

Sindh cabinet lifts ban on recruitment, grants extension to COVID doctors, other staff

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presided over a cabinet meeting on Wednesday which approved the lifting of the ban on recruitment in the provincial government departments and also granted an extension to the doctors, nurses and other staff who were appointed during the COVID-19 pandemic until June 30, 2024.

The meeting was held at the CM House and was attended by provincial ministers, advisors, Chief Secretary, PSCM, Chairman P&D, and concerned secretaries.

The Sindh government of Murad Ali Shah at completion of its last tenure had imposed a ban on recruitment in the government department. The cabinet members told the chair that there were thousands of posts of lower grades lying vacant in government departments. Lifting the ban on recruitment not only improves the working

of the departments but the youth would get employees opportunities, the cabinet members.

The chief minister with the consent of the cabinet members approved the lifting of the ban on recruitment in government departments and directed the Law Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar and the Advocate General to pursue the case in the court and get the stay order issued against the recruitment vacated.

At the request of

Education Minister Syed Sardar Shah the cabinet allowed School Education dept to continue the recruitment process of PST/JEST as per Teachers Recruitment Policy 2021 through IBA Sukkur.

Minister Health Dr Azar Fazal and Secretary Health Rehan Baloch briefing the cabinet said that the Health Department on the directives of the chief minister had appointed doctors, nurses, paramedical, skilled and supporting staff.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a cabinet meeting at CM House.



LAHORE: Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Oybek Arif Usmanov, called on Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman at Governor House.

CM meets Chinese CG, condoles demise of Chinese nationals in Shangla attack

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz visited the Chinese Consulate here on Wednesday and met with the Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren.

Other Chinese officials were also present on the occasion.

The CM expressed her deep sense of sorrow over the death of Chinese nationals in the Shangla attack. She expressed her heartfelt sympathy and grief with the family members of the deceased Chinese citizens.

While expressing her resolve to continue mutual cooperation and collaboration with China in

various sectors, the CM said that Pakistan and China are exemplary friends and their everlasting friendship cannot be undermined through cowardly actions. She maintained that the cowardly attack committed on the Chinese citizens is a nefarious conspiracy to sabotage progress and prosperity of Pakistan.

The Pakistani nation is heartily grieved over the onslaught incident on their Chinese brothers. "We equally share the grief of the affected Chinese families. We are undertaking all possible measures to safeguard the Chinese nationals working in Punjab.

KP Govt likely to increase BRT service fare

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Advisor to KP Chief Minister on Finance, Muzamil Aslam has said that the provincial government is likely to increase the fare of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) services to arrest its deficit and divert the subsidy paid in this regard to other useful heads.

Talking to media during his visit to Peshawar Press Club (PPC) on Tuesday night, he said that since the launching of service in 2019, no increase has been made in its fare as compare to manifold hike in electric and petroleum products prices. He said that currently the provincial government has to pay an

amount of over Rs.3 billion per annum in head of subsidy in the fare of the BRT Service. He said that a budgetary proposal regarding increase in the fare of the service will be submitted to the government. Regarding financial conditions of the autonomous organizations, he said that various such institutes particularly Universities are spending more than their sanctioned expenditures. He said the provincial government had never sanctioned any additional funds for them.

To a question regarding debts of the KP government, he said that it has only a debt of Rs.630 billion as compare to Rs.1700 billion of Punjab.

Local Islamic scholar and cleric arrested in connection with Mirpur KFC attack case

MIRPUR (APP): Mirpur police on Wednesday made a pivotal arrest in connection with the March 29 Mirpur KFC attack, apprehending Mufti Ejaz, a religious scholar and the cleric of the local Jamia mosque.

This arrest comes as a result of the ongoing preliminary investigations into the abhorrent attack by an unruly anti-Israel crowd of local miscreants, as confirmed by Senior Superintendent of Police Mirpur, Kamran Ali.

The arrest of Mufti

Ejaz follows vital interrogation and information provided by individuals already detained in connection with the storming of the KFC outlet in southern Mirpur city of Azad Jammu Kashmir.

This tragic incident saw over a hundred accused allegedly involved in the attack, which resulted in the ransacking and setting ablaze of the Mirpur AJK fast food outlet, alongside damaging nearby private buildings in the densely populated business hub.



KARACHI: Pak Navy officials handing over seized narcotics to Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) after apprehending a huge cache of narcotics in a successful joint intelligence-based operation. Joint operation was conducted at Shinkani Dar area near the coastline of Gwadar.

