

Independent

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 06. No. 69 Ramazan 22, 1445 AH Tuesday April 02, 2024 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

Directs foolproof security for Chinese nationals Bisham terror attack aimed to harm Pak-China extraordinary friendship, says PM Shehbaz

Govt to leave no stone unturned to punish terrorists behind attack

DASU (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday assured foolproof security measures for the Chinese nationals working on Dasu Hydropower Project as well as across the country and resolved to ensure exemplary punishment for the perpetrators of March 26 incident.

Addressing a gathering of the Chinese engineers and workers, he said the government would ensure that the perpetrators and culprits of March 26 incident should get the exemplary punishment, so that it would be a lesson and that no one could commit such dastardly act in future.

The prime minister said that the sole purpose of his visit was to offer

deep and sincere condolences and express feelings to the Chinese brothers and sisters in Dasu over a sad incident that took place on March 26 in which five Chinese and one local lost their lives. He said it was a cowardly act on part of the terrorists to kill innocent Chinese and a Pakistani for no other reason except to disturb and damage the exceptional friendship between Pakistan and China.

Federal Ministers Amir Muqam, Attaullah Tarar, Chairman WAPDA Lt Gen. (ret'd) Sajjad Ghani, Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, members of the Chinese company and senior officials were also present on the occasion.

Terming it a job of the

enemies of Pakistan, the prime minister said that it was a dastardly act on part of the perpetrators who found every opportunity to harm this friendship which was strengthening by each passing day and expanding and moving forward with speed. "That is the reason enemies do not spare any opportunity to damage and create a wedge between the two Iron Brothers," he added.

Prime Minister Sharif said that they shared the moment of sadness and sorrow and assured that the government would not leave any stone unturned and would not spare any opportunity to ensure the best possible security measures for the Chinese families and nationals.



DAASU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses the Chinese Engineers and government officials at Kass camp of China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC).

President for early finalization of Transit Trade Agreement with Turkmenistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday called for an early finalization of the Transit Trade Agreement with Turkmenistan to further boost bilateral cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

The President, talking to the Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan Atadjan Movlamov who called on him, said that the agreement, once signed, would help expand trade, promote regional connectivity as well as enhance economic activities in the region.

The ambassador congratulated President Zardari on assuming the office of the President for the second time, according to a President House press release.

Both sides expressed the desire for the early

completion of the TAPI Gas Pipeline, which would not only support Pakistan's economy but would also help meet its energy needs.

Welcoming the ambassador, the president said that Pakistan attached special value to its bilateral relations with Turkmenistan due to the centuries-old historical, religious and cultural links and wished to increase high-level exchanges to give fresh impetus to bilateral ties. He expressed Pakistan's desire to work with Turkmenistan to further enhance mutually beneficial cooperation.

The president highlighted that the existing volume of trade between the two countries needed to be improved for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

Letter by 6 judges of IHC: Justice (Retd) Tassaduq refused to become Chairman of commission

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice (Retd) Tassaduq Hussain Jilani has refused to become chairman of commission constituted in the perspective of letter written by 6 judges of Islamabad High Court (IHC)

Justice (Retd) Tassaduq Hussain Jilani has informed Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif about his decision, through a letter.

He said in his letter to PM that he is grateful to PM and cabinet for expressing confidence on him. I am grateful to chief justice and senior judge justice Mansoor Ali Shah for their trust on me. The letter of 6 judges was written to Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) and its chairman Chief Justice of Pakistan.

IHC suspends sentence of PTI founder, Bushra in Toshakhana case

Appeal against conviction will be fixed for hearing after Eid holidays, says IHC CJ

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has suspended the sentence of PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in Toshakhana case.

The order was issued by Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamer Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb after hearing on Monday.

Barrister Ali Zafar appeared on behalf of PTI founder and Bushra Bibi while prosecutor Amjad Pervaiz represented NAB.

The CJ IHC remarked "Ali Zafar Sahb if you will give arguments on your appeals then we cannot hear you. Appeals are being heard in cipher case. Both the appeal cannot be heard simultaneously.

Barrister Ali Zafar said Suleman Safdar has said he will give arguments for half an hour on cipher appeals. Let me give argu-

ments in this case today.

The CJ IHC remarked if you want to give arguments on suspension of conviction then we hear them. The appeal against sentence will be fixed after Eid. The CJ IHC Aamer Farooq remarked cipher case is fixed for hearing on Tuesday which will be completed within some days. We cannot fix for hearing Toshakhana case tomorrow after hearing it today. FIA has to start its arguments in Cipher case. We don't know they take how much time. We fix the Toshakhana case after Eid.

The court suspended the sentence of PTI founder and Bushra Bibi in Toshakhana case. The sentence was suspended in the light of NAB prosecutor statement. NAB prosecutor said they have reviewed the decision and this is case of suspension of sentence.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif presenting a souvenir to Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), H.E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al Zaabi.



FAISALABAD: The Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan, Mr Atadjan Movlamov, calls on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

SC takes suo motu notice of IHC judges' letter

Seven-member bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa, to hear case on Wednesday

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa on Monday took suo motu notice of Islamabad High Court (IHC) judges' allegations of interference by intelligence agencies, says in media reports.

Six serving judges of Islamabad High Court (IHC) penned a letter to Supreme Judicial Council (SJC), urging it to summon a judicial convention to review the matter of "inter-

ference of intelligence agencies with judicial functions". IHC top judges including Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani, Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, Justice Baqir Sattar, Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan, Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir, and Justice Salman Rafat Imtiaz - penned the letter to SJC in the aftermath of Supreme Court's March 22 judgement on Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui's dismissal case.

Measures for providing electricity to remote areas initiated: Nasir Shah

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister for Energy, Planning and Development Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Monday, said that energy department has initiated practical measures for provision of electricity to residents of far flung grid areas through solar power generation.

The provincial minister, while talking to media at Sindh Assembly building, said that thousands of households in remote villages of Tharparkar, Kohistan and riverine areas of the province were deprived of the basic utility.

Besides solar electrification of remote and off

grid areas as per election manifesto of chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the incumbent PPP government has plans to develop solar parks in different areas of Sindh, Nasir Shah said.

A solar park of 50 mega watt production capacity will be developed near Karachi and electricity generated there will be provided to K-Electric while Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) and Sukkur Electric Power Company (SEPCO) will also get electricity from solar parks, he informed.

21 Ramadan a tragic day in Islamic history: CM Murad

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that the 21 Ramadan martyrdom day of Hazrat Imam Ali r.a. is a tragic day in the history of Islam.

In his message on the Martyrdom Day of Hazrat Imam Ali r.a. here on Monday, he said that Imam Ali's martyrdom day teaches us to uphold justice and fairness.

He said that Hazrat Ali r.a. always fought a struggle for the exaltation of Islam.

The CM Murad said that may Allah Almighty grant us an opportunity to follow the footprints of Hazrat Ali r.a.

SHC orders action against kite flyers in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Monday ordered action against the people found flying kites in Karachi.

The orders were passed by the SHC bench on a plea moved against kite flying in the metropolitan. Stray strings of kite flyers have claimed several lives of people, while the police were not taking any 'action' against the people involved in the kite flying. The applicant urged the SHC to pass orders for action against kite makers and flyers in Karachi.



WUHAN: To express solidarity with the government and people of China, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development arrived in Wuhan, China, on the special flight that carried the mortal remains of five Chinese personnel, who died in a terrorist attack on 26 March, 2024. The Federal Minister was received by high ranking government officials and Pakistan Embassy representative at Wuhan airport, China.

Chaudhry Salik says Pakistan fully committed to bring perpetrators of attack on Chinese nationals to justice

BEIJING (APP): To express solidarity with the government and people of China, Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Chaudhry Salik Hussain arrived in Wuhan, China, Monday on the special flight that carried the mortal remains of five Chinese personnel, who died in a terrorist attack on March 26.

