





# National polio vaccination drive set to reach over 45.8 mln children

ISLAMABAD (APP): Re-affirming Pakistan's resolve to protect all children from the disability-causing polio virus, the Health Ministry the second nationwide polio vaccination campaign of the year on Sunday.

More than 45.8 million children under five years of age will be vaccinated during this second campaign of 2024, which will be held across the country from February 26 to March 3 and in 33 districts of KP from March 2 to March 6.

Children will also be given vitamin A supplements to boost their immunity. "Polio is a terrible disease that has no cure and can leave children paralyzed for life. Unfortunately, it continues to be a threat to our children as some people refuse to vaccinate children based on misconceptions and false information about the vaccine," the Federal Secretary for Health, Iftikhar Ali Shallwani, said after administering polio drops to children.

Shallwani added that while the government remains strongly committed to ending polio in Pakistan and is making great progress, as decision-makers, parents and caregivers also have a huge responsibility to ensure their children's well-being. In a special message directed to parents and caregivers, the health secretary emphasized, "Polio vaccinators will be delivering this vital vaccine to your doorsteps next week. I implore you to recognize the threat posed by the poliovirus to your children and ensure that you open your doors to facilitate their vaccination."



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (ret'd) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah addressing during a ceremony at Pakistan Sweet Home.



ISLAMABAD: Activists from Tribal District Bajaur protest against the killing of a young political leader.

## Hindutva regime pursuing policy to crush Muslim identity in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): The political injustice, fear and atrocities added to the miseries of the people in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir at the hands of Hindutva BJP.RSS regime and its men in uniform due to the unresolved Kashmir dispute.

The report said Indian troops have martyred 857 Kashmiris and injured 2413 during this period. It maintained that the Kashmiris had been pushed to the Stone Age due to an inhuman undemocratic regime and Indian military siege.

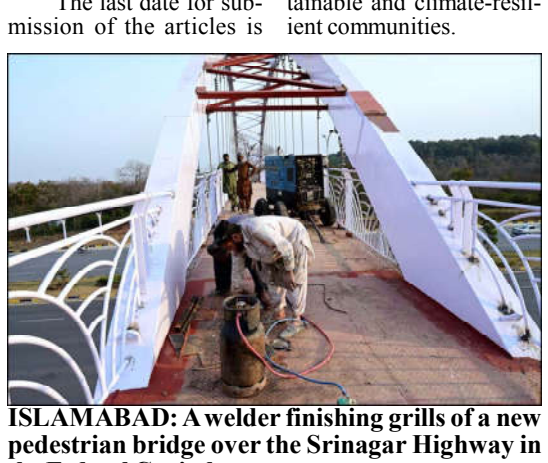
It further said that the brutalities perpetrated by Indian forces' personnel against the oppressed and defenceless people of Jammu and Kashmir have become a routine matter. It added that nocturnal house raids and cordon and search operations are conducted by the Indian troops, paramilitary and police personnel on a daily basis in IIOJK to suppress the Kashmiris' struggle for the right to self-determination.

## NUST announces article writing competition on 'Women in Climate Action'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National University of Science and Technology (NUST) has called on all voices of Pakistan to become part of its efforts to amplify the importance of Women in Climate Action by participating in an 'Article Writing Competition'.

According to an official of NUST, the article writing competition, being arranged in collaboration with the Gender Intersectionality and Climate Change (GICC), is aimed at stimulating thoughtful discourse on the intersectionality of gender and climate resilience.

The last date for submission of the articles is February 29. The details of the event can be accessed through the website: gicc.nust.edu.pk.



ISLAMABAD: A welder finishing grills of a new pedestrian bridge over the Srinagar Highway in the Federal Capital.

## Estate Office allots 1,227 govt accommodations in two years

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Estate Office, Ministry of Housing and Works has allotted as many as 1,227 quarters of Cat-IV, government accommodations to the federal government employees during the last two years.

"The Estate Office has made all the allotments on merit by keeping view of the seniority of the government employees who are working in different ministries and divisions," an official in the Ministry told APP.

## WFME grants accreditation to PMDC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) has granted accreditation to the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) for maintaining the highest standard of medical education in Pakistan.

With the remarkable feat of being granted the WFME Recognition Status for a remarkable tenure of 10 years and PM&DC being WFME accredited, all the Pakistani students become eligible to apply for ECFMG and USMLE.

Achieving WFME recognition will enable Pakistan's medical graduates to pursue postgraduate training and practice in other countries that require WFME recognition, such as the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

WFME evaluated the compliance of accreditation agencies with defined criteria. The accreditation from WFME signifies that PM&DC's medical education programs meet international benchmarks for quality and excellence.

## Chair IPO highlights IPRs importance during visit to Air university

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chair IPO-Pakistan Ambassador Farukh Amil visited Air University here on Sunday to conduct an interactive session on intellectual property rights (IPR).

The session aimed to educate students about the various aspects of IPR, including innovation, business, trademarks, copyrights, patents, and technological innovation. The importance of intellectual property for the growth of business, employment, and empowerment was emphasized during the session, according to a press release.

The collaboration between IPO-Pakistan and Air University seeks to empower the student community with the knowledge and tools to understand and excel in the realm of IPRs, thereby contributing to Pakistan's innovation landscape.

## Tirmizi assures all possible assistance to injured Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Pakistan to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Faisal Niaz Tirmizi on Sunday assured all possible assistance to fellow Pakistanis who were injured in a fire eruption incident at a sanitizers and perfumes related chemical products depot in Ajman.

The ambassador also expressed his best wishes and prayers for the early recovery of the injured. A sad accident of fire eruption occurred at a sanitizers and perfumes-related chemical products facility in Ajman, UAE late on February 24. A total of nine Pakistanis got injured in the ill-fated incident and were immediately rushed to different hospitals, the Consulate General of Pakistan in Dubai said in a press release.

## Omar Abdullah says he didn't expect Article 370 Abrogation until it happened

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Conference Vice-President Omar Abdullah has said that he did not expect Article 370 was going to be abrogated till it actually happened.

## Motorway Police returns purse containing valuable items

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Motorway Police set an example of honesty as they returned a purse containing valuable items that were left over by a family at the Kalar Kahar Service Area.