Sardar Mahar presides meeting for anti corruption department reforms

KARACHI (APP): Minister for Anti Corruption and Agriculture Sardar Muhammad Bux Mahar presided over a meeting with senior officers of Anti Corruption Establishment Sindh during which he decided to introduce legal reforms in department and take action against elements deceiving the public.

Sardar Mahar stated that legal reforms will be introduced within the Anti-Corruption Department, stringent action will be taken against those deceiving the public, and steps will be taken to fill all vacant positions in the department, including Inspectors, Sub-

inspectors, ASIs and 400 constables through the Sindh Public Service Commission and IBA.

The provincial minister instructed officers to expedite action against corrupt officials. He emphasized that no leniency will be shown towards corrupt officers, and immediate action will be taken on complaints received against them.

Sardar Muhammad Bux Mahar stressed the need for regular sessions to handle corruption cases and to conduct awareness seminars, walks, and large-scale campaigns against corruption within their respective zones.



PESHAWAR: Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Leader, Hamad Azhar addresses to media persons during press conference, at Peshawar press club.

Bilal Yasin orders to dismiss all 93 invigilators of BISE Examination centre

Independent Report
LAHORE: Provincial Minister Bilal Yasin is continuously in the field to ensure merit in ongoing examinations across Punjab. On the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Provincial Minister Bilal Yasin visited Lawrence Road examination center here on Wednesday.

In the presence of Minister Bilal Yasin, several children revealed that they were asked for bribes to solve the paper. A total of 93 private persons were appointed as invigilators at Lawrence Road examination center and they were demanding seven thousand rupees to solve each paper. Provincial Minister Bilal Yasin issued orders to dismiss all 93 private invigilators after receiving the information.

In the presence of the Minister, the children

participating in the examination spoke their hearts out. The children said that the private invigilators used to ask 7 thousand for a paper and more money was demanded for the maths exam.

On this occasion, the provincial minister gave confidence to the children and told them that all the people who violated the law have been dismissed and disciplinary action is being taken against them. He said that 10 FIRs were filed for flagrant violation of law in the examination centers of Lahore and the accused were arrested.

Bilal Yasin said that the chairman and controller of examinations were removed from the post for the worst performance. The head of the cabinet committee directed that regular government officials be appointed as invigilators.



LAHORE: Members Saut ul Gaza Forum are protesting with placards to show solidarity with Palestine.

SACM directs speeding up digitization of all professional, gen business

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Industries, Commerce and Technical Education Abdul Karim Tordher has directed to speed up the digitization of all professional and general business of the Directorate General of Industries and Commerce while emphasizing upon improving the performance of department in terms of services delivery in consumer protection rights.

He has directed that a resource mapping cluster

of special resources and products belonging to different regions of the province should be created so that the complete data of the special products of each region is available.

He has also directed the concerned authorities to take appropriate steps to make the Government Printing Press fully activate and profitable institution.

He issued these instructions during a briefing given to him regarding the department on the occasion of his visit to the Directorate General.

Pakistan's friendly ties with Uzbekistan getting stronger with each passing day: Baligh

Independent Report
LAHORE: Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Oybek Arif Usmanov, called on Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman at Governor House. Honorary Consul of Uzbekistan in Punjab, Najeeb Mushtaq Vohra and Trade Counsellor, Bakrom Yusupov were also present on the occasion.

In the meeting, issues of mutual interest and ways to expand bilateral cooperation in the field of education and trade were discussed.

Speaking on the occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh ur

Rehman said that Pakistan's friendly relations with Uzbekistan are getting stronger with each passing day and will be further strengthened in the near future. Governor Punjab said that both countries need to revive and strengthen their centuries-old trade, spiritual, cultural and historical ties.

He said that tourism is a priority sector for both countries. He added that it has great economic potential. Governor Punjab said that people associated with the media industry of both countries can work together on joint projects to highlight the common

cultural heritage.

Governor Punjab said that trade has increased manifold in recent years. He said, "I am confident that the PTA Preferential Trade Agreement and the UPTTA Uzbekistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement will enhance our bilateral trade and economic relations."

Governor Punjab said that there is a need to further promote mutual cooperation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan in other important sectors including education and trade. He said that there is a great scope of investment in agriculture, information technology.

PHC issues notices to Speaker, Dy Speaker in contempt case

PESHAWAR (APP): The Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Wednesday issued notices, to the speaker and deputy speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assembly in a contempt of court case.

