

# Independent

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## IMF approves disbursement of \$1.1 billion loan tranche

Pakistan completes second bailout package in its history of 23 deals

**Monitoring Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Monday approved disbursement of \$1.1 billion last loan tranche, marking the successful end of the second bailout package in eight years but it took heavy toll in the shape of unbearable inflation and slowing economic wheel.

The Executive Board of the IMF approved the completion of the second review of the \$3 billion Standby Arrangement, confirmed the Ministry of Finance. This also paved the way for the release of the last loan tranche of \$1.1 billion. The IMF board also backed Pakistan's intent to get another bailout package to ensure 'permanency in economic stabilisation and

deepen structural reforms'. The global lender approved the completion of the second review of the arrangement hours after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the country's debt trap had become a 'death trap', calling it the biggest challenge for his government. He made these remarks while addressing the closing session of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

"We have a serious problem of inflation before us. And then we have a debt trap. I prefer calling it a death trap, which has crumbled our economy," said Shehbaz. The PM also met with the Managing Director of the IMF Kristalina Georgieva in Saudi Arabia on Sunday to discuss the

next bailout programme. Deviating from its transparency policy, the IMF did not list Pakistan in the April 29<sup>th</sup> calendar being issued on its website. Prime Minister Shehbaz, Governor State Bank of Pakistan Jameel Ahmad and the Secretary Finance Imdad Ullah Bosal played pivotal roles in first securing the deal in June 2023 and then pushing it towards the finishing line. In July last year, Pakistan had signed the nine-month programme for the \$3 billion, which stabilised the economy and brought the current account deficit under control. However, the budget deficit remained out of the control and is going to end around 7.4% of the GDP as per IMF's own estimates.



RIYADH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif speaks at a Closing Plenary-Rejuvenating Growth, at a Special Meeting of the World Economic Forum.

## No peace in world without permanent peace in Gaza: PM

RIYADH (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday said permanent peace in Gaza was imperative for peace in the world. He was speaking at the plenary meeting of the special session of World Economic Forum on the theme of "Rejuvenating Growth". He said, "The world will not be in peace unless there is a permanent peace in Gaza."

As he talked about Gaza, the audience in the hall responded with resounding applause.

He said the conflict in Ukraine brought to the world skyrocketing commodity prices, and Pakistan could not import and procure vital raw materials for

industry and agriculture. "On top of that inflation is breaking the back of developing countries," he said. Coupled with that, Pakistan faced devastation in 2022 due to huge unimaginable floods.

The prime minister said, "Pakistan is one of those countries which have nothing to do with the reasons leading to climate change. Our contribution to emissions is not even fraction of one percent."

Due to the catastrophic floods in Pakistan, large swaths of land were submerged, millions of houses and animals were washed away, and stagnant water brought water borne diseases all across the coun-

try, he continued. He said his government spent Rs 100 billion from scarce resources for relief and rehabilitation of the flood affectees.

"We are grateful to the friendly countries including Saudi Arabia, Gulf countries, the United Kingdom, the United States and many other countries for their support at a difficult time."

Pakistan's economy suffered losses of 30 billion dollars because of the floods and then it approached international entities in Geneva and other places and had to borrow loans at expensive rates due to the natural disaster which was not its fault, he mentioned.



RIYADH: Deputy Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Mohamud Ishaq Dar meets the Foreign Minister of Malaysia Dato Seri Utama Haji Mohamad Bin Haji Hasan, on the sidelines of the Special Meeting on Global Collaboration, Growth and Energy for Development of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

## 60 buses to be shifted on diesel under PPP-mode to provide travel facilities: Mayor

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that 60 buses of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation will be shifted on diesel under public-private partnership (PPP-mode) to provide travel facilities to the citizens.

These buses were available with us and it was only a matter of intentions, due to CNG crisis, one of the buses has been shifted on diesel as a test case in Lahore and now after the change of fuel system and the bus has been brought to Karachi, he told this to media here on Monday.

He said that covering

a distance of 1200 kilometers, bus fares and routes have not been decided yet, details will be informed about soon. A public-private partnership mechanism should be made to bring these buses on the roads.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that the Sindh government is already in the process of improving the transport facilities for the citizens of Karachi. Red and Pink buses have arrived in the city, now the KMC has decided to make the available buses functional while fulfilling its responsibilities in this regard.

## Pak-Saudi economic ties entered new era: PM

RAYADH (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has stated that Pak-Saudi economic ties have entered a new era with bilateral trade volume poised for significant increase due to steps taken in this regard.

He was talking to Saudi Minister for Commerce Majid al Kasabi who called on him in Riyadh today, on the sidelines of World Economic Forum meeting. The Prime Minister said the Special Investment Facilitation Council of Pakistan is fully active in promoting foreign investment and facilitating investors. On the occasion, the Saudi Minister said Pakistan is Saudi Arabia's priority for investment and trade as per the directives of Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Muhammad bin Salman.

He said this while presiding over a high-level meeting with the officials of the Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education (BISE) Larkana during his visit here. He said that no leniency would be shown to anyone during the examinations. From wherever the cheating complaints would be found, the papers would be canceled and be retaken, he added.

Malkani said: "I am paying the visit on the spe-



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah administers polio drops to a child after inauguration ceremony of Government Dispensary at Gulshan-e-Aka Khaail, held at Gadap Town in Karachi. Sindh Health Minister, Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho and others also present on the occasion.

## CM Murad launches week-long anti-polio drive

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah inaugurated a week-long anti-polio campaign across 24 districts by administering polio drops to children at the newly established Gulshan-e-Aka Khaail in Gadap and urged parents to protect their children from the crippling virus by providing them with oral polio vaccines.

"Together, as a community, let us forge a path towards a polio-free environment, securing a healthier future for our children."

This he said while speaking at the inauguration ceremony of anti-polio camping at Gadap. The ceremony was attended by Health Minister Dr Azra

Fazal Pechuho, Secretary Health Rehan Baloch, Provincial Coordinator EOC Irshad Sodhar, CEO PPHI Javed Jagirani, National Chair, Rotary International Aziz Memon, Dr Asif Zardari of WHO, Dr Shaukat Chandio of UNICEF and others.

The Health Department has launched a Sub-National Immunization Days (NIDs) campaign from April 29<sup>th</sup> to May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This crucial initiative aims at vaccinating approximately eight million children under the age of 5 against poliovirus in 24 districts of Sindh.