## BISP launches Whatsapp channel to disseminate authentic information

ISLAMABAD (APP): As a part of its efforts to provide authentic information about various pro-poor schemes, the international acclaimed Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has launched a Whatsapp channel for facilitating masses through providing them details of all its initiatives and counter fake messages.

## COMSTECH, PEC ink MoU to upscale engineering capacity of OIC states

ISLAMABAD (APP): OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) and Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to upscale the engineering capacity of OIC states.

## PSF invites applications from young Pakistani students to participate in IJSO-2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) has invited applications from young Pakistani science students to participate in the 21st International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO-2024).

## 8th death anniversary of legendary film actor Habib observed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Eighth death anniversary of Legendary Pakistani film actor, producer and director Habib-ur-Rehman was observed on Sunday.

## Workers busy repairing electricity supply line at Srinagar Highway in the Federal Capital

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## Employees of CDA changing the water supply lines of Green Belt at G-7/3

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## Naqvi opens new museum in Badshahi masjid, upgradation project of Mazaar-e-Iqbal

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, along with provincial ministers, visited the historic Badshahi Mosque and the Mazaar-e-Iqbal here on Sunday. The CM inaugurated the new museum for placing the holy relics in the Badshahi Mosque and the upgradation project of the Mazaar-e-Iqbal. Mohsin Naqvi also inaugurated the Lahore Fort Cafe being built at the exterior wall of the Lahore Fort and appreciated high quality of the new museum being built for placing the holy relics. He inspected the new and beautiful showcase for placing the holy relics. The CM ordered the early completion of the transfer work of the holy relics in the new museum. Mohsin Naqvi maintained that safely keeping the holy relics attributed to the great personalities at an appropriate place is our foremost responsibility. The holy relics would be kept separately and safely in an excellent manner in the new museum. The installation work of new tiles, marbles in the exterior corridor of Mazaar-e-Iqbal and renovation work of its interior part has been completed. He inspected the construction, rehabilitation and upgradation work of the Mazaar-e-Iqbal. Mohsin Naqvi along with the provincial ministers paid a visit to the Mazaar-e-Iqbal and prayed for the prosperity, stability and integrity of Pakistan. He directed to prepare SOPs for using the back door to pay a visit to the Mazaar-e-Iqbal. Mohsin Naqvi remarked that the tourists would feel entertained with the establishment of the Lahore Fort Cafe at the exterior wall of the Lahore Fort. Provincial ministers Dr. Javed Akram, Mansoor Qadir, Amir Mir, Azfar Ali Nasir, Adviser Wahab Riaz, Chief Secretary, Senior Member Board of Revenue, Chairman Planning & Development Board, Khateeb Badshahi Mosque Abdul Khabeer Azad, IG Police, DG WCLA Kamran Lashari, Secretary Auqaf, Commissioner Lahore, CCPO, Deputy Commissioner and officials concerned were present.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman.

## Governor praises CM Naqvi, cabinet for completion of public welfare projects in record time

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid a farewell call on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore. On this occasion, the Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab briefed the Governor Punjab about the performance of the Caretaker setup for 13 months in detail. The Punjab Chief Minister also presented a report on the performance of the caretaker government. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman praised Mohsin Naqvi and the cabinet for the completion of public welfare projects in record time. He added that under the leadership of the caretaker chief minister Punjab, the caretaker cabinet has set a good example of public service, transparency and governance. He said that continuity of policies is very important for the development of the country. Governor Punjab expressed the hope that the newly elected government will take forward the policies and projects of public welfare and bring development and stability in the country.

## Will not make verbal claims, to prove eligibility via good governance: Gandapur

PESHAWAR (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) candidate for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) chief minister office, Ali Amin Gandapur has said that he was not in favour of making verbal claims and pledges but will prove his eligibility through good governance. Interacting with a private news channel on Sunday, he said that uplifting the country's economy was among the top priorities of PTI and it would present pro-people budget. Ali Amin Gandapur said that he would spare no efforts to provide maximum relief to the people of province, ensuring law and order, restoration of health cards and to improve the education system of KP. He said the PTI founder picked a team that won the world cup [in 1992] and he would adopt same passion to elect the provincial cabinet. The PTI's candidate for KP CM's slot said that 55 percent of the newly-elected members of his party were those who won for the first time. The recent elections have exposed the turncoats and separated them from those who were loyal to the party, he added.



LAHORE: People selecting and purchasing old books from a roadside setup at Mall Road.

## Efforts to be made to overcome inflation, poverty: Azma Bukhari

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz leader Azma Bukhari has said that an all-out effort will be made to overcome inflation and poverty in Punjab. Taking to media outside the Punjab Assembly on Sunday she hoped that the opposition would accept the PML-N's mandate and added that her party wanted to take along the opposition. She said, "The PML-N does not believe in politics of revenge." Azma Bukhari said that the leader of the house in the Punjab Assembly would be elected through division of the house procedure. She said that in 2018, the PML-N had accepted the then PTI government despite all reservations. She hoped that the opposition would play a sensible role by adopting parliamentary norms. The PML-N leader further said that the party would focus on strengthening all areas including health and education. She said that the Punjab Assembly and people of Punjab had faced the arrogance of the PTI founder. Azma Bukhari said that assemblies should complete their constitutional term as it was essential for strengthening of democracy.

## PML-N to play strong opposition role in KP Assembly: Amir Muqam

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has decided to play a strong role of the opposition in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Assembly. Provincial President Pakistan Muslim League-N Engineer Amir Muqam told media here Sunday after chairing the Pakistan Muslim League (N) KP Parliamentary Party Meeting. Engineer Amir Muqam congratulated all the elected members of the assembly on behalf of the party leadership. The meeting was attended by all the newly elected nine provincial assembly members of PML-N. "Pakistan Muslim League-N will play the role of strong opposition in KP assembly together with other opposition parties," Amir Muqam added.



