

# Independent

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## War no more remains an option Ready to talk to neighbours on serious matters: PM

Meaningful talks should be held for addressing the problems; Says we did injustice with Pakistan, poor people during last 75 years; Underlines need to learn from past, explore precious natural resources properly

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has said we have to go ahead by learning lesson from past mistakes.

"Thar coal is one among the largest coal projects in world. Reko diq project is of special importance in the history of the country. We have to move forward by learning lesson from past mistakes. We have to convert the speeches into action. We have to work for the development of the country. War no more remains an option. Pakistan is a nuclear power. But this power is not meant to use against any other

Our neighbors should understand to live with peace. Meaningful talks should be held for addressing the problems, he said this while addressing the inaugural session of "Pakistan Minerals Summit" in Islamabad Tuesday. NAB kept on subjecting the people to political victimization, he held.

He remarked the society has divided unfortunately. Poison has been poured into minds of people. Can any work be done for the development of country in this situation, he questioned.

Its answer is "No", he added. We did not focus on the precious wealth of our

country in the last 75 years. We were hesitant due to some cartel or political reason.

He underlined we should work for public interest and against the poverty.

Today is a propitious day, he said adding nature has bestowed natural resources worth trillion dollars on Pakistan. We did not pay attention to natural wealth during the last 75 years.

We did injustice to Pakistan during the last 75 years, he observed. We did injustice with its poor people and we did not pay their right to them.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque witnesses the MOU Signing Ceremony for the Establishment of the Health Incubator and Science Technology Park at the ICCBS between Ministry IT and Telecommunication ICCBS University of Karachi.

## MOITT to establish health incubation center, science technology park in KU: Amin

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Information Technology & Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque said on Tuesday that US\$7.1 billion investment had been made in the telecommunication sector in the country with earning of billions of rupees.

He was addressing the ceremony to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of the Health Incubator and Science & Technology Park at the International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) of Karachi University (KU).

The MoU was signed by Syed Junaid Imam,

Member Ministry of IT & Telecom and Prof. Dr. Iqbal Choudhary, Director ICCBS.

The IT minister, on the request of KU Vice Chancellor Dr. Khalid Mahmood Iraqi, said the Examination Centre of the Karachi University would be digitalized, and directed the Member IT and Chief Executive Officer of National Information Technology Board to coordinate with the university management in that regard.

He said that under the MoU, the Pakistan Software Export Board would establish the Health Incubator and Science & Technology Park at the ICCBS.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with Eng. Khalid Saleh Almudaifer, Vice Minister of Industry and Production of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during meeting held in Islamabad.

## Mayor Karachi Murtaza says: Sindh govt takes measures to improve water supply, drainage in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi and Chairman Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that the Sindh government is taking measures on an emergency basis to improve the water supply and drainage system in the city.

The biggest project regarding the supply of fresh water to Karachi, "K4" is under construction. Insha Allah, the completion of this project will improve the water supply system in the city to a great extent and the problems of the citizens

will end, he said this in a statement on Tuesday.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that indiscriminate actions are being taken against illegal hydrants for fair distribution of water in all areas of Karachi, as a result of these actions against water thieves, water supply in the city is improving.

He said that monitoring teams of Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation are playing an active role to check and control water theft and we are trying our best to improve the water supply system across the city as soon as possible.

## Sindh Cabinet to meet today

KARACHI (APP): The Provincial Cabinet of Sindh is going to meet on August 02 (Wednesday) here at the Committee Room of the Chief Minister's Secretariat.

The provincial Cabinet under the Chairmanship of the Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah will discuss various items including the proposed amendment in the Sindh local government act 2013.

## Bilawal condemns terrorist attack on anti-polio team in Quetta

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has strongly condemned a terrorist attack on an anti-polio team in Quetta.

According to a statement issued by Media Cell Bilawal House here on Monday, Bilawal expressed his grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of two policemen, assigned to escort the polio team, which was on a door-to-door vaccination drive in Quetta. He also extended his heartfelt condolences and solidarity with the families of the martyrs.

He hoped that the beasts involved in the terrorist attack would be behind bars very soon, adding that the thinking and elements that endanger the healthy life of our children.

## Amjad Zubair appointed as new FBR chairman

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Tuesday appointed Malik Amjad Zubair Tiwana, a grade-21 officer of the Inland Revenue Service (IRS), as the new chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

The notification has been issued after approval of his name by the federal cabinet through the circulation of the summary. He has replaced Asim Ahmed, who retired from the service after reaching the age of superannuation on July 30.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and COAS General Syed Asim Munir witnessing the signing of MoUs for increasing foreign investment in the mining industry of Pakistan during Pakistan Mineral Summit.

## Pakistan Minerals Summit held to explore Pakistan's minerals potential; three MoUs signed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Minerals Summit was held here on Tuesday to discuss and find the best way forward towards exploring Pakistan's minerals potential.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif was chief guest while Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir was the guest of honour.

Curated under the theme of "Dust to Development: Investment Opportunities in Pakistan", the event was jointly organized by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and Barrick Gold Corporation and facilitated by the Ministry of Petroleum.

Also attended by the relevant federal and provincial ministers, foreign dignitaries, investors and technical experts, the summit managed to bring specialists, leaders of the industry and many stakeholders from public and private en-

tries on one platform.

The day-long event was divided into four sessions, comprising four individual addresses, four-panel discussions, one keynote speech and special addresses by the prime minister and the army chief.

"As a nation, Pakistan has always exhibited resilience and hope and with such initiatives, I can see the hope becoming a reality. We need to build a stronger narrative for a better future and the mineral wealth of Pakistan is a great opportunity for us to make our mark in the global economy. SIFC is an excellent step that can help Pakistan optimize the opportunities for Foreign Direct Investment", the prime minister said in his address.

The COAS shared his vision for the changing landscape of the mining industry in Pakistan and emphasized upon the catalytic role of the SIFC.



KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Local Government Syed Nasir Hussain Shah chaired a meeting to review all the ongoing development schemes in the province.

## Nasir Shah for completion of ongoing schemes within stipulated time

**Independent Report**

KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Local Government Syed Nasir Hussain Shah chaired a meeting to review all the ongoing development schemes in the province.

In meeting attended by Coordinator CM Shahzad Memon, Additional Chief Secretary Syed Najam Ahmad Shah, Chief Officer Karachi Water Sewerage Corporation, Special Secretary Local Government, MD Solid Waste Department, DG SBCA, MD KDA and other senior officers.

Nasir Shah said to prepare a list of all the development schemes to be completed and started immediately in the province within three days and all the initiated development schemes should be prepared with quality on time while all the ongoing development schemes should be accelerated. Minister di-

rects SBCA officials in the meeting said that plots should be allocated exclusively for the martyrs while the one-window operation system established for the public in the SBCA office should be further improved.

He said that Chairman Bilawal Bhutto's vision is to provide all possible relief and facilities to the people on behalf of the government. All government institutions are taking practical steps to provide relief to the people according to the vision of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

He said that all the ongoing development schemes across the province will be a major source of relief to the people and the government is working on people-friendly projects under the vision of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto.



