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CM reviews city's law and order, appreciates recovery of kidnapped persons from Baldia

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah chaired a meeting to discuss the law & order situation in the city and praised the city police for successfully rescuing two kidnapped victims from Baldia.

He expressed his desire to cultivate this spirit of dedication and hard work in the police force further so that the city could become a peaceful and livable megalopolis.

The meeting was attended by Additional IG Karachi Imran Yakoob, DIG Mukadas Hyder, and the police party that participated in the operation to rescue two kidnapped persons. They include SSP AVCC Zafar Siddiqui, DSP Qaiser Shah, Inspector, Abid Hussain, Sub Inspector Ghulam Rasool, Head Constable Tariq Samad, Khawar Yusuf, lady police

Constable Aresha Naz. CM Shah said that he was not satisfied with the law & order situation in the city. "I know the police were working hard but special focus was needed in the hotspots where the crime rate was high," he said and directed additional IG to strengthen such police stations where the crime ratio has increased.

Additional IG Karachi Imran Yakoob told the CM that the crime rate in the city has been recorded at 166 cases per day means less than one per police station. He added that the crime rate in the other big cities of the province was high but even then, the situation was being controlled through extensive checking, patrolling and intelligence.

CM said that every day people were being killed for resisting the robberies.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a meeting to review Law and Order in the city, at CM House in Karachi.

Shehbaz, MBS agree to expedite first phase of \$5bn Saudi investment in Pakistan

Both leaders emphasise kingdom's "supportive role in Pakistan's economy and the mutual desire to strengthen trade, investment ties"; Urge int'l efforts to pressure Israel to cease hostilities in Gaza

MAKKAH MUKARRAMAH (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met with Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud here wherein the two countries affirmed their commitment to expediting the first wave of the previously discussed investment package worth \$5 billion.

The bilateral ties and regional as well as global developments of mutual interest, including the wor-

rying situation in Gaza were discussed in the meeting that took place at Al-Safa Palace here on Sunday during Prime Minister Shehbaz's three-day visit to the Kingdom, according to a joint statement issued on Monday.

The discussions centered on fortifying the fraternal relations between the two brotherly nations and exploring avenues for enhanced collaboration across various sectors. Emphasis was laid on the Kingdom's supportive role

in Pakistan's economy and the mutual desire to strengthen trade and investment ties, the statement added.

The two countries called for efforts by the international community to halt Israeli military operations in Gaza and mitigate humanitarian impact besides emphasising the need to advance the peace process.

Both sides underscored the imperative for the international community to pressure Israel to

cease hostilities, adhere to international law, and facilitate unhindered humanitarian aid access to Gaza.

Two sides discussed the need for advancing the peace process in accordance with relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly as well as the Arab Peace Initiative aimed at finding a just and comprehensive solution, to establish an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.



MAKKAH MUKARRAMAH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif during Ziaaraat of Al Masjid e Haraam.

Prime Minister Shehbaz performs Umrah

MAKKAH (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has performed Umrah during his visit to Saudi Arabia.

According to the details, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Information and Broadcasting Minister Attaullah Tarar, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and other members also performed Umrah along with prime minister.

After performing Umrah, Prime Minister Mian Shabbaz Sharif and the delegation offered special prayers for the security, development and prosperity of Pakistan and the Islamic world.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif offered Isha prayer in the Grand Mosque and also participated in the Khatm-e-Quran ceremony.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited Roza-e-Rasool (SAW), offered Isha Prayer and Nawafil prayers.



COAS hosts Iftar dinner for Pakistan Cricket Team at Army House in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir today hosted an Iftar dinner for Pakistan Cricket Team at Army House in Rawalpindi.

Among others, Chairman of Pakistan Cricket Board Mohsin Naqvi along with PCB officials also attended the Iftar.

According to ISPR, Pakistan Cricket Team underwent and concluded physical training at Army School of Physical Training (ASPT) camp in Kakul, Abbottabad.

Speaking on the occasion, the Army Chief extended best wishes to all the players in their future endeavours.

The cricketers thanked the Army Chief for excellent training provided to them at Kakul, and the role played by Pakistan Army in supporting the games in Pakistan.

Govt determined to boost economy to give confidence to business community: Commerce Minister

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Monday said that the government was confident and focused to further improve all the factors linked with the economy, so as to boost confidence of the business community. He said this while talking to media after a meeting at the Pakistan Business Council (PBC) here on Monday.

He said that Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif also held several meetings regarding economy of the country and business, exports, trade and energy sectors are among our top priorities. Jam Kamal Khan

said that the Commerce Ministry is well aware of its responsibility to reach out business community to take the input from them and we are determined to give our utmost to resolve the challenges being confronted by this community.

Referring to a recently held pre-budget seminar at Islamabad, the Federal Commerce Minister said that representatives of the business community from all over the country were invited to take their valuable suggestions to incorporate in the policy and decision-making process so as to further improve the situation.

The commerce minister told that trade diplomacy has been a very vital factor throughout the globe which helps the countries to improve their diplomatic ties. He said that the government as well as the business community are considering the available options to move the things in the positive direction.

Jam Kamal Khan said that the government is very hopeful and taking things forward in a progressive way and in near future we will share with the media and the masses the opportunities we need to ponder over for our progress and prosperity.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan meeting with Pakistan Business Council.

Bilawal visits Wali Bagh expresses condolence with ANP leadership

PESHAWAR (APP): PPP's Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari visited Wali Bagh, district Charsadda on Monday wherein he expressed condolence with the President of Awami National Party (ANP) Asfandyar Wali Khan, the death of his wife.

The PPP chairman met both Asfandyar Wali Khan and Aimal Wali Khan to express condolence with them. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari offered fateha for the eternal peace of the wife of Asfandyar Wali Khan and mother of Aimal Wali Khan and fortitude to her other family members.

Those who accompanied Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

were included president PPP KP chapter, Mohammad Ali Shah Bacha, Senator Yousaf Raza Gilani, Senator Sherry Rehman, Faisal Karim Kundi, Naveed Qamar, Nasir Shah, Shazi Khan, Kiramat Chagarmati, Hamayun Khan, Asma Arbab Alamgir and other party leaders.

Local PPP leaders including Amjad Khan Afridi, Farzand Wazir, Ibrar Saeed, Ziaullah Afridi, Arbab Zarak Khan, Zahir Ali Shah, Shoaib Alam, Naeem Khan Umerzi, Bacha Said, Arif Gul and Pir Aftab Uthmanzai also accompanied the party chairman and expressed condolence with Aimal Wali Khan.



PESHAWAR: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari concedes with Aimal Wali Khan, KPK President Awami National Party (ANP) over the death of his mother during meeting held in Charsadda.

President Zardari to address joint parliament on April 16

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari is scheduled to address the joint session of the parliament on April 16, to mark the beginning of the parliamentary year, following the general elections. The joint session of the parliament will be held on Tuesday (April 16) at 1600 hours, according to a President House press release issued on Monday.

He would address the

joint session in pursuance of Article 56 (3) of the Constitution which says, "At the commencement of the first session after each general election to the National Assembly and at the commencement of the first session of each year the President shall address both Houses assembled together and inform the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) of the causes of its summons."

