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Four terrorists killed Militant attack on Pakistan Navy base in Turbat foiled

Terrorists attacked naval base on night of March 25 and 26; Sepoy Noman Fareed embraced martyrdom during fight; Security forces "immediately mobilised" to support naval troops.

RAWALPINDI (INP): A Balochistan Frontier Corps soldier was martyred while four terrorists were killed as security forces thwarted an attack on a naval base in Turbat last night, the military's media affairs wing said.

In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that terrorists attempted to attack PNS Siddique in Turbat last night. It said that the attempt was foiled due to the "swift and effective response by the troops ensuring the safety and security of personnel and assets".

"Security forces in

the vicinity were immediately mobilised to support the naval troops. Synergistic and effective response by the armed forces enabled killing of all four terrorists in ensuing joint clearance operation," it said.

The ISPR said that during the intense fire exchange 24-year-old Sepoy Noman Fareed of the Balochistan Frontier Corps embraced martyrdom. Makran Commissioner Saeed Ahmed Umrani had earlier told Dawn that heavy exchange of fire and explosions were reported from the vicinity of Turbat airport on Monday night.



SHANGLA: View of site after targeted suicide bomb blast while rescue operation and investigation is underway, in Shangla.

Minister for Maritime Affairs visits KPT, holds meeting with officers

KARACHI (APP): The Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, on Tuesday visited Karachi Port Trust (KPT) head office. Upon his arrival, he was warmly received by Chairman KPT, Syedain Raza Zaidi. Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh presided over an introductory meeting attended by the Federal Secretary Iram Anjum Khan, KPT Trustee Asif Nisar Vohra and high officials of KPT.

A detailed presentation was given that included information on KPT's activities, current projects, upcoming projects and KPT's key issues. During the meeting, Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh outlined his vision to elevate KPT and other port to meet international standards. The Federal Minister expressed his strong affiliation with the

Karachi Port Trust, emphasizing the abundant opportunities it offers that he plans to leverage during his tenure as Minister. He further reiterated his commitment to promptly and decisively resolve the longstanding issues faced by KPT.

Additionally, the Chairman of KPT echoed the Minister's sentiments and expressed optimism about the collaborative efforts to enhance the port's efficiency and address key challenges. Chairman KPT, Syedain Raza Zaidi, provided an overview of KPT's advancements in modernization and enhancement efforts. Discussions encompassed ongoing development projects, completed initiatives, and future endeavors such as the LNG complex, Harbour Crossing Bridge, Cargo Village, and Industrial Village.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh visiting the Pakistan Maritime Academy.

Nisar Ahmed Khuhro for operation against dacoits, criminals

LARKANA (APP): President Pakistan People's Party Sindh Chapter Nisar Ahmed Khuhro Tuesday said that in order to deal with the law and order situation in Sindh, it was imperative to start a grand operation against dacoits, criminals and street criminals to eliminate them.

In a statement, he said that the law and order situation in some districts of Sindh is not good because bandits and criminals blocked the highways, and Indus highways in various places after evening and committed kidnapping and robbery.

He said it is a worrisome practice and such activities by criminals are tantamount to defying the writ of Sindh Government. Police and law enforcement agencies for strict opera-

tions against bandits, criminals and street criminals in urban areas of Sindh. It has become necessary so that peace is restored and the people of Sindh feel secure, he added.

He said that along with the elimination of criminals, modern weapons being used by the bandits and their rackets should also be eliminated. Khuhro said that the law enforcement agencies and the police should also keep an eye on how these modern weapons are reaching the robbers and criminals.

A close watch should be kept on the black sheep in the police, along with this, to prevent the entry of criminals into Sindh. He also said that, the system of surveillance and inspection should be tightened at the borders.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits the Chinese Embassy, and met with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong to offer condolences over the death of Chinese nationals in a suicide attack in District Shangla.

China demands thorough probe Military vows action after Shangla suicide attack kills 6 including Chinese engineers

ISPR says armed forces to hold all those involved in aiding terrorism accountable with nation's support, ironclad ally China; Certain foreign elements are complicit in aiding and abetting terrorism in Pakistan, driven by their vested interests; PM visits Chinese embassy, assures high-level probe; Anti-Pakistan elements will not succeed in harming Pak-China ties: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): Five Chinese and one Pakistani national were killed on Tuesday in a terrorist attack near Besham in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a statement.

"The government of Pakistan strongly condemns this heinous act of terrorism," the statement said adding "We will take all necessary measures to

bring the terrorists and their facilitators to justice. Such dastardly acts cannot dent the resolve of Pakistani nation to fight against the scourge of terrorism".

Today's attack was orchestrated by the enemies of Pakistan-China friendship. The government will resolutely act against all such forces and defeat them.

The people and government of Pakistan stand shoulder-to-shoulder with

our Chinese friends in this difficult time and extend sincere condolences to the families of the Chinese nationals killed in the attack.

Pakistan and China are close friends and iron brothers. The life and safety of Chinese nationals in Pakistan is of paramount importance. Pakistan will continue to work with our Chinese brothers in ensuring the safety and security of Chinese nationals, projects

and institutions in Pakistan, the statement added.

The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Monday in a statement said that with the unwavering support of the resilient nation and the country's iron-clad ally China, the Armed Forces would ensure that all those involved in aiding terrorism, directly or indirectly, are held accountable and find their due comeuppance.

President summons NA session on April 1

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari has summoned the session of National Assembly on the 1st of next month at four pm. It will be the second session of the 16th National Assembly.

CM condemns suicide attack on Chinese convoy in Shangla

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has strongly condemned a suicide attack on a Chinese convoy in Shangla.

According to a Spokesperson for the Chief Minister Sindh, Murad expressed his deep sorrow over the killing of the Chinese nationals. He said we would not allow anyone to disturb the peace of the country.

The China and Pakistan had brotherly relations, he said adding that both the countries were partners in many development projects.

Sardar Shah pays surprise visit to Govt Girls Degree College Zamzam

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Education Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah on Tuesday paid a surprise visit to the Government Girls Degree College Zamzam here.

The Provincial Minister reviewed the ongoing teaching process in the college. He interacted with the students and discussed matters pertaining to curricular process.

The provincial minister also took suggestions from the students.

Karachi youth killed for resisting robbery

KARACHI (INP): A young man was shot dead by robbers while he was returning home after attending an Ifar party at his maternal uncle's house in Surjan Town. Thirty-two-year-old Zohaib, son of Irfan, was killed by motorbike-borne robbers near Sector 4D in the Abdullah Morr area and fled from the spot. Javed, the uncle of Zohaib, said, his nephew reached the house to break fast with him and when he was returning to his home in Liaquatabad.

President lauds valour of security forces for foiling Turbat terror attack

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday lauded the security forces for their successful operation to foil a terrorist attack at the Naval Base in Turbat.

The president, in a statement, said that timely and effective action by the security forces to thwart the attack was appreciable.

He also lauded the valour of the soldiers who carried out the clearance operation and eliminated



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain, paid a courtesy visit to the office of Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, sparking discussions on matters of mutual interest.

Imran demands fresh inquiry after Donald Lu rebuffs 'cipher conspiracy'

Monitoring Desk
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founding chairman Imran Khan on Tuesday demanded a fresh inquiry into United States Assistant Secretary of State Donald Lu's statement denying "cipher conspiracy" that US engineered his ouster from power by supporting the then opposition's no-confidence motion in April 2022.

