

# Independent

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Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 05. No. 242 Safar 07, 1445 AH Friday August 25, 2023 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

## CM orders action against medicine hoarders

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice @ Maqbool Baqar, while taking serious notice of the shortage of life-saving medicines in the market, directed the health department to ensure the availability of the medicines and take strict action against the hoarders.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, the chief minister discussed the matter of the shortage of life-saving medicines and the circulation of substandard medicines in the market with Health Minister Dr Saad Niaz. It was decided that the health department would start a campaign against the medicine dealers involved in hoarding.

It was also decided that the health department would go hard against the manufacturers/dealers and even stores involved in making and selling substandard medicines.

Justice Baqar said that the people who were playing with the lives of innocent people must be dealt

with iron hands.

The chief minister also discussed the issue of Dengue and malaria with the health minister. It was decided to activate both programs further and the local govt was directed to start anti-mosquito spray in their respective areas.

The Chief Minister took notice of a jirga held at Ubauro, District Ghotki to settle an old dispute of love marriage in which a minor girl was given as a penalty for marriage to the opponent party.

On the directives of the caretaker chief minister, the Ghotki police arrested two accused, Naser and Madad Bhutto, and made efforts to arrest other accused.

The chief minister expressed deep sorrow over a road accident that took place at Jhirk-Mulakatiar Bridge which claimed seven lives. He directed the district administration to help the victims' families and provide proper treatment to the injured.



KARACHI: Consul General for the US Conrad Tribble meeting with Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at the Governor's House.

## Solangi, Bugti reaffirm commitment to assist ECP for polls

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Ministers for Interior and Information and Broadcasting Sarfraz Bugti and Murtaza Solangi on Thursday reaffirmed the government's commitment to assist the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in holding General Elections. The ministers expressed the resolve during a meeting held here at the Ministry of Interior.

Upon arrival at the Ministry, the minister for interior accorded warm welcome to Murtaza Solangi.

During the meeting, both the ministers discussed matters related to the assistance of the ECP in conducting the general elections in the country.

They also discussed the overall situation in the country. Meanwhile Care-

taker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Thursday said the government would hold the general election in accordance with the time-line of the Election Commission of Pakistan.

"The election will be conducted on the date which the Election Commission will announce," the minister said while talking to the media.

"We stand by the Election Commission's stance, as we do not have any intention to take its powers back," the minister maintained in accordance with Article 218(3) of the Constitution, he said the caretaker government would provide all-out support to the ECP for holding free, fair and transparent elections.



KARACHI: U.S. Consul General Karachi Conrad Tribble writing his views after his visit to the Mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in Provincial Capital.

## Consultation underway with lawyers, I will return home soon, Nawaz Sharif

LONDON (Online): Former Prime Minister (PM) and PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif said that consultation with lawyers is underway and he will return home soon.

Democratic system should continue and should not be derailed in any case, he added.

According to media reports Former Senator Chaudhary Zafar Iqbal met with PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif.

While talking to media in London, PML-N Lahore President Saif-ul-Malook Khokhar said

that the date of Nawaz Sharif return to home will be decided till Saturday.

Nawaz Sharif was briefed about the preparations for reception and more instructions were issued by former PM.

Lac of people will come to welcome their leader.

It is to remember that former PM Nawaz Sharif while talking to media in London said that there are testimonies coming from inside about Former Chief Justices of Supreme Court.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar being briefed during his visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## PM commends heroes who rescued trapped chairlift passengers in daring operation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday awarded commendation certificates to the valiant commandos, armed forces personnel and local residents who rescued eight trapped passengers of a dangling cable car in Battagram.

The prime minister, addressing the commemoration ceremony held at the PM Office, said the recognition was well-deserved by every individual involved, who exhibited remarkable prowess in orchestrating the mission to a triumphant conclusion.

He emphasized that the entire nation shared the concerns for the safety of the trapped children, who remained

stranded on the chairlift for hours.

He remarked that the successful endeavour was a collaborative achievement, acknowledging that recognition was also due to those who, from the confines of their homes, prayed for the safe and successful rescue operation.

He said being a father, he could feel the pain of stranded children's parents but the teamwork based on prudent efficient planning ensured their safety.

"Hats off to all of you who did an immaculate job. The biggest credit goes to those who were carrying out the planning," he remarked.

Sharing their emotions with the prime minister, the children said they were ex-

remely worried but had a sense of satisfaction after coming to know that the Pakistan Army had launched the rescue operation.

The prime minister said that the paramount duty of the state encompassed providing quality healthcare and education, and an atmosphere for a dignified life.

Referring to the martyrdom of security personnel in South Waziristan, the prime minister said that those trying to obstruct the State's functioning through their ill intentions must remove their misunderstanding.

He reiterated that the nation would never forget the sacrifices of the martyrs of the war against terrorism,

including politicians, police services, Pakistan Army, journalists, PAF (Pakistan Air Force), and common citizens.

"This is our home. We know how to run it," he remarked.

The prime minister said the pains of the terror victims' families could not be expressed in words.

He said the salaries being given to the security forces personnel were just meant to suffice their needs as their sacrifices could only be recognized through respect.

"We revere them. We respect them," he commented.

Prime Minister Kakar reassured that the state affairs were in the hands of highly capable individuals.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salim Al-Zaabi called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan.

## Election date discussion to have 'scant consequences' due to recent law changes: CEC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja on Thursday informed the president that the discussion about selecting an election date would have "scant consequences" owing to recent changes in the election law. The CEC, in a two-page letter addressed to President Dr Arif Alvi, expressed the Commission's profound respect for the president's office.

"Meeting and seeking guidance on national matters from the president has always been regarded as an honour, when the circumstances are suitable. However, the Commission's view is that participating in the meeting will lead to negligible consequences."

President Alvi wrote a letter to CEC Sikandar Raja on Wednesday, inviting him for a meeting to fix a date for general elections. He asserted that since the National Assembly was dissolved on August 9, 2023, therefore under Article 48(5) of the Constitution, he

(as the president) was obliged to appoint a date not later than 90 days from the date of dissolution for the holding of general election of National Assembly.

The CEC, in his letter, stated that since the Elections Act (Amendment) Bill 2023 was enacted into law, announcing the date for polls was the sole prerogative of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

He pointed out that Section 57 of the Election Act of 2017 had recently been amended and, unlike the previous position, now the Commission was empowered to announce the date(s) for elections.

"Article 48(1) of the Constitution stipulates that the president follows the prime minister's advice. Article 48, Clause (5), carries a non-obstante clause. Notably, the National Assembly dissolution was advised by the prime minister, rendering Article 48(5) inapplicable in this context," he asserted.