The Federal Minister was received by high-ranking government officials and a Pakistan Embassy representative at Wuhan airport,

where he also attended the special ceremony held to pay homage to the five deceased personnel.

Later, the Federal Minister held a meeting with Ms. Chen Ping, Vice Governor of Hubei Province, and offered his deepest condolences on the loss of innocent lives while reiterating Pakistan's solemn commitment to bringing to justice the perpetrators who committed this heinous crime.

IMF demands to end subsidies for 'protected' consumers

ISLAMABAD (INP): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has called for an end to subsidies for the poorest consumers called "protected", while also issuing directives to gas consumers. According to the IMF, protected gas consumers should be protected under the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Mechanism. While the IMF has given new instructions to the authorities regarding the cross-subsidy of gas consumers.

According to reports

quoting IMF sources, protected gas consumers should be protected under the BISP mechanism, cross-subsidy should be phased out till protected gas consumers are protected. Budget subsidy should be removed to transfer Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) to domestic consumers. It is pertinent to note that a subsidy of 40 billion rupees was given to the household consumers for their transfer to RLNG.

Sindh Assembly session held

KARACHI (APP): A session of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh held here on Monday. The session was presided over by the Speaker Sindh Assembly Awaiz Qadir Shah. The session commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran and Naat Sharif. Newly returned MPA Zubair Junejo took oath on the floor of the house in Sindhi language.

ECP notifies Aseefa Bhutto Zardari as returned candidate on NA-207

KARACHI (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan on Monday published the name of Aseefa Bhutto Zardari of Pakistan People's Party Parliamentary constituency NA-207, Shaheed Benazirabad-I.

According to notification, Aseefa Bhutto Zardari has been declared as returned candidate at NA-207, in Bye-Election a seat stands vacant after election of Asif Ali Zardari as President Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Aseefa Bhutto was declared winner unopposed as no candidate filed nomination against her.

PPP to achieve significant success in Senate polls, claims Sharjeel Memon

KARACHI (APP): Senior Minister of Sindh, Sharjeel Inam Memon on Monday said that the People's Party will achieve significant success in the Senate elections.

Speaking to the media at the Sindh Assembly Media Corner, Senior Provincial Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that the Sindh Government and the Department of Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control are conducting a crackdown across the province, resulting in significant success in seven or eight cases.

There has been a positive response to this crackdown, and the aim is to halt all types of drug supply under all circumstances, Memon added.

He stated that immediately after Eid, the Sindh government will provide relief to people not only in Karachi but all over Sindh. The construction work on Jam Sadiq Bridge and Yellow Line BRT will com-

mence swiftly.

He emphasized that the People's Party has consistently advocated for the freedom of the judiciary. The party remains committed to ensuring the judiciary's autonomy, a cause for which only the People's Party workers have made sacrifices, even shedding blood. It is disheartening that such efforts are often overlooked or misunderstood.

He mentioned that there was a nationwide campaign against illegal encroachments, during which the illegally constructed Bani Gala was regularized under court orders. He emphasized that they fully support the freedom of the judiciary. However, the deliberate targeting of their institutions during such occasions is solely aimed at portraying PTI founder as a national hero and propagating the narrative that he has been mistreated.

Minister for forming rapid response force to assist farmers in calamities

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Agriculture Minister, Sardar Muhammad Bakhsh Mahar on Monday directed to constitute a Rapid Response Force for assisting farmers in case of natural calamities like heavy rains and flooding in the province.

The minister was chairing an introductory meeting with officers of the Agriculture Department that was attended by Secretary of Agriculture Rafiq Ahmed Buriro, Director General (DG) Research Noor Muhammad Baloach, DG of Water Management, DG of Engineering and other officers of the department.

Teams of the Rapid Response Force will be on alert to assist the affected farmers and all the officers would pay surprise visits to their corresponding areas and fulfill their targets, he outlined.

Highlighting the importance of the agriculture

sector Muhammad Bakhsh Mahar said that the use of technology and access of farmers to findings of agricultural research were necessary to enhance production in Sindh.

He urged all the officers to improve their performance and utilize all their abilities for the growth of the agriculture sector and directed that water management, research, engineering, training, and extension wings of the department should be made more active with a focus on digitization.

Referring to declining trends of cotton cultivation in the province, he directed that better varieties of cotton should be introduced in Sindh to encourage farmers to cultivate cotton crops.

The minister was briefed about the performance of different wings and progress on ongoing projects of the agriculture department.



HYDERABAD: Security officials stand high alert on route to avoid any untoward incident as security has been tightened during mourning procession on the occasion of Youm-e-Ali (R.A), the day of martyrdom 21st Ramadan-ul-Mubarak, in Hyderabad.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Government support?

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb wants to conclude a larger, medium-term deal with the IMF before the current fiscal year is out. He is also hopeful of getting to the finish line in time. Speaking to reporters at the PSX on Friday, he expressed hopes of reaching a staff-level agreement for the new programme with the Fund by end FY24.

According to him, the lender has been "very receptive" to Pakistan's request for a larger programme in recent communications. While there was no final decision yet, he said, "it is our desire that by the time we wrap up this fiscal year an [agreement] is reached". He has repeatedly argued that Pakistan requires IMF discipline for at least the next three years to "execute" the long-delayed structural changes in the economy.

Apparently, the finance minister has also earned the goodwill of the lender, and the upcoming talks on the new programme on the margins of the spring meetings of the Bretton Woods institutions will, hopefully, pave the way for early finalisation of the new loan programme.

At a time when the minister needs the government's full backing to pull off the crucial deal and implement tough economic reforms over the next several years, it seems that some circles are trying to undermine his role in the cabinet. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's decision to name Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar to the all-important Council of Common Interests and keep Mr Aurangzeb out of it looks like an attempt to contain his role in decision-making.

Sadly, this was not the only occasion, since the formation of the new government a month ago, that he has been sidelined. Some days ago, Mr Sharif, in a break from tradition, decided to chair the ECC, the top policymaking forum. It was only after widespread criticism that he yielded the position to the finance minister. Likewise, the latter's role in the privatisation process was also diminished when Mr Dar was appointed head of the Cabinet Committee on Privatisation. In the CCI's case, what exactly is the foreign minister expected to contribute to the council's deliberations? On the other hand, the presence of the finance minister in the CCI — the top constitutional forum mandated to discuss and decide on matters and disputes related to the federation and the provinces — is of utmost importance at this moment because the implementation of several IMF programme goals and policy reforms hinge on the active involvement of the federating units.

There is no better forum than the CCI to enlist the buy-in of the provinces on the IMF programme and reforms. It can only be hoped that sense will prevail and the prime minister will replace Mr Dar with his finance minister in the CCI in the larger interest of the country.

Rising waters

Zain Siddiqui

You have to feel for Pakistan's youth: it can't be easy growing up in a country where the adults are just not ready to admit their time is up. For starters, they barely get heard. Even though they form the bulk of the population, the only time we see them being discussed on national TV is when decrepit politicians and shop-soiled analysts are discrediting their political choices as 'idiotic' or 'immature'.

Beyond politics, it seems that Pakistan's older generations care little for the country's younger citizens; their dreams and aspirations, or the future they want in the country they call home. On the contrary, disdain for the young is growing so entrenched that even the word 'youth' has been corrupted into a slur. It's little wonder that so many young Pakistanis these days seem obsessed with fleeing the country and its suffocating environment.

The impatience of Pakistani youth is blamed as the root cause of social upheaval; their rough mannerisms — a symptom of their growing frustration — lamented as the reason for the country's 'moral decline'. Though such prejudices are perhaps not uncommon among the old anywhere in the world, in Pakistan, they're taking on a far more sinister colour.