Testifying before a Congressional panel last week, the top US diplomat said: "I wanna be very clear on this point [that] this conspiracy theory is a lie [and

it is a complete falsehood." Speaking to journalists at Adiala jail, Khan denied the reports that the US envoy met him in the prison. He said that he would speak to the US envoy about Lu's statement and the alleged role of the US embassy in the ciphergate if he met him.

"The original copy of cipher is with the Foreign Office, we were only given a paraphrased copy [of the document]," the former premier said while referring to the allegations that he mis-placed the classified cipher document that he received as the prime minister.



KARACHI: Sindh Prisons Minister, Ali Hassan Zardari interacts with prisoners during his surprise visit at Child and Women Jail to review the facilities in the jail, in Karachi.

President, PM discuss overall political, economic situation

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a meeting with President Asif Ali Zardari in Islamabad on Tuesday and discussed the overall political and economic situation of the country. They expressed their joint commitment to steer the country out of the challenges. They also discussed measures to provide relief to the people during Ramadan.

Bilawal condemns terrorist incident in Bisham

KARACHI (APP): The Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has vehemently condemned an incident of terrorism in Bisham.

The PPP Chairman has expressed his grief and sorrow over the death of Chinese nationals in the suicide attack, according to a Bilawal House communique on Tuesday.

He demanded that the planners and facilitators involved in the terrorism incident should be exposed and punished severely.

Last day for withdrawal of Senate candidates today

KARACHI (APP): The Provincial Election Commission of Sindh has said that tomorrow is the last day for the withdrawal of candidates for the Senate elections 2024. In all 35 candidates have submitted their forms for 12 seats of the Senate from Sindh.

The elections are being held for 7 general, 2 technocrat, 2 women and 1 minority seats in the Senate from Sindh.

Four terrorists gunned down in DI Khan IBO: ISPR

RAWALPINDI (INP): Security forces gunned down four terrorists in Dera Ismail Khan (DIK) Intelligence Based Operation (IBO). In a statement released on Tuesday, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) stated that the security forces conducted the "IBO on the reported presence of terrorists".

IMF program is vital for stability of economy: PM

Announces significant incentives for highest tax payers

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has said IMF program is essential for stability of the economy.

"IMF program is necessary for the stability of economy. If economy is weak then no one pays heed. If we don't carry begging bowl even then they say begging bowl in under their armpit. There is mountain of loans on Pakistan and we pay salaries out of loans and execute development work. Providing better environment to tax payers is priority of government. We will have to abide by the principles of Quid-e-Azam to rid of loans. Doing business is not business of governments. Government has to extend help to the private sector in collaboration with the provincial governments. Youths are our valuable asset.

We will have to make them skilled. Gaza ceasefire resolution should be implemented at every cost. Pakistan will continue to extend help to the op-

pressed Palestinians, he said this while addressing Tax Excellence Award ceremony here Tuesday.

He held the adoption of resolution in UN Security Council (UNSC) with reference to ceasefire in Gaza is good omen. Israel is perpetrating the worst barbarity in Gaza. Implementation of ceasefire resolution is very important.

He went on to say the tax payers are great heroes and national architects. They scaled up exports. The motive behind this ceremony is to give message to nation that the government and private sector have to work together for development of the country. We have to end the red tapism. The decision making process have to be accelerated.

He stressed that we will have to provide business friendly environment to address economic challenges. Federal government has to work along with the provinces. All the governments are equally responsible for the mistakes committed in the past.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Nasir Shah highlights significant investment opportunities in energy sector

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister of Energy and Development and Planning, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, on Tuesday highlighted significant investment opportunities in energy sector and assured to extend cooperation and single window facility to foreign investors.

Sindh province is the energy hub of Pakistan that possesses vast potential of energy production from renewable sources like wind and solar, he expressed the views in a meeting with British High Commissioner Jane Marriott here, said a statement issued.

The energy minister said that only wind corridor has potential of generating 55000 megawatt elec-

tricity while 1845 megawatts of wind power and 250 megawatt of solar power generated in the province were being added to the national grid.

The meeting was briefed that work on various projects was in progress including 100 megawatts waste power generation, 15 megawatts from water, 400 megawatts from floating solar and 500 megawatts from green hydrogen technology project.

The meeting was informed that with the support of the World Bank, all government buildings were being shifted to solar power while a 400 MW solar park was also under construction.



KARACHI: Faithful Muslims are listening special speech and collective prayer after offer Tarweeh Prayer and completion of the Quran arranged by Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) during the Holy Month of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak, held at Pakistan House in Karachi.

Ahsan Iqbal directs expediting work on Gwadar Power Plant

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to expedite the construction work on the Gwadar Power Plant.

The minister passed these directives while chairing a meeting to review the progress of Gwadar Power Plant, which was attended by the ministry officials, Managing Director of Private Power Infrastructure Board (PPIB), the

Chinese Minister-Counselor Yang Guangyuan and other relevant stakeholders, a news release said.

The PPIB is processing the 300MW coal power project at Gwadar, being developed by M/s CIHC Pak Power Company (Pvt) Limited (CPPCL). The project is in the 'priority list' of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and holds paramount importance for the energy infrastructure and economic development of the region.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Ceasefire, finally

Over five months since the Gazan slaughter began, the UN Security Council finally approved on Monday a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the occupied Palestinian territory. Several such attempts had been made since the conflict between Israel and Hamas began on Oct 7, yet the US had vetoed three ceasefire resolutions.

This time, probably because of the international backlash against Israeli barbarism, as well as domestic criticism of the Biden administration's 'iron-clad' support for Tel Aviv's murderous campaign in an election year, Washington decided to abstain. This may indicate the American government's moral ambiguity over the mass murder of over 32,000 Palestinian civilians — the US ambassador to the UN said they "did not agree" with everything in the resolution — but perhaps such a position is preferable to stonewalling every attempt to stop the butchery.

While there is little to celebrate, as the level of suffering in Gaza is staggering, at least the people of the besieged Strip will be given a break from the daily dose of death and destruction to mourn their loved ones, and start the long, painful process of healing. The UN secretary general was recently at the Rafah crossing and called for removing the obstacles that are blocking aid from reaching Gaza. Israel is the biggest obstacle, and it is hoped the ceasefire will allow food, water and medical aid to reach hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in distress. Famine — most of it manufactured by Israel — now stalks Gaza, with the WHO saying children in the Strip are on the "brink of death". Moreover, thousands of children have been orphaned in this unholy war, and are in particular need of medical and psychological attention to help them deal with the trauma of watching genocidal violence unfold before their eyes. These must be the immediate goals of the international community.

Apart from extending prompt humanitarian assistance to Gaza's population, all sides must work towards a more permanent cessation of violence. It should be remembered that an almost weeklong truce was agreed to in November, but broke down soon after.

The current arrangement should be more durable. While talk of 'solutions' may be unrealistic right now, once the dust has settled, Israel should be made to pay for the murder of thousands of innocents. Palestinian lives matter, and a generation of orphaned Gazan children will be looking to the world community to secure justice for them.

All eyes will now be on Israel and the US, its chief patron. Will Tel Aviv abide by the UNSC resolution? Or will it live up to its reputation of being a rogue state by dismissing this binding call, and continuing with its criminal campaign in Gaza? The days ahead will be critical for the entire region.

