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COAS presides over 263rd Corps Commanders' Conference

Nation stands united to carry forward the development process: Corps Commanders

Forum expresses satisfaction over the smooth democratic transition of power in the Centre and Provinces; Slams vested elements for hurling baseless allegations; Allegations aimed at creating political instability: Reiterates to continue providing full support to govt.

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Corps Commanders' Conference on Tuesday urged the proud nation to remain positive and united, and wholeheartedly participate in the progress and development of Pakistan.

The forum noted with concern the organised misinformation and fake news being spread by certain nefarious elements to sow despondency and divisions within the society.

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir presided over the 263rd Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) at the General Headquarters (GHQ) an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The forum paid rich

tribute to the supreme sacrifices of Shuhada (martyrs), including officers and men of the armed forces, law enforcement agencies and the citizens who have laid their lives for ensuring peace and stability in the country.

The conference resolved that terrorists, their facilitators and abettors, working on behalf of hostile forces to destabilise Pakistan, would be dealt with full might of the state. The COAS directed commanders to continue consolidating the gains of efforts against terrorism and militancy.

The forum expressed concerns over continued repression of Kashmiris in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir and

condemned the unabated human rights violations by India.

It reaffirmed that Pakistan would continue to support the Kashmiris politically, diplomatically and morally at all levels.

The forum also expressed complete solidarity with the people of Palestine and condemned serious human rights violations and war crimes being perpetrated in Gaza.

The COAS said, "The Palestinian people have unequivocal diplomatic, moral and political support of the Pakistani nation and we will continue to support the principled stance of our brethren for enduring resolution of the Palestinian issue."



ISLAMABAD: Former President Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Rain affectees would not be left alone in time of distress, asserts Prime Minister

PM directs concerned authorities to present comprehensive plan for relief & rehabilitation of rain affected people in province; vows to work with Government of Balochistan together; announces to pay Rs. 2 million each to heirs of those died in rain-related mishaps; Rs. 7,50,000 & Rs. 350,000 to be paid to those whose houses collapsed damaged & partially

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has categorically stated that those affected due to the recent devastating rains in Gwadar or other parts of the province would not be left alone in the time of distress at all.

He vowed to work for relief and rehabilitation of the affected people together with the Balochistan government, and the process would remain continued until each and every affected person is fully rehabilitated.

The Premier was speaking after distribution of cheques among the rain affected people and briefing conducted for him about

damages caused due to rains in Gwadar, on Tuesday.

Shahbaz Sharif reached Gwadar along with Chairman NDMA, Lt. General Inam Haider Malik and other high ups from Islamabad to personally review the situation after rains and ongoing relief activities in Gwadar.

Also present on the occasion were the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, Members of National Assembly, Attaullah Tatar, Jam Kamal Khan and Malik Shah Gorgaj, provincial President of PML-N, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail,

Member Provincial Assembly, Maulana Hidayatur Rehman besides other concerned high ups.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister directed the concerned authorities to present comprehensive plan for relief and rehabilitation of the affected communication infrastructure.

In addition to this, the Prime Minister directed to prepare system to determine well before the natural calamities through modern technology and satellite.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), presided over the 263rd Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) held at GHQ, today.

Ethiopian Embassy commemorates 128th Adwa Victory Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Embassy of Ethiopia (FDRE) in Pakistan on Tuesday celebrated the 128th Adwa victory day in the presence of a large number of government officials from different Ministries and Armed Forces, Members of Parliament, diplomatic corps, business community, civil society, media, and above all Ethiopian Diaspora in Pakistan.

Celebrated with a national zeal and fervor, the commemoration day featured multiple events including documentaries on history of the Adwa victory of Ethiopia against the then colonizers, Ethiopia's role in laying the foundation of Pan-Africanism and its consistent diplomacy for promoting the regional integration said a news release, Senior Parliamentarian and Mem-

ber of the National Assembly Khawaja Asifgraced the celebration ceremony of the Adwa victory Day as the chief guest while Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori was the guest of honour at the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Jemal Bekir Abdula, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the FDRE to Pakistan, extended his felicitations to the whole Africa especially the people of Ethiopia on the occasion of 128th Adwa Victory Day commemorated under the theme of "Adwa Black People's Victory". He expressed gratitude to the people of Pakistan for gracing the 128th anniversary of the Black People's Victory in such a large number.

Ambassador Jemal Bekir briefed the participants on the historical role

played by the Adwa battle in igniting movements for freedom, equality and liberty in the whole Africa and in other continents against colonization. On March 2, 1896, a united Ethiopia achieved the biggest victory in battle field against the invading forces which, indeed, changed the course of history, humanity, political and social narration at the global level, the ambassador noted.

Adwa's victory is an inspiration and spirit of Pan-Africanism that ignited anti-colonial movements all across the world, the ambassador remarked. The Adwa victory symbolized Ethiopian unity and pan-Africanism, he said while highlighting the major initiatives of the reformist Government of Ethiopia that further fostering regional integration in the region.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Ethiopia Jemal Bekir Abdula along with the Chief guests Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Governor Sindh, Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori participating in a cake cutting ceremony on the occasion of 128th Adwa Victory Day in Federal Capital.

Tees to be planted in city to control environmental pollution: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab Tuesday said that climate change was a big challenge for the world including Pakistan; trees would be planted in the city to control environmental pollution. He said this while addressing the inauguration ceremony of the Eco Street project launched by PSO at the Pakistan State Oil head office in Clifton.

He said that PSO ECO Street, sustainable plastic road initiative not only beautified our city but also demonstrated environmental responsibility and community engagement.

"We applaud PSO's commitment to sustainability, fostering a greener urban landscape, and inspiring other corporate entities to invest in our

community's development, we will make this city developed together," he said.

On this occasion, PPP Parliamentary leader in the city council Najmi Alam, Deputy Parliamentary leader Dil Muhammad, Special Representative of Mayor Karachi for Political Affairs Karamullah Waqas, Managing Director/CEO, PSO Syed Muhammad Taha and others were also present.

The Mayor said that in parallel with the road construction, PSO ECO STREET had committed to a comprehensive beautification of the surrounding area. The project included the reconstruction and renovation of road median, walkways, transforming them into welcoming spaces for the pedestrians.



Pakistan Navy rescue teams during distribution of ration amongst flood affectees of Gwadar.

PPP gets two, MQM-P one more reserved seats in Sindh Assembly

KARACHI (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan Tuesday declared one each MPA of PPP and MQM-Pakistan as returned candidate on women reserved seats while another non-Muslim reserved seat was given to Pakistan People's party in light of the ECP order passed in ten petitions filed Suni Itehad Council and others.

According to separate notifications issued by the ECP, Sadhmal Surrender Valassi was declared as returned candidate on non-Muslim reserved seat and his name was also published as returned candidate as MPA.

Cold, dry weather forecast for Sindh

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Meteorological Department on Tuesday predicted cold and dry weather for most parts of the Sindh province during the next 24 hours.

However, partly cloudy weather forecast for upper parts of the province.

Mainly, cold and dry weather is likely to prevail in the province.

PPP delegation assures PM of cooperation for economic stability

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of Pakistan Peoples Party led by former President Asif Ali Zardari and party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif wherein they assured the government of the party's support for the country's economic stability.