Home minister orders suspension of SHO following citizen deaths in robbery

KARACHI (APP): In a tragic incident within the jurisdiction of Police Station SITE-A, District Keamari, two citizens lost their lives while resisting a robbery attempt. Expressing deep concern and dismay over the incident, Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hasan Lanjar swiftly took notice of the matter.

In response to the alarming situation, the Sindh Home Minister promptly ordered the immediate suspension of the Station House Officer (SHO) of

SITE-A Police Station. This action follows the fatal outcome of the robbery incident, which claimed the lives of the citizens.

Further directives were issued by the Sindh Home Minister, instructing the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Keamari to furnish a compliance report without delay.

Additionally, the SSP Keamari was tasked with conducting a thorough and comprehensive inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the incident.



JEDDAH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is seen off by Governor of Jeddah, Prince Saud bin Abdullah Al-Jalawi at Jeddah International Airport.

Sindh govt notifies 4-day Eid holidays

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh government on Monday announced to observe Eid-ul-Fitr holidays from April 10 to 13 across the province.

The notification issued by the Sindh Services, General Administration and Coordination Department announced public holidays for all government offices, autonomous bodies, semi-autonomous bodies, corporations and local councils under the administrative control of the Sindh government except essential services. As per the notification, the holidays in the province will be observed from April 10 to 12 in the offices having five working days a week and from April 10 to 13 in the offices hav-

ing two off days at the weekend.

Sindh govt notifies 4-day Eid holidays The federal government has already notified similar Eid holidays on April 4. As per the notification released by the Federal Cabinet Division, the offices observing five working days a week will observe three public holidays from April 10 to 12 and the offices observing six working days will observe four public holidays from April 10 to 13.

Moreover, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) also announced that the central bank will "remain closed from 10th to 12th April, 2024 (Wednesday to Friday) being public holidays on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr".

Commander Coast calls on Sindh CM

KARACHI (APP): The Commander Coast Vice Admiral Raja Rab Nawaz called on the Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah at Chief Minister House here on Monday.

They discussed the professional capabilities in the meeting, a CM's Spokesman said.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanging views with Vice Admiral Raja Rab Nawaz, Commander Coast (COMCOAST) during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

WB approves \$149.7m for two projects in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): The World Bank has approved 149.7 million dollars in financing for two projects in Pakistan, says in media reports.

As per details, the funds were okayed to support the projects related to digital economy and improved flood resilience. This has been stated in a statement

issued by the international financial institution.

The allocated funding of 78 million dollars for the Digital Economy Enhancement Project is expected to enhance financial management through technology-driven solutions and data-driven decision-making. The investment in digital economy is also likely to

streamline public services, increase transparency and foster economic growth. Simultaneously, the 71.7 million dollars allocation for Sindh Barrages Improvement Project is likely to ensure greater flood resilience.

Last year in July, the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors Thursday approved US\$100 million for the Punjab Family Planning Program to increase the utilization of family planning services in Pakistan's Punjab province.

"This important program aims to achieve universal access to reproductive healthcare and to raise the usage of family planning methods in Punjab to 60 percent by 2030."

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Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Merchants of death

In an increasingly rights conscious world professing allegiance to humanity, the situation in Gaza stands as perhaps the worst contradiction, fuelled by Israel's relentless military invasion...

The tragic incident involving the World Central Kitchen, where a targeted strike killed seven aid workers, six of whom were foreigners, encapsulates the impunity of Israel's military operations.

However, this should not have been the threshold for international outrage. The fact that it took the deaths of these particular individuals to move Washington is a damning indictment of selective empathy...

A continuation of this death-dealing would further sink the country's stated commitment to justice and human rights on the global stage. Meanwhile, Israel's temporary permission for aid delivery into Gaza, following intense US pressure, is a minuscule gesture in the face of the broader atrocities committed.

The need for a paradigm shift in how the international community, particularly the US, approaches the Israel-Palestine conflict is long overdue. It is not enough to condemn actions post-factum or to issue slap-on-the-wrist warnings devoid of substantive action.

In the words of UN Secretary General António Guterres "nothing can justify the collective punishment" in Gaza. It has been six long months. The destruction, the bloodlust, the war must end, and they must end now.

Human hierarchies

Zarrar Khuhro

We have witnessed horrors over the past six months. We have seen entire families decimated at the press of a button. We have seen entire bloodlines of Palestinians erased from the earth to slake Israel's bloodlust.

We have seen children hunted like mice through the ruins of Gaza, joyfully sniped by Israeli soldiers playing their murderous games, the same soldiers who — joyfully — pose with the lingerie of Palestinian women they have murdered or displaced. They proudly advertise their atrocities, filming TikToks where they mock their victims, eat their food, desecrate their homes, mosques and bodies.

All this has happened with hardly a mention on Western mainstream media, and with the barest wringing of hands in Western capitals. And that's because there are hierarchies to human lives.

There are some — mostly brown, mostly living in the Global South — who are born to be killed. Their lives are pointless, unworthy of comment or eulogy and in death they simply become statistics of the sort that can be easily ignored. Most of

the time, they aren't even killed; they simply die in unexplained explosions apparently caused by no one. Their children's lives are cut short by bullets that seemingly travel through time and space of their own volition. They don't really matter, and their deaths barely elicit a statement of concern from the worthies that run this world.

Proof, if we needed any, was supplied when the Israeli army 'triple-tapped' an aid convoy of the World Central Kitchen, killing brave and selfless aid workers who hailed not from the disposable countries but from the US, UK, Canada, Australia and Poland. This was, of course, 'unacceptable' and led to relatively loud condemnation of Israel with even the usually supine 'do you condemn Hamas/Israel has a right to defend itself' sections of the US media treating Israeli government spokespeople with the same ire they usually reserve for Palestinians who have lost their entire families.

Prominently, the hosts of America's President Joe 'more Zionist than the Zionists' Biden's favourite show, Morning Joe, tore into Israel's minister of the economy for Israel's handling of the war in Gaza. Biden finally called for a ceasefire, reportedly threatened to condition future aid to Israel on how it addresses concerns and pressured Israel into opening the Erez crossing into Gaza, allowing a few trucks of aid in. This proved that American pressure could make Israel change course.

But don't think for a moment that this is any lasting change of heart where Biden is concerned; he's too old and too rigid in his hawkish views to ever change. It

is, however, an indication of the pressure he now feels, given that Western citizens have been killed and that his chances of re-election seem dimmer. It also helps, of course, that the founder of the WCH, Jose Andre, is a well-known and well-connected figure in Washington, D.C.

Just a day after Biden called for an 'immediate ceasefire', the politicians-for-hire of America stepped up with choreographed messages of unconditional support for Israel. Politicians like Brad Sherman, the democratic Congressman, whom many Pakistanis recently became acquainted with, tweeted not just to exonerate Israel of blame but also to indirectly place the blame on WCH itself. This isn't surprising since Sherman is one of the many hired guns of Israel in the US Congress, and has received upwards of \$700,000 over his career from pro-Israel interest groups. Other known Israeli mouthpieces like Richie Torres (over a million dollars from pro-Israel groups) also chipped in as did Republican Ted Cruz and many others.

Speaking of AIPAC and its allies, Biden stands out as the highest recipient of funds from pro-Israel lobbies, clocking over \$11m from various Israeli lobbies over the course of his career. Increasingly, though there are voices calling out AIPAC in the US, something that was unthinkable fairly recently, and these voices will only grow in volume. Change is coming, but slowly and with a lot of pushback.