Over 62000 front-line workers will work throughout the province, ensuring every eligible child receives

this life-saving vaccine. This massive effort will be supported by almost 4000 security personnel. The CM urged all schools, hospitals, and caregivers to welcome vaccinators, as they truly are fighting on the frontline in the last stages of our battle against this debilitating disease.

The Minister Health & Population Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho said that the campaign was aimed at stopping the alarming trend of positive environmental samples in Sindh and all over Pakistan, threatening the health of our children.

In recent reports, 11 positive environmental samples have been isolated from various sites in Sindh.

## Calls on COAS Turkish Commander lauds Pak Army's role in regional peace, stability

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commander Turkish Land Forces, General Selcuk Bayraktaroglu called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir here at General Headquarters on Monday and appreciated the role of Pakistan Army in ensuring peace and stability in the region.



According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, during the meeting, matters of mutual interest and measures to further enhance bilateral defence cooperation were discussed.

However, they expressed satisfaction over deep-rooted relations between the two countries, based on historical, cultural and religious affinity.

## Govt to eliminate curse of copy culture from Sindh forever: Minister

LARKANA (APP): The Sindh Minister for Education Boards & Universities Muhammad Ali Malkani Monday said that the provincial government would eliminate the curse of copy culture from Sindh forever.

He said this while presiding over a high-level meeting with the officials of the Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education (BISE) Larkana during his visit here. He said that no leniency would be shown to anyone during the examinations. From wherever the cheating complaints would be found, the papers would be canceled and be retaken, he added.

Malkani said: "I am paying the visit on the spe-



LARKANA: Minister for Universities and Board Department Sindh, Muhammad Ali Malkani presides over the high-level meeting with the officials of Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Larkana (BISE) held at BISE office in Larkana.

## President confers NI (M) upon Commander Turkish Land Forces

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday conferred Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) upon Commander of the Turkish Land Forces General Selcuk Bayraktaroglu, in a special investiture ceremony held at the Aiwan-i-Sadr.

The ceremony was attended by Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, senior military leadership and other senior officials.

The Nishan-i-Imtiaz (M) was conferred upon General Selcuk Bayraktaroglu in recognition of his illustrious services.

Later, the visiting Commander of Turkish Land Forces, General Selcuk Bayraktaroglu, also called on the President, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The meeting was also attended by the Chief of Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir.

The meeting discussed matters pertaining to defence cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

Both sides emphasised the need for further expanding bilateral ties for the mutual benefit of Pakistan and Turkey.

Talking to the Commander of Turkish Land Forces, the president said that Pakistan was proud of its relations with Turkey, which had always supported Pakistan on core issues.

He expressed satisfaction over the collaboration between Pakistan and Turkey on a number of projects that would further strengthen bilateral ties.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari conferring the award of Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) upon the Commander of Turkish Land Forces, General Selcuk Bayraktaroglu, during a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Home Minister inaugurates 'Day Care Center' for children of policewomen

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar on Monday inaugurated a Day Care Center for the children of policewomen established at the Saudabad Police Headquarters Malir.

DIG East, SSP East, Korangi, Malir and other senior officers were also present.

The Home Minister was briefed by SP Jameshed Quarters Aleena Rajpar about the establishment and objectives of the Day Care Center.

The Minister termed the establishment of the Day Care Center as an extremely commendable initiative by the Sindh Police.

He said that the women associated with police department can leave their children at the Day Care Center and perform their duties with full focus and dedication, free from any worry or concern.

He suggested the establishment of similar centers in Karachi for the care and supervision of the children of women officers.

He further said that arrangements would also be made for the care of the children of ordinary women affected by domestic violence and disputes at the Day Care Center.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with MPA Nisar Khuhro during meeting held at New Secretariat in Karachi.

## Commissioner orders to vacate abandoned buildings on priority basis

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Syed Hassan Naqvi has directed to vacate the damaged buildings of the city and the DCs were asked to take measures in that respect.

This decision was taken in a meeting presided over by the Commissioner at his office and was attended by Assistant Commissioner South Junaid Alam, officers of Evacuee Property Trust Board, Director of Property Tax, Excise and Taxation, KMC and officers of Land Department of KDA, while all Deputy Commissioners attended the meeting through video link and briefed the meeting.

Trust Board were reviewed. AC South Junaid Alam presented overview about the abandoned buildings. The meeting decided that all DCs have to identify the damaged buildings in the respective districts and submit list and report on the Commissioner office by the next week.

The Commissioner asked the DCs to take immediate steps to protect human life from the dangers posed by the unsafe buildings in collaboration with the Sindh Buildings Control Authority.

Syed Hassan Naqvi asked the KMC to review its historical buildings and ancient markets and take measures to preserve them.

## Najmi Alam meets Bilawal, Faryal Talpur

KARACHI (APP): Advisor to CM Sindh on Fisheries Syed Najmi Alam met Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Central President PPP Women's Wing Faryal Talpur at Bilawal House on Monday.

On this occasion, Najmi Alam briefed the party chairman about the performance of his department.

## SC roster revised as CJP not to hear cases today

ISLAMABAD (INP): The roster of today's hearing in the Supreme Court (SC) was revised as Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa will not hear cases on Monday.

The SC registrar issued the revised roster moments before the commencement of the today's proceedings.

The channel said the SC officials informed the litigants about the changes in the roster just before starting the hearing.

As per the channel report, Chief Justice (CJ) Qazi Faez Isa will conduct the Chamber Work today while Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, and Justice Athar Minallah will be included in Bench No 1.

## Incumbent Parliament has no 'legitimate' position: Fazlur

ISLAMABAD (INP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Chief, Maulana Fazlur Rehman raising questions on the 'legitimacy' of the incumbent parliament has said that they have compromised on principles and "sold the democracy".

In his maiden address on floor of the National Assembly (NA) on Monday after 2024 general elections, he expressed concerns over state of representation in Pakistan and asked whether this was really a people's representative parliament.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman alleged that the governments were formed in palaces and bureaucrats decided who would be the Prime Minister.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Weathering the storm

The year 2023 is a sobering reminder of the tumultuous relationship Asia has with climate change...

The National Disaster Management Authority has issued warnings of ongoing severe weather conditions...

For Pakistan, the challenge is twofold. Firstly, there is a pressing need to enhance the capacity and resources of the NDMA and provincial meteorological departments...