PESHAWAR: Residents of Bajaur are holding protest demonstration demanding justice against the brutal killing of young leader Rehan Zeb Khan, at Peshawar press club

## Educating new generation about importance of clean, green environment stressed

MULTAN (APP): On the occasion, Additional Secretary Khawaja Mazharul Haq Siddiqui, Deputy Secretary Saif-ur-Rehman Khan Balwani, and related officials were present in the meeting. Dr. Obaidullah Khokhar said that Pakistan was on the fifth list among the countries most affected by the effects of climate change. He proposed that awareness of the environment and its protection should be an integral part of growing children. "Environmental education helps to manage resources efficiently and fosters creative thinking in children," he added. Secretary School Education South Punjab, Ghulam Farid, and a climate change consultant associated with an international organization, Ghazanfar Ali, regarding steps to deal with the threats of environmental and climate change. The aim of introducing Green Book as a curriculum in government schools by the Education Department of South Punjab was to prepare students for the changing climate. He expressed these views while talking to senior civil servants, former Secretary of School Education, South Punjab, Ghulam Farid, and a climate change consultant associated with an international organization, Ghazanfar Ali, regarding steps to deal with the threats of environmental

## New population policy draft complete: Salman

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Population Welfare Department Secretary Salman Ejaz has announced the completion of a draft for a new population policy, soon to be presented for cabinet approval. Presiding over a meeting here on Sunday, he highlighted the policy's transformative approach to family planning services and counselling, aiming to bring these vital services directly to the public. Through communication channels, the initiative seeks to raise awareness about family planning and its benefits. The planning welfare secretary stressed that the prospective Population Policy 2024-29 envisions

## SSC student shot dead by class fellow over petty issue

FAISALABAD (INP): A matriculation student was shot dead by class fellow over petty dispute in Chak No 7 GB on Sunday, police said. According to details, a group of class fellows had gathered in a private academy to prepare for annual SSC exam where two class fellows Abdullah Irshad s/o Irshad Ali and Ali Arman exchanged hot words. Other class fellows present on the scene settled the dispute between the two but Ali Arman considering it to be his insolence opened fire Abdullah Irshad while returning home.

## Women among nine injured in truck-bus collision

FAISALABAD (INP): At least nine people including women were injured when an over speeding truck rammed into a passenger bus here on Sunday, rescue sources said. According to details, due to bursting of tyre, a truck hit a passenger bus in Mushtaq Chowk of Tandlianwala in district Faisalabad. The bus went off road and overturned resultantly nine people including 35-year-old Mohsin s/o Asghar Ali, 24-year-old Aqsa w/o Hafiz Amjad, 60-year-old Shehbaz s/o Muhammad Boota, 50-year-old Zahida Bibi w/o Noor Ahmed, 28-year-old Hafiz Amjad s/o Muhammad Aslam, 45-year-old Irshad Bibi w/o Abdul Razzad, 31-year-old Irfan s/o Abdul Rasheed.

## 3 injured in house fire

FAISALABAD (APP): Valuables in a house were reduced to ashes while three persons sustained burn injuries due to a fire in the area of Dijkot police station. A Rescue 1122 spokesman said here on Sunday that gas leaked from a cylinder in a house at Dijkot in Ali Town. When an inmate lit the stove, the kitchen caught fire. The fire engulfed the entire surroundings and burnt precious materials of the house present on the spot. In the incident, three people including Ismat Ullah (50), Ghulam Dastgir (30) and Faiza Imran (28) received burn injuries and Rescue 1122.

## Maryam to prove herself best CM of Punjab: Atta Tarar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader, Atta Tarar has said that party coordinator Maryam Nawaz will prove herself to be the best Chief Minister for Punjab. Talking to media here on Sunday, he said that Mian Aslam Iqbal should appear before court get bail as a suspect involved in kidnapping and murder could not be allowed to come to parliament. The PML-N's newly elected MNA, Atta Tarar said that Mian Aslam Iqbal after clarifying him of the charges can come to parliament time and again. He said that the people of Punjab have not supported us since 2008 but have given big mandate in the recently held general elections. Tarar said, "Maryam Nawaz is a political worker and she has proved her iron in politics. She will make efforts to serve the people."

## Spring festival to start in DG Khan from March 1st

DG KHAN (APP): The spring festival will be marked with enthusiasm from March 1-8 in DG Khan. The flower exhibition would be organized, while stalls and traditional and cultural clothes would also be exhibited. These views were expressed by Additional Deputy Commissioner of Revenue Mian Rizwan Nazir while presiding over a meeting regarding the spring festival.



HYDERABAD: People are offering prayer at the grave of their loved one on the occasion of Shab-e-Barat at the graveyard.



HYDERABAD: STP Chairman Dr. Qadir Magsi addressing Madre Watan Jalsa at Qasmabad.



BAHAWALPUR: Rangers Cholistan Camel band presenting their skills at a ceremony held in connection with 19th TDCP Cholistan Desert Rally 2024 at Cholistan desert Jeep Rally.

## Toxic chemicals, microbial contaminants rapidly degrading natural environment, human health: experts

LAHORE (APP): Experts believe that toxic chemicals and microbial contaminants/agents created by natural and anthropogenic activities, that are rapidly becoming environmental hazards (EH) with increased potential to affect the natural environment and human health. Talking to APP on Sunday they opined that the interaction between human health and environmental hazards has been extensively interlinked, that was repeatedly researched and studied on latest scientific methods. In the race for economic development, gains and prosperity, our earth is becoming more vulnerable to climate change impacts and pollution caused by anthropological activities with each passing day, they lamented. Talking to APP they opined that technological advances in agriculture and rapid industrialization have drastically polluted the two pillars of natural resources, i.e land and water. Toxic chemicals and microbial contaminants/agents created by natural and anthropogenic activities, that are rapidly becoming environmental hazards (EH) with increased potential to affect the natural environment and human health. In this connection noted pulmonologist Dr. Zeeshan from Jinnah Hospital Lahore says the environment has serious effects on our health in a variety of ways, by significantly impacting human health in two ways, either directly by exposing people to harmful carbon-agents or indirectly, by disrupting life-sustaining ecosystems. The World Health Organization (WHO) in its recent report has given its estimation that thirteen million deaths annually are attributable to preventable environmental causes. The report also estimates that 24 percent of the global disease burden (healthy life per year loss) and 23 percent of all deaths i.e. premature mortality are attributable to environmental factors, with the environmental burden of diseases, being 15 times higher in developing countries than in developed countries, occur due to differences in exposure to environmental risks and non-availability of access to health care amid the environmental reasons. The report further says that five children in every one minute die from malaria or diarrhoea.