In the meeting held on Monday night, the delegation, also comprising Chief Minister of Sindh Murad Ali Shah, congratulated Shehbaz Sharif on assuming the office of the prime minister and expressed good wishes for him. Asif Ali Zardari assured the prime minister that the PPP would stand alongside

the government to achieve the economic stability, progress and prosperity of the country.

Prime Minister Shehbaz thanked Allah Almighty as well as the people of Pakistan for giving him another opportunity to serve Pakistan.

He also expressed gratitude to the coalition parties in the parliament for reposing trust in him, reiterating his resolve to work tirelessly for the country's progress and prosperity.

Senator Ishaq Dar, Senator Azam Nazeer Tatar and former Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi also attended the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki, call on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

US expresses willingness to work with new govt.

Terms Maryam's election as first woman CM Punjab a 'milestone'

WASHINGTON (INP): The United States of America (USA) on Tuesday expressed willingness to collaborate with Pakistan's new Government. In a recent press briefing, United States Department of State Spokesperson Matthew Miller conveyed the US's readiness to engage with Pakistan's new government.

Matthew Miller highlighted the US's willingness to work closely with the newly formed Pakistani government, emphasizing the importance of advancing mutual interests through

collaboration with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He underscored the significance of a robust and prosperous Pakistan, asserting that such prosperity benefits both the global community and the United States.

He reiterated that the US-Pakistan relationship is grounded in trust and underscored the importance of nurturing this relationship.

The spokesperson further said that appointment of Maryam Nawaz Sharif as the Chief Minister of Punjab represents a significant development in Pakistani politics.

ECP allocates reserved seats claimed by SIC to other parties

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday notified the allocation of reserved seats for women and minorities, which were claimed by PTI-backed Suni Itehad Council (SIC), to other political parties.

The move came a day after the electoral watchdog rejected the Suni Itehad Council's (SIC) petition, seeking the allocation of reserved seats following a 'merger' with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for

this specific purpose. The ECP was requested to allot the seats on the basis of the inclusion of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-backed candidates in their party. However today, the election commission distributed the reserved seats for women and minorities among other political parties.

In the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly according to a notification, the ECP allocated one reserved seat each to Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam Pakistan.



GWADAR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif being briefed regarding the damages caused by the recent torrential rains and the relief and rescue operations carried out by the local authorities in Gwadar.

PTI submits resolution in NA demanding release of Imran, other party leaders

ISLAMABAD (INP): The PTI has submitted a resolution in the National Assembly calling for the immediate release of party founder Imran Khan.

The resolution has signatures of all PTI-backed lawmakers. It demands that all the "illegal" first information reports registered against Imran be quashed and that he be immediately released. It alleges that all

the cases against the PTI founder were lodged on the basis of "political revenge" and with the aim of keeping the ex-premier away from the public eye. "The unfair use of law should immediately be stopped," the resolution says. It also demands the release of incarcerated PTI leaders including Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Chaudhry Parvez Elahi, Ijaz Chaudhry and others.



KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Shazia Marri addresses a press conference at Bilawal House, at Provincial Capital.

PPPP is voice of poor segment: Shazia Marri

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarian Central Information Secretary Shazia Marri on Tuesday said that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari raised issues of the people in national assembly.

While addressing a press conference at Bilawal House Media Cell, she said that there had been a lot of political activity in Pakistan for the past few days. Shazia Marri said that the members of the National Assembly were waiting to be sworn in after the notifications.

Stressing the need for talks, she said that the PPPP

was read for talks for the welfare of the people. She said that Bilawal Bhutto had said important things in his address on the floor of the house.

Bilawal Bhutto's speech was very balanced one.

Speaking about protest in assembly, she said that the protest was everyone's right but the manner in which the floor of the house was insulted was disappointing.

Marri said that the august forum should be used to solve people's problems. The solution to every problem was not in the privatization of institutions.

Modi, Putin, Amir Qatar greet Shehbaz on assuming office of PM

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has congratulated Shehbaz Sharif on swearing in as the Prime Minister of Pakistan. He extended his felicitations to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on his X timeline.

President of Russia Vladimir Putin on Tuesday congratulated Shehbaz Sharif on his election as the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

The Russian president highlighted the friendly nature of Russia-Pakistan relations and wished Shehbaz Sharif every success in his important capacity as head of government, the Embassy of Russia in Islamabad said on its X timeline.

The Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani felicitated Shehbaz Sharif on his election and swearing-in as the Prime Minister of Pakistan for the second time.

The Amir, who sent a cable of congratulations to the prime minister, wished him success and for further development and growth of bilateral relations, according to the state-run Qatar news Agency.

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Reserved seats

The ECP's decision to deny the Sunni Ittehad Council — the new home of PTI-affiliated lawmakers who won the Feb 8 polls as independent candidates — a share of the special seats reserved for women and minorities has come as a disappointment to those who believed in the fairness of the electoral process.

Even though the much-delayed ECP decision, the latest in a series of moves ostensibly aimed at keeping the PTI out of elections and parliament, was not unexpected, many had hoped that the spirit of democracy would prevail over the technicalities cited by the ECP to justify its action.

According to the ECP, the SIC could not stake a claim to a share in the reserved seats "due to having non-curable legal defects and violation of a mandatory provision of submission of party list for reserved seats which is the requirement of law". It defended its decision by pointing out that the SIC had not contested the elections for any seat in the national or provincial assemblies.

That is not all. The ECP generated more debate by allocating what many see as the SIC's share of reserved seats to other political parties. By saying that "the seats in the National Assembly shall not remain vacant", it has indirectly accepted the argument that the Lower House as well as three provincial assemblies, barring Balochistan, were incomplete when they elected the Speaker, deputy Speaker, the prime minister and the chief ministers.

According to media reports, the SIC's combined loss amounts to 77 seats in the national and provincial assemblies.

The ECP might have its own logic but its order does ignore past precedent. For instance, the Balochistan Awami Party, which did not contest the first post-merger polls in former Fata, was allowed a reserved women's seat after independents joined the party. Meanwhile, a 2018 Lahore High Court judgement held that a political party's share of reserved seats was non-transferable. The ruling had come after a Returning Officer did not accept PTI nominees for reserved seats due to a slight delay in the submission of names.

In short, the ECP has exacerbated the crisis it triggered when it denied the PTI its election symbol, again on technical grounds — a decision controversially upheld by the apex court. Like the party symbol issue, the legality of the latest ECP determination will also be decided by the superior judiciary.

Unless addressed, such debatable actions will continue to impede the growth of democracy in the country. Today, these decisions are affecting the PTI, tomorrow other parties, which, for the moment, can enjoy their share of reserved seats and see their numerical strength enhanced in the assemblies, might find themselves at the receiving end when they fall out with the powers that be.

Common ground

Arooj Waheed Dar

In the run-up to the Feb 8 polls, extensive promises were made to the public by political parties in their election manifestos and speeches. However, post-election, many individuals seem to be suffering from selective amnesia, with some backtracking from their strong stance against other parties, and others conveniently forgetting their resentment against the establishment.

Amid this air of forgetfulness, it is crucial to remind political representatives of the promises they made in their poll campaigns. Holding parties accountable for their performance is crucial to steer Pakistan towards stability and progress, and to ensure that the trust of the people is upheld, democratic principles respected, and the nation's long-term interests safeguarded.

Given our economic and social challenges, collective commitment from all political stakeholders is urgently required for transformative reforms. Since the new government is a minority dispensation, there is a real opportunity for parties to jointly develop a charter of economy, comprising at the minimum what the PML-N and PPP individually promised in their manifestos.

