

# Independent

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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## SC expresses annoyance over Faizabad commission report If Faizabad sit-in order was implemented, May 9 would not have happened: CJP

**Says what did the commission do? It just wasted time, Probe body not even aware of its responsibility, wonders "what level of mindset" compiled the report.**

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has summoned report from federal government till next hearing with reference to Faizabad Dharna.

The SC while seeking written reply on court's observation from Dharna commission has said commission can appear in person if it wants so.

The court said in its written order after hearing on Monday that commission filed on March 6 report containing 149 pages and 7 volumes. To our opinion report is not according to terms of reference. It is

strange that statement of not a single member of Tehreek-e-Labbaik was recorded. Commission assumed that journey to Islamabad for protest was not in line with the constitution. While SC had written in its order that peaceful protest is right. Provincialism glimpses from the commission report.

The hearing of the case was adjourned for two weeks.

The Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa while expressing annoyance over report remarked It is the will of gov-

ernment. Report has been filed in the court. Report has been commented upon already. It is not known how it came out. We come to one relevant question. Why did the government not legislate in the light of our decision. Is another May 9 being waited. Had you been alert earlier for legislation then May 9 would have not occurred.

A 3-member bench headed by CJP Qazi Faez Isa took up the case for hearing Monday. At the inception of hearing the CJP remarked we will hear this case in the last.



## President, Balochistan CM, ministers discuss issues of national, provincial interests

Independent Report

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and provincial ministers on Monday called on President Asif Ali Zardari at the CM House. The provincial ministers included Mir Sadiq Umrani, Ali Madad Jattak, Mir Zahoor Buledi, Sardar Abdul Rehman Kethran, Mir Saleem Khosa, Faisal Jamali, Gazal Gola and Nawab Sanaullah Zehri, a member of the provincial assembly and senior PPP leader, the President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

Earlier the President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday reached Quetta on two-day official visit. Upon his arrival, the President Zardari was accorded warm welcome at the Quetta airport. Among those who received the President were included: Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, provincial ministers, members of provincial assembly and leaders of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) including its president and Senator, Mir Changez Jamali, former Chief Minister Nawab Sanaullah Zehri besides other provincial high ups.

## Speaker Sindh Assembly calls on PPP Chairman

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Assembly Speaker, Syed Awais Qadir Shah Monday called on the Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at Bilawal House here on Monday.

The speaker briefed the PPP Chairman regarding various issues of Sindh Assembly.



KARACHI: Sindh Assembly Speaker, Awais Qadir Shah called on Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Chairman Peoples Party (PPP) at Bilawal House in Karachi.

## Minister for starting consultation with stakeholders to solve issues

KARACHI (APP): Dharejo instructed Sindh Minister for Commerce and Industries, Jam Ikramullah Dharejo, Monday, announced to initiation series of engagements with representatives of chambers of commerce and industries across the province to solve problems of business and industrial communities.

The minister, while chairing a meeting, directed for ensuring consultation with all the stakeholders to solve issues of industrial zones as well as linkages with relevant departments for timely completion of development projects in SITE areas.

Jam Ikramullah

## Bilawal forms committee for talks with govt on privatisation matters

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman and former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has constituted a committee to engage with government over privatisation issues.

According to a notification issued by the PPP chairman's secretariat, the members of the committee included Sherry Rehman, Syed Naveed Qamar and Saleem Mandviwalla. The high-level PPP panel will hold talks with the government on the affairs relating to the privatization.

## Saudi Crown Prince likely to visit Pakistan this month

ISLAMABAD (INP) - Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud is likely to visit Pakistan in the current month.

Sources said the Saudi crown prince would be accompanied by a delegation. Both countries are working to finalise dates for the visit.

Sources further said this would be the first visit of Mohammed bin Salman to Pakistan after 2019.

Sources said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would personally oversee the administrative affairs relating to the tour. The prime minister would not undertake any foreign tour till arrival of the Saudi crown prince, they added. The Saudi crown prince is expected to sign memoranda of understanding (MoUs) to implement the \$5 billion investment during his Pakistan visit which is likely next week.

According to sources, the final date will be decided this week.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a joint meeting of the National Highway Authority (NHA) and Sindh Works and Services Department held at CM House in Karachi.

## CM Murad urges NHA to hand over Lyari Expressway, Karachi-Thatta and Mirpurkhas-Umerkot road to Sindh govt

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presiding over a joint meeting of National Highway Authority (NHA) and provincial Works & Services department reviewed the progress of various road sector projects being executed by the NHA.

Shah urged the federal government to hand over Lyari Expressway to the provincial government so that it can be opened for heavy traffic apart from carrying out its repair and maintenance, said a communique on Monday.

The Sindh Chief Minister said that the substantial completion of the M9-N5 Link Road Project was achieved in July 2023, with 7.2 km out of a total 21 km of the road open for traffic with partial toll.

The remaining work, the construction of the Interchange at M9, was initially under the scope of the Sindh government.

After detailed dis-

cussions, NHA told the Sindh government that it [NHA] is bound to get any new infrastructure development inside the Right of Way (ROW) of M-9.

Subsequently, the MoU was signed at approximate cost including escalation charges and NHA charges between the Works Dept and NHA for the construction of an Interchange at M9 for Rs. 3.5 billion in February 2024.

Murad Shah urged the NHA to revisit the cost of the M9 interchange as the provincial government has to bear a huge burden as the cost is exorbitantly high. At this, the NHA chairman assured the chief minister that his technical team would reconsider the construction cost.

Discussing the project De-federalization of Karachi-Thatta dual carriageway, the CM said that the National Highway Authority (NHA) handed over the Karachi-Thatta-Hyderabad section (N-5) to



KARACHI: Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkwa Faisal Karim Kundi meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, Provincial Minister for Information Sharjeel Inam Memon and Provincial Minister for Culture Zulfiqar Ali Shah are also present.

## Energy minister inaugurates E-vehicle charging station

Independent Report

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Energy, Development and Planning Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, on Monday, said that Sindh Government was extending support and all pos-



sible facilities to investors to promote foreign direct investment in Pakistan and further stabilize national economy.

The minister, while addressing the inauguration ceremony of Pakistan's first private sector charging station for electric vehicles in Karachi, said that Sindh government was promoting public private partnership and providing all possible support and cooperation to investors in various sectors.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, Information & Broadcasting Minister Attaullah Tarar and Minister for Petroleum Musadik Masood Malik addressing the media regarding the Saudi Arabia-Pakistan Investment Forum 2024.

## MQM raises objection on parliamentary committee for appointment of judge

ISLAMABAD (Online): MQM while expressing their reservations on parliamentary committee for appointment of judges has raised objection on committee.

MQM has been ignored in the constitution of committee as no one from among MQM has been included in the committee. MQM leader Farooq Sattar said name of MQM should also be included in parliamentary committee for appointment of judges. MQM has grave concerns over this committee.