On a regional level, Asian countries must work closely on climate action initiatives. Sharing technology, knowledge, and strategies can amplify individual efforts...

The writing is on the wall. The time for incremental steps is over. The scale of the challenge requires bold, decisive actions that reflect the urgency of the moment...

Stirring monster

Mohammad Ali Babakhel

Last month's attack on a Moscow concert hall garnered global media attention, highlighting the rapidly expanding capabilities of the militant Islamic State.

Since its formation in 2015, ISKP has extended its influence in South Asia and is experiencing a resurgence enabled by the post-US withdrawal situation.

A central body, the General Directorate of Provinces, is entrusted by the IS to coordinate regional affiliates. The GDP has a dedicated bureau for South Asia called the Maktab al-Saddiq.

The ISKP also intends to expand in the periphery, including India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives. However, it has struggled with ground operations.

The ISKP's strategy can be divided into two phases: from 2015 to late 2019, its strategy was to gain territory and consolidate control.

Rohingya population in Bangladesh offers the potential for the recruitment of sympathisers. In Bangladesh, the one million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar (52 per cent of whom are children) have already been targeted by the ISKP...

Since the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan, the ISKP has not faced the same pressure from CT operations, but it has still not seemed very successful in expanding its influence in South Asia.

In Afghanistan, the ISKP is trying to take advantage of the withdrawal of US troops, weak governance, isolated administration, absence of an organised CT apparatus, use of technology, latest propaganda techniques, and the vacuum created due to a fractured Al Qaeda.

The world has been watching as police storm US university campuses to arrest pro-Palestine supporters. This is an uncomfortable escalation of mounting surveillance and censorship at campuses after months of a growing crackdown...

Huma Yusuf

The mass arrests of students and clearing of encampments has ignited calls for another free speech movement on US campuses, akin to the one in the 1950s against the excesses of McCarthyism.

Free speech and democracy advocates should worry about the way in which this is playing out. It is not a given that a wider student movement is brewing.

The clampdown also shows how easily peaceful protest can be re-constructed as disruption, false speech, and the threat of violence.

While the protesters were right to build on the momentum of anti-fossil fuel campaigning, which has invited wider participation, there is some danger that these protests become all-inclusive.

Campus protests

testers have also made demands about low-income housing in the nearby Harlem neighbourhood and called for the university to review its relationship with the New York Police Department.

The images of mass student arrests are inspiring romanticised paeanes to Gen Z, pointing out that a generation that was being written off as ill-informed and apolitical is in fact ready to fight for justice.

One key success is the local relevance of the protests. Rather than broadly campaign for an Israeli ceasefire or the two-state solution, students are making specific demands of their universities.

Protesters are also informed about their First Amendment rights and the legality (or not) of various protest tactics. They are well networked across the country, and supported by legal rights groups.

While the protesters were right to build on the momentum of anti-fossil fuel campaigning, which has invited wider participation, there is some danger that these protests become all-inclusive.

The recent bill supporting students' unions and Quid-i-Azam University's decision to allow such groups means Pakistan too is at the cusp of a revival of student activism. Let campus protest movements thrive, but let them do so in the spirit of justice, knowledge and positive change.

Commerce News

Pak-Saudi economic ties enter a new era with trade boosting steps ahead: PM

RIYADH (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that the economic ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had entered a new era as both countries were set to take concrete measures to boost the volume of bilateral trade.

The Saudi minister told the prime minister that on the directives of Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman, the Kingdom was prioritising trade and investment in Pakistan.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Saudi Minister of Commerce Dr. Majid bin Abdullah Al-Qasabi on the sidelines of the Special Meeting of World Economic Forum here, said the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was playing an active role in promoting and facilitating

A delegation of Saudi businessmen, traders and investors would soon visit Pakistan, he added. The Saudi minister said that the targets were being set to take the bilateral ties to a new height within one or one-and-a-half years.

Shehbaz said that the Pakistani nationals had played a significant role in the progress and prosperity of Saudi Arabia. Saudi Minister Al-Qasabi stressed the need to further promote the sentiments about the Pak-Saudi ties among the youth and new generation.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan, Information and Broadcasting Minister Attallah Tarar, Petroleum Minister Dr Musaddik Malik and Special Assistant to PM Tariq Fatemi also attended the meeting.



RIYADH: Saudi Minister for Commerce H.E. Majid bin Abdullah Al-Qasabi calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Continuing tight monetary stance SBP maintains policy rate at 22%

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan, Monday, persistently kept policy rate unchanged at 22 percent while stressing on continuation of the current monetary policy stance to bring inflation down to the target range.

The central bank, in a statement issued here following the meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), noted that the macroeconomic stabilization measures through contributing to considerable improvement in both inflation and external position amid moderate economic recovery, level of inflation was still high despite of

discussing trends. The committee reviewed Inflation outlook and found it in line with the MPC's expectations as inflation has continued to moderate noticeably in H2-FY24. Headline inflation in March declined to 20.7% from 23.1% in February while core inflation fell significantly to 15.7% from 18.1% in February. Besides the coordinated tight monetary and fiscal policy response, other factors that have led to this favorable outcome include lower global commodity prices, improved food supplies and high base effect.

Civil society, private sector & academia's collaboration with govt vital: Shaza Fatima

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima on Monday said that collaborations among the government, civil society, private sector and educational institution is vital for achieving digital transformation in the country.

She expressed these views in her special remarks at the Country Digital Ecosystem Diagnostic Report: Validation Workshop Report: Validation Workshop dialogue hosted by the Sustainable Development

Policy Institute (SDPI) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to facilitate knowledge exchange among key stakeholders, driving sustainable development in Pakistan's digital landscape. The Country Digital Ecosystem Diagnostic Report: Validation Workshop is a crucial milestone in the ongoing efforts to assess and enhance Pakistan's digital landscape.

She stressed that short-term, medium-term, and long-term plans must be based on available data to ensure effective decision-making in the digital transformation journey.



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan calls on the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Mr. Ahad Khan Cheema.

CDNS attains Rs 1375b targets in fresh bond

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has achieved a target of Rs 1375 billion in fresh bonds and achieved 80 percent of annual target in the current fiscal year, from July 1 to April 25.

The National Savings has set an annual target of Rs 1742 billion for the year 2023-24, in which it is encouraging that 80 percent of the target has been achieved, and it is hoped that National Savings will surpass its annual target this FY 2023-24, the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Monday.