KARACHI: worker pumps petrol in a car at a fuel station, in Provincial Capital.

## Trying times for masses as govt goes for Rs20 hike in fuel prices

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal government has dropped bombshell on the people with jacking up price of petrol by Rs 19.95 per liter.

With the recent increase, the price of petrol per liter has escalated to Rs 272.95 per liter.

Finance Minister (FM) Ishaq Dar announced the hike in prices of petroleum products.

FM said following the upturn in the prices of petrol the price of petrol will come to Rs 272.95.

The price of high speed diesel has been scaled up by Rs 19.90 per liter and new price of high speed diesel will stand at Rs 273.40 per liter.

The enhanced price of petroleum products will take effect immediately.

FM said the prices of petroleum products were to be determined on previous night.

## Diplomacy on track with extensive global engagements: FM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday said that through extensive engagement with the international community, Pakistan achieved substantially on the diplomatic front during the past fifteen months.

Addressing a ceremony at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after launching 'Digitised system under Foreign Minister's Change Management Reforms', the foreign

ministry came to support Pakistan in the relief and rehabilitation efforts.

The UN General Assembly members focused on Pakistan during the relief efforts and subsequently, they successfully arranged the Climate Resilient Pakistan summit in Geneva receiving 'a substantive and qualitative response'.



minister said that through intensive engagements with the international community, they could now claim "diplomacy is back". It was also an appropriate response to those who were touting about Pakistan being isolated at the global level, he added.

The foreign minister said that due to consistent global engagements under his stewardship, and with

community came to support Pakistan in the relief and rehabilitation efforts.

The UN General Assembly members focused on Pakistan during the relief efforts and subsequently, they successfully arranged the Climate Resilient Pakistan summit in Geneva receiving 'a substantive and qualitative response'.

## PPP govt provides transport, housing facilities to people of Sindh: Sharjeel Memon

KARACHI (APP): Minister of Information, Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon on Tuesday said that the PPP's provincial government had launched two new routes of electric buses to provide travel facilities to the people of Karachi.

Addressing a press conference here at Archives Complex, Sharjeel Memon said the government had started a historic housing project across the province which will provide houses to 21 hundred thousand homeless people of the province.

He said PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah recently distributed documents among deserving people in Larkana.

Sharjeel said the PPP government also started electric, metro and people's bus services across the province, including Karachi and Hyderabad, which provided travel facilities to the people. He said documents of the housing schemes were distributed among people belonging to Jacobabad,

Qambar-Shajidskot, Dadu, Naushehro Feroze and Shikarpur while the same will be given to the people of district Khairpur on Wednesday.

The housing documents would be distributed among people of Badin, Shaheed Benazirabad, Matiari and Jamshoro in the coming days, the minister said. He said the routes of newly launched electric buses will cover more than 50 kilometer distance from Malir Cant to Numash and from Malir Halt to Sadar via Landhi, Korangi respectively.

Sindh government has empowered women in all sector of the society by giving them equal rights, Sharjeel said, adding that People's party always care for the women and it gave equal representation to women in every sector of the society.

He said provincial government had decided to give ownership rights to shelter people who had lost their houses during floods and on one be allowed to undo the decision taken by PPP government.



KARACHI: Sindh Minister of Information, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon addresses to media persons during press conference held in Karachi.

## Sherry demands restoration of Islamabad Airport name to Benazir Bhutto Int'l

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman on Tuesday demanded the government to restore the original name of the Islamabad Airport to Benazir Bhutto International Airport which was approved by the federal cabinet.

In a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Aviation, the federal minister said Airports were named after great leaders around the world and there were many examples of it.

She regretted that the previous government had envisioned 'the licence Gate' and their so-called accusation alleged the national flag carrier PIA of corruption.

"It was very difficult to restore the confidence of the pilots, their salary increase is justified. However, the salary of PIA grade 1 to 4 workers should also be increased," Sherry Rehman said.

On the legitimate demand of the public, flights to Mohenjodaro Airport should also be restored, the minister said.



Daily Voice of Masses  
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**Climate adaptation**

For Pakistan, searing heatwaves, severe squalls, hunger and displacement make climate change a hot topic. The country, with record temperatures and rainfall, is in unmapped territory as climate crises add more complexity to life and livelihood. Despite contributing under 1pc of global greenhouse gas emissions, it is in the midst of a perfect storm as one of the most intensely affected areas. So, extreme weather — last year's floods in Sindh and Punjab and the current Balochistan, Sindh and Punjab tumult — is merely a foretaste of the punishing seasons ahead. Studies provide ominous conclusions: glacier loss, landslides, frequent saturation, droughts and acute heat. Perhaps, last week's National Adaptation Plan from the Ministry of Climate Change, if put into practice with sincerity, can provide some respite from the elements. The document states: "Effective DRM [disaster risk management] requires enhancing the stability, adaptability, recovery capacity, and sustainability of all relevant sectors. This entails a meticulous process of identifying vulnerabilities... Subsequently, implementing sectoral adaptation strategies to mitigate these risks while fortifying the overall resilience of system and service provision is paramount." It also scans the more intricate aspects, such as health, imperilled by "heat stress", disease, lack of amenities, as well as the blow to reproductive well-being: "It is important to stress that the adverse effects of climate change are not experienced equally by the population; women, the poor and landless are particularly impacted. Women are disproportionately vulnerable because their socioeconomic status is not equal to [that] of men..."

A policy shift from impact and cause to adaptation and precaution is our burning need. Poverty, displacement, poor sustenance, damaged cropland, unsafe water, pollution, and other factors have increased mortality and morbidity rates. Little surprise then, that Pakistan is ranked 99<sup>th</sup> out of 121 countries on the Global Hunger Index, and "with a score of 26.1", its hunger level is grievous. Also, it was fortunate that Cyclone Biparjoy, which caused brutal hot spells, dust storms and cloudbursts in southern Sindh, did not hit Pakistan, or else a frail municipal administration and scarce logistical provisions would have been swept away. It does not help that recent research claims the hottest summer so far may be "the coolest one left" and that the UN chief has called this "the era of global boiling". For these crucial reasons, all dispensations must treat climate vulnerability as a national emergency; investment should pour into drainage systems, dams, waterways, warning mechanisms, and pre-disaster management. Moreover, flooding dangers can be cut down with reforestation and preservation of green cover, including mangroves. An adaptation strategy cannot be set in motion without superlative human-centric climate management systems and manpower. We can avoid the worst if policymakers hit the ground running. The sun has to sustain not near life.



Navaira Ali Bangash

Three years ago, in 2020, GLOBOCAN, the global platform for cancer statistics, cited 10,538 new cases of lung cancer in Pakistan, making it the third most common cancer in the country after breast and oral cavity cancer. While two regional cancer registries, including the Karachi Cancer Registry (KCR) and Punjab Cancer Registry, are a substantial source of data related to lung cancer, the figures don't give a precise picture since there is no central population-based cancer registry.