## PTI nominates Sheikh Waqas as chairman PAC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Political committee of PTI has nominated Sheikh Waqas Akram Chairman Public Accounts Committee (PAC) instead of Sher Afzal. PTI looked confused over the selection of chairman PAC. First Sher Afzal Marwat was nominated then Sahibzada Hamid Raza and now the political committee has nominated Sheikh Waqas Akram who is MNA from Jhang.

Umar Ayub, opposition leader in National Assembly (NA) will inform speaker NA Ayyaz Sadiq in writing. Earlier PTI founder had directed Shibli Faraz to resolve the matter of PAC chairman.

## PM assures all out support to Saudi investment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday assured his government's blanket support to the Saudi investment, enabling the investors and businessmen to accomplish their future projects in Pakistan expeditiously with joint ventures and replicate them within short time for the mutual benefits of the people of both countries. Addressing a dinner gathering hosted in the honour of visiting delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the prime minister said that time waited for none and stressed that they should overcome the challenges if they really wanted to make use of this opportunity as the Saudi leadership and their leading investors and business people wanted to help Pakistan.

The prime minister reiterated that it was not the

government's job to do businesses but it had to offer policy frameworks, act like a catalyst and remove all the hurdles for speedy achievement of economic targets. He said that the government had resolved and was committed to remove all the bureaucratic hurdles and red tape in the way of foreign investment.

Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, federal ministers, Saudi ambassador in Pakistan, members of the delegation and senior officials were present during the event. The prime minister said that Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was the very robust and all encompassing vehicle to attain all those projects in the interest of people of Pakistan and the Saudi investors, leading to further strengthening of mutual cooperation and partnership.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan H.E. Marilina Armellini calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## Sindh govt plans to conduct random drug tests on students: Sharjeel Memon

Independent Report  
KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister for Information, Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control as well Transport and Mass Transit System Sharjeel Inam Memon has said the Sindh government making efforts to protect younger generation from the menace of drugs.

While addressing a press conference on Monday, he said that the societies around the world were facing a common challenge.

The Senior Minister said that the Sindh government was planning to conduct random drug tests on students in educational institutions.

If any child tested positive, their case will be handled with complete confidentiality. Additionally, strict action will be taken against those involved in supplying drugs.

He said our children were studying in public

and private schools, colleges and universities and it was our responsibility to protect them.

Sharjeel said that the scourge of drugs persisted in the province. The crackdown of the Sindh government would continue until the end of the drugs.

All the departments of the Sindh government, especially the Minister of Home Affairs, Zia-ul-Hasan Lanjar, are also with us in this grand action against drug mafia.

President Asif Ali Zardari, in his recent visit to Karachi, has given special instructions to end the scourge of drugs.

He further said that the Excise and Taxation Department and the Sindh Police under the special supervision of Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah have taken vigorous actions against drug peddling in the last one and a half months.



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Excise and Taxation, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon addresses to media persons during press conference, in Karachi.

## Sindh, Punjab govts need to resolve wheat crisis at earliest: Khurshid Shah

SUKKUR (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Syed Khurshid Shah has said that the Sindh and Punjab governments need to resolve the wheat crisis at earliest.

Talking to media persons in Sukkur on Monday, he said that maximum relief can be provided to farmers by directly purchasing wheat from them.

Khurshid Shah also urged the government to support the farmers who have been ad-

versely affected to the recent crisis.

He abstained to comment on Faizabad Dharna Commission until the issuance of Supreme Court's verdict.

Responding to the queries about the PPP's potential involvement in the federal government, Khurshid Shah said that the party would make a decision collectively.

The PPP leader also highlighted the necessity of parliamentary approval if the Supreme Court orders changes to existing laws.



## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Plugging the gap

In Pakistan, bias begins at birth for the girl child as discriminatory norms, orthodox attitudes and poverty impede progress. However, Unicef Pakistan recently presented a National Gender Strategy (2024-2027) to generate a transformative shift for multitudes of girls between 10 to 19 years. It believes that effective implementation of the policy in rural and urban areas can tackle inequalities and improve female lives, including those defined by disability. A significant component of the plan is to engage leaders, clerics, boys and men so that existing narratives change and all women have agency. Unicef also highlights the lamentable fact that Pakistan has nearly 19m child brides, 54pc were pregnant before the age of 18, and 88pc of underage girls live in poverty. The UN's 2023 Gender Social Norms Index was not a cheerful read either. It stated that improvement in prejudices against women had been static for a decade. In this scenario, the UN agenda to attain gender equality by 2030 for all countries is a long shot.

There is no denying that several social mores propel gender inequality and deal a blow to women's freedoms. As more people are pushed below the poverty line in a moribund economy, indigence is set to widen the gender gap with reduced access to healthcare, education and profitable opportunities. In these circumstances, perhaps Unicef Pakistan's gender equitable programming ought to start with areas where the honour of men depends on making women invisible, as in parts of Balochistan and KP. Females in hyper-conservative areas are entirely disenfranchised, trapped in the culture of bride price, the sale of girls for monetary gain or to resolve disputes, and the absence of reproductive rights and socio-economic liberties. All this must change with schooling, healthcare and employment and cultivating empathy and awareness among men. Closing gender gaps matters because it promises social justice and prosperity. It is a long road but we cannot finish last.

### Improving skills

Neda Mulji

Many teachers complain about the lack of continuous professional development opportunities or resources to update their teaching and learning skills. Like any other profession, teaching calls for creating opportunities on the job, taking initiative to learn new techniques and to continually revise teaching methods for greater efficiency. Churning the same wheel has never been gratifying — at best, it may help teachers keep their jobs and continue on the same path for decades.

The world is evolving rapidly and those in employment today are being referred to as Generation Transition for they have had to keep abreast of massive changes to stay relevant in their professions. AI may not be taking up teachers' jobs — at least yet — but it has done enough to show teachers what they don't know and how much there is to learn. It has shown more efficient ways of working in a minimal amount of time. From strategy to projected outcomes, from planning to design and execution, it has a quicker solution for work that would otherwise take days if not months to accomplish.

With new developments in technology, creating opportunities for oneself has never been easier. Learning new skills or upgrading old ones no longer requires huge effort. Most teaching programmes are free and can be accessed anywhere, anytime. The doors to teaching and learning from successful trends in other societies are no longer closed. There is a treasure trove of research for teachers to dip into. It is now possible for teachers to learn from the professional experi-

ences of individuals far and wide and to stay abreast of global developments, without relying on colleagues and managers to fill their coffers with knowledge and expertise.

A teacher who has taught successfully for decades wrote to me recently, worrying that he is no longer relevant, not motivated enough and that his managers don't value him the way they did before. The question that may need to be answered is, "what is he doing differently to upgrade his teaching and to enable or empower his students?" Motivation can come from external factors, and appreciation or approval from colleagues may be temporarily beneficial, but external factors are never sustainable. Reliance on the external environment means we change when our environment changes and we no longer feel worthwhile when our colleagues don't pump up the gas to help us feel valued.