The annual target and achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, he said. He said this was an Rs 200 billion additional annual target than the target of Rs 1300 billion for the previous financial year 2021-22. "The CDNS has set a reviewed saving target of Rs 1.4 trillion for the current financial year (2021-22) which will promote savings culture in the country," he said. Given the current market trend in the country, the ambitious target had been set to improve the savings culture further, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of UAE to Pakistan H.E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja.

BankIslami achieves remarkable financial results of Rs 6.3billion

KARACHI (APP): Maintaining its growth momentum, BankIslami delivered an impressive return for its shareholders, with a remarkable 99% surge in its profit before tax for the first quarter of 2024.

The Bank's profit before tax reached Rs. 6.3 billion, with a post-tax profit of Rs. 3.2 billion, representing a growth of 79.2%. Despite adverse market conditions, the Bank remains committed to financial excellence.

income ratio of 43.1% during the period, compared to 47.9% in the same period last year.

BankIslami strategically expanded its investment portfolio and grew its financing portfolio despite navigating through ongoing economic uncertainty.

Consequently, the investment portfolio reached Rs. 332.2 billion, while the financing portfolio was at Rs. 253.6 billion showing an improvement in infection ratio to 8.2% from 9.0% in December 2023.

Rupee sheds 01 paise against US dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Monday lost 01 paisa against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.39 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.38. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.25 and Rs 279.85 respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by 49 paise and closed at Rs 298.38 against the last-day closing of Rs 298.87, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen remained unchanged at Rs1.78, whereas an increase of 31 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs348.79 compared to the last closing of Rs348.48.

The Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal witnessed no change and closed at Rs75.79 and Rs74.22 respectively.

Shehbaz's resuming PMLN's presidency to be refreshing change: Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that PM Shehbaz Sharif's resuming of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) presidency after a seven-year gap will be a refreshing change.

Talking to business community on Monday, he said that this shift will be a significant development and a welcome change in the country's politics. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the business community anticipates that political and economic conditions will improve rapidly under the guidance of Nawaz Sharif. At the same time, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar will work hard to promote economic diplomacy.

He said that the fake cases against Nawaz Sharif have met their fate and that his presidency will give the party more public recognition and a new lease of life.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where three ships namely, MSC Beira IV, Gold Trader and Milaha Qatar carrying Container, Chemicals and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal, Engro Terminal and Gasport Terminal respectively on Sunday.

Meanwhile three more ships, MSC Antigua, Majestic Noor and FSM scheduled to load/offload Container, Rice and LPG also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim during last 24 hours.

## Ahsan Iqbal highlights role of engineering in developed world

NAROWAL (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal said that behind the development of the modern world is the hard work of engineers and the solution of most of the problems of all sectors of life, including health, food, and industry is related to the field of engineering.

He expressed the views at the ongoing "Science Mela 2024" at University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Narowal Campus. Students of different departments of the university presented their final year projects for exhibition at the Innovation Center of the University of Engineering and Technology sub-campus

Narowal. The projects related to electrical, mechanical, civil, bio-medical engineering and computer engineering. Students of various universities including Agriculture University Faisalabad, UMT Sialkot Campus, ITU University of Narowal, Veterinary University Narowal Campus participated in the science fair.

Later, Ahsan Iqbal handed over new buses provided to the University of Engineering and Technology Narowal Campus to the administration and also planted a sapling in the university. He also participated in the prize distribution ceremony in the seminar hall of UET Narowal Campus.

Speaking on this occasion, he said that UET Narowal Campus was his dream for which he had worked hard to achieve. "Behind the development of the modern world is the hard work of engineers. The solution of most of the problems of all sectors of life, including health, food, and industry is related to the field of engineering. Today we are living in the era of technology, today's era is the era of artificial intelligence," he added.

He said, "If you want to establish your place in the world of education and research, you need to go through the process of continuous learning. We have established departments like National Center for Satellite Technology.

### Balighur Rehman condoles with Saira Afzal

LAHORE (APP): Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman on Monday visited the residence of Member National Assembly (MNA) Saira Afzal Tarar at her ancestral village and extended condolences to her on the death of her father, Senior Politician Afzal Hussain Tarar.

Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman offered Fatiha and prayed to Allah Almighty to grant the highest ranks in Jannah to the departed soul.

He also prayed to give courage and sustenance to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss with equanimity.

The Governor Punjab said the services of Afzal Tarar (late) for the country and the party will always be remembered.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with MPA Imdad Pitafi during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

### Three Sindh Ministers visit ancestral Bhutto family graveyard

LARKANA (APP): Three Provincial Ministers, Muhammad Ali Malkani, Dost Muhammad Rahmoon and Tariq Ali Talpur visited ancestral Bhutto family graveyard in Garhi Khudabakhsh Bhutto here on Monday. They paid tributes to Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Shaheed Ms. Benazir Bhutto, Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto.

Shah Nawaz Bhutto attended the shrines of Begum Nusrat Bhutto and recited Fateha and laid flowers wreath.

Speaking to the media persons, Provincial Minis-

ter Muhammad Ali Malkani said that we had come here to visit the martyrs' shrines. He said that maintaining law and order was the priority of the Sindh government. In response to a question, he said that a JIT had been formed for the recovery of Priya Kumari, which was doing its job.

He said that bumper quantity of wheat had been produced in Sindh, adding he would talk to the Chief Minister Sindh and the Provincial Minister of Food Department so that Pasco could also buy the crop.

### 5 killed, 2 injured in different incidents

FAISALABAD (APP): Five people including a minor girl were killed while two others sustained multiple injuries in different incidents in Faisalabad during last 12 hours. Police spokesman said here on Monday that Maqsood Anjum resident of Siddique Nagar was shot dead by his rivals Sajid alias Lalo, etc. to avenge an old enmity in Mithaiwala Chowk whereas accused Waqas alias Kashi shot dead Muhammad Rafiq resident of Chak 165-GB over a plot dispute.

### CM KP felicitates newly elected local bodies representatives

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Monday congratulated the newly elected six local bodies representatives in byelections.

Chief Minister in a statement said that in unofficial and inconclusive results, PTI-backed candidates have won five out of six seats of Tehsil Chairman which is a manifestation of the trust of the people of the province on his party.

"I thank the people of these constituencies for showing full confidence in the supporting PTI-backed candidates", said Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur.