## Scooty riding trend rising in Sargodha

SARGODHA (APP): Like other cities of the country, the trend of bike riding among women is also on the rise in Sargodha. Students, teachers and working women, fed up with high fares of rickshaw and taxi, have started using their own motorcycles. Female scooty users said it was not only economical but also a fast mode of travel to reach educational institutions and workplaces. Talking to APP here on Sunday, Myra Ali, who works at a private bank, said: "Since the day I started riding a scooty to reach my workplace, it ended my dependency on others. For being affordable and offering quick mobility, I would suggest every girl use it," she added. Another scooty rider, Samia Gulzar, who is an employee at a college.

## ANF recovers over 1215 kg drugs in 32 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan while conducting 32 operations across the country managed to recover over 1215 kg drugs and arrested 36 accused during last week, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman. He informed that ANF in a successful operation also busted a drug dealer group and arrested eight accused. He said that the raids were conducted simultaneously in three major cities of the country and the gang members were rounded up. The gang members were involved in selling CBD oil-laced vapes through online platforms, he added. Eight people were arrested targeting the inter-provincial drug dealer group involved in the distribution of vapes. During the operation, vapes filled with hashish oil, CBD oil, THC oil and cigarette rolls made from hemp plant were recovered. Apart from this, marijuana oil, opium and other illegal materials including marijuana were also seized. The accused were involved in illegal activities under the guise of selling natural products and medicines. E-commerce platforms were being used to supply drugs, the spokesman informed. The accused used to import prohibited items from foreign countries through cargo companies. ANF strives to enforce government.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali talking to a delegation of students of Peshawar University Campus at Governor House.

## KTH chief says: Pak exports have great potential in Kyrgyzstan

LAHORE (APP): Kyrgyzstan Trade House (KTH) Chairman Meher Kashif Younis said on Sunday that exporting pharmaceuticals, agricultural products, dry fruit and leather goods to Kyrgyzstan offers a promising opportunity for economic growth and international trade relations.

Talking to a delegation of exporters and importers led by Faran Shahid here, he said Pak exported pharmaceutical, agricultural, dry fruit and leather products of USD 15.95 million during the first ten months of 2023 which is not up to existing potential.

Meher added that in 2023, Kyrgyzstan's foreign trade turnover increased by 29.9 percent (USD 15.7 billion) compared to the previous year. Kyrgyz exports reached up to USD 3.3 billion, a 46.8 percent increase, compared to 2022, while the imports grew by 26 percent to USD 12.4 billion.

The KTH Chairman said that China was Kyrgyzstan's top trading partner in 2023, accounting for 34.7 percent of Kyrgyzstan's foreign trade but Pakistan's share is negligible. He mentioned that trade with the member states of Eurasian Economic Union accounted for 27.8 percent of the country's total trade volume. He said Kyrgyzstan, located in Central Asia, is a country with a developing economy and a growing demand for various goods and commodities. Pharmaceuticals constitute a vital component of any nation's healthcare system, and Kyrgyzstan is no exception. Exporting pharmaceutical products to Kyrgyzstan can contribute to improving access to essential medications, enhancing healthcare infrastructure, and ultimately, fostering better public health outcomes. He said pharmaceutical companies can tap into Kyrgyzstan's healthcare market and establish long-term partnerships with local distributors and healthcare institutions.



LAHORE: Women purchasing artificial jewelry from the stall during the Lahore Literary Festival at Al Hamra.

## BOD appreciates financial performance of KP-EZDMC

PESHAWAR (APP): The 8th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC) was held on February 24, 2024, at the Company's Head Office which appreciated the financial performance of the Company for the period ended 30 June 2023, said a press release issued here on Sunday.

The company's income and total assets have shown a steady increase over the past year, which is a testimony to the Company's strong management and commitment to excellence.

The meeting chaired by the Secretary Industries, Commerce & Technical Education/Chairman of the Board of Directors (BoD) Zulfiqar Ali Shah was also attended by other shareholders represented by the Finance Department and P&D Department.

Other participants included the Chairman of the Finance and Strategy Committee, Mr. Sahibzada Salim Ur Rehman; Chairman of the Audit & Risk Management Committee, Mr. Fayyaz Ahmad Jarral; Directors of the Company; Chief Executive Officer KP-EZDMC, Mr. Javed Iqbal Khattak, and acting Chief Financial Officer / Company Secretary Mr. Asif Makhdoomi along with finance team.

The house was updated that the Company has posted a surplus of PKR 52 million (PKR 29 million in FY2022) with total Revenue of PKR 1,090 million in FY 2023 (PKR 1024 million in FY2022). The company's total assets have increased to PKR 16,753 billion in FY 2023 from PKR 15,860 billion in FY 2022. A total 79% growth in surplus for FY 2023 as compared to last FY 2022.

## Economy another victim of war in impoverished Sudan

PORT SUDAN, Sudan (AFP/APP): Before the Sudanese army and paramilitary fighters turned their guns on each other last year, Ahmed used to sell one of Sudan's main exports: gum arabic, a vital ingredient for global industry. Now he's out of business, and his story encapsulates the broader economic collapse of Sudan during 10 months of war.

Since combat between two rival generals began on April 15, Ahmed has been at the fighters' mercy.

"When the war began, I had a stock of gum arabic in a warehouse south of Khartoum that was intended for export," Ahmed told AFP, asking to use only his first name for fear of retaliation. "To get it out I had to pay huge sums to the Rapid Support Forces," the paramilitaries commanded by Mohamed Hamdan Daglo who are at war with the Sudanese Armed Forces led by Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.

## FTO apprised about carpet sector's tax issues

LAHORE (APP): A Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) delegation led by its Senior Vice Chairman Usman Ashraf called on Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah and informed him in detail about their concerns regarding the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

The Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) assured the delegation of solving their tax-related problems, saying "The country's economy runs on the support of exporters, so I will solve their problems on a priority basis."

The delegation comprised Senior Central Leader Abdul Latif Malik, Chairman of Carpet Training Institute (CTI) Ejazur Rehman.

## Citizens worried about increase of prices of food items

PESHAWAR (APP): Inflation continued as increase in the prices of various edible commodities in vegetables and fruits markets with no check from the official concerned on the day to day increase in rates.