A comparison of their election manifestos reveals significant areas of common ground, providing a foundation for further discussion between the two parties as well as others representing political rivals. For instance, both indicate the need to create better employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, introducing a labour policy to protect the rights of informal workers, and to promote decent work. Both also

mention enhancing the focus on the IT, tourism, and smart agriculture sectors. To manage the current account deficit, their aim is to boost exports, curtail imports, and lower tariffs on raw material imports, thereby fostering growth in the manufacturing sector.

In terms of infrastructure development, the parties recognise the need for investment in transportation, with particular focus on rural development, to address regional inequalities. They understand the need to leverage CPEC's full potential for regional development. Energy sector reforms have also been promised, aimed at enhancing efficiency, promoting conservation, and increasing reliance on alternative and renewable sources of energy.

To address fiscal challenges and ensure sustainable domestic resource mobilisation, they have promised the implementation of SOE and tax reforms. Civil service reforms that emphasise meritocracy, accountability, and capacity development have also been outlined. Most importantly, both the PPP and PML-N have stressed the need to fully devolve powers to the provincial and local levels, thereby empowering local governments.

Moreover, both have pledged to provide universal healthcare and education, and to enhance the social security net through the expansion of the BISP and Ehsaas programmes. They have highlighted the need for inclusivity by promoting equal rights for marginalised segments, in particular women. Fulfilling this promise is essential to show strong resolve for good governance. Merit and experience must supersede family ties, particularly in the appoint-

ment of prominent cabinet positions.

It is important to note that these promises are not new: these political parties have been making the same promises in every election cycle, as evident from a review of their manifestos. However, their actions or apathy have frequently negated these promises.

For instance, these flag-bearers of dynastic politics persist in appointing individuals to top party and government positions based on lineage and family links, contradicting their stated commitment to inclusion and equal opportunities. Even women who are brought to the forefront to make a case for gender equality often appear to have defied merit and experience to assume their positions. Such actions not only undermine inclusivity, but also governance as a whole.

Despite repeated commitments to enact tax and SOE reforms, neither party has taken significant steps towards implementation. Even basic measures, such as integration of e-governance and the full adoption of the Single Treasury Account to improve accountability, have yet to materialise.

Most importantly, not only do the promises to establish fiscal sustainability in Pakistan remain unfulfilled, but the crisis was exacerbated through the implementation of unsustainable populist measures, such as a fixed exchange rate, inadequate tariffs, delays in going to the IMF, and so on. Having formed a coalition government against a wider public mandate, there is no excuse for the PML-N and PPP to not deliver on their common promises this time around. Pakistan cannot take any more disappointments. - Courtesy Dawn

Destined to fail?

Dr Niaz Murtaza

Destiny in social science refers to likely cause and effect links versus a pre-ordained view of fatalism. One such political link is that the quality of outcomes of a regime depends on the quality of its strategies, which depends on its team quality. I used this link to predict early in the PTI's term that it wouldn't do well given its team. As the PML-N arguably pursues narrow interests over merit in filling key posts, I fear the same now, more so as we are close to doom.

We face urgent economic and security issues plus social, political and external ones. The key post to tackle them is the prime minister's. In Shehbaz Sharif, the PML-N has opted for a drab but able manager — one who is good at running local projects rather than being a strong federal leader. The last time he cut a sorry figure in managing the economy, foreign policy and security, and was a mere appendage caught between the powerful establishment and his elder brother Nawaz Sharif. The same seems likely now.

The economy posts are the next key ones — that of the finance minister but also those of industry, investment, commerce, IT and planning. Our socioeconomic musts are fourfold: stability (most urgent), productivity, equity and sustainability. The finance minister ensures economic stability. But recent finance ministers such as Ishaq Dar and Shaoukat Tarin favoured the elites and undermined macro-stability. We need a finance minister with a solid education and experience in macro-economic stability who can curb fiscal and external deficits as

well as ensure durable growth in tax and export revenues and jobs. This rules out Dar and also people like Hafeez Shaikh, who loyally implement IMF policies that neglect growth.

But stability alone doesn't result in durable growth. Growth and productivity require experts in the other ministries mentioned, who can creatively identify new investment, industrial and export avenues via a strong industrial policy, as done by the Asian Tigers. The PML-N must field strong, dynamic people with vast experience. But the trends look bad. Cutting fiscal deficits would require the party to tax and/or remove subsidies from its core elite base. Cutting external deficits and enhancing productivity would require creativity that the old guard lacks. Thus, all key economic aims appear tough to achieve.

Ensuring equity and sustainability requires experts in ministries for social areas like climate change, poverty alleviation, health, education, population, labour and agriculture. Besides a strong industrial policy, we need strong agricultural, informal sector and labour policies as most of the poor work in these areas. The PPP has more expertise here than the PML-N, which specialises in physical projects. But even the PPP focuses on band-aids rather than root causes. It must review its cabinet decision and also appoint competent people to constitutional posts to influence policy indirectly.

The main security threats relate to the TTP, Balochistan, India and societal extremism. A role for the establishment in security policy under civilian sway can give benefits. Unlike the economy, they have

some understanding here. Nawaz Sharif, even informally, can provide the impetus for peace with India given his past forays with the BJP. Peace with India is the single change that can have ripple effects in all realms — economic, social, foreign, political and security. As president, Asif Zardari with his Baloch roots, provincial set-up and reconciliation politics, can help end the Baloch stand-off. But for all this, the establishment cannot maintain total control on security policy. A set-up that won power with establishment aid will struggle to wrest space from it. On the TTP and other extremists, the PML-N has a mixed record. It wanted curbs on jihadis but pursued peace with TTP

initially and its key leaders have close extremist ties. We badly need a new and creative foreign policy that balances our ties with China and Western states. Our Constitution and institutions lie in tatters given the political tussles of recent years. But a regime with dubious legitimacy is ill-placed to fix them.

There are then huge gaps in the competencies required to tackle our challenges. Where the coalition will have authority, it may lack capacity and vice versa. The good news from social science is that effects and outcomes can change if one changes the causes. Simply put, if the PML-N wants good outcomes after five years, it can make them more likely by ensuring greater competence today.

Otherwise, with each passing day, the path will increase the prospects of doom and another establishment-imposed set-up will fail. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Renewable Energy Policy 2006
Why to curtail wind power projects despite tariff of PKR 14.7/kWh: Atif

Independent Report
KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has expressed his profound concerns that the renewable energy policy 2006 is not being implemented in letter & spirit as costlier and obsolete power projects are still being given preference — while it makes no economic sense to purchase power for the national grid from costlier plants in these times of stagflation, mounting circular debt and burgeoning balance of payments (BoP) & depleting foreign exchange reserves (FER) even further through importing furnace oil.

FPCCI Chief noted that this phenomenon is not only discouraging for foreign direct investment (FDI) in energy sector; but, also inflicting financial losses on the existing wind power plants (WPP) in a number of ways: (i) return of investment (ROI) is compromised (ii) curtailment and lack of off take by the national grid is causing operational losses (iii) future investments, JVs and expansion plans are in jeopardy.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh stressed that special investment facilitation council (SIFC) has made energy as their one of the five focus areas; and, lack of enabling, facilitative and protective environment is detrimental to the cause of SIFC — for which all stakeholders of the state have unanimity including private-sector.