All that glitters

Muhammad Moin Masood

The law is all about relationships. Ostensibly, it is a body of rules dictating relationships and the interconnectivity of our shared social experience. States, provinces, governments, statutory bodies, private companies, parents, spouses, and total strangers — the law dictates the interactions between two entities/individuals. The law determines our relationships.

However, what sort of relationships does the law determine? What kind of connection between two groups/individuals does it help set up? When the law compels two groups/individuals to mould their actions in a particular way, what is the result and where does it leave the connection with others in this world?

More often than not, the law helps set up a relationship where one party is stronger than the other. This is truer in the domain of public law. Between a state and an individual, between a parent ministry and an autonomous body, between the Speaker of the House and ordinary legislators — the law wants one in a position of strength and the other in a position of weakness or subordination.

This also holds true for relationships between private parties — from the right of divorce granted to the husband to majority shareholding in a company. In fact, if you look closely, it seems that the law requires one to be higher and the other to be subordinate.

That's how the law deems a relationship to be a lawfully workable one. It is, therefore, not hard to miss why the early jurists looked at the law as simply the

command of a higher power backed by the threat of coercion.

However, this article is not about age-old jurisprudence. One must look beyond the dictates of the law and pierce the veil of legal normality to assess whether this is true. Can society only function if it is held together by the chains of law linking our affairs top to bottom? Determining our relationships where one has power and the other is left at the mercy of the law? Or can this lopsided picture of the law be inverted, and can we forge relationships of equality? Can we act in a way that subverts this understanding of relationships — personal, professional, social and political — that one party is in a position of power and the other is not?

These questions could be answered in the affirmative. One can rage, cry out, march, speak, and shout — these are commendable acts of courage to highlight what one perceives as an injustice. However, you can also look at it another way. The mistake lies in yielding to the legal fiction that the law sets up — of taking the strength of one party at face value. Yes, the party in a 'legally strong' position has an advantage that the law bestows on it but that very strength has its own failings and disadvantages.

On the other hand, those who are looked upon as 'legally weak' are unaware of the inherent strength that lies in that very 'weakness'. Take the example of David and Goliath. At one hand is the massive Goliath, a towering warrior and at the other is David, an apparently weaker and smaller shepherd boy armed with only a slingshot. One seems to have all the

power and the other is at his mercy. However, as Malcolm Gladwell recounts in his book *David & Goliath*, it is precisely because David was seen as small and weak and Goliath as huge and strong that he was able to overcome Goliath. The slingshot was actually a missile aimed at a slow-moving huge lump of muscle which found its mark with devastating effect.

When looking at advantages, disadvantages and the power imbalance between those with strength and those who are weak, we can always invert the picture. Those who are powerful, are also weak because of that very power. Those who are deemed to be weak, have an advantage because of their relative weakness. This is the inner strength that can be tapped into despite the hurdles of the law. This was the inner strength on display during the suffragette's movement, the civil rights movement, the independence struggle and countless other struggles around the world. This is the piece of resistance in any resistance.

We can create relationships anew based on this deeper understanding of our strengths and weaknesses which is more valuable than any understanding of the law.

We may hike through precedent, expend all our energy on the letter of the law, take our knives out and slice through arguments, conceptualise and stress the theories of the kings of old.

Just to find the right workings of our relationships in society. However, the true picture may just emerge when you invert those relationships. All that glitters is not gold. -- Courtesy Dawn

Wasting waste

Jamil Ahmad

Waste management is a major challenge as the world's material footprint expands to meet the needs of economic development and a large population. Growing at 2.3 per cent annually, global production and consumption of material resources has tripled over the past 50 years. The volume of waste produced has also grown significantly during this period.

As resource exploitation is set to increase, the waste generated in the process will also grow, posing serious threats to human health and the environment, while exacerbating the crisis of climate change, nature loss and pollution.

With their capacity constraints of waste collection and disposal, developing countries feel the impact on multiple fronts. Waste is either dumped in landfills, burnt in the open, or thrown into rivers and other waterways. Chemical effluents and sewage are often discharged into rivers. Thus polluted water and toxic air spread disease and take lives in the absence of effective policy and regulations.

The United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Global Waste Management Outlook 2024 reveals that last year 2.3 billion metric tons of municipal solid waste was generated, which is set to reach 3.8bn metric tons by 2050. An estimated 540 million metric tons of municipal solid waste was not being collected, mostly in developing countries. The problem is acute in South Asia where rapid urbanisation and a growing population have accelerated waste generation. South Asia's 2bn-plus people constitute a quarter of the global population with per capita daily waste generation of about 0.5 kilograms.

UNEP estimates that

in Central and South Asia only 37pc of refuse generated is collected against a global average waste collection rate of 75pc. In contrast, in developed countries, almost all the waste is collected and disposed of. The huge volume of uncollected municipal refuse is creating health problems and an environmental disaster, while the costs of healthcare and pollution are rising.

However, waste management itself is a costly affair. "In 2020, the global direct cost of waste management was estimated at \$252bn," notes the UNEP report. "Factor-in the hidden costs of pollution, poor health, and climate change from poor waste disposal practices, the cost rises to \$361bn." It could almost double to \$640bn by 2050 without urgent action.

The problem is aggravated by the linear approach of the current economic development paradigm, which resorts to the indiscriminate use of material resources in pursuit of raising GDP. For cash-strapped developing countries, the challenge to keep town and cities clean and secure from disease is insurmountable. Establishing or revamping national strategies and development action plans for waste management is fundamental. They would need innovative ways to urgently prioritise policy actions that reduce waste generation as well as technical and financial support from development partners to implement waste management strategies.

An intersectional approach to policy development for waste management will minimise the multidimensional and harmful impact of municipal solid waste on poor and marginalised sections of society. UNEP and other UN organisations have iden-

tified policy measures which can help. Adapting a circular development model will reduce pressure on resource use and help decouple waste generation from economic growth based on the '3R' principle of reduce, reuse, and recycle. In this way, waste is converted into resource for another cycle of sustainable production.

Circularity and resource efficiency can be improved by harnessing digital technology and AI to mainstream sustainability practices across all sectors and move to a model of a zero-waste economy. Waste can also be used as a re-source to produce electricity.

The unregulated urban sprawl in many parts of South Asia without proper waste strategies is escalating the waste problem. More than half the waste generated is organic, which emits greenhouse gases if left to rot. Wasting this waste is unwise. The potential of 'waste-to-energy' must not go unexplored.

Local authorities and city administrations responsible for waste management must be enabled and provided with adequate resources for implementing action plans.

Human behaviour under the influence of a consumerist mindset and throwaway habits is also a major factor in the generation of waste. Governments, local authorities, industry, civil society, and media will need to work together to encourage a behavioural change for sustainable consumption and to raise awareness among households and citizens.

Achieving the SDGs related to poverty, health, water and sanitation, cities, climate change are all affected by the problem of uncollected and untreated municipal solid waste. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Finance minister terms tax award winners 'national heroes'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday termed the tax award winners 'national heroes,' urging the countrymen to pay their due taxes being responsible citizens.

"You [the tax award winners] are really our national heroes. The entire nation and the country should follow you as a beacon of light," the minister said while addressing the Tax Excellence Awards distribution ceremony here. The high taxpayers were awarded with the prizes by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Highlighting importance of tax collection in revenue generation, Aurangzeb said direct tax

on domestic side and exports on the external front were levers of the growth and development. "In Pakistan's case, the both flows have been raise-bound and therefore underwhelming, and redressing them on urgently basis is critical."