## Seven killed, 15 injured in Thatta truck-van collision

THATTA (INP): At many as seven commuters were killed and 15 others sustained wounds after a passenger van collided with a truck near Jharak in Thatta district on Thursday, police said. According to rescuers and police rushed to the spot for rescue and relief work. The rescuers began rescue activities to pull the bodies and the injured from the van's wreckage.

The ill-fated van was heading to Thatta from Hyderabad. The injured were shifted to nearby hospitals. Police after registering a case into the incident started an investigation.

## US reaffirms support for free, fair elections in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP) U.S. Ambassador Donald Blome on Thursday met with Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja to reaffirm the United States' support for free and fair elections conducted in accordance with Pakistan's laws and constitution.

The Ambassador reiterated that choosing Pakistan's future leaders is for the Pakistani people to decide, and that the United States remains committed working to broaden and deepen the U.S. Pakistan relationship with, whom-ever the Pakistani people choose.

## Man axes daughter to death for honour

KARACHI (INP): A pitiless man alleged axed to death his teenage married girl for honour in Manghopir area of Karachi.

According to details, the 19-year-old girl went missing from her husband's house who informed his father-in-law about missing of her wife.

Later, the girl was recovered from Quaidabad area who was brought back to home.

Father of the girl axed her to death for honour and buried her body near his house.

## Bilawal Bhutto calls PPP CEC meeting in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): PPP Chairman and former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has called a meeting of the party's Central Executive Committee (CEC) in Karachi on Friday.

Party members from all over the country including Punjab have been invited to the CEC meeting and they were directed to attend the CEC meeting in their personal capacity.

No CEC member will take part in the meeting through video link.

PPP Lahore President Ch Asham Gill and Women Wing Punjab President Samina Khalid Ghurki will

participate in the CEC meeting.

National Assembly Speaker and PPP Punjab President Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Qamar Zaman Kaira, Syed Hassan Murtaza, Chaudhry Manzoor, Tasneed Qureshi and others will also be in attendance.

Sources in the party said the CEC huddle will ponder over preparations relating to the general elections.

Decisions are also expected to be taken regarding reactivating PPP organisations in Punjab and Lahore and to fill the vacant slots immediately.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti in a meeting with the Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi.

## Sindh minister announces survey for assessment of mineral resources

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Caretaker Minister for Mines and Mineral Development Mir Khuda Bakhsh Marri on Thursday announced that an assessment survey of the mineral resources found in the province would be carried out to determine their quantity, quality and monetary value. Addressing a press conference here at the Sindh Secretariat, said the entire country, including Sindh, was rich in mineral resources, which could be exploited to strengthen the national economy.

He said that the Sindh Department of Mines and Mineral Development would conduct the survey of the mineral resources present in the entire province, including Sukkur, Larkana, Shaheed Benazirabad, Hyderabad, Thatta, Jamshoro, Badin, Khairpur and Tharparkar districts and its findings would be made public.

The department

would also arrange visits of the experts from geology departments of all the universities of Sindh, representatives of departments of environment and tourism, media, experts from countries with mineral resources and other stakeholders to assess that how much financial benefit could be obtained from the mineral resources annually, he added. Mir Khuda Bakhsh Marri said that the Department of Mines and Mineral Development was moving towards digitization to make mineral exploration, mining permission and other processes transparent. "The digitization will not only make complete information of the mineral resources accessible but also make the process to submit complaints against illegal mining and other issues as well as suggestions regarding exploitation of mineral resources to the department concerned easy," he added.



ISLAMABAD: US Congressman Darlin Lahood accompanied by US Ambassador Donald Blome exchanging views with Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani.

## Toshakhana case till IHC order SC adjourns hearing of Imran petition against his conviction

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has adjourned hearing of PTI chairman petition against his conviction in Toshakhana case till Islamabad High Court (IHC) order.

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial is hearing Toshakhana case.

At the inception of hearing the CJP remarked hearing is still underway in IHC. Chief Justice (CJ) IHC is hearing the case which is appreciable. I appreciate efforts of CJ. IHC is seeing the matter. It will be better to let IHC give decision on this matter.

CJP Umar Ata Bandial inquired has any one come from Attorney

General (AG) office. We will ask about the situation of staying of PTI chairman in jail in today's order. We will ask from AG in what condition chairman PTI has been kept in jail.

The SC sought report about facilities to chairman PTI in jail.

Sardar Latif Khosa counsel for chairman PTI said arguments have been given on all points in high court.

The CJP remarked it was your complaint that you were not being heard. Your all arguments have been heard. You should hope from IHC that it would give decision on your points.

Justice Jamal Mandokhail inquired what outcome has come in respect of IHC proceedings.



CHAKWAL: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Amjad Khan Niazi performs the ground breaking of Bahria Foundation College at Chakwal.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Battagram rescue

Tragedy was averted in KP's Battagram area on Tuesday when eight individuals, mostly children, were rescued after the wires of their cable car snapped high above the ground.

While all those involved in the daring rescue effort deserve much praise for saving lives, the incident highlights the need for better, safer infrastructure in remote locations such as Allai, where the event occurred, to facilitate citizens.

The occupants of the cable car were travelling to school when the accident happened, leaving them dangling precariously several hundred feet above a river. Combined efforts lasting around 14 hours involving military personnel, rescue workers, and locals were ultimately successful. While earlier attempts to retrieve the stranded occupants of the car by helicopter saw only limited success, rescuers continued the operation after nightfall and brought the terrifying saga to a close by safely retrieving all the occupants after putting their own lives at risk by sliding down the remaining cables. Such feats are often witnessed in the movies, but these real-life heroes deserve the nation's gratitude for their selflessness and bravery in the face of an extremely challenging situation.

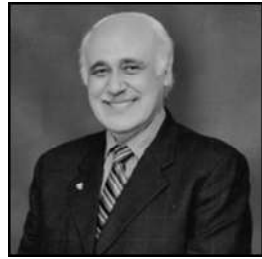
The event should prompt the state to resolve the communication issues of communities living in remote areas with difficult terrain, like Allai. In fact, due to limited infrastructure including roads and bridges, such cable cars are often the only practical option for travelling in parts of the mountainous north, especially in KP, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Kashmir.

While safety features may leave much to be desired — many cable cars are built by locals on a self-help basis — this form of aerial transport is a lifeline for residents of remote valleys and hamlets.

They cut both travel time and cost, as a road journey taking hours and costing a few thousand rupees can be made in a few minutes for very little money. But the threat of an accident is ever-present, as Tuesday's episode showed. In 2017, a similar accident in Murree resulted in several deaths.

Critical infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, is needed to connect settlements in remote places. But if this is too expensive, cable car systems built and manned by professionals can be installed, with bodies like Rescue 1122 and PDMA, KP, hiring trained cable car rescuers in hilly areas such as Battagram, Shangla, Kohistan, and Chitral for prompt response.

