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Sindh CM orders crackdown on illegal foreigners, drug mafia after KPO attack investigation

KARACHI (APP): The investigations in the Karachi Police Office (KPO) attack

FIA Zaeem Iqbal and others.

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The Law Enforcement could be developed. case, presented in the 31st Apex Committee meeting held under the chair of Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah revealed that a Madersa teacher was found involved in the terrorist attack and was killed there

during the operation. The meeting was held at CM House on Thursday and was attended by Senior Minister Sharjeel Memon, Home Minister Ziual Hassan Lanjar, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Corps Commander Karachi Lt Gen. Babar Iftikhar, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, PSCM Agha Wasif, Secretary Home Iqbal Memon, Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi, DG Rangers Maj Gen Azhar Waqas, IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, Adl IG Karachi Imran Yakoob and Chief Collector Customs

Agencies (LEAs) presented an investigation report to the Apex Committee which revealed that a Madarsa teacher was found involved in the KPO attack dated February 17, 2023. The teacher was a terrorist and had attacked the KPO along with his accomplices.

During the KPO clear-ance operation carried out by the agencies, the terrorists were killed and through their fingerprints and other investigations, it was revealed that one of them was a teacher in Madarsa.

that illegal foreigners were studying in different edu-cational institutions, including Madares. At this, the CM in consultation with the Apex Committee members decided to carry out a joint mapping of the illegal foreigners living in the Yakoob Mako, Director province and educational

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of

Azerbaijan, Khazar Farhadov calls on Prime Min-

Headline Inflation decelerates

further to 17.3% in April

Lowest inflation rate in two

vears - result of hard work

done by PDM-led govt: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): (PDM) and continued by

the interim government," he

said in a statement issued by the PM Office.

The prime minister pointed out that the infla-

tion rate had come down

from the peak of 39% to

20% last month and then

to 17% in the current

down the inflation rate

was the top priority of

He said bringing

ister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday, declar-

ing the downward trend of

inflation as a welcome news

for the people, said that the

inflation falling towards the lowest level in two years

was a sign of improvement

the 16 month-long govern-ment led by the Pakistan

"This is the result of the hard work done during Ho

Democratic Movement the government.

Murad chairs SDT board

meeting to appoint MD

from market

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Sved Murad

Ali Shah presided over the 5th Governing Body meeting

of the Sindh Digital Technology Board, which decided to

appoint a managing director of the board through the head search process from the market.

in the economy.

data of illegal foreigners

Home Minister Zia Lanjar, and Home Secretary Iqbal Memon briefing the meeting said that 43,762, and 1,653 illegal foreigners have been repatriated and deported respectively. As many as 42,109 illegal foreigners have returned vol-untarily, 81, 106 have Proof of Residence (PoR) card holders and 65,936 have other cards.

were killed and through r fingerprints and other estigations, it was reled that one of them was acher in Madarsa.

It was pointed out that 57,000 fake/bogus Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs) have already been blocked while 17,217 were under the process of blockage. blockage.

Murad Ali Shah said that the joint mapping of illegal foreigners living in the province, particularly in Karachi was necessary so that their credible data could be developed for their repatriation.



ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday expressed condolences over demise of heikh Tahnoun bin Mohamed Al Nahyan, the epresentative of the Inited Arab Emirates Ruler in Al Ain.

"Deeply saddened at the demise of the Representative of the UAE's Ruler in Al Ain Sheikh Tahnoun bin Mohamed Al Nahyan. I express my condolences to the UAE's leadership," the president said in a mes sage issued by the President House. He said Sheikh Tahnoun bin Mohamed Al Nahyan played important role in shaping the legacy of the UAÉ.

Pakistan seizes 'largest-ever' methamphetamine shipment bound for Belgium

KARACHI (INP): The Anti-Narcotics Force said on Thursday it has seized 224 kilograms of methamphetamine from Karachi port, describing it as the "largest ever" shipment of crystal ice in Pakistan.

In a statement, the ANF spokesperson said the drugs were discovered concealed within a consignment of soapstone, destined for Belgium via Afghani-

The drugs were initially smuggled from Afshanistan through the Torkham border crossing into Karachi, it said and added that the smugglers then attempted to conceal the methamphetamine within the roof and doors

of five shipping containers.
The ANF seized all five containers at the Karachi port. Three individuals involved in the smuggling attempt, including two Afghan nationals, were apprehended while attempting to flee to their home country through the Torkham border.

Earthquake jolts Karachi

SLAMABAD (APP): Tremors of an earthquake were felt in various areas of Karachi, with a recorded intensity of 2.3 on the Richter scale.

According to a private news channel, tremors were felt in the areas of Kathore, Gadap, and Malir in

According to the seismic center, the intensity of the earthquake was recorded at 2.3 on the Rich-

The depth of the earthquake was 84 kilometers, and the epicenter was located 38 kilometers northeast of Malir.

The tremors, which occurred at 5:52 pm, caused no reported loss of life or



World Press Freedom Day: Bilawal expresses solidarity with journalists, media professionals

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in message on World Press Freedom Day to be marked on Friday has expressed solidarity with journalists and media professionals world-

The PPP Chairman emphasizing the paramount importance of press freedom, reaffirmed his party's staunch support for the invaluable role of a free and independent press in fostering democracy. Bilawal Bhutto under-

scored that press freedom was not merely a cornerstone of democracy, but also vital for nurturing transparency, accountability, and the proliferation of diverse ideas within society. He urged that safeguarding and upholding this fundamental right should be the responsibility of every democratic government and party.

Historically, the press in Pakistan has served as a watchdog, uncovering injustices, exposing corruption, and amplifying the voices of the marginalized, he added.

The PPP Chairman expressing concern over challenges such as censorship, fake news, and violence faced by journalists, urged media organizations to uphold journalistic integrity, impartiality, and professionalism in their reporting. He reiterated the party's unwavering support for press freedom, grounded in democracy and liberty principles.

He underscored, the 1973 Constitution's guarantee of freedom of expression, including press freedom, a legacy of Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. "Under his leadership, re-forms liberalized media policies, fostering greater independence," he noted.



KARACHI: Adelegation of Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) meets with Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi.

Interior Minister Naqvi, Sindh Governor discuss political, economic situation

KARACHI (INP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said that strict actions were necessary to eliminate street crimes from Karachi and the federal government was ready to give complete support to the Sindh government in this regard.



KARACHI: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi alongwith Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori distributing ration among deserving people.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said this while talking to Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori at the Governor's House in Karachi. During the meeting, Naqvi also discussed with Kamran Tessori the current political and economic situation of the country and the role of security forces in establishing law and order. On the occasion, Naqvi told Tessori that all resources would be used for the establishment of peace and order in the country especially in Karachi. Governor Sindh said the federation and the provinces were on the same page in the elimination of crimes. Tessori also appreciated Mohsin Naqvi's public welfare initiatives as Chief Minister of Punjab, adding that Mohsin Naqvi was famous for completing public projects in Punjab with lightning speed.



KARACHI: Sindh Police Inspector General (IG), Ghulam Nabi Memon presides over a high-level meeting with National Institute of Management (NIM) 35th Senior Management Course (SM C) 38 officers of the Chief Instructional Institute of Management headed by Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, at CPO Headquarters in Karachi.

Asif Zardari resigns as PPPP chairman

KARACHI (INP): President Asif Zardari has resigned from the chairman-ship of the Pakistan People's Party Parliamen-tarians (PPPP).

Sources say Asif Zardari has informed the Election Commission of Pakistan about his resignation from the presidency of the Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians.

Sources further revealed that after Asif Zardari's resignation from the party presidency, there is consideration being given to appointing Asif Zardari's sister and provincial assembly member Faryal Talpur as the new president of the Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians.

Asif Zardari's resignation from the party comes at a time when some quarters are criticising him for leading a political party despite being the President of the country.

