

Independent

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Sindh Governor administers oath to new cabinet ministers

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Tuesday administered the oath to new Sindh ministers at the Governor House. The Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah attended the swearing-in ceremony. Those, who took the oath included Sharjeel Inam Memon, Dr Azra Pechuho, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Saeed Ghani, Jam Khan Shoro, Zia Hussain Lanjar, Sardar Muhammad Bakhsh Mahar, Ali Hasan Zardari and Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah. The Chief Secretary Dr Fakhre Alam read out the notification of appointment of ministers.

The Governor and Chief Minister congratulated the newly sworn-in ministers. The Chief Secretary announced 3 advisers on the recommendation of the Sindh Chief Minister.

Advisors included Babul Bhayo, Hassan Mazari and Najmi Alam. Zulfiqar Shah could not attend the swearing-in ceremony because he could not reach from Islamabad to Karachi.

INP adds: The portfolios of the newly inducted Sindh cabinet were announced on Tuesday following an oath-taking ceremony at the Governor House in Karachi.

The newly sworn-in cabinet members include Sharjeel Inam Memon, Dr Azra Pechuho, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Saeed Ghani, Sardar Shah, Jam Khan Shoro, Ziaul Hussain Lanjar, Muhammad Bakhsh Mehr, and Ali Hassan Zardari.

Mostly ministers had served in Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah's cabinet in the previous tenure, however, their portfolios were reshuffled.

According to the CM Sindh's spokesperson, the portfolios for the newly sworn-in ministers and advisers have been assigned as follows:

Sharjeel Inam Memon: Department of Transport and Mass Transit, Department of Excise, Taxation and Narcotics.

Dr Azra Pechuho: Ministry of Health and Population Welfare.

Nasir Hussain Shah: Department of Energy, Planning and Development. Sardar Ali Shah: Department of School Education and Literacy, Department of College Education, and Department of Mines and Minerals Development.

Saeed Ghani: Local Government and Housing Town Planning Department, Public Health Engineering and Rural Development.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor, Kamran Tessori administering oath to provincial cabinet members of Sindh during oath taking ceremony held at Governor House in Karachi.

Ahsan reiterates continuation of policies to ensure stability, economic development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal here on Tuesday reiterated that political stability and continuation of policies were prerequisites to lead the country towards stability and development.

Addressing a press conference after assuming the charge of federal minister, he lamented that political instability and discontinuation of policies had always inflicted the country and blocked the way towards sustainable progress and development.

Citing examples of various countries including India, Turkey, China, Bangladesh, and Korea, the minister said no country had achieved success without consistent policies and political stability.

He said, the last 50 year political history of Pakistan had a negative impact on the implementation and progress of development projects like Vision 2010, Vision 2025, and other five-

year plans. He underlined the importance of making comprehensive decisions and planning for the continued success adding it was imperative to focus on creating an entrepreneurial ecosystem, promoting job creation, and ensuring the success of the youth.

He said, the planning should be made keeping in view the modern infrastructure as digital technology was having great influence on different sectors in the era we were living in.

The minister emphasized the importance of replacing outdated production resources with new ones, by embracing international tools and technologies. This adaptation would help us foster growth in the agriculture and industry.

Ahsan Iqbal said that the government was determined to work honestly on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Phase-2 as was done in case of CPEC Phase one where in \$25 billion investments were made from 2013 to 2018.

PM, CNS discuss professional matters pertaining to Navy

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad Tuesday and discussed professional matters pertaining to Pakistan Navy.

The Naval Chief also felicitated Shehbaz Sharif on assuming the office of the Prime Minister.

Biased interrogator becomes threat to justice system: SC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Tuesday upheld the verdict of Sindh Service Tribunal for dismissal of a police official on account of defective investigation in a minor's rape case.

A three member bench headed by Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar announced the verdict on appeal of police official. The top court in its order said that the investigation officer plays an important role in the justice system.

President pays visit to Mazar-e-Quaid

KARACHI (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari, Tuesday, paid a visit to mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah to pay respect to the Father of the Nation after assuming office of the president of Pakistan.

It was Asif Ali Zardari's first visit to Karachi after assuming charge of the office of the president of Pakistan for the second time.

President Zardari laid a floral wreath at the grave of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and offered Fatiha. He also penned down comments in

the book of visitors. Asif Ali Zardari, at the occasion, was received by Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Provincial president PPP Sindh Nisar Ahmed Khuhro and other senior officers of Sindh government.

Earlier, on his arrival at the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, a smartly turned out contingent of cadets from the Pakistan Military Academy, Kakul presented guard of honour to the President Asif Ali Zardari.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Information minister assumes charge of his office Tarar emphasizes importance of promoting positive & constructive journalism

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday assumed charge as Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