The respective local administrations must ensure that safety inspections of such structures are an ongoing process. Moreover, the state needs to provide basic facilities such as schools, clinics, etc. closer to people's settlements so that they do not have to traverse long distances and treacherous terrain to get an education or visit the doctor. Better telecommunications infrastructure can also facilitate online learning and telemedicine in remote communities.



F.S. Aijazuddin

Another Ice Age is spreading across our continent. The last occurred 20,000 years ago. This time it is a political one, freezing relations between India and Pakistan.

No one is more aware of it than Mani Shankar Aiyar, a former cabinet minister, a close confidant of Rajiv Gandhi, and a tireless champion of Indo-Pak conciliation. Mani's advocacy should not be ignored, as were once the warnings on global warming by former vice president Al Gore in his documentary An Inconvenient Truth (2006).

Mani's latest book Memoirs of a Maverick (2023) was launched in New Delhi yesterday (Aug 23). It will have a wide readership in India amongst Congressites, less so amongst BJP diehards. Even fewer copies will be able to penetrate the saffron curtain into Pakistan.

Mani's memoirs cover the first 50 years of his hyper-active life — at Cambridge University, then his service in the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) at Brussels, Vietnam, Baghdad, and finally as consul general in Karachi from 1978-1982.

Landing in Karachi in December 1978, Mani found the four-storeyed Indian consulate building on Civil Lines "dilapidated and utterly neglected". It had been ravaged during the 1971 war. He started work with two clerks deputed from Islamabad, "huddled into a small room with one telephone between us".

It was an ironic replay of August 1947 when Pakistan's fledgling Foreign Office began work in the musty Mohatta Palace in Karachi, using one typewriter and thorns from kikar bushes in lieu of paper clips.

I first met Mani and his wife Suneet in 1979 at their elegant residence in Clifton. My first book — Pahari Paintings and Sikh Portraits in the Lahore Museum — had just been published and I called on them with a copy as an icebreaker. That proved to be the first of many meetings — in New Delhi, Kasauli, and Lahore.

Mani's official remit as consul general restricted him to Sindh but boundaries could not contain his gregarious personality nor limit his effusive hospitality. Within a year, Mani and Suneet had made their mark on Karachi society. They threw "a really big party" to which they invited everyone they knew. The spectrum included bibulous bon vivants who constituted the majority of their guests, with the sobering antidote of two Jamaat-i-Islami MNAs for Karachi.

Mani discovered that the demand for visas to India grew exponentially to the numbers issued. Mani mentions that "by September 1979, within six months of our opening, we were edging towards one hundred thousand [.] By the end of my term [in 1982], we had issued over 3 lakh visas".

Mani researched a thesis Towards a Revival of the Pakistan Economy. He had it reviewed by one of Pakistan's top economists and shared it with his ambassador Shankar Bajpai.

On April 3, 1979, Mani was in Karachi, in attendance upon the visiting Indian chief of army staff, Gen O.P. Malhotra. Disappointed that Gen Malhotra was received only by a brigadier, the following morning, on April 4, Mani realised why: "No higher ranking

officer was available as they were busy hanging Bhutto."

Mani admits surprise that "while the pa-p-----ers were emblazoned with screaming hea-d--lines, the streets were subdued. There were no rivers of blood flowing [.] The revolution had choked. Zia had got away with murder".

After leaving Karachi in 1982 and quitting the IFS, Mani began a second career in politics. Close to his friend Rajiv Gandhi, he proposed to him that he should visit Mohenjodaro and the shrines of Shabbaz Qalandar and Shah Abdul Bhi-tai. Rajiv was not convinced that this would inspire an entente cordiale between India and Pakistan. Rajiv did visit Pakistan in 1988, but remained confined to the diplomatic birdcage of Islamabad.

Two years later, in August 2006, Bugti was killed in his cave "where he was gunned down by Musharraf's troops". Mani was told that Bugti died with Mani's book pinned to his chest.

Mani's earlier book Pakistan's Papers (1994) focused on Mani's years as consul general, Karachi. His latest Memoirs of a Maverick contains a chapter on those years. Peacekeepers and jingoists on both sides of the border should read and reread them both.

When I die, I want to be buried with copies of these two books by Mani pinned to my chest. I want Mani's "uninterruptible" words of good neighbourliness and peaceful coexistence to be interred in the soil of Pakistan. In time, the seeds of his humanism will germinate, allowing future generations of more enlightened Indians and Pakistanis to reap their harvest. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Education trap



Nazir A. Jogeza

Power dynamics in society influence the impact of education on social mobility, cohesion and equality. Power dynamics, especially in authoritarian societies, significantly shape the societal ecology and formal education system. Cristina Groeger's book Education Trap challenges the notion that access to education combats poverty and fosters social equity, as education has evolved into a form that, sadly, "legalises" social inequalities.

An education system is the product of a distinctive set of historical, political, social, cultural and economic features, and schools coexist with these. Education entails all the experiences individuals observe or are a part of in society: schooling, on the other hand, is a designed set of processes and experiences for different age groups to attain specific learning standards.

The objective of learning stems from the relevance, interests and curiosity of learners, which are compromised in polarised societies. Power centres influence school-level learning experiences to maintain class segregation. Public and elite private schools present stark differences in resources, curricula, learning environments, and pedagogy. There are distinct aims for each: to produce future leaders for the latter and obedient citizens for the former. Likewise, religious education contributes to their representation in the power structure.

One may argue that the Single National Curriculum and a rebranded Pakistan National Curric-

lum are remedies to class-based education, but they, in fact, fuel it further. They cannot be equally implemented across the country with well-equipped schools on the one hand, and those with one room on the other. The curriculum needs to be responsive to diversity, and the country must have a variety of curricula along with certain core areas, as seen in successful education systems elsewhere in the world.

In a stratified education system, devised along vested interests, we must determine whether or not the policy of enrolling every child in public schools is a mirage.

The lack of access that justifies the construction of new buildings and campuses to increase capacity and employment opportunities is detrimental to quality. In the calculation of the ruling elite, brick-and-mortar projects, that are visible, will win them plaudits. The recent approval of a law to build a number of new universities is a relevant example. This occurs at a time when universities' research capability and knowledge capital are in question, the faculty of existing institutions are denied salaries, and scandals of mismanaged universities are surfacing one after the other. Redundant curricula, outdated pedagogy, and an environment where students cannot participate meaningfully are the hallmarks.

We need to think more about how to facilitate learning in schools. We have narrowed down learning to earning, and high expectations from schooling include economic well-being as a return on investment from parents. Despite education traditionally being described in spiritual terms, it has turned out to be more material in practice and closely linked to social status and power.