ECP reappoints Omar as secretary for two-year term ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday reappointed Omar Hamid Khan as its secretary for the period of two years

A notification issued here said that Omar Hamid Khan, a retired BS-22 officer of the Secretariat Group, had been reemployed as Secretary for a two-year term in the public interest, in accordance with Rules 8 & 11 of the Election Commission (Officers and Ser vants) Rules, 1989.

Three terrorists among two ringleaders gunned down in Tank IBO

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Security Forces on Thursday killed three terrorists including two ring leaders during a joint intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted in Tank District.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), during the conduct of operation, after intense fire exchange, the three terrorists were successfully neutralized who were identified as, Terrorist Ringleader Azmat alias Azmati Terrorist Ringleader Karamat alias Hanzla and Terrorist Rehan.

COAS says

Army well aware of constitutional limits, expect same from others

army is well aware of its constitutional limits and expects others to prioritise upholding the Constitution as well, Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir said on Thursday. "Those who blatantly

disregard these limitations cannot point fingers at others," he said while addressing the passing out parade of the Pakistan Air Force. "Article 19 of the Constitution clearly defines the boundaries of freedom of expression.

The Army Chief was addressing the passing out parade of the Pakistan Air

He said that the growing arms race was likely to disturb the balance of power in the South Asia

The COAS said, "Ad-

gence, robotics and quantum computing are changing the use of air power as well as expanding its scope. However, without a strong air force, a country is at the mercy of any aggressor."

He said the Pakistar Air Force had always lived up to the expectations of the nation. It patrolled the airspace in all kinds of difficulties with unparalleled bravery and professionalism, a great example of which was demonstrated before all in February 2019.

The Army Chief, while addressing the passing out of cadets, said, "You are the center of our hopes, the guardian of the skies and the guarantor of regional unity. You are expected to lead a life adorned with the virtues of character, courage and compe-



RISALPUR: Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir giving away Sword of Honour for overall best performance in College of Flying Training to Aviation Cadet Squadron Under Officer Muhammad Junaid Malik during graduation Ceremony of 149th General Duty (Pilot), 95th Engineering, 105th Air Defence, 25th A&SD, Eighth Log and 131st Combat Support Courses at the PAF Academy Risalpur.

Legislation will be done against drug trafficking in schools: Memon

KARACHI (INP): Sindh "The action will be taken Minister Sharjeel Memon said on Thursday that the legislation will take place against drug trafficking in

Expressing thoughts, Memon said: "Both the central and provincial governments have decided to launch a crackdown against the drugs. Now bad days have started for the drug traffickers." "If the drug traffickers will not stop their activities, they will have to bear the brunt,

He made it clear that strict action will be taken if the weapons are exhibited. Speaking about the illegal immigrants, Memon said:

against the illegal immigrants according to national

Expressing thoughts, Memon asserted: "The PTI is launching a smear campaign against the institutions. The PTI had been involved in terrorism on social media.

Memon said: "The PTI does not want to hold negotiations, but it is pleading for the deal, but the institutions are not ready for the deal." "All the groups within the PTI have their own narrative. During the last one and a half years, every group of the PTI has been requesting the deal.



tice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar and Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar held an important press conference.

Pak-US Navies conduct bilateral exercise 'Inspired Union 2024'

KARACHI (INP): The bilateral exercise of Pakistan Fleet and Commander military relations between Karachi with an aim to enhance relations and interoperability between PN and USN through mutual exchange of professional experience and expertise in maritime domain.

The three-day exercise was participate by officers and personnel of United States Marine Corps, Coast Guards, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Diving, Legal, Naval Construction Force, Civil Affairs and Medical teams.

Multiple discussions and practical evolutions on professional topics of mutual interest were conducted during the exercise. Commander CTF-52, also called

Union 2024' was held at actions, matters of mutual moting safe and sustainable

and US Navies 'Inspired Coast. During these inter- PN and USN aimed at pro-



KARACHI: Lady Officers of Pakistan Navy and US Navy in an interactive session during Exercise Inspired Union 2024, in Karachi.

interest in maritime domain were discussed.

Conduct of Exercise Inspired Union was a regular feature between Pakistan Navy and US Navy. The exercise was manifes-

maritime environment in the region. Exercise proved mutually rewarding to hone professional skills of participating personnel from both navies and learn from each other's experiences.

The meeting was attended by the Principal Secretary to CM Agha Wasif, Secretary IT Asif Ikram, Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatoi, Board members Jaham Ara, and (through a video link) Junaid Qureshi, Asif Peer, and After discussion, the CM decided that the board should have a managing director, who must be appointed from the market through a head search.

Officers from SMC

meet IGP Sindh

KARACHI (APP): A delegation of 38 officers from the 35th Senior Management Course (SMC) visited the Central Police Office (CPO) Karachi and met Inspector General of Police Sindh, Ghulam Nabi

Led by Abdul Khaliq Shaikh, Chief Instructor of the National Institute of Management Karachi, the delegation had the opportunity to explore various departments of the Sindh Police and engage with senior officers, said a spokesman for Sindh Police

During their visit, the

comed by DIGP Headquarters Sindh, Zubair Dareshak, who briefed them on the diverse challenges encountered in modern policing. A key focus of the

discussions revolved around the adoption of people-friendly policing strategies, aimed at fostering stronger ties between law enforcement agencies and the community.

IGP Sindh, Ghulam Nabi Memon, shared inspiring insights into the relentless efforts undertaken by the Sindh Police in com-

Daily Soice of Masse Independent

Punishing evaders

The FBR's decision to block mobile phone connections of more than half a million individuals who did not file federal tax returns for the tax year 2022-2023 indicates that the agency is stepping up its campaign against evaders. The FBR has issued a legally binding Income Tax General Order to mobile companies to disable the SIMs of 450,000 individuals who had earlier filed tax statements but did not do so last year. It has identified the remaining more than 50,000 tax delinquents through third-party data on their expenditures and consumption patterns. The punitive action comes after the tax evaders' failure to respond to notices and repeated reminders. But is this enough to ensure tax compliance? The FBR's action appears to be largely limited to those whose names are already in its database. Many will justifiably ask what is being done to expand the tax base itself. Under the law, any person earning an annual income of Rs600,000 or more, or owning a 1000cc car or a house is liable to file tax statements. However, less than 2pc of the population (4.5m persons) had filed their returns last year, down from 5.9m a year earlier. Besides, a very large number of filers do not show taxable income in their statements

That the FBR has initiated action against non-filers amid reports that only 75 traders have registered themselves under the recently announced Tajir Dost Scheme, a voluntary tax compliance arrangement for retailers, underscores the difficulty in expanding a very narrow tax base. And yet, despite the tax agency's past failure to execute multiple effective initiatives to increase direct taxation to boost the nation's present tax-to-GDP ratio of below 9pc — one of the lowest in South Asia — we must keep our fingers crossed. Indeed, Pakistan's current political leadership is committed to implementing FBR reforms, digitising the tax system to plug leakages and eradicating corruption and massive tax exemptions to powerful business lobbies. The intentions are sound. But the government would need to go much beyond automation and an anti-corruption drive; a paradigm shift is needed to make the tax system equitable to attract private investment and spur economic

In addition to bringing untaxed and undertaxed sectors such as real estate, agriculture, retail, and overseas remittances into the net, the government will have to curtail the number of indirect taxes and significantly reduce high tax rates if it wants to improve compliance. The abysmally low tax revenue as a ratio of the size of the economy is at the heart of one of the worst financial crises being faced by the country for the last two years. This problem cannot be tackled without broadening the tax net, and making the tax administration and regime conducive to investment and growth.