The finance minister reiterated a firm resolve of the government for restructuring and digitization of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), for which it was in process of appointing consultants "for design and implementation in term of end to end digitalization."

He talked about bringing structural reforms, doing end-to-end digitalization and ensuring transparency in the tax-collection system,

stressing that "We have to plug the leakages. There is a huge room for improvement in operational effectiveness of something rolled out few years back."

Aurangzeb was of the view to restore the confidence of superior clients' trust [high tax payers] in the government policies and transparency in the tax-collection system, which would help expand the tax-base.

The minister warned that the import-led and subsidy-supported businesses were not sustainable anymore and the country would have to accelerate export led-growth to achieve the trajectory of sustainable growth.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif presents awards to the highest taxpayers and exporters of the country at the Tax Excellence Awards 2024.

Minister Khalil Sindhu says: Govt implementing IT-based track & trace system in factories to control production

ISLAMABAD (APP): Provincial Minister for Human Rights and Parliamentary Affairs Tahir Khalil Sindhu Punjab said on Tuesday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will make the track and trace system fully functional for tax prevention in all sectors including tobacco, cement, sugar, and fertilizer industries.

Talking to PTV News, he said that FBR along with federal ministries and provincial departments is introducing a track and trace system in factories in Pakistan to promote

transparency. He further said that by introducing a track and trace system in various sectors, tax authorities will get quick and comprehensive access to data, facilitate proactive decision-making, and improve the accuracy of tax assessments.

He said that the track and trace system aims to increase tax revenue through better monitoring and regulation.

Replying to a question, he said that Shehbaz Sharif had strongly advised to use of the track and trace system

to prevent counterfeiting and substandard products.

This system is now fully functional in all fertilizer industries, he further said. Track and trace systems will also empower businesses to ensure quality control and compliance throughout the supply chain, the minister explained. To another question, the minister added that besides preventing revenue leakages, it will help in minimizing human intervention and thus pave the way for a transparent and reliable tax compliance system across the country.

Malik, UAE envoy agree on enhancing collaboration in petroleum sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik, and the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in Pakistan, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaab on Tuesday agreed to enhance collaboration in the petroleum sector.

In a meeting, the ambassador congratulated Dr Musadik Malik on assuming the charge of the Ministry of Petroleum, said a news release.

He highlighted the historical significance of relations between the UAE and Pakistan.

Rupee gains 5 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday gained 05 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs278.07 against the previous day's closing of Rs278.12. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs278.5 and Rs281.25, respectively.

CM Maryam Nawaz says Want to cooperate with China in agriculture, IT, environment sectors

Independent Report LAHORE: "Pakistan and China have maintained closest and strongest friendship, but there is still a lot of room for improvement in economic ties," said Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif in a meeting with Chairman China State Construction Engineering Corporation, Mr Wang Yaobong. She added, "There are numerous opportunities for collaboration."

Madam Chief Minister expressed her resolve to welcome China's cooperation in agriculture, IT and environmental protection. She appreciated and

said, "CSCEC's projects in Pakistan demonstrate construction quality and professionalism." She added,

"She is grateful to China State Construction Engineering Corporation for undertaking construction projects in Punjab like Arfa Karim IT Tower in Lahore."

Madam Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "China's one-window operation system for investment promotion is the best model worldwide." She added, "CPEC is China's gift to Pakistan. Punjab government will fully cooperate for the timely completion of CPEC projects."



LAHORE: Chairman China State Construction Engineering Corporation's (CSCEC) Chairman Mr. Wang Yaobong meeting with Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

Pakistan imports pulses every year by paying a huge amount of foreign exchange: Ghulam

By Aijaz Mughal UMERKOT: Pakistan is an agricultural country, which is mostly dependent on the agricultural sector, despite being an agricultural country, Pakistan imports pulses every year by paying a huge amount of foreign exchange, which is about 8 billion dollars. These views were expressed by Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research Council Islamabad Ghulam Muhammad Ali while addressing an awareness seminar under the Agricultural Research Council (AZRC) Umerkot at Royal Marriage

Hall kunri. In the seminar, inventor and project director of moong dal variety Sona Moong, Dr. Muhammad Mansoor Joya, Public Relations Officer (PARC) Islamabad Noman Mustafa, Senior Scientific Officer and Senior Director Azizullah Shah, Dr. Muhammad Siddique Dipper and progressive farmers including Mian Muhammad Saleem, Humayun Sattar, Yasin Memon, Abbas Rind and Ghulam Sarwar Dars, leader of the Abadgar Board, among others participated in large numbers.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of UAE Hamad Obaid Al-Zaab calls on Federal Minister for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik.

Pak-Qatar sign agreements to boost Pak workforce opportunities in Qatar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government of Pakistan and Qatar have signed several agreements and letter of Intent (LOIs) with top Qatari companies the main purpose of this initiative was set to significantly enhance employment opportunities for the Pakistani workforce in Qatar.

An official source told APP, the signing of these Agreements with renowned Qatari firms, including Qatari

Diyar-Saudi Bin Laden Group Construction (QD-SBG), Hamad Bin Khaled Contracting Company W.L.L. (HBK), Ali Bin Ali Holding W.L.L., Sheikh Jabor Bin Mansour Bin Jabor Bin Jassim Al Thani (JMJ) Holding, Tabeer Care Medical Services, and Al Rawnaq International Commercial Projects, marks a crucial step in strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and Qatar.

Governor written letter to CM Punjab for appointments to important posts in universities

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman/Chancellor has written a letter to Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz to draw her attention for permanent appointments to the most important posts in universities across Punjab. Governor Punjab said that in the past appointments to the statutory posts were not made in time in the universities across Punjab. He added that due, the most important positions of the universities

including vice chancellor, registrar, treasurers and controller of examinations are lying vacant. He said that these positions play a key role in running the universities in a better way. The Punjab Governor emphasized that immediate steps should be taken for permanent appointments to these positions so that the universities can make progress in the fields of education and research.

Meanwhile, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman approved the 28-day ex-Pakistan leave of Principal

Aitchison College Michael A. Thomson. In the absence of Principal Aitchison College, Anna Kamran and Khalid Noon Barsar will look after the administrative affairs in his place. Besides, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman strongly condemned the suicide blast in Shingla. He expressed deep sorrow and regret over the death of six people including Chinese nationals in this incident. Governor Punjab also extended his condolences to the families of the deceased.



GILGIT: Deputy Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Sadia Danish in a meeting with the PPP workers.

LHC CJ presides over first meeting with D&SJs

LAHORE (APP): Lahore High Court (LHC) Chief Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmed Khan on Tuesday presided over the first meeting with the district and sessions judges of all 36 districts of Punjab.

LHC Registrar Sheikh Khalid Bashir, Director General of District Judiciary Malik Muhammad Sajid Ali Awan, and Senior Additional Registrars of all three allied LHC benches were also present on the occasion.

During the deliberations, district and sessions judges from across Punjab voiced their perspectives, laying the groundwork for constructive discourse. Subsequently, Chief

Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmed Khan unveiled a series of immediate directives aimed at bolstering the efficacy and integrity of the judicial process. Among the key initiatives announced: Implementation of video conferencing technology for evidence recording and argument hearings within the district judiciary; swift dismissal of frivolous litigation upon initial review, with stringent penalties for offenders; mandate for judicial officers to prioritize courtroom presence, with sanctions for prolonged absence; revamping the curriculum of the Punjab Judicial Academy to align with contemporary legal standards.