"I also congratulate the party leadership and workers for the excellent success of the candidates supported by the party in the by-elections".

The chief minister said that in these elections, the nation has given a huge mandate to his party across the country.

He said party's founder can be put in jail but cannot be removed from the hearts of the people, said Ali Amin.

He further said that the public mandate should be recognized in the better interest of the country and nation.

Ali Amin said that they will continue all political, constitutional and legal struggle to achieve their right to provide relief to people of the province.



LAHORE: Chief Traffic Officer Amara Athar hold a banner along with students during Traffic Awareness walk (Use Helmet) at Faisal Chowk in the Provincial Capital.



FAISALABAD: A lady health worker administering polio drops to a child during 7-days anti polio campaign in the city.

### Police committed to continue best services for masses: RPO

MULTAN (APP): Regional Police Officer (RPO) Capt (retd) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry on Monday said that the police would continue best services for the masses and more improvement was being made in service delivery for public facilitation.

In a ceremony of awarding cash prizes and commendatory certificates to traffic police officials over

impressive performance here, the regional police officer said that the basic purpose of the police department was to serve the people and to protect lives and properties of the masses adding that all possible efforts were being made for this purpose.

He said that the department was striving hard to ensure maximum relief to masses through improving service delivery.

### Marriyum says: EPD seals 170 brick kilns, registers 169 FIRs in 15 days

LAHORE (APP): Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has sealed 170 brick kilns, besides registering 169 FIRs during a province-wide campaign against the scourge of pollution during last 15 days.

Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb disclosed this in a statement issued on Monday. While giving details, the senior minister reported that during this

period, the department inspected a total of 4488 brick kilns in various districts, and 170 kilns were sealed for violations of environmental laws. 705 brick kilns were issued notices and fines totaling Rs.20.1 million were imposed on the owners of brick kilns found guilty of environmental law violations. Similarly, police were also approached for the registration of FIRs against 169 kiln.

### Provincial Outbreak Committee to provide immediate response during any outbreak

PESHAWAR: The first meeting of the Provincial Outbreak Committee, chaired by Minister of Health Syed Qasim Ali Shah, was held on Monday at Health Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Health Mahmood Aslam Wazir, Commissioner Peshawar Riaz Khan Mahsood, Special Secretary Polio Program

Abdul Basit, along with Additional DG Administration Dr. Siraj, Director EPI Dr. Arif, Director Public Health Dr. Irshad Roghani, Director IMU Dr Ijaz and all other relevant quarters in person. All DHOs and MSs attended the meeting online. It was reported to the minister that district outbreak committees have been formed in all districts of the province. Initial meetings have been

conducted in the relevant districts to activate these committees. The minister stated that the purpose of the Provincial Outbreak Committee is to provide an immediate response during any outbreak. He further explained that this initiative will improve the provision of routine health services, and the performance of health department officials will be presented to this committee.

## International News

### US, Britain urge Hamas to accept Israeli truce proposal

Blinken says Israel must still do more to boost humanitarian aid to Gaza

Monitoring Desk RYADH: U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Monday urged Hamas to swiftly accept an Israeli proposal for a truce in the Gaza war and the release of Israeli hostages held by the Palestinian militant group.

Hamas negotiators were expected to meet Qatari and Egyptian mediators in Cairo on Monday to deliver a response to the phased truce proposal which Israel presented at the weekend. "Hamas has before it a proposal that is extraordinarily, extraordinarily generous on the part of Israel," Blinken said at a

meeting of the World Economic Forum in the Saudi capital Riyadh.

"The only thing standing between the people of Gaza and a ceasefire is Hamas. They have to decide and they have to decide quickly," he said. "I'm hopeful that they will make the right decision." A source briefed on the talks said Israel's proposal entailed a deal for the release of fewer than 40 of the roughly 130 hostages believed to be still held in Gaza in exchange for freeing Palestinians jailed in Israel.

A second phase of a truce would consist of a

"period of sustained calm" - Israel's compromise response to a Hamas demand for a permanent ceasefire.

A total of 253 hostages were seized in a Hamas attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7 in which about 1,200 Israelis were also killed, according to Israeli counts.

Israel retaliated by imposing a total siege on Gaza and mounting an air and ground assault that has killed about 34,500 Palestinians, according to Gaza health authorities.

Palestinians are suffering from severe shortages of food, fuel and medicine in a humanitarian cri-

sis brought on by the offensive that has demolished much of the territory.

Britain's Foreign Secretary David Cameron, who was also in Riyadh for the WEF meeting, also described the Israeli proposal as "generous".

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Monday that Israel must still do more to increase the flow of humanitarian aid into the besieged Gaza Strip and that he would use his current Middle East trip — his seventh to the region since the Israel-Hamas war started in October — to press that case with Israeli leaders.



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken attends the U.S.-Arab Quint Meeting with representatives from Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the Palestinian Authority, at the Four Seasons Hotel in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg arrive for a press conference, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kyiv, Ukraine.

### China set to launch high-stakes mission to moon's 'hidden' side

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: China will send a robotic spacecraft in the coming days on a round trip to the moon's far side in the first of three technically demanding missions that will pave the way for an inaugural Chinese crewed landing and a base on the lunar south pole. Since the first Chang'e mission in 2007, named after the mythical Chinese moon goddess, China has made leaps forward in its

lunar exploration, narrowing the technological chasm with the United States and Russia. In 2020, China brought back samples from the moon's near side in the first sample retrieval in more than four decades, confirming for the first time that it could safely return an uncrewed spacecraft to Earth from the lunar surface. This week, China is expected to launch Chang'e-6 using the backup

spacecraft from the 2020 mission and collect soil and rocks from the side of the moon that permanently faces away from Earth.

With no direct line of sight with the Earth, Chang'e-6 must rely on a recently deployed relay satellite orbiting the moon during its 53-day mission, including a never-before-attempted ascent from the moon's "hidden" side on its return journey home.

### Israel kills at least 30 Palestinians in Rafah, new Gaza ceasefire talks expected in Cairo

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: Israeli airstrikes on three houses in the southern Gaza city of Rafah killed at least 25 Palestinians and wounded many others, medics said on Monday, as leaders of Hamas arrived in Cairo for a new round of talks with Egyptian and Qatari mediators.

In Gaza City, in the north of the Gaza Strip, Israeli warplanes struck two houses, killing at least four people and wounding several people, health officials said. The strike on the other house killed two brothers, they added.