It is obvious that the recent spike in living

costs will result in higher dropout rates. Our traditional response would be alternative learning pathways and tuition options to speed up the graduation process. The current price hike is dragging the middle class into poverty and parents may be unable to afford even alternative pathways for their offspring. They would rather engage them in businesses to earn a living because a job after graduation is not guaranteed.

Responsible for poor education is also the teachers' incapability, as we attract less qualified individuals to the profession. We also find a great deal of professional stratification, where teaching is not seen as a worthy career. Teachers hardly feel comfortable introducing themselves as such, whereas professionals in other sectors with the same or even lower rank have personalised vehicle number plates and roam around with security protocol. The system mostly favours graduates of English-medium institutions.

Education for social development must be about quality. It must be equitable. It should not be a tool for oppression and dominance by the elite. It is about strengthening the broader social system and opening up avenues for learning and making choices to empower everyone. It is not about making the masses obedient creatures, serving the interests of the elite. We should not forget that most of our population comprises the youth, who are vulnerable to knowledge deficit because of an impoverished system of education. That is even more serious than a sovereign default, as without an educated youth, there is no way of escaping our grim condition. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Transparent cotton trade Commerce Ministry, FBR collaborate to introduce Track & Trace System

Commerce Minister hails unilateral trade concession of GSP- Plus by EU

ISLAMABAD (Online): Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana, Chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), met with Dr. Gohar Ejaz, the Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce, Industries, and Production.

During the meeting, it was decided that the FBR, in collaboration with

federal ministries and provincial departments, will introduce a Track and Trace System at ginning factories in Pakistan to promote transparent cotton trade.

This initiative aims to assist the textiles and apparel industry in meeting the traceability

standards set by various trading blocs, nations, brands, and retailers. Meanwhile, Uzbekistan's Ambassador, Aybek Arif Usmanov, met Dr. Gohar Ejaz, the Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce & Industries. He discussed matters of mutual trade interest in Islamabad.

The Minister assured the Ambassador every possible facilitation in enhancing bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Both sides expressed optimism about the potential for increased trade partnerships and cooperation in various sectors.

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ISLAMABAD: Malik Amjed Zubair, Chairman FBR calls on Dr. Gohar Ejaz Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce & Industries.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali Haq meeting with Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Anwaar ul Haq, Secretary Power Division and Chief Secretary Azad Jammu and Kashmir were also present in the meeting.

### SBP issues commemorative coin to mark 75 years of Pak-US diplomatic relations

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), on Thursday, issued a commemorative coin to mark the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and the United States of America.

The Rs75 coin will be available at the exchange counters of SBP Banking Services Corporation from August 25, 2023.

The commemorative coin was issued in a ceremony held in Islamabad and attended by the Foreign Secretary for Pakistan, Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi and US Ambassador to Pakistan,

Donald Blome, said a statement issued here.

Governor SBP, Jameel Ahmad, in his welcome address, said that the issuance of the commemorative coin was a manifestation of the importance both the countries attach to their relationship, and the design of the coin signifies how independent nations join hands to work together for the progress of their people.

He highlighted the important economic ties between the two nations, encompassing trade, Foreign Direct Investments, finance and remittances, and lauded the deep people-to-people connection between

the countries in various walks of life, particularly in the field of education.

He hoped that given the promising future of the fintech sector in Pakistan and SBP's multiple initiatives for supporting the same, US fintech firms would explore and invest in the opportunities provided by these emerging businesses.

Foreign Secretary Syrus Sajjad Qazi praised the beautiful commemorative coin, remarking that the national symbols of Pakistan and the United States of America on the coin highlight the democratic roots of both countries.

### Pakistan earns \$892mln by exporting transport services during FY 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan earned US \$892.890 million by providing different transport services in various countries during the current fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

This shows a growth of 9.69 per cent as compared to \$813.980 million earned through the provision of services during the corresponding period of the fiscal year (2021-22), the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. During the

period under review, the exports of sea transport services witnessed an increase of 74.76 per cent, going up from \$146.650 million last year to \$256.290 million during the year under review.

Among the sea transport services, the exports of freight services surged by 38.65 per cent from \$94.610 million last year to \$131.180 million whereas the exports of other sea transport services also increased by 140.41 per cent from \$52.040 million to \$125.110 million.

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period under review, the exports of sea transport services witnessed an increase of 74.76 per cent, going up from \$146.650 million last year to \$256.290 million during the year under review.

### Chinese companies to import more meat from Pakistan

BEIJING (APP): These days, the volume of meat export is about to go up after China allowed Pakistani meat to be imported. The Chinese government has given some specifications and standard operating procedures for boiled and heat-treated meat," said Umair Ahmad Khan, representative of Hardoi Livestock and Meat Company at Pakistan's first International Food and Agriculture Exhibition recently held in Karachi.

The event attracted more than 400 delegations from 55 countries, while

China has the largest delegation participating in the Expo, CEN reported on Thursday. "Many Chinese enterprises want to import meat, chilli and other products from Pakistan and are ready to set up industrial units there," said Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counselor of the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing, who led a delegation of around 110 Chinese representatives from Beijing and neighbouring provinces to the expo. "China had agreed to import meat from Pakistan. Pakistan is all set to start exporting boiled

meat to the Chinese market," he added. At the expo, meat booths attracted a lot of Chinese visitors. "Pakistan is one of the world's leading cattle and buffalo producers. We have the second-largest population of buffaloes and the sixth-largest cattle population in the world. We can produce high-quality buffalo meat," Umair Ahmad Khan, who used to target Gulf States, Middle Eastern states and Central Asian countries as the main market, is now trying to export heat-treated meat, frozen beef and boneless meat to China.

The event attracted more than 400 delegations from 55 countries, while

### Pak total foreign reserves reach at \$13.248 billion

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan stood at US\$ 13,248.4 million while reserves held by the central bank reached at \$ 7,930.5 million.

The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that SBP's reserves decreased by \$ 125 million to US\$ 7,930.5 million on account of debt repayments during the week ended on August 18, 2023.

Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks stood at US\$ 5,317.9 million, it added.

### Embracing energy efficient, renewable solutions to limit Pakistan's carbon footprint

ISLAMABAD (APP): The speakers at the opening plenary of the first ever Local Conference of Youth (LCOY Pakistan) on Thursday said the country should embrace a just and clean energy transition to ward off impending risk of increasing carbon footprint due to growing economy and development.

The LCOY is an event under the umbrella of YOUNGO, the official youth constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

(UNFCCC). Its aims are to be a space to boost youth climate action locally and create input into international conferences.

It represents a national version of the International Conference of Youth (COY), which takes place immediately before the Conference of Parties (COP), the annual UN Climate Change Conference.