ANF recovers 640 kg drugs in five operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations across the country managed to recover 640 kg drugs and arrested five accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday.

He informed that 230 kg heroin and 220 kg crystals were recovered from the Western Bypass Quetta area. In the second operation, 100 kg opium and 80 kg hashish were recovered from Mashkil Chagai.

In the third operation, 6.8 kg weed was recovered from three accused arrested from Sher Shah Toll Plaza Multan.

Anti-kite flying walk organised in Muzaffargarh

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Kite-flying is completely banned in the district and police would deal violators of the ban with sternly.

This was stated by District Traffic Officer, Zafar Hayyat during an awareness walk organized to highlight the dangerous impacts of flying kites here on Tuesday.

The walk was attended by local trade unions, members of civil society, and the media.

The walk started from the police line after passing through the main bazaar and culminated at Fyaz Chowk.

CM decides to establish liver transplant center

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has announced plans to establish a liver transplant and bone marrow transplant center aimed at enhancing healthcare services in the province.

The decision was made during a high-level meeting attended by provincial cabinet members, health experts, and officials.

The initial liver transplant center is slated to be established at the Institute of Kidney Diseases in Peshawar, with plans to relocate these vital facilities to Khyber Medical University.

Additionally, the

meeting also decided on plans for setting up the Institute of Neurosurgery, to be located at Fountain House Peshawar. The provincial government aims to provide accessible liver and bone marrow transplant services to the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, thereby mitigating the necessity for individuals to seek treatment outside the province.

Moreover, efforts are underway to ensure round-the-clock availability of dialysis services in government hospitals equipped with such amenities, with endeavors to introduce dialysis services in hospitals currently lacking them.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali offering Fateha after funeral prayers of mother of senior journalists Gulzar Khan.

Qasim stresses Professionalism and innovation in education, healthcare in visit to KMU

PESHAWAR: The Provincial Health Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Syed Qasim Ali Shah, underscored the importance of professionalism and innovation in education and healthcare during his recent visit to Khyber Medical University (KMU). He emphasized that both sectors are top priorities of the government, advocating for the

introduction of European model medical facilities in healthcare and market-based subjects in Medical educational institutions.

The visit also featured an enlightening presentation by Vice-Chancellor, KMU Prof. Dr. Zia Ul Haq, who highlighted the university's endeavors in expanding physiotherapy, nursing, and allied health sciences programs across Province and Newly merged (NMDs) area.

AG KP says: Governor can't summon assembly session for oath taking on reserved seats

PESHAWAR (APP): The office of Advocate General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has submitted reply to the Peshawar High Court and the Law Department saying that the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cannot summon assembly session by himself for the swearing-in ceremony of elected members on reserved seats.

According to the document, "Assembly

meeting can be convened on the advice or requisition of the Chief Minister, calling the meeting by the Governor was an unconstitutional process, so it cannot be implemented."

The reply further said that the governor can convene the first meeting after the election by himself, besides, the governor can also convene the meeting in case of no-confidence motion.

Five senior faculty members of PIBC offer resignation

MULTAN (APP): Five senior faculty members of Pak Italian Modern Burn Centre (PIBC) offered resignation against second time appointment of Executive Director, Dr Naveed Akhtar on political basis and indecent behaviour of senior registrar, Dr Ahmed Ali Malik with senior medics.

They sent their resignation to Secretary Specialized Health care and Medical Education, Ali Jan Khan.



LAHORE: Teachers and parents of students of Aitchison College are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, outside Punjab Governor House building in Lahore.

16 development schemes worth Rs 72.997b approved

LAHORE (APP): The Provincial Development Working Party, Punjab (PDWP) in its 48th meeting of the current financial year here Tuesday approved 16 development schemes at an estimated cost of Rs 72.997 billion.

P&D Board Chairman Barrister Nabeel Ahmad Awan presiding over the PDWP meeting that approved the following schemes:

1) Channelization of Jabba Nullah Tehsil & District Mianwali at the

cost of Rs 960.456 million

2) Concrete Lining of Maggi Magassom Link RD 0 to 58500 at the cost of Rs 420.263 million

3) Rehabilitation of 6R/Hakra with System at the cost of Rs 461.283 million

4) Rehabilitation of 7R/Hakra with System at the cost of Rs 414.936 million.

5) National Program for Improvement of Watercourse In Pakistan (Punjab component) Phase-II at the cost of Rs 47503.49 million.

International News

Ukrainian says a third of Russian warships in the Black Sea have been destroyed or disabled

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine has sunk or disabled a third of all Russian warships in the Black Sea in just over two years of war, the navy spokesman said Tuesday, a heavy blow to Moscow's military capability.

Ukraine's Navy spokesman Dmytro Pletenchuk told The Associated Press that the latest strike on Saturday night hit the Russian amphibious landing ship Kostiantyn Olshansky that was resting in dock in Sevastopol in Russia-occupied Crimea. The ship was part of the Ukrainian navy before Russia captured it while annexing the Black Sea peninsula in 2014.

Pletenchuk has previously announced that two other landing ships of the same type, Azov and Yamal, also were damaged in

Saturday's strike along with the Ivan Khurs intelligence ship.

He told the AP that the weekend attack, which was launched with Ukraine-built Neptune missiles, also hit Sevastopol port facilities and an oil depot.

Russian authorities reported a massive Ukrainian attack on Sevastopol over the weekend but didn't acknowledge any damage to the fleet.

Pletenchuk said that with the latest attack, a third of all warships that Russian had in the Black Sea before the war have been destroyed or disabled. Moscow officials have kept mum on most of Ukrainian claims, but previous navy losses have been confirmed by Russian military bloggers and media.

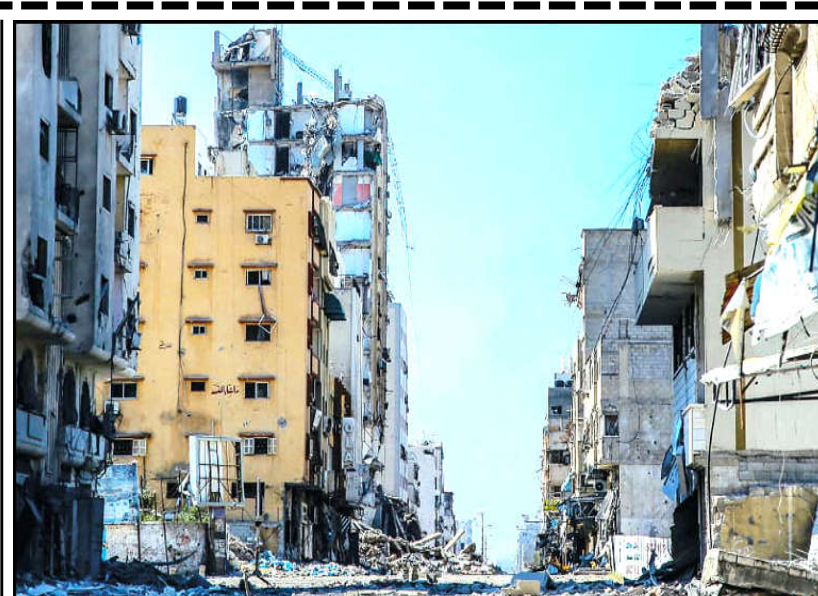
At the same time, Pletenchuk acknowledged

that just two of about a dozen of Russian missile carrying warships have been sunk and pledged that Ukraine will continue the strikes.