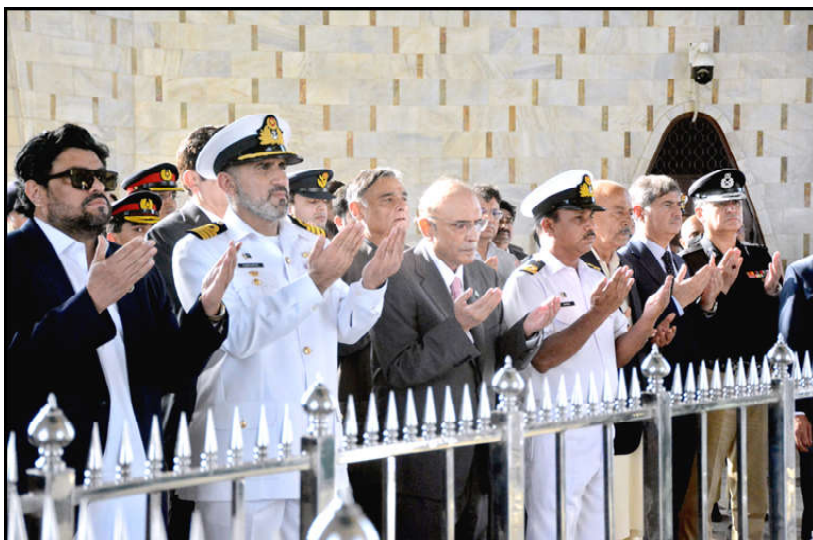
Federal Secretary of Information and Broadcasting Shahera Shahid along with other senior officers of the ministry welcomed the minister on his arrival at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Attaullah Tarar is a senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N) who was elected Member of National Assembly from Constituency NA-127 from Lahore in the February 8 elections.

After taking oath as Federal Minister in the President's House, today he assumed his duties in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

On his arrival at the Ministry of Information, Attaullah Tarar said the doors of the Ministry of Information would remain open for the journalist community.

He stressed the need for the promotion of positive and constructive journalism in the country and strengthening the relationship between the government and the media.

Attaullah Tarar said he will work together with the media to communicate the government's initiatives and policies to the people. He remarked that the media played the role of a bridge between the people and the government and this role needed to be played in a better manner.



KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari offering Dua at the grave of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori and Sindh CM Syed Murad Ali Shah are also accompanied him.

Pakistan, IMF talks likely to begin from March 15

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan and International Monetary Fund (IMF) talks under the \$3 billion Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) are likely to commence from March 15.

According to media reports, the country's newly sworn-in Finance Minister Mohammad Aurangzeb has given the green signal for talks with the IMF for the SBA and a new loan programme.

Islamabad will hold talks with the international lender about the last tranche of \$1.1 billion under the SBA programme. Pakistan has already achieved the targets set by the IMF for the second review, the sources said.

They further said Pakistan is likely to request

IMF for a \$6 to 8 billion fresh loan programme. Finance ministry sources said Islamabad will engage the IMF on the economic targets for the fresh loan programme.

On March 8, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said it is ready to send mission to Islamabad for the second economic review after the formation of PM Shehbaz Sharif's cabinet. The IMF Director of Communications said that the focus currently is on completing the ongoing Stand-By Program, which is ending in April 2024, a mission for the second review of the Stand-By Program would be dispatched immediately after the formation of the new cabinet in Pakistan.

President decides not to draw salary

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Asif Ali Zardari has decided not to draw his salary. According to a press release issued by the presidency, the President took this decision in view of prevailing economic challenges.

The decision is aimed to encourage prudent financial management in the country.

Deciding not to burden national exchequer president Asif Ali Zardari preferred not to draw salary.

Sharjeel Inam Memon becomes Senior Minister of Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah has appointed Sharjeel Inam Memon as Senior Minister of the province. According to notification issued here on Tuesday, Memon was given status of the provincial Senior Minister with Transport, Mass Transit, Excise & Taxation and Narcotics Control Department as his portfolios.

Syed Asif Hyder Shah posted as Chief Secretary Sindh

KARACHI (INP): Syed Asif Hyder Shah, BS-22 officer of Pakistan Administrative Service on Tuesday was transferred and posted as new Chief Secretary Sindh with immediate effect. According to notification, Syed Asif Hyder Shah, presently posted as Secretary Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Division was transferred and posted as Chief Secretary Sindh province.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal took the charge of the Ministry. Senior officials of the Planning Ministry warmly welcomed the Federal Minister upon his arrival. Secretary Awas Manzoor Sumra briefed the Federal Minister in detail on the ongoing projects of the Planning Ministry.

PPP, JUI-F form alliance for Senate elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary General Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Syed Nayyer Hussain Bukhari Tuesday said that PPP and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) have agreed to collaborate in the forthcoming Senate elections. Addressing a press conference along with Syed Yusuf Raza Gillani and JUI leader Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, he said that PPP will support the JUI candidate for Senate polls in Balochistan, while the JUI will extend support to Yousof Raza Gillani in Islamabad.

Nayyer Bukhari said the Senate by-election being held on vacant seats of the upper house on March 14. Balochistan's three Senate seats have been vacated and the JUI has requested for the PPP's support in Balochistan.

On the occasion Ghafoor Haideri said JUI will not participate in government making but play their role in the Parliament.

Yusuf Raza Gillani said "We are supporting to each other for the Parliament and will work in tandem in the house."

Commissioner for providing relief to common men during Ramadan

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Muhammad Saleem Rajput on Tuesday said the local administration would provide relief to common men during the Holy month of Ramadan. He asked all Deputy Commissioners to take strict action against profiteers and hoarders and provide relief to the common men. The Commissioner also directed officers of the Food and Bureau of Supply and Measurement to remain in the field and assist the local administration in bringing the violators to justice. Meanwhile, the administration expedited action against 148 profiteers in all seven districts of Karachi division and fined Rs. 957000 for overpricing essential items on the first day of Ramadan.



Ramzan Food Package for 15000 affected families is being dispatched to Gaza from Al-Khidmat Foundation.