A two-member bench of PHC comprising Justice Attiq Shah and Justice Arshad Ali heard the case wherein the petitioner said that despite the court order they did not administer oaths to members on reserved seats.

The petitioner's counsel said that the speaker and the deputy speaker had violated the court's order.

On which the court issued a notice.

Minister directs to initiate action against absent medical staff

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Health Minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah on Wednesday directed to initiate action against absent medical staff, stating that there is no place for those who don't perform their duties, especially for those working in hospitals.

In line with the minister's directive, the Director-General of Health Service Dr Shaikat Ali has issued final notices to fifteen dental surgeons who have been absent from duty for more than three years, following which they will face dismissal from their positions.

In his statement, the Health Minister emphasized the role of

doctors in serving the public, warning that those who fail to fulfill their duties will face disciplinary action.

He further stated that those who do not report for duty will be dealt with according to health regulations.

The Health Minister highlighted complaints received regarding absenteeism among medical staff in health centers, indicating the immediate need for action against those not adhering to biometric attendance.

He urged health department officials to ensure the attendance of their staff to provide the best healthcare facilities to the public.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori addresses Youth Parliament Shadow Cabinet at Governor House.

CM grieved over traffic warden's death on duty

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has expressed a deep sense of sorrow and grief over the sad demise of a traffic warden, Rashid Malhi, who fell under a trailer in Harunabad while performing his duty.

In her message, the chief minister prayed that may Allah Almighty grant the martyred high place in Jannat-ul-Firdous, and grant patience to the bereaved family.

BISP AJK disburses educational scholarships among 113,051 students

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) AJK Region disbursed Rs.320 Million among the 113,051 students under the Benazir Educational scholarship Programme in Azad Kashmir at the start of academic year.

This was informed by Zonal Director, Central Zonal Office BISP AJK Dr. Abdul Aziz Qurashi while conducting BISP AJK 22nd Quarterly RCC Progress Review Meeting under his chair here on Wednesday.

The aim is to bring together key stakeholders to assess the ongoing initiatives and achievements aimed at enhancing educational opportunities for underprivileged BISP beneficiaries children.

significant progress was reported on the implementation of Benazir Taleemi Wazaif (Educational Stipends) program, which aims to provide financial assistance to deserving students across the State.

Regional Director BISP AJK emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts between stakeholders i.e. BISP, Elementary & Secondary Education department of GoAJK and NCHD to achieve sustainable educational goals.

At the onset of the new academic year, the allocation of educational grants plays a crucial role in enabling children from BISP deserving families to afford essential academic materials and cover other educational expenditures effortlessly.

19 arrested under Kite Flying Act during 24 hours

LAHORE (APP): On the instructions of Inspector General Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, a special campaign against metal strings and kite flying is going on in the entire province of Punjab, in continuation of which, crackdown has been accelerated under zero tolerance against the suspects involved in this dangerous business.

During the last 24 hours, 19 accused were arrested and 19 cases.

The meeting witnessed a comprehensive discussion on the latest developments and future strategies in line with BISP's commitment to empowering marginalized segments of society through educational support of Benazir Taleemi Wazaif. During the meeting,

By working together, we can create a brighter future for all, Dr. Aziz Qurashi Stated.

Deputy Director Beneficiary Management Raja Sajjad Ahmad Khan outlined the progress and targets achieved in the last quarter, emphasizing the expansion of Benazir.

PM for joint efforts to enhance Pak, France coop. in trade, investment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday stressed the need for working together to enhance cooperation between Pakistan and France, particularly in the areas of trade and investment. The prime minister, in a meeting with Ambassador of France in Islamabad Nicolas Galey who paid a courtesy call on him, invited the French companies to invest in Pakistan.

He welcomed the initiative of the French side to bring corporate leaders from top French companies on a visit to Pakistan soon.

The prime minister, who was accompanied by Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, and SAPM Tariq Fatemi, also shared that stabilization of the economy was on top of the government's agenda.

The ambassador handed over a congratulatory letter from French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal, addressed to Prime Minister Shehbaz on his re-election.

The prime minister thanked the French leadership for the message of greetings.

He said that Pakistan enjoyed friendly and cordial ties with France and, although the relationship had undergone a difficult phase a few years ago, the two countries were now working together to further strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Prime Minister Shehbaz fondly recalled his numerous interactions with French President Emmanuel Macron, in particular their meetings on the sidelines of UNGA Session in 2022, as well as on the margins of the Paris Conference on New Financing Pact on Climate Change in June 2023.