During a visit to the vegetables and fruits markets it went to the reach of common people. Likewise the rate of the Onion Rs 200 per kg while tomato Rs 140, white potato Rs 110 and red potato Rs 85 per kg, Peas Rs 180, okra Rs 260, garlic Rs 540 and ginger Rs 500 per kg, according to the official price list.

The price of Lemon is 130, cauliflower 80, capsicum 280 and eggplant 120 per kg.

As far the price of fruits including Kabuli apple 280, golden apple 190 and Iranian apple 310 rupees per kg, Malta Punjabi 180, Malta Swat 330 while Kino Rs 220 dozen sold, Guava Rs 230, Pomegranate Rs 400 and Banana Rs 80 to Rs 140 per dozen.

Increase in the price of live chicken per kg, the price of live chicken will reach 455 rupees per kg while eggs are being sold at Rs 450 per dozen, which is now out of the reach of the salary class.

It is beyond our reach, one Inayat Ullah told APP.

"We could not afford such things and the prices of vegetables and fruits, eggs and chicken are increasing every day," he added.

"There is no check on them, the official rates and rates we are purchasing are totally different," he said.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary General IEAA Zahid Rafiq, CEO Taber Developers & marketing Musawar Abbasi, Executive Member Usman Shaheen, and others pose for a group photo during the inauguration ceremony of the news office of Taber Developers and Marketing.

## Tapas invites business community to participate in upcoming Chamber Expo-2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador Tapas Adhikari of Nepal to Pakistan extended an invitation to the Sialkot business community on Sunday, urging them to participate in the upcoming Nepal Chamber Expo-2024 in March and the Investment Summit in April 2024.

During his visit to the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry and interaction with Abdul Gafour Malik, President of the Chamber, and other executive members, he said that the participation of Sialkot entrepreneurs could pave the way for bilateral business promotion, investment, and technology transfer.

"The Government of Nepal is ready to extend all kinds of support to foreign direct investment," he added.

"Sialkot could be a role model for Nepali people that it has emerged from a small town to a global business hub because of the hard work, innovation, and entrepreneurship of its people," he added.

He said Nepal and Pakistan needed more economic engagements and as Ambassador of Nepal, "I want to tap the business opportunity in Pakistan that could be beneficial to both countries."

During the interaction, he highly appreciated the contribution of Sialkot entrepreneurs making Sialkot a hub of sports goods, surgical items, and kitchen cutlery products in Pakistan.

He informed that recently Nepal has been able to export 6 containers of Nepali tea to the Pakistani market after decades.

"I further said that the meeting would be very beneficial for the business communities of both countries and would open a new avenue of cooperation."

## PFC board for industry status to furniture sector

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Furniture Council's Board of Directors (PFC-BoD) has demanded the government to grant furniture sector the status of an industry in order to increase country's overall exports. Chairing the board meeting here Sunday, PFC Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq said the furniture sector in Pakistan was a vital component of its economy, employing millions and showcasing the craftsmanship and skill of its people. However, it had long been overlooked and undervalued, he said, adding that granting industry status to the furniture sector was crucial for several reasons as it provide access to various incentives, subsidies, and support mechanisms tailored for industrial sectors, thus fostering growth and innovation within the furniture industry. He said, it would enhance the sector's credibility and attract much-needed investment, both domestic and foreign, leading to modernization and expansion. "It will facilitate easier access to finance and credit facilities, enabling furniture manufacturers to upgrade technology and improve productivity," he added. Mian Kashif Ashfaq said that industry status would bolster exports by enhancing competitiveness in the global market.

## Utility Stores reduces prices ahead of Ramazan

LAHORE (APP): The Utility Stores Corporation on Sunday reduced the prices of various items ahead of Ramazan along with the reports that rates of more essential items will be reduced under the Ramazan relief package next month. USC representative claimed that rates of a number of brands of cooking oil, tea, ghee, and other products have been reduced. The price of ghee and cooking oil was reduced by four to 100 rupees per kg. Additionally, a packet of branded tea weighing 800 grams was reduced by Rs100. The Utility Stores spokeswoman claimed that more price reductions.

## Effective policy needed to promote demand-driven technical education: Saigol

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Pakistan Industrial & Traders Associations Front (PIAF) Fahimur Rahman Saigol has said that educated and skilled people can play a better role in national and economic development, calling for formulating an effective policy for the promotion of demand-driven technical education, as the present setup of technical training is not addressing the requirements of modern industrialization.

He stated this while addressing the audience as special guest at the annual meeting of Defense Welfare Society.

Fahimur Rahman Saigol appreciated the work and passion of Defense Welfare Society who are providing technical education to students in this era of inflation, which is valuable and praiseworthy.

He observed that promotion of technical education is vital and much-needed for economic growth. He said that the collaboration between the industry and academia will ultimately bridge the skill gap, leading to a quantum jump in the country's exports.

The PIAF Chairman said that the young generation should pay full attention to their studies because they have to take care of the country's future.

The speakers on this occasion said that the aggressive economic measures, high borrowing rates, inflation, oppressive taxation and unstable currency have been negatively affecting the trade and industry.



HYDERABAD: A vendor displaying the rose flowers to attract the customers in connection with shab-e-barat at flowers market.

## Approval of 80 km 1<sup>st</sup> phase of Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project hailed

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Businessmen Panel of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), Mian Anjum Nisar has appreciated the Cabinet Committee's approval of work on 80-kilometer first phase of the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project within its borders after a long delay and hoped that it would proceed expeditiously, as the project was bound to bring an industrial revolution in Pakistan.

In a statement issued on Sunday, he said the businessmen had already been pressing the government hard for procuring the required energy resource from whatever source suits to it to relieve the country of the mounting shortage of gas.

Mian Anjum Nisar said that the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project began in 2013, and several deadlines have already been missed due to long-standing US sanctions against Tehran. According to reports, Pakistan was trying to negotiate with Tehran to avoid a whopping \$20 billion in liabilities as the long-stalled project's deadline approaches this year. Last year, government also approached Washington, requesting a solution to the lingering imbroglio, but received no response. The business leader said that we were convinced.

## China's rural policy bank to increase financial support for rural revitalization

BEIJING (Xinhua/APP): The Agricultural Development Bank of China, the country's rural policy bank, has unveiled a guideline to step up credit support for China's Green Rural Revival Program, as part of efforts to promote rural revitalization.