The strikes on Rafah, where more than one million people have sought refuge from months of Israeli bombardment, took place hours before Egypt was expected to host leaders of the Islamist group Hamas to discuss prospects for a ceasefire agreement with Israel. The Israeli military said it was checking the reports.

eral people, health officials said. The strike on the other house killed two brothers, they added.

Vehicles were entangled in the debris on one of Kenya's busiest highways and paramedics treated the injured as waters submerged large areas.

### NATO chief, on unannounced Kyiv visit, says arms flows to Ukraine will increase

Monitoring Desk KYIV: NATO boss Jens Stoltenberg told Ukrainians on Monday that his alliance's members had failed to live up to their promises of military aid in recent months, but said the flow of arms and ammunition would now increase.

In an unannounced visit to Ukraine, the secretary general of the transatlantic military alliance held talks with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and

was due to address Ukraine's parliament, the Rada.

His visit — the third since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 — comes at a difficult time on the battlefield for Ukraine. After a failed Ukrainian counter-offensive last year, Russian forces have gained the initiative — at least in part due to a dearth of arms and ammunition from Kyiv's Western partners.

"I will also be very honest with President Zelenskyy and also with the Rada that NATO allies have not delivered what we have promised over the last months," Stoltenberg said on the train taking him into Kyiv on Monday.

"The United States spent six months to agree a package and European allies have not delivered the ammunition we promised. But now I'm confident that things will change," he said.

### Gaza protesters disrupt Paris's Sorbonne university

Monitoring Desk PARIS: Protesters angry over the Gaza war took to Paris' Sorbonne University on Monday, chanting 'Free Palestine' at the university's gates while some students set up tents in the courtyard. Days after similar protests at Paris's Sciences Po elite school, the gathering at the Sorbonne was the latest sign that demonstrations on U.S. campuses.

### Russian forces advance in Ukraine's east

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russian forces advanced at points along the front line in Ukraine on Monday, taking a village in the Donetsk region, gaining better positions in the Kharkiv region and repelling a number of Ukrainian attacks, Russia's defence ministry said.

Russia controls about 18% of Ukraine — in the east and south — and has been gaining ground since the failure of Kyiv's 2023 counter-offensive to make any serious inroads against well dug-in Russian troops.

President Vladimir Putin in February ordered Russian troops to push further into Ukraine after the fall of the town of Avdiivka where he said Ukrainian troops had been forced to flee in chaos. Ukraine said it withdrew from Avdiivka.

## President Asif Zardari says Promoting AJK tourism vital for socio-economic uplift, generating economic activities

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday said that strengthening the tourism sector of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) was significant to ensure the socio-economic uplift and generate economic activities in the area.

He, in a meeting with the AJK Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq, who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, assured that Pakistan would provide all possible support and assistance to facilitate investment in the diverse areas of AJK's economy, especially the tourism sector, according to a President House press release.

He said that AJK was blessed with immense potential for tourism and a beautiful landscape, which needed to be fully developed to attract tourists.

The two discussed the overall situation of AJK as well as the issues related to AJK's development.

President Zardari remarked that the AJK youth needed to be equipped with the latest skills and education to help them find gainful employment, besides contributing to AJK's development.

He said that Pakistan could assist the government of AJK in benefiting from the carbon credit markets.

During the meeting, the president assured of his support to the AJK prime minister and his government.

The AJK prime minister requested the president to visit AJK and address the AJK Legislative Assembly.

President Zardari also expressed grief over the loss of precious human lives

during the recent rain-related incidents in different parts of the AJK and hoped that the AJK government would help the affected families.

The president also reiterated Pakistan's commitment for continued moral, political and diplomatic support to the people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) till the attainment of their right to self-determination.

Condemning the human rights violations and the atrocities being committed by the Indian occupation forces in IIOJK, he called upon the international community to put pressure on India to end human rights violations being committed by its security forces and implement the UN Security Council resolutions.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Anwar-ul-Haq called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Sindh govt launches Bhook Mitao, Benazir women agriculture support programs

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presiding over the first meeting of the Sindh Social Protection Board approved the feasibility studies of the Food Security - Bhook Mitao program and the Benazir Women Agriculture Workers Support program.

These programs are aimed at benefiting the marginalized population and will be launched once the feasibility studies are successfully conducted.

The meeting was attended by the board members, including Minister

Health Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho, Minister Education Syed Sardar Shah, Minister Labour Shahid Thahim, PSCM Agha Wasif, Chairman P&D Najam Shah, Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatoi, Secretary Social Protection Rafiq Mustafa, Haris Gazdar, CEO Social Protection Unit Samiullah Shaikh, Sono Khanghrani, Prof Amar Sindh, Ms Shabnam Baloch, Asama Bloch and others.

Secretary Social Protection dept Rafiq Mustafa and CEO of the Social Protection Unit Samiullah

Shaikh briefed the board member about the two programmes: Bhook Mitao program and the Benazir Women Agriculture Workers Support program.

The book "Mitao Food Security" is aimed at establishing a combination of instruments and scientific methods for studying food security.

It aims to identify vulnerable groups and propose feasible designs and implementations for addressing food security issues and minimizing vulnerability to hunger in marginalized populations.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with MPA Jam Mahrab Dahar during meeting held at New Secretariat in Karachi.

## President urges steps to promote local businesses for GB's self-sufficiency

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday stressed the need for steps to promote local businesses



and economic activities to make Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) self-sufficient as well as for inclusive and sustainable development in the area.

The president, in a meeting with GB Governor Syed Mehdi Shah and Chief Minister Gul Bar Khan, who called on him here, said the GB had enormous hydroelectric potential that needed to be capitalized for its development, according to a President House press release.

He said that GB was blessed with abundant natural resources, including mining, gems, and minerals, and called for their full exploration and development to bring economic prosperity to the area.

During the meeting, the GB governor and chief minister informed the president about the development projects being undertaken by the GB government.

They also apprised President Zardari of various issues facing the GB people, particularly the lack of education and health facilities, and unemployment.

He also requested the president to visit GB and address the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly.

President Zardari underlined the need to initiate programs for the training and skill development of GB's youth to equip them with employable skills as per market demand.



KARACHI: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman addresses to meet the Press Programme at Karachi Press Club.