World Bank's Global Director wonders if master plan of water use exists in Sindh

HYDERABAD (APP): The World Bank's Global Director, Water Global Practice, Saroj Kumar Jha has said the bank through its investment always tries to bring manifestable change in the lives of the targeted communities besides improving agriculture and irrigation systems.

Speaking at a meeting at the Secretariat of Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (SIDA) here on Tuesday Jha questioned if a master plan over the water use existed in Sindh?

"Because without a master plan it will be difficult to make decisions for the water use," he underlined.

The Director observed that even the process of preparing the master plan would reveal the areas where work was needed on priority basis in order to enhance water utility for agriculture.

"We ought to complete the work of assessing the impact of the bank's projects on the lives of the people," he underscored.



QUETTA: Residents of Sariab protesting against shortage of gas by blocking the Sariab Road.



LAHORE: Regional Chairman FPCCI Zaki Ejaz presenting shield to Consul General of Turkey during his visit to FPCCI office.

Pak-Saudi collaboration in IT, Telecom to further strengthen ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): In the realm of Information Technology and Telecom, the collaboration between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, and strong presence of Pakistan at LEAP 2024, would further strengthen bilateral ties between the two nations.

This premier technology event brings together some of the brightest minds globally, offering a dynamic platform for tech innovators, industry leaders, and experts to collaborate, explore innovations, establish partnerships, and engage with influential mentors and investors, said a news release received here on Tuesday.

In the previous year, LEAP generated over \$9 billion in business, attracting over 172,000 individuals, including global tech leaders, IT professionals, speakers, tech gurus, and investors, establishing itself as the fastest-growing technology event worldwide.

Pakistan contingent is one of the largest at this year's LEAP with 162 sqm pavilion 74 companies and over 800 delegates demonstrating a robust Pakistani business presence with promising prospects in the KSA market. These companies are showcasing solutions in AI, IoT, blockchain, cyber security, cloud solutions, health tech, fintech, web and mobile app development, open source, e-commerce, data services and more.

PSEB and P@SHA in collaboration with Pakistan Embassy in Riyadh and other stakeholders arranged "Saudi-Pak Tech Forum" on March 3, 2024 to set the tone for LEAP.

Secretary General DCO Ms. Deemah Alyahya was the chief guest at the event.

A considerable number of prominent Saudi Government and private institutions attended the forum which provided a remarkable platform for Pakistani companies to network with Saudi counterparts, IT industry,

US-Pakistan 'Green Alliance' to improve climate, smart agriculture: CG Kristin

MULTAN (APP): US Consul General to Lahore Kristin Hawkins on Tuesday said US-Pakistan Green Alliance was an effort to improve climate, smart agriculture, food security and sustainable energy.

She expressed these remarks while inaugurating the Multan Electric Power Company's (Mepeco) Customers Facilitation Centre.

The Facilitation Centre has been established as part of the U.S. government's ongoing assistance in Pakistan's energy sector. Since 2014, the United States has supported Mepeco in deploying more than 40,000 smart meters, helping to improve power efficiency for residents in Multan. "USAID's partnership with Mepeco has delivered great results. We have introduced new approaches and technologies to improve customer service and to increase revenues," said Consul General Hawkins.

For the past 20 years, Pakistan has consistently been ranked among to 10 most vulnerable countries on the Climate Risk Index. Hawkins underscored the need for urgent action to adapt to climate change and highlighted U.S. efforts to support Pakistan through the 'Green Alliance' to address the challenges related to climate change, food security and energy.



MULTAN: Members of Pakistan Wapda Employees Pegham Union are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Multan press club.

HESCO to facilitate issuance of new connections to commercial, Industrial zones

HYDERABAD (APP): Chief Executive Officer HESCO Bashir Ahmed Gujjar said that President Farooq Shaikhani has presented an excellent constructive agenda in a meeting held on Tuesday.

Addressing the traders and industrialists during his visit at Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry (HCSTSI) he conveyed that, following the recommendation of President Farooq Shaikhani, HESCO will facilitate the issuance of new connections to commercial and industrial zones in Hyderabad. Furthermore, he assured that HESCO possesses an ample supply of transformers.

In response, he directed all the Superintending Engineers to install 100 additional transformers in all commercial and industrial zones, as proposed by the Chamber.

Additionally, he emphasized the need to replace outdated transformers and to equip them with switches that trip automatically when overloaded, ensuring the prevention of transformer bursts.

In response to President Farooq Shaikhani's recommendations, he announced the convening of a meeting to discuss the equitable distribution of load across feeders.

Additionally, urgent measures will be taken to promptly address the distribution of load on the crucial 4 to 5 feeders. HESCO Chief highlighted the achievement of rendering 1327 feeders in industrial city of Faisalabad Division (FESCO) free from load-shedding.

This was accomplished by segregating commercial transformers from domestic transformers. In alignment with this success, he issued directives for the implementation of a similar approach within HESCO operations.

He announced the approval of 131 new vehicles, including trolleys and cranes, in the upcoming Board Meeting.

This allocation aims to enhance operational efficiency by providing each executive engineer with the necessary resources for tasks such as relocating transformers and tree-cutting. HESCO Chief announced the formulation of a policy, in line with President Farooq Shaikhani agenda, for the outsourcing of 11 KV feeders.

This policy will incorporate recommendations from the HCSTSI. Despite substantial rate increases for equipment and transformers, the HESCO currently maintains a stock exceeding 13 billion.

Bashir Ahmad Gujjar expressed concern over the insufficient technical staff at HESCO, emphasizing that beyond the shortage, there exists a deficiency in the enthusiasm and commitment of the technical workforce.

Furthermore, he acknowledged the commendable efforts of the HCSTSI in overcoming legal obstacles related to the express feeder. Grateful for their endeavors, he anticipated that the Sindh Small Industries Corporation will soon benefit from a dedicated express feeder, thanks to such collaborative initiatives.

HESCO Chief affirmed his unwavering commitment to enhancing HESCO cooperation and addressing the concerns of both commercial and domestic customers until the final day of his service.

Recognizing that these customers constitute the primary source of HESCO revenue, he remains dedicated to fostering positive change.

President Muhammad Farooq Shaikhani, lauded HESCO Chief as an exceptionally professional and dedicated officer and said that under his leadership, HESCO will achieve a load-shedding free status, akin to organization like FESCO, by attaining 100 percent billing.

President Shaikhani emphasized the importance of consulting the Chamber on feeders slated for construction and maintenance, ensuring minimal disruption to business activities.

Matter of reconciliation with establishment will be decided by PTI founder: Amin Gandapur

RAWALPINDI (Online): Chief Minister (CM) KP Ali Amin Gandapur and Aleema Khan sister of former chairman PTI met PTI founder in central Jail Adiala Tuesday. They exchanged views on political situation of KP in the meeting held in conference room of jail over one and half hour. Matter of formation of provincial cabinet also was discussed.

CM KP informed PTI founder about future strategy in the province. Security was put on high alert on the occasion of arrival of Ali Ameen Gandapur and Aleema Khan in jail. Talking to media men after meeting, CM KP said former chairman PTI is saying there should be rule of law. We will continue our work as per ideology. We will form such a system

that no one could steal mandate in future. He appealed Chief Justice of Pakistan to constitute commission on May 9 incident. Our women workers are in jail. He held those who benefitted from May 9 be held accountable. He went on to say we have left two governments for the sake of Pakistan. Imran Khan is fighting war for our children. akistan is

ours. Federal government has stolen our mandate. I will sit with opposition in province. We will not strike reconciliation with thieves of votes. We have to maintain law and order situation in the province. We have to give jobs. We will extend financial assistance to over one lac families. We will stage peaceful protest in Peshawar. We have not been given reserved seats.