'Pakistan needs saving from its wayward youth' has become a popular refrain in the corridors of power. The mantra has been used to justify denying Pakistan's younger demographic its right to participate in the political process. Consider for a moment what the official approach towards the youth is when the most powerful adult in Pakistan framed its

youth's right to self-determination thus: "If all the children in a household want to do heroin, is the father supposed to sit by and watch?"

Speaking of politics, for a fleeting moment after the recent general election, it seemed that Pakistan's youth had finally arrived. The electoral results seemed like a rather spectacular announcement of their coming of age. The oversized impact of the youth vote was confirmed in a post-poll survey conducted by Gallup Pakistan, which described the average Pakistani voter in the 2024 election as "overwhelmingly young". The political upset these young voters pulled off would not have been such a surprise had national-level planners actually been listening.

Pakistan has had a youth bulge for years. Prominent thinkers had long been highlighting that the country was in the midst of a generational shift that would dictate the trajectory of its sociopolitical, economic and cultural evolution for the next two or three decades. It was, therefore, only a matter of time before this demographic made its mark on national politics. Yet, instead of welcoming this historic shift, the forces of inertia were terrified by it. They tried desperately to ensure it remained contained. The sheer volume of young voters made it impossible. They have since been trying desperately to restore equilibrium. It will prove an uphill task.

In retrospect, it seems the boomers simply hadn't accounted for young Pakistanis doing what young people often do when you push down on them too hard. They sullenly nod along, act as if they agree with whatever they are being told, and then turn around and do precisely

that which they have been told not to. One can only imagine the satisfaction our rebellious young souls got as they watched the entire state machinery go into panic mode in desperation to undo the mischief they had caused.

But we digress. Back to our youth problem. The state, at some point, has to give in. It must realise it cannot win a war against something that has been ordained by time. Pull up any chart today showing the demographic distribution of Pakistan's population, and it will show you that the battle it is waging against the youth is all-ready lost. Millions upon millions of young Pakistanis are entering legal adulthood each year and, with it, becoming entitled to the lawful means of economic and political self-determination. Writing them off as 'addicts' or trying to control them by force seem to be dangerous ways of dealing with the colossal restructuring of the country's demographic base that is currently underway.

Pakistan already belongs to its youth — the older generations just aren't ready to accept it yet. Because of the latter's reluctance to let go, every time the former try to forcefully assert themselves, trouble will ensue. To avoid such confrontations, the state must figure out how to keep the youth engaged and involved. Political upheaval and economic deprivation are correlated. The state must realise it cannot fight young citizens driven to desperation by their economic conditions. It needs to at least provide some reassurance that their future is in good hands. A pro-youth stance will help restore social stability. The next budget would be a good place to start. — Courtesy Dawn

Targeting Chinese nationals

Muhammad Amir Rana

The Shangla terrorist attack on the Chinese engineers' vehicle is having consequences. Chinese companies have suspended work on at least three critical hydropower projects: the Dasu dam, the Diamer-Basha dam, and the Tarbela 5th Extension.

The attack has caused significant alarm. Apart from disrupting these vital infrastructure projects, it has shaken the confidence of Chinese nationals working in Pakistan. Reports indicate some are considering leaving the country due to safety concerns.

The Pakistani government has repeatedly pledged to bring the perpetrators to justice. However, the recent incident has eroded trust. Chinese social media reflects growing anxiety, with calls for stricter security measures to protect Chinese lives.

Whenever a major terrorist incident occurs in the country, the media, security experts, and even state institutions start to make sweeping generalisations about the event, the culprits, their motives, and the terrorist groups that could have been involved in such incidents.

The first and most well-known excuse cited in the attacks, especially those targeting Chinese nationals or CPEC-related projects. Three names of terrorist groups spring to mind: Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Balochistan Liberation Army, and the Islamic State-Khorasan. They guess a specific group's involvement depends on the region; these three groups have specific operational bases.

The same is the case for the recent Shangla attack. The names of all three groups popped up immediately after the attack. The TTP has been

projected as the prime suspect, as one of its commanders was declared the mastermind behind a similar attack on the Chinese in Kohistan in 2021. The names of a few TTP commanders who may have orchestrated the attack are circulating in the media. Quickly jumping to conclusions distracts investigation and impacts the state's ability to tackle the security situation comprehensively.

Pakistan's militant landscape may not be too complex but is diverse. Ideologies, sociopolitical factors, and group dynamics all work within local contexts. In any counterterrorism inquiry, local context and dynamics are more important than broader ideological and political motivations.

Shangla, upper and lower Kohistan, and Battagram districts of the Hazara region in KP and the adjoining Diamer district in Gilgit-Baltistan share religious, social, tribal, ethnic, and cultural codes. The region has been frequently in the news due to 'honour' killings, burning of girls' schools, and the killing of Shia travellers. Recently, it has gained notoriety for attacks on Chinese workers involved in development projects in the area.

The Deobandi school is dominant in the region and blends with conservative social traditions, particularly the honour code. The resultant insularity has led to frequent interactions between the locals and Deobandi madrasahs, as well as sectarian and militant outfits in the country. The locals support these religious organisations, giving them financial and human resources, and weapons. Before receiving large compensation sums for the Dasu and Basha dams, the region thrived on timber smuggling.

Extremist tendencies

in the region are stronger than those in the neighbouring areas. Anti-Shia sentiment, blood feuds in the community, and a sense of ethnic superiority are ingrained.

The region has always been difficult to govern. Security institutions, bureaucracy, and the area's political leadership have tried to run the administration — while compromising on laws and rules. Even in cases of major disputes, the administration tries to resolve them through local jirgas and by involving religious scholars. This can result in leniency towards criminals, with many extremist elements taking the law into their own hands. However, this doesn't diminish the level of religious extremism present. Some residents may sympathise with the Uighur community in Xinjiang, and others may dislike the presence of foreigners on their land. These factors could be nurturing negative perceptions about Chinese nationals in the region.

One possible example of the local dynamics is seen in the blasphemy accusation against a Chinese official at the Dasu dam site last year. The incident highlighted that tensions could erupt.

While local groups may lack the capability to carry out large-scale attacks independently, past events like the killing of Shia passengers and the attack on tourists at Nanga Parbat demonstrate their capacity for violence. Their ability is amplified by support from like-minded groups within Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The government's strategy of outsourcing the maintenance of order to local and external religious figures needs to be revised to address these sentiments. A more comprehensive approach is needed to calm tensions. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

SIFC's initiative to establish country's largest IT Park in Islamabad laudable: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has highly appreciated the Special Investment Facilitation Council's (SIFC) decision to establish country's largest IT Park in Islamabad.

In a statement issued here on Monday, he said that the landmark decision was indeed a manifestation

of a significant stride forward for Pakistan's expanding tech landscape and promising unparalleled opportunities for innovation and progress.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the mega project covering an area of 3.3 acres to be built in G-10 Sector of the federal capital will hopefully be a hub of technological advancement and array of facilities to

foster creativity and entrepreneurship.

He praised that the gigantic project, to work under public-private partnership, will have immense attraction for country's burgeoning freelance economy, will have a research center, a well-stocked library, software houses, conference rooms, dedicated work spaces for freelancers and start ups

and an exhibition area for showcasing cutting-edge IT products. The ICCI President further said that the project will not only create business opportunities for young entrepreneurs but will turn a big source of foreign exchange earnings for the country. He said the construction of an IT Park of such a paramount importance in Islamabad was the long-standing demand of the Islamabad Chamber.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation led by Atif Ikram Sheikh, President of the FPCCI meeting with Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal to address economic challenges through close collaboration.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari holds a meeting with PITC.