Turkish President congratulates President Zardari

KARACHI (APP): President of Türkiye, Recep Tayyip Erdogan Tuesday called President Asif Ali Zardari and congratulated him on assuming the office of the President of Pakistan.

Both the leaders exchanged views on matters of bilateral importance and underscored the need for further improving cooperation in all areas of mutual interest, a press release issued by the President House said.

President Asif Ali Zardari thanked the Turkish President for his telephone call and warm wishes. President Asif Ali Zardari wished Happy Ramadan to Turkish nation and desired to see role of Turkish women in Islamic world. He also desired to invite President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to Pakistan.

Two cops embraced martyrdom in terrorists attack

PESHAWAR (APP): At least two cops embraced martyrdom while an ASI sustained injuries in an attack by terrorists on a police mobile in the jurisdiction of the Machni Gate area police station.

According to SSP Operations Peshawar, Kashif Aftab Abbasi, the policemen were on routine patrolling when the terrorists ambushed and attacked the police mobile.

The SSP said that a search operation was started in the area to trace the terrorists.

Attaulah Tarar assumes charge as Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting.

Votes bought in provincial assemblies during Senate election: Omar Ayub

ISLAMABAD (INP) - Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Omar Ayub claimed that unfortunately the votes were bought in provincial assemblies in the Senate election.

The PTI leader said that look at the inflation during Ramadan. "How will a working person live in these conditions," he questioned.

He said the price of a electricity unit will rise up to Rs90 in the summer.

Ayub said that the PTI founder can represent the country properly.

Ayub said that they would work for real freedom and represent Pakistan in every assembly. He claimed that their government could have been formed in the centre, Punjab and Balochistan. He said their mandate was stolen in Sindh as well.

Omar Ayub said that PTI members stood like a rock.

Ban imposed on meeting with prisoners in Adiala jail for two weeks

RAWALPINDI (Online): Adiala. Internal security wing home department Punjab has informed in the light of reports that anti state terrorists group which is supported by anti state elements want to target central jail Adiala to foment chaos in the country. Necessary steps are urgently needed to avoid any untoward situation.

According to sources, home department Punjab has directed to conduct search operation on March 13 inside jail through special branch.



MULTAN: Rescue-1122 workers performing rescue operation at the cylinder gas blast spot in Mohala Jawadia near Haram Gate.

9 people killed as residential building collapses in Multan

MULTAN (INP): At least nine people persons were killed and two others were wounded when a three-storey dilapidated building collapsed in Multan late Monday night.

According to District Emergency Officer Dr Kaleemullah, a residential building located in Haram Gate area of Multan collapsed, burying at least 10 persons under the rubble. The debris of the building also fell over adjoining houses. Rescue teams reached the spot after being informed and retrieved the dead bodies of nine persons from the rubble while two persons were pulled out in the injured condition.

Rescue teams have shifted the dead and injured to Nishtar Hospital,

Multan. Meanwhile, the deputy commissioner said that a technical team had been constituted for the inspection of the adjoining buildings.

Separately in February, a tragic incident was reported from Lahore, where the roof of an under-construction building collapsed on the neighboring house, resulting in the death of a three-year-old minor and two others injured. The rescue officials revealed that a 3-year-old girl lost her life meanwhile the father of the deceased and his other daughter, aged seven, suffered injuries. Upon getting information related to the incident, the rescue authorities, along with local law enforcement, were quick to respond to the scene.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

PDM redux

The new prime minister has stuck to a safe formula by inducting familiar faces in his cabinet and giving them their usual portfolios, and accommodating allies and benefactors where more deserving people could have been given a chance. The only big change seems to be the inclusion of Muhammad Aurangzeb, the erstwhile president of one of Pakistan's largest banks, to do the finance minister's job. He replaces the candidate the PML-N has usually favoured for the portfolio, Ishaq Dar.

Mr Aurangzeb is among three as-yet-unselected members of the cabinet inducted yesterday, with the two others being the former caretaker chief minister of Punjab, Mohsin Naqvi, and a former adviser to the caretaker prime minister, Ahmad Cheema. It seems the latter two had to be accommodated for their 'services to Pakistan'. Meanwhile, Mr Dar, despite his disastrous performance as finance minister during the PDM-led government, has still managed to be shortlisted for another ministry in the new regime.

A big positive is that the cabinet is not as bloated this time as it was during the PDM government. The new government would be well-advised to keep itself lean and focus on dealing with Pakistan's many crises.

At the same time, it is disappointing that Shehbaz Sharif's federal cabinet has shaped up to be a men's club. There was just one exception among the 19 individuals sworn in by President Asif Ali Zardari yesterday — Shaza Fatima Khawaja. She took oath as the only minister of state, while 18 others — including her uncle, Khawaja Asif — were inducted as federal ministers of the new government.

It is difficult to understand why the PML-N would so casually disregard half the population when assigning important portfolios. The omission seemed particularly jarring given the PR campaign around women's empowerment the party has been running ever since Maryam Nawaz got herself elected as the first woman chief minister of Punjab.

Is the PML-N really so short of capable women leaders, or does the new prime minister find them all unworthy of being given a seat at his table? It is hoped that neither is the case, and more women will eventually be nominated for top jobs. Meanwhile, Mr Sharif has, knowingly or unknowingly, thrown his old guard a huge challenge. It has become clear over the past two years that Pakistan cannot continue to be run in the manner it has been in the past, and a lot must be done very differently this time around.