LCOYs are organized under the UNFCCC and its designated youth constituency, known as YOUNGO.

## Civil Servants must execute duties without succumbing to external pressures: Azam

PESHAWAR (Online): Caretaker Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Azam Khan, chaired a significant meeting on Thursday with high-level civil officers to discuss the essential role of civil servants in upholding the principles of meritocracy and independence from political influence. During the meeting, the Chief Minister highlighted the timeless wisdom of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, during his address to civil officers in Peshawar in April 1948, who emphasized the importance of civil servants in maintaining a transparent and efficient administration.

The meeting held at Cabinet room of the civil secretariat was attended by Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam, Additional Chief Secretary Muhammad Zubair Asghar Qureshi, Senior Member Board of Revenue and all Administrative Secretaries. The caretaker Chief Minister stressed that government officers must execute their duties without succumbing to external pressures, ensuring that decisions are made solely on the grounds of competence, fairness, and the welfare of citizens. The Chief

Minister reaffirmed his commitment to providing a conducive environment for civil officers to perform their duties independently and efficiently. The meeting showcased the government's determination to foster an administration that prioritizes transparency, accountability and the public's best interests.

Referring to Quaid Speech he said that "it is the responsibility of the civil servants to work with utmost dedication, integrity, and impartiality. They should serve the nation without any bias, fear, or favor."



PESHAWAR: KP Governor Haji Ghulam Ali presides over the meeting of PESCO Officials regarding load shedding in Peshawar and suburb areas.

## DCs directed to launch crackdown on polluters

LAHORE (APP): The caretaker Punjab government has issued instructions to all deputy commissioners to start a crackdown on polluters for controlling smog. The instructions were issued by Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman while presiding over a meeting held at the Civil Secretariat, here on Thursday.

The Senior Member Board of Revenue and secretaries of departments concerned attended the meeting while all divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners participated through video link.

The chief secretary ordered that stern action should be taken against stubble burning, the industries and vehicles causing air pollution and special anti-smog squads be formed in Lahore, Sheikhpura, Gujranwala and Sialkot.

He said that preventive measures are indispensable to overcome the smog, adding that the responsibilities would be reassigned to the departments.

The CS mentioned that all departments should make collective efforts to control smog.

## GCWU Sialkot inks MoU with University of Okara

SIALKOT (APP): The Govt College Women University (GCWU) Sialkot inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the University of Okara to collaborate in various areas of academics and research. GCWU Sialkot Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof. Dr. Zarin Fatima Rizvi and Okara University Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Wajid signed the agreement. The partner institutions will work together to achieve the United Nation's SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), facilitate students regarding the use of laboratories and equipment and host seminars/ workshops/conferences, develop a bilateral culture of research and innovation.

## Two men shot dead in Drosh Jungle

CHITRAL (APP): At least two people were shot dead by unknown attackers in Shah Nigar Jungle of Drosh area in Lower Chitral, police informed on Thursday. The police of Drosh area said, two men belonging to Shah Nigar area were in Kaldam Gol area of the Drosh jungle to collect firewood when unknown assailants shot them dead. Bodies of both the men, identified as Ehsan Uddin, son of Mehrab Uddin and Ashraf Ali, son of Gul Nayab were later placed by the relatives on Drosh Road, blocking it for vehicular traffic for hours.

## Governor Punjab says: UK is Pakistan's most important trade partner in Europe

LAHORE (Online): The newly appointed British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Jane Marriott, met Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman here today at the Governor's House, Lahore. In the meeting, issues of mutual interest, trade and climate change were discussed in detail.

Speaking on this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that UK is Pakistan's most important trade partner in Europe. He said that Pakistan's inclusion in the UK Preferential Trade Scheme is a welcome move, and this will give further boost to bilateral trade.

Governor Punjab said that there are vast opportunities for British investors to invest in textile and agriculture

sector in Pakistan. He said that Pakistan has been greatly affected by climate change, adding that last year different parts of country were hit by devastating flash floods due to climate change.

He said that climate change is having a bad effect on Pakistan's agriculture as well. Governor Punjab said that he is grateful for the British government's assistance to the flood victims and appreciates British cooperation in the field of education.

Governor Punjab further said that the government believes in giving equal rights to all minorities according to the constitution of Pakistan. On this occasion, Governor Punjab presented a souvenir to the British High Commissioner.

## Speakers at dialogue highlight ways to achieve SDGs in South Punjab

MULTAN (APP): The Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) in collaboration with South Punjab Secretariat and the United Nations here on Thursday organized a dialogue to prepare a set of recommendations for the provision of clean drinking water and sanitation facilities, youth employment, gender equality and to eradicate violence against women, to

achieve the goals of sustainable development in South Punjab. Representatives of civil society, public and private sectors, international partners, business community, religious scholars and university students participated in the dialogue. Secretary Services South Punjab Amjad Shuaib Khan Tareen, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Pakistan Julien Harnes.

## Ban imposed on rallies by candidates of LG elections

SWAT (APP): The district administration Swat under Section 144 has imposed ban on carrying out rallies by winning candidates of Local Government (LG) elections and branding of arms as part of enhancing security measures. According to a statement issued by office of District Magistrate here Thursday, the ban has been imposed for a period of ten days hence forthwith and the violators would be prosecuted under Section 188 of CrPC.



KARACHI: Members of Employee Action Committee District Council Karachi are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, held in Karachi.

## Strategy devised to purge corruption in LG&CD Department

LAHORE (APP): Under the guidance of the Provincial Minister for Information and Local Government Amir Mir, a comprehensive strategy has been devised by the Local Government & Community Development (LG&CD) Department to eradicate corruption and a three-member committee has been constituted to scrutinise departmental matters.

According to a spokesperson for the department, the municipal officers from the planning offices of the nine zones of Lahore have been

instructed to provide a complete record of the initial three months of the ongoing fiscal year. The record will encompass details of illegal constructions, notices issued by the local government department, FIRs, and demolished and sealed buildings. Additionally, details of approved and unapproved maps for commercial, residential, and industrial constructions in all zones of the city, along with an assessment of revenues and fees collected in the past three months are being evaluated.



HYDERABAD: Members of Sindhi Tehreek are holding protest demonstration against killing of Senior Journalist Jan Muhammad Mahar and 10-years old housemaid, Fatima Furiro and demanding justice for them, at Hyderabad press club.

# International News

## Iran and Saudi Arabia are among 6 nations set to join China and Russia in the BRICS economic bloc

JOHANNESBURG: Iran and Saudi Arabia were among six countries invited Thursday to join the BRICS bloc of developing economies in a move that showed signs of strengthening a China-Russia coalition as tensions with the West spiral higher.

The United Arab Emirates, Argentina, Egypt and Ethiopia were also set to enter BRICS from Jan. 1, 2024, joining current members Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa to make an 11-nation bloc.