"Our ultimate goal is complete absence of military ships of the so-called Russian Federation in the Azov and Black Sea regions," Pletenchuk told the AP.

Successful Ukrainian drone and missile strikes have provided a major morale boost for Kyiv at a time when its undermanned and under-gunned forces are facing Russian attacks along the more than 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) front line.

Challenging Russia's naval superiority also has helped create more favorable conditions for Ukrainian grain exports and other shipments from the country's Black Sea ports.



A view of destruction from Israeli strikes in Gaza City.

Airstrikes in Syria kill an Iranian adviser and a member of a World Health Organization team

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: A series of airstrikes in eastern Syria on Tuesday killed more than a dozen people, including an Iranian military adviser and a team member working for the World Health Organization, officials and reports said. It was not immediately clear who was behind the airstrikes in Syria's eastern province of Deir el-Zour that borders Iraq.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said the strikes killed 15 people including an Iranian adviser

with Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, two of his bodyguards as well as nine Iraqi fighters from an Iran-backed group and two Syrians working with the Iranians. It added that a Syrian engineer was also killed. Iran's state news agency confirmed that a Revolutionary Guard member was killed in Syria.

Dama Post, a pro-government media outlet in Syria, said the strikes targeted the provincial capital of Deir el-Zour that carries the same name, and the towns of Mayadeen and Boukamal.

Taiwan tests air defences in early morning missile drills

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: Taiwan tested its air defences on Tuesday in early morning drills using surface-to-air missiles, and air, land and naval forces, saying it would continue to intensify training in the face of China's frequent military activities nearby.

Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, has complained over the past four years of repeated instances of Chinese air force aircraft and navy ships operating close to and around the island.

Russian investigators query families of shooting suspects in Tajikistan, sources say

Monitoring Desk
DUSHANBE: Russian investigators were in Tajikistan on Tuesday, questioning the families of four men charged with carrying out a deadly attack on a concert hall near Moscow, three Tajik security sources told Reuters. The sources, who were not authorised to comment publicly, said Tajik security officials had brought the families to the capital of Dushanbe from the towns of Vakhdat and Gissar, and from the Rudaki district.

Two Moscow attack suspects travelled 'freely' because no arrest warrant: Turkish official

Monitoring Desk
ISTANBUL: A Turkish security official on Tuesday said two of the Moscow concert hall attack suspects travelled "freely" to Russia as no arrest warrants were issued against them.

Russian authorities detained 11 people in connection with Friday's attack, which saw camouflaged gunmen storm into Crocus City Hall, open fire on concert-goers and set the building ablaze, killing at least 139 people.

UN expert accuses Israel of several acts of genocide

Monitoring Desk
GENEVA: A UN rights expert said on Monday there were "reasonable grounds" to determine that Israel has committed several acts of "genocide" in Gaza, also evoking "ethnic cleansing".

Francesca Albanese, the UN special rapporteur on the rights situation in Palestinian territories, said there were clear indications that Israel had violated three of the five acts listed under the international genocide convention.

"The overwhelming nature and scale of Israel's assault on Gaza and the destructive conditions of life it has inflicted reveal an intent to physically destroy Palestinians as a group," she said in a report.

Albanese, an independent expert appointed by the UN Human Rights Council but who does not

speak on behalf of the United Nations, said she had found "reasonable grounds to believe that the threshold indicating the commission of... acts of genocide against Palestinians in Gaza has been met".

The report, entitled "Anatomy of a Genocide", listed those acts as: "Killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to the group's members; and deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part". Israel's diplomatic mission in Geneva said the country "utterly rejects the report". Albanese's report, which she is due to present to the Human Rights Council on Tuesday, maintained that Israel's "genocidal acts" followed "statements of genocidal intent".

Hong Kong leader says early prison release unlikely for national security offenders

Monitoring Desk
HONG KONG: Hong Kong's leader John Lee said on Tuesday it would become "common practice" not to grant people convicted of national security offences early release from prison under the city's new national security law.

Lee's remarks at a weekly press conference came amid local media reports that activist Ma Chun-man was the first prisoner blocked from early release for good behaviour after the new law took force at the weekend. The law, known as Article 23, covers new or updated offences including sedition, espionage and interference by external forces, sparking international criticism that some definitions are too vague and it could damage the Chinese-ruled city's international financial hub credentials. Hong Kong officials have said Article 23 was vital to plugging loop-

holes and bring long-term stability after the former British colony was rocked by months of protests in 2019.

Ma, dubbed "Captain America 2.0" for wielding the comic book hero's shield during the 2019 pro-democracy protests, was convicted in 2021 of inciting secession through his slogans, statements and placards under an earlier Beijing-imposed security law. He was sentenced to five years and nine months.

Ma later won an appeal and his sentence was reduced to five years. If granted the usual one-third reduction for good behaviour, he would have been released on Monday. Lee said endangering national security was a serious crime and it needed to be made clear to everyone that perpetrators of such crimes would not normally be granted an early release from prison.



Supporters of Wikileaks founder Julian Assange hold a banner and placards outside The Royal Courts of Justice, Britain's High Court, in central London, UK.

Japan approves plan to sell fighter jets to other nations

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Japan's Cabinet on Tuesday approved a plan to sell future next-generation fighter jets that it's developing with Britain and Italy to other countries, in the latest move away from the country's postwar pacifist principles.

The contentious decision to allow international arms sales is expected to

help secure Japan's role in the joint fighter jet project and is part of a move to build up the Japanese arms industry and bolster its role in global security.

The Cabinet also endorsed a revision to Japan's arms equipment and technology transfer guidelines to allow coproduced lethal weapons to be sold to countries other than the partners.

Trump wins lifeline in civil fraud case

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Donald Trump was thrown a huge lifeline on Monday when an appeals court slashed what could have been a crippling demand for a nearly half-billion-dollar bond payment and also gave him 10 more days to pay. The Republican presidential candidate got the unexpectedly positive news about his New York civil fraud case while he was sitting in court for another case — a hearing in his upcoming criminal trial over paying hush money to a porn star. Trump had been facing a Monday deadline to pay the huge amount pending an appeal against a judge's decision that he is liable for fraudulently conspiring to inflate his net worth. Trump had made clear he was unable to find the \$454 million and he risked seeing New York state confiscate parts of his property empire in response. Now with Monday's decision, he will have 10 more days to pay just \$175 million.

President calls on provinces to prioritize primary, secondary education for orphans

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday urged provincial governments to take special measures aimed at ensuring access to primary and secondary education for orphaned children across the country. Stressing the need to actively participate in the cause of education, training and care of orphans, the president said the support and education of orphans was a common responsibility of all of us. He was speaking at an iftar dinner hosted by him for the orphaned children at

the President House on the occasion of Orphans Day. Every year on 15th of Ramadan, the World Orphan's Day is celebrated on the call of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in all the member countries. President Zardari said he was delighted to meet the innocent and charming children. Aseefa Bhutto Zardari was also present at the ceremony. She also met orphans from different cities. Chairman Pakistan Orphan Care Forum (POCF) Air Marshal (ret'd) Farooq

Habib addressing the event said the POCF was working for the upbringing and care of orphans. He said healthy societies always care for the development and education of the vulnerable, especially orphans. He said there were about 4.6 million orphans in the country while the POCF was taking care of around 100,000 orphan children. Expressing gratitude to President Asif Zardari, the Chairman POCF said inviting children to the presidency would increase their confidence and motivation.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal chairing a meeting on progress of Gwadar Power Plant with Chinese company.