Each year, World Lung Cancer Day is observed on Aug 1. Interestingly, a decline has been noted in the incidence of lung cancer worldwide by 2.2 to 2.3 per cent a year — in men since the mid-1980s though only since the mid-2000s in women. The explanation for this difference lies in the difference in historical patterns of smoking uptake and cessation between men and women.

A similar trend is noted in the Pakistani population as well. The biggest driving force behind the worldwide decline in the use of tobacco products is the constant nudging by medical experts and others. Pakistan's Ministry of National Health Services and Regulations has implemented the WHO guidelines of pictorial health warnings on cigarette packaging to be "50pc or more of the principal display areas". There has also been a surge of anti-smoking and anti-tobacco campaigns. The recent heavy taxation on cigarettes has

**Killer tobacco**

also proved a deterrent.

While smoking is the greatest risk factor for lung cancer and responsible for 80pc of lung cancer deaths, the disease can also occur in non-smokers. People who have never smoked account for 20pc of lung cancer deaths. Radon exposure is the second major reason. Other risk factors include the use of multiple forms of combustible tobacco such as cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookahs or shishas). Many water pipe users assume this to be less toxic than cigarette, though this may deliver the same or even higher level of toxins.

Despite the efforts to discourage them, 19.1pc of adults aged 15-plus use tobacco in Pakistan, while a significant percentage of non-smokers are affected by second-hand smoke in public transport and offices. People are not only becoming immune to the government's repeated health warnings in digital and print media, they are also enraged at the recent price increase in tobacco products. Smoking to relieve stress is a common excuse, especially in lower-income groups. Strong lobbying by the tobacco industry that calls the efforts of anti-tobacco organisations 'hoologanism' and the 'spread of misinformation' also encourages tobacco users.

Meanwhile, lung cancer in Pakistan has caused an enormous financial burden. While the health sector tries to cope, waiting lists of patients are long, especially in government-funded radiotherapy units. What is perturbing is these facilities are reserved for the urban areas and patients in the rural areas are sometimes never even diagnosed, let alone treated for their condition.

Another recent challenge is the fast-growing trend of vaping in Paki-

stan. The culture was initially limited to a specific socioeconomic class. But with growing demand and competition among vape shops, these fruitily-flavoured brightly coloured vials are now available in most places. These devices aerosolise the e-liquid that typically contains nicotine salts. Though the connection between vaping and lung cancer is still unexplored and a lot of research is needed on the subject, the hazards of vaping lie in its being a gateway to the use of combustible tobacco am--ong those who would otherwise have been non-smokers.

Many research articles show that adolescents and young adults using e-cigarettes and vape are more likely than non-users to consume combustible tobacco. Unfortunately, many misinformed smokers switch to vaping while trying to discontinue smoking, assuming this to be a 'healthier' alternative. To date, no e-cigarette or vape is FDA-approved as a cessation aid, and should not be used to quit smoking. Users should not go on to smoke cigarettes and stop using these aids too; former smokers using e-cigarettes should not revert to smoking.

Health is precious. In times, where people are increasingly being afflicted by idiopathic health conditions, practices should be adopted for a healthier and safer lifestyle, with the government stepping up policymaking to regulate the mushroom growth of cessation aids, too. Traditional policies that are in place to discourage smoking need to be revisited, preferably backed by research, to factor in newer trends so that the population can be discouraged from practices that lead to potentially serious and sometimes fatal diseases such as lung cancer. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Justice or revenge?**



Rashad Bukhari

In 2018, seven-year-old Zainab of Kasur was murdered after being raped. According to some reports, she had been tortured horribly before death.

How could a human have been so savage and beastly?

Feelings of outrage and revenge rightly arose. A post on social media went viral, "I demand that Zainab's killer be cut into pieces and dissolved in acid...". Many on TV agreed that the murderer should be hanged seven times in public and his body strung up in the marketplace so that people would draw a lesson and no other brutal person would think of such an act in the future. Her murderer, 24-year-old serial killer Imran Ali, was arrested and executed later that year.

However, there is no let-up and in fact an increase in cases of rape, child sexual abuse, and murder. In 2021, 5,200 rapes were reported in the country, according to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. Another report from a private TV investigation unit claims that as many as 21,900 women were reported to have been raped in the country from 2017 to 2021. This meant that around 12 women were raped across the country daily, or one woman every two hours.

The intensity of the emotions that poured forth in the Zainab case, and subsequently, in other instances of rape and/or murder, as seen in the Noor Mukadam case, with demands for justice is understand-

able. The louder the voice of the aching heart for the oppressed, the better. But on the other hand, is it possible to end violence with violence? Does punishing criminals after severely torturing them stop crime? Can any social reform be possible by creating fear and terror? Criminal justice researchers say that not only are harsher punishments unsuccessful in preventing crime they may, in fact, have the opposite effect. Emeritus professor of law, University of New South Wales, David Brown claims that "harsher punishments that both aim for general deterrence — that is to deter the population at large — and specific deterrence to deter the individual, from re-offending in future is unfounded."

It is generally assumed that harsher and more painful punishment, especially meted out in public, can ensure a decrease in crime. This assumption may appear valid to some extent, but often the evidence does not support it. Crime rates are often lower in countries where the death penalty is banned. In fact, contrary to what many people may think, crime did not increase after capital punishment was banned in many countries such as Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Switzerland, as well as a few states in the US, while in countries where there is a practice of administering harsh, gruesome and public punishments, the crime rate has not decreased. Every harsh punishment followed by another crime of the same type is proof that the criminal mind does not think as it is supposed to. China, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Yemen are among the countries that carry out the highest number of death sentences in the world. -- Courtesy Dawn

In Pakistan in the 1980s, during the rule of military dictator Gen Ziaul Haq, a few executions were carried out in public in front of thousands of people. But that hardly had a deterrent effect on the rate and nature of crime. Brutal punishments do not stop brutal criminals. Crime reduction has to do with ensuring just punishment, and not harsher punishments. Meanwhile, justice that is not even handed destroys trust in the justice system. Societies are built on the edifice of justice, not revenge.

Another aspect of harsh public punishments that is more worrisome is their impact on the individual and society. If the state here was to cave in to pressure for public punishments, it would normalise the scenes of violence and agonising death; the whole idea of punishment would lose its deterring effect and would leave society brutalised and ready to accept public executions as a way of life. This in itself can lead to an increase in violence which would also be mainstreamed. Secondly, the scenes stick to the minds, especially of young people, and can leave some permanently traumatised in a way that it becomes difficult for them to lead a normal life. There is a difference between revenge and justice. The delivery of justice is not possible in the raging currents of emotions. State decisions are made with a cool heart and mind per the basic requirements of the law, and considering the best interest and best future of the country and the people living here. Our demand should be that criminals should be brought to justice as soon as possible, but God save the nation from becoming mentally ill in the process. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**PM says: SIFC to ensure uninterrupted execution of foreign investment projects**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) would ensure the immediate and uninterrupted completion of the projects of foreign investment in Pakistan.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a Saudi delegation led by Saudi Deputy Minister for Mining, Industries and Minerals Khaled bin Saleh Al-Mudaifer, said there existed immense investment opportunities in Pakistan, particularly in the mining sector. Welcoming the delegation, the prime minister said Pakistan was thankful to the Saudi government and

people for supporting Pakistan in every need of the hour.