The announcement came after two days of talks at a summit in Johannesburg involving Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Indian Prime Minis-

## Putin to BRICS: Russia is 'reliable partner' for Africa on food, fuel supplies

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin told the BRICS summit in South Africa on Thursday that Moscow intends to deepen ties with African countries, and that it would remain a reliable partner for food and fuel supplies. In a video link address, Putin said Russia was interested in developing "multi-faceted ties" with Africa, which has been roiled by fuel and food price rises resulting from the conflict in Ukraine.

Russia's July exit from the Black Sea grain deal has seen grain prices soar, hitting many African countries very hard. Russia and Ukraine are among the world's biggest grain exporters. In his remarks, Putin also said Russia had more than 30 energy projects in African countries, adding that Russian fuel supplies would help African governments to contain price rises.

ter Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa. Russian President Vladimir Putin participated in the discussions virtually after his travel to the summit was complicated by an International Criminal Court arrest warrant issued against him over the war in Ukraine.

Putin welcomed the six countries by video link. He did not mention Wednesday's plane crash that left Russian mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin and some of his top lieutenants presumed dead.

While there has been momentum for a BRICS expansion for months - pushed largely by China and Russia.



Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, China's President Xi Jinping, South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov pose for a BRICS group photo during the 2023 BRICS Summit at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa.

## Russian mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin presumed dead in plane crash

MOSCOW: An investigation was underway in Russia on Thursday into a plane crash that left Wagner boss Yevgeny Prigozhin presumed dead — two months after his rebellion against the country's military leaders — fuelling speculation about a possible assassination.

A day after a private jet on which Prigozhin was registered crashed between Moscow and Saint Petersburg, Russia had still not confirmed the warlord's death.

Moscow said all ten people onboard were likely killed, and opened a criminal case into violations of air traffic rules.

President Vladimir Putin, who in June faced the biggest challenge in his more than two-decade rule as Prigozhin led an armed mutiny, has not spoken publicly on the crash.

During the rebellion on June 23 and June 24, Putin gave an address to Russians in which he called Prigozhin — once his ally

— a "traitor". But Western leaders reacted, with US President Joe Biden saying "I don't know for a fact what happened ... there's not much that happens in Russia that Putin's not behind".

France saw "reasonable doubts" about the crash, with a government spokesman agreeing with Biden's assessment.

Even influential Kremlin figures, such as state television personality and Putin ally Margarita Simonyan, seemed to suggest that it could have been an assassination.

"Among the versions that are being discussed [about the crash] is that it was staged. But personally, I'm leaning towards the more obvious one," she said on social media.

In June, Prigozhin had sent his fighters marching onto Moscow to unseat Russia's top generals in a dramatic 48 hours that shook Putin's authority.

Prigozhin had for months complained about the way Moscow's offen-

sive in Ukraine was being led, where his fighters were often spearheading battles.

In Ukraine, some people rejoiced at the apparent death of a man whose fighters were known for exceptionally cruel efforts.

"I feel really happy that this person died, if it is true," government worker Iryna Kuchina told AFP in central Kyiv.

"Let's hope that it is." Russia's aviation authority published a list of names that were onboard the Embraer Legacy plane late on Wednesday.

"We have nothing to do with it. Everyone understands who is involved," Zelenskyy said.

An Embraer-135 plane crashed in Russia's Tver Oblast on Aug. 23. Russian media reported that it belonged to Prigozhin. Russian Telegram news channels spread various versions of the cause of the crash, including a strike by an S-300 air defense missile or an explosion on board.

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The candidates at their podiums for the first Republican primary debate of the 2024 cycle in the midwestern US city of Milwaukee.

## Thai PM takes office, vows four years of change

BANGKOK: Thailand's new prime minister vowed to bring four years of change to the kingdom as he took office on Wednesday at the head of a controversial coalition including pro-military parties linked to former coup-makers.

The appointment of former property mogul Srettha Thavisin — of the Pheu Thai party long associated with billionaire ex-premier Thaksin Shinawatra — ends months of political deadlock following May's general election. The 61-year-old was confirmed by parliamentary vote on Tuesday, just hours after Thaksin returned to the kingdom from 15 years of exile and was immediately jailed on old graft charges.

Srettha received King Maha Vajiralongkorn's official written command to form a government in a ceremony at Pheu Thai headquarters at 6:00pm (1100 GMT). "The good of the country is my highest priority. I am confident the next four years will be years of change," Srettha said after accepting the royal endorsement, pledging to work "tirelessly".

## Briefed on Zainab Alert Act President underlines need for raising awareness to stop incidents of disappearance of children

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi Thursday briefed on the implementation of Zainab Alert Response and Recovery Act.

The briefing was attended by Secretary Human Rights and officials of Zainab Alert Response and Recovery Agency.

Amin Ansari, father of Zainab Ansari, also attended the meeting.

The president called for coordinated steps for stopping the incidents of kidnapping and torture of children. He underlined the need for raising awareness to stop the incidents of disappearance of children.

"Awareness is needed to be provided to parents and teachers about protection of children and for saving them from disappearance," he added.

President Alvi said

strong coordination was very important among the law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders.

There was a need to create a system of effective coordination between the provincial police departments and relevant institutions, he said, adding police had a critical role to play to stop incidents of disappearance of children and their early recovery.

He asked the police to ensure registration of cases of disappearance and kidnapping of children.

He said suggestions should be sought from non-governmental organizations in a consultative meeting to improve the system regarding reporting about disappearance of children.

The president welcomed the establishment of Zainab Alert Response and Recovery Agency

(ZARRA) in Islamabad, saying it would help in timely search of children and exchange of information.

President Alvi was briefed about the Zainab Alert Act, mandate of the agency and its performance.

It was told that the agency was working in coordination with all stakeholders and with the help of Zainab Alert complaints about disappearance of 2153 children were registered.

Some 1247 children were successfully searched while 430 reports about disappearance were fake. Complete action was taken on 1837 complaints while 319 complaints were being looked into. Efforts were also afoot to improve coordination between the federal and provincial departments.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), Ms. Rabiya Javeri Agha, presents the Annual Report of NCHR for year 2021-22 to President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Caretaker CM expresses anger over lack of life saving medicines in Sindh

KARACHI (APP): The Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice @ Maqbool Baqar has expressed his anger over the lack of life-saving medicines across the province.

According to a statement issued here on Thursday, the Caretaker Chief Minister has instructed the Provincial Health Minister Dr. Saad Khalid Niazi over the telephone to take action against the sale of substandard medicines in hospitals and markets.

The CM asked the minister of health to ensure the provision of quality

medicines in all public sector hospitals. He also sought a report on the shortage of life-saving medicines.