SACM on Industries visits KP-BOIT

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: A detail sector-wise briefing on on-going activities, progress, issues, challenges and future road map of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade (KP-BOIT) was given to Abdul Karim Khan, Special Assistant to Chief Minister on Industries during his visit to the headquarters of the board here on Monday.

Director Business Facilitation, KP-BOIT, Mr. Iqbal Sarwar highlighted that functions and efficiency and role of KP-BOIT needs to be improved and strengthened so that

investment and trade can be better facilitated.

He further highlighted that SMART investment attraction techniques are required to be used to improve investment attraction, both foreign & local in the province.

He stated that Ease of Doing Business (EODB) and Pakistan Regulatory Modernization Initiatives (PRMI) were priority of the previous government and KP province should be ahead of others in terms of promoting and implementing Ease of Doing Business and creating an enabling business environment.

Farmers advised to start sweet potato cultivation immediately

FAISALABAD (APP): Farmers have been advised to start the cultivation of sweet potato (Shakar Qandi) immediately and complete it up to June for bumper crop.

Spokesman for the Agriculture (Extension) department said here on Monday that sweet potato was rich source of proteins, carbohydrates, vitamin and other minerals. He said that farmers should cultivate approved varieties of sweet potatoes over maximum space of their lands. Its cultivation should be started from first week of April and completed it up to June.

Jam Kamal assures FPCCI delegation of full support, promised to extend all facilitation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) delegation on Monday called on Federal Minister of Commerce Jam Kamal to address economic challenges through close collaboration.

The delegation, led by Atif Ikram Sheikh, President of the FPCCI, held discussions with the minister to address pressing economic matters, said a press release issued here.

During the meeting, the delegation congratulated the minister on his new appointment and pledged their full support towards collaborative efforts to address issues being facing the business community. Jam Kamal assured the FPCCI delegation of his commitment to addressing their concerns, emphasizing the importance of regular coordination meetings to facilitate smoother operations.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

They discussed the

sector investment and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial matters. Respective representatives from WB and IFC appreciated the efforts of the government aimed at bringing reforms in economic and financial sectors to ensure sustained economic growth in terms of expanding the tax base, state-owned enterprise (SOEs) restructuring and Privatization.

They also discussed potential areas of cooperation and investment opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture, power sector, and IT.

CM directs reservation of separate room for treatment of transgender at DHH

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister, Ali Amin Gandapur, while agreeing with the suggestion of Governor Haji Ghulam Ali regarding the provision of better treatment facilities to transgender, has issued instructions to the Health Department for the reservation of a separate room for the transgender community in District Headquarter Hospitals of the province.

The decision was taken during a meeting between Governor Haji Ghulam Ali and Chief Minister, Ali Amin Gandapur on Sunday night. Mayor Peshawar, Haji Zubair Ali was also present at the meeting.

During the meeting,

Governor Haji Ghulam Ali and KP CM discussed different problems faced by the trans community of the province, and several decisions were taken.

Chief Minister, Ali Amin issued instructions to the Health Department for the reservation of a separate room for transgender for the provision of treatment facilities to them at District Headquarter Hospitals.

Chief Minister also agreed over the provision of land for a separate graveyard for the transgender community and a notification in this regard will be issued soon.

Haji Ghulam Ali apprised Ali Amin about the challenges faced by

transgender in the burial of a community member as people did not allow them to perform the last rituals of the deceased in their respective graveyards.

Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur also held out assurance of inviting the transgender community to the CM house for a meeting with him.

It merits a mention here that Governor Haji Ghulam Ali in a unique gesture of humility and humbleness, spent his Sunday holiday with 300 transgender of Peshawar by extending them special invitations for visiting the Governor House to share their problems and receive Ramzan Food packages.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali meeting with an elder disabled citizen during Ramzan ration distribution ceremony.

Awais Leghari directs to ensure follow up of all received complaints

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Power Sardar Awais Leghari while terming performance of Customer Care Service Centres of power distribution companies (DISCOs) unsatisfactory on Monday directed Pakistan Information Technology Company (PITC) to ensure follow up of all received complaints.

Chairing a meeting on working of customer care service centres here, he said, "every complaint received at the customer care centers across the country should be followed up with a phone call".

He said that the consumers should also be informed about the steps being taken to address their complaints, said a statement issued here.

This initiative sought to improve communication and transparency in the complaint resolution process.

The minister pointed out wrong reporting of address of consumer's complaints in the meeting. He also directed comprehensive analysis of all complaint received since 2018.

He said that the consumers should also be informed about the steps being taken to address their complaints, said a statement issued here.

This initiative sought to improve communication and transparency in the complaint resolution process.

The minister pointed out wrong reporting of address of consumer's complaints in the meeting. He also directed comprehensive analysis of all complaint received since 2018.

He said that the consumers should also be informed about the steps being taken to address their complaints, said a statement issued here.

This initiative sought to improve communication and transparency in the complaint resolution process.

The minister pointed out wrong reporting of address of consumer's complaints in the meeting. He also directed comprehensive analysis of all complaint received since 2018.

He said that the consumers should also be informed about the steps being taken to address their complaints, said a statement issued here.

This initiative sought to improve communication and transparency in the complaint resolution process.

The minister pointed out wrong reporting of address of consumer's complaints in the meeting. He also directed comprehensive analysis of all complaint received since 2018.

Court awards nine year sentence to a drug peddler

ATTOCK (APP): The court has awarded nine years imprisonment to a drug peddler and imposed fine of Rs.80,000, here on Monday.

The Control of Narcotics Substance Court in Attock, announced the judgment while hearing the case.

According to details, accused Muneer Hussain Shah was arrested by Attock Saddar Police in 2023, after recovering hashish from his possession. During the court trial, the prosecution presented strong evidence against Hussain Shah, proving his involvement in the illicit drug trade.

According to details, accused Muneer Hussain Shah was arrested by Attock Saddar Police in 2023, after recovering hashish from his possession. During the court trial, the prosecution presented strong evidence against Hussain Shah, proving his involvement in the illicit drug trade.

Rescue 1122 Dikhan tackles 647 emergencies in March

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Rescue 1122 on Monday issued a performance report of March, featuring a total of 647 emergencies tackled with an average seven minutes response time by the district's emergency service. Spokesman of the Rescue 1122 said while sharing details said the service provided first medical aid to about 649 patients and subsequently shifted them to hospitals.

Business delegation visits Kyrgyzstan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pak Trade delegation Monday concluded a fruitful two-week visit to Kyrgyzstan, marking a significant stride in bilateral economic relations.

The delegation led by prominent business figure Meher Kashif Younis, an honorary Consul Kyrgyzstan in Lahore, it engaged in intensive negotiations and collaborative discussions aimed at fostering trade ties between the two countries.

After arrival, he said throughout the visit, delegates explored avenues for enhanced cooperation in various sectors, including agriculture, textiles, technology, and energy. They participated in business forums, networking events, and one-on-one meetings with Kyrgyz counterparts, laying the groundwork for future joint ventures and investments.

He said the delegation showcased Pakistan's diverse range of products and services, highlighting its competitive edge and commitment to quality. Meanwhile, they also gained valuable insights into Kyrgyzstan's market dynamics, regulatory framework, and investment opportunities.

Minister chairs KP cities' improvement project meeting

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Higher Education, Archives and Libraries, Meena Khan Afridi has said that provision of clean water to the people is our top priority while tangible steps will be taken for keeping Peshawar clean and green.

The minister said this while chairing a meeting of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cities Improvement Project (KPCIP) Peshawar. On the occasion KP health Syed Qasim Ali Shah was also present while project director Zafar Ali Shah, Mian M. Shakeel director technical and chief engineer Dr. Mahboob Alam also attended the meeting.