"Pakistan is your second home. The brotherly relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were of special significance. The whole Pakistani nation was grateful to Saudi King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for supporting Pakistan in every difficult time," he remarked.

The prime minister assured the delegation that not only the interim government but also the next elected government would keep on facilitating the investors. He said the solar power project of 10,000 megawatts announced by

the government was also a good opportunity for investment.

The Saudi minister said that the establishment of SIFC was a positive message to foreign investors in Pakistan. Saudi Arabia was keen to invest in the vast opportunities of investment in the mining sector of Pakistan, he added.

The Saudi minister appreciated the prime minister for the pro-investor measures particularly the establishment of the SIFC as it would lead to economic development.

Calling Pakistan his second home, the Saudi minister assured that Saudi Arabia would continue to support Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: A Saudi delegation led by Vice Minister for Mining Affairs, Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources KSA, Khaled Saleh Al-Mudaifer calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

**Sovereign Wealth Fund established to promote investment in mining, agriculture, IT sectors: Dar**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Terming the mining sector one of the key drivers of economy, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Tuesday said the government had established Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund to exploit potential of mining, agriculture and information technology.

"These are the future drivers of growth. Mines and minerals, and IT would be mainly focused in years to come for the country, no matter who is in governance," the minister said while addressing the Pakistan Minerals Summit titled

"Dust to Development: Investment Opportunities in Pakistan". He said the government was taking serious measures to facilitate investors and exploit the country's resources.

He said the draft legislation for establishing the fund, which was more acceptable globally, had been tabled in the National Assembly and would be moved in the Senate on Wednesday.

Egypt and Indonesia, which were facing a turbulent situation like Pakistan, had established the fund and were doing well, he added.

The finance minister asserted that Pakistan was an asset-solvent country. In the mineral sector only, it had the potential of around \$6 trillion and the one thing that needed was the financial management, he added.

He said the goal of government initiatives was to attract investors to exploit the potential of the assets. He said sub-funds would be created under the main fund which could include agriculture, green revolution, minerals and mining. He said the investors would have the choice whether they were interested in sovereign wealth fund.

**Tanveer for using modern techniques to increase cotton production**

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Industry and Energy SM Tanveer emphasized the need to implement modern technology and China-style model to increase cotton per acre yield. He was presiding over a meeting through video link regarding cotton production and growth strategy at Circuit House, Multan.

In the meeting, Secretary Agriculture, Punjab Itikhar Ali Sahoo, Secretary Agriculture, South

Punjab Saqib Ali, Vice Chancellor MNS Agriculture University, Multan Dr. Asif Ali, Deputy Director Agriculture Information, Punjab Naveed Asmat Kahlon along with progressive farmers Khalid Khokhar, Syed Hasan Raza, representative of APMA Dr. Javed, and other officers including Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Bandisha participated while Director General Agriculture Extension Dr. Muhammad Anjum Ali also participated online.

**FCCI welcomes appointment of Malik Amjad as Chairman FBR**

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) President Dr. Khurram Tariq has welcomed the appointment of Malik Amjad Zubair Tiwana, a senior officer of the Inland Revenue Service, as new Chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

He will replace Asim Ahmed who has retired on July 30th on attaining the age of superannuation.

**FBR collects Rs 538b net revenue in July**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Tuesday announced collecting Rs 538 billion net revenue during the month of July 2023 despite all the economic challenges faced by the country, posting a robust 16.6 percent growth as compared to the corresponding month of the last year.

"As against the set target of Rs. 534 billion, net revenue of Rs. 538 billion has been collected,

despite issuance of refunds amounting to Rs. 49 Billion," said a press release issued here.

The direct taxes continued showing a remarkable growth of 30 percent during July 2023 whereas Inland Revenue taxes has shown a healthy growth of 18 percent as compared to July 2022, and "The FBR team is optimistic with regard to sustaining this growth pattern for rest of the year."

**Dollar fluctuates**

KARACHI (Online): Dollar continued to fall in Inter-bank market.

Value of dollar continued to fluctuate in Inter-bank on first day of business week.

The value of dollar increased marginally at the end of business.

Dollar closed at RS 286.64 with an increase of 19 paise.

A decline in value of dollar in Inter-bank is being witnessed during business on Tuesday and value of dollar has decreased by 39 paise.

**Ahsan inaugurates 3 centers of excellence**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal inaugurated three centers of excellence have been started which include National Center for Manufacturing (NCM), National Center for Quantum Computing (NCQC) and National Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (NCNN).

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal was the chief guest at the launching ceremony.

Deputy Speaker of National Assembly Zahid Akram Durrani, Secretary

of Ministry of Planning Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Vice Chancellors of Universities and senior officials of various ministries participated in the ceremony.

These centers would be established in different universities in Pakistan. Among them are National Center for Quantum Computing Lahore University of Management Sciences Lahore, Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi and Institute of Computer Science, University of Engineering and Technology Lahore.



ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar addressed the closing session of Pakistan Minerals Summit "Dust to Development: Investment opportunities in Pakistan".

**Remote eye surgery trial uses 5G robot in China**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center at the Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China has achieved a milestone in the field of ophthalmic surgery by completing the world's first remote, micron-level surgery on rabbits using an independently developed 5G robot.

The surgeries took place on June 23 on rabbits at the centre in Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong province, with the surgical team operating the robot from the Hainan Eye Hospital at the Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center in Haikou, capital of Hainan province.

The trial was led by Professor Lin Haotian's

team, and all 12 rabbits operated on are in stable condition after a month of observation.

According to Lin, who is the director of the Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center, the breakthrough will help accelerate remote medicine in China, and elevate the country's medical devices and equipment to world-leading levels. It will also contribute to the development of national medical standards, China Daily reported.

Lin said that this achievement has far-reaching implications in addressing the imbalance in the development of ophthalmology and the uneven distribution of top-notch medical resources across the country.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Hidayat Ullah, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Aviation presiding over a meeting of the committee at Ministry of Aviation.



## Governor chairs meeting to discuss education related matters of Edwards College

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali here Tuesday chaired a meeting that was convened to discuss matters related to further improve education standards in historic educational institutions, Edwards College Peshawar.

The meeting was also attended by caretaker ministers including Justice Retired Irshad Qaisar and Abdul Haleem Qasuria, Bishop Diocese Peshawar, Humphrey Sarfaraz Peter, Legal Advisor, Ishaq Ali and concerned officials.