Instead of relying on external factors, the more successful teachers find motivation within themselves to upgrade their skills and contribute to reshaping their external environment. Often teachers feel demotivated as they procrastinate, delay grading or reuse lesson plans knowing well that new, upgraded ones are required. They wait to be called out on that, wait to be told what to do, wait for an opportunity to feel better and to do better. Yet, a lot can change with an individual's willingness to take initiative — to start with doing a few things differently and watch the outcomes closely.

A small example is that of a teacher who complains through the term about a couple of students who do not study, don't complete

their homework and don't show interest in class. A good place to start would be to do something differently for those students — perhaps start with active 'inclusion' techniques that develop a sense of comfort and well-being for the child.

Many teachers choose to stick to tried and tested methods that have worked for them, but, unfortunately, are a thing of the past, such as teacher-led explanations and note-taking. Hundreds of schools still follow this strategy in a bid to 'cover' the syllabus. If they were to venture into learning more effective ways of student-centred teaching, they would find it works so much better in our world of massive 'transition'.

Not only do the students benefit from upgraded teaching methods, teachers themselves would find it gratifying and motivating. There are virtual conferences, webinars and massive open online courses that can enable teachers to bring technology into the classrooms.

According to a McKinsey 2023 report, The Skills Revolution and the Future of Earning and Learning, a skills-first approach transforming the learning paradigm is critical for the students' readiness for the 21st century.

The same report states that "high-performing teachers can raise the performance of students by 53 percentage points in PISA scores, on average, over that of similar students with low-performing teachers".

Given the critical role of teachers, keeping up with technological changes and focusing on upgrading skills can yield lifelong returns for students and teachers. - Courtesy Dawn

### Leaky buckets

Zarrar Khuhro

It's IMF time. Which means it's time to trot out the clichés and platitudes that we have grown old listening to: reforms must be undertaken: radical, structural, painful reforms that will shift the paradigm, synergise the grassroots and unleash Pakistan's geo-economic potential. The game will change, memoranda will be understood; all windows bar one will be sealed shut and all pages save one will be burned. Under our collective weight the adamantine begging bowl will shatter. This time it'll happen. Seriously. For Real.

Leave aside the fact that if we had a single dollar for every time we've heard all this we wouldn't need an IMF programme, and let's take a realistic look at just how many leaks in our bucket need to be fixed and how we've gone about fixing them.

Our tax sector has been called "ineffective, unfair and fragmented", and that's a charitable description; massive tax evasion thanks to smuggling and illegal trade can also be seen in tea, tyres and auto lubricants, pharmaceuticals and, of course, the infamous real estate sector. Put together, according to a 2022 report by IPSOS, annual tax evasion in these sectors is estimated to be Rs956 billion, with the lion's share in real estate.

Burden is placed on the already burdened while whole sectors get away without paying — at best they pay only indirect taxes. And because policies are formulated by officials as far removed from reality as we are from ancient Assyria, they backfire spectacularly.

For example: we increase taxes on products and with a stroke of a pen our policymakers calcu-

late that this will result in X amount of revenue which in turn would balance out the resulting reduction in consumption. In some cases, like cigarettes, this would even be a good thing if it were to result in people smoking less. But no one bothers to understand that without curbing illicit production or smuggling all this means is that consumption switches to smuggled brands; see how many smokers are now puffing on smuggled milanos without even a paisa being added to government coffers. Sure, every now and then such smuggled goods are intercepted but this seems to have no real effect on their supply.

Another sector which should arguably be taxed in order to reduce consumption is carbonated drinks. In a country with one of the highest rates of diabetes incidence in the world, sweet fizzy sugar-laden drinks should be priced out of the market. But here we see that arguably healthier fruit juices have been placed in the same tax category as carbonated drinks, which will, of course, lead to an increase in their retail prices. Again, this burden is placed only on the documented (and thus tax-paying) sector while undocumented trade flourishes unchecked, and in fact, emerges as a more attractive option for consumers. When (not if) that happens, the price will be paid by farmers who supply the fruit from which the legally produced juices are made as a reduction in demand for juices will mean a reduction in fruit procurement. Speaking of farmers, look at the current wheat scandal where growers are in a crisis due to the government's inability or unwillingness to purchase wheat in sufficient quantities. This fiasco

can be traced to the decision of the caretaker government to import over 3.5 million tons of wheat when it was already clear that wheat had been planted on a record amount of land and there were expectations of a bumper crop. Best of all, record wheat plantation had been done in response to a government drive asking farmers to plant more wheat. This crisis will birth more crises as farmers struggle with the next crop and plant less wheat next year.

No wonder, then, that the same farmers are keen to sell their land to housing societies, since real estate seems to be the only viable business left in Pak-istan. Highly profitable and almost completely unregulated and untaxed, it provides the perfect haven for all your grey, and often black money. You pay no overheads, employ no one and generate no real economic growth, and yet your profit is assured. The same authorities that enable this also shout about the need for exports. But that requires industrial growth and exportable surpluses, while we're in an advanced state of de-industrialisation. In part, this is because our growth figures are fuelled by consumption, and that too of largely imported goods. Governments have found it easier to collect duties on such goods rather than promote local industrial growth.

So why would we not be de-industrialising? Why would anyone set up an industry or be compliant with regulations when there is such an attractive option available? Why suffer the slings and arrows of an uneven tax regime and pay exorbitant utility costs and navigate spools of red tape and extractive authorities when you can buy a plot or 12? -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Pakistan wants 'larger, longer' IMF bailout, PIA privatization by early July: Minister

ISLAMABAD (INP): Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said on Monday Islamabad was seeking a "larger and longer" bailout program from the International Monetary Fund, whose mission would arrive in Islamabad within the next ten days to start discussing a new loan deal.

Pakistan last month completed a short-term \$3 billion program, which

helped stave off sovereign default, but the government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has stressed the need for a fresh, longer term program.

Pakistan's financial year runs from July to June and its budget for fiscal year 2025, the first by Sharif's new government, has to be presented before June 30.

The IMF has not specified the dates of its

Islamabad visit, nor the size or duration of any new program. "We have requested the IMF... that we want to go into a larger and a longer program with the fund and they have acceded that request, and we are expecting the mission to arrive here within a week to 10 days, where we will start discussing the contours of the next program," Aurangzeb said while

addressing a conference in Islamabad. He said Pakistan needed a new IMF program to bring "permanence" to macroeconomic stability and continue to carry out "structural reforms."

The IMF has said accelerating reforms was more important than the size of a new program, which would be guided by a package of reforms and balance of payments needs.



ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Finance addressing the Saudi Arabia-Pakistan Investment Forum 2024.