PESHAWAR: Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Assembly Babar Saleem Swati meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman addressing a seminar on education and literature held at a local hotel.

13 dead and 1462 injured in 1387 road traffic crashes in Punjab

Independent Report LAHORE: The Emergency Services Department (ESD) responded to 1387 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. In these RTCs, 06 people died, whereas 1462 were injured. Out of these, 637 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 825 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of Hospitals. The majority (73%) involved Motorbikes, therefore effective

enforcement of traffic laws and lane discipline are essential to reduce the increasing number of road traffic crashes. Furthermore, the analysis showed those 779 drivers, 49 underage drivers, 186 pedestrians, and 510 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 315 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 334 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by Faisalabad 101 in with 113 victims and at third Gujranwala with 88 RTCs and 97 victims.

DC for ensuring maximum relief to public in Ramadan

MARDAN (APP): Deputy Commissioner Mardan Muhammad Fayyaz Khan Sherpao has directed the administrative officers to ensure maximum relief to the public in the purchase of food items in the Ramadan markets during the holy month. He was presiding over an important meeting held here on Tuesday regarding Ramadan Package 2024. He said that according to the instructions of the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ramadan bazaars will be set up for the citizens, in which the citizens will get food items like pulses, flour, ghee and other items at cheaper prices.

Young generation is our future and we should inculcate habit of book reading in them: Baligh

Independent Report LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman said that Art, humanities and Literature has profound impact on the society. He expressed these views while addressing a seminar on education and literature held at a local hotel in Lahore today. Punjab Governor, Muhammad Balighur Rahman said that our young generation is our future and we should inculcate the habit of book reading in them. He said that generally

the book reading is on decline in the society but still there are people who love to read books. He further said that one should strive for continues improvement in life. He added that book reading broadens the vision of a person and develops positive character traits in him. He said that many people are doing good work in the society, they should be encouraged so that the process of improvement in life continues. He said that today's programme is also held to

appreciate the literary contribution of Jameel Jalbi. Governor Punjab said that Dr. Jameel Jalbi was a well-known intellectual, linguist, researcher, critic, columnist and educationist. Governor Punjab said that Dr. Jameel Jalbi rendered great services in the field of literature as a researcher, critic, writer and translator. He appreciated the efforts of senior journalist Wasif Nagi and other organizers in organizing the seminar for the promotion of knowledge and literature.

Governor KP chairs senate meeting of UoM, directs to reduce fees

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali on Tuesday chaired a senate meeting of University of Malakand (UoM) that discussed approval and legal status of varsity statutes. The meeting was attended by Vice Chancellor UoM, Dr Rasheed Ahmad and officials concerned of higher education, law, establishment and finance. The meeting discussed legal aspects of the statutes and concurred to send them to varsity's

senate subcommittee to remove legal lacunas in one month period. The participants also discussed extension of contract employees that are working in the university. The meeting was told contract employees have completed three-year period but the new appointments were stopped by election commission due to current general elections. Meeting approved six months extension of contract period and directed to ensure policy of merit while making new appointments.

Nigeban Ramadan Package launched in Bahawalpur

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Soft launching of the Nigeban Ramadan Package took place in Bahawalpur under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur Zaheer Anwar Jappa. Under this initiative, Assistant Commissioners distributed food hampers to deserving individuals in the district with their teams. The purpose of the soft launching for the

Nigeban Ramadan Package is to digitally organize data effectively. To ensure the success of the soft launching, a formal app is being used to securely store all data related to the Ramadan Package. In the Bahawalpur district, food hampers are being respectfully distributed to deserving individuals under the Nigeban Ramadan Package.

Salim Saifullah congratulates PM Shehbaz

PESHAWAR (APP): Senior politician, former federal minister Salim Saifullah Khan has congratulated the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on assuming his office and expressed the hope that under his leadership the country will overcome all challenges. In a statement issued here on Tuesday, he said that under the dynamic leadership of the Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif political and economic stability.

LHC declares non maintainable petition seeking removal Sanjarani

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has declared non maintainable the petition seeking removal of Sadiq Sanjarani from the position of chairman Senate while maintaining registrar office objection on the powers of jurisdiction of court regarding petition. The petition filed by citizen Mashkoor Hussain came up for hearing before Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan

of LHC Tuesday. Sadiq Sanjarani, Election Commission (EC) and others were made respondents in the petition. The petitioner took the plea in the petition that Sadiq Sanjarani contested election on seat of provincial assembly Balochistan and he won the election. EC issued notification of his success. Sadiq Sanjarani cannot retain two seats at a time.

International News

World Health Organization: Child malnutrition 'particularly extreme' in north Gaza

GENEVA (Online): United Nations organisations said on Tuesday that child malnutrition levels in northern Gaza were "particularly extreme" and about three times higher than in the south of the Palestinian enclave where more aid has been available. Richard Peepker, WHO representative for Gaza and the West Bank, said that one-in-six children under two years of age were acutely malnourished in northern Gaza. "This was in January. So the situation is likely to be greater today," Peepker added, referring to when the data was recorded. UNICEF spokesperson James Elder said malnutrition rates for children under five in northern Gaza, where access to aid has been highly limited

since the start of the war between Israel and Hamas on Oct. 7, were three times higher than those in Rafah in the south. Elder said this showed that "when that trickle of aid can come in, it does make a life saving difference." At least 15 children have died over the past few days from malnutrition and dehydration at Kamal Adwan hospital in northern Gaza, the health ministry in Gaza said on Sunday. Calls for Israel to do more to address the humanitarian crisis have grown louder since the deaths of Palestinians lining up for aid in Gaza last month. Gaza health authorities said 118 people were killed, attributing the deaths to Israeli fire and calling it a massacre. Israel,

which says many people were trampled or run over, has pledged to investigate. Adding to hunger, there is a growing risk from infectious diseases, with nine-in-10 children under the age of five - around 220,000 - falling sick over the last weeks, according to Elder. "That becomes the spiral that we are so fearful of: infectious diseases, lack of food, a desperate lack of clean water and ongoing bombardment and incredibly still discussion of an offensively into Rafah, which is a city of children," Elder told reporters in Geneva, referring to Israel's stated aim of rooting out Hamas battalions it says are hiding there. "Rafah has about three quarters of a million children living there," Elder said.



Military delegation arrive for the opening session of the National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

China boosts defence spending as regional disputes heat up

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: China announced on Tuesday that it would boost its defence spending in 2024, as hostility over Taiwan and in the South China Sea grows. The 7.2 per cent increase, identical to last year's figure, was announced at the start of the annual meeting of the country's rubber-stamp parliament, the National People's Congress (NPC).

China will spend 1.665 trillion yuan (\$231.4 billion) on defence in 2024, according to the budget report that lays out the government's financial plans for the year ahead. China has the world's second-largest defence budget behind the United States, even though the People's Liberation Army (PLA) surpasses the US military by number of personnel.