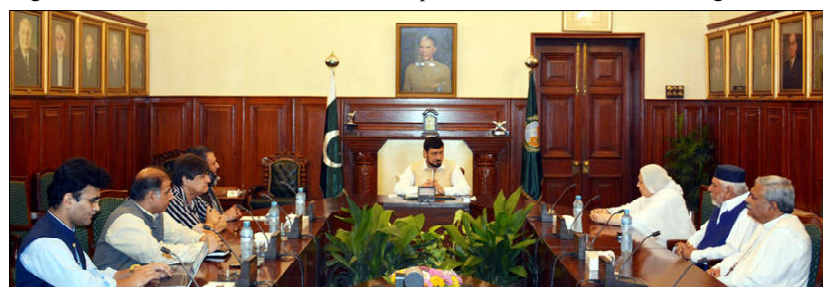
The meeting discussed measures to improve educational standards in the college allowing the executive committee of the college to work for the improvement of historic educational institutions. Participants also decided to convene the Board of Governor to complete the consultation.

Construction of the college building according to the cantonment board approved plan and formation of a construction committee was also discussed and it was decided that two construction experts should be included in the committee.

Addressing the meeting, Governor recalled the past glory of Edwards College and desired to make it a university adding that all the needed legal formalities would be completed for the purpose. He assured to co-operation to resolve the problems of the college and said that we play our part to revive the educational standard for the sake of students.

He said that all the available resources would be utilized for the improvement of the educational institution and said that no compromise would be made on the quality of education in Edwards College.

Bishop Diocese of Peshawar lauded the efforts of the Governor to improve the education standard in the college and assured to make joint efforts for the betterment of Edwards College.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali presiding over a meeting regarding academic and administrative affairs of Edwards College

## Govt taking measures to ensure mother, child health: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Health Minister Dr. Javed Akram on Tuesday said that specific measures were being taken to ensure the health of mother and child in the province.

He expressed these views while addressing as a special guest in the seminar organized in connection with the World Breastfeeding Week at the University of Child Health Sciences here.

The minister said that a national level awareness campaign should be conducted regarding breastfeeding. "We will convince the Cabinet to legislate on breastfeeding," he added. He advised that mothers should start breastfeeding to their newborn shortly after birth until the age of six months. Mother's milk was essential for the good development of the child, he added.

Dr. Javed Akram said that daycare centers should be established in every institution for the convenience of women. In this regard, a comprehensive meeting was held with UNICEF yesterday, he informed.

The minister congratulated the University of Child Health Sciences and various stakeholders for organizing the seminar. He also distributed commemorative shields among the vice chancellor and other guests on this occasion.

## JUI Chief visits LRH, inquires after health of Bajaur blast victims

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman Tuesday visited Lady Reading Hospital Peshawar and enquired after the health of Bajaur blast victims. He prayed for early recovery of injured and extended cooperation to families of blast victims. He said we would not discourage and budge from resolve by these acts of cowardice. JUI Chief said that our party would not be deterred by these acts that are meant to disrupt peace and serenity in the country. He said we praised the composure of party workers who remained calm despite facing the tragedy.



LAHORE: Federal Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar, MNAs and former provincial ministers meeting with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman

## PDWP approves seven developmental schemes

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) approved seven development schemes of the various sectors with an estimated cost of Rs 2201.593 million. These schemes were approved in the 8th PDWP meeting of current financial year 2023-24 presided over by P&D Board Secretary Sohail Anwar. The approved development schemes include: Development of a Controlled Access Corridor Facility from Niazi Interchange to Babu Sabu Interchange, Lahore at the cost of Rs 10842.253 million.

Punjab Rural Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation Project (PRSWSSP) in Tehsil Alipur Lot-2 at the cost of Rs 2280.402 million. Punjab Rural Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation Project (PRSWSSP) in Tehsil Kahror Pakka at the cost of Rs 1454.447 million. Punjab Rural Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation Project (PRSWSSP) Pilot Phase: Cluster North Tehsil Kallar Kahar Lot-2 at the cost of Rs 3518.178 million.

Cluster North Tehsil Punjab Rural Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation Project (PRSWSSP) Pilot Phase: Cluster North Tehsil Noorpur Thal Lot-3 at the cost of Rs 1323.092 million. Punjab Rural Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation Project (PRSWSSP) Pilot Phase: Cluster Central-II Pakpattan. Package-5, 5 Nos. Revenue Villages: (Chak 93-D, Chak 15-SP, Chak 16-SP, Chak 23-SP, Chak 2-KB) at the cost of Rs 1270.360 million. Development of Road from Amra to Sahana Lok Length 10.25 km, (Phase-I, approx. Length=6 Km), District M.B Din (Revised) at the cost Rs 1322.861 million.

## Two more PTI leaders join PTI Parl.

PESHAWAR (APP): Two more party leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday left the party and announced to join Perver Khattak's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamentarian. Core Committee member and Provincial Information Secretary of PTI Riaz Khan and former candidate Tehsil Shah Alam had announced the joining of Parvez Khattak's group. They would formally join PTI Parliamentarian during the inauguration of its provincial secretariat in the city.

## YDA presents charter of demands to LUMHS VC

HYDERABAD (APP): A delegation of the Young Doctors Association (YDA) held a meeting with the Vice Chancellor of Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS), Jamshoro, on Tuesday and presented their charter of demands.

The delegation led by YDA Sindh's President Dr Roshan Chandio, Dr Rakesh Nankani and Dr Fahad Pitafi, it put forward a set of 10 demands to the VC.

They called for paying arrears of up to 17 months' stipends to the postgraduate doctors and for releasing the third and fourth installments of the risk allowance for the PGs.

They urged the VC to allow the rotation of the PGs in other institutes so that they could expand their work experience.

## AJK PM felicitates students for securing first three positions in exams

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq on Tuesday extended his heartfelt felicitations to three meritorious girl students hailing from Bhimber, AJK, who secured the first three positions in the recently announced annual results by Azad Jammu Kashmir Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Mirpur for 10th-grade students.

Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq, in his congratulatory message, praised the top position holders' hard work, dedication and outstanding performance in the annual examinations.

He also appreciated the parents' valuable contribution, endless struggle and commitment to enable their children to achieve their goals.

Congratulating all the students who passed the matriculation examination, the AJK PM asked the successful students to make hard work their motto and devote their full time.

## Asad Mahmood visits CMH inquires Bajaur blast victims

PESHAWAR (APP): Federal Minister for Communications Maulana Asad Mahmood visited Combined Military Hospital (CMH) here on Monday and inquired Bajaur blast victims in JUIF's public meeting.

Federal Minister Maulana Asad Mahmood, made a visit to the injured victims, expressing his deep grief and sorrow and offering prayers for their speedy recovery.

During his visit, Maulana Asad assured the injured that every possible assistance and support would be provided for their recovery process.

He emphasized the resilience of the workers and the unwavering commitment of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) to continue their democratic struggle in the face of such cowardly acts.

Maulana Asad Mahmood condemned the tragic incident, stating that the heinous attack has targeted not just JUIF, but also Pakistan's peace and security.

He asserted that such malicious acts would not deter JUIF's resolve to uphold the values of democracy and peaceful coexistence in the country.

Asad Mahmood said that the incident has deeply saddened and shocked the nation. He praised the courage and determination of the workers, reiterating that no cowardly act could obstruct JUIF's path towards a democratic and prosperous Pakistan.

