenya on Wednesday is the first to the African continent by an Iranian leader in more than a decade. He is also expected to visit Uganda and Zimbabwe and meet with the presidents there.

Africa is a "continent of opportunities" and a great platform for Iranian products, Raisi told journalists in a briefing. He didn't take questions. "None of us is satisfied with the current volume of trade," he said. Iran's leader specifically mentioned Africa's mineral resources and Iran's petrochemical experience, but the five memoranda of understanding signed on Wednesday by the Islamic Republic and Kenya appeared not to address either one. Instead, they addressed information and communication and technology; fisheries; animal health and livestock production and investment promotion. Kenyan President William Ruto called Iran a "critical strategic partner" and "global innovation powerhouse."

He expressed interest in expanding Kenya's agricultural exports to Iran and Central Asia well beyond tea.

Iran also intends to set up a manufacturing plant for Iranian vehicles in Kenya's port city of Mombasa, Ruto said.

## Germany tells UN: Nord Stream inquiry found subsea explosive traces on yacht

**Monitoring Desk**  
UNITED NATIONS: Germany found traces of subsea explosives in samples taken from a yacht that it suspects "may have been used to transport the explosives" to blow up the Nord Stream gas pipelines, it told the U.N. Security Council in a letter with Sweden and Denmark. A series of unexplained explosions hit the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines connecting Russia and Germany under the Baltic Sea last September in the exclusive economic zones of Germany, Sweden and Denmark.

The trio are each conducting separate investigations and sent an update - seen by Reuters - ahead of a meeting of the 15-member Security Council on Tuesday called by Russia, which has complained that it has not been kept informed about the probes.

"None of the investigations has been concluded and at this point, it is still not possible to say when they will be concluded. The nature of the acts of sabotage is unprecedented and the investigations are complex," the three wrote in a joint letter, dated Monday.



**People walk outside the Bank of England in the City of London financial district in London, Britain.**

## Russia's Medvedev: NATO's military aid to Ukraine brings World War Three closer

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy secretary of Russia's powerful Security Council chaired by President Vladimir Putin, said late on Tuesday that the increase in military assistance to Ukraine by the NATO alliance brings World War Three closer.

Commenting on the first day of the summit of the U.S.-led alliance in Lithuania, where a number of countries pledged more weaponry and financial support, Medvedev said the aid would not deter Russia from achieving its goals in Ukraine.

"The completely crazy West could not come up with anything else... In fact, it's a dead end. World War Three is getting closer," Medvedev wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

## UK jobless rate climbs

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: UK unemployment rose back to four per cent in the three months to the end of May, official data showed Tuesday, as the economy struggles with stubbornly high inflation. The unemployment rate increased from 3.8pc in the three months to the end of April, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement, dashing expectations for no change. The rate was back at 4pc for the first time since the start of 2022. Despite the rise, finance minister Jeremy Hunt said Britain's "jobs market is strong."

## PM vows to utilize all resources for country's development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday pledged to the nation that under the leadership of its Quaid Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, if given the mandate in next general elections, would utilize all available resources to bring the country out of economic crisis and take it to the zenith of development and prosperity.

State of the art technology would be introduced for development in various sectors, including agriculture, energy and industries, he said addressing the foundation stone laying ceremony of a flyover here at Shaheen Chowk on Ninth Avenue.

The prime minister said the coalition government had launched a series

of development projects in the Federal Capital to provide relief to its residents.

The Capital's most important project, he said, was the Bahara Kahu flyover that had almost been completed and its inauguration was likely by the end of current month. The project was not only beneficial for the residents of the twin cities but it would also facilitate the people from all over the country in their travel to Kashmir and Northern Areas.

Referring to the stand-by agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), he said it was all because of the prayers of the people and now the country would resume its journey of development and prosperity.

It was not an easy task as the PML-N and its coalition partners put their politics at stake by taking tough economic decisions to save the country from default, he added.

Pakistan, he said, would now stand on its own feet. "We will promote agriculture, information technology and other sectors. Pakistan will not only shed the debt burden but also emerge as a powerful country very soon."

He said the PTI's Imran Niazi was bent upon ruining the economy as evident from his willful deviation from the IMF agreement. He wanted the country to default, but with the blessings of Almighty and efforts of the coalition government, such an eventuality was averted, the prime minister added.