US wants 'as many channels as possible' for Gaza aid, State Dept says

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: The United States is working to get aid into Gaza through as many channels as possible to remedy the humanitarian disaster amid Israel's war with Hamas militants, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Monday (March 4), describing the situation as "simply intolerable." Washington was optimistic that a new maritime route to deliver aid to Gaza could supplement current efforts to get aid into the enclave, Miller said, adding that that route was "still in the development phase." In addition to trucks carrying aid through two border crossings in the south of Gaza, the US military, along with allied nations, has in recent days dropped aid packages into Gaza from aircraft, amid warnings much of the population is on the verge of famine.



Czech Republic's President Petr Pavel and French President Emmanuel Macron walk past an honour guard at Prague Castle in Prague, Czech Republic.

Ships entering Yemeni waters must obtain permit: Houthi minister

CAIRO (INP) Ships will have to obtain a permit from Yemen's Houthi-controlled Maritime Affairs Authority before entering Yemeni waters, Houthi Telecommunications Minister Misfer Al-Numair said. Houthis have repeatedly launched drones and missiles against international commercial shipping in the Gulf of Aden since mid-November, saying they are acting in solidarity with Palestinians against Israel's offensive in Gaza. The near-daily attacks have forced firms into long and costly diversions around southern Africa, and

stoked fears that the Israel-Hamas war could destabilise the wider Middle East. The United States and Britain have bombed Houthi targets in response. "We are ready to assist requests for permits and identify ships with the Yemeni Navy, and we confirm this is out of concern for their safety," Al Masirah TV, the main television news outlet run by Houthi movement, reported Al-Numair as saying. The territorial waters affected by the Yemeni order extend halfway out into the 20-km (12-mile) wide Bab al-Mandab Strait.

US envoy says war at Lebanese-Israeli border would not be containable

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: US Special Envoy Amos Hochstein said on Monday (Mar 4) that a truce in Gaza would not necessarily bring an automatic end to hostilities across Lebanon's southern border and he warned about the risks of an escalation of the conflict. Hochstein is visiting Beirut as part of diplomatic efforts to end four months of exchanges of fire between Hezbollah and Israel taking place in parallel to the Gaza war. It has marked the worst conflict across Lebanon's southern border since the 2006 war.

43 countries call for international probe into Navalny's death

Monitoring Desk GENEVA: More than 40 countries on Monday demanded an independent international investigation into the death of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny - and said President Vladimir Putin bore ultimate responsibility. European Union members, the United States, Britain, Ukraine, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and

Norway were among countries to voice outrage over Navalny's death at the UN Human Rights Council. Navalny, 47, who died in an Arctic prison colony, was laid to rest in Moscow on Friday, surrounded by crowds of defiant mourners who chanted his name. "We are outraged by the death of the Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny, for which the ultimate responsibility lies.

Ladakhi people express outrage as talks with India end without progress

NEW DELHI (INP): The much-anticipated meeting between Ladakh's Apex Body (LAB), the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), and the Indian Home Ministry ended without any tangible progress, sparking widespread anger among the people of Ladakh. New Delhi's refusal to address the fundamental demands of Ladakhis.

No Indian troops, not even in civilian clothes to remain on his island: Maldives President reaffirms

MALE (INP): Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu has affirmed that no Indian military personnel, not even those in civilian clothing, would be present inside his country after May 10. Muizzu's statement comes less than a week after ostensibly an Indian civilian team, but in reality military officials, reached the Maldives to take charge of one of the three aviation platforms in the island nation, well ahead of the Mat 10 deadline agreed by the two country's for the withdrawal of Indian military personnel. Addressing a community in Baa atoll Eyydhafushi during his tour across the atoll, President Muizzu stated that due to his government's success in expelling Indian troops from the country, people who spread false rumours,

are attempting to twist the situation, a news portal Edition.mv reported. "That these people [Indian military] are not departing, that they are returning after changing their uniforms into civilian clothing. We must not indulge such thoughts that instil doubts in our hearts and spread lies," the portal quoted Muizzu as saying. "There will be no Indian troops in the country come May 10. Not in uniform and not in civilian clothing. The Indian military will not be residing in this country in any form of clothing. I state this with confidence," he said. Within hours of taking oath, last year, Mizu in his inaugural address to the parliament demanded India to remove its personnel from the strategically located Archipelago in the Indian Ocean.

Spanish blogger's gang rape in India sparks global outrage

NEW DELHI (Online): India is deemed highly unsafe for foreign female tourists. A Spanish blogger woman fell victim to a gang rape, exposing India's secular state to scrutiny. On March 1st, a Spanish girl was traveling on a motorcycle with her partner in the city of Jharkhand, India when she was targeted for gang rape. The Spanish couple had set up a tent in Dhanbad, a state in India, for an overnight stay when a group of seven individuals assaulted them, reports Al Jazeera. The 28-year-old Spanish travel blogger mentioned in her Instagram post that the group targeted them for violence, looted their belongings, and raped her, as reported by Hindustan Times. In another post, a companion of the affected blogger stated that she was repeatedly assaulted

with blows to the head and face with a helmet. After the gang rape, the girl was left in critical condition, Al Jazeera reports. Following the attack, a petrol pump attendant rescued both and took them to a local hospital. There has been a strong international backlash over the rape of the Spanish blogger woman. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, in India, approximately 90 cases of sexual assault are reported daily on average, according to the National Crime Records Bureau. In 2022, one case of rape against a woman was reported every 18 minutes. Last year, 31,516 incidents of sexual assault were reported. The states of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of cases, according to the National Crime Records Bureau.

Pak proposes int'l conference to uphold Palestinians' rights, end Gaza war

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan, speaking on behalf of the Islamic countries, has called for convening an International Peace Conference on Palestine, aimed at implementing UN resolutions on the restoration of Palestinians' inalienable rights to self-determination within a two-state solution.

"The international community should uphold its responsibility in halting the Israeli aggression on Gaza immediately," Ambassador Munir Akram told the UN General Assembly session which followed the U.S. veto on the Feb 20 Security Council resolution calling for "an immediate humanitarian ceasefire" in the Gaza Strip.

While deeply regretting the veto, the Pakistani envoy voiced dismay over the global community's inability to end Israeli aggression against Gaza in which 29,700 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been killed.

Ambassador Akram addressed the 193-member Assembly in his capacity as acting chairmen of OIC group at the United Nations.

"Since the lunch of the aggression on Gaza and elsewhere in Palestine nearly over the past five months, the entire world has continued to follow, with growing despair, and anger, the monumental and unending sufferings imposed on the Palestinian people in Gaza," Ambassador Akram said. "This situation has resulted in the colossal loss of lives and wanton destruction of homes, schools, hospitals and religious sites in Gaza, due to the incessant attacks by the Israeli occupying power on the territory."

CJCS calls for strengthening collaboration among SCO states in military medicines

RAWALPINDI (Online): General Sahir Shamsad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC), Tuesday attended the opening session of SCO Members States Seminar being hosted by Pakistan at Rawalpindi on the theme of "Challenges in Military Medicines".



The Chairman JCSC in his address highlighted that emergence of new and complex healthcare challenges, Pandemics and humanitarian crisis merit crafting of collective preparedness, response strategies and more importantly strengthening of multilateral collaboration amongst SCO nations especially in field of military medicines. JCSC reiterated that both Pakistani nation and Pakistan Armed Forces take great pride in our partnership with SCO and are fully committed to further expand this cooperation. He expressed his gratitude to SCO for affording this platform for dialogue and cooperation; and the delegates from partner countries for their whole hearted attendance.