Commissioner visits utility stores of Sakrand, Nawabshah

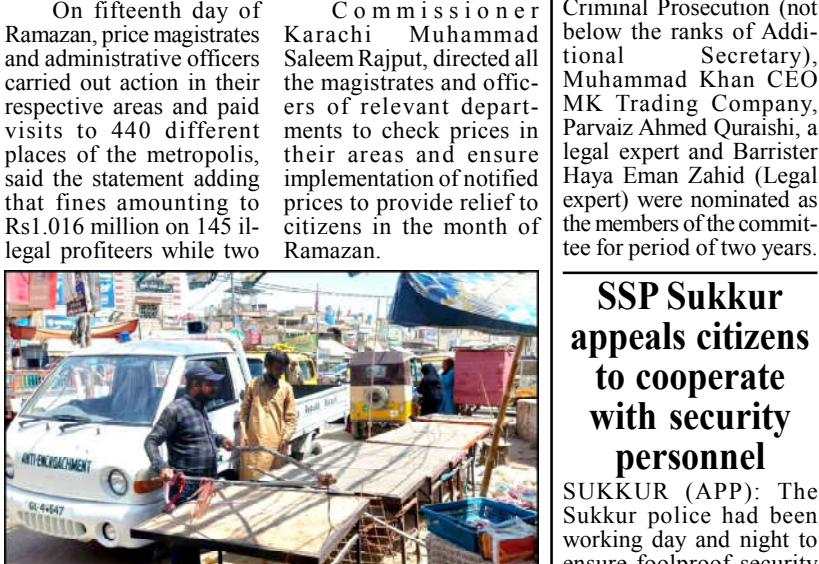
NAWABSHAH (APP): The Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad division Syed Muhammad Sajjad Hyder visited utility stores of Sakrand and Nawabshah and checked prices of daily use commodities. On the occasion Commissioner directed management of Utility stores to provide essential items to people under Prime Minister's Ramadan Relief Package including flour, Sugar, Rice and other items. He further directed to

provide essential items to citizens according to their requirement so that they could take sigh of relief. Commissioner appealed people to get benefit from Ramzan Relief package by purchasing daily use items on subsidized rates. Incharge Utility stores apprised Commissioner that 10 kg wheat flour bag was being sold at Rs.648 and Sugar was available at Rs. 109 per kg while other items were being also sold on cheap prices.

Administration imposes fines of Rs24.588 million on overpricing

KARACHI (APP): Karachi Administration, during 20 days of ongoing special price checking campaign, imposed fines of over Rs24.588 million while 33 shops were sealed for violating officially notified rates. The campaign initiated on directives of Sindh Chief Minister for ensuring availability of essential items of daily use on officially notified rates during Ramazan-ul-Mubarak is being monitored by Commissioner Karachi, said a statement issued here on Tuesday.

As per details, fines of Rs288,500 were imposed on 37 illegal profiteers in district South, Rs107,000 on 17 profiteers in district East and fines of Rs52,000 were imposed on 17 profiteers in district West. In district Central 41 illegal profiteers were imposed fines of Rs392,000, in district Malir 14 profiteers were fined Rs56,000, in district Korangi eight shopkeepers were fined Rs75,000 and in district Keamari fines of Rs45,000 imposed on 11 illegal profiteers. Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Saleem Rajput, directed all the magistrates and officers of relevant departments to check prices in their areas and ensure implementation of notified prices to provide relief to citizens in the month of Ramazan.



KARACHI: Anti encroachment operation in progress removed illegal encroachment during anti encroachment drive under the supervision of Town Municipal Corporation, at Liaquat Market Malir Colony in Karachi.

FIA arrests company owner, son in Rs 5 bln Tax fraud

KARACHI (INP): Federal investigation Agency (FIA) on Tuesday arrested a private company owner and his son following allegations of involvement in a massive tax fraud amounting Rs 5 billion. The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has confirmed that the company is suspected of using fake sales invoices to evade taxes worth billions. An investigation by the FBR has revealed that the company, associated with individuals named Nawab Khan and Aftab, is linked to the fraudulent activity. The fraudulent

scheme primarily targeted the steel sector in Karachi, as disclosed by the FBR. Statements from the FBR indicated that both the father and son were arrested in Karachi, with a case officially registered against them. Over the course of three months, the FBR conducted an extensive probe into the company's records. During the investigation, it was discovered that Nawab Khan was directly involved in issuing fake receipts and deceived buyers with fake invoices to generate false tax returns.



ISLAMABAD: Federal minister for Aviation Khawaja Muhammed Asif chairs a meeting on outsourcing of airports and privatisation of PIACL at aviation division.

Nasir Shah directs measures to control prices during Ramazan ul Mubarak

SUKKUR (APP): Provincial Minister for Energy, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah Tuesday chaired a meeting to control prices of daily commodities and extend maximum relief to people during the holy month of Ramazan. The meeting was briefed about proposed Price Control Mechanism for providing relief to masses during the holy month. It was told that district administrations have been directed to ensure implementation of the mechanism without any delay. The control rooms have also been established at district level to monitor prices, it was further told in the meeting. The mobile teams have been deployed in all Sukkur areas besides setting

up monitoring desks to ensure provision of edible items as per rates fixed by the provincial government. The provincial minister praised the district administration's efforts to fix food prices, noting that complaints of shortages have been addressed. He also acknowledged the need to address the shortage of fertilisers issue. He said that a comprehensive strategy has been adopted to bring improvement in the system. He said that provincial government is committed to providing relief to the poor people during the month of Ramazan-ul-Mubarak. He said the Sindh government has established monitoring committees at both provincial and divisional levels to keep a close watch on prices.

Government ends gas slab discount, moves to flat rate system

ISLAMABAD (INP): The government has abolished the current tiered gas billing system with slabs and discounts, instead moving to a flat rate system for gas consumption. This change will impact domestic and industrial consumers alike, as everyone will be charged the same rate regardless of the amount of gas they use. Under the new system, the price per unit of gas (MMBTU) will be uniform across sectors, including domestic, commercial, general industry, and even export-oriented consumers. The exact price is yet to be finalized and awaits approval. However, it is expected to be around Rs. 4,501 (excluding taxes) for consumers in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad. This decision comes on the heels of a recent request by Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL)

for a 147% increase in gas tariffs. During a public hearing, the company argued that the gas price needs to be raised to Rs. 4,446 per MMBTU to reflect production costs. Consumers present at the hearing expressed strong opposition to the proposed hike, highlighting the potential for business closures and rising unemployment due to high gas prices. Stakeholders pointed out that existing gas prices have already forced numerous businesses to shut down, despite the fact that Pakistan sells gas to some customers for as low as \$4 per unit while purchasing it internationally for \$15. The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) chairman acknowledged the concerns of both consumers and gas companies and indicated that a final decision on gas price revisions will be made after careful consideration.