Peace pipe and war

the South Pars gas field

to the Iran-Pakistan bor-

der. Pakistan has yet to

begin its section. The cost

in 2012 was estimated at

\$1.8 billion. Its new cost

is open to the heavens. A

few years later, Pakistan

pleaded a weak force ma-

jeure when it formally in-

formed Iran that, as long

as Tehran is subject to US

sanctions, it could not

start work on its end of the

interim government ap-

proved the construction

of a token 80 km to Gwadar

stall Iran's threat to invoke

up to \$18bn of penalties

for the delay. Iran has

granted Pakistan until

September 2024 to com-

plete the remaining 625

the recent visit by the Ira-

nian president Dr E. Raisi,

a joint statement by both

governments "reiterated

the importance of coop-

eration in the energy do-

main, including trade in

electricity, power trans-

mission lines and [almost

as an afterthought] the IP

while, is searching for

ways to wriggle under the

forbidding door of US

sanctions. At best, it can

hope for a US waiver,

which is rare but not im-

possible. The Pakistan

Foreign Office maintains

that Pakistan does not

need a waiver. The petro-

dicted this by admitting

that it is "considering

formally contacting the

US government to re-

quest a waiver of sanc-

tered Pakistan's Janus

stance through Donald

Lu, the US assistant sec-

retary of state named in

the Imran Khan cipher

case. He has testified that

The US has coun-

mean-

Gas Pipeline".

Pakistan.

a lame attempt to fore-

This year, Pakistan's

pipeline.

F.S. Aijazuddin

The tripartite Iran-Pakistan-India Pipeline project (IPI) should have had a normal maturity, had it not suffered from a genetic defect. Physicians term it a complex disorder, which has mutations in two or more genes inherited from

The IPI project could not have had a simpler geopolitical justification. Iran has proven natural gas reserves of about 1,200 trillion cubic feet, enough to last 162 years. Its needy neighbour Pakistan has natural gas reserves of only 18 tcf, enough for the next 12-15 years. India's offshore reserves of natural gas are to its east (40.6 per cent) and to its west (23.7pc). It made sense for India to look westwards, even if it involved Pakistan as an undependable intermedi-

Economics cried out for such a project. International politics, however, proved the malevolent spirit determined to curse

its future. Initially, in 1995, Iran, Pakistan and India signed an agreement which made Iran responsible for 1,180 kilometres of the IPI pipeline, Pakistan 705 km and India 850 km. The pricing of the product had been agreed at \$4.937 per MBTU, linked to an average Japanese Crude Cocktail price.

The logical solution to ensure continuity of supply was for all three countries to have jointly leum minister contraowned the IPI project, through one corporate entity registered outside the three countries, with legal safeguards in place to prevent any of its members from reneging on their ob-

ligations. In 2008, however, India signed two major agreements with the US on nuclear energy and military cooperation. As a consequence, the follow- Pakistan has not yet aping year, India withdrew from the IPI project.

Since then, the Irani-

ans undeterred have com- find it difficult to secure pleted their 1,172 km of the truncated pipeline from tional donors.

Pakistan is trapped between two options: crippling sanctions or prohibitive penalties, between an American devil and the deep Caspian Sea. What was once touted as a pipeline of peace has been re-engineered into an instrument

The Pakistani public stands confused by the government's unconscionable reticence. No meaningful information is available in the public domain about the present status of the IP project — important, because it promised to provide enough gas to generate up to 5,000 MW (one-fifth of our present thermal capac-What will be the fi-

At the conclusion of nal cost of the IP project,

and the sources of its funding? (Iran initially had offered a loan of \$500 million.) Also opaque are the IP's achievable completion date, the price at which Iranian gas is to be supplied, safeguards and penalties for nonsupply and non-off-take. A gas sales and purchase agreement was signed between Iran and Pakistan in June 2009, and an operations agreement in March 2010. Are they still operative? Factor in the downstream losses in defective transmission and dishonest distribution. In FY2022-23, 10 Discos averaged losses of

16.38pc. In the mid-1970s, Iranian PM Amir-Abbas Hoveyda visited Islamabad. Passing some flowering roses in the Secretariat garden, his Pakistani hosts invited him

to admire them. He gave them a glance, and dismissed them with the aside: "Yes, it is all a matter of priorities." Had the President Raisi come to Islamabad plied for a waiver. He last week to task us to deadded that, even if termine our priorities? granted, Pakistan would Courtesy Dawn

Journalists in Gaza

Sa'adia Reza

"For nearly three months when I was still inside Gaza, every single day when the night came, I looked at myself and I said, 'I survived this Palestinian journalist Youmna Elsid's words reflect what every journalist in the Gaza Strip experiences while reporting from the war-torn en-

In a span of around 200 days since Israel launched the attack on Gaza, at least 100 journalists have lost their lives, as per the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ). The committee notes that as of April 20, 16 journalists were reported injured, four were reported missing, and 25 were reported arrested. In other words, on average one journalist, if not more, has been killed every two days since war broke out on Oct 7 last year.

Given the unprecedented number, Gaza has become the most dangerous place for media workers and journalists; the deadliest war for reporters since CPJ started gathering data in

tion on international media in Gaza has forced civilians including journalists, content creators, freelancers influencers to document the horrific atrocities of the war. No age has been young enough to report on the genocide, as proved by nine-year-old Lama Abu Jamous and 17-year-old Abboud who bravely continue to tell the world about the suffering of their people. These and many others have been the storytellers as tragedies in the Strip continue to unfold. More importantly, the content coming out of Gaza has served as a massive tool to counter the soft and biased narrative aid adopted by many West-

ern media organisations.

while they cover the genocide in high-risk zones in the face of disrupted communication, war-related trauma and hunger and starvation, and more importantly, the constant danger to their

lives and families.

Palestinian journalhighlighted the vulnerability of media workers in Gaza, citing several incidents where they, along with their families, have been targeted. These includes Al Jazeera's Wael al-Dahdouh's family which was killed in two air strikes, while he himself was critically injured. Several family members of Ali Jadallah, photojournalist at Turkish strikes hit their home early in the war.

But perhaps one of the most shocking examples of the plight of Gaza journalists emerged on Dec 15 last year, when Al Jazeera's cameraman killed in an Israeli drone strike while covering a The Israeli restricbombing in Khan Younis. According to reports, Abudaqa bled to death over five hours, while he was denied emergency treatment as Israeli forces did not permit ambuers to reach him in time.

lances and rescue work-Reporting on war is never easy. But for those in Gaza, the trauma of human suffering, bloodshed, sheer mental ex- and let to global pro-Palhaustion, and the fear estine protests. This is that the next fatality they report could potentially be a loved one are inescapable. Moreover, the they imagined for themstruggle to cover the war while, at the same time, trying to meet basic everyday needs — given the extremely limited supply of humanitarian — is a reality that's hard to imagine. Like all civilians in the Strip, However, in stark journalists too have had

contrast with other war to battle against hunger, zones, journalists in Gaza thirst, mental and physihave zero protection cal pain, and, often against any casualties times, forced to make a choice between putting down the microphone or camera and focusing on finding a means to sur-

Understandably, a few took off their press vest for good when the need for safety and scavenging for food and ists have time and again other necessities took precedence over the day-to-day reportage. Some, like photojournalist Motaz Azaiza, evacuated to try to campaign for a ceasefire and show the world the realities of the war from outside the

These are people who have witnessed first-hand the heartbreaking scenes of babies being killed, of de-Anadolu Agency, were composed bodies unalso killed when Israeli earthed in hospital compounds, of houses crumbling under air strikes. They have heard the wails of grieving mothers, of people pleading to be rescued from under the rubble, the screams of children los-Samer Abudaqa was ing their limbs without anaesthesia. These are not the experiences that one can erase from one's memory easily, and the toll it took on their mental health is both profound and last-

> The world owes these men, women and children whose powerful narrative and selfless desire to expose the truth has woken us to the situation in Gaza not the war they chose to report on, and certainly this is not the life selves. Yet, their motivation and determination to document a war that seems to have no end, is inspiring. To quote someone on social media, "not all heroes wear capes; some also come in press vests". -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

WWF-Pakistan rolls out regenerative agriculture practices initiative

ISLAMABAD (APP): offers a demonstrable vulnerabilities of local WWF-Pakistan, with approach to landscapes communities catalytic funding from that has already seen smallholder farmers. Laudes Foundation, success in India, Brazil and "To address" launched the Regenerative Tanzania. Production Landscape Collaborative (RPLC) Pakistan to drive new business models and farming practices that holistically tackle current challenges faced by smallholder farmers and address the environmental issues resulting from unsustainable practices.