The ministers were informed about the project and told that KPCIP Peshawar interventions in water supply, green urban spaces and integrated solid waste management. Besides Peshawar, the project is also going on in four cities of the KP including Mingora, Kohat, Mardan and Abbottabad.

"Water Sanitations Services Peshawar (WSSP) is working in 5 operational zones of Peshawar. In these zones, there are 34 water tanks (water reservoirs) in which 23 will be reconstructed while 10 will be rehabilitated" said in the briefing. However, for collection of garbage, small and large loaders will be used aimed at cleaning the city, no waste touching the ground and for climate friendly disposal of solid waste. The ministers were further informed that those water reservoirs will be solarized where there is no issue of space.

supply, green urban spaces and integrated solid waste management. Besides Peshawar, the project is also going on in four cities of the KP including Mingora, Kohat, Mardan and Abbottabad.

"Water Sanitations Services Peshawar (WSSP) is working in 5 operational zones of Peshawar. In these zones, there are 34 water tanks (water reservoirs) in which 23 will be reconstructed while 10 will be rehabilitated" said in the briefing. However, for collection of garbage, small and large loaders will be used aimed at cleaning the city, no waste touching the ground and for climate friendly disposal of solid waste. The ministers were further informed that those water reservoirs will be solarized where there is no issue of space.

The ministers were informed about the project and told that KPCIP Peshawar interventions in water supply, green urban spaces and integrated solid waste management. Besides Peshawar, the project is also going on in four cities of the KP including Mingora, Kohat, Mardan and Abbottabad.



MULTAN: Labourers are busy loading sand on the tractor trolleys from the dry bed of the Chenab River.

Online registration begins for PITB training program for women

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) has started receiving applications for the 6th cohort of its training program 'SheWins' to improve the skills of women and help them in career building. The 5-week training program, focusing on e-Commerce and Social Media Marketing, aims to equip women with the skills to explore better business opportunities and understand the balance of entrepreneurial life. In this regard, PITB Chairman Faisal Yousef highlighted the program's objective to empower women to become self-reliant in their professional lives.

Media Marketing, aims to equip women with the skills to explore better business opportunities and understand the balance of entrepreneurial life. In this regard, PITB Chairman Faisal Yousef highlighted the program's objective to empower women to become self-reliant in their professional lives.



ISLAMABAD: Laborers busy unloading wheat sacks from delivery truck at grain Market in the Federal Capital.

BISP announces over 80% disbursement success rate to 85,000 beneficiaries

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): The Zonal Director of BISP AJK Dr Abdul Aziz Qurashi, announced that Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) AJK region has achieved a significant milestone in its BISP Kafaalat Disbursement Program, a vital component of BISP's ongoing efforts to alleviate poverty and empower disadvantaged communities, has demonstrated remarkable efficiency and impact since its inception. By providing essential financial support to those in need, the program aims to enhance the socio-economic well-being of vulnerable segments of society.

thousand BISP beneficiaries, reaching a total percentage success rate exceeding 80 per cent.

He stated that the BISP Kafaalat Disbursement Program, a vital component of BISP's ongoing efforts to alleviate poverty and empower disadvantaged communities, has demonstrated remarkable efficiency and impact since its inception. By providing essential financial support to those in need, the program aims to enhance the socio-economic well-being of vulnerable segments of society.

Two persons burnt in CPEIC cylinder blast incident

MULTAN (APP): Two persons were burnt including a perfusionist and a technician who operates machines during cardiovascular operation when a cylinder blast occurred in the operation theatre of Chaudhary Pervaiz Elahi Institute of Cardiology (CPEIC) here on Monday. Sources in CPEIC told this news agency that the incident took place in Operation Theatre near the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). They informed that two persons, a hospital technician and a passer were burnt.

FBR issues all sale tax refund claims

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Monday issued all sale tax refund claims of exporter.

According to the FBR statement, the board has issued all sale tax claims prior to March 21, 2024.

International News

In setback to Turkey's Erdogan, opposition makes huge gains in local election

ANKARA: Turkey's main opposition party retained its control over key cities and made huge gains elsewhere in Sunday's local elections, in a major upset to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who had set his sights on retaking control of those urban areas.

With more than 90% of ballot boxes counted, incumbent Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, of the Republican People's Party, or CHP, was leading by a wide margin in Turkey's largest city and economic hub, according to the state-run Anadolu Agency. Mansur Yavas, the mayor of the capital, Ankara, retained his seat with a stunning 25-point difference over his challenger, the results indicated.

In all, the CHP won the municipalities of 36 of Turkey's 81 provinces, according to Anadolu, making inroads into many strongholds of Erdogan's party. It gained 37% of the votes nationwide, compared to 36% for the president's party, marking the CHP's greatest electoral victory since Erdogan came to power two decades ago.

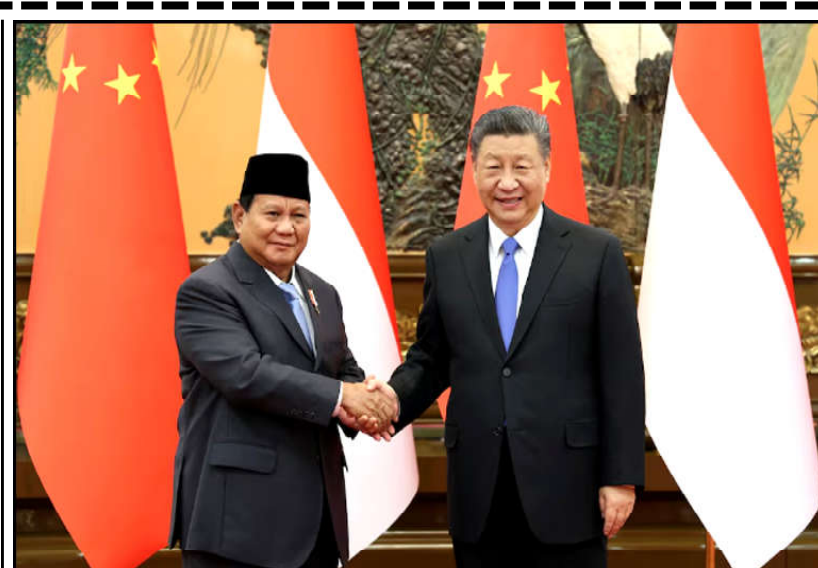
"Unfortunately, nine months after our victory in the May 28 elections, we could not get the result we wanted in the local election test," Erdogan added. "We will correct our mistakes and redress our shortcomings." He vowed to press ahead with an economic program introduced last year that aims to combat inflation.

The vote was seen as a barometer of Erdogan's popularity as he sought to win back control of key urban areas he lost to the opposition in elections five years ago. The CHP's victory in Ankara and Istanbul in 2019 had shattered Erdogan's aura of invincibility. The main battleground for the 70-year-old Turkish president was Istanbul, a city of 16 million people where he was born and raised and where he began his political career as mayor in 1994. The result came as a boost for the opposition, which was left divided and demoralized after a defeat to Erdogan and his ruling Islamic-oriented Justice and Development Party, or AKP, in last year's presidential and parliamentary elections.

In all, the CHP won the municipalities of 36 of Turkey's 81 provinces, according to Anadolu, making inroads into many strongholds of Erdogan's party. It gained 37% of the votes nationwide, compared to 36% for the president's party, marking the CHP's greatest electoral victory since Erdogan came to power two decades ago.

"Unfortunately, nine months after our victory in the May 28 elections, we could not get the result we wanted in the local election test," Erdogan added. "We will correct our mistakes and redress our shortcomings." He vowed to press ahead with an economic program introduced last year that aims to combat inflation.