### The launching of the projects Jinnah Twin Tower and eighty three Edge in Bahria Town

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: The launching event of the projects Jinnah Twin Tower and Eighty Three Edge in Bahria Town was held. Many people from the city par-

rooms. The project is expected to be completed in five years, and fifty percent of bookings by overseas Pakistanis have already been completed. Bahria Town is the

Ahmed and Sardar Sajjad Ahmed further stated that despite the increase in prices of materials like steel, cement, and bricks, they are cooperating with consumers in every pos-



ticipated in the ceremony, where directors Sardar Iftikhar Ahmed and Sardar Sajjad Ahmed conversed.

They mentioned that Jinnah Twin Tower is a unique project spanning 2500 square yards with 18 floors. These houses have 2, 3, and 4 bedrooms along with drawing and dining

largest developer in Asia and is providing modern residential facilities to the citizens.

They elaborated that Eighty Three Edge, situated on Ground Plus 18, is a prime location and an ultra-modern project with 17 residential floors. The project will be completed in 35 months. Directors Sardar Iftikhar

sible way. They emphasized that the government should provide relief to the real estate sector to keep the economy moving and facilitate developers.

The real estate sector plays a crucial role in the national economy and is a vital source of revenue generation.

### Jam directs to consult all stakeholders to solve problems of industrial zones

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: A meeting was held in the Sindh Secretariat under the chairmanship of Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Jam Ikrumullah Dharejo. Provincial Secretary Industries and Commerce Muhammad Yasin Shar Baloch, MD SITE Ghazanfar Qadri and other officers also attended the meeting. Addressing the meeting, Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Jam Ikrumullah Dharejo directed to solve

the problems of SITE employees on priority basis. He further said that strict action should be taken against incompetent and absent employees. Biometric systems should be activated to ensure attendance and coordination with concerned departments should be improved for completion of SITE development projects. Jam Ikrumullah Dharejo said that meetings would be started with the representatives of the Chamber of Commerce across the province.

### Musadik urges Private sectors of Pakistan, SA to collaborate towards economic diversification, value addition

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik Monday urged the private sectors of both Pakistan and Saudi Arabia (SA) to collaborate towards economic diversification and value addition. Addressing a Two-Day Pakistan-Saudi Arabia Investment Conference, he said, "We invite the private sectors of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to participate in building critical infrastructure to

unlock the assets and wealth potential of both countries." "We are already exporting food products, but unfortunately, around 35% of Pakistani perishable food products go to waste. We aim to connect our agricultural assets to the food security needs of the GCC," he said.

The Minister said that Saudi Arabia wanted to become a food corridor for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and called for

joint efforts to address challenges such as food wastage, proposed that Pakistan's agricultural assets be leveraged to enhance food security not only in Saudi Arabia but across the GCC and beyond. He underscored the conference's focus on private sector engagement, particularly in food and agriculture, urging investments in downstream activities like food processing and value-added industries such as fruit, juice, cheese.

### Enhance investment opportunities Dawood Hercules Corporation, Engro Corporation approve restructuring plan

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: The Boards of Dawood Hercules Corporation Limited (DH Corp) and Engro Corporation Limited (Engro Corp) have, in principle, approved a proposal to restructure the shareholding between the two companies, aiming to enhance investment opportunities of the enterprise. The restructuring proposal is subject to final Board and shareholder approvals.

The proposed restructuring would enhance investment opportunities by harmonizing the investment efforts of both companies. DH Corp is a capital allocation firm that has experience in deploying funds to a broad range of sectors and assets, while Engro Corp has a successful track record of developing and managing large-scale industrial projects in 5 business verticals. Both companies

have clear investment strategies and have delivered healthy returns to shareholders; however, a testing external environment necessitates a wider and more agile investing approach at a time when large-scale investments are challenging to make. The proposed restructuring aims to enable such an approach. Following a two-step process, it would result in DH Corp being rebranded as Engro Holdings Limited,

and Engro Corp becoming a wholly owned subsidiary of Engro Holdings. As a part of this process, Engro Corp's minority shareholders would become shareholders of Engro Holdings in a ratio that preserves their economic ownership of Engro Corp. This exercise would synergise investment efforts at the Engro Holdings level, enabling capital from Engro's

businesses to be efficiently deployed to a wider set of opportunities, which is advantageous to shareholders of both companies. Engro Holdings' [DH Corp's] current shareholders would benefit from frictionless capital movement between the two entities and Engro Corp's current shareholders would benefit from a wider investment mandate, as well as from Engro Holdings' investment expertise.



## 5th Meeting of the Provincial Cabinet KP cabinet approves essential expenditures of the Province

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cabinet Monday approved essential expenditures of the Province for the month of May while directing all departments to finalize their budget proposals for the next financial year. The approval of the essential expenditure was necessitated by the fact that in the absence of the Assembly, budget for the current Financial Year was approved by the caretaker cabinet at different intervals. It also resolved to timely convene the budget session of the Provincial Assembly for approving budget for the next financial year.

Presided by Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur the meeting was held in

Pakhtunkhwa House Islamabad on Monday in which detailed deliberations were held on various other agenda items. Ministers, Advisors, Special Assistants along with relevant government officers attended the meeting.

Explaining the details of the decisions of the cabinet meeting, Adviser to the Chief Minister on Information and Public Relations Barrister Dr. Saif said that the provincial cabinet has taken important decisions in its fifth meeting. He said that the provincial cabinet has decided that such ministers who do not belong to Peshawar and do not have an official residence will be given Rs. 200,000. If taken, rent will be paid by the government and the utility bills of the house

will also be included in the same rupees. Barrister Dr. Saif said that since 2014, the ministers who had the facility of official residence were deducted Rs. 70,000. Barrister Dr Saif said that house rents have increased in 2024 and a suitable house can be found on this amount. It is merit to mention here that the Cabinet approved amendment in the "NWFP Ministers Salaries, Allowances and Privileges Act 1975" as well as revision of the terms and conditions of the Adviser and Special Assistants to Chief Minister. The amendments have been carried out to facilitate residential accommodation of the Ministers due to shortage of government residences and non-availability of rented homes as per rates fixed in



**PESHAWAR:** Deputy Chief of Mission U.S Embassy Islamabad Mr. Andrew Shofer and U.S Consul General Mr. Shante Moore called on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at Governor House.

## Commissioner, Chairman BISE Sukkur visit exams centers, reviewed arrangements

**SUKKUR (APP):** The Divisional Commissioner Sukkur Fayyaz Hussain Abbasi along with Chairman, Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE), Sukkur, Rafique Ahmed Palh and Controller of Examinations on Monday visited annual examinations of IXth and Xth on examination centers and reviewed all the arrangements.

They conducted a surprise visit to Government Islamia College, Government Girls High school,

Government SMA High School, Government Municipal Secondary School for Girls, Government Comprehensive High School and other centers.