Will the PML-N's old hands prove themselves able to adapt and capable of catering to Pakistan's much-changed needs, or will we see them replaying their past policies? It does not need to be pointed out that a lot is riding on their success, and the path forward is beset with difficulties.

No peace of mind

Ali Burhan Mustafa

Domestic violence in Pakistan is widespread and indicative of deep gender inequalities and socioeconomic instabilities that are, in turn, exacerbated by unemployment and community disorder. Collectively, these factors contribute to the extensive state of psychological distress across communities. The issue of child marriage has aggravated the crisis: some 21 per cent of Pakistani girls are married off before the age of 18, thanks to poverty, dire education deficiency, and conservative cultural norms.

Child marriage is especially common in Pakistan's rural areas. It contributes to a cycle of domestic violence, one of the top factors responsible for psychological harm in the country. While laws like the Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act of 2014 are a step in the right direction, enforcing the rules and changing societal mindsets are huge challenges.

Culture's authoritarian stamp is evident in other reprehensible practices as well. For example, in 2023, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan reported nearly 400 'honour' killings in the preceding year. However, some NGOs and international agencies estimate that the actual number each year could be as high as 1,000.

The discrepancy in figures highlights the difficulty in accurately recording such incidents, partly due to society's reluctance to view them as crimes. Despite the legal progress made by amending criminal law to reflect the unacceptability of such a practice, the lack of enforcement of the law and archaic beliefs continue to impede progress. 'Honour' killings, often motivated by perceived

threats to family honour, contradict the aim of legal reforms and the protection of individual rights. They underscore the urgent need for further efforts to plug the gap between tradition and fundamental rights.

Similarly, in Sindh, the issue of forced conversions presents a significant challenge, with the Centre for Social Justice documenting a minimum of 124 instances of such cases in 2022 alone. Forced conversions predominantly affect girls, often minors, from Hindu families, but have also impacted the Christian and Sikh communities.

While accurate figures are not known, activists estimate that between 20 to 25 Hindu girls may be subjected to forced conversions each month — these include cases of abduction and forced marriage. Despite taking up the issue in the Sindh Assembly and attempting to outlaw the practice, lawmakers have encountered social pressure as well as resistance from religious factions.

In Pakistan, a considerable escalation in the number of workplace harassment complaints has been observed. While this shows increasing awareness and a greater propensity among individuals to report harassment, it also highlights another significant reason behind mental distress.

Statistics reveal a substantial rise in reported cases, which went up from nearly 500 in the period spanning 2010 to 2018, to a staggering 5,000 from 2018 to 2022. Despite the implementation of the Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, aimed at curbing and rectifying such misconduct, enforcing the law remains a formidable challenge, with inadequate consequences for the guilty. The effort

to enforce legislative measures is further impeded by the lack of designated ombudspersons in pivotal regions, notably Punjab. Equally to blame for the dejection and anxiety in society is the high prevalence of working children. Acquiring current and gender-specific information on child labour in the country, particularly with regard to girls, presents a significant challenge due to the limited availability of disaggregated data and difficulty in obtaining the most recent information. The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, in collaboration with Unicef and local entities, such as the So-ciety for the Protection of the Rights of the Child, is leading the effort to gather data on child labour, so that, based on the figures, policy reform can be instituted.

But despite these efforts, child labour remains entrenched, exposing our young ones to hazardous and exploitative working conditions from an early age. Neighbourhood disorder, including violence, drug use, and community tensions, worsens domestic violence and negatively affects mental health and the quality of life. This results in depression, anxiety and PTSD, and highlights the very limited availability of mental health services and the stigma associated with seeking help for depression.

In such conditions, ensuring fundamental rights in Pakistan is challenging. A dedicated and collective effort by stakeholders to address the causes responsible for poor mental health can go a long way in making the issue a priority for the state. -- Courtesy Dawn

Student motivation

Neda Mulji

The best of teachers find it hard to motivate some of their students. Numerous studies in motivation have looked closely at why and how some learners do well in school and others seem to give up without trying. Fear of bad grades, fear of failing and disappointing teachers or parents all play a role.

Excellence in academics cannot be achieved without motivation. The latter is largely a choice that leads to effort, and most students make the choice to stay motivated if they have the confidence that their goals are achievable.

Teachers often talk about 'making' students learn, which implies applying coercion. Students don't need to be 'made' to do anything if the underlying motivational needs are addressed. Once they are motivated to study, they only need encouragement and support. The teacher's role as a facilitator is paramount in ensuring that students develop a level of interest and curiosity that enables them to chase targets, to absorb the content, practise and reinforce concepts that must be studied.

Most facilitators set high expectations and show students how to get there — successful teachers unlock potential by making content accessible and easy enough to grasp. They give opportunities to students to respond to content, engage with each other and they monitor the gaps where students need extra help.

Telling students to study doesn't work as well as showing them how to tackle the work at hand. By middle school, many students begin to procrastinate, fall behind on homework

and end up facing disgruntled teachers and parents. A student recently asked me: "Where is my motivation?" Interesting thought, reflecting self-awareness.

Lack of motivation isn't a problem in itself, but rather a symptom of something else; just like fever, where the body temperature rises to signal an underlying health condition. Lack of motivation signals something else at play, most often a belief that the work is hard and beyond reach. Those that get left behind in a race don't run faster if they have given up and accepted that defeat is inevitable.