He also lauded President Macron's valuable contribution through virtual participation at the Geneva Conference on Resilient Pakistan in January 2023.

The prime minister reiterated his invitation to President Macron to undertake an official visit to Pakistan, at his earliest convenience. The situation in Gaza was also discussed in the meeting and the prime minister appreciated French peace efforts in the region. The situation in Afghanistan was also discussed. The French ambassador thanked Prime Minister Shehbaz for receiving him and briefed him on the latest developments.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of France Amb. Nicolas Galey calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Sindh CM, WB team discuss progress on 13 projects worth \$3.2bn

KARACHI (APP): Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah met a team from the World Bank, led by Country Director Najy Benhassine and discussed the progress of 13 active projects worth \$3.2 billion that are being assisted by the World Bank.

So far, 40 per cent or \$1.33 billion has been disbursed and they agreed to speed up the work on these projects by removing bottlenecks to ensure their timely completion.

The meeting was attended by provincial ministers including Dr Azra Pechuho, Nasir Shah, Saeed Ghani, Mohammad Bux Maher, Jam Khan Shoro, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Chairman P&D Najam Shah, PSCM Agha Wasif, Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatwi and other concerned secretaries.

The World Bank team include Operation Manager Gailuis J Draugelis Senior Transport Specialist Lincoln, Kamran Akbar, Syed Usman and others.

Chairman P&D Najam Shah gave a detailed briefing saying that Karachi Mobility, project has three components, including a CM Sindh \$177 million development of Road infrastructure for the Yellow Line Corridor, \$260 million for its operationalisation and \$6 million for capacity building and technical assistance.

The meeting was told that the BRT Yellow Line corridor has been divided into two lots -13 km and 21 km respectively. The Designs and bidding documents were under preparation and would be submitted to the Bank by May 30. The Requests for bids are scheduled for July 15, 2024.

Pak, Netherlands agree to explore new opportunities for partnership

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Netherlands here on Wednesday agreed on the significance of enhancing bilateral relations and exploring new opportunities for partnership in areas of mutual interest.

According to press statement issued by finance ministry, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Pakistan, Mrs. Henny de Vries called on Minister for Finance and Revenue, Muhammad Aurangzeb, to discuss matters of mutual interest and strengthen the existing ties between Pakistan and the Netherlands.

The minister warmly welcomed the Ambassador and expressed appreciation for the longstanding friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

He highlighted the importance of the bilateral relationship, rooted in shared values and a history of collaboration.

The discussion also touched upon the structural reforms being implemented by the government of Pakistan for promoting economic growth and ensuring fiscal sustainability.

The minister highlighted that Pakistan was interested in technology transfer and leveraging the expertise of Netherlands in agriculture, dairy, and farm production that would lead to increased production and exports, contributing significantly to Pakistan's economy.

Ambassador de Vries reciprocated the sentiments, emphasizing the Netherlands' commitment to furthering cooperation with Pakistan across various sectors. She also appreciated the government's efforts being taken towards reforms in major economic and financial sectors of the economy.

The Ambassador also informed about the pilot projects being run by the Netherlands in Pakistan, including fish production, ensuring labor safety and environmental standards in textile industries, and projects on water management in agriculture.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries & Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain chairs a review meeting of Engineering Development Board.

Turkmenistan Ambassador, Pakistan's minister discuss bilateral trade strategies

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan, Atajan Movlmov, on Thursday congratulate the Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, on his recent appointment and engaged in discussions aimed at bolstering trade relations between the two countries.

During the meeting, Minister Jam Kamal emphasized Pakistan's commitment to strengthening bilateral ties with Turkmenistan, particularly in trade, for the mutual benefit of both nations, said press release issued here.

The discussions centered on various aspects of Turkmen-Pakistani relations, highlighting cooperation based on principles of mutual respect and equality.

Both parties expressed interest in enhancing trade volumes, with a focus on exploring new routes and transit trade agreements.

Ambassador Movlmov noted Turkmenistan's potential to offer cost-effective electricity compared to local production in Pakistan, while also highlighting opportunities for collaboration in energy sectors such as LPG and electricity.