During the visit, thoroughly reviewed the arrangements made by the Education Board, Sukkur and expressed satisfaction.

The Chairman BISE briefed the Divisional Commissioner and informed that effective and comprehensive monitoring of all examination centers was being conducted with the help of CCTV cameras.

Section 144 had been imposed around all examination centers and strict legal action is being taken against cheating mafia.

Reports of all examination centers are being sent to the board on daily basis by District Vigilance Committee, mobile Inspector and District Administration Officers.

Chairman BISE Palh stated that no compromise was being made on merit and transparency.

## Chief Secretary GB chairs meeting of DCs

**GILGIT (APP):** Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan Abrar Ahmed Mirza chaired deputy commissioners meeting at the Chief Secretary Secretariat Gilgit.

The conference was attended by the Additional Chief Secretary Development, Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners and all Deputy Commissioners of respective districts via video link. On this occasion, all Deputy Commissioners briefed about the performance of their respective districts, progress on developmental projects, and the law and order situation. The chief secretary issued directives for concrete steps to improve governance, enhance public service delivery, strengthen the functioning of local administrations, and activate the system of punishment and mentoring.

He emphasized on implementing biometric attendance and task management systems in government offices to improve the quality of work and performance. He directed to ensure the timely completion of development projects within approved budgets and take actions on a priority basis.



**GILGIT:** Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan addressing the One Day Conference on Quality Assurance of Secondary & Post Secondary Education and Role of Boards at KIU.

## KP Govt to start 3 lac MT wheat procurement from May 7: Minister

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government would start procurement of three lac metric tons (MT) of wheat from May 7 at a cost of about 29 billion rupees, said Minister for Food Zahir Shah Toru.

In a statement issued here, he said that wheat would be purchased from local farmers at the rate of Rs 3900 hundred per 40 kg sack. He said committees have been formed at the district level to check the quality and quantity of wheat. The committee would consist of the district food controller,



**LAHORE:** Clara Strandhoj - Head of Lahore Office, British High Commission meeting with Provincial Minister for Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Maal Sohail Shoukat Butt.

## Police operation in Larkana, 11 suspects involved in various incidents were arrested

**Independent Report**  
LARKANA: According to the instructions of Inspector General Sindh Police and orders issued by SSP Larkana, Mr. Mir Rohal Khan Khoso SSP Larkana police cracked down on criminals during successful operations in different areas (11) arrested, alcohol, two stolen motorcycles, two valuable mobile phones and a buffalo worth lakhs of rupees were recovered. And the accused Mudassar Zangjui has been arrested along with pistol and bullets. While the Waris Dino Machhi police foiled the drug supply attempt and arrested

the accused Iqar Anad along with two and a half kilos of hashish, on the other hand, the Waris Dino Machhi police also recovered the stolen buffalo belonging to Ahmed Ali Brohi. Raidero police have arrested two accused Akram Sianach and Azhar Sianach along with pistol and cannabis and registered separate cases. along with a pistol and a large quantity of bullets and the accused Muhammad Ali Shah was arrested with four bottles of liquor and registered separate cases. Has been entered. Dari Tehana police staff have

## Three persons die in road mishap as truck ramed into fodder shop

**MULTAN (APP):** Three persons were killed and one seriously injured when a truck ran into a fodder shop due to a burst tire near Model Town here on Monday.

According to Rescue 1122, the truck was on its way to its destination when suddenly its tire burst and ramed into the fodder shop.

Resultantly, a man in a fodder shop and another customer who was sitting in a car died.

An unknown kid who was passing from the site was also crushed to death. In this mishap, one motorcyclist sustained injuries. Rescue 1122 completed the operation by recovering the dead body of a person who was stuck in the car.

Local police are investigating the incident.

## Minister Sohail stresses collective efforts to uplift underprivileged class

**LAHORE (APP):** A delegation of the British High Commission, British Council and UNICEF led by Clara Strandhoj, head of the British High Commission Lahore, visited the Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Maal office here on Monday.

The delegation held a meeting with Punjab Minister for Social Welfare Sohail Shaukat Butt and explored potential collaboration in several social welfare projects.

The meeting was attended by Secretary of Social Welfare Iqbal Hussain, Director General of Social Welfare Aamna Munir, Ali Naqvi from FCDO, Deputy Head of the British High

Commission Saeed Ul Hassan, Tanya Durani from UNFPA, Yasmin Zaidi and Arshad Mahmood from Aawaz II, and Zahida Manzoor and Azlan Butt from UNICEF.

During the session, the secretary of social welfare provided an orientation on potential collaboration in several social welfare projects with partners.

Social Welfare Minister Sohail Shaukat Butt expressed gratitude to Clara Strandhoj and the delegation, emphasizing the importance of uplifting underprivileged classes through mutual cooperation with the British High Commission and other stakeholders.

## 2 plots sealed over illegal construction

**FAISALABAD (APP):** The Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA) sealed two residential plots on a charge of illegal construction in addition to removing encroachments from Satiana Road.

A FDA spokesman said on Monday that Estate Officer FDA Aneeb Aslam Randhawa received complaints that owners of Plot No143 and 144 in Chuhar Majra had started illegal construction on his plots without approval of the map and permission of the concerned authority.

The FDA enforcement team sealed the plots and warned their owners to get their construction maps and plans approved.

# International News

## Putin orders tactical nuclear weapon drills to deter the West

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russia said on Monday it would practice the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons as part of a military exercise, after what Moscow said were threats from France, Britain and the United States.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, Russia has repeatedly warned of rising nuclear risks — warnings which the US says it has to take seriously, though US officials say they have seen no change in Russia's nuclear posture.

Russia says the US and its European allies are pushing the world to the brink of confrontation between nuclear powers by supporting Ukraine with tens of billions of dollars of weapons, some of which

are being used against Russian territory.

Russia's defence ministry said it would hold military drills, including practicing the preparation and deployment of non-strategic nuclear weapons. President Vladimir Putin ordered the exercises, the ministry added. "During the exercise, a set of measures will be carried out to practice the issues of preparation and use of non-strategic nuclear weapons," the ministry said. It added that missile forces in the Southern Military District, aviation and the navy will take part.

The exercise aims to ensure Russia's territorial integrity and sovereignty "in response to provocative statements and threats by certain Western officials

against the Russian Federation," it said.

Russia and the US are by far the world's biggest nuclear powers, holding more than 10,600 of the world's 12,100 nuclear warheads. China has the third-largest nuclear arsenal, followed by France and Britain.

Russia has about 1,558 non-strategic nuclear warheads, according to the Federation of American Scientists, though there is uncertainty about exact figures for such weapons due to a lack of transparency.

No power has used nuclear weapons in war since the United States unleashed the first atomic bomb attacks on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.