The vote was seen as a barometer of Erdogan's popularity as he sought to win back control of key urban areas he lost to the opposition in elections five years ago. The CHP's victory in Ankara and Istanbul in 2019 had shattered Erdogan's aura of invincibility. The main battleground for the 70-year-old Turkish president was Istanbul, a city of 16 million people where he was born and raised and where he began his political career as mayor in 1994. The result came as a boost for the opposition, which was left divided and demoralized after a defeat to Erdogan and his ruling Islamic-oriented Justice and Development Party, or AKP, in last year's presidential and parliamentary elections.



Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indonesia's President-elect Prabowo Subianto shake hands at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China.

Syria says an Israeli airstrike has destroyed Iran's consulate building in Damascus, with deaths

DAMASCUS: An Israeli airstrike has destroyed the consular section of Iran's embassy in Damascus, killing or wounding everyone inside, Syrian state media said Monday.

The Iranian Arabic-language state television Al-Alam and pan-Arab television station Al-Mayadeen, which has reporters in Syria, said the strike killed Iranian military adviser Gen. Ali Reza Zahdi, who led the elite Quds Force in Lebanon and Syria until 2016.

Iranian Ambassador Hossein Akbari condemned Israel and said as many as seven people were killed, but first responders were still searching for any other bodies under the rubble. He said two police officers who guard the building were wounded.

In comments to the media after meeting Akbari, Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad said "several" people were killed. Mekdad in a phone call with his Iranian counterpart, Amirabdollahian, condemned Israel over the attack.

Afghanistan confirms detention 2 Americans for 'violating law'

KABUL (INP): Afghanistan's government has arrested two United States nationals over violations of law in the country, spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said on Monday.

Mujahid did not reveal the identities of the detained individuals and said that other foreigners have also been arrested. "I think there are two Americans, and the reasons for their arrest are not clear yet; but whatever the reasons, anyone coming to Afghanistan is obliged to observe the laws of Afghanistan."

9 children killed by landmine blast in Afghanistan

KABUL: Nine children were killed in a blast in southeastern Afghanistan caused by a landmine, laid during the country's decades of conflict, a provincial official said on Monday.

The mine went off as a group of young boys and girls were playing with it in the Geru district of Ghazni province on Sunday, said the provincial head of the information and culture department, Hamidullah Nisar.

"An unexploded mine left over from the time of the Russian invasion went off when they were playing with it," Nisar told AFP. "Unfortunately, it killed nine children."

Ghazni police said the children — five girls and four boys — were aged from four to ten years old.

Swathes of Afghanistan are littered with unexploded mines, grenades and mortars from decades of conflict, spanning from the Soviet invasion in 1979, the civil war that followed, and the 20-year Taliban insurgency against foreign-backed governments.

Violence has reduced dramatically since the Taliban seized power in August 2021, ending their insurgency.

Unexploded ordnance and mines, however, still claim lives regularly, with the International Committee of the Red Cross saying children are the main victims.

Also on Sunday, another child died and five other people were wounded when unexploded ordnance went off in Herat province, local police said on social media platform X.



Smoke rises after what the Iranian media said was an Israeli strike on a building close to the Iranian embassy in Damascus, Syria.

Russia extends detention of US-Russian journalist Kurmasheva

KAZAN (AFP/APP): A Russian court on Monday extended until June 5 the pre-trial detention of US-Russian journalist Alsu Kurmasheva, who faces 15 years in prison on charges of spreading "false information," according to her employer.

In court in the central city of Kazan on Monday, Kurmasheva smiled but complained about the poor conditions in which she was being held.

"This cell is five square metres for two people. There is no hot water. Instead of a toilet there is a hole in the floor," she said. A journalist at the US-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), she was arrested last year for failing to register as a "foreign agent". RFE/RL says she was subsequently charged with spreading false information under new censorship laws introduced after Russia launched its military offensive on Ukraine in 2022.

Thousands rally against Netanyahu govt in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM: Tens of thousands of people demonstrated in Jerusalem on Sunday against Benjamin Netanyahu's government and against exemptions granted to ultra-Orthodox Jewish men from military service, in scenes reminiscent of mass street protests last year.

Protest groups, including some that led the mass demonstrations that rocked Israel in 2023, organised the rally outside parliament, the Knesset,

Over 4,000 beggars arrested in vicinity of Masjid Al-Haram

MAKKAH (INP): Saudi police arrested more than 4,000 beggars while conducting operations around Masjid al-Haram.

According to Arab News, the Department of Public Security has instructed citizens and foreigners living in the kingdom not to give charity to professional beggars.

The Saudi authorities say that begging is strictly forbidden in Islam. Pilgrims should not give charity to anyone.

New Indonesia leader visits China, promises close ties

BEIJING: Indonesia's president-elect Prabowo Subianto visited Beijing on Monday on his first foreign trip since his election, and was quoted by Chinese state media as telling President Xi Jinping he aimed to continue the close ties under predecessor Joko Widodo.

Prabowo "fully supports the development of closer Indonesia-China relations and wishes to continue President Joko's policy of friendship with China," China's CCTV quoted Prabowo as saying.

The new Indonesian government will promote the alignment of development strategies between the two countries and push for more results in cooperation in fields such as the economy, trade and poverty alleviation, he said.

Prabowo, now Indonesia's defence minister, also said that he

viewed China as a key partner.

"Regarding defence cooperation, I view China as one of the key partners in ensuring regional peace and stability," he said in a statement, adding that he sought to boost defence cooperations with China.

"I also commit to fulfil the needs of Indonesia's military hardware, boost cooperation in the defence industry and establish productive dialogues," he added.

Xi described Prabowo as an "old friend of the Chinese people" and said China views its relations with Indonesia from a strategic and long-term perspective, standing ready to deepen all-round strategic cooperation.

Prabowo, 72, was elected in February but will not be sworn in until October. A long-time rival of the outgoing leader popularly known as Jokowi.

ECP issues list of contenders Polling on vacant seats of Senate to be held today

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has finalized the arrangements for the upcoming Senate elections, scheduled to take place today (Tuesday). According to the commission, voting will be conducted in both the National and provincial assemblies from 9 am to 4 pm.

In preparation for the elections, a motion to utilize the National Assembly hall for the Senate election will be presented and approved during today's Lower House session.

Ballot papers have been printed in four different colours for the Senate elections to represent various categories of seats. White papers will be used for general seats, green for technocrat seats, pink for women seats, and yellow for minority seats.

The delivery of election materials, including ballot papers, to the returning officer has been completed, ensuring the smooth conduct of the electoral process.

In some assemblies, candidates have been elected unopposed. All 11

candidates from the Balochistan Assembly have been elected unopposed, along with candidates on seven general seats from the Punjab Assembly.

However, in other regions, contests are underway. In Islamabad, two candidates each are competing for general and technocrat seats.

In Punjab, there are four candidates for women's seats, and three each for technocrat and ulema seats. Moreover, two candidates are contesting the minority seat in the province.

On the other hand, there are 11 candidates for general seats and three for women's seats from Sindh. There are four candidates for technocrat seats and two for minority seats.

From Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, there are 16 candidates running for general seats and four candidates for women's seats. Moreover, there is a contest among six candidates on ulema and technocrat seats.

The election commission has declared that the Senate poll in KP Assembly will be postponed if the

members on reserved seats are not sworn in.

The candidates vying for a spot in the Senate from Balochistan in the upcoming elections to the Upper House of parliament were elected unopposed on all the seats on March 29.

The election commission announced that the candidates from Balochistan were elected unopposed on all seats of the Senate. The seats up for grabs from Balochistan were seven general seats, two women's seats, and two technocrat seats.