In the meantime, American citizens can take solace in the fact that if Israel were to kill them, the majority of the US political establishment would immediately rally to the defence of Israel. - Courtesy Dawn

The Rs400bn quandary

Basit Ghauri

The financial instability of distribution companies has led to a conundrum for decision-makers whereby the federal government, under the IMF programme, seeks to alleviate the burden of circular debt and considers shedding the Discos. On the other hand, the provinces and private sector remain cautious about assuming associated liabilities. Their fate remains unclear, as the Power Division, the Special Investment Facilitation Council, the Privatisation Commission, and the provinces fail to reach a consensus on the future of Discos.

Discos are struggling, with multifaceted challenges and structural deficiencies within the broader power sector contributing to their financial instability. A uniform tariff regime equalises the tariff of all Discos based on a national average; it is subsequently reduced through government subsidies from the federal budget. Such regulatory hurdles and lack of corporatisation hold back competition for performance improvement, exacerbating financial woes.

In FY2022, Discos reported a staggering net negative equity of Rs1.426 billion primarily driven by transmission and distribution losses of 16.3 per cent. Last year, low recovery rates and theft resulted in a staggering loss of Rs236bn. Abolishing this regime also risks social backlash and political repercussions, particularly in high-tariff areas.

The culmination of these challenges manifests in annual net losses of Rs400bn, begging the question of how to proceed. Multiple options are being explored, including complete or partial privatisation, management contracting, concession model:

provincialisation, handing over to the army, or maintaining the status quo.

Complete privatisation: The 1990s privatisation programme succeeded in privatising 167 entities worth about Rs476bn. However, recent attempts have largely failed, with only one success in the past decade. Successful privatisation demands strong political commitment, resolution of legacy contracts, settlement of liabilities, and negotiations with a sizable workforce. For instance, pressure from 3,500 employees at the Pakistan Steel Mills thwarted multiple privatisation attempts. With Discos employing over 100,000 individuals, gaining employee buy-in for any potential transaction appears highly unlikely.

Further, KE's privatisation has been problematic, with the need for a massive Rs171bn subsidy last year due to regulated consumer tariffs. The current uniform tariff regulations provide little incentive for entities like KE to adopt cost-effective, cleaner alternatives. According to a study by Renewables First, an energy and climate think tank, integrating renewables into its generation mix could have saved KE \$457 million over the past two years.

Moreover, aligning with liberalised market interventions, such as the Competitive Trading Bilateral Contracts Market, adds complexity. Since the wire business of Discos is a natural monopoly crucial to CTBCM success, determining the cost of using wires for bilateral contracts is a pertinent question. Also, corporatisation is essential, but some Discos lack formal boards, while others are intertwined with political affiliations.

Concession model:

Concession models offer an alternative, permitting government ownership retention while outsourcing Disco operations to enhance efficiency. This public-private partnership model, akin to successful infrastructure projects in provinces such as Sindh, necessitates tailored approaches for each Disco, with awareness of potential job displacements.

Provincialisation: Provincialisation as a solution to the power sector's circular debt addresses merely the symptoms, and not the disease. Provincial capacity to manage Discos is the same as, if not less than, the federal government's. Imbalances could arise, with wealthier provinces subsidising tariffs, while others face increased tariffs, exacerbating economic disparities. For instance, Tesco (Tribal Areas Electric Supply Company) receives around Rs20bn in subsidies from the federal government for its expenses, with almost negligible recoveries. This makes up some 2pc of the provincial budget set aside for Tesco only. Although incorporating this amount into the NFC award has been proposed, historical issues with timely and complete NFC disbursements remain unresolved.

Maintaining Disco's status quo may seem politically favourable but risks worsening the circular debt and relations with the IMF. Resolving Discos' issues requires assessing social and financial costs, managing assets, and building stakeholder consensus. Regardless of the chosen path, consumers will bear short-term costs, with substantive benefits materialising in the medium term. The government should adopt forward-looking strategies in consultation with stakeholders. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Pakistan faces average cost of Rs136bln per annum due to natural disasters: Speakers

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Speakers at a validation session on financial flow and gap analysis of public finance for disaster preparedness and response conducted by FAO Pakistan, a news release said.

Findings of the Financial Flow and Gap Analysis of Public Finance for Disaster Preparedness and Response conducted by FAO Pakistan, a news release said.

The analysis seeks to facilitate specific advocacy and capacity-building steps essential for enabling national, provincial, and district-level systems to finance and support Anticipatory Actions (AA). With a focus on both national and sub-national levels, particularly in Sindh province, the study looked into government climate and disaster risk financing mechanisms, tools, and flows.

The workshop aimed to disseminate the Initial

Janek Toepper, Climate Change and DRF Specialist, FAORAP, along with Syed Aftab Raza, Public Finance Management Consultant, presented key findings from the research analysis, shedding light on the Disaster Risk Finance for anticipatory action. Following this, Mubshar Hussain, Manager of Disaster Risk Reduction at NDRMF, discussed the Disaster Risk Financing Strategy and NatCat Model.

Emphasizing the necessity for collaborative efforts among public, private, and international stakeholders.

BISP beneficiaries to receive financial assistance directly into bank accounts: SBP

Independent Report KARACHI: State Bank of Pakistan, Monday, rolled out a facilitation framework to enable Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) beneficiaries receive financial assistance directly into their bank accounts.

beneficiaries for receiving the social welfare payment into their accounts and under the framework, about 9.3 million BISP beneficiaries will be able to open a "BISP Sahulat Account" in a single visit to the designated bank branch within their vicinity. The BISP has mapped its beneficiaries with a bank branch in the vicinity of the beneficiaries. However, given the large number of beneficiaries, the framework will be implemented in phases. Initially, a pilot phase will be run in Karachi and Lahore for onboarding about 300,000 BISP beneficiaries and after successful implementation of the pilot phase.



LAHORE: Finance Minister of Punjab Mujtaba Shujaur Rehman presiding over 1st meeting of Cabinet Standing Committee for Legislative Business & Privatization.

Rupee sheds 02 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Monday witnessed a devaluation of 02 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.94 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.92.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs277.3 and Rs280.4 respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by 09 paise to close at Rs301.07 against the last-day closing of Rs301.16, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs1.83, whereas an increase of 10 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded.



LAHORE: Members of Kissan Board Pakistan are holding protest demonstration against wheat support price, in Lahore.

Farooq Shaikhani emphasizes pivotal role of private sector to revitalize institutions

HYDERABAD (APP): President Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry Farooq Shaikhani, emphasizes the pivotal role of the private sector worldwide in revitalizing declining institutions through their unwavering commitment, innovation and embrace of new technologies, however suggested that in Pakistan, government institutions should adequately support and incentivize the private sector as well.

He stated that the official rate for a 100 kg sack of wheat has been set at Rs. 10,000. However, following this decision, the

price of wheat in the open market has subsequently decreased, resulting in direct financial setbacks for farmers.

He highlighted Pakistan's significant position as the fifth-largest wheat-cultivating nation globally. However wheat shortages and fluctuating flour prices, ultimately impacts both the public and traders.

President Chamber Farooq Shaikhani stressed the need to engage the private sector in wheat procurement, aligning with Islamic banking principles. Such involvement promises enhanced efficiency in the

procurement process, as private enterprises typically boast streamlined operations driven by profit incentives. He urged that incorporating the private sector would foster improved market integration, aligning wheat procurement with demand and supply dynamics for timely distribution and response to market fluctuations.