**French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte Macron welcome China's President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan as they arrive at the Elysee Palace in Paris as part of their two-day state visit in France.**

## Israel strikes Gazan city of Rafah

**Monitoring Desk**  
RAFAH: Israel's military carried out airstrikes in Rafah on Monday, residents said, hours after Israel told Palestinians to evacuate parts of the southern Gaza city where more than a million people uprooted by the war have been sheltering.

Fears are growing of a full-blown assault in Rafah, long threatened by Israel, against holdouts of the Palestinian militant group Hamas as ceasefire talks in Cairo stall.

There was no immediate comment from Israel,

which Hamas-affiliated Al-Aqsa TV said had targeted areas in eastern Rafah near neighbourhoods given evacuation orders.

Instructed by Arabic text messages, phone calls, and flyers to move to what the Israeli military called an "expanded humanitarian zone" 20 km (7 miles) away, some Palestinian families began trundling away under chilly spring rain.

Some piled children and possessions onto donkey carts, while others left by pick-up or on foot through muddy streets.

## Afghan diplomat in India quits after smuggling allegations

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: Afghanistan's top diplomat in India resigned days after she was reportedly caught by airport authorities smuggling nearly \$2 million worth of gold into the country.

Zakia Wardak, the Afghan consul-general in India's financial capital Mumbai, posted a statement on social media platform X announcing her resignation. Afghanistan's embassy in New Delhi shut down in November, more than two years after the Taliban returned to power in Ka-bul following the collapse of the Western-backed government, leaving Wardak as the country's most senior representative in India.

## UN nuclear watchdog chief travels to Iran as its monitoring remains hampered

**Monitoring Desk**  
JERUSALEM: The head of the United Nations' atomic watchdog traveled Monday to Iran, where his agency faces increasing difficulty in monitoring the Islamic Republic's rapidly advancing nuclear program as tensions remain high in the wider Middle East over the Israel-Hamas war.

Rafael Mariano Grossi already has warned Tehran has enough uranium enriched to near-weapons-grade levels to make "several" nuclear bombs if it chose to do so. He has acknowledged the agency can't guarantee that none of Iran's centrifuges may have been peeled away for clandestine enrichment.

Those challenges now find themselves entangled in attacks between Israel and Iran, with the city of Isfahan apparently coming under

Israeli fire in recent weeks despite it being surrounded by sensitive nuclear sites. Grossi is likely to attend an Iranian nuclear conference there while on his two-day trip to Iran.

"Problems will not disappear," Grossi told an International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors' meeting in March. "They will only get worse. So, we need to address this in a serious way." In Tehran, Grossi and Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian shook hands in front of journalists before going into a meeting. Authorities offered no immediate comment on their discussions. Tensions have grown between Iran and the IAEA since then-President Donald Trump in 2018 unilaterally withdrew America from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers.



**People grab flour bags from a truck after the Israeli military began evacuating Palestinian civilians ahead of a threatened assault on Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.**

## France sends envoy to Putin inauguration as Berlin boycotts

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: France will send its ambassador to the inauguration of Russian President Vladimir Putin for his next six-year term in office on Tuesday, a French diplomatic source said on Monday, in contrast with Germany which said it would not be represented.

Paris' decision suggests a potential split in the Western camp with several countries, including the Baltic states, vehemently opposed to giving Putin any form of legitimacy and potentially undermining Ukraine in its war with Russia after Moscow launched an invasion more than two years ago.

Putin won a record post-Soviet landslide, cementing his already tight grip on power, in Russia's presidential election, held in March just weeks after Putin's most prominent opponent Alexei Navalny died in jail.

## Germany recalls its ambassador in Russia for a week in protest over a hacker attack

**Monitoring Desk**  
BERLIN: Germany said Monday it recalled its ambassador to Russia for a week of consultations in Berlin following an alleged hacker attack on Chancellor Olaf Scholz's party.

Germany last week accused Russian military agents of hacking into the top echelons of Scholz's Social Democrats' party and other sensitive government and industrial targets. Berlin has joined NATO and fellow European countries in warning that Russia's cyberespionage

would have consequences. The Foreign Office in Berlin said Monday that the government is taking the latest incident "seriously" and that Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock had decided to call back German Ambassador Alexander Lambsdorff. He would return to Moscow after a week, it said. "The German government takes this event very seriously as behavior against our liberal democracy and the institutions that support it," Foreign Office spokeswoman Kathrin Deschauer said.

## Philippines says won't raise South China Sea tensions, won't use water cannons

**Monitoring Desk**  
MANILA: Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr said on Monday the country will not use water cannons or any offensive weapons in the South China Sea. The last thing the Philippines wants to do is to raise tensions in the strategic waterway, Marcos told reporters.

## Macron, von der Leyen press China's Xi on trade in Paris talks

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron and EU Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen urged China to ensure more balanced trade at the start of President Xi Jinping's visit to Paris, during which Macron was also set to press him on Ukraine.

Xi was in Europe for the first time in five years, at a time of growing business tensions that include the European Union investigating Chinese industries such as electric vehicle exports, while Beijing probes mostly French-made brandy imports.

Macron said Europe and China needed to resolve structural difficulties, in particular on trade.

"The future of our continent will also very clearly depend on our capacity to further develop in a balanced way our relationship with China," he said as the three sat at a round table under the gilded ceilings of the Elysee Palace.

Von der Leyen was more blunt, saying the relationship was hurt by unequal market access and Chinese state subsidies.

After the meeting, she told reporters that the EU "cannot absorb massive over-production of Chinese industrial goods flooding its market."

"Europe will not waver from making tough decisions needed to protect its market," she said.

The EU's most robust stance on trade with China dovetails with Washington's approach. U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has warned China that Washington would not accept new industries being "decimated" by Chinese imports.



## CM meets New York police officers to share experiences, explore ways to train provincial police in NY

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah met with a delegation of 22 members from the Pakistani American Law Enforcement Society (PALES) of the New York Police Department and discussed their respective policing systems and shared experiences.

During the meeting, PALES offered the chief minister to train provincial local police officers in dealing with street crime, petty crimes, intelligence work, traffic management, and vigilance.

The 22-member delegation of the PALES was led by Rohail Khalid. In the delegation the officers of different police assignments such as Integrity

Control officer, Traffic Enforcement, Intelligence, Training Bureau, Identification Bureau, Patrol, and others.

Sindh Home Secretary Iqbal Memon, IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, and others also attended the meeting.

The chief minister welcomed the New York Police Department delegation and discussed the issue of terrorism in Karachi, which he attributed to the Afghan war and regional politics. He acknowledged the sacrifices made by the police and law enforcement agencies, with the support of his government, to eliminate terrorism in the area.

The chief minister

further highlighted the challenge of street crime in the city, against which the police and Rangers have initiated operations. He also mentioned that the government was working on amending laws to utilise technology in dealing with repeat criminals.

The delegation members emphasized that only a small group of 10 per cent of the population was responsible for committing crimes against 90 per cent. They suggested that if criminals were aware of being watched, they would avoid committing crimes.