Justice @ Maqbool Baqar asked the officers concerned that action must be initiated against responsible elements as they will not be allowed to play with the lives of innocent people.

The health department officers were directed that proper inspection of medicine markets should be ensured so that action could be taken against responsible elements.

## Caretaker home minister, home secretary visit KPO

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Caretaker Home Minister Brigadier (Rtd.) Harris Nawaz here on Thursday visited Karachi Police Office (KPO) along with Sindh Home Secretary Syed Ijaz Ali Shah. Additional Inspector General of Police Karachi Javed Alam Odho and senior police officers received the caretaker home minister and a well-armed contingent of police presented guard of honor to the minister. CPLC Chief Zubair Habib, DIGP Admin, DIGP CIA, DIGP Security, ADIGP Crime, Zonal DIGPs and other senior officers participated in the meeting.

## Establishment of EPZ in private participation mode under consideration: Senate body informed

KARACHI (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Industries and Production Thursday was informed that final draft of Private/Public Participated EPZs (EPZA) was working on establishment of EPZs in Private/Public Participation Mode and process for amendments in the relevant ordinance was underway.

The meeting of the committee held here at EPZA was presided over by the committee Chairperson Khalida Ateeb while Senator Fida Muhammad, Senator Zeeshan Khanzada and Senator Imam ud din

Shouqeen attended the meeting. Chairman EPZA Dr. Saifuddin Junejo in his briefing to committee informed that final draft of Private/Public Participated EPZs (EPZA) was working on establishment of EPZs in Private/Public Participation Mode and process for amendments in the relevant ordinance was underway.

He said that the zones would be developed and operated by private sector and they would have private boards with representation to EPZA. Highlighting the importance of export sector in overall economic performance of a country, he said that

EPZA was playing a proactive role in increasing the exports and several incentives and facilities were being provided to industries and investors in the EP zones.

The EPZA offered industrial and trading units exemption from custom and other duties on import of raw materials, equipment and machinery while laws and regulations pertaining to import export, foreign exchange, labour and banking were not applicable in the EP zones, he informed adding that past restrictions on import had not affected trading units established in EPZ's.



KARACHI: Under Training Officers from Information Services Academy Islamabad are meeting Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

## Pakistan to continue moral, political support to Kashmiris: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Thursday held a meeting with Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq.

The AJK prime minister congratulated him on assuming the office of caretaker prime minister and expressed his best wishes for him.

The caretaker prime minister assured the AJK prime minister of unconditional support of Pakistan

to Kashmir.

He said Pakistan stood shoulder-to-shoulder with people of Kashmir in their struggle for right to self-determination.

The PM said Pakistan would continue the diplomatic, political and moral support of Kashmiris till the Kashmir issue was resolved according to the United Nations Security Council Resolutions and as per wishes of the people of Kashmir through a plebiscite.

## CAA team reaches Brussels to discuss EU flight resumption

KARACHI (INP): A dedicated team of Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) on Thursday reached Brussels to hold talks with the authorities related to restore Pakistani airlines' operations in European countries.

The CAA team's mission is to inform European authorities about the preparations for upcoming technical sessions and address various issues with the European Commission.

As per reliable sources, the discussions are expected to play pivotal in the process of revitalizing Pakistani airlines, including Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), in European airspace.

## PHF spotlights INGOs' significance in national dev., humanitarian response

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF) Chair Executive Committee Adil Sheraz on Thursday highlighted the role of International Non-governmental Organizations (INGOs) in national development and humanitarian response in Pakistan.

The devastating floods of 2022 have left an enduring impact across various regions of the country, necessitating extensive rehabilitation and reconstruction, said Sheraz during a press conference. He stated that the journey to reconstruct and rehabilitate flood-affected areas demands collective efforts and resilience.

Although strides have been made, the path to complete recovery of flood-affected communities remains a complex endeavour, necessitating not only immediate actions but also a sustained commitment to long-term solutions," he further added.

Adil shared that in 2022 PHF member organizations (INGOs) implemented 400 projects throughout the country, including AJ&K and Gilgit Baltistan.

These projects included 296 dedicated to providing humanitarian assistance, particularly in response to the 2022 floods, and 104 focused on development interventions. These initiatives, worth over \$330 million, benefited more than 21.2 million people across the country.

While uploading the government support and collaboration, he stated that the partnership between government and civil society emerges as the bridge to success, uniting communities for a resilient and prosperous Pakistan.

The government of Pakistan was fully committed to strengthening collaboration with all stakeholders, including INGOs, in disaster risk reduction, implementation of the resilient, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction (4RF) model, and a strategic framework for reconstructing and rehabilitating flood-affected areas.

This model, coupled with localization and adaptation action plans, provides a roadmap for achieving sustainable recovery. Sheraz highlighted the indispensable role of collective efforts, urging cooperation between government institutions, local communities, district administrations, civil society organizations, and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs). Fortifying these partnerships is vital to ensure efficient resource allocation and effective implementation of strategies. During the interaction with the media representatives, Syed Shahid Kazmi, PHF Country Coordinator, shared that PHF is a representative forum of 44 Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs).

## Missing person returns home after six years with Rs500

KARACHI (INP): A government employee, Mohammad Javid Khan, who went 'missing' six years ago in Karachi, was left on road with Rs 500 on Thursday.

Sindh High Court (SHC) conducted a hearing session regarding the recovery of seven 'missing persons' including Mohammad Javid Khan one of the seven 'missing persons'.

The seven individuals who gone 'missing' six years ago were allegedly associated with the political group Muttahida Qaumi Movement London (MQM-L).

Justice Naimatullah Phulpoto, presiding over the case, questioned Mohammad Javid upon his return, asking him where he had been taken. Mohammad Javid Khan, responded, "I don't know where I was kept, I was blindfolded."



KARACHI: Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Industries and Production Senator Khalida Ateeb chairing a meeting during visit of Export Processing Zone (EPZ).

## Hafiz Naeem announces protest against inflated power bills

KARACHI (INP): Jamaat Islami Karachi chief Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman has demanded cancellation of other charges in electricity bills of current month while announcing protest tomorrow.

"Actual average tariff has been Rs 6.76 per unit, while Rs 22.16 capacity charges being added with a bogus claim," JI leader said while talking to media.

"You have to pay the power price even you are not consuming the electricity," he said.

He demanded of the caretaker prime minister to

reduce the power tariff immediately.

"They claim, the IMF condition will not be complied if the charges would not impose," he said. "IMF also demanded tax on farmlands, Ishaq Dar had announced not to clamp the Agriculture Tax," Naeem said.

"There are mostly small farmers, only 3.4 percent have landholdings above 50 acres and four per cent have landholdings above 25 acres," JI leader said. "Only four per cent people are owners of 41 percent land of the country. These are feudal and big landlords," he said.