ISLAMABAD: Ms. Aseefa Bhutto Zardari in a group photo with children from different orphanages on the occasion of Iftar-Dinner hosted by the President on Orphans Day in the Islamic World, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

MD SSWMB asks contractor to overcome shortage of machinery, staff to ensure cleaning

KARACHI (APP): Managing Director of Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB), Syed Imtiaz Ali Shah Tuesday presiding over a meeting of the officials of the private contractor working in the Central district, said that the company should overcome shortage of technical, experienced staff, sanitary works and machinery for Central district as per the agreement. He directed that use tray compactors in routine work and employ Portable Compactor Transfer (PCTS) at the appropriate sites. He said that our priority is to provide relief to the residents of the Central district in terms of cleaning work. He said that redressal of complaints is possible only when the company

will collect garbage from every house as per the contract and provide awareness. On this occasion, the MD Solid Waste said that for positive results, the company should prepare an area wise action plan. After recruiting experienced staff, provide training to them is an essential component. If relief is not provided to the citizens as soon as possible, show-cause notices and fines will be imposed on the company, he said. Executive Director Operations Tariq Nizamani, Director M&E Sabir Shah, Deputy Director Procurement Aftab Ahmed, Deputy Director Central Adil Hashmi and officials of the private company were present in the meeting.

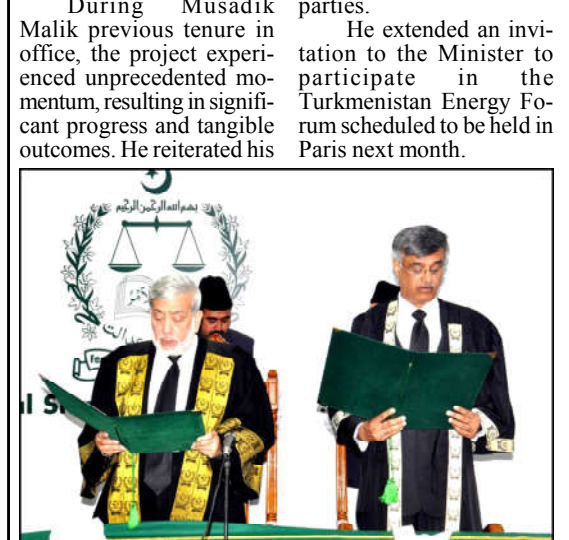


KARACHI: A view of traffic jam near Liaqtabad market.

Pakistan committed to complete TAPI gas pipeline project: Musadik Malik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik, reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project, describing it as a flagship project essential for the country's energy needs. During a meeting with the Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan, Atadjan Movlamov, the Minister said that TAPI gas pipeline project is very important for Pakistan's energy requirements, said a news release issued by the Ministry of Energy Petroleum Division. During Musadik Malik previous tenure in office, the project experienced unprecedented momentum, resulting in significant progress and tangible outcomes. He reiterated his

dedication to advancing the project. The Ambassador Movlamov felicitated the Minister on assuming office and commended his dedication to the project. Acknowledging the Ambassador's warm wishes, Dr. Musadik Malik expressed gratitude for the support and pledged to uphold the partnership between both countries. Atadjan Movlamov briefed about the scheduled intergovernmental commission and working group meetings for the project this year. The envoy said that TAPI represents a win-win situation for all involved parties. He extended an invitation to the Minister to participate in the Turkmenistan Energy Forum scheduled to be held in Paris next month.



ISLAMABAD: Honourable Mr. Justice Iqbal Hameedur Rahman, Chief Justice, Federal Shariat Court administer oath to Mr. Justice Amir Muhammad Khan as Judge of Federal Shariat Court.

ILMA University partners with Sindh Government: 100 scholarships announced for Government College students

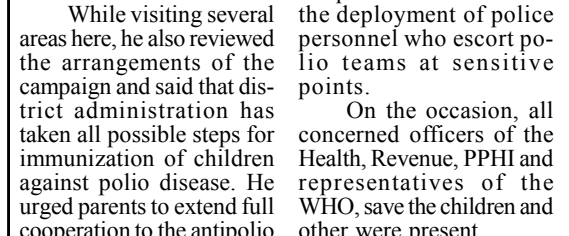
ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has underlined Pakistan's commitment to further deepen cooperation with Türkiye in all areas of mutual interest. He said this while talking to Ambassador of Türkiye Dr. Mehmet Pacaci in Islamabad today who paid a courtesy call to him. Meanwhile, the Foreign Minister also received the Russian Ambassador Albert Khorev and discussed bilateral areas of cooperation including global and regional issues of mutual concern. Swedish Ambassador Henrik Persson called on Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar in Islamabad today. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and cooperation in trade, investment, education, and people-to-people exchanges.

Independent Report KARACHI: Sindh Minister of Education, Syed Sardar Ali Shah, witnessed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between the Sindh College Education Department and ILMA University. Under the agreement, ILMA University will provide scholarships to 100 students from government colleges each year. The ceremony, held at the College Education Secretariat, was attended by Secretary School Education, Sadaf Anis Shaikh, Secretary Sindh Education Endowment Fund Trust, Faqeer Muhammad Lakhoo, Deputy Director Atif Hussain Vighio, faculty members of ILMA University, and other dignitaries. Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah met with the Vice-Chancellor of ILMA University, Professor Dr. Masroor Zafer, to discuss providing quality education to the youth of Sindh and reached a consensus on the draft of the MoU. The scholarship will cover 100% of the expenses, including tuition fees, accommodation, and meals, for students pursuing degree programs in various disciplines such as BA, MA, Computer Science, Engineering, Media Sciences, and others.

Anti-polio immunization drive kicks off in Sukkur

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Sukkur, Fayyaz Hussain Mahesar on Tuesday said the five-day anti polio immunization drive has been kicked off from today (Monday) in all Union Councils of district Sukkur to ensure that each and every child below five years of age is vaccinated against polio disease which could overcome through collective struggle of all relevant circles. While visiting several areas here, he also reviewed the arrangements of the campaign and said that district administration has taken all possible steps for immunization of children against polio disease. He urged parents to extend full cooperation to the antipolio

teams so that the drive could be made successful. In this regard, all the arrangements were already finalized by the district administration and polio teams would go door-to-door to administer polio drops to maximum children under the five years of age. District Health Officer (DHO) Sukkur, in a briefing said that adequate security measures have been taken during the polio drive as well as the deployment of police personnel who escort polio teams at sensitive points. On the occasion, all concerned officers of the Health, Revenue, PPHI and representatives of the WHO, save the children and other were present.



MOHENJO DARO: A British tourist delegation are visiting and expressed keen interest in the historical ruins of the World Heritage Monuments of Mohenjo Daro.

Chinese company hosts Iftar-cum-dinner for locals

KARACHI (INP): LONGi, a leading Chinese photovoltaic company, while embracing the spirit of Ramadan, hosted Iftar-cum-dinner in rural Sukkur. More than 200 individuals, including young boys and girls from the area, participated in the Iftar-cum-dinner and enjoyed the delicious food presented by LONGi. The participants at the event broke their fast with dates and traditional Laal Sharbat, complemented by samosas, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. This customary start

to Iftar, marked by the consumption of dates and refreshing beverages like Laal Sharbat, was thoughtfully prepared by LONGi to honor both the cultural and religious practices of the participants. Iftar was followed by dinner, with pulao boxes provided to the participants. They relished their meals. "We're incredibly grateful for the opportunity to connect with our community and make a meaningful difference together," reads an official statement from LONGi.

Two robbers killed in Sukkur police encounter

SUKKUR (INP): Two robbers were killed in exchange of fire with police here in the wee hours of Tuesday. According to details, two robbers riding a motorcycle fleeing after looting citizens came across police at Saeedabad link road in Airport police station jurisdiction. Upon sight of police, the robbers started firing and attempted to flee from the scene. In retaliatory firing of police, both robbers later identified as Anwar Noon and Khadim Hussain was killed on the spot.

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