## NICVD world's largest cardiac healthcare network: Prof Tahir claims

KARACHI (APP): The Executive Director, National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) Professor Tahir Saghir on Monday said that NICVD was established in 1963, was dedicated to the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of patients with cardiovascular diseases. He said since its inception, the institute has expanded from a single hospital in Karachi to 10 hospitals across the province, providing state-of-the-art cardiac services to patients from all walks of life.

Speaking to media persons, he said the NICVD hospitals could be found not only in Karachi but also in Sukkur, Larkana, Khairpur, Sehwan, Nawabshah, Hyderabad, Tando Mohammad Khan, Mithi (Thar), and Lyari. The institute offers comprehensive facilities including angiography, angioplasty, bypass heart surgery, laboratory and radiology services, out-

patient consultation, hospitalization, and medication, all free of charge". Prof. Saghir added, additionally, NICVD has established 28 Chest Pain Units across Sindh to provide acute management of heart attacks.

These units are strategically located under flyovers or at hospitals and clinics in cities such as Karachi, Ghotki, Tando Bago, Jacobabad, Umerkot, Tando Allahyar, Mirpurkhas, Shikarpur, Thatta, Kashmore, and Bhira City. To date, these units have treated over 1.3 million patients without cost.

He said in total, NICVD's main hospital, satellite centers and Chest Pain Units treat over 2.4 million patients every year.

The institute performs over 20,000 primary angioplasties and 10,000 early invasive and elective angioplasties annually. Moreover, over 4,500 heart bypass surgeries, including pediatric cardiac surgeries, are completed each year.

## SHC orders payment of compensation to missing persons' families

KARACHI (INP): A bench of the Sindh High Court (SHC) on Monday hearing missing persons case ordered payment of compensation to the families. A high court bench comprising of Justice Arshad Hussain and Justice Zulfiqar Ali Sangi heard the case.

According to media reports, Justice Arshad Hussain said that the officials don't know the court orders about inquiry, search and payment of compensation to the families of disappeared persons. The court expressed disappointment over the government and police department's performance with regard to the 11 missing persons' case.

## Anti Polio immunization drive kick off in Sukkur

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Sukkur, Raja MB Dharejo on Monday has said that five-day anti polio immunization drive has been kicked off from April 29th in all Union Councils of district Sukkur to ensure that each and every child below five years of age is vaccinated against polio disease which could be overcome through collective struggle of all relevant circles.

While visiting several areas here, he also reviewed the arrangements of the campaign and said that district administration has taken all possible steps for immunization of children against polio disease.

He urged parents to extend full cooperation to the antipolio teams so that the drive could be made successful.

## Two most wanted drug peddlers held with narcotics during snap checking

KARACHI (INP): Two most wanted drug pushers were held during snap checking of Sindh Rangers and Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) and narcotics recovered from their possession here on Monday.

The spokesman of Sindh Rangers said that the Rangers and ANF conducted joint snap checking at Albelia Signal Nishtar Road in Karachi.

During snap checking, two most wanted drug peddlers Shamasuddin and Abdul Ghafoor were arrested with two kilogram narcotics.

## Larkana police recovered kidnapped girl

LARKANA (APP): Larkana police foiled an attempt of kidnapping a 20 year-old girl student of the 12<sup>th</sup> standard here on Monday and arrested two suspects of the gang involved in human trafficking.

SSP Larkana Mir Rohal Khan said that 20-year-old abducted student Sameera, daughter of Mohammad Nawaz, resident of Wahari, Punjab province, has been safely rescued. He said DSP Hydari Ms. Paras Bakrani, in-charge CIA inspector Gulam Muzzamil Soomro and SHO Hydari sub-inspector Ashfaq Ahmad Shar Hydari police station will conduct the investigation.

## PPP always stood for strengthening democracy, upholding Parliament's supremacy: Patel

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Abdul Qadir Patel on Monday said that his party had consistently worked for strengthening democracy and upholding the supremacy of Parliament.

Speaking on a point of order in the National Assembly, he said the PPP had suffered a lot for the cause of democracy.

Patel criticized the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for victimizing the opposition while in government. It had put the opposition leadership behind the bars in fabricated cases.

He further alleged that the PTI had managed to

form governments at the federal level and in Punjab as a result of rigged elections in 2018.

Its government failed to deliver on the promises the party had made during the election campaign, particularly regarding the construction of millions of houses and jobs creation.

The PPP leader urged the opposition to join hands with the government for the progress, prosperity, and development of the country.

He emphasized on the importance of unity and collaboration among political parties for the betterment of Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: H.E. General Secuk Bayraktarov, Commander of Turkish Land Forces called on Minister for Defence & Defence Production, Khawaja Muhammad Asif.

## 1.8mln children to be vaccinated during anti-polio campaign in Karachi: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Monday said that 1.8 million children will be vaccinated against polio during the anti-polio campaign in Karachi.

He said this while talking to media representatives after launching the campaign by administering polio drops to children at SMB Fatima School Garden on Monday. "We will try to achieve this goal in the next seven days", he added.

In 2023, the Immunization Act was passed, which requires parents to cooperate with polio workers, and those who do not cooperate can be prosecuted under Sections 18 and 19.

Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto started the polio eradication campaign in 1994 by administering polio drops to her daughter Asifa Bhutto, parents need to cooperate in this regard. Deputy Commissioner South Altaf Sario, teachers and other officers were also present on the occasion.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that the anti-polio campaign is being conducted from April 29 to May 5 under the Sindh Health Department. The

Sindh government is taking full measures related to the health in the province, the Chief Minister Sindh has also started this polio campaign.

He said that we have to make the polio eradication campaign successful to save our current and future generations from this deadly disease and polio has to be eradicated from the country for a stable Pakistan.

He said that arrangements will be made to vaccinate children against polio in KMC run hospitals. He said adding that it is the responsibility of media to create awareness among the people and convince them to cooperate with polio workers and get their children vaccinated against polio because it is the need of the hour.

Replying to a question, he said Jinnah hospital is the biggest hospital where patients come from far and wide for treatment, as far as he knows the facilities provided there are fine, if ECG machines are defective, then the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases is in front of Jinnah Hospital for this facility. He will talk to the Health Secretary to check it.



HYDERABAD: All Pakistan Wapda Hydro Electric Workers Union President, Abdul Latif Nizamani addresses during the workers session, at Labour Hall in Hyderabad.