The delegation members also agreed with the chief minister on the importance of using technology to control crime.



GAMBIA: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar briefed the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir, on the sidelines of the 15th OIC Islamic Summit Conference, in Banjul, the Gambia.

## OIC Contact Group on Jammu & Kashmir calls for early resolution of J&K dispute

ISLAMABAD (Online): OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir has called for an early and peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Its meeting was held in Banjul, Gambia on the sidelines of the 15th Islamic Summit of the OIC.

The participating delegations from different member states expressed support for the legitimate struggle of the Kashmiri people for realization of their inalienable right to self-determination in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Mohammad Ishaq Dar, who led the Pakistan delegation briefed the Contact Group on India's ongoing efforts to transform Kashmiris into a disempowered community in their own land. He apprised the meeting that India was systematically denying the Kashmiri people their fundamental rights and freedoms.

Ishaq Dar said the Indian authorities have created an environment of fear and intimidation in the IIOJK to crush dissent.

He urged the international community to take

cognizance of the Indian leaders' provocative statements and unwarranted claims about Azad Jammu and Kashmir, which constitute a serious threat to regional peace.

The Deputy Prime Minister also stressed that India must release all the political prisoners, lift curbs on the outlawed political parties, revoke the illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 and the subsequent steps aimed at demographic change and political engineering, and implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

## KSA, Pakistan economic partners, share common vision: Al Mubarakon

KSA wants to see Pakistan as one of our leading international partners; Saudi gov't, companies consider Pakistan high priority economic opportunity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Saudi Assistant Minister for Investment, Ibrahim Al Mubarak said that Saudi Arabia and Pakistan were major economic partners and both countries have always supported each other with a common economic vision.

He said that 'Pakistan's Diaspora including many professional and skilled workers in Saudi Arabia were playing a major role in the economic development of Saudi Arabia.'

He said this while addressing at the Pakistan-Saudi Arab Investment Forum, 2024 held here on Monday.

Similarly, there are historical economic, trade and unprecedented diplomatic ties between the two countries, which are enhancing, day by day, he said and added that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had always provided support to each other for bilateral economic development.

Currently, 2 million Pakistanis are working in Saudi Arabia, including doctors, engineers and professors, Ibrahim Al Mubarak said and added that currently, most of Pakistanis are working very hard on Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 and economic development.



KARACHI: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf awarding medal to an officer during Pakistan Navy Investiture Ceremony held in Karachi.

## PPP's Nayar Bukhari demands NAB inquiry into wheat import scam

GUJAR KHAN (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) senior leader Nayar Hussain Bukhari on Monday demanded the National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) inquiry into wheat import scam.

PPP Secretary-General Nayar Hussain Bukhari in his statement stated import of wheat despite surplus stock in Pakistan, caused a loss of billions of rupees to the national exchequer. The PPP leader urged the NAB to initiate an inquiry into the wheat scam and present the facts before the nation.

Commenting on the PML-N's invitation to PPP to join the federal government, Bukhari said his party is committed to supporting the PML-N-led government in the Parlia-

ment without being part of the government. However, he said the final decision regarding joining the cabinet will be taken by the PPP's CEC.

Earlier, former caretaker prime minister, Anwarul Haq Kakar, downplayed the wheat import issue as a 'Storm in a Teacup'.

During his interview on ARY News program 'Sawal Yeh Hai', Kakar emphasized the importance of understanding the intricacies of the wheat import mechanism.

Former prime minister Anwarul Haq Kakar highlighted the government's efforts to save tax money, facilitate private-sector wheat purchases, and generate revenue from import duties.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanging views with New York Police Officers during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

## Iran, Pakistan committed to completing gas pipeline project: Iranian CG

KARACHI (APP): Iranian Consul General (CG) to Karachi, Hassan Nourian on Monday lauding the foolproof security efforts of Pakistan during the Iranian President's visit, said

that Iran and Pakistan were committed and fighting tooth and nail to complete the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project.

He said that the project was to be completed

in 2024 but delayed due to political and technical reasons.

Speaking in Karachi Press Club (KPC)'s Meet the Press Programme, Hassan Nourian said that Pakistan and Iran were one soul in two bodies.

He said that Iran wanted to help resolve energy crises of Pakistan and ready to assist in its development. The Consul General said that Iran was self-sufficient in crude oil and other resources and wanted to meet the needs of the region. He said that Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline project started in 2009 as Iran-Pakistan-Indian gas pipeline project but owing to a few reasons India pulled herself out of the project.



KARACHI: Iranian Consul General in Karachi Hassan Nourian addressing Meet the Press Programme at Karachi Press Club.

## Commissioner chairs review meeting

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi Syed Hasan Naqvi chaired a review meeting here on Monday.

The meeting reviewed improvement initiatives for the city, implementation of official rates and checking the quality of all food and items including milk.

The effectiveness of the campaign against encroachments affecting the

flow of traffic on footpaths and roads was reviewed.

The meeting was attended by the Director General Food Authority Sindh, Deputy Commissioners and other officials.

The meeting decided for betterment of the city, improvement of sanitation, improvement of garbage collection system, repair of dilapidated road pot-holes, and maintenance of bridges.



KARACHI: Teachers and employees of University of Karachi are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at university premises in Karachi.

## K-Electric delegation meets DG KDA

KARACHI (APP): A delegation headed by General Manager Works and Estate K-Electric Umar M. Makhdumi met with Director General of Karachi Development Authority (KDA) Syed Shujaat Hussain and discussed payment of arrears and mutual issues in detail.

Member Administration KDA Naveed Anwar, Director Land Muhammad Shahid, Director Recovery Jameel Ahmed and other officers were present on this occasion, said a statement on Monday.

Umar M. Makhdumi informed the details to DG KDA and said that K Electric has submitted the pay orders for 90 per cent of the due amount of KDA plots while 10 per cent of dues will be paid as soon as possible. The DG KDA expressed satisfaction over

the payment of dues by K Electric and appointed Member Administration KDA Naveed Anwar as the focal person and issued instructions that along with strengthening ties with K Electric administration and KDA, a joint strategy should be developed for payment of arrears of K Electric offices and grid stations in the schemes and townships and ensure that the payment of dues is completed as soon as possible, he said.

He gave orders to the Director Land to complete the paperwork of the offices of K Electric and submit that report. He further said that due to the best economic policies, a substantial increase in income sources is being seen with stability, which is welcome for the Karachi Development Authority.

## Two robbers held, arms, bike recovered in joint operations

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh Rangers and police in joint operations arrested two robbers, recovered arms, cell phone and a motorcycle here on Monday.

A spokesman of Sindh Rangers said that the Rangers along with police conducted operations against the outlaws in Grid Station Madina Colony and Sparko Saadi Town areas of Karachi.