Also, 20 of the 33 candidates of the Senate had withdrawn their nomination papers, while two contenders stepped down in favour of their opposing candidates, the ECP confirmed.

Moreover, the returning officer concerned has issued notifications confirming the unopposed victories of certain candidates on general seats for the upcoming Senate elections in Punjab. Returning Officer Ijaz Anwar Chauhan issued notifications for seven newly selected senators on general seats.



KARACHI: Participants burn US-Israel flag during procession on occasion of youm-e-Ali.

Khawaja Asif says No immediate relief to masses as country nears financial collapse

SIALKOT (INP): In a candid revelation, Defense Minister Khawaja Asif acknowledged that Pakistan stands on the brink of financial collapse, resembling a default scenario.

Speaking to the press in Sialkot, Asif highlighted the gravity of the situation, attributing it primarily to the country's near-bankruptcy and rampant tax evasion plaguing various sectors.

"As it stands, the government is unable to provide immediate relief to the populace," remarked Asif, addressing the dire economic predicament. He

pointed out that a staggering number of citizens, particularly in key sectors such as retail and wholesale, evade their tax obligations, exacerbating the nation's economic woes. Shockingly, only a fraction of the population, amounting to a mere few hundred thousand individuals, diligently fulfill their tax duties.

Compounding the issue, Asif revealed that tax disputes worth a colossal 2.6 trillion rupees linger unresolved in the courts, with the judiciary's sluggishness further impeding any semblance of fiscal stability.

Elections to 12 seats of Senate from Sindh today

KARACHI (APP): The Provincial Election Commission of Sindh has said that the elections to twelve seats of Senate from Sindh will be held on April 02.

Nineteen candidates will be contesting elections to 12 seats including seven general seats, two women, two technocrats/ulema and one seat of minorities.

The polling process will commence from 9 am, which will continue uninterruptedly to 4 pm.

The Provincial Assembly of Sindh has been declared as the polling station for the Senate elections.

The Election Commission has completed all the arrangements for holding the Senate elections.

ECP notifies Hafiz Naem as returned candidate on PS 129

KARACHI (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan has notified the result of general election on Sindh Assembly's PS 129 Karachi Central and declared Hafiz Naem ur Rehman of Jamat-e-Islami Pakistan as returned candidate.

According to notification issued by ECP on Monday, Naem ur Rehman was declared as returned candidate with securing highest number of votes i-e 26296 votes while MQM Pakistan's Maaz Muqadam has obtained 20608 votes. PPP's Muhammad Asad Hanif secured 15014 votes.

Armed men attack police in Bahawalnagar

MIRPURKHALAS (APP): Over 50 armed individuals attacked a police party in Bahawalnagar, freeing a drug dealer from their custody on Monday.

According to Police, the incident occurred in Basti Dhadian where a police team led by Sub-Inspector Murtaza had gone to recover drugs. As they approached a suspect's residence they were met with a barrage of gunfire and sticks.

Three officers were injured in the melee as the attackers attempted to rescue the dealer Abdullah.

OGDCL, Justajoo Foundation to distribute ration on April 2

HYDERABAD (APP): Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) in partnership with Justajoo Foundation would hold ration distribution ceremony on April 2 (Tuesday).

According to details, ration will be distributed by Chairman Justajoo Foundation Sadaf Raza Waraich among needy and destitute people at Global Palace, near Palm Residency from 4 pm to 7 pm.

23 traders fined Rs 37,500 during crackdown

HYDERABAD (APP): As many as 23 traders were fined Rs 37,500 during operations against profiteers by the district administration on the 21st day of Ramadan in Hyderabad.

On the instructions of the Deputy Commissioner of Hyderabad, the concerned officers took actions against traders for not displaying the price list at the appropriate place and charging additional cost of essential items.

Assistant Commissioner Qasimabad Abdul Wahid Chana collected Rs 20,000 from 10 shopkeepers in different areas of the taluka and Assistant Commissioner City Ahmed Murtaza collected Rs 10,000 from five traders in different markets.

Jam Kamal, Envoy reiterate to boost Pak-Japan trade ties

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan and Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, WADA Mitsuhiro have reiterated to strengthen trade relations and mutual trust between Japan and Pakistan.

The Japanese Ambassador congratulated Jam Kamal Khan on his recent portfolio, expressing a commitment to enhancing bilateral ties.

Notably, the ambassador extended an invitation to Pakistani businessmen to participate in World Expo 2025 which was scheduled to be held in Osaka Japan in 2025 to promote economic cooperation.

Despite the optimism, challenges faced by the Japanese business community in imports were brought to light by Ambassador WADA Mitsuhiro.

Minister Jam Kamal Khan responded by assuring government support to facilitate ease of doing business for local and international entrepreneurs.

Emphasizing sustainable economic development, Minister Jam Kamal Khan highlighted key sectors such as automobile, steel, machinery, textiles, minerals, and IT HR for potential collaboration with Japan.

Moreover, Minister Jam Kamal Khan disclosed the Ministry of Commerce's comprehensive five-year plan aimed at streamlining business processes and attracting both local and foreign investors.

DAASU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif interacts with engineers of the China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC) working at the Daasu Hydropower project.

UAE ambassador calls on defence minister

RAWALPINDI (Online): Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al Zaabi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) called on Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif in Islamabad Monday.

Federal Minister lauded the vision and efforts of H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, the President and Supreme Commander of UAE armed forces for development and transformation of UAE.

IHC orders to let PTI founder, Bushra Bibi meet on Eid

ISLAMABAD (INP): Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday ordered to arrange Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi meeting on Eid-ul-Fitr.

As per details, IHC's Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb heard Bushra Bibi's request to be transferred from Bani Gala Sub Jail to Adiala Jail. The court ordered the authorities to arrange Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi's meeting on the occasion of Eid and a meeting was also allowed once a week.

Justice Hassan Aurangzeb further questioned how the state can declare private property as a sub-jail. At this, the hearing of Bushra Bibi's plea seeking her transfer from Bani Gala Sub Jail to Adiala Jail was adjourned. Earlier, the PTI's founder and the Adiala Jail administration decided on the SOPs with mutual consent for visits to the PTI leader.

The PTI's founder nominated three focal persons for visits to him in Adiala Jail. Chairman PTI Barrister Gohar Ali, Sher Afzal Marwat and Barrister Umair

Niazi were named as focal persons for jail meetings. Each focal person could give two names for visit.

KARACHI: In preparations for Eid-ul-Fitr, women selecting fabrics to buy from the stalls set up in Hydri Market.

Eid preparations peak with commencement of last ashra of Ramzan

SUKKUR (APP): The people of Sukkur finalized all arrangements to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr with traditional zeal, enthusiasm and festivity like other parts of the country.

Amid humidity and downpour, Eid shopping continued with great rush in almost all shopping areas of Sukkur, including Military road, Mission road, Shahid Bazar, Bander road, Minara road, Chantal Gali, Neem Ki Chari and Queen road. The people are seen busy in Eid shopping till late night.

Some shopkeepers said that their business picked momentum after Ramadan 20.

The footpath markets at Nishtar road, Jinnah Chowk, Ghareeb Abad, Freer road and other busy spots of the Sukkur city were yet to gain a shopping momentum.

The people of low-income brackets normally crowd the footpath markets much ahead of the Eid festival. However, the road-

side markets looked dull this time. Sale of various commodities was found low in different markets in the district since the beginning of Ramadan. The people from different walks of life giving their views said that prices were much high this year. The district administration has beefed up security measures to avert any untoward situation during the pre-Eid and Eid days. The police personnel have been deployed in the city and adjoining areas to maintain law and order on the occasion. The arrangements for Eid-ul-Fitr congregations have also been finalized in all principal mosques, Eidgahs, Imambargahs and open spaces. The main Eid congregations in Sukkur will be held at Eidgah, Eidgah road, Jinnah Municipal Stadium, Jamia Masjid, Allah Wali Masjid, Sufaid Masjid, Faisal Masjid, Moti Masjid and Al-Raheem Masjid.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman meeting with Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain at his resident. Provincial Minister Chaudhry Shafay Hussain is also present.