A study on motivation revealed that students work harder for teachers that they like and do well in subjects that are taught by their favourite teachers. This correlation isn't a coincidence. The 'favourite' teacher clearly understands what will unlock potential and does something right to instil belief and confidence in the student's ability. Sometimes, the strategies may be as simple as creating a thinking environment, as described in Nancy Kline's Time to Think, where the facilitator or mentor provides ease and comfort for the learner to embark on some kind of introspection, to understand what is needed to be done for academic success.

Schools, where students spend a large part of their formative years, are supposed to be breeding grounds for thought, interrogation, understanding and knowledge. Ironically, they become spaces that breed anxiety, competition and a desperate bid to avoid failure. Students who spend their time at school avoiding failure are unlikely to be self-motivated — rather, they chase goals set by oth-

ers and tag along benchmarking themselves through the years against what their peers have or haven't achieved. Avoiding failure as a strategy is not the same as a strategy for success.

Social and emotional well-being at school is a precursor to motivation for success. Yet, very few schools follow a curriculum that embeds social and emotional learning. Hardly any schools offer formal, structured programmes that cater to social and emotional well-being. At the heart of well-being is the belief that learners can cater to their own growth needs and devise their own strategy for success.

Contrary to what many learners and their teachers believe, ability is not fixed. It's mostly malleable and directly related to the learners' self-belief and agency in steering their own course. If they are taught self-regulation early on, their motivation is entirely within their grasp.

Much of students' academic success is dependent on how their teachers interact with them. If the control is in the learners' hands and they believe that they are the 'captain of their ship', they demonstrate ambition and drive, and no longer need coercion. The reverse is also true. Once a lack of motivation sets in, it becomes a pattern that is hard to break. Students' behaviour begins to reflect their lack of control, which leads to avoiding studies.

The words of a famous song 'Teacher, leave them [sic] kids alone' ring true timelessly. Students need consistent encouragement rather than fear, threats and sarcasm about their ability. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

PM for a complete roadmap to enhance IT exports

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed for submission of a comprehensive roadmap to boost IT exports.

He said the government would take steps to fully avail of the billion dollars potential of the country for IT exports, besides, the young people would be provided with required facilities of education, skills development and startups.

The prime minister chaired a review meeting on IT and Telecom sector. The meeting was attended by Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Economic

Affairs and Establishment Ahmad Khan Cheema, Minister of State for IT Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Governor State Bank of Pakistan Jameel Ahmed, Shahzad Saleem and the relevant senior officials, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

During the meeting, the prime minister said that during their previous tenure, positive outcome was witnessed from the initiation of different projects in the IT sector.

He stressed upon resolution of all issues of start ups, freelancers and IT companies relating to banking. Expressing his satisfaction over the IT export volume of more

than \$3 billion in the current year, he emphasized upon its further increase.

For bringing Pakistan's IT sector at par with the international standards, they would have to work hard, he observed. The prime minister also asked for submission of a comprehensive report regarding special technology zones.

The meeting was apprised of progress on IT package announced by the prime minister during June 2023. During the previous tenure, due to special attention of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the IT exports witnessed 13 percent increase during

the first seven months of the current fiscal year when compared with previous corresponding year.

Under the Digikills programme, a total of 4 million students of 17 batches, comprising 28 percent females, had been imparted training. Pakistan had emerged as the second top country in the world on the basis of numbers of freelancers. Pakistan was exporting IT products to 170 countries of the world, it was further added.

The meeting was informed that during the previous year, an investment of \$400 million was made in Pakistani startups.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding IT and Telecom Sector in Islamabad.

Mobilink Bank, BizB partner to drive financial inclusion, empowering women micro-entrepreneurs

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Bank partnered with BizB, a leading marketplace in Pakistan, welcoming the company as a 'Brand Ambassador Organization,' to drive financial inclusion and bolster women micro-entrepreneurs nationwide. This symbiotic partnership strives to offer easily accessible financial services and support the endeavours



of female entrepreneurs in the growing e-commerce landscape.

Through this partnership, women micro-entrepreneurs under BizB's W-Empower will not only have access to a platform for buying and selling preloved apparel but will also enjoy the full range of features provided by the Dost App, ensuring smooth and convenient transactions.

Mobilink Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and digital services to nearly 160 million customers in six dynamic markets that are home to 7% of the world's population.

Qaiser says: Uplifting industry, business essential for economic prosperity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh on Tuesday said that in view of the economic situation of the country, increasing business was the first priority of the government so that the economic issues were resolved.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that it was in the manifesto of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) that the economy will be improved through the growth of business.

NAVTC, IAP signs MoU to boost skill training

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTC) and the Industrialists' Association Peshawar (IAP) on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to boost demand-driven skills training in the country.

Minister says: Vital for economy, agriculture sector to be uplifted on priority basis

Independent Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Agriculture Mohammad Sajjad has said that the agriculture sector is the backbone of the country's economy and the provincial government will develop this sector on a priority basis according to the vision of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur.

The officers involved in agriculture must perform their services with seriousness and honesty, he directed that such agricultural projects should be prepared which have far-reaching effects as well as in accordance with the aspirations of the landlords, and benefit the farmers.

He expressed these views while presiding over the first review meeting related to the projects of the agriculture department. Secretary Agriculture Javed Marwat, CPO Agriculture, DGs of all sectors and other relevant officers were also present

in the meeting.