He emphasized that engaging the private sector would enhance farmers' welfare by enabling them to receive competitive rates from private buyers, thereby improving their livelihoods and fostering increased productivity.

KATI commends surge in LSM Production

KARACHI (APP): President Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), Johar Qandhari, Monday, expressed satisfaction over the recent uptick in production within the large-scale manufacturing (LSM) sector.

President KATI, in a statement issued here, acknowledged the positive impact of increased production, particularly in the textile sector, on exports and opined that the growth surge is transient due to the upcoming Eid festivities.

While underscoring the urgent need of lowering production costs and interest rates through cost reduction measures to sustain and bolster industrial activities, Qandhari emphasized that Pakistan's production costs were higher than other countries in the region.

Asserting the vital role of industrialization and exports in fostering economic development, he stressed that government should engage in dialogue with industrialists to address the issue of electricity and gas prices promptly, thereby facilitating economic stability for Pakistan.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where three ships, Elephant, Swansea and FSM scheduled to load/offload Rice, Coal and LPG berthed at Multi-Purpose Terminal, Bulk Terminal and Engro Terminal respectively on Sunday. Meanwhile another ship, Gall carrying Palm oil also arrived at outer anchorage of the port during the same day. A total of ten ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Ardmore Cherokee and Al-Khor sailed out to sea on Monday morning and another ship FSM.

Eid shopping reaches its peak in city markets

RAWALPINDI (APP): The shopping in city markets for Eid-ul-fitr reached its peak on Monday and the traders in the city markets were happy with a large turnout of the customers.

A festive environment was noticed at the busy shopping centers including Tench Bhatta, Saddar, Lalkurti, Moti Bazar, Commercial Market and several other markets of the town.

The shopkeepers and their helpers were busy till late night on Saturday and Sunday, in managing the customers, showing them the goods and bargaining with them.

The families were seen to throng the markets

to pick up their choices for Eid on Saturday and Sunday.

The shopkeepers of different malls and other markets said that their business on Saturday and Sunday was better than other days of this Ramadan. Varieties of goods, including foreign brands, particularly Chinese, are found in abundance.

The shops are flooded with garments for men, women and children, with the latest designs, particularly for children.

The rush of the customers at the shopping centers nowadays starts from evening and continue till closing of the shops before sehri.



LAHORE: Vice President Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry Adnan Khalid Butt meeting with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman.

163rd BoD meeting of PIEDMC held

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Industrial Estates Development and Management Company (PIEDMC) Chairman Javed Iqbal here Monday presided over the 163rd meeting of the PIEDMC Board of Directors. The board approved the sale plan of Bahawalpur Industrial Estate. The meeting also approved the design and cost of the main gates of the Quaid-e-Azam Business Park; the audited accounts of the company for the years 2021 and 2022; the terms of references of the working committees; and the concept paper of the Green Energy Initiatives.

The Board also approved obtaining a license from PTA to provide telecommunication services in Quaid-e-Azam Business Park; formation of the special committee to acquire land for a new grid station in Sunder Industrial Estate; and initiating the process to fill the vacant statutory seats of the company. While addressing the meeting Chairman PIEDMC Javed Iqbal said that speedy measures were being taken to promote industrial development in Punjab. Special focus is being given to the timely completion of development projects and the provision of facilities to the industrialists under one roof.

Minister inaugurates facilities for mentally challenged children

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Mal Sohail Shaukat Butt marked a significant milestone with the inauguration of special residential facilities for mentally challenged children at the Chamman institution.

During his visit to the Chamman Institution here on Monday, he also laid the foundation stone of hostel, special washrooms and mess in the building.

Sohail Shaukat Butt personally interacted with the children, distributed Eid gifts, and expressed heartfelt affection towards them. Witnessing the joy on the children's faces upon receiving toys was a heartwarming moment for

all present.

Sohail Shaukat Butt emphasized the importance of the project, which is a result of a public-private partnership with the Mushal-e-Rah Foundation. He expressed gratitude to Chairperson Mushal-e-Rah Amina Aftab for their unwavering support towards this noble cause.

The minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to providing the best possible care for these special children, stating that these children are the flowers in our garden, and it is our duty to nurture and protect them. "We will spare no effort in ensuring they receive the attention

and facilities they deserve."

The minister also addressed the issue of violence against women, announcing the upcoming launch of the 1737 helpline dedicated to the rescue and assistance of women facing litigation and violence. The "CM Punjab Women Protection Helpline" aims to support vulnerable and oppressed women, alongside stringent legislation to combat violence against domestic workers.

The inauguration of these special facilities at the Chamman institution marks a significant step towards providing a supportive environment for mentally challenged children, he concluded.



LAHORE: Provincial Ministers Khawaja Salman Rafique, Khawaja Imran Nazir, Mujtaba Shujaur Rehman, Rana Sikandar Haya and Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman presiding over 1st meeting of Cabinet Committee for deadly diseases.

FWMC deports 3500 workers, 150 vehicles for cleanliness during Eid

FAISALABAD (APP): Eidgahs in Faisalabad and their routes and congregation sites would be cleaned and washed before Eid-ul-Fitr in addition to sprinkling anti-germ sprays.

He said that more than 3500 workers and 150 vehicles would remain active during Eid holidays.

During his visit to various mosques and Eidgahs here on Monday, he said that leaves of FWMC officers and officials were cancelled and the entire staff would remain available from April 10 to April 13 for immediate disposal of waste material during Eid days. He said that there were 758 mosques and

Eidgahs in Faisalabad and their routes and congregation sites would be cleaned and washed before Eid-ul-Fitr in addition to sprinkling anti-germ sprays.

He said that more than 3500 workers and 150 vehicles would remain active during Eid holidays.

They would ensure mechanical sweeping of 100 kilometers roads in Faisalabad.

The people could contact the FWMC through its complaint cell 1139 which would remain active round-the-clock to receive and redress public complaints on urgent basis.

Police finalizes security plan for Eid-ul-Fitar

KHANEWAL (APP): Police finalized security plan to maintain law and order during celebrations of Eid-ul-Fitar.

The District Police Officer (DPO) Rana Omer Farooq said that foolproof security arrangements would be made during Eid and law violations would not be tolerated at any cost.

He said that more than 648 police officials would be deployed on security duty at 461 Masjid and 51 Imambarahs across the district.

On the other hand, Elite force would continue patrolling in the areas for quick response in any emergency like situation, he added.

1085 vehicles inspected, fines imposed

PESHAWAR (APP): The district administration and the Transport Department have inspected a total of 1085 vehicles and 59 transport terminals.

Fines were imposed on 372 vehicle owners, and FIRs were registered against six managers of bus terminals during the last three days.

The authorities have issued warnings to 78 transporters, while 16 were arrested for overcharging. Inspections were carried out at various transport terminals, including General Bus Stand.

DCs, DPOs directed to ensure prevention of aerial firing

PESHAWAR (APP): Commissioner, Peshawar Division Riaz Khan Mehsud has directed the Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and District Police Officers (DPOs) of all districts of the division, authorities of traffic police, Water Supply & Sanitation Programme (WSSP) and administrative officers of the Capital Metropolitan Government also attended the meeting. Divisional Commissioner directed Police in all districts of the division to begin patrolling from the afternoon of the day of moon-sighting night and beside police.