SC issues written order regarding Musharraf case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued a written order regarding termination of the Lahore High Court's (LHC) verdict quashing the trial of former president Pervez Musharraf in the high treason case.

The SC, in the 16-page verdict authored by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, said, "The impugned judgment dated 13 January 2020 passed by the Lahore High Court, Lahore in Writ Petition No. 71713 of 2019 is not sustainable and is accordingly set aside by converting these petitions into appeals and allowing them. Detailed reasons shall be given later." It said, "The impugned judgment passed by the Lahore High Court in sheer violation of the judgments and orders of this Court is, therefore, not only without jurisdiction but also unconstitutional."

"Particularly, we have noted that the Judges of the Special Court, who announced the final judgment on 17.12.2019, namely, Justices Waqar Ahmed Seth, 26 Nazir Akbar 27 and Shahid Karim, 28 were appointed with the approval of the Federal Government.

"The judges are not sovereigns with unfettered discretion but are guardians of the law, tasked with ensuring that justice is done according to established legal norms and principles. Their decisions must be guided by the law, precedents, and the facts before them, not by personal desires or objectives. A judge, in the pursuit of justice, cannot embark on a self-imposed crusade of right and wrong.

"He is not to innovate at pleasure. He is not a knight errant, roaming at will in pursuit of his own ideal of beauty or of goodness.



GWADAR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receives briefing from Chairman NDMA Lt. General Inam Haider Malik regarding rescue and relief activities for the affected of recent torrential rains in aircraft en route Gwadar.

Pre-Emptive measures during the holy month of Ramadan 2024

Independent Report
 KARACHI: The Government of Sindh, Bureau of Supply & Prices has announced that the proactive approach may be adopted by all the District Controllers (Prices & Supply) and Special Magistrates (Price Control) of the District Administration, so that the common men may be benefited from their sincere efforts under the Sindh Essential Commodities Price Control and Prevention of Profiteering and Hoarding Act, 2005 & Amendment 2023. Moreover, especially for the forthcoming Holy Month of Ramadan-2024, the following strategy and recommendations to control the prices of essential commodities and to ensure the availability of essential items on regular basis in the market may be ensured to prevent hoarding, black-marketing and illegal profiteering of essential commodities, accordingly:-

1. Meetings may be held with the Manufacturers, Wholesalers, Retailers, Suppliers, Grocers, Bakers, Sweet, Nimco, Milk, Chicken, Meat Merchant etc. Consumers Associations, other stakeholders and Govt. functionaries to rationalize their prices and ensure availability of all essential commodities including food items in the markets.
2. Prices of vegetables, fruits (daily), karyana/groceries (fortnightly/monthly) and also other essential items may be fixed regularly and published in the official gazette as required under section 7(1) of the Sindh Essential Commodities Price Control and Prevention of Profiteering and Hoarding Act, 2005 and ensure their distribution to display in the premises of shops and hawkers etc.
3. The Assistant Commissioners and Mukhtarkars on behalf of the Deputy Commissioners along with Officers/Officials of the Bureau of Supply & Prices and Market Committees are required to visit and monitor auction process of vegetables and fruits in the Fruit & Sabzi Mandis/Markets on daily basis, situated in their respective jurisdictions to ensure transparency and also to reduce gap between wholesale and retail prices.
4. The Assistant Commissioners and Mukhtarkars may be directed to pay surprise visits in markets along with (deputed Officers / Officials (vigilance team) of Bureau of Supply & Prices for price checking and implementing the notified Price Lists.
5. The District Administrations and the Bureau of Supply & Price, Sindh may be required to establish Control Room/Complaint Centres in their respective offices / jurisdictions in Sindh and inform through print and electronic media for creating awareness among the general public regarding registration of complaints and their redressal against the illegal profiteering and non-display of Price lists etc.
6. All Deputy Commissioners are requested to direct all the manufacturers/importers and dealers of the essential food and general items to mention prices, date of manufacturing, expiry, ingredients, net and gross weight on each and every product for information of the consumers.
7. The Director General, Sindh Food Authority, is requested to take stern action against adulteration i.e. Fresh Milk, Spices all sorts, Pressure Meat, oil, ghee, Besan/Gram Pulse etc. and expired products.
8. The Food Department / Utility Store Corporation of Pakistan may be requested to arrange availability of Wheat Flour and essential food items in the Bachat Bazaars (Sasta Bazaars) at subsidized prices. The organizers will be required to provide space at prominent places.
9. In addition to the above, the Utility Stores Corporation of Pakistan and Provincial Food Department may be requested to arrange availability of sufficient stock of essential food items throughout the Province to guard against artificial shortage & maintain smooth availability of all food items.
10. The Director General, Agriculture Marketing and the Regional Directors Market Committee in Sindh are requested to direct the Administrators/Chairmen and the Secretaries, Market Committee (s) in Sindh to ensure entry of all loaded trucks/vehicles, carriages and carts etc. of the vegetables and fruits inside the Mandis/Markets for proper participations and coordinate with Special Magistrate (s) and officers of BSP, Sindh in their respective jurisdiction (Subzi Mandi) to ensure transparent auction and collect data for fixation of prices by the District Controller (s) regularly in accordance with law, rules and policy.



KARACHI: Pakistani fire fighters struggle to control a fire which broke out in foam market at MA Jinnah Road in Karachi.

Sindh Police to recruit 25 thousand personnel

KARACHI (APP): In a recent meeting chaired by IGP Sindh, Riffat Mukhtar Raja, an overview of the overall process and stages of recruitment in Sindh Police was discussed.

The meeting included a briefing on various aspects of recruitment procedures and police regulations, involving 25,000 applicants through the SIBA Testing Service.

Among the attendees were DIGPs, Establishment, Headquarters Sindh, AIGPs, Operations, Establishment, and Administration. Vice-Chancellor Sukkur IBA University and other officials also participated via video link.

The meeting saw detailed briefings by the Establishment DIGP regarding police recruitment through the SIBA Testing Service, emphasizing the impartial, transparent, and merit-based nature of the process as a commendable step.

It was further revealed that a phased test schedule will be introduced for police recruitment aimed at facilitating candidates in the recruitment process.

IGP Sindh stated that not only directives have been issued by the chief minister of Sindh for the recruitment of 25,000 personnel, but instructions have also been given to ensure the overall recruitment process is impartial, effective, and based on merit and eligibility. He emphasized that new recruitments in the police force will not only strengthen the force but also provide employment opportunities to thousands of youth.

Pakistan Customs seize gold ornaments worth millions at Karachi airport

KARACHI (INP): The Pakistan Customs authorities have made a significant recovery at the Karachi airport, intercepting a passenger who arrived from Dubai with a haul of gold ornaments.

According to a spokesman for Customs, the Customs staff stationed at the arrival lounge of Jinnah International Airport, intercepted a passenger over suspicion. Upon questioning, the said passenger denied carrying any prohibited items.

Unsatisfied, Customs officials proceeded to conduct a thorough search of the passenger's luggage.



MULTAN: U.S. Consul General Lahore, Ms. Kristin K. Hawkins addressing the inauguration ceremony of a new U.S.-funded MEPCO Customer Facilitation Center at Shah Yousaf Garaz.