## DC visits water supply schemes, drainage disposal in Nawabshah

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Shehryar Gul Memon visited water supply schemes and drainage disposal in Nawabshah, Dur, Bandhi and reviewed the disposal and issued instructions that all disposals should be kept active. Deputy Commissioner also visited Nawabshah Water Ultrafiltration Plant, Rohri Water Supply Scheme and Ordh Water Supply Scheme and asked that the duration of all water supply schemes should be extended and all possible steps should be taken to provide clean drinking water to the citizens.

## Thar sand most suitable for making computer chips

THAR (INP): Sindh Department of Information Technology and experts declared Thar sand as the most suitable for making computer chips.

According to experts, the digital world can meet the huge market demand by manufacturing the chip layer from Thar sand. The Department of Information Technology has submitted plans for a silicon chip wafer foundry to the federal and provincial governments.

Experts also said that coal, sand, water and electricity are needed to make chip wafers and Thar's sand has been declared the most suitable for this.

## Mirpurkhas police bust marijuana smuggling ring targeting youth

MIRPURKHAS (APP): In a proactive move against the surge of marijuana usage among the youth, Mirpurkhas police took decisive action against a smuggling network dealing in the newly launched health hazard narcotic on Monday. Acting on intelligence-based information, a team led by DIG Mirpurkhas Ränge Javed Soharo Jaskani, under the directives of SSP Mirpurkhas Captain Retired Asad Ali Chaudhry, swiftly apprehended accused Adnan Phanwar.

Phanwar, the mastermind behind the operation, strategically targeted college and university students, luring them into the drug trade. Operating through social media platforms like WhatsApp and Facebook, Phanwar offered deliveries to his young clientele.

## One killed, several injured in road accident

KARACHI (INP): One passenger was killed and several others were injured when a speedy van overturned at Jail Chowranghi Flyover in Karachi on early Monday morning. Rescue officials said that the injured were shifted to a hospital where some were in critical condition, a private news channel reported.

## PM meets Bill Gates; urges sustained efforts by partners for polio-free Pakistan

RIYADH (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday met the founder and co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Bill Gates, wherein he called for a sustained efforts by all the partners to reach the ultimate goal of a polio-free Pakistan.

In the meeting held on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Special Meeting here, the prime minister highlighted that Pakistan was working tirelessly to eradicate polio from the country, a PM Office press release said.

Earlier, both leaders had featured in a WEF's high-level panel discussion titled "Redefining the Global Health Agenda."

The prime minister thanked Bill Gates for sending him a

warm congratulatory letter upon his re-election.

Bill Gates recalled the immunization and polio vaccine program in Punjab province under the leadership of Shehbaz Sharif as chief minister and emphasized replicating the same practice across the country to make the immunization program a success.

While fondly recalling their interactions during his previous tenure, the prime minister reaffirmed his commitment to continue working closely with Bill Gates to ensure a stronger partnership between Pakistan and the Gates Foundation.

He thanked the BMGF for its longstanding support for polio eradication in Pakistan.



RIYADH: Founder and Co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Bill Gates calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on the sidelines of a special meeting of the World Economic Forum.

## Sindh Minister orders urgent action to address facilities shortage in district Matiari

HYDERABAD (APP): The Sindh Minister for Rehabilitation Makhdoom Mahboob-ul-Zaman has taken notice of the media reports regarding the lack of facilities for the residents of district Matiari and directed the Deputy Commissioner Matiari to chair an urgent meeting with relevant authorities to ensure the immediate provision of essential facilities.

According to a hand-out issued on Monday, the Provincial Minister directed

the Deputy Commissioner Matiari to convene an urgent meeting with the Chairman Mahboob-ul-Zaman, Executive Engineer high-ways, both Executive Engineers of the Public Health Engineering department (Development and O&M), Chairmen of Municipal and Town Committees of the district, relevant stakeholders and representatives of the civil society to devise a comprehensive plan to resolve the issues and submit a report within 5 days.

## Officers to be transferred if fail to achieve target: Najmi Alam

KARACHI (APP): Advisor to Sindh CM on Livestock, Fisheries, Human Settlement, Special Development and Social Housing Syed Najmi Alam on Monday chaired a meeting.

All the directors and other officials including the DG Kuchibadi Muhammad Nadeem participated in the meeting. Secretary Kuchibadi gave a briefing to Advisor about the performance of the department. Najmi Alam directed the officers and said that the performance of all officers should be monitored to improve the collection system.

## Mayor Sukkur pays surprise visits to low lying areas, Municipal Corporation

SUKKUR (APP): Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arslan Sheikh on Monday paid surprise visits to check de-water machinery in the low-lying areas and the attendance of officers at the Sukkur Municipal Corporation (SMC).

The Mayor Sukkur recently visited low-lying areas including New Pind, Nusrat Colony, Bhosa Line, Old Sukkur and other areas.

During his visit, he noticed that in some areas, the machinery and other suction machines were not installed. As a result, he directed Municipal Commissioner Sukkur Muhammad Ali to ensure that the machinery was deployed and to report back to him.

The Mayor Sukkur paid a visit to the Municipal Corporation and was welcomed by the MC Muhammad Ali Sheikh and others.



HYDERABAD: District Health Officer Dr. Lala Jaffar administering Polio drops to a child to inaugurate Polio eradication campaign at Al-Quresh Hospital.

## Awareness, institutional mechanisms termed 'inevitable' for combating harassment at workplace

HYDERABAD (APP): Anti-harassment cell of the University of Sindh Jamshoro organized a seminar titled "Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace", collaborating with the Institute of Gender Studies and Institute of Biochemistry here on Monday.

Presided over by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Muhammad Siddique Kalhoro, the seminar held in the hall of institute of Biochemistry brought together a number of students and teachers besides Director Institute of Gender Studies Prof. Dr. Misbah Bibi

Qureshi, Director Dr. M.A Kazi Institute of Chemistry Prof. Dr. Arfana Begum Mullah, Dr. Anila Naz Memon, Dr. Rashid Ali Khuhro, Dr. Muhammad Yousif Laghari, Dr. Aatif Hussain Mangi, Dr. Nazir Hussain Brohi, Dr. Arbia Agha, Dr. Sadaf and others.

According to the University spokesman, addressing the seminar, the VC Dr. Muhammad Siddique Kalhoro highlighted the extensive educational landscape of the University, stating that as many as 40,000 students were enrolled in various disciplines, out of which, 9,000 were females.