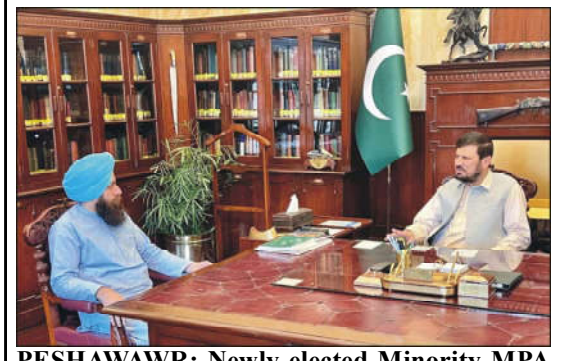
on Monday. Besides, the Deputy Commissioners (DCs), District Police Officer (DPOs) of all districts of the division, authorities of traffic police, Water Supply & Sanitation Programme (WSSP) and administrative officers of the Capital Metropolitan Government also attended the meeting. Divisional Commissioner directed Police in all districts of the division to begin patrolling from the afternoon of the day of moon-sighting night and beside police.

Members of global animal welfare organisation calls on senior minister

LAHORE (APP): A four-member experts team of Austria-based global animal welfare organisation, Four Paws, called on Senior Minister Punjab Marriyum Aurangzeb at Margalla Wildlife Rescue centre and discussed different issues, including wildlife conservation, breeding, ecosystem provision, technical assistance, provision and use of modern medical equipment and capacity building of the Punjab Wildlife Department's staff.

Four Paws's Director (Operations) Dr Amir

Khalil, Dr Ivanov, Dr Frank Gorriz, and Welzer Englof arrived in Pakistan for the medical treatment of eight black bears as per the special request of the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board for animal treatment. The senior minister expressed gratitude for the visit of the Four Paws team to Pakistan, treatment of wildlife and cooperation in wildlife conservation efforts. The senior minister stated that public awareness campaigns would be launched regarding wildlife conservation.



PESHAWAR: Newly elected Minority MPA Gopal Singh meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali.

Largest Namaz-e-Eid gathering to be held at Gulshan-e-Jinnah at 8 a.m

KARACHI (APP): The largest Namaz-e-Eidul Fitr gathering under the management of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) will be held in Gulshan-e-Jinnah (Old Polo Ground), here at 8 a.m.

Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori, Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab, Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, Municipal Commissioner S.M Afzal Zaidi, diplomats of Islamic countries, members of national and provincial assemblies, various social and political leaders and a large number of dignitaries of the city will offer Eid prayers at Gulshan-e-

Jinnah. According to the instructions of Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab, arrangements are being completed for the Eid-ul-Fitr gathering at the Old Polo Ground.

The flags of different Muslim countries are being raised to express solidarity. Apart from cleanliness around the Eid Gah, the entrance and exit routes are also being made better for the faithfuls. Strict security arrangements have been made for Eid prayers.

Along with arrangements for ablation for the citizens coming for Eidgah, cleaning and disinfecting spray will also be performed.



PESHAWAR: A large number of vehicles stuck in traffic jam at Saddar market while people busy in shopping as they are preparing for the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitar coming ahead, in Peshawar.

Sindh Doctors Association UK, NDF distributes wheelchairs, tricycles in Nawabshah

NAWABSHAH (APP): Sindh Doctors Association UK distributed wheelchairs and tricycles to deserving disabled people through the local partner organization NDF Pakistan Nawabshah here on Monday.

On this occasion, eminent social activist Abid Lashari, acknowledged the efforts of Sindh Doctors especially Dr. Shah Bux Lashari, Dr. Fahad Memon, Dr. Shahabuddin Kalhoro and

others. He further said that 10 wheelchairs and three tricycles were distributed among the deserving persons with disabilities from the given donation. He prayed for the Pakistani community living in the United Kingdom, especially the Sindh community, who made this possible to provide assistive devices to 13 persons with disabilities to ensure their mobility to make their lives easier in the Holy month of Ramadan.

One robber killed, 3 injured and held after encounter

KARACHI (INP): One robber was killed and three injured and held with arms and looted valuables after exchange of fire here in the metropolis on Monday.

According to details, three armed robbers barged into a bungalow in Gulshan-e-Mehmar area of Karachi.

The police getting the information cordoned off the bungalow and an exchange of fire took place in which one robber was killed while two others were critically injured and held. The police recovered three pistols, ammunition, looted jewelry, cash and cell phones from possession of the killed and arrested robbers. Meanwhile, another robber was injured and held during an encounter at Shah Faisal Bridge. Arms, four snatched cell phones and other valuables were recovered from his possession. The body and injured robbers were shifted to different hospitals and police after registering separate cases at respective police stations started investigations.

International News

At least 94 dead in Mozambique after unlicensed ferry boat capsizes

Monitoring Desk
MOZAMBIQUE: At least 94 people died, including children, and 26 are missing after a ferry boat capsized off the northern coast of Mozambique, an official from the country's Maritime Transport Institute (INTRASMAR) said.

The vessel was an overloaded fishing boat and was not licensed to transport people, Lourenco Machado, an administrator of INTRASMAR, said on state television on Monday.

"On Sunday we registered a maritime incident where at least 94 people died when a barge carrying 130 people capsized. We have recovered 94 bodies and 26 are missing," he said.

The boat was ferrying people from Lunga in Nampula province to

Mozambique Island, he said, adding that initial reports indicated that it was hit by a tidal wave.

The passengers were fleeing a cholera outbreak, said state broadcaster TVM, citing another local maritime administrator.

Jaime Neto, secretary of state for Nampula province, also said that the passengers were fleeing cholera, according to the British Broadcasting Corp (BBC).

"Because the boat was overcrowded and unsuited to carry passengers, it ended up sinking," he told the BBC, adding that many children were among the dead.

Videos posted on social media X showed many bodies lying on a beach and some people carrying the bodies of children. Reuters

could not immediately verify these videos.

Mozambique and other countries in Southern Africa have been battling cholera outbreaks since last year.

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Boat that sank off the north coast of Mozambique killing 96 people on the Island of Mozambique.

Iran FM opens new Syria consulate after deadly Israeli strike

Monitoring Desk
DAMASCUS: Iran's foreign minister inaugurated the country's new consulate in Damascus on Monday, a week after a deadly strike blamed on Israel destroyed the former premises, sending regional tensions skyrocketing.

Tehran, a key Damascus ally, has vowed to avenge last Monday's air strike on the Iranian embassy's consular section that killed seven Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) members, including two generals.

The strike came against the backdrop of Israel and Hamas's ongoing fighting, which began with the group's October 7 attack on Israel.

Damascus and Tehran blame Israel for last Monday's raid, but it has not commented. Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian inaugurated the new consular section in a Damascus building in the presence of his Syrian counterpart Faisal Mekdad, whom he also met earlier on Monday, state news agency SANA said.

Russian FM Lavrov due in China today

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov will visit China on Monday and Tuesday, his ministry said in a statement.

"On April 8 and 9, the foreign affairs minister ... will undertake an official visit in the People's Republic of China, during which discussions with... [his Chinese counterpart] Wang Yi are planned," it said on Sunday.

