

Independent

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PM announces to privatise all SOEs sans strategic ones

Directs routing proportion of country's imports through Gwadar Port

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday announced that the government would privatise all state-owned enterprises (SOEs), excluding the strategic ones, regardless of their profitability or financial losses.

The prime minister, chairing a high-level meeting to review the matters related to the Ministry of Privatisation and Privatisation Commission, directed all the federal ministries to carry out the necessary procedures and extend their cooperation with the Privatisation Commission for the purpose.

In the meeting, the privatisation ministry and the Privatisation Commission presented a roadmap for the Privatisation Programme 2024-29.

The prime minister said the government had nothing to do with running the businesses but was mandated to facilitate the investors.

He viewed that the privatisation of SOEs would save the taxpayers' money to help the government provide quality services to the people.

Reiterating the government's commitment to a transparent process, the prime minister directed to live telecast the bidding and other procedures of the privatisation of Pakistan International Airlines and other entities.

During the briefing on the progress in the SOEs' privatisation, the participants were told that the pre-qualification process for PIA privatisation would be completed by the end of this month. The consultation for privatisation of Roosevelt Hotel was underway and the government-to-government transaction of the First Women Bank was in process with the United Arab Emirates.

It was told that the power distribution companies had been included in the 2024-29 Privatisation Program and the privatisation of loss-making SOEs would be prioritised.

The participants were told that a pre-qualified panel of experts would be appointed at the Planning Commission for a swift and transparent privatisation process.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding CPEC Phase II and other projects under Chinese investment in Pakistan.

Dubai property leaks: 17,000 Pakistanis own 23,000 residential properties worth \$11bn in Dubai

"Dubai Unlocked" based on data that provides detailed overview of hundreds of thousands of properties in Dubai

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD: A collaborative investigative journalism initiative has unveiled the property ownership of influential figures worldwide in Dubai.

Named "Dubai Unlocked", the project relies on data offering an extensive insight into hundreds of thousands of properties in Dubai, along with details regarding their ownership or utilization, primarily spanning the years 2020 to 2022.

Pakistani nationals are also among those listed, with their collective property holdings estimated at approximately \$11 billion.

The revelation includes approximately \$400 billion worth of properties owned by non-residents, including \$11 billion worth of properties owned by Pakistanis.

The "Property Leaks" expose the names of several political figures, government officials, and retired civil servants from around the world. Among