The provincial minister was briefed on the ongoing development projects, especially ADP- 2023-24, AIP, Externally Aided Schemes, Prime Minister's Emergency Agriculture Program, World Bank Program, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety Program, Gomal Zam Dam Project, Model Farm Services, Seeds Farm, Soil Conservation, In-Farm Water Management and Crops Reporting. A detailed briefing was also given on various projects of service, agricultural extension and research and engineering. Expressing keen interest in the briefing, the provincial minister directed the officers that the concerned officers should visit the districts and take measures to solve the problems of the landlords and special attention should be given to the development of agriculture in the merged.

Huawei & Ufone 4G win prestigious GSMA Global Mobile (GLOMO) Award

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Ufone 4G & Huawei won the GSMA GLOMO award for the category 'Best Mobile Innovation for Emerging Markets' at the Mobile World Congress for groundbreaking solution of Microwave SuperHub. The global first-ever trial and commercial deployment of the SuperHub feature was done in Ufone network during Q4 2023 enhancing the spectral efficiency of the microwave spectrum.

Microwave spectrum, a critical asset in today's digital landscape, demands efficient utilization to meet the ever-growing demands of wireless technologies, as the challenges facing microwave backhaul networks have intensified, particularly in emerging markets such as developing countries with lesser optical fiber footprints.

In response to these challenges, Huawei and Ufone 4G joined forces & unveiled the groundbreaking SuperHub solution. Designed to overcome the hurdles posed by limited spectrum resources, spatial constraints and frequency acquisition difficulties,



SuperHub has enabled Ufone to maximize microwave spectrum reuse with unprecedented efficiency. This was made possible by reuse of same microwave frequency channel across multiple links at aggregation site with a spatial separation as low as 20 degrees. Ufone recorded a remarkable 50% spectrum saving without any compromise on quality. Jafar Khalid, Group Chief Technology and Information Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G commented, "We are absolutely delighted that Global Mobile (GLOMO) Awards, which are the industry's most prestigious accolade with over 200 independent judges and 30 awards across

6 categories, have recognized the joint contributions of Ufone and Huawei.

In finding an innovative solution to optimizing microwave spectral efficiency, enhancing capacity and reducing interference. This advancement in global backhaul connectivity represents a paradigm shift in how terrestrial microwave networks will be built in future, and we are proud to be the front-runner in this journey."

James Zeng, Global President of Huawei Microwave Product Line, explained, "With increasing demands on existing network infrastructure, systemic optimizations are critical to improve performance and experience.

Turkish ambassador calls on him PM calls for cementing Pak-Turkiye bilateral ties

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has underlined the need for enhancing bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Turkiye in all areas of mutual interest, including trade, defence, connectivity and culture.

He was talking to Turkish Ambassador Dr. Mehmet Pacaci, who paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister in Islamabad on Tuesday.

He emphasized that both the countries enjoyed

exemplary bilateral relations which are based on shared history, religion and culture and are unshakable. The Prime Minister said both countries need to work together to achieve the annual target of five billion dollars in bilateral trade.

On core issues, the Prime Minister said Pakistan deeply appreciates Turkiye's firm and consistent support for the oppressed people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He also reaffirmed Pakistan's support

to Turkiye on the issue of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

The Turkiye's Ambassador congratulated the Prime Minister on his re-election and conveyed best wishes from the leadership of Turkiye and emphasized the importance of strengthening the fraternal ties between both countries.

The Prime Minister deeply appreciated the congratulatory telephone call and message of felicitations from President Recep Tayyip Erdogan immediately after

his re-election.

In this regard, he congratulated Turkiye on the successful flight of KAAAN 5th generation fighter aircraft.

The Prime Minister reiterated his invitation to President Erdogan to visit Pakistan.

Shehbaz Sharif said the people of Pakistan look forward to the visit which would provide a useful opportunity for both the sides to carry out extensive consultations during the 7th session of High Level Strategic Coordination Council.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meeting with Turkish Ambassador Dr. Mehmet Pacaci.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah along with his newly appointed provincial cabinet members of Sindh are offering Fataha on the grave of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah during their visit to Mazar-e-Quaid in Karachi.

Murad Shah along with cabinet members visit Quaid's mausoleum

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah along with his cabinet members visited Mazar-e-Quaid and paid tributes to father of the nation Quaid e Azam Mohammed Ali Jinnah here

on Tuesday.

The CM and Ministers offered fataha and laid wreath at the mausoleum.

Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on the occasion recorded his comments in the guest book.

Federal cabinet members assume charges after allocation of portfolios

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government has allocated portfolios to the newly-formed 19-member federal cabinet. According to a notification, Khawaja Asif has been named defence minister. He has also been assigned additional portfolios of defence production and aviation. Ishaq Dar has been given the portfolio of foreign minister, Ahsan Iqbal is the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Measures.

M u h a m m a d Aurangzeb has been assigned the portfolio of finance and revenue, while Mohsin Naqvi has been assigned the portfolio of Home Affairs and Narcotics Control, Ahad Cheema has been assigned the portfolio of Economic Affairs and Establishment Division.

ECP completes preparations for Senate elections

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will announce the schedule for the election on Senate vacant seats on March 14.

As per details, the preparations have been completed for the polling for 48 Senate seats, scheduled to take place on the second of the next month (April). After the merger with KP, the elections on the four FATA seats will

not be held. "These seats have been abolished after the merger of tribal areas into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) under the 25th Amendment of the Constitution," the ECP said in its statement.