Greater support will be given to improve rural living conditions, protect and conserve the ecological environment, increase the coverage of infrastructure and public services in rural areas, and build digital villages, the lender said.

It further pledged to broaden channels for farmers to help them increase their income, while keeping loan risks under control. In 2023, the bank had issued loans totaling 488 billion yuan (about 68.67 billion U.S. dollars) to key areas of the Green Rural Revival Program, data showed.

The bank said it will target financial demands in key areas of the program, which highlights living condition improvements and the modernization of agriculture and rural areas, while also exploring effective means of providing financial support for the program.



FAISALABAD: Women buying clothes from a Sunday Market in People's Colony, Faisalabad.

## LESCO detects 57,401 power pilferers in 166 days

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has detected a total of 57,401 connections from where the customers were pilfering electricity in all its circles of five districts (Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara) on the 166th day of grand anti-power theft campaign.

The LESCO spokesman told media here Sunday that the company has also submitted FIR applications against electricity thieves, out of which 52,957 FIRs have been registered in respective police stations, while 17,627 accused have been arrested. The LESCO has so far charged a total of 76,301,843 detection units worth Rs 2,933,049,663 to all the power pilferers.

Grand anti-power theft operations against electricity thieves are being conducted on the directives of the Federal Power Division and the LESCO Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Engineer Shahid Haider is supervising these operations.

## Railways finalize plan to procure 230 passengers coaches

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways is finalizing a plan to procure 230 passenger coaches and 820 High Capacity Wagons under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) aiming help to improve the speed of the trains and ensure adherence to fixed timings.

"Out of the total, around 46 Completely-Built-Up (CBU) passenger coaches have been procured up till now while the remaining 184.

## Businessmen pin great hopes from new government

FAISALABAD (APP): As consultations for new government culminate with political bigwigs agreeing to a coalition government, the business community and other strata of life are pinning great hopes from the new set up for economic revival, reduction in cost of living, energy prices and inflation and creating job opportunities.

Recent political instability coupled with economic recession had severely checked business activities with discontinuation of economic policies, depreciation of Pakistani Rupee versus US dollar and high production cost further aggravating the situation.

But, the experts and business community still expect better days ahead if the new government resolves for e-governance and IT based mechanism, eradication of corruption and nepotism and sustainable economic policies.

"Political uncertainty played havoc with national economy. The rumors spread by myopic elements shattered the confidence of investors as witnessed from rise and fall of stock market," remarked Acting President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) Dr Sajjad Arshad.

"Pakistan's dollar bonds shed heavily as in wake of rumors that People's Party and Muslim League-Nawaz had failed to finalize the future government," he said.

"But, as soon as these parties reached an agreement, a visible increase was recorded in Pak dollar bonds, clearly indicating the importance of political stability in the country."

He regretted that during the transitional phase of government formation, some elements started trolling the political leadership to appease their foreign masters.

"In such a scenario, consistent economic policies can be a strong reply to these elements and for setting businesses on strong footing to steer country out of present crisis," Sajjad Arshad said.

"Our money market remained highly volatile due to depleting reserves and we can boost our trade and reserves by bringing in investment and sorting out dollars shortage."

"Cost of production is another element pegging our exports. Our industry pays higher energy cost as compared to regional competitors that makes our exportable surplus costlier in international markets," he added.

He informed that electricity consumption in FESCO region recorded a massive decline due to reduced economic and industrial activities. "Most of SMEs cannot afford high cost of electricity and have reduced their operation. Poor law and order is another challenge for healthy economic activities."

Gauging the gravity of situation, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz floated the idea of Charter of Economy that was initially rejected by its political opponents. But, now as almost all political forces have realized the challenge, it is hoped that they would join hands to ensure continuity of policies for a stable economy.



MULTAN: Laborers are unloading onions from the delivery truck at Vegetable Market.

## 92 killed in Gaza as Israel, Hamas seek ceasefire deal

**Monitoring Desk**  
GAZA STRIP: Dozens of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have been killed in the latest Israeli strikes, the territory's health ministry said on Saturday, after Israel's spy chief joined talks in Paris seeking to unblock negotiations on a truce. The talks come after a plan for a post-war Gaza unveiled by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu drew criticism from key ally the United States, and was rejected by Hamas and the Palestinian Authority in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. The talks also come alongside deepening fears for Gaza's civilians desperate for food. The United Nations' main aid body for Palestinians, UNRWA, said Gazans were "in extreme peril while

the world watches". Hamas said on Saturday that Israeli forces had launched more than 70 strikes on civilian homes in Gaza cities, including Deir-al-Balah, Khan Yunis and Rafah over the previous 24 hours. The health ministry said at least 92 people were killed. Israel's military said it was "intensifying the operations" in western Khan Yunis using tanks, close-range fire and aircraft. "The soldiers raided the residence of a senior military intelligence operative" in the area and destroyed a tunnel shaft, a military statement said. Hamas, the Palestinian movement that has ruled Gaza since 2007, said fighting was raging in the northern Gaza district of Zeitun. In nearby Jabalia refugee

camp, tempers are rising and on Friday dozens of people held an impromptu protest. "We didn't die from air strikes but we are dying from hunger," said a sign held by one child. In the camp, bedraggled children waited expectantly, holding plastic containers and battered cooking pots for what little food is available. Residents have taken to eating scavenged scraps of rotten corn, animal fodder unfit for human consumption and even leaves. Gaza's health ministry said a two-month-old baby identified as Mahmud Fatah had died of "malnutrition". "The risk of famine is projected to increase as long as the government of Israel continues to impede the entry of aid into Gaza," as well as access to water.



**Palestinians help an injured man at the site of a strike on a house in Rafah.**

## How Russia's military uses volunteer fighters to plug gaps in Ukraine

**BALAKLIA** (Internews): When Russian forces withdrew from the town of Balaklia in eastern Ukraine in late 2022, pursued by Ukrainian troops and under artillery fire, they left a poorly equipped group of volunteers to guard their retreat. The force of around 50 men came from the National Army Combat Reserve - known by its Russian acronym BARS - a loose assembly of units totaling several thousand fighters that Russia's defense ministry has deployed in Ukraine to supplement its regular forces. About four hours of footage from a bodycam

worn by one of the fighters, obtained by provides a rare first-hand view of the combat operations of a BARS unit, according to three military experts who reviewed the video to provide an assessment for the news agency of the unit's military capability. The invasion of Ukraine marked the first time BARS, which was founded in 2015, deployed units in combat. The video, coupled with interviews with four platoon members, shows the BARS unit was left to defend Balaklia with no heavy weaponry or air support, malfunctioning communications, and confused coordination with the regular military.