Speaking at the launch event, Director General, WWF-Pakistan, Hammad unsustainable agricultural practices in Pakistan.

agriculture faced major issues of excessive use Lasbela districts of change, he noted that sustainable Balochistan. The initiative this has led to increasing regenerative practices.

and

challenges, this initiative fostering collaborations will enhance collaborative with regional players, actions and develop innovative strategies which Naqi Khan shared that the help farmers to develop initiative addresses the climate resilience and long-term challenges of improve the agricultural unsustainable agricultural yield", he added. ctices in Pakistan. Addressing the workshop Highlighting that iculture faced major Fashion Programme at Laudes Foundation, Anita Supported by textile and food brands, RPLC Pakistan will be implemented in the Jhang and Sahiwal districts of Punjab and Barkhan and Labels districts of the food brands and Sahiwal districts of Punjab and Barkhan and Sahiwal districts of Punjab and Barkhan and Sahiwal districts of Punjab and Barkhan and Sahiwal districts of the food brands he peter the food brands he p and

We are confident in the leadership of WWF-Pakistan in driving the "To address these collaborative forward, supporting local farmers and communities to

> independent galvanising communities towards better practices enabling businesses to source responsibly.

becoming self-sufficient

and

financially

Today, the RPLC is planned to cover globally, over a 1 million hectares, and over 300,000 farmers. In Pakistan specifically, this will cover over a 100,000 hectares and benefit over 50,000



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum, Musadik Masood Malik, along with Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, Federal Minister for Energy, Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Laghari, Federal Minister for Industry and Food Security, Rana Tanveer Hussain and Federal Minister for Privatisation and Board of Investment (BOI), Abdul Aleem Khan, convened a crucial Steering Committee meeting to assess preparations for the upcoming visit of Saudi Business Delegates.



ISLAMABAD: Google team calls on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja.

Enhancing digital payment ratio urged as 90% retail trade undocumented

The retailers expressing concern over the slow progress in documenting FBR-POS integration of Dosd drive to register small slow progress is primarily due to lack of sustained private sector, inconsistent policies and increasingly complex procedures. So, a instead of ad-hoc measures,

ISLAMABAD (INP): they added. They said that the share of digital payments can be gradually brought up to 50% of the the retail trade due to retail trade's contribution stagnation of both the to the annual GDP, estimated to be upwards of tier-1 businesses and Tajir Rs12 trillion. Currently, an estimated 90% of the retail traders, have said that this trade is undocumented and undertaxed. Whereas. based on a reduced GST consultation with the rate of 5% on only Rs2 trillion, Rs100 billion can be generated in indirect taxes and an additional sum clear five-year roadmap is in direct taxes, which is the need of the hour more than is currently collected

Pakistan's total liquid foreign reserves reach \$ 13.316 billion

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan reached US\$ 13,316 million while foreign reserves held by State Bank of Pakistan stood at \$8,006 million in the week ended on April 26, 2024. The SBP, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that foreign reserves held by the central bank increased by \$ 25 million to \$ 8,006 million during the week under review. Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were recorded \$ 5,310

million, it added

Government accelerating its transformation target towards digital economy: Minister ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and

Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja Thursday said that the government is trying to realize the opportunities presented by digital technologies in creating new jobs, expanding to new markets, driving innovation, and developing new economic sectors

Talking to a Private news channel, she said that the present government is accelerating its transformation targets to economy.

the digital economy by focusing on empowering small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and tech startups.

The government is committed to digital transformation and steps are underway in this regard, she added. She stressed that a digital future will only be key to redefining societies, enabling growth and development, enhancing education and industry, and building new capacity for accelerating the

Zong 4G prioritizes users' well being with new Sehat Yab Partnership

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading mobile network operator, announced a groundbreaking partnership with SehatYab, a leading tele-health platform. This collaboration prioritizes user well-being by offering a comprehensive suite of mental health services accessible through the Zong 4G network said

news release. SehatYab

offers comprehensive online

mental health services in Pakistan for individuals and corporates, providing confidential consultations with qualified and the best psychiatrists psychologists, and trainers. The Zong 4G and Sehat Yab partnership provides Zong 4G users with several valuable resources to support their mental health such as Free Online Self-Assessment Tests

Production Rana Tanveer Hussain Thursday expressed the firm commitment of the government for providing all-possible resources to

Minister for National Food

Security, Industries and

local farmers in order to boost per-care yield of all major and minor crops. During his visit to National Agriculture Research Center (NARC),

the minister said that agriculture is the backbone

adding that the research field holds importance in every aspect of life. He said that agriculture sector will be equipped with research and modern technology and government will provide farmers with all-possible hour.

Rana Tanveer says: Govt to equip agri-sector

with modern technology

adding that the welfare of

farmers and agricultural

development were on the

top priority of the current

yield without quality seed

supply is difficult, he said

The improving crop

ISLAMABAD (APP): of the national economy, resources. Ensuring healthy, non-toxic fertilizers for the agricultural revolution through modern technology is a priority, he said adding that the federal and provincial governments, along with all institutions including research centers, must play their role in development of agriculture

> Utilizing modern technology to make the country self-sufficient in food was the need of the

Rupee gains 01 pasia against **US** dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Thursday gained 01 paisa against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.30 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.31.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market, however, stood at Rs 277.25 and Rs 280 respectively.

Asian Development Bank delegation visits FBR

Asian Development Bank (ADB) mission on Thursday visited Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and met the senior officials of the board who have been assisting in the implementation of the Domestic Resource Mobilization Program (DRM).

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The mission was led by Senior Director ADB Tariq Niazi and included Senior Public Sector Management Specialist Laisiasa Tora, Sana

Masood and Farzana Noshab economist were also presented in the meeting, said a press release issued by FBR. The mission's objectives included discussion on structural and policy reforms under the DRM Program funded by the bank and showed satisfaction on the successful rolling down of the DRM Program and noted that significant achievements were made in the Sub-Program I of the DRM.

Directs Secretary to take early action CM GB takes notice of rising cases of flu, pneumonia, fever

Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan has taken notice of the rising cases of flu, pneumonia, and fever in the region and directed the Provincial Secretary Health to take immediate action to contain the spread of these seasonal diseases.

The CM has been informed that a large number of cases of flu, pneumonia, and fever have been reported in various parts of the region, particularly in Gilgit and Diamer districts. The CM has directed the Health Secretary to take all necessary measures to control the spread of these

proper medical treatment. The health secretary,

pneumonia, and fever so far, while 2100 patients have been fully treated for pneumonia in various hospitals across the region. The secretary further informed that the department has taken necessary measures to control the spread of these including vaccination drives and awareness campaigns.

However, the CM has expressed concern over

GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan, Haji

Gulbar Khan giving away cheque of Entry Fees

community share of the Khunjrab National Park

Punjab's efforts

against polio lauded

LAHORE (APP): An 18- cause and Punjab

member delegation of would continue to play

the Polio Oversight its role to achieve this

Akhtar Zaman at the the leadership of Chief

Civil Secretariat on Minister Punjab, the

delegates led by Polio was trying to provide Oversight Board head the best healthcare

appreciated the Punjab province, adding that

reiterated to continue immunization program

collective efforts until was also being the complete eradication improved. The Chief

said that eradication of for providing support

polio was a national for polio eradication.

The Chief Secretary international partners

goal

He said that under

provincial government

along with the anti-polio

campaign, the routine

Secretary thanked the

Elias facilities across the

to the community representative.