### Three-storey house catches fire, 10 members of a family die

LAHORE (Online): A fire wreaked havoc in interior Lahore.

10 people died including 6 women and 3 children of same family in fire incident. Fire broke out in a building in Bhatigate area of Lahore. 10 people were burnt to death in the incident. The deceased include wife, children, grandsons and granddaughters of a citizen named Zaher-ul-Din Babar. The victims include 60 years old Saira Bano, Farzana, Amber, Ghazal Fatima, 18 years old Sania, 16 years Adil, 4 years old Anzala Fatima, 13 years old Seemab Mano and 7 years old Alamdar.

### Mayor Sukkur inspects ongoing development projects in Sukkur

SUKKUR (APP): Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arslan Sheikh on Wednesday visited several ongoing projects in Sukkur and directed the concerned authorities to utilize all available resources for timely completion of public welfare projects in the district.

Earlier, chairing a meeting to review the progress of ongoing development projects, at his office, he directed the officers of the concerned to utilize their technical capabilities so that quality of work could be ensured.

### KMC sets up rain emergency cell for monsoon

KARACHI (APP): Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) has established a rain emergency cell at KMC Sports Complex for monsoon rains that will work 24 hours including holidays and will remain active until the end of the rain emergency situation.

The cell is set up on the directives of the Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab, said a spokesperson of the KMC on Wednesday.

In connection with the emergency cell, the deployment of officers from various departments has been in shifts at the control room established at KMC Sports Complex.

The first shift is from 08 a.m to 04 p.m in which Director Tehsin-ur-Rehman, Deputy Director Muhammad Saleem, Clerk Farrukh and Workman Muhammad Faisal have been deputied.

### Dubai returned youth dies in police firing

KARACHI (INP): A Dubai returned youth died while another was injured when police opened fire at motorcycle riders for not stopping in Manghopir area of Karachi. Protest demonstration was held against the incident.

According to details, settled in Dubai for last 15 years, Hashim had returned to Karachi for his wedding ceremony some one month earlier.

Before return to Dubai, Hashim along with a friend went to mausoleum of Shah Noorani.

On the way, they were signaled to stop by police and upon not stopping police opened fire killing Hashim and leaving another seriously injured.

Heirs of the deceased along with dead body held protest demonstration outside police station.



MULTAN: Chairman Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad addressing Ethihad Bainul Muslimeen Seminar.

### Pakistan eyes to enhance pharma exports to \$5 bln by 2030: Naveed Qamar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar Wednesday stressed the need for collective efforts to boost pharmaceutical exports upto \$1 billion by 2025 and by \$5 billion by 2030 to improve exchange reserves of the country.

Realizing the export potential of the pharmaceutical sector, he said the government, pharma industry players and regulatory bodies should join together to tap the true potential of this particular sector and help economic development of the country.

Speaking at the 6th Pakistan Pharma Summit and Pharma Export Summit and

Awards (PESA) 2023, the minister outlined the government's plans to significantly increase Pakistan's pharmaceutical exports.

The event was organized by the Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association (PPMA), brought together industry leaders, experts, and stakeholders to discuss strategies for growth and innovation in the pharmaceutical sector.

While highlighting the immense opportunities for growth in the global pharmaceutical market, valued at \$1.4 trillion, the minister emphasized the need for Pakistan to benefit from it.

### PM Shahbaz welcomes UN passes Pakistan-led motion on religious hatred

WASHINGTON (Online): The United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council on Wednesday approved a disputed resolution on religious hatred in the wake of desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden. Last month, a man desecrated the Holy Quran in Sweden's capital Stockholm, resulting in strong condemnation from several Muslim states, including Pakistan, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the European Union, Pope Francis and the Swedish government, among others.

The resolution, introduced by Pakistan on behalf of the 57-nation OIC, calls for the UN rights chief to publish a report on religious hatred and for states to review their laws and plug gaps that may "impede the prevention and prosecution of acts and advocacy of religious hatred".

It was strongly opposed by the United States and the European Union, who say it conflicts with their view on human rights and freedom of expression.

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Syed Naveed Qamar presenting souvenir to delegates at the opening ceremony of the 6th Pakistan Pharma Summit and Awards (PESA) 2023.