## Jets intercept high-altitude balloon over US

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: A small balloon floating at a high altitude over the US state of Utah was intercepted by fighter aircraft on Friday but deemed to pose no national security or flight risk, a US-Canada military agency said, according to US media. The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) said in a statement it had detected the balloon traveling at an altitude between 43,000-45,000 feet (13,100-13,700 metres), CBS News reported. "The balloon was intercepted by NORAD fighters over Utah, who determined it was not maneuverable and did not present a threat to national security."

The strikes have so far failed to halt the Houthi's attacks, which have upset global trade and raised shipping rates. A joint statement from countries that either took part in the strikes or provided support, said the military action was against 18 Houthi targets across eight locations in Yemen including underground weapons and missile storage facilities, air defense systems, radars and a helicopter. U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the strikes were meant "to further disrupt and degrade the capabilities of the Iranian-backed Houthi militia."

## US, British forces carry out more strikes against Houthis in Yemen

"We will continue to make clear to the Houthis that they will bear the consequences if they do not stop their illegal attacks, which harm Middle Eastern economies, cause environmental damage and disrupt the delivery of humanitarian aid to Yemen and other countries," Austin said.

## Australia PM pledges 'whatever support' needed as wild fires destroy homes

**SYDNEY** (Internews): Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese pledged on Sunday to provide whatever support was needed to assist Victoria state in a days-long wildfire emergency that has razed homes after authorities warned extreme heat could fan the blazes this week. "We will provide whatever support is requested from Victoria," Albanese told reporters in the city of Frankston, Victoria, according to a transcript. "It's a reminder of the need for us to be vigilant for us to continue to work and act on the threat that is climate change." The emergency has killed livestock, destroyed six homes and forced more than 2,000 people to leave western towns and head to the city of Ballarat, 95 km (60 miles) west of the state capital, Melbourne. Australia is in the grips of an El Nino weather pattern, which is typically associated with extreme phenomena such as wildfires, cyclones and droughts. More than 15 bushfires were burning in Victoria on Sunday, with the most serious blaze, ranked at the second highest danger rating, near several remote towns, according to the state's emergency authority. State authorities have said there are concerns about the weather this week particularly Wednesday into Thursday when extreme heat is forecast that could further fan the fires.

## Economy another victim of war in impoverished Sudan

**PORT SUDAN** (AFP/APP): Before the Sudanese army and paramilitary fighters turned their guns on each other last year, Ahmed used to sell one of Sudan's main exports: gum arabic, a vital ingredient for global industry. Now he's out of business, and his story encapsulates the broader economic collapse of Sudan during 10 months of war. Since combat between two rival generals began on April 15, Ahmed has been at the fighters' mercy. "When the war began, I had a stock of gum arabic in a warehouse south of Khartoum that was intended for export," Ahmed told AFP, asking to use only his first name for fear of retaliation. "To get it out I had to pay huge sums to the Rapid Support Forces," the paramilitaries commanded by Mohamed Hamdan Daglo who are at war with the Sudanese Armed Forces led by Abdel Fattah el-Burhan.

## How Trump defeated Nikki Haley in her home state of South Carolina

**SOUTH CAROLINA** (Internews): Despite having already secured a string of primary victories, it was crucial for Trump to win South Carolina, a key early Republican primary state that often predicts the party's nominee. Unlike in 2016, Trump was facing a rival who had won two terms as governor of the state and is still locally popular. The plan was to isolate Haley politically by locking down endorsements from scores of officials in the state as quickly as possible to demonstrate publicly that she had no path to the presidency through South Carolina, aides with knowledge of the Trump campaign plan said. Trump's victory on Saturday was not a complete blowout but he still defeated her by a comfortable 20 percentage points on her home turf. We were facing a two-term governor. That necessitated a show of force. We needed endorsements to stop donors and voters taking a look at Nikki," a senior Trump campaign adviser told to media on condition of anonymity. Chris LaCivita, a co-manager of Trump's campaign, said the series of big-name endorsements played a critical role in snuffing out the competition in the state. LaCivita said another crucial part of Trump's success was to harvest data on the thousands of voters who attended the former president's rallies. What happens in the state after we're on the airplane. That's where the real work begins," LaCivita said. Working out of a nondescript office park in North Charleston, campaign staff have been toiling for months to use voter data to communicate regularly with potential voters.

## Farmers protest: Haryana extends mobile internet suspension in seven districts

**CHANDIGARH** (INP): The Haryana government has further extended the suspension of mobile internet and bulk SMS in seven districts in the wake of the ongoing farmers' 'Delhi Chalo' agitation. According to Kashmir Media Service, mobile internet and bulk SMS were first suspended in Ambala, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Jind, Hisar, Fatehabad and Sirsa on February 11 and the suspension was extended on February 13, 15, 17, 19, 20 and 21. In the order issued on Friday, Additional Chief Secretary T V S N Prasad said, "After assessment of the current prevailing law and order situation in the state, the conditions are still critical and tense in the district Ambala, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Jind, Hisar, Fatehabad and Sirsa." The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha are spearheading the 'Delhi Chalo' agitation to put pressure on the government to accept their demands, including a law on minimum support price (MSP) for crops and a farm loan waiver. Protesting farmers from Punjab taking part in the march have been camping at Shambhu and Khanauri border points of the state's border with Haryana since February 13, when their march was stopped by security personnel.



**DURBAN:** South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, wearing a checkered scarf with the word Palestine printed on it, sings and dances on stage during an election rally at the Moses Mabhida Stadium.