Board called on Chief

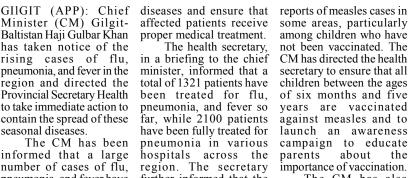
Secretary Punjab Zahid

government's measures

against the polio and

collective efforts until

Christopher



The CM has also directed the health secretary to ensure that all necessary medicines and injections are available in hospitals to treat patients suffering from pneumonia and other seasonal

CM's aide says: Peshawar to be made drug free Independent Report

ESHAWAR: Advisor to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister on Zakat and Ushar, Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Mashal Azam Yousafzai said here Thursday that Peshawar would be made drug-free and measures would be taken to prevent begging and drug transfers and postings addiction. She said this while presiding over a meeting that was also attended by Commissioner Peshawar.

Two more villagers kidnapped

Independent Report SHIKĀRPUR: Two villagers were Kidnapped Chak Link road in the jurisdiction of Rustam

police station on Thurs-

According to initial reports two villagers identified as Moula Bux Brohi and Meer Jagirani were Kidnapped by some group of armed men on gun point and took them away forcibly towards katcha area when they were sleeping on Paddy Crops Agricultural Field situated near Chak.



administrates oath of newly elected Cabinet and Governing Body of Peshawar Press Club (PPC) during oath taking ceremony held at PPC in Peshawar.

JUI-F rejects political victimization of govt employees in Tank

Khan Bettani on Thursday blamed PTI Tank's selected representatives initiating retaliatory actions against government employees, burying their righteous policy in the process. He claimed that workers and supporters of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) were never intimidated by such tactics, asserting that

no party, including PTI, should view political transfers as retribution. He further expressed the confidence that such actions would only strengthen JUI's resolve, stating that their workers would not retreat. Mehmood Bettani vowed

Parvez, others LAHORE (APP): An anti-TANK (APP): Former the country. He made MPA Mehmood Ahmad these remarks in a statement, refuting the

notion that JUI, during its tenure, ever resorted to vindictive measures. He emphasized that were part of the job, Mehmood Bettani vowed whether in Chitral, to resist such political Peshawar, or even outside transfer and postings advised him rest.

Illegal appointments: Court delays indictment of

corruption court on Thursday once again delayed the indictment of former chief minister Punjab, Chaudhry Parvez Elahi, and others in the Punjab Assembly illegal appointments case. The court delayed the indictment due to the absence of Chaudhry Parvez Elahi. The Adiala jail officials did not produce the former chief minister before the court due to medical reasons. They submitted a medical report stating that Elahi received injuries after falling in the jail washroom, and doctors

Minister assures addressing local govt's demands

Independent Report

PESHAWAR: Minister for Local Government, Arshad Avub Khan, met with members of the Village Council, Neighborhood Council and Tehsil Mayors on Thursday to discuss their demands and issues. On the assurance of

the provincial minister to resolve their issues, the Village Council. Neighborhood Council and Tehsil chairmen have postponed their protest for a conditional two weeks. During the meeting, the presented their demands, urging for amendments in business rules and the revival of their funds to manage office and daily affairs.

The minister stated members.

that Chief Minister Ali Amin Ghadapur wanted their issues resolved, hence they were in negotiations. He mentioned that the government would ask the Finance Department to ensure equal distribution of funds among village and neighborhood councils in all districts. He assured that operational and developmental funds would be provided in the budget this time.

mentioned that executive summaries had been sent to the Cabinet regarding development grants, and amendments would be made in the Rules of Business in consultation with local government



LAHORE: Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Leader, Malik Ahmad Khan Bhachar talking to media persons outside Punjab Assembly in Lahore.

BINP-A golden window of opportunity for unemployed graduates

Prime Minister's Ba-Naujawan Ikhtair Internship Programme (BINP) 2024 offers a monthly stipend of up to Rs.40,000 along with professional training lasting from six months to one year in a public sector entity to 60,000 unemployed graduates and

postgraduate students. This initiative has brought immense joy to the deserving recipients, who view it as a great blessing.

"Rs30,000 Rs40,000 per month stipend plus technical training for six months to one year to an unemployed graduate or diploma-holder

PESHAWAR (APP): The besides providing them experience by remaining launching pad to excel in practical life", Ehtisham Qaiser, 24, who clinched BS 4 years degree in Urdu Literature told APP while filing the BNIP form in the University of Peshawar

> "Why should I miss such a great opportunity when the federal government is showering its blessing on me", said the motivated graduate with a smile on his face when asked.

"I think it is a great opportunity for freshgraduate and postgraduate students of Pakistan including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa who will not means a lot for internees only get first-hand Khyber Pakthunkhwa overall performance of the driven society.

among the professionals in various public sector organizations but will also financially support their families in the wake of price hike," said the Nowshera born citizen who clinched BS Urdu literature degree with distinction from Govt College Peshawar.

Most of classmates have applied for availing the great opportunity and he came to the university campus to submit my online application today," he said.

Like Ehtisham, a large number of eligible students qualified recently from universities and colleges of positive effects on the

Agriculture University, Govt Colleges, Islamia College Peshawar and the University of Peshawar have welcomed the Prime Minister Internship program and started filling applications forms online. The unique paid internship program would help 60,000 graduates of Pakistan in the transformation of their

professional careers. walk of life have appreciated the landmark program and termed it a

would certainly create

People from every milestone of injecting fresh blood as internees that

including UET Peshawar, organization and polish the talent of selected internees. "I welcome the PM BINP as it would boost up the careers of hundreds of thousands of educated youth," said Professor Dr Naveed Farooq of Abdul Wali Khan University

Mardan.

He stressed that the students of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including merged areas take full advantage of the golden opportunity and apply it online. He said the paid internship would not only groom the graduate and postgraduate students in shaping their careers but would also help him to move into a knowledge-

International News

US can't support Rafah assault, Blinken tells Israel

Monitoring Desk

of State Antony Blinken said he has still not seen a plan for Israel's planned offensive on the southern Gaza city of Rafah that would protect civilians, repeating that Washington could not support such an assault.

Blinken and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met in Jerusalem for two-and-a-half hours, after which Israel repeated that the Rafah operation would go ahead despite the US position and a stark UN warning that it would lead to "tragedy"

"We cannot, will not support a major military operation in Rafah absent an effective plan to make sure that civilians are not harmed and no, we've not seen such a plan," Blinken told reporters.

"There are other ways, and in our judg-ment better ways, of dealmilitary operation in officials.

ing with the ... ongoing Rafah," he said, adding challenge of Hamas that that it was the subject of does not require a major ongoing talks with Israeli

US Democrats press Biden to prevent Israeli assault on Rafah

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden's administra tion faced renewed pressure from his fellow Democrats to influence Israel not to launch a full-scale invasion o Rafah, the city where almost half of the Gaza Strip's 2.3 million people have taken refuge.

Fifty-seven of the 212 Democrats in the House of Representatives signed a letter calling on the adminis tration to take every possible measure to dissuade Is raeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government from an all-out assault on the city near the Egyptian border. "We urge you to invoke existing law and policy to immediately withhold certain offensive military aid to the Israeli government, including aid sourced from legislation already signed into law, in order to preempt a full-scale assault on Rafah," said the letter, dated

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the letter, which was led by Representatives Pramila Jayapal and Madeleine Dean Biden's support for Israel in its war against Hamas has emerged as a significant political liability for the president, particularly among young Democrats.



A Palestinian woman walks past the ruins of a house destroyed during Israel's military offensive in Gaza City.

US official urges China, Russia to declare only humans, not AI, control nuclear weapons

Monitoring Desk HONG KONG: A senior U.S. official on Thursday urged China and Russia to match declarations by the United States and others that only humans, and never artificial intelli-

gence, would make decisions on deploying nuclear weapons. State Department arms control official Paul Dean told an online briefmans had total control over nuclear weapons, adding that France and Britain

"We would welcome a similar statement by China and the Russian Federation," said Dean, principal deputy assistant secretary in the Bureau of Arms Control, Deterrence and Staing that Washington had bility.