Nomination papers about the Senate elections can be obtained from the Election Commission Secretariat Islamabad as well as the provincial elections commissioners of Punjab.

Three labourers crushed to death, child drowns in pond

NAUSHAHRO FEROZE (INP): Three young labourers were crushed to death by an over speeding passenger coach while a child drowned in pond in different localities of Naushahro Feroze on Tuesday.

According to details, a reckless driven passenger coach ran over a motorcycle carrying three labourers at National Highway near Taj petrol pump in Kandiaro police station jurisdiction.

As a result of accident, three youth including Manzoor Hussain, Roshan Ali and Bilawal Ghangro hailing from village Kabir Ghangro were killed on the spot and coach driver sped the scene.

He directed revenue officers in all three talukas of the district to visit the markets to check and control prices and submit reports regularly. Assistant Commissioner Mitiari Abdul Sattar Shaikh and other officers were also present on the occasion.

DC Matiari seals 2 hotels, warning issued

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Matiari Lal Dino Mangi visited the market in the city on the first day of Ramadan. During his visit, he sealed open hotels at two different places and issued a warning to their owners.

He also checked the rates of essential commodities at shops and carts and directed them to display the official rate list prominently. Speaking to the me-

Suspect killed in encounter, found to be wanted gangster: SSP Korangi

KARACHI (APP): SSP Korangi Hassan Sardar Niazi in a press conference held at his office on Tuesday, announced that the police had successfully identified a suspect who was killed in an encounter in an Awami Colony.

The suspect, identified as Abu Huraira, was found to be a member of a notorious and wanted gang following an investigation into the incident.

The encounter stemmed from an incident thirteen days prior when the suspect had opened fire at a shop in Gulshan Market, injuring the shop owner, Qasim, his son, Haris, and a female customer, Saima, who later succumbed to her injuries during treatment.

SSP Hassan Sardar revealed that the same suspect had previously shot and injured a traffic police officer in Korangi No. 4 a few months ago.



KARACHI: Faithfuls sit and wait for Iftar to break their fast during 1st holy month of Ramadan at Memon Masjid.

Pakistan urges UNSC to be more transparent, inclusive to address conflicts, crises

UNITED NATIONS (APP): The Security Council must be more transparent and inclusive in conducting its business to meet the challenges posed by current global, regional conflicts and crises, a senior Pakistani diplomat has stressed, and called for improved working methods as also steps to ensure the implementation of its resolutions, especially on longstanding issues and disputes.

"Nothing undermines the credibility of the Security Council more than 'selective' implementation and non-implementation of its resolutions," Ambassador Usman Jadoon, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told the 15-member body on Monday.

"Failure to enforce its resolutions undermines the credibility of the Security Council and erodes confidence in its ability to fulfill the responsibilities assigned by the UN Charter," he said while speaking in a debate on: The Working Methods of the Security Council.

Ambassador Jadoon underscored the imperative for the Security Council to respond decisively to the increasingly complex challenges to global peace and security by acting in an effective, transparent, accountable, and democratic manner.

In his remarks, the Pakistani envoy highlighted key areas for improvement in the

Council's working methods, including the need for full adherence to openness and transparency, as provided under the rules.

Ambassador Jadoon referred to the absence of interactive discussions in open meetings, saying it compromises the Council's mandated role, particularly its duty to act on behalf of all Member States.

ANF seizes 125 kg drugs, arrests 18 in nationwide operations

KARACHI (INP): The Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) seized 125 kilogram drugs, arrested 18 drug pusher in 13 operations conducted in different cities across the country.

A spokesman of ANF said on Tuesday that actions were taken against the drug peddlers in Islamabad, Lahore, Multan, Gujrat, Attock, Peshawar, Dara Adam Khel, Hyderabad, Jamshoro and Chaghi.

During separate actions, 105.8 kg hashish, 7 kg opium, 7.5 kg Heroin, 1.7 kg Ice (methamphetamine), 350 heroin filled capsules and one kg suspected material was recovered besides arrest of 18 drug pushers.

FIA arrests Afghan citizen traveling on fake Pakistani passport

KARACHI (INP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Immigration arrested an Afghan citizen for travelling on fake Pakistani passport.

According to details, Afghan citizen Ghulam Hazrat arrived at Karachi airport from Saudi Arabia and during investigations his passport was found to be forged.

The FIA arrested the accused and shifted him to Anti Human Trafficking Circle.

Two killed & Several Injured in road accident

INDEPENDENT REPORT SHIKARPUR: An horrible road accident occurred on Ratodero - Jacobabad Indus Highway Road near Samandar Gopang village in the jurisdiction of Nabi Shah Wagan police Station on Tuesday.

According to details, One speedy HiAce Passenger wagon overturned at Baghdad Laaro and collided with alive electric Poll when the vehicle went out of control from driver due to speed which caused two precious lives of Musamat Benazir w/o Eedan Jatoi and Shahmeer Baghdad on the spot.

The meeting resolved to intimate Assistant Professor Saima Shaikh to join back university and recommended to contact the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand to know the status of PhD degree of the said faculty member.

Dry weather forecast for Sindh

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

SABS University holds 3rd meeting of syndicate

HYDERABAD (APP): The 3rd meeting of Syndicate at Shaheed Allah Buksh Soomro (SABS) University of Art, Design and Heritage Jamshoro on Tuesday was held under the chair of vice-chancellor Prof. Dr. Arabella Bhutto to discuss and resolve matters relating to smooth conduct of business at the university.