PTI objects to formation of larger bench in IHC judges' letter case

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has raised objections over the constitution of the bench in the Supreme Court's suo motu notice on the letter penned by six judges from the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

PTI spokesperson Rauf Hasan emphasized the party's stance, advocating for the establishment of a full court to address this crucial matter and suggesting that proceedings be televised live.

Rauf lauded the decision of former Chief Justice Tasadeq Hussain Jilani to resign from heading the inquiry commission, citing his commendable reputation.

Additionally, he proposed convening a lawyers' convention to deliberate on the concerns highlighted in the High Court judges' letter.

The letter, authored by six judges of the Islamabad High Court, expressed apprehensions regarding undue interference by secret agencies in judicial affairs. Initially, a commission chaired by Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani was tasked with investigating the matter.

However, following Jilani's resignation, the Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faiz Isa has formed a 7-member larger bench to oversee the case, a move contested by PTI.

SFA teams conduct raids, food outlets fined for selling substandard items

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Food Authority teams have conducted operation in districts South, East and West, under the supervision of Director General Sindh Food Authority Agha Fakhar Hussain. Director Operations Rafiq Memon and other officers were also present on this occasion.

The teams of Sindh Food Authority inspected the food items prepared for Ifari and Sehri in these districts. A fine of Rs 50,000 each on Jeddah Pakwan Centre and Jeddah Biryani and Rs. 200000 on Tipu Bergen. Sindh Food Au-

thority team collected the fine on the spot.

Meanwhile, a fine of Rs 300,000 was also imposed on Faisal Malik Shop. The workers at these food centers were not aware of the rules of hygiene. Expired food items, found at these food centres, were also wasted on the spot.

Talking on the occasion, Director General Sindh Food Authority Agha Fakhar Hussain said that people associated with food items business should follow the SOPs of Sindh Food Authority.

Sinotec Solar to establish 3 GW solar panel plant in Karachi

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a strategic move to bolster Pakistan's renewable energy sector, the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) has announced its facilitation of a groundbreaking initiative by Sinotec Solar Private Limited.

The endeavor entails the installation of a colossal 3 gigawatt (GW) solar panel manufacturing plant in the heart of Karachi, said PTV on Monday.

The project, set to revolutionize Pakistan's energy landscape, heralds a new era of localized production of solar panels, significantly reducing the nation's dependence on imports.

Sinotec Solar Private Limited, a renowned player in the global renewable energy market, is poised to not only establish the

manufacturing plant but also extend support for the production of dry batteries and electric vehicle trucks, aligning with Pakistan's green energy ambitions.

This landmark initiative is projected to inject a substantial influx of foreign direct investment (FDI) into Pakistan, marking a pivotal moment in the nation's economic trajectory. Furthermore, the project is poised to generate a multitude of employment opportunities, fostering socio-economic growth and empowerment within the local community.

Speaking on the significance of the project, Chairman of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) emphasized the establishment of this state-of-the-art manufacturing facility.

LPG price reduced by Rs6.45 per kg

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) on Monday announced a reduction in liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) prices. According to a notification issued by a regulatory body, the LPG price would go down by Rs6.45 per kilogram and it would now be sold at Rs 250.33 per kilogram.

For those using domestic cylinders, the price has seen a reduction. The cost of a domestic cylinder has been slashed by Rs76. The new price for the domestic cylinder has been set at Rs 2,954.

SSP Sukkur conducts open court

SUKKUR (APP): SSP Sukkur, Abid Baloch on Monday conducted first open court after assuming charge of Sukkur Police, aiming to address public grievances and foster their resolution. While speaking on the occasion, he emphasized the open courts' purpose to promptly resolve issues raised by the public.

He asserted that addressing public concerns in a timely manner is his foremost priority, pledging full efforts to facilitate the community. The attendees voiced their concerns and personal matters to the SSP Sukkur. He stressed the importance of community collaboration in tackling societal challenges.

SSP Baloch urged officers to prioritize the resolution of inquiries based on their merit and reaffirmed his commitment to upholding the rule of law impartially and without bias.

Man kills wife, injures mother-in-law

MIRPURKHALAS (APP): A man opened fire and killed his wife and injured his mother-in-law in the suburb of Bhokan Patan near Bahawalnagar, on Monday.

According to Police, a 45-year-old victim, Naseem Bibi was shot multiple times by her husband during a heated argument. Her 80-year-old mother-in-law, Naikan Bibi was also hit by gunfire and sustained serious injuries.

The incident was reported near Bhokan Patan, an area of Bahawalnagar. The injured woman and the deceased's body were rushed to the district hospital, for necessary procedure. Local police immediately responded to the scene and initiated legal proceedings. Further investigations are underway.

NA Speaker preserves ruling on adjournment motion submission

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Monday preserved the ruling on adjournment motion seeking debate on a letter of six judges of the Islamabad High Court.

Omar Ayub Khan, representing the Sunni Ittehad Council in the National Assembly, said that an adjournment motion has been submitted in the Speaker Chamber seeking debate on a letter written by the six judges of the Islamabad High Court to the Chief Justice of Pakistan. The Speaker said that he had received the ad-

jourment motion, and ruling will be issued later.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Ataulah Tarar, said that this matter was sub-judice and the Supreme Court had also constituted a bench on this matter. He said politics should not be done on such matters. Malik Amer Dogar said that the letter written by the judges was a very important issue, and instead of discussing any other matter in the House, the adjournment motion should be debated. The Speaker said that he had preserved the ruling on this matter and the House would be informed on it.



HYDERABAD: Women selecting and purchasing dress from vendor at cloth market at Latifabad for upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations.

SEPA asks banks to combat air, noise pollution caused by generators

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) has directed all the banks operating in Sindh province to take immediate action to address air and noise pollution caused by generators on their premises.

"Air pollution is a major health threat, especially in urban areas like Karachi," said Naem Ahmed Mughal, Director General of SEPA.

Generators installed by banks are significant contributors to this problem, emitting harmful pollutants and excessive noise, he observed.

The letter issued to all banks highlights the dangers of air pollution, ranking it as the fourth-leading cause of death globally. It emphasizes the impact on

public health, particularly for children and elderly people, and the economic consequences of poor air quality.

The letter specifically points to generator emissions, including nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide.

These pollutants, primarily from diesel, fuel combustion, contribute to smog formation and pose significant health risks.

SEPA urges banks to implement mitigation measures, including upgrading generators. Adopting cleaner technologies with improved emission controls and noise reduction features. Shifting to renewable energy by installing solar panels for a sustainable and cleaner energy source.

WASA stops taking Indus river water after examining high TDS

HYDERABAD (APP): The Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) has stopped taking the Indus River water from its canal because the level of Total Dissolved Solid (TDS), has been recorded at 875 milligrams per liter which is harmful for human consumption.

Spokesman of Hyderabad Development Authority (HDA) Nadeem Yousuf informed that on the directions of Director General HDA Zahid Hussain Shar WASA, had stopped taking the river water. He further informed that the TDS level was con-

stantly rising in the river. He said that WASA would use water stored in its lagoons to meet the city's demands.

The fresh water in a larger quantity could be released from Sukkur barrage to Kotri barrage, he added.

The acting Managing Director of WASA Zeeshan Malik has also appealed to the Sindh Irrigation Department to release more fresh water towards Kotri barrage to settle the health hazardous issues that emerged due to the high level of TDS in the river water.