"An in-depth exchange of points of view is expected on a certain number of 'burning subjects'," the statement said, citing "the Ukrainian crisis and the situation in the Asia-Pacific region".

Russia says Ukraine struck nuclear plant, Kyiv denies it was behind the attack

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia said Ukraine struck the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power station controlled by Russian forces three times on Sunday and demanded the West respond, though Kyiv said it had nothing to do with the attacks.

The International Atomic Energy Agency, which has experts at the site, said it was the first time the nuclear plant, Europe's largest, was directly targeted since November 2022 and said the attack had endangered nuclear safety.

Russian forces took control of the plant in 2022 shortly after their full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Both Moscow and Kyiv have repeatedly accused each other of risking a nuclear accident by attacking the plant. Russia's state nuclear corporation, Rosatom, said

Ukraine attacked the plant three times on Sunday with drones, first injuring three near a canteen, then attacking a cargo area and then the dome above reactor No 6.

"Zaporizhzhia nuclear power station has been subjected to an unprecedented series of drone attacks, a direct threat to the safety of the plant," Rosatom said. "The radiation levels at the plant and the surrounding area have not changed," it said.

A Ukrainian intelligence official said Kyiv had nothing to do with any strikes on the station and suggested they were the work of Russians themselves. "Russian strikes, including imitation ones, on the territory of the Ukrainian nuclear power plant ... have long been a well known criminal practice of the invaders."



People watch the solar eclipse on the lawn of Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles, California, U.S.

Millions across North America await total solar eclipse

Monitoring Desk
MAZATLAN: A total solar eclipse will have millions of people across a heavily populated swath of North America gazing toward the heavens on Monday. However, the celestial event will not be visible in Pakistan or India.

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), the eclipse will be visible from the west in "Europe, North

America [and] north in South America, Pacific, Atlantic and Arctic."

"However it will be not visible in Pakistan," it added.

Meanwhile, Hindustan Times reported that the total solar eclipse would also not be visible in India. The eclipse will be viewable, weather permitting, along a path starting in Mexico and then crossing through the United States and into Canada.

Thai PM says Myanmar regime 'losing strength'

Monitoring Desk
SAMUI: Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin told Reuters now is a good time to open talks with Myanmar as the military regime that seized power in a 2021 coup is weakening.

Myanmar is in the throes of an insurgency on multiple fronts, with allied anti-junta groups backed by a pro-democracy parallel government seizing control of several military posts and towns, including parts of a key town on the border with Thailand over the weekend. The insurgency is the biggest challenge the Myanmar junta has faced since it mounted a coup against an elected government in 2021.

"The current regime is starting to lose some strength," Srettha said in an interview on the resort island of Samui on Sunday, adding, "but even if they are losing, they have the power, they have the weapons."

Footage shows a lively Gaza turned to wasteland since war began

Monitoring Desk
GAZA: Drone footage of Gaza over the six months of warfare between Israel and Hamas shows how the once vibrant Palestinian enclave has been transformed into a vast wasteland of rubble and twisted steel by Israeli bombardment. During normal days, Palestinians used to be able to stand on their buildings' balconies and take in a view of the Mediterranean Sea.

Those structures

have vanished, footage from Reuters and other sources shows, crushed into piles of cement and debris. Residents have been forced to wander Gaza seeking shelter from an Israeli offensive designed to destroy its arch enemy Hamas.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said the campaign will not stop until Hamas is eliminated, so the bombardment and destruction are expected to continue.

China constantly coerces Japan and Philippines, US envoy to Japan Emanuel says

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: China constantly uses coercion and pressures other countries, including Japan and the Philippines, U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel said on Monday. Emanuel made the remark at a Center for Strategic and International Studies event in Washington days before U.S. President Joe Biden hosts Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr for a summit.

People's Liberation Army conducts military drills in South China Sea

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China conducted military "combat patrols" on Sunday in the disputed South China Sea, its army said, the same day as joint drills by the Philippines, the United States, Japan and Australia.

The announcement comes one day after defence chiefs from four countries including the Philippines — which has been engaged in several contentious maritime disputes with Beijing recently — said they would conduct joint drills in the area.

Beijing's People's Liberation Army (PLA) Southern Theater Command said it was organising "joint naval and air combat patrols in the South China Sea". "All military activities that mess up the situation in the South China Sea and create hotspots are under control," it said in a state-

ment, in an apparent swipe at the other drills being held in the waters.

Further details about the Chinese military activities in the waterway were not announced.

The exercises take place days before US President Joe Biden is due to hold the first trilateral summit with the leaders of the Philippines and Japan. Top US officials have repeatedly declared the United States' "ironclad" commitment to defending the Philippines against an armed attack in the South China Sea — to the consternation of Beijing. China claims territorial sovereignty over nearly all of the South China Sea and has been increasingly assertive in the region in recent years. China's Coast Guard said it had "handled" a situation on Thursday at a disputed reef where several ships from the Philippines were engaged in "illegal" operations.

Rs163 m transferred to pregnant, lactating mothers under MNCSP: Murad Shah

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday said that through the Social Protection Delivery System, the Mother and Child Support Program (MNCSP) has been launched under which so far Rs163.584 million cash was transferred to pregnant and lactating women. Shah said that the MNCSP has been introduced to encourage pregnant women and mothers of under two-year-old children to utilize maternal, newborn, and child healthcare services (MNCH) throughout the continuum of care for 1,000 days/ three years from conception. The program will provide conditional cash transfers to support and strengthen the scale of the Mother and Child Support.

This emerged in a meeting presided by the CM to review the progress of 'the Strengthening Social Protection Delivery System in Sindh (SSPDS)' here at CM House. The meeting was attended by PSCM Agha Wasif, Secretary of Social Protection Dept Rafiq Mustafa Shaikh, CEO of Social Protection Authority Samiullah Shaikh and others concerned. The MNCSP program has a budget of \$201.85 million to strengthen and expand the existing Mother and Child Support Program by providing conditional cash transfers to pregnant women and mothers of children under two years old. The Strengthening Social Protection Delivery System in Sindh (SSPDS) has been launched with the International Development Association (IDA). The IDA has funded \$200 million and counterpart funding of the Sindh government share is \$30 million which shows the project cost is \$230 million. The project will be implemented over five years (2023-2027).

The Mother and Child Support Program (MNCSP) has been initiated for \$201.85 million to strengthen and increase the scale of the Mother and Child Support via conditional cash transfer to pregnant women and mothers of under two-year-old children encouraging them to utilize maternal, newborn and child healthcare (MNCH) services throughout the continuum of care for 1,000 days (3 years) from conception. Secretary Social Protection Rafiq Mustafa to the CM that the MNCSP which has been piloted in two districts (Umerkot and Tharparkar) in 2021, offer cost-effective instruments for increasing the uptake of these essential services by poor rural households.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a meeting of Social Protection Department held at CM House in Karachi.