Death toll from south China road collapse rises to 48 **Monitoring Desk**

GUANGDONG: The death toll from a highway collapse in southern China's Guangdong province has risen to 48 as rescue work continues, state media said on Thursday.

Heavy rains caused a stretch of road from Meizhou city towards Dabu county to cave in at around 2:10am local time on Wednesday, according to state news agency Xinhua. Vehicles careened into

the nearly 18-metre-long gash in the tarmac and plummeted down the steep slope below. Guangdong, a densely populated industrial powerhouse, has been hit by a string of disasters attributed to extreme weather events in recent

The storms have been much heavier than expected this time of year and have been linked to climate change



Saudi Arabia had been

in talks over a potential

normalisation with Israel

Khamenei opposes **Arab-Israel ties**

Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday efforts underway to forge a normalisation of ties between Israel and Arab countries will not resolve the crisis in the Middle East.

"Some people think that by forcing neighbouring countries to normalise their ties (with Israel) the prob-lem will be solved," said Khamenei.

'They are wrong." Khamenei's remarks came after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington is nearly ready with a security package to offer Saudi Arabia if it normalises relations with Israel.

but they were paused when the Gaza crisis broke out.Regional tensions have soared since the start of the Israeli aggression, drawing in Iran-backed groups in Svria, Lebanon, Iraq, and The Islamic republic

backs Hamas, but has denied any direct involvement in the group's attack on arch-foe Israel.

Iran does not recognise Israel and has made support for the Palestinian cause a centrepiece of its foreign policy since the 1979 Islamic revolu-

Biden blames China, Japan and India's economic woes on 'xenophobia'

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Presi-

dent Joe Biden said on Wednesday that "xenophobia" from China to Japan and India was hobbling their growth, as he argued that migration has been good for the US economy. One of the reasons

why our economy's growing is because of you and many others. Why? Because we welcome immigrants," Biden said at a Washington fundraising event for his 2024 re-election campaign and marking the start of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

"Why is China stalling so badly economically, why is Japan having trouble, why is Russia, why is India, because they're xenophobic. They don't want immigrants. Immigrants are what makes us strong.

The International Monetary Fund forecast last month that each country would see its growth decelerate in 2024 from the year prior, ranging from 0.9 per cent in highly developed Japan to 6.8pc in

UK to vote in local elections as Tories brace for big losses

Monitoring Desk ONDON: Millions of voters in England and Wales will cast their ballots on Thursday in an array of local elections that will be the last big test before a UK general election that all indicators show will see the Conservative Party ousted from power after 14 years.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak will hope he can point to successes, notably in a couple of key mayoral races, to douse talk that the Conservative Party will change leader again before the United Kingdom's main election, which could take place as soon as next

More than 120,000 take part in May Day protests across France, dozens arrested **Monitoring Desk**

PARIS: French police said they arrested 45 people in Paris and that 12 officers had been injured during traditional May Day protests, though the demonstrations were far more subdued than last year. Riot police used tear gas and batons to disperse some of the demonstrators.

Police put the number of protesters in the French capital at about 18,000, though the hardleft CGT union put the figure at around 50,000.

Colombia cuts diplomatic ties with Israel

Monitoring Desk BOGOTA: Colombian President Gustavo Petro said his country will sever diplomatic ties with Israel, whose leader he described as "genocidal" over its ag-

gression in Gaza. 'Tomorrow (Thursday) diplomatic relations with the state of Israel will be severed... for having a genocidal president," Petro told a May Day rally in Bogota, referring to Israel Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu. Petro has taken a critical stance on the Gaza assault. In October, just days after the start of the crisis, Israel said it was "halting security exports" to Colombia after Petro accused Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant of using language about the people of Gaza similar to what the "Nazis

said of the Jews. Israel, one of the main providers of arms to ons and aircraft.

Colombia's military, then said it was "halting security exports" to the South American country as the diplomatic feud es-

Bogota subsequently demanded Israel's envoy leave the South American

Petro, Colombia's first leftist president, has also asserted that "democratic peoples cannot allow Nazism to reestablish itself in international politics." In February, he suspended Israeli weapons purchases after dozens of people died in a scramble for food aid in the war-torn Palestinian territory — an event he said was "called genocide

and recalls the Holocaust. Colombia's armed forces, engaged in a decades-long conflict with leftist guerrillas, rightwing paramilitaries and drug cartels, use Israeli-made weap-

More debris in Gaza than Ukraine, says UN

Monitoring Desk GENEVA: Gaza stands filled with more debris

and rubble than Ukraine, the UN stated on Wednesday. The mammoth task of clearing it has been made all the more costly and dangerous in the face of the other hazards in the sheer amount of asbestos and unexploded ord-

Israeli aggression, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) has estimated the amount of debris in the Gaza Strip, at 37 million tonnes in mid-April, or 300 kilogrammes per square

"Gaza has more rubble than Ukraine, and to put that in perspective, the Ukrainian front line is 600 miles (nearly 1,000 kilometres) long, and Gaza is 25 miles (40 km) long," said the head of the UNMAS programme in the Palestinian territo-

ries, Mungo Birch. However, the mine action in Gaza.

UNMAS says the volume of rubble is not the only

problem. "This rubble is likely heavily contami-nated with UXO (unexploded ordnance) but its clearance will be further complicated by rubble" Birch told journalists in Geneva.

ce. "There's estimated to be over 800,000 tonnes of asbestos, for instance, alone in the Gaza rubble. The carcinogenic mineral used in construction requires special precautions when handling.

It is generally esti-mated that 10 to 15 per cent of the munitions fired do not explode on impact and therefore manifest a lasting danger for civilian

populations. Birch stated he is optimistic that the UNMAS, which works to mitigate the threats posed by all types of explosive ordnance, will become the coordinating body for

Minister for Information

and Broadcasting Attaullah

Tarar on Thursday said

highly successful second

visit of Prime Minister to

Saudi Arabia within a

month to participate in

World Economic Forum,

was historic and major de-

velopment, which would

eventually bring about ex-

tensive positive results

conference along with Fed-

eral Minister for Law and

Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar,

he said comprehensive

planning by Saudi Arabia for

investment in Pakistan was

a turning point in the bilat-

tiple meetings were held

with the Saudi ministers on

the sidelines of the WEF

during the Prime Minister's

visit. "In two days, 12 high-

level meetings were held

with ministers and major

personalities of Saudi

Tarar said that mul-

eral relations.

Addressing a press

within next few months.

Positive results of PM

Saudi Arabia visit to accrue

within few months: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): for finance, industries, in-

vestment, energy and climate change", he said.
The Saudi ministers

expressed their commit-

ment to work with Pakistan

with regard to bilateral co-

operation and investment

on the special directives of

Crown Prince Muhammad

just one month, the Prime

Minister had two meetings

with the Saudi Crown

Prince that had a historic

significance for the two

after Eidul Fitr, the Saudi

Finance Minister visited

Pakistan along with rel-

evant ministers and exten-

sive consultations were

held regarding economic

cooperation and invest-

the Saudi Crown Prince,

the Saudi ministers formu-

lated a comprehensive

programme for cooperation

On the directives of

therly countries.

Within a short span of

He said immediately

bin Salman, he added.

Sindh cabinet approves introduction of Premium Number Plates for vehicles

KARACHI (APP): The the Department issued a mum of five characters Sindh Cabinet has approved several important decisions including introducing latest Premium Number for vehicles, allocating Rs 1.5 billion for the procurement of an MRI system for SUIT Sukkur extending Rangers deployment in Karachi division for another 6 months and releasing Rs. 10.189 billion for the payment of retired civil servants' dues.