Minister Jam Kamal expressed optimism about the imminent signing of a Transit Trade Agreement (TTA) between the two countries which is in its final stage and either shall be signed in Islamabad or Ashgabat Capital of Turkmenistan.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Six ships namely, Maersk Kensington, Kyparisia, MSC Spring, Mala Kado, Silver Heba and Al-Wajbah scheduled to load/offload Container, Cement, Palm oil and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Liquid Terminal and Elengy Terminal respectively on report period.

A total of thirteen ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Al-Diab-III and Chemroad Journey left the Port on today morning while four more ships, Al-Areesh, Uog Sparta, MSC Spring and Maersk Kensington are expected to sail on today afternoon.

Cargo volume of 267,762 tonnes, comprising 222,987 tonnes imports cargo and 44,775 tonnes export cargo carried in 6,800 Containers (4,660 TEUs Imports and 2,140 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are 5 ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them two ships.

Minister says: PRA working with corruption free mechanism

Independent Report LAHORE: Punjab Finance Minister Mujtaba Shujaur Rehman has said that Punjab Revenue Authority (PRA) is the only provincial tax collecting agency in the country that is working with a corruption free mechanism.

He expressed these views during the performance review meeting at the Punjab Revenue Authority, here on Wednesday.

He said the PRA has been collecting 66 percent of provincial revenue while Board of Revenue 22 percent and Excise and Taxation 12 percent. The PRA still has a lot of potential to double the tax collections, he added.

He said a policy of increasing the tax net will be adopted to increase the collections. Apart from restaurants, beauty parlors and fashion designers, IT services, franchises and sponsorships will also be included in the tax net.

Open door policy will be promoted in PRA offices. The success of the institution depends on the trust of the people, he added. Chairman Punjab Revenue Authority Javed Badr, Commissioner Lahore Misbah Nawaz, Additional Commissioner Sara Hayat, Member Atiya Ali Khan and concerned officers attended the meeting. The provincial minister told the participants of the meeting that in 2012, he approved establishment of the Punjab Revenue Authority as the finance minister and transferred the collection of sales tax in services from the Excise department to the PRA. Tax is being collected on more than 70 services under PRA. The rate of receipts in PRA has reached from 100 billion to 200 billion rupees. The PRA is also collecting Punjab Infrastructure Cess and Punjab Worker Welfare Funds in addition to Sales Tax-in-Services.

FCA to met by end of current month

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Committee on Agriculture (FCA) is scheduled to convene by the end of the current month (April) to discuss the performance of key agricultural indicators during the Rabi season.

The committee will assess the output of major and minor crops during the Rabi season 2023-24 and establish production targets for Kharif crops 2024. This is essential to meet local dietary needs as well as to facilitate exports, said Food Security Commissioner in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research.

The high-powered committee is mandated to oversee strategic measures for ensuring food safety and security in the country and among others, he told APP here on Wednesday.

The meeting would also be attended by the senior officials of the provincial food and agriculture departments, State Bank of Pakistan, Zarie Taraqiatie Bank Limited and other credit providing institutions, he added.

Besides, the FCA would also be attended by the representatives of National Fertilizer Development Center, Pakistan Meteorological Department, Indus River System Authority and member food security and climate change of Planning Commission of Pakistan, he added. He emphasized that the primary objective of the meeting is to strengthen coordination efforts, consolidate gains and ensure continued progress across all sectors of agricultural.

Rupee sheds 08 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Wednesday witnessed a devaluation of 08 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.91 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.83.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs278 and Rs281.75 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by 92 paise to close at Rs299.34 against the last-day closing of Rs298.42, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs1.83, whereas an increase of 48 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb was called on by H.E. Mrs. Henny de Vries, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Pakistan.

Punjab cabinet fixes wheat support price at Rs 3,900 per 40kg

Independent Report LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif chaired the fifth meeting of the provincial cabinet at CM's office, here on Wednesday.

The minimum support price of wheat for the year 2023-2024 was fixed by the cabinet at Rs 3,900 per 40 kg. Wheat Procurement Policy 2024-25 was also approved.

The CM said: "It is my commitment to ensure that the interests of small farmers are protected at all costs." She said Rs 1.5 lakh interest-free loan would be given to small farmers for buying farm inputs like seeds, fertiliser and pesticides, under the best and most historic farmer cards in the history of Pakistan. The cabinet also gave approval to establish Special Speedy Trial Courts in Punjab for the logical conclusion of criminal cases related to rape, child abuse, domestic violence, electricity theft and others through speedy trials.