Varsity student shot dead for resisting robbery

KARACHI (INP): Robbers gunned down student of a private university for resisting robbery in the metropolis, police said on Tuesday. According to details, private university student Laraiab was on his way to home after an academic activity when armed robbers riding a motorcycle intercepted him in Allahwala Town, Korangi. Over resistance, the robbers shot dead Laraiab and sped the scene.

The body was shifted to hospital for postmortem and police after registering a case into the incident kicked off investigations.

Strict action to be taken against profiteers in Ramzan: DC

LARKANA (APP): In order to review the prices of essential commodities during Ramazan, a meeting of District Price Control Committee (DPCC) was held on Tuesday under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Larkana Dr Sherjeel Noor Channa in his office.

The chair warned the hoarders, profiteers and black-marketers to avoid creating any artificial shortage of the commodities else stern legal action would be taken against them.

He said that in the holy month of Ramazan, it is necessary for all of us to respect it and strictly adhere to the fixed prices of products and in this regard, especially the chamber of commerce & industry Larkana.

He asked the office-bearers of LCCI, Bureau of Supply & Prices and other institutions to follow the prices set by the government.

He said that district administration would make all necessary arrangements for supply of essential commodities to consumers at fixed rates.

He hoped that with the co-operation of the business community, the prices of essential commodities would be maintained at a reasonable level.

DC Larkana also asked to be used in accordance with the rates fixed by the committee and display price list at the conspicuous place of their shops. Besides, they should declare stock of the stuff and maintain correct weight and measure, he added.

The officials of the Market Committee and Bureau of Supply and Prices were directed to provide a price list of the commodities to the shopkeepers daily.

While, special magistrates will conduct checking frequently to ensure implementation of the directives and to bring the defaulters to book, he said.

CM takes notice of BBA student's killing

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah took notice of the killing of a BBA student Larib here on Tuesday. He directed the IGP Sindh to arrest the killers of Larib immediately and present an immediate report of the incident to him.

The CM said that there was no room for such incidents and students were our valuable assets. He directed to increase police pickets and patrols in areas where robbery incidents were high. The chief minister said that the rise in muggings was a cause of concern. He said, "I want atmosphere of peace and order to be maintained in the city."

Fire erupts in Karachi's MA Jinnah Road Iqbal Market

KARACHI (APP): A huge fire has broken out in the Iqbal market in MA Jinnah road Karachi where the fire has spread to numerous shops, creating a challenging situation for the authorities.

Three fire tenders and two water bowzers are actively involved in combating the blaze, as confirmed by fire brigade officials, a private news channel reported. More fire brigade vehicles are en route to the location, according to fire brigade authorities.

ADB, UNICEF join hands to strengthen climate resilient services in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on Tuesday signed a Letter of Understanding (LOU) to collaborate on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and solid waste management interventions under an ADB-funded project in the cities of Rawalpindi and Bahawalpur in Punjab province of Pakistan.

The agreement was signed by ADB Country Director for Pakistan Yong Ye and UNICEF's Representative in Pakistan Abdullah Fadih here, said a news release.

"ADB and UNICEF are joining forces and renewing our shared commitment to strengthen policy, legislative framework, and institutional capacity in municipal service delivery, this time to improve the quality, coverage, and reliability of urban services under the Developing Resilient Environments and Advancing Municipal Services (DREAMS) Project," said Yong Ye.

"The collaboration will enable us to support the government's efforts to address water supply and solid waste management challenges in these two important and rapidly growing cities," he added.

DC for ensuring transparent distribution of amount to farmers

NAWABSHAH (APP): Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Zahid Hussain Rind on Monday paid a surprise visit to centers established by Sindh Government in different talukas of District for distribution of amount against wheat supporting price to farmers.

According to a hand-out issued here, Deputy Commissioner enquired about payment being given to growers.

He directed officers of the agriculture department to ensure payment process transparent to growers and take strict action against device holders deducting amount from payment. He said that providing relief to growers of district was our top priority. Additional Director Agriculture Muhammad Ramzan and other officers were also present on the occasion.

The DC also visited Taluka Hospital Daur and reviewed health facilities being provided to the patients.

He directed the Medical superintendent to provide better health facilities to visiting and admitted patients.

The DC also inaugurated Ramzan Bachat Bazar at Utility Store Nawab Shah.

He said that in order to provide relief to masses Ramzan Bachat Bazar had been started where essential items were available at reasonable prices. Regional Manager Utility stores Feroz Ahmed Shaikh apprised him about Ramzan Bachat Package.

Commissioner Sukkur chairs meeting of public welfare services

SUKKUR (APP): Divisional Commissioner Sukkur, Fayyaz Hussain Abbasi chaired a meeting with Regional Director and other officers of Social Welfare Department at his office on Tuesday.

The meeting focused on improvement and extension of public services being provided by the Social Welfare department to the elderly citizens, orphans, differently abled persons and transgenders. In this regard, the performance of different offices of Social Welfare department was discussed and new potentially viable developmental projects/schemes were discussed to bring majority of socially marginalized people into the fold of public services.

The divisional commissioner reiterated that extended and improved public services to the marginalized segments of society can improve their quality of life and help them to be integrated with this society at large.



HYDERABAD: Family members, social activists and friends of Late Comrade Jam Saqi paying tributes at his 6th death anniversary at HPC.

Course on latest Amendments, Enactments in HR laws, focusing on Women and Children held

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Human Rights Commission and Sindh Police Training Branch has conducted a Two-day specialized Course on the latest Amendments and Enactments in Human Rights Laws, focusing on Women and Children.

The training of 32 participants was held at the School of Finance and IT, Central Police Office here, targeted newly appointed Probationary Inspectors investigation and Law of Sindh Police from March 4 to 5, said a statement on Tuesday.

Speaking as chief guest, DIGP Azfar Mahesar emphasized the challenging journey ahead for Inspectors Law. In his address, he highlighted the significance of their roles, the power and responsibility they held, and the importance of upholding justice. He stressed that their commitment and dedication to justice would shape the future.

He added that the post of Inspector Law and Inspector Investigations was created to handle cases more effectively. The primary responsibility of these positions was to assist inspectors and investigation officers in properly registering and investigating cases with appropriate legal sections.

Int'l Women day celebrated

LARKANA (APP): Mayor Larkana, Anwar Ali Nawaz Lahar Tuesday said that women have a high position in our society, no society or home can exist without women. As the women run this institution by themselves and provide financial support to the destitute women, the problems of the ladies club will be solved by the municipal corporation.

He said while addressing the International Women day ceremony held in Gomibi Ladies Club.

In the event, Government Girls Little Fox School students and Sweet Home Bait ul-Mal School presented tableaux and demonstrated their skills.



HYDERABAD: Members of Pakistan Wapda Employees Pegham Union are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Hyderabad press club.



HYDERABAD: Gypsy woman preparing bread (Roti) for children in her makeshift house at Latifabad.

KU international conference highlights importance of biotechnology

KARACHI (APP): Vice Chancellor of the University of Karachi Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi on Tuesday inaugurated the second two-day long international conference Biocon 2.0 at the Professor Salimuzzaman Siddiqui Auditorium of the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences of the University of Karachi.

The KU Department of Biotechnology organized an event that highlighted the importance of biotechnology in different fields, particularly agriculture, health sciences, and medicines.

Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi said that science and technology play a very important role in human health and social development of society.

He mentioned that with the help of biotechnology and especially industrial biotechnology, the United States and European countries have added billions of dollars to their economy, and expressed we can do the same with proper planning and dedication.