### SSP Larkana chairs meeting regarding Muharam arrangements

LARKANA (APP): Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Larkana Dr. Muhammad Imran Khan on Wednesday held a meeting at his Office to discuss security arrangements and prepare a security plan for the upcoming month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

Meeting was attended by SP Headquarters Asif Raza Baloch, ASP Hyderi Atiqur Rahman Mekan, DSPs and traffic sergeants, members of the district peace committee and ulema belonging to all sects, administrators of imam gahs, permit holders, officials of various associations and concerned officers of Police department.

Addressing the meeting SSP Larkana said that strict security will be provided to mourners, mourning processions, congregations, and religious gatherings during Muharram-ul-Haram and strict monitoring will be carried out for worship places including Imambargahs, Mosques besides security measures will also be ensured.

SSP Larkana has issued orders to the police officers to tighten security arrangements during Muharram and to fully implement the National Action Plan and instructed them to cooperate with each other and fully cooperate with the police administration.

He also directed the officers to take indiscriminate action against those who violate the National Action Plan. SSP Larkana directed to prepare a security plan regarding deployment of additional personnel throughout the district in the month of Muharram, increasing patrolling, snap checking at entry and exit routes and conducting search and combing operations at suspicious places.



KARACHI: Residence of Liyari area holds protest outside the K-Electric office due to the load shedding in Provincial Capital.

### President asks bank to refund lost amount, apologize to fraud victim

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has rejected a representation filed by Bank Alfalah Ltd (BAFL) against the decision of Banking Mohtasib directing it to send an apology to a customer for enabling online transaction/payment system on his credit card without his consent and neglecting his timely complaint about a disputed transaction.

He said that when Internet Banking Facility was provided by a bank to its customers, it was incumbent upon the bank to educate its customers about its pros and cons.

He also directed BAFL to refund the lost amount of Rs 66,850 along with the profit to the customer. The president gave these remarks while deciding upon a case wherein Muhammad Yar (the complainant) had filed a complaint before the Banking Mohtasib stating that he had a Bank Alfalah Credit Card and a scam of Rs.66,850/- occurred on his Credit Card when his card was used at Noon-e-Commerce solution.

He informed the bank that he had not done this transaction and requested to stop this online transaction/payment.

The bank had initially reversed this transaction

amount but surprisingly after six months, the bank had deducted this amount from his Credit Card.

Feeling aggrieved, he escalated his complaint before the Banking Mohtasib which directed BAFL to refund the lost amount. The Bank, then, filed a representation with the President against the decision of the Mohtasib.

The president held a personal hearing of the case and rejected the representation of the bank. In his decision, he noted that the complainant was not conversant with Internet/Digital Banking and became aware of the transaction on receipt of a call from the bank's real-time Monitoring Unit wherein he told the Bank's representative that he did not perform the disputed transaction.

He added that the bank was duty-bound to take care of its customer's interest by instantly reporting the unauthorized/fake transaction, instead, it waited for the lodgement of a formal complaint.

He observed that when BAFL was advised to submit the SMS or e-mail through which OTP was delivered to the customer, BAFL failed to submit the required information even after continuous follow-up.

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KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah meets with Mufti Taqi Usmani at CM House.

### DC Khairpur visits protective embankments

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC), Khairpur, Dr Sharjeel Noor Channa on Wednesday visited Mirwah and Rohri Canals protective embankments of River Indus along with irrigation officials and termed the overall situation of the embankments satisfactory.

The Deputy Commissioner directed irrigation officials to further improve

embankments and ensure reinforcement of all sensitive points before monsoon rains.

Executive Engineer, briefed that overall situation of embankments were satisfactory as level of protective embankments was raised after super floods and stone pitching of embankments were also carried out.

### Befitting arrangements being made for Muharram in District South

KARACHI (APP): The Transition Officer South and Town Municipal Commissioner Sadder, Akhtar Ali Sheikh on Wednesday said for the convenience of the mourners of Imam Hussain (RA) during Muharram-ul-Haram, the local administration of South District was making arrangements for road maintenance, sanitation and lighting at a fast pace.

He expressed the views along with the concerned officers on the occasion of inspecting the ongoing development works on the routes of Muharram processions, including the various Imam Bargahs of Lyari and Sadder Towns.

He said the municipal

administration was using all its available resources to provide all possible facilities to the mourners of Imam Hussain, within their territorial limits.

Along with the arrangement of sanitation and street lights around Imam Bargahs and venues of Majalis and processions, the repair work of roads, cutting of tree branches obstructing closed-circuit cameras and the removal of encroachments on routes was underway on the fast pace.