Advocate General Punjab briefed the cabinet about the proposed amendment in the defamation law and the establishment of special trial courts. He said that in a defamation case, the degree must be completed within 90 days and the trial within 180 days. He added defamation notices would be given simultaneously through major newspapers, social media, courier service and registered post to avoid complaints of non-receipt and delay. AGP apprised the cabinet that this amendment would be presented soon in the Punjab Assembly for seeking approval.

The chief minister appreciated the move and said the culture of lying and false accusations must end. The cabinet also gave approval of formation of Cabinet Standing Committee on Legal Affairs.



Federal Minister for Power, Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari having a meeting with a delegation from APTMA in Islamabad.

PSQCA busts illegal cosmetics factory, seizes huge stock

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Science and Technology Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui's directive led to the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) busting a factory producing counterfeit cosmetics, both domestically and internationally. Under the supervision of Asghar Ali, deputy director of the Standards Development Centre of PSQCA, engineers Azizur Rahman, Nauman Khaliq, Nadeem Mahmood Chohan, and others raided a house in Lalazar Colony, Multan Road, where a company operating under the name of SSS International was manufacturing fake and substandard beauty creams, shampoos, and other items. The production area was also found in extremely unsuitable conditions.

The PSQCA team seized all prepared items and shut down the factory. Deputy Director Asghar Ali stated that the factory was producing cosmetics without PSQCA's licence and supplying them nationwide. Such counterfeit and substandard products are a cause of serious health issue.

NPO to organize workshop on 'Advance Excel'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Productivity Organization (NPO) is going to organize a workshop on "Advance Excel" on April 04 (Thursday) tomorrow.

Excel is a spreadsheet program from Microsoft and a component of its Office product group for business applications. Microsoft Excel enables users to format, organize and calculate data in a spreadsheet, said an NPO document shared here on Wednesday. Advanced Excel skill includes the ability to produce graphs and tables, use spreadsheets efficiently, and perform calculations and automation to process large volumes of data.



KARACHI: PTCL and National Insurance Company Limited sign an agreement for provision of Smart Cloud Services bundled with allied licenses, the agreement signed between Muhammad Basharat Qureshi, Group Vice President Enterprise Solutions PTCL, and Khalid Hameed, CEO National Insurance Company Limited (NICL) during a ceremony held NICL Head-Office.

NLC successfully transports Pakistan's potato export consignment to Tajikistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Logistics Corporation (NLC) has achieved another major milestone in boosting the country's regional trade with Central Asian state of Tajikistan by successfully transporting Pakistani potato export consignment to Dushanbe.

The NLC effectively gained access to increase trade with another important Central Asian country as the convoy of NLC trucks reached the Tajik capital of Dushanbe after covering more than 1,400 kilometers (km), an official source told APP.

The trucks of National Logistics Cell completed the journey from Okara and Rahim Yar Khan to Dushanbe in just seven days. However, a special ceremony was held at Dushanbe Customs Terminal One on the arrival of the inaugural convoy under International Road Transport.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by notable personalities including Tajik Minister of Transport Azim Ibrahim, Director General of NLC Farrukh Shehzad Rao, Pakistani Ambassador Muhammad Saeed Sarwar, Customs Department officials and prominent Tajik businessmen.

Addressing the ceremony, the Tajikistan's Minister of Transport appreciated the official launch of ground transportation by Pakistan's leading logistics organization.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and the World Bank team led by its Country Director Mr. Najy Benhassine review the progress of the World Bank-assisted 13 active projects at CM House.

CDNS increase Savings Certificate, rates from March 19

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has increased the rates of return for its National Savings Certificates, marking amendments across different instruments from March 19, 2024.

Return rates for Special Savings Certificates (SSC) have been adjusted upwards by 15.93 %. Defense Savings certificates by 13.36 %, Regular Income Certificates (RIC) now offer 14.76%, the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Monday.

The new increases were also applied to Bahbood Savings Certificates (BSC), Pensioners Benefit Account (PBA), and Shuhadas Family Welfare Account (SFWA), with each now yielding 15.60%.

The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has attained a target of Rs 1210 billion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year.

Over 8.3 m cotton bales reach ginneries till March 31

MULTAN (APP): Seed cotton (Phutti) equivalent to over 8.3 million or exactly 839,655,7 bales has reached ginning factories across the country till March 31, 2024. According to a fortnightly report of the Pakistan Cotton Ginneries Association (PCGA) released on Wednesday over 8.3 million or 839,655,7 bales have undergone the ginning process. It is 348,448,8 more bales compared to the corresponding period of the year 2023.