The house confirmed the minutes of the 2nd meeting of the syndicate held on July 19, 2023, persuaded the actions taken on the decisions of same meeting and approved the actions taken by the vice-chancellor after the 2nd syndicate meeting. The syndicate also approved the revised budget for financial year 2023-24 amounting Rs 575.360 million and the estimate budget for 2024-25 amounting Rs 585.841 million.

MQM-P MNAs ask HESCO to curb outages in Ramazan, improve transmission standard

HYDERABAD (APP): The MNAs of Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) have requested Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) to desist from unscheduled outages during the holy month of Ramazan.

A delegation of MQM-P led by MNAs Syed Waseem Hussain and Abdul Aleem Khanzada met Chief Executive of HESCO Bashir Ahmed Gujjar at his office here on Tuesday to discuss the issues of the outages.

They also asked the CEO to stop removing the Pole Mounted Transformers (PMTs) or the high transmission links from the PMTs citing the problem of low recovery or theft.

They said the company should establish a

complaint center which should function round the clock in Ramazan.

The MNAs pointed out that the process of replacing the defected transformers had been made too excruciating for the consumers who were compelled to wait for several days for the replacement besides paying from their pocket.

They suggested that only HESCO should arrange a considerable stock of PMTs to ensure swift replacement, new 11 KV feeders should be created in order to lower load from the over-burdened 11KV feeders.

They maintained that some old field workers of HESCO who were well aware about problems in Hyderabad had been transferred to other cities.

DC vows to continue crackdown against profiteers

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner Sukkur, Fayyaz Hussain Mahesar on Tuesday fined as many as nine profiteers in the Sukkur city in a crackdown during first day of Ramazan.

MQM-P MNAs ask HESCO to curb outages in Ramazan, improve transmission standard

During his visit, the deputy commissioner fined 9 profiteers. Mahesar vowed to continue the crackdown against profiteers and warned the shopkeepers to sell the commodities at the government fixed rate.

On the occasion, price control magistrate and all other concerned officers were present the occasion.

The DC ordered to the magistrates to provide maximum relief to the masses who're worried from inflation.

Three labourers crushed to death, child drowns in pond

NAUSHAHRO FEROZE (INP): Three young labourers were crushed to death by an over speeding passenger coach while a child drowned in pond in different localities of Naushahro Feroze on Tuesday.

According to details, a reckless driven passenger coach ran over a motorcycle carrying three labourers at National Highway near Taj petrol pump in Kandiaro police station jurisdiction.

Major reshuffle in Sindh police, bureaucracy on the cards

KARACHI (INP): The newly formed government in Sindh is preparing to carry out a major reshuffle in police department and civil administration, with Ghulam Nabi Memon set to become Inspector-General of Police (IGP) once again. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has recommended Ghulam Nabi Memon for the Sindh IGP post following approval from Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leadership.

Price monitoring desks set up in Sukkur

SUKKUR (INP): The district administration Sukkur has set up price monitoring desks to ensure the availability of food items to residents at officially prescribed prices during the holy month of Ramazan. These desks have been set up following the directives of Commissioner Sukkur in order to ensure the supply of food items to the people and to take strict action against hoarders. The price monitoring desks were set up at different places in vegetable and fruit markets.

Efforts underway to deal with disease in banana crop: Secretary Agriculture

HYDERABAD (APP): Sindh Agriculture Secretary Syed Aijaz Ali Shah has said his department is making efforts to educate the farmers about the use and benefits of agricultural machinery.

Meeting a delegation of the growers in Tandojam here on Tuesday, Shah said steps were being taken to protect crops from various diseases.

He apprised that with regard to Panama wilt disease in banana crop consultation was underway with the experts to control the disease with the help of tissue culture and also by enhancing resistance to such disease in the crop.

According to him, the help of foreign experts had also been sought to cope with the banana disease in addition to organizing an awareness campaign in the province.

The Secretary, separately, visited the Tissue Culture Laboratory in Tandojam and reviewed the solar trolley for the farmers which had been prepared by the Agriculture Engineering wing.

Shah was briefed about the usefulness of the solar trolley and was shown the way it operated.



KARACHI: A view of rush on bazaar during 1st holy month of Ramadan.

All Universities employees of Sindh demands for 3 months salaries

LARKANA (APP): A meeting of All Sindh Universities Employees Federation "Asibaf" was under the chairmanship of its Chairman Noor Muhammad Hali on Monday.

The Federation General Secretary Ali Muhammad Shoro, Governor of Shah Latif University, Khairpur, Ali Phalputo, University of Karachi, Muhammad Shahid, Muhammad Ali Ghangharu of University of Sindh Jamshoro, Bilawal Mehr of Sindh Madrasal Islam University Karachi, Shakeel Ahmed Chandio of Quaid Awam University Nawab Shah, Arshad Khaskheli of

NED University Karachi, Sikandar Ali Junejo of LUMHS University Jamshoro, Sindh Syed Ishtiaq Ali Shah, Asif Ali Abaro, officials of various universities of Sindh along with Sajid Ali of Jinnah University Karachi and others attended the meeting.

Addressing on the occasion, the leaders said that at present, all the universities of Sindh have been deliberately subjected to financial crisis, now the employees are not being paid on time.

Chancellors and other officials continue to pay royalties and all benefits to employees from one to 16 are being stopped.