## Jamal directs to suspend Director Labour over anti-dengue negligence

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Health Care Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir on Tuesday directed the officials concerned to issue the suspension orders of the Director Labour Department, Rawalpindi over his negligence from duty.

Presiding over a meeting to review anti-dengue arrangements along with Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaqat Ali Chatha, he said that dengue was a national issue and no negligence would be tolerated in this regard. The minister directed the allied departments to ensure their performance satisfactory up to 100 per cent during the next two weeks else strict action would be taken against them. Taking notice of the fake entries, he directed to issue show cause notices to those involved in the bogus activities reports.

Dr Jamal Nasir further directed the Chief Executive Officer of Rawalpindi Waste Management Company to spray insecticides daily in 3,400 garbage bins placed across the city.

# International News

## China's Xi calls for combat readiness as PLA marks founding anniversary

**Monitoring Desk**  
HONG KONG: After months of intensified and increasingly ambitious drills to project power, Chinese President Xi Jinping, speaking ahead of Tuesday's 96th anniversary of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), told China's armed forces to speed up modernisation.

In his address, Xi said the military must broaden its combat capability and readiness, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

"We need to push for new equipment and new forces to accelerate forming combat capabilities and integrate into the combat system," Xi told the Peoples Liberation Army Air Force's western theatre command during a visit last Wednesday, Xinhua reported on Sunday.

Marking the anniversary on Tuesday, an editorial in the official PLA Daily newspaper said the military had "enhanced its ability to carry out diversified military tasks in a wider space".

China has flaunted its military might this year, ramping up military manoeuvres and drills, signalling that its third and most advanced aircraft carrier will soon start sea trials, and tightening its military relationship with Russia.

Some analysts say that the moves reflect China's perception of increased external threats from the United States and its allies, and that Beijing is flexing its military muscle to send political messages.

"The reason is simple: the world is not peaceful and the external environment that China faces continues to deteriorate," said Chinese military analyst Song Zhongping, noting the increasing intensity and frequency of Chinese drills.

The US is also expanding regional deployments and tightening ties with longstanding allies and newer friends - sparking calls from Chinese officials that Washington should steer clear of China's coasts if dialogue between the two militaries is to resume.

Drew Thompson, visiting senior research fellow at National University of Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, told Reuters that China's drills represent more of a political message than a military one.

"Everything the PLA (People's Liberation Army) does is inherently political," Thompson said. "When the Chinese military conducts an exercise, it is showing force - it is bestowing or sending a message to other countries."



Rescuers work at a site of a building damaged by a Russian drone strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kharkiv, Ukraine.

## US general says allies key to countering China in Pacific

**Monitoring Desk**  
SYDNEY: The United States will rely on allies rather than a major expansion of its own forces to counter any Chinese military risk in the Pacific, a US general has said.

Beijing enjoys "very clear" advantages in the region, said Major General Joseph Ryan, commander of the 12,000-strong 25th Infantry Division on Oahu, Hawaii.

He cited China's expanding military defences, its long-range rocket missile capability and the ease with which it can position forces and equipment in the Pacific.

By contrast, in the event of conflict, the United States and its allies would have to traverse international waters or the territories of multiple nations, requiring their permission as well as the mobilisation of air, land and sea transport. "I don't see a major expansion of US military presence in the region."

## Head of Lebanon's Hezbollah urges halt to Palestinian camp clashes

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: The head of powerful armed group Hezbollah called on Tuesday for a halt to days of deadly clashes that have raged between rival factions in the Palestinian camp of Ain el-Hilweh in southern Lebanon.

At least 11 people - most of them militants - have been killed in the camp since fighting broke out on Saturday between mainstream faction Fatah and hardline Islamists, security sources in the camp told Reuters.

"This fighting must not continue because its repercussions are bad - for the camp's residents, for the dear Palestinian people... for the south, for all of Lebanon," Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said in a televised address.

The United Nations agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) said at least 2,000 people have fled their homes in the camp and UNRWA activities were suspended due to the violence. Negotiations between the rival factions have led to brief suspensions of fighting but have failed to secure a lasting ceasefire, with heavy clashes resuming on Tuesday.

Hezbollah, which controls southern Lebanon and is vehemently opposed to Israel, has ties to Palestinian factions and supports their cause.



Communal clashes in Nuh, Haryana, during VHP procession. Anjuman Masjid set ablaze; 3 injured, 1 deceased, 2 home guards killed, dozen cops injured.

## At least 20 dead and 27 missing in floods surrounding China's capital Beijing, thousands evacuated

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: Days of unusually heavy rains around China's capital, Beijing, have flooded houses, torn apart roads and left at least 20 people dead and 27 missing, state media reported Tuesday.

The flooding prompted authorities to close train stations and evacuate people in vulnerable areas to school gyms. Cars were washed away and piled into stacks by the rushing waters.

The level of rainfall is rarely seen in Beijing, which generally enjoys moderate, dry summers but has experienced record-breaking extended days of high temperatures this summer. Flooding in other parts of northern China that rarely see such large amounts of rain have led to scores of deaths.

Seasonal flooding hits large parts of China every summer, particularly in the semitropical south, while some northern regions this year have reported the worst floods in 50 years.

## Indonesia buys drones worth \$300m from Turkish Aerospace

**Monitoring Desk**  
JAKARTA: Indonesia has bought 12 new drones from Turkish Aerospace worth \$300 million, its defence ministry said on Tuesday, the latest in a series of purchases aimed at modernising the country's ageing military equipment. The deal comes after Indonesian President Joko Widodo in July warned his cabinet to maintain a "healthy" budget as he highlighted outsized spending by the country's security agencies, including the defence ministry.

## The \$3.9 billion UN humanitarian appeal for Ukraine is only 30% funded, UN aid official says

**Monitoring Desk**  
UNITED NATIONS: The \$3.9 billion humanitarian appeal for war-torn Ukraine is less than 30% funded as the country starts preparing for a second winter with more residential buildings damaged and destroyed and thousands of people homeless following the collapse of the Kakhovka dam, the country's UN humanitarian coordinator said Monday.

Denise Brown told a virtual news conference from Kyiv that 17 million Ukrainians need aid and the U.N. is targeting between 11 million and 12 million - but funding is becoming a serious issue.

A report last week from the U.N. humanitarian office said lack of funding "is hampering operations, adding to the challenges imposed by insecurity and other obstacles."

## Spain to evacuate more than 70 citizens from Niger

**Monitoring Desk**  
MADRID: The Spanish government is preparing to evacuate more than 70 Spaniards in Niger by air after the military seized power in West African country, the Defence Ministry said on Tuesday.

A foreign ministry spokesperson declined to provide further details about the operation, such as whether Spain would send its own aircraft, citing security concerns.

## At least 5 killed in Hindu-Muslim clashes in India's Haryana state

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: At least five people, including two police personnel, were killed in clashes between Hindus and Muslims in India's Haryana state, neighbouring capital New Delhi, on Monday, police officials told Reuters.