The provincial cabinet meeting was chaired by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah at CM House here Thursday which was attended by provincial ministers, advisors, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah and

Minister for Excise and Taxation Sharjeel Memon presented a proposal before the Cabinet to introduce premium number plates for vehicles. Currently, the Excise and Taxation Department offers three types of number have a maximum of three plates; commercial, non- characters and a base price cussion, approved Rs 1.5 commercial, and motor-cycle. In the year 2021-22, number plates have a maxi-linear Accelerator.

total of 71,645 choice numbers, generating a revenue million, while Silver numof Rs 44 million from the choice number fee mechanism, he told.

Memon estimated

that if even 10 percent of

the motoring public opted for personalized choice numbers, it could generate plates, following the exa revenue of Rs 2 to Rs 3 billion per year. Premium other countries. Additionnumber plates have unique features, such as personalized property that can be inherited, transferable to another vehicle, CNICbased registration, applicable to any private vehicle, reusable on any vehicle, customizable colour shades cept prescribed colours), and transferable to another CNIC for a prescribed fee. There are three categories of premium number plates: Platinum, Gold, and Silver. The Platinum number plates

SITE ASSOCIATION OF INDUSTRY

WARM & HEARTY WELCOME

Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori

Governor of Sindh hursday, 02 May 202

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori addressing Site Associa-

Shoro issued instructions to

the executive engineer local

government project and ad-

ministration to complete the

scheme on time to remove

sioner, mayor and deputy

commissioner also reviewed

the ongoing work at the

Tando Agha railway cross-

ing Flyover Bridge, where

they were briefed by the

executive engineer of the lo-

sioner urged the district ad-

ministration to play their role

to complete all projects. On

the occasion, Municipal

Commissioner Hyderabad

Municipal Corporation

(HMC) Jam Zahoor Ahmed

Lakhan, Executive Engineer of

the Local Government

Project, Assistant Commis-

sioner Qasimabad Abdul

Wahid Channa and Assistant

Commissioner Latifabad

Saud Baloch were also

The divisional commis-

cal government project.

Commissioner, mayor, DC

Hyderabad review ongoing

development projects

HYDERABAD (APP): Mayor Hyderabad Kashi

Tariq Qureshi reviewed on- all the hurdles of the project

going development projects and further improve the

in Hyderabad on Thursday. working relations among

Divisional Commissioner

Hyderabad Ahsan Ali

Qureshi along with the

Mayor Kashif Ali Shoro

and Deputy Commissioner

progress in the ongoing re-

construction work of

Wadhu Wah and exchanged

views with relevant officials

on overcoming obstacles in

the project. The officials of

the irrigation department

gave a briefing to the Com-

missioner Hyderabad dur-

ing his visit. The commis-

sioner also reviewed the

under-construction ring

road project adjacent to the bank of the Indus River. He

directed Assistant Commis-

sioner Qasimabad Abdul

Wahid Channa and Assis-

Latifabad Saud Baloch to

take action and remove all

obstacles in the project so

that work on the project

On this occasion, the

KARACHI PRESS CLUB

KARACHI: Sabeha Banu mother of Former

Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) leader Syed

Ali Raza Abidi, along with others addresses to

media persons during press conference held at

Health department

confirms 2 deaths

due to measles

KARACHI (APP): Sindh ment ordered investigations

in both districts and each

death was reviewed in de-

tail and causes of death were

ascertained, the statement

said and added that 9 out of

the 11 reported deaths were

"not at all related to measles

but instead to other causes'

while 2 of them were indeed

Nizamuddin s/o Riaz Ahmed

and Munza d/o Khalid, both

aged 8 months, passed away

due to diarrhea, pneumonia

and measles complication

while rest of the 9 children

died from conditions such as

phenomena, sepsis, and oth-

ers. Both of the minor chil-

dren succumbed to the

deadly disease belonged to

district Mirpurkhas and

they were not eligible for

measles vaccination (MR1)

as they had not reached the

The demised children,

caused by measles.

could commence.

Karachi press club.

Health Department clarify-

ing media reports about de-

mise of children due to

measles on Thursday said

that 2 out of 11 reported

deaths were caused by

measles while the remain-

ing 9 children lost their lives

Rehan Iqbal Baloch, in a

statement issued here, said

that Sindh Health Minister

Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho has

taken notice of the media

reports about deaths of chil-

dren due to suspected

measles related complica-

tions and directed to ad-

dress the situation. Some

media outlets reported de-

mise of 11 children allegedly

due to measles, out of

which 8 belonged to Dis-

trict Mirpurkhas and 3 be-

longed to District Sanghar.

The secretary health

due to other diseases.

Commissioner

The officials assessed

and a base price of Rs 1 ber plates have a maximum of seven characters and a base price of Rs 50,000.

The cabinet approved the proposal which included auctioning off the premium number ample set by Dubai and ally, the proposal in cluded bundle offers with up to 30 per cent discounts for families and companies.

The Health Department told the Cabinet that Sindh Institute of Urology Transplantation for platinum numbers (ex- (SIUT), Karachi had requested for release of funds amounting to Rs.1,500 million during CFY 2023-24 for the procurement of Linear Accelerator with Integrated High-Filed (1.5 Tesla) MRĬ System for SIUT Sukkur.

The Cabinet, after dis-

DC inspects

vaccination

process of Anti

Polio campaign

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy

MB Dharejo on Thursday

visited various designated

polio vaccination spots

during fourth day and in-

spected the ongoing inocu-

and hospitals to witness

children. He also listened to

the problems of polio

workers and assured them

ers to realize their responsibilities in the national

cause of polio eradication

he directed them to be vigi-

lant to inoculate children

who missed vaccination due

to travelling from one place

Gold smuggling

bid foiled at

Karachi airport

KARACHI (INP): Paki-stan Customs on Thursday

foiled a bid to smuggle gold worth Rs170 million at

Karachi airport. According

to a Pakistan Customs

spokesperson, a family travelling to South Africa via

Dubai was caught smug-

gling gold during the scan-

ning of his luggage. The gold

weighing nine kg, worth Rs170 million was concealed in the luggage of the six-member family, including five females. The pas-

sengers were taken into custody after recovery of

On April 5, a man was arrested at Multan airport

for attempting to smuggle

around 16kg gold out of the

country. As per details,

Federal Investigation

Agency Immigration recov-

ered 16kg precious yellow

metal from a passenger

Tanveer, who was travelling to Dubai.

Police say rejection

of marriage

proposal led to

girl's murder at

Karachi office

KARACHI (INP): In an

important development in

a probe into the murder of

a girl at an office in North

Nazimabad, Karachi by her

colleague on Tuesday, the

investigators have found

out that the girl's parents

had refused to marry off

their daughter to him, it was

learnt on Thursday.

Sources said this infuriated

25-year-old Burhan Israr

who first took the life of

19-year-old Fiza Javed and

then also shot himself dead.

They have informed that the

police have now hired the

services of a software expert

to unlock the cellphones of

both Burhan and Fiza.