It may be mentioned here that an emergency control room had been established for continuous monitoring of the arrangements made in connection with Muharram-ul-Haram.



KARACHI: Police personal arrest teacher while going to red zone during protest.

### DG HDA chairs meeting with officers, staff

HYDERABAD (APP): Newly appointed Director General of Hyderabad Development Authority (HAD) Muhammad Sohail Khan on Wednesday presided over a maiden meeting with the heads of different departments.

According to a hand-out, DG was briefed on the performance of P&DC, WASA and Housing and directed to prepare a comprehensive strategy regarding Muharram-ul-Haram.

DG directed MD WASA and other officers to devise a comprehensive strategy for the guidance of elected representatives regarding Muharram ul-

Haram and no laxity would be tolerated in this regard.

DG also directed Finance and Commercial WASA to speed up recovery drives to accomplish recovery targets.

Earlier, on his arrival, the Director General was warmly welcomed by officers and staff.

Secretary HDA Hafiz Abdul Manan Shaikh, Managing Director WASA Anum Saeed, Director Planning and Development Control Asghar Memon, Director Finance and Commercial Syed Mohsin Nazir Jafferi, WASA staff and other officers were also present in the meeting.



KARACHI: Qatar Consul General Mashaal Muhammad AAlAnsari calls on Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

### Martyred troops are nation's pride: PM Nine soldiers martyred, five terrorists killed in Zhob Garrison attack

ZHOB (INP): At least nine security personnel were martyred by terrorists on Wednesday in an early morning attack on the Zhob Garrison in northern Balochistan, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

The military's media wing had earlier put the death toll to four, stating that five soldiers were critically injured. Later in the evening, it said that the injured soldiers succumbed to their wounds and embraced martyrdom.

"Initial attempt of terrorists to sneak into the facility was checked by

soldiers on duty," the ISPR said, adding that the terrorists were soon after cornered in a small area near the boundary following a heavy exchange of fire.

"In total, five terrorists have been sent to hell during the operation," the ISPR said, adding that the clearance operation was successfully completed.

"Security forces and the nation remain resilient and determined to thwart all such dastardly attempts of the enemy aimed at destroying peace of Balochistan and Pakistan."

### Van owner's association irks over illegal collection of amount from transporters

HYDERABAD (APP): President All Sindh Van owners association Manzoor Brohi has demanded of the Sindh Government to provide

service had been included in bus transport from 1st July and tax was being collected in the toll plaza, the same as fixed for Buses only.

Government transport depots to their custody to stop collecting illegal amounts from transporters.

Addressing a press conference here in Hyderabad Press Club on Wednesday He said that Van transporters were irked with the attitude of traffic police, private extortionists and transport department. He said that van

to the unavailability of transport depots van owners were forced to pay Rs.2500 to Rs.3000 as extortion while Traffic police were also charging illegal amounts in the wake of CNG Gas Cylinder and file challan which impacts their business. They Demanded of Sindh Transport Minister to resolve their issues at the earliest



HYDERABAD: All Sindh van o President Manzoor biro press conference at HPC.

### IBA screening test: Over 0.3m candidate appeared in intermediate category

SUKKUR (APP): As many as 336,363 candidates were appeared in the screening test of intermediate category, vice chancellor of Sukkur IBA university Dr. Asif Ahmed Shaikh informed media on Wednesday.

The varsity's vice chancellor who also holds the charge of chief executive officer SIBA Testing Services (STS) shared applicants numbers and said a total of 477,073 candidates have applied for the test.

Out of the total appeared candidates 119958 have secured 40 per cent or more marks and became successful, whereas 216405 candidates have secured less than 40% marks. The result of 140 candidates is withheld. The passing percentage of the Intermediate category result is 35.66% and the failure percentage

remained 64.34%. Dr. Shaikh said the tests were designed to identify the most qualified candidates for the respective positions, ensuring that merit is the sole determining factor in the selection process.

In line with our commitment to providing merit, excellence, and equal opportunities to all deserving candidates, the vice chancellor said the varsity is pleased to announce that it will soon be conducting screening tests for the matriculation category, for that exact date will be shared soon.

He said these tests will enable individuals at this educational level to compete for positions within the Sindh Government and contribute to the development and progress of our province.