The violence erupted when a Hindu religious procession passed through the Muslim-dominated Nuh region, located around 50 kilometres away from New Delhi.

"The procession was meant to move from one temple to another but clashes broke out between two groups on the way, which resulted in the death of four people," Krishan Kumar, spokesperson of Nuh police, told Reuters.



# PM visits Peshawar; briefed on investigation into Khar attack, anti-terror efforts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday visited Peshawar where he was briefed about the overall security situation in the province with a focus on the Khar suicide blast and the status of ongoing investigations.

Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir also accompanied the prime minister, a PM Office statement said.

The prime minister was apprised of the counter-terrorism efforts being undertaken to dismantle the terrorists' network by disrupting the linkages between planners, executioners, and abettors.

Prime Minister Shehbaz noted with concern the involvement of the Afghan citizens in the suicide blasts and liberty of action available to the elements hostile to Pakistan in planning and executing such cowardly attacks on innocent civilians from the sanctuaries across the border.

"Interim Afghan government should undertake concrete measures towards denying its soil to be used for transnational terrorism", the prime minister emphasised. He also appreciated the emergency efforts undertaken by the army in the evacuation of wounded personnel from Khar to Peshawar, saving many lives.

The prime minister and COAS also visited the wounded personnel under treatment at Combined Military Hospital (CMH) and inquired about their health.

The prime minister instructed the authorities concerned to extend the best possible healthcare services to the wounded patients until their full recovery. While interacting with the bereaved family members of the victims of Khar suicide blast, Prime Minister Shehbaz assured them that the entire nation stood with them in that hour of grief and shared the burden of their losses.

"These cowardly attacks by terrorists cannot weaken our resolve to eradicate the menace of terrorism from Pakistan. Security forces and law enforcement agencies with the support of the nation will ensure that those responsible for the dastardly attacks are brought to justice as soon as possible", he remarked.

Earlier on arrival, the prime minister and COAS were received by Commander of Peshawar Corps.

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Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir visiting those injured in Khar (Bajaur) suicide blast in CMH Peshawar.

## Reko Diq project to prove a game changer; usher a new era of progress: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that Reko Diq project would prove to be a game changer for the development of Balochistan and region besides ushering a new era of progress and prosperity.

The prime minister, talking to a delegation of Barrick Gold led by CEO Mark Bristow which called on him, said Pakistan was rich with immense resources of minerals. The government was taking

measures on priority to take maximum advantage of the said resources, he added. According to a PM Office statement, the Barrick Gold agreed to make the payment of Pakistan's share of investment in Pakistani rupees.

The prime minister said the participation of Barrick Gold and other international firms in Pakistan Mineral Summit held earlier on the day manifested the revival of investors' confidence in Pakistan.

## 4 petrol pumps sealed

By Tanveer Ahmed Soomro

MIRPUR MATHILO: The petrol pumps that were receiving arbitrary rates were surrounded, raids by Assistant Commissioner Mirpur Mathilo, 4 petrol pumps were sealed, 20,000 rupees were fined. According to the details, on the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Ghotki Muhammad Usman Abdullah, Assistant Commissioner Mirpur Mathelo Muhammad Ahmar Ali, raided various petrol pumps of the city and assessed the situation. Iqbal Pump, Data Pump, Chandio Pump and Magrio pumps were sealed while receiving a total fine of 20,000.

## SHRC expresses concern over kidnapping of Jagdesh Kumar & Jaideep Kumar

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: Sindh Human Rights Commission expresses concern over kidnapping of Mukhi Jagdesh Kumar and a minor boy, Jaideep Kumar (aged 09 years) from Bakshapur, district Kandhkot-Kashmore. Earlier, the Commission's team had conducted inquiry into the overall law and order situation of the district.

Based upon the inquiry, Board Member Sindh Human Rights Commission Mr. Sukhdev Assardas Hemnani,

U/S 4(ii) Sindh Protection of Human Rights Act 2011, shared a set of recommendations (through letter dated 25 July, 2023) with Inspector General Sindh Police and urged that, "the state may become direct party to the cases of violence against minorities including on their worship places and kidnappings..." The Commission urges upon authorities to ensure safe and swift recovery of Mukhi Jagdesh & minor Jaideep Kumar and also provide the needful support to the aggrieved families.



KARACHI: Students arrives in their school after long summer vacation, in Provincial Capital.

## Sindh schools reopen after summer vacations

KARACHI (INP): After a refreshing summer vacation, educational institutions across Sindh reopened on Tuesday after the summer vacations.

According to details, schools and colleges throughout Sindh have resumed educational activities following the two-month summer holidays, while the teaching process has officially begun.

The new academic year in schools has also commenced from Tuesday, bringing back the lively atmosphere to educational institutions after the two-month break. The children's faces lit up with joy as they reunited with their friends.

Students eagerly returned to school, excited about new books and new classes. However, the availability of the curriculum

books remains an issue, as the ninth, tenth, and intermediate (first and second-year) level books are not yet available in the market due to incomplete printing by the Sindh Textbook Board.

Private schools in Karachi also faced a sudden change in the curriculum a week ago, and their prescribed textbooks are not currently available in the market. The Sindh Textbook Board had assured that the situation would be under control before the start of the new academic year, but as of now, both government and private schools are unable to obtain the required textbooks.

Many government schools have had to rely on old textbooks, while private schools could only provide half of the required course materials.

## SSGC CMO murder: Police arrest three more suspects

KARACHI (INP): A significant breakthrough has been made in the murder case of the Chief Medical Officer of Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), Rahm Ali Shah, Karachi Police successfully apprehended three suspects. According to media reports, Ferozabad Investigation Police successfully arrested three suspects including the main suspect Sarmad Siddiqui, who was believed to be the key perpetrator in the heinous crime, was taken into custody along with two other individuals, Jumma Khan and Ashtaq Murri.

## District administration ask dairy farmers, milk retailers to keep milk price unchanged

HYDERABAD (APP): The Deputy Commissioner of Hyderabad Fuad Ghaffar Soomro has asked the dairy farmers and milk retailers to desist from increasing the milk price and to continue to sell the commodity at the government fixed rate of Rs190 per liter. At a meeting with the representatives of the farmers and retailers.



LAHORE: Activists of Majlis-e-Ulema Pakistan hold a protest against the burning of the Quran in Sweden, at Badshahi Mosque in Provincial Capital.

## Army urges all stakeholders to play role in revival of economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Tuesday said the Pakistan government, along with state institutions, had ensured the establishment of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), in order to bring the stakeholders at one platform.

Addressing the Pakistan Mineral Summit, he said it had laid down new rules for "ease of doing business" for domestic and foreign investors in the country.

"We will ensure an investor-friendly system that avoids unnecessary delays and provides easy terms and conditions for business. There are vast mining opportunities in our country which will be realized through joint efforts," he added.

The Army Chief thanked the foreign delegates and investors for participating in the moot, which was the first such event in the country. He also thanked Barrick Gold Corporation CEO and President Mark Bristow and Saudi Mining Minister Engineer Khalid bin Saleh Al Madifar and other investors.