Muhammad

the gold.

named

Stressing upon work-

He visited toll plazas

lation process.

of cooperation.

themselves. The commis- the vaccination process of



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

Indian campaign of attacking,

seizing the properties of the and Kashmir (IIOJK) was destined to fail, just like its harsh statements.

condemns India's continued campaign of attacking and seizing the properties of Kashmiris in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The reality is that the harsh statements and colonial strategies have been unsuccessful in quelling the determination of Kashmiris

Embassy of Mongolia

Lkhanaajav Munkhtushig,

Thursday, expressed keen-

ness to expand trade and

investment ties with the

business community of

Karachi through maximum

exchange of business del-

egations between the two

The Mongolian envoy,

peaking at a meeting during

his visit to Karachi Cham-

ber of Commerce and Indus-

try (KCCI) said that ex-

change of delegations will

help understanding each

other and jointly explore

new horizons of trade and

countries.

face similar outcomes in the future," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz

As different parts of the IIOJK recently witnessed heavy rains, flash

of the deceased and wished speedy recovery to the in-

Apprising the media of the ongoing visit of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar to The Gambia to attend the Council of Foreign Ministers and the OIC Summit, the spokesperson said that at the Summit, Pakistan would highlight the ongoing genocide in Gaza, the right to self-determination of Kashmiris people, the imperatives of solidarity and unity of the Muslim Ummah, rising Islamophobia, issues of climate change, terrorism, and other contemporary global

PM condoles over demise of **UAE's Sheikh** Tahnoun bin

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday expressed sadness over the death of Sheikh Tahnoun bin Mohamed Al Nahyan, the Representative of the United Arab Emirates' Ruler in Al Ain. "Deeply saddened at the demise of His Highness Sheikh Tahnoun bin Mohamed Al Nahyan. Our thoughts and prayers are with the leadership and people of the UAE at this hour of grief," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline. He said that the late Sheikh Tahnoun would be long remembered for his contribution to building stronger ties be-

Arabia including ministers with Pakistan, he added.

KARACHI: Board of Secondary Education Karachi (BSEK) Chairman, Syed Sharaf Ali Shah addresses to media persons during press conference held at BSEK premises in Karachi.

White paper: PTI calls for judicial commission to probe rigging in Feb 8 elections

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has issued a white paper on alleged rigging in the February 8 general elections, demanding the formation of the judicial commission to probe the "snatching of the 180

"We won the 180 seats in the [February 8] elections. Our seats were given to other parties through Form 47," said PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar seats in the February 8 elecwhile addressing a press tions followed by the Pakiconference alongside other party leaders in Islamabad Nawaz (PML-N) and the

they had filed a petition in the Supreme Court against the alleged rigging. "But the plea has not been fixed for hearing as yet," he lamented.

"We are issuing a 234-

page white paper to bring it to the notice of the people as to how their mandate was stolen," Barrister Gohar said.
The PTI-backed inde-

pendent candidates won the most National Assembly on Thursday. Pakistan Peoples Party
The PTI chief said (PPP).

Chairman HEC calls for guiding youth towards national development

KARACHI (APP): Chair- Bhutto Auditorium of Commission (HEC) Prof Dr Mukhtar Ahmed said Pakistan has a 65 per cent they must be given the right direction to contribute to the country's devel-

He said this at the opening ceremony of the Prime Minister's Talent Hunt Youth Sports League Handball (Men) on Thursday at the Sir Shahnawaz

The HEC Chairman said that presently there are 262 universities in the youth population, hence country, therefore all universities must encourage their students by regularly organizing sports

"In our times there were playgrounds in almost all universities, colleges and even in schools, but now they have re-



KARACHI: Anti encroachment operation in progress removed illegal encroachment during anti encroachment drive under the supervision of Karachi Municipal Corporation (KMC), located on Sindh Hotel area in New Karachi.

ACP hosts "Cultural Extravaganza - Echoes of the Ancients"

KARACHI (APP): The Mongolia, Mirza Ikhtiar Arts Council of Pakistan (ACP) Karachi and the Honorary Consulate General of Mongolia joined hands to orchestrate a mesmerizing cultural event titled "Cultural Extravaganza - Echoes of the Ancients" here Thursday. 'Echoes of the Ancients' showcased performances rooted in Mongolia's ancient cultural and traditional

A large number of enthusiasts, including President Arts Council of Pakistan Muhammad Ahmed Shah, Munkhtushig Consul Minister of Mongolia, Nadeem Khalid, Honorary Consul General of Consul General

Baig, Ishtiaq Baig, Sheema Kermani and many other admirers witnessed the event. Before commencing the program, President Arts Council of Pakistan Muhammad Ahmed Shah extended a warm welcome to the representatives of the Mongolian consulate, expressing delight at Mongoian artists performing in Pakistan for the first time, which he deemed as a promising endeavor.

He emphasized that such cultural programs strengthen the cultural bonds between Pakistan and Mongolia, fostering the promotion of national heritage in both countries.

seizing Kashmiris' properties destined to fail: FO spox

kistan on Thursday reiterated that the ongoing Indian campaign of attacking and Kashmiris in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu colonial strategies and

"Pakistan strongly

Zahra Baloch said at her weekly press briefing here. reiterated

Pakistan's determination to continue to extending political, diplomatic, and moral support to Kashmiris for the just and peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council's resolutions.

floods, and landslides, resulting in loss of life and property, the spokesperson expressed sympathies for freedom, and these with the victims of these measures are destined to national calamities and

Mongolian envoy for

joint efforts to improve trade ties Mohamed more engagements between the business people from Pakistan and Mongolia so

that potential products for enhancing trade could be

identified," he said and stressed on collective efforts from both the sides to enhance bilateral trade between Pakistan and Mongolia.
"As Mongolia imports mostly from China, Pakistan's business community can also look into the possibility of enhanc-

ing exports to Mongolia by offering products at cheaper rates that's why, we are here to identify such products which can be offered to Mongolia", he added.

investment cooperation, said a statement issued here.

Workshop held to create master plan for beautification of Ghotki and Mirpur Mathelo cities By Tanveer Ahmed

MIRPUR MATHELO: Sindh Government's decision to create a master plan for the beautification of Ghotki and Mirpur Mathelo, a one-day workshop was organized by the Planning and Development Department at District Council Hall Mirpur Mathelo. Deputy Commissioner Ghotki Dr. Syed Muhammad Ali, Additional Deputy Commissioner Liaquat Ali Kalhoro and Assistant Commissioner Mirpur Mathelo Babar Ali along with the participation of relevant officers from the Department of Public Health, Works and Services, Public Health Engineering, as per the details of the Department of Planning and Development, Government of Sindh, participated in the seminar. A one-day workshop was held at District Council Hall Mirpur Mathelo to create a master plan for the beautification of Ghotki and Mirpur Mathelo cities, in which Deputy Director of Urban Regional Policy and Strategic Planning.

SFA to cooperate with all stakeholders to implement food safety standards: DG SFA

Hussain on Thursday said that SFA will cooperate Food Safety Standards.

guest at the first international conference on emerging food trends organized by the Food Engineering Department of NED University, he paid tribute to the services of NED University in the field of Food Engineering and also announced to establish District Food Testing Laboratory in Food Engineering department.

aim of this initiative was to enhance research cooperation and highlight the food processing sector in Pakistan. Stressing the importance of addressing emerging trends and challenges in the food industry such as sustainability and transparency, he expressed his commitment to work with the university to maintain the highest standards of quality and safety. Agha Fakhar stressed the potential of advanced technologies like artificial intelligence and robotics to improve efficiency and adapt to changing con-



KARACHI (APP): Direc- The DG SFA said that the

tor General Sindh Food Authority (SFA) Agha Fakhar with all stakeholders to ensure implementation of the

Speaking as a chief

ditions in food processing



LARKANA: Growers residents of Pirsher and Hassan Jatoi villages blocked road as they are holding protest demonstration for demanding the wheat sacks, held in Larkana.

English, Sindhi, Urdu papers leak during matriculation exams in Sindh

KARACHI (INP): Despite tall claims made by the Sindh government every year that it is taking steps to stop cheating and leakage of papers during exams such incidents are becom ing more frequent now. Incidents of paper leak-

age during matriculation exams (ninth and 10th classes) were reported from different cities of Sindh on Thursday. Sindhi language paper leaked in Larkana Students in Larkana faced no difficulty in solving the paper of Sindhi language as it was leaked well before its start, thus exposing the claims of the Larkana Education Board that it was cracking down on the students involved in such practice.

Urdu language paper leaked in Kandiaro Similarly, the paper of Urdu language held in Kandiaro under the Shaheed Benazirabad Board was also shared on WhatsApp. English language paper leaked in Khairpur The situation was worse in Khairpur where not only the paper of English language was leaked, but the invigilators also helped the

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