Jam Kamal for Pakistan's participation in Expo 2025 Osaka to achieve strategic objectives

KARACHI (APP): The Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Monday expressed his desire for Pakistan's maximum participation in the Expo 2025 Osaka to achieve desired goals. The expo is scheduled to be held from April 13 to October 13 in Japan. The Minister, earlier, visited the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and took briefing about the upcoming international exhibitions scheduled to be held in Japan and Pakistan. While briefing the Minister Jam Kamal, the Regional Director General Islamabad Muhammad Naseer via video link informed the minister that Expo 2025 Osaka is going to be held in Japan under the theme of 'Designing Future Society for Our Lives' from April 13 to October 13, 2025 at Yumeshima, Osaka in Japan. He said that Pakistan out of three sub-themes of the exhibition had shown its interest to participate in Connecting Lives and Empowering Lives. Naseer said that Pakistan had applied for participating in the exhibition and expected to get approval from the exhibitors soon. He said that a summary had been finalized and sent for the approval to the ministry. TDAP Director General of Agro and Food Division Pakistan Horticulture and Export Company Athar Hussain Khokhar while briefing the Commerce Minister said that the TDAP is scheduled to organize second International Food and Agriculture Exhibition from August 9 to 11, 2024 at the Expo Centre Karachi.

The expo is scheduled to be held from April 13 to October 13 in Japan. The Minister, earlier, visited the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and took briefing about the upcoming international exhibitions scheduled to be held in Japan and Pakistan. While briefing the Minister Jam Kamal, the Regional Director General Islamabad Muhammad Naseer via video link informed the minister that Expo 2025 Osaka is going to be held in Japan under the theme of 'Designing Future Society for Our Lives' from April 13 to October 13, 2025 at Yumeshima, Osaka in Japan. He said that Pakistan out of three sub-themes of the exhibition had shown its interest to participate in Connecting Lives and Empowering Lives. Naseer said that Pakistan had applied for participating in the exhibition and expected to get approval from the exhibitors soon. He said that a summary had been finalized and sent for the approval to the ministry. TDAP Director General of Agro and Food Division Pakistan Horticulture and Export Company Athar Hussain Khokhar while briefing the Commerce Minister said that the TDAP is scheduled to organize second International Food and Agriculture Exhibition from August 9 to 11, 2024 at the Expo Centre Karachi.

Shawwal moon not sighted in Saudi Arabia, Eid will fall on April 10

Monitoring Desk RYADH: According to the moon sighting committee in Saudi Arabia, the Shawwal moon was not sighted on Monday (April 8). As a result, Ramadan will continue until April 9, completing 30 days, and Eidul Fitr will be celebrated on April 10 in Saudi Arabia. In the UAE, the Emirates Astronomical Society also predicts that Eid will commence on April 10.

Abbasi approaches ECP to form new political party

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, who has parted ways with the PML-N, approached the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday for the registration of a new political group.

According to sources, the disgruntled PML-N leader has submitted the necessary documents to the ECP in this respect. During an informal interaction with a group of journalists, the former premier said that all necessary documents have been provided to the ECP for the registration of a new political group.

HESCO discovers 239 more illegal connections in 24 hours

HYDERABAD (APP): The Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) has detected 239 more connections involved in electricity theft in the region including 11 commercial and 228 domestic, during its ongoing crackdown against electricity thieves in the past 24 hours. The HESCO authorities have submitted letters to various police stations for registration of cases against 213 individuals involved in electricity theft, on which 23 FIRs were registered. According to the HESCO spokesperson, all connections involved in electricity theft were disconnected and involved consumers were issued detection bills of 1,35,544 units.

Rangers arrests two street criminals

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Rangers Sindh and Police in a joint intelligence based operation in Baldia Town arrested two alleged street criminals involved in numerous crimes and recovered arms, ammunition and snatched mobile phones from their possession.

According to a news release on Monday, the arrested were identified as Khalil Ahmed and Habibullah. The agencies recovered a 9mm pistol along with ammunition, two snatched mobile phones and a motorcycle from the possession of the arrested. The arrested accused confessed committing a number of robberies in different areas of the megapolis including Northern Bypass, Gulshan e Ghazi, Yousuf Goth and adjacent areas. Raids are being conducted to apprehend their other accomplices.

Hot, dry weather forecast for Sindh

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Meteorological Department on Monday predicted hot and dry weather in most parts of the Sindh province during the next 24 hours. While, day temperatures are expected to increase two to three degrees Centigrade above normal in upper Sindh. Mainly, hot and dry weather is likely to prevail in the province.

Govt to establish first-ever center of excellence for climate change: Romina

ISLAMABAD (INP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Monday expressed the government's intention to establish the first-ever center of excellence for climate change in the country. She said that the newly planned Centre would be for welfare of wildlife wherein veterinary training, transfer of veterinary technology, awareness for the public would be provided by senior wildlife scientists for betterment of niche, ecology, growth and experimentation of wildlife. Romina Khurshid Alam held a meeting with Islamabad Wildlife Management Board along with experts from Four Paws at ministry of climate change, a news release said. The Coordinator to PM on Climate Change was apprised on management, preservation of wildlife, issues and challenges about Margalla Hills National Park & Marghazar Zoo. Dr. Frank Goeritz, head of Institute of zoo & wildlife research and Dr. Amir Khalil, Director reveal & rescue briefed the coordinator to PM on bio rescue & endangered species. The Coordinator to PM on Climate Change emphasized on setting up a new park dedicated for rare species, endangered species and vulnerable species. For this purpose 28 acre land, under the ministry would be utilized.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanging views with Hattori Masara, Consul General of Japan during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

Sardar Awais sets April 23 deadline to curb power pilferage

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari has given April 23 as deadline to all Chairmen, Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of Power Distribution Companies (DISCOs) to curb power pilferage completely. He said all the concerned officers should trace all the sources of electricity pilferage and address them. SEs, XENs and SDOs and concerned field staff have to give certificate of no theft in their respective areas, the minister said.

He said all CEOs would verify these certificates and submit them to the ministry. These performance would be reviewed on weekly basis and no leniency would not be tolerated, he said. He said the incumbent government has zero tolerance about power pilferage and committed to rooting out the power theft menace.

DIG Hyderabad directs SSPs to ensure security, traffic regulation for Eid

HYDERABAD (APP): DIG Hyderabad Police Range Tariq Razzak Dharejo has directed all the 9 SSPs in the range to ensure security arrangements for Namaz of Eidul Fitr as well as during Eid holidays. The police spokesman informed here on Monday that the directives in that regard had been issued to the SSPs for ensuring fool-proof arrangements for Eid Namaz at all the Eidgahs, Imambargahs and mosques in the Range. The DIG asked the SSPs to increase patrolling in the markets on the eve of Eid and to deploy personnel at parks and other recreational facilities which would be thronged by the public during Eid holidays. The DIG told them to create surveillance teams based on the police stations and to keep an eye on the suspicious persons and activities. He also underscored the need for increased police presence on the inter-district roads and highways because an unusually higher number of people travel during Eid holidays.



LARKANA: Students are holding protest demonstration against the killing of Akash and Yusra and demanding justice for them, at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana.

World health day observed

SUKKUR (APP): Like other parts of the country World Health Day was also observed in northern Sindh with the theme 'My health, My Rights'. The day was celebrated to create awareness among the general public regarding healthcare and to train paramedics to cope with emergencies. According to Senior health expert, Dr Najaf Ali Shah, in recent years thousands of people died due to natural calamities like, floods and hurricanes and over a million people died in road accidents. He said there were special medical procedures to cope with emergencies, adding that paramedics needed to be trained in this regard. He said over 3,200 people died every day due to road accidents. Talking to APP here on Monday, Prominent Health Expert Dr Abid Ali Shah said that the government was spending huge funds to improve health facilities for the masses despite acute economic constraints. He said that the health ministry intended to formulate legislation to take strict action against the quacks who were the main cause behind the rapid spread of various diseases. He called upon professionals to adopt an integrated and multi-sector approach to deal with challenges in the health sector. To a question, Dr Shah said that due to ignorance and extreme poverty, communicable and non-communicable diseases were increasing in the developing world. Complex financing mechanisms, expensive technology and costly medicines were the causes of a poor health delivery system.



The Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan getting briefing at Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP).

IGP Sindh says Will conduct operations based on intelligence

By Tanveer Ahmed Soomro



MIRPUR MATHELO: IG Sindh Police Ghulam Nabi Memon has said in a press conference at the District head quarters Mirpur Mathealo that social media cannot be closed in Ghotki Kachha Area, we have sent a reference to cybercrime, CTD in Kachha has been tasked, they are working to find out who is supplying the arms in Kachha. When it comes to police operations, we will conduct operations based on intelligence because this is the way to conduct operations in

Kachha, IG Sindh. He said that we are buying modern weapons which are being given to the police and we are also giving vehicles to the police. The accused killed in the clashes will be arrested. Sindh IG Ghulam Nabi Memon said in the press conference that Ghotki, Shikarpur and Kashmir are districts in which they want to ensure law and order situation and the police are giving facilities to the police. If we do good work, people will support us.

Eid preparations enter final stage

SUKKUR (APP): With only two days left in the Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations, the citizens are finalizing their preparations to mark the grand festival with great enthusiasm by visiting the main markets and shopping malls in Sukkur on Monday.

A number of buyers are thronging to the main markets to complete their shopping as authorities expect more rush during the last days of Ramadan before the festival.

Different famous brands as well as local markets have displayed the latest Eid editions of dresses, shoes and other essential accessories to attract the buyers and gain maximum profits while some are offering discounts.

A huge rush of people can be witnessed thronging to the Shahi Bazar, Military Road, Gharib Abad, Bander Road, Mission Road, Queen's Road etc to buy Eid stuffs.

Four killed in road accident

By Adeel Ahmed Dall SHIKARPUR: A Horrible road accident claimed for precious lives including HiAce Passenger wagon driver and three Women on Shikarpur - Larkana Indus Highway road on Monday in the jurisdiction of Dakhan police station.

According to reports, a speedy HiAce Passenger Wagon coming from Kandhkot to Larkana and went out of control where it's tyre bursted and overturned on road near Thariri Bus Stop of Garhiyaseen Taluka.

As a result of accident, Four persons including it's driver identified as Zameer Ahmed Naseerani died on the spot.

Robbers kill two citizens, loot millions in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): A tragic incident was reported from Karachi's Metroville area, where two citizens lost their lives over resisting robbery, while the culprits managed to flee after looting more than Rs 10.3 million.

The police spokesperson stated that the deceased workers of a poultry farm, identified as Sher Alam and Zakir, was on their way to deposit cash in the bank. Deputy Inspector General (DIG) South, Syed Asad Raza, arrived at the spot and took details of the incident from Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kemari, Faizan Ali.

DIG South Asad Raza reported that the tragic incident occurred on Monday at 9 am. The victims, who were en route to deposit over Rs 10.3 million cash in a bank, were targeted and shot dead by the culprits over resisting robbery.

IHC objects to PTI's plea seeking delay in Senate chairman, deputy elections

ISLAMABAD (INP): The registrar of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday raised an objection to the petition filed by five PTI senators in which they had sought a court order for delaying elections for the seats of Senate chairman and deputy chairman unless elections for the Senate seats from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) are held.

The senators had also prayed to the court to declare the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) notification, dated April 2, 2024, of postponement of the Senate elections in KP as null and void and give order to hold the elections in the province.

The registrar said that since the Peshawar High Court (PHC) was already hearing the KP Senate seats' election case; therefore the PTI was asked to approach the high court for the purpose. Separately, the PTI has also filed a motion against the election of Senate chairman at the Senate Secretariat on Monday.

The PTI application bears the signatures of Senators Zarqa Taimoor, Saif Abro, Falak Naz Chitrali, Fauzia Arshad and Saifullah Niazi.

DC chairs meeting to review Eid arrangements

HYDERABAD (APP): Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Zahid Hussain Rind presided over a meeting to ensure cleanliness, security and other arrangements in the cities on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr that was held today in Darbar Hall of DC office.

The commissioner said that Eid-ul-Fitr is a big festival for Muslims on which the provision of municipal services to citizens should be ensured in every way. He said that a control room will be established to maintain contact with the concerned departments which will continue to work on the three days of Eid.

He further directed concerned officials to take measures for wastewater drainage and to drain dirty water so that citizens who offer Eid prayers do not face any problems.

The deputy commissioner (DC) while giving instructions to the in-charge of Rescue 1122, said that on the occasion the team should be prepared to deal with emergencies, while the health department should ensure the availability of doctors, paramedical staff and medicines in all the health centers of the district, while doctors should be made duty bound on the three days of Eid in the People's Medical Hospital.

DC while giving instructions to the officers of the police department said that better security arrangements should be made on the occasion of Chand Raat and Eid-ul-Fitr to ensure the safety of the lives and property of the citizens while the flow of traffic should be maintained to save the citizens from suffering.

Hot, dry weather forecast for Sindh

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Meteorological Department on Monday predicted hot and dry weather in most parts of the Sindh province during the next 24 hours. While, day temperatures are expected to increase two to three degrees Centigrade above normal in upper Sindh. Mainly, hot and dry weather is likely to prevail in the province.



KARACHI: View of illegal encroachment by parking on a road by affluent parking and encroachment mafia, which is creating problems for residents and commuters, showing negligence of concerned authorities of anti-encroachment department to draw its attention toward issue, at Saddar area in Karachi.

Mayor Arslan Sheikh prioritizes providing all necessary facilities to residents

SUKKUR (APP): Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arslan Sheikh on Monday called upon the officials concerned to take meaningful measures regarding municipal services and security in the surroundings of all mosques and Eidgahs on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

In a meeting regarding the Eid-ul-Fitr arrange-

ments, he said that the Sukkur Municipal Corporation (SMC) should take full measures to ensure cleanliness around all mosques and Eidgahs. Mayor Sukkur directed that special measures should be taken regarding water supply and sewage while all manholes should be covered.



HYDERABAD: People arrives at Badin Bus Stand, to leave for hometowns to celebrate Eidul Fitr with their loved ones.

AGF kicks off food distribution drive in Sujawal district

KARACHI (APP): Amity Global Foundation, a Canadian organization dedicated to empowering rural communities in Pakistan, kicked off 'Food Distribution Drive' ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr across 25 villages in district Sujawal. Amity's Ramadan Food Distribution Drive targeted underserved villages in interior Sindh, providing much-needed food assistance to families. This intervention aims to alleviate immediate hunger concerns while working alongside local partners to establish long-term solutions for food security.

Foundation, Saad Hainan while expressing his views on the successful implementation of this drive said "we are immensely thankful to Almighty Allah that this Food Distribution Drive turned successful in all aspects and it is the need of the hour to address malnutrition issues in the rural Pakistan. He said Amity is highly inclined towards empowering the communities in interior Sindh and the Punjab provinces with all honest intentions help the suffering humanity and to support them in such a manner that they could become able to attain a better livelihood for themselves.