He stressed persistence for staying on the path of peace and prosperity and said the mineral-related projects were the stepping stone, which would eventually lead towards the development of the masses.

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## On intervention of Ombudsman Sindh Widow gets unpaid dues of benevolent fund after five years

KARACHI: Mr. Ajaz Ali Khan Honourable Ombudsman Sindh expressed his satisfaction on payment of Rs. 90,000/- on account of aid out of benevolent fund to the widow complainant after his intervention.

Mst. Dur Bibi in her complaint alleged that Sindh Benevolent Fund Board had failed to release the arrears of dues towards aid out of Benevolent Fund since March,

2019 despite her persuasion and requested intervention.

The complaint was admitted and assigned to Regional Director, Mirpurkhas who persuaded the matter with concerned authorities.

In response, the Administrative Officer, Benevolent Fund Board, Karachi, requested for provision of certain documents, which were provided by the lady complainant.



HYDERABAD: Flood water entered houses in kacha area at Saharash Nagar near Indus River.

## Providing relief to commoners top priority: DC Mirpurkhas

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Deputy Commissioner Mirpurkhas Noor Mussafia Leghari Tuesday said the orders have been given to take charge against price gougers in order to give relief to the common person of the district.

"Food Control Authority took action against the mafia using substandard material in food items" he said.

These orders have been given in a meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner Mirpurkhas Noor Mustafa leghari, Mayor Mirpurkhas Abdul Rauf Ghori, Municipal Commissioner Mirpurkhas Rafiq Sehara, and Assistant Deputy Commissioner 1 Asif Raza Chandio were also

present.

DC said the action will be taken against the illegal LPG shops across the district including the city is going on and LPG shops will be completely closed across the district.

He said a beautification plan is being brought in the city, in which a large-scale tree planting campaign and cleaning campaign were started in collaboration with the mayor and deputy mayor Mirpurkhas.

On the question of shortage and abandoned (Grave yard) Family Park, Mayor Mirpurkhas Abdul Rauf Ghori said that land will be purchased for new cemeteries and parks in the city.

## 6 policemen punished

KARACHI (APP): Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Malir, Hassan Sardar Niazi on Tuesday forfeit one year of service for three officers and stoppage of one-year service increment for three policemen over negligent performance and failure in crime control.

He imposed this penalty on three station house officers and three head "muharrars", according to a spokesman for Malir Police.

The penalty of forfeiture of one year of service was imposed on SHOs of Ibrahim Hyderi, Malir City and Shah Latif police stations while the one-year service increment of head "muharrars" of the same police stations was stopped.

The officer warned the said officials to strictly perform their duties diligently in future.

## Drug peddler held during snap checking

KARACHI (APP): A drug peddler along with a huge quantity of drugs was arrested by Mochko police station during snap checking on Tuesday.

According to police, accused Syed Ahsanullah was arrested after recovery of 6.89kg fine quality hashish from his possession.

The accused was held from Hub River Road during snap checking under the supervision of station house officer Mochko police station.

A case had been registered and further investigations were initiated.

## China to work with Pak to build CPEC into exemplary project of BRI: President Xi

BEIJING (APP): Chinese President Xi Jinping has said that China will work with Pakistan to build the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) into an exemplary project of the Belt and Road Initiative to achieve sustainable development for a shared future in the new era. Xi made these remarks in a congratulatory message to the Decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor celebration event held in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Xi pointed out that CPEC is an important pioneering project of the Belt and Road Cooperation. Since its launch in 2013, China and Pakistan have been advancing CPEC under the principle of extensive consultation, joint con-

tribution, and shared benefits, and have achieved a number of early harvests.

This has added new impetus to the economic and social development of Pakistan and laid a good foundation for regional connectivity and integration, he said, adding that it is a vivid testament to the all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan, and provides an important underpinning for building an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

Stressing that China and Pakistan will continue to improve overall planning and expand and deepen cooperation, Xi said no matter how the international landscape may change.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff Amjad Khan Niazi calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## CPEC to boost largest foreign direct investment in Pakistan: Sharmila

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) senior leader Sharmila Faruqi Tuesday said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would attract the largest foreign direct investment in Pakistan.

"The project will play an important role in facilitating the development of the country's economy and in creating millions of new jobs in coming years," she added.

Under CPEC, the two countries initiated and completed multiple projects including energy, transport infrastructure, port, airport develop-

ment, and digital connectivity, she said while talking to a private news channel.

"Under Phase II of CPEC, both countries will now further expand cooperation to new areas including rural revitalization, agricultural development, industrialization, green development, and science and technology," she mentioned.

"The friendship of both countries is going to prosper further in the coming years," she said.

"CPEC is a game changer for the economic and social development of the region."

## Mayor Karachi Murtaza says: Fake leases in Truck Stand Maripur should be canceled immediately

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has directed that all the fake leases in Truck Stand Maripur should be canceled immediately and the truck stand should be constructed under its master plan.

Encroachments on the truck stand land should be removed immediately so that facilities were made available to truck owners, he said this while presiding over a meeting of various transport organizations here on Tuesday.

Kemari Town Chairman, Humayun Khan, Mayor Karachi Spokesperson for Political Affairs

Karamullah Waqasi, Lyari UC Chairman Ghulam Yasin Khan, Land Director Sabahul Islam, Terminal Director Imran Siddiqui and other relevant officers were also present on the occasion.

The delegations of the organizations that met with Mayor Karachi include United Goods Transporters Alliance Pakistan, Karachi Goods Carrier Association, Transport Goods Association, Sindh Transport Association, Transport Carrier Association, Local Goods Transport Association Port Qasim and Aman Dost Association.



KARACHI: Activists of Markazi Muslim League (PMMI) are holding protest demonstration against the issues of inflation, unemployment, and hike in the prices of gas, electricity, petrol, and other essential commodities, at Karachi press club.

## Delegation from Kazakhstan calls on VC University of Karachi

KARACHI (APP): A two-member delegation from Kazakhstan met the Vice Chancellor of the University of Karachi Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi at the KU VC Secretariat on Tuesday and discussed the opportunities of collaboration with Kazakhstani varieties and the University of Karachi.

The Nobel Fest delegation headed by its Founder and Chief Executive Officer Maxat Kurbenov and the deputy head of the organizing committee Dr Serik N. Nuberbekov, informed the KU VC Professor Dr Khalid Iraqi that the purpose of their visit is to collaborate with different departments and centres of the University of Karachi with Kazakhstani and inter-

national universities. During the meeting, Maxat Kurbenov mentioned that the Inclusive Development Foundation of Kazakhstan is a founder and organizer of the Nobel Fest that is jointly with COMSTech plans to organize Nobel Fest in Islamabad on Nov 29-30, 2023 with the participation of OIC 57 member countries represented by ministers of science and technology.

The visitors informed the KU VC Professor Dr Khalid Iraqi that they could engage various Kazakhstani universities with the University of Karachi and both faculty members and students of the KU could exchange information, research, and innovative ideas with their counterparts.