## 15 killed in Chinese building blaze

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: At least 15 people have been killed and 44 injured in a fire at a residential building in eastern China's Nanjing, local authorities said on Saturday. The fire broke out early Friday morning, officials said at a press conference, with a preliminary investigation suggesting the blaze started on the building's first floor, where electric bikes had been placed. The building is located in Yuhuatai district of Nanjing, a city of more than eight million that lies about 260 kilometres (162 miles) northwest of Shanghai. By 6am (2200 GMT Thursday), the fire had been extinguished, and a search and rescue operation ended around 2pm on Friday, the authorities said. Twenty-five fire trucks were mobilised to fight the blaze, emergency services said. Footage circulating on Chinese social networks showed a skyscraper on fire in the middle of the night, with black smoke pouring from it. Other images show gigantic flames consuming several floors of the building, the flashing lights of emergency vehicles visible nearby in the dark. Additional footage, apparently taken later, shows white smoke pouring from several points in the building. The 44 injured people were sent to hospital for treatment, officials said, adding one was in "critical condition" while another was seriously injured. At a press conference, city mayor Chen Zhichang offered his condolences and apologies to the victims' families.

## Murder of 5 women shakes Vienna

**Monitoring Desk**  
VIENNA: Austrian authorities were on Saturday investigating the killings of five women in the capital Vienna within a single day, sowing panic in the city. The dead included three women found brutally stabbed to death in a brothel. The bodies of three young women were found with fatal knife wounds in a brothel in Vienna's underprivileged Brigittenau district on Friday night after a witness alerted police. A 27-year-old man still carrying a knife that was believed to be the murder weapon was arrested nearby on suspicion of committing the murders, police said on Saturday. No motive has been given for the killings with the suspect still being questioned, Austrian press agency APA reported. In a separate case, a mother and her 13-year-old daughter had been found dead in a Vienna apartment. They were possibly strangled or choked to death.

## ANC kicks off poll season from key battleground

**Monitoring Desk**  
DURBAN: South Africa's ruling ANC launched its election campaign on Saturday, hoping to overcome anger over high unemployment and a sluggish economy and to protect its three-decade-old majority. In power since the advent of democracy in 1994, President Cyril Ramaphosa's African National Congress has suffered a sharp decline in support, beset by allegations of corruption and mismanagement. Yet the party remains a formidable machine, with supporters at all levels of government across most of the country, and many South Africans retain proud memories of its lead role in the anti-apartheid struggle. "Over the next three months we will explain to millions of our people why the ANC remains the party of choice in the 2024 election."

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**Republican presidential candidate and former US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley speaks on stage at her watch party during the South Carolina Republican presidential primary election in Charleston, South Carolina.**

## Young Indian protesters determined to secure agrarian reforms from Modi govt

**SHAMBHU** (Internews): Farmers in India's northern Punjab state demanding higher prices for their crops from the national government are relying on young students to ensure the agitation's momentum does not fizzle out. Eighteen-year-old Simranjeet Singh Mathada is one of thousands of college students who have been waking up at 3 am for almost two weeks to help cook meals at community kitchens, fill tankers with potable water and load tractor trailers with supplies before heading to the protest site some 200 km (125 miles) from the capital, New Delhi. "The protests are now about safeguarding the country's agrarian economy and farmers of Punjab are determined to bring this reform at all costs," said Mathada. Protester demands are centred around guaranteed floor prices which will allow Mathada's parents and millions of other farmers to sell their produce at fixed rates. Even as negotiations between farmer unions and government have been underway, protests have sometimes turned violent.

## UN warns against growing risk of famine in Gaza

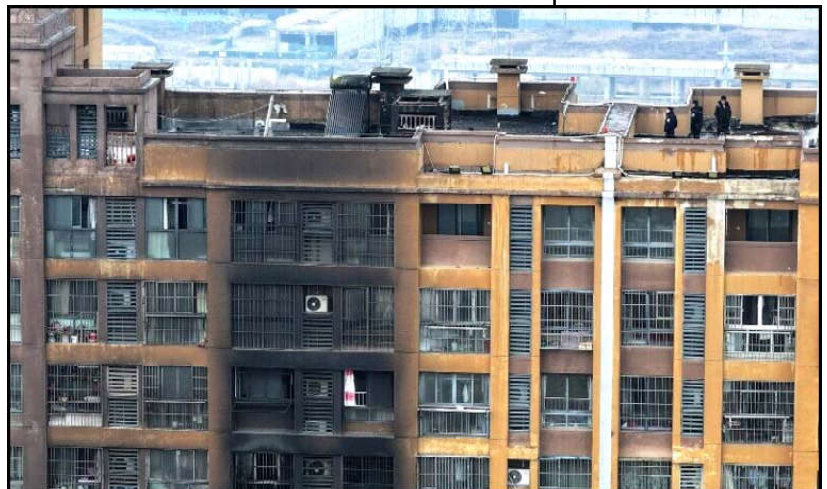
**NEW YORK** (Online): The United Nations has warned against growing risk of famine in Gaza. In a statement, the UN Relief and Works Agency said it desperately needs resources as nearly all two point two million inhabitants of the territory are facing crisis or worse levels of hunger. It said seven hundred thousand people are facing starvation and death every moment if Israel continues to prevent entry of food and medical supplies.

## Cotton candy banned in India as sweet treat turns scary after cancer-link

**TAMIL NADU** (INP): Several Indian states have initiated a crackdown on the beloved confectionery on the beloved confectionery over its potential health hazards. The southern state of Tamil Nadu has recently imposed a ban on the sale of this sugary treat following rigorous laboratory tests that confirmed the presence of Rhodamine-B, a notorious cancer-causing substance, in samples obtained from various vendors. Dubbed as "buddika-baal" due to its resemblance to old woman's hair, cotton candy has long been a cherished indulgence among children worldwide. However, its innocent facade has been shattered as health officials raise grave apprehensions regarding its safety. P. Sathesh Kumar, a vigilant food safety officer in Chennai, spearheaded a crackdown operation targeting cotton candy vendors along the bustling beachfront.

## 22 die as tractor trolley falls into pond in UP's Kasganj

**KASGANJ** (INP): As many as 22 people, including eight children, died when their tractor-trolley overturned and fell into a pond in Kasganj district of Uttar Pradesh state of India. According to Kashmir Media Service, the deceased include 13 women, a man and eight children. Ten people are currently undergoing treatment, an official said. The passengers of the ill-fated tractor-trolley belonged to Etah district and they were going to take a bath in the Ganga River on Purnima (full moon).



**Aerial view of the fire at a residential building in Nanjing city, Jiangsu province.**