## Anti-dengue drive to launch in Sukkur: DC

SUKKUR (INP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Sukkur, Dr Shahzad Thaheem on Thursday said that the district administration has ensured effective measures to control dengue while special teams under anti-dengue drive would inspect residential and commercial places and educate the citizens about the importance of sanitation, cleanliness and preventive measures against dengue.

While pressing over a meeting at his office here, the deputy commissioner directed the District Health Officer (DHO) and other departments concerned to expedite anti-dengue activities in their respective areas.

## Country Manager UNDP in Pakistan visits NADRA Swift Registration Centre

LARKANA (APP): The Country's Manager and Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Pakistan, Samuel Rizk, on Thursday, visited the NADRA Swift Registration Centre in Larkana.

He reviewed the working and performance of NADRA counters and took information on which In-charge NADRA Larkana Center Abdullah Bhutto and zonal in-charge Larkana Mehmood Sheikh gave him a detailed briefing on the preparation of Computerized National Identity Cards (CNIC) for flood victims, on which Samuel Rizk praised the performance of NADRA administration and

said that NADRA Swift Registration Center made free national identity cards for flood victims in Larkana last year. He also said that the management of the NADRA centre in Larkana is satisfied with the briefing given to him.

Samuel Rizk said the Centre will provide financial assistance to these victims and help them in other government functions. Computerized National Identification Cards (CNIC) will be made to facilitate the lives of the victims. Earlier, the officials of NADRA Center Larkana warmly welcomed Samuel Rizk by presenting traditional gifts of Sindh Ajrak and Topi and flowers to him at the Nadra Center.

## US provided \$215m flood relief assistance to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United States has provided flood relief, disaster resilience, and food security assistance of more than \$215 million to Pakistan since the beginning of the calamity.

According to a news release, more than \$80 million in US humanitarian assistance was given through USAID to provide urgently needed supplies for those most affected, including support for food, nutrition, health, security, safe drinking water, improved sanitation and hygiene, and shelter. An additional \$100 million of recovery and reconstruction funding was announced at the January 9 International Conference on Climate-Resilient Pakistan in Geneva, Switzerland, while \$10 million was given as food security assistance to provide urgent supplies to help farmers recover in

terms of seeds and fertilizer, and helps repair damaged critical irrigation infrastructure.

"\$2 million was given in humanitarian assistance for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) flood response in Pakistan to provide lifesaving resources to Afghan refugees and host communities in Pakistan."

More than \$1.9 million was provided in US Department of Defense funding to help airlift USAID supplies while \$3 million for new early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience funding to support Pakistan's ability to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters such as floods.

An additional \$16.4 million in nutrition and food security support, early recovery, resilience, and risk reduction assistance was announced in June 2023.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar distributing awards among the survivors of Battagram Chairlift incident for their bravery during a ceremony held in Islamabad.

## President bound to give date for holding election in 90 days: LHC

LAHORE (Online): Justice Abid Aziz Sheikh of Lahore High Court (LHC) has remarked holding election in 90 days is constitutional requirement and president is bound to give date for holding election in 90 days.

He further remarked efforts should be there that elections are held within 90 days. The petition filed by a citizen against notification on new delimitation of constituencies came up for hearing before single bench of LHC led by Justice Abid Aziz Sheikh Thursday.

During the hearing of the case Justice Abid Aziz Sheikh remarked holding

election in 90 days is a constitutional requirement. There should be efforts that election takes place within 90 days. I am issuing notice to Election Commission (EC) on the date of election. If the population census had taken place in June then why it was not approved till 2 months. Reply to this question should come.

The counsel for federal government said new delimitation of constituencies within four months is next to impossible.

The court inquired president is bound to give date for holding election within 90 days.

## Sindh govt urged to empower peasants, sharecropper

NAWABSHAH (APP): The participants of a policy dialogue expressed deep concern over the disregard for the rights and well-being of sharecroppers, landless peasants, and rural workers across all sectors of agriculture, livestock, and fisheries in Sindh.

This significant discussion was organised by the Hari Welfare Association (HWA), which highlighted that although Sindh has introduced several laws aimed at protecting the rights of peasants and rural workers, however, unfortunately, these laws have largely remained dormant in terms of actual execution by the government.

The association underscored that although the

District Vigilance Committees were responsible for overseeing the enforcement of the Sindh Bonded Labour System Abolition Act which has been established and notified in 19 out of the 29 districts of Sindh, they remain dysfunctional.

Yaseen Morojo a PhD scholar and lecturer of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University (SBBU) said that rural women were marginalized and deprived of their basic rights and there is no health and safety measures and awareness for cotton picker women, they are paid less than minimum wages which against minimum wage policy, literacy ratio in rural women is very low, hence there is a dire need to educate girls.



KARACHI: Commander Karachi Rear Admiral Muhammad Saleem formally opens 2nd Chief of the Naval Staff All Pakistan Squash Championship was held at Pakistan Navy Roshan Khan Jahangir Khan Squash Complex, Karachi.

## SAU organizes seminar on mango bagging for quality production

HYDERABAD (APP): The experts and progressive farmers have observed that horticulture is being exported worth 250 billion dollars in the world, but the benefits of such exports is not being achieved due to lack of quality and essential export requirements.

The academia, industry, farmers and related organizations can play their due role in setting standards for exports and they have need to work together to improve export quality and promote the agriculture products in order to enhance the quantum of exports, they suggested.

They shared these views and suggestions while addressing the seminar titled "Mango Bagging for Quality Production" here at the Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam on Thursday. The seminar was organized in collaboration with the Pakistan Horticulture Development and Export Company (PHDEC). The Vice Chancellor Sindh Agriculture University Tando Jam Dr. Fateh Marri informed that many countries of the world have started moving towards high valued agriculture.

While pressing over a meeting at his office here, the deputy commissioner directed the District Health Officer (DHO) and other departments concerned to expedite anti-dengue activities in their respective areas.

5 suspects held, drugs, Mainpuri recovered

HYDERABAD (APP): Pinyari Police arrested five accused in various operations and recovered drugs and Mainpuri from their possession.

The raid was conducted near Liaquat Pul Noorani Basti, arresting a drug supplier identified as Nazar Muhammad and recovering 380 grams of hashish from his possession, according to a police press release on Thursday.

Meanwhile, during another operation near Amtul Hall, the accused Mohabbate Pathan, Noor Muhammad alias Noora and Waqar alias Raman Kalia were arrested and confiscated eight bottles of liquor.



KARACHI: Head of Executive Committee Adil Sheraz and Country Coordinator Syed Shahid Kazmi are speaking at a press briefing held at Karachi Press Club. Secretary of the KPC Shoab Ahmed Khanis is also present.