During operations, two robbers including Zahid Khan and Raheel Ahmed were arrested besides recovery of arms, a cell phone and a motorcycle from their possession.

The spokesman said that 10 tankers engaged in stealing water from Hub Canal near Noorani Hotel Maripur were also taken into custody. The detainees were handed over to police along with recovered arms and valuables while the water tankers were given into custody of Water and Sewerage Corporation.

According to media reports, that due to this service enhancement, the income of PIA's Karachi booking office has soared to an impressive one billion 33 crore rupees. Meanwhile, amidst these developments, the Competition Commission of Pakistan has given the nod to the privatization scheme of PIA. Under this scheme, PIA Holding Company Limited will acquire 100% of PIA's shares, fixed assets, payables, and non-core liabilities. It's noteworthy

## PIA improved service boosts income by Rs. 990mn in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has experienced a significant boost in income, with its Karachi booking office reporting a staggering increase of Rs. 990 million. This surge is attributed to a marked improvement in service quality and rekindling passengers' confidence in the national carrier.

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## Mayor Karachi Murtaza says: Plastic bags cause problems of choking sewerage lines and storm water drains

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab Monday said that plastic bags cause problems of choking sewerage lines and storm water drains in the metropolis.

He said this during a meeting with Secretary Environment Ms Nabila Umer and Director General of Sindh Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) Naeem Mughal during which detailed discussions were held regarding the damage caused to urban infrastructure due to plastic bags and other issues, said a statement. He said that despite spending millions of rupees on the cleaning of drains every year, these drains get choked due to plastic bags. This problem becomes acute during rainy

season. Plastic bags are also a threat to environmental pollution, so it has been decided to enact legislation at the provincial level to ban the use and sale of all types of plastic bags within the limits of Karachi, he said.

It was decided in principle that on the lines of the federal capital, legislation would be enacted in Karachi to ban the use of plastic bags made of all types of microns and steps would be taken at whatever level necessary in this regard.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that steps are being taken to improve the sewerage and cleanliness system in Karachi to facilitate the citizens, due the closure of the sewerage system, people have to face difficulties.

## Pakistan highly values its multifaceted ties with Italy: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that Pakistan deeply valued its multifaceted relations with Italy spanning over many decades, which had always been marked by goodwill and trust. The prime minister expressed the views during a meeting with Ambassador of Italy Marilina Armellini who paid a courtesy call on him at the Prime Minister's House, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister said that the two sides also shared similar views on a number of important regional and global issues. Expressing satisfaction over the positive trajectory of Pakistan-Italy bilateral relations, the prime minister urged the two sides to enhance cooperation in the fields of education.



KARACHI: Sindh Police Inspector General (IG), Ghulam Nabi Memon presiding over a high-level meeting, at CPO Headquarters in Karachi.

## DC reviews arrangements for annual Urs of Shah Karim Bulri

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Tando Mohammad Khan Dharmo Bhavani on Monday presided over a meeting in the Committee Hall of DC Complex in connection with the annual Urs of Bulri Shah Karim with devotion and respect and to finalize the arrangements.

According to a hand-out issued by the District Information office, the DC said that the 413<sup>th</sup> Urs Mubarak of Shah Karim Bulri would start on 13<sup>th</sup> May (5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Zul Qad 1445 AH) He said that arrangements will be made to facilitate all devotees during Urs Mubarak. On this occasion, DC formed a committee headed by Assistant Commissioner Bulri Shah Karim to finalize the

arrangements and security plan for Urs Mubarak, which will visit the Dargah and submit its report to the DC.

Meanwhile, the DC issued instructions to the Municipal Officer of Bulri Shah Karim Taluk and said that during Urs Mubarak special attention should be paid to cleanliness in the city, all the street lights should be in proper condition and special arrangements should be made for water. Assistant Commissioner Baldi Shah Karim Azizullah Soomro, Sajjad Nashin Dargah Baldi Shah Karim Syed Owais Raza Kazmi, Manager Awqaf Salimullah Chana, Taluka Municipal Officer Zulfikar Marfani and other related department officers attended the meeting.

## Speeding van-trailer collision in Hyderabad claims 3 lives

HYDERABAD (INP): At least three persons were killed while other several wounded when an over speeding van collided with a trailer coming from opposite side in Hyderabad on wee hours of Monday.

According to details, rescue sources said that the accident occurred at the Motorway M9 in the jurisdiction of Bola Khan Police Station in Hyderabad where a van collided with a trailer due to over-speeding, in a result three persons lost their lives on the spot and critically injuring several others, private news channel reported.

Two killed in alleged target killing in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Unknown suspects escaped after shooting dead two friends in an alleged target-killing incident near Gharib Nawaz Colony in Korangi area of Karachi.

The police said that the victims were identified as Imtiaz and Muhammad Ali. They were friends and were mechanics by profession. The criminals of the area kept threatening to kill the victims by blaming them for their arrest. According to the police, three suspects on the same motorcycle fired 10-12 shots. The police team found three bullet shells at the scene.



KARACHI: View of site after fire broke out incident at Bismillah Chemical Warehouse nearby Port Qasim Toyota Showroom as fire brigade officials extinguishing fire and rescue operation, located on Port Qasim area in Karachi.

## Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho visits HM Khawaja Library

HYDERABAD (APP): Provincial Minister for Health and Population Welfare Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho visited HM Khawaja Library and Museum. On the occasion, Provincial Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho said that all possible measures are being taken to provide better entertainment facilities to the people of Shaheed Benazirabad District.

Provincial Minister instructed the Deputy Commissioner that immediate steps should be taken

to provide more facilities in HM Khawaja Museum.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Shahryar Gul Memon informed the provincial minister that by visiting the museum last week, measures have been taken to ensure electricity supply and cleanliness in the museum.

He further informed that HM Khawaja Library and the work of the park in the premises of the museum is going on which will be completed soon.



LARKANA: MPA and Political Secretary to PPP Chairman, Jameel Ahmed Soomro is listening the problems of the public during open court program held at Awami Markaz Ghalib Nagar in Larkana.

## CTD busts inter-provincial arms syndicate, four key operatives arrested

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) has apprehended four prominent members of an inter-provincial syndicate engaged in the illicit trade of firearms.

Acting on intelligence, the CTD Karachi conducted the operation, resulting in the arrest of four pivotal figures involved in the illegal arms trade network. These individuals were responsible for sourcing firearms from Peshawar via online platforms and other illicit channels, distributing them to street criminals, and utilizing them

in criminal activities themselves.

The apprehended suspects, identified as Ghulam Rasool, Muhammad Yusuf alias Guddu, Gul Hassan, and Farhan alias Ganja and recovered two 9mm pistols, four 30 bore pistols, 16 bullets, and two stolen motorcycles from their possession.

Notably, these individuals have a history of criminal activity, having been previously arrested in various police stations across Karachi for their involvement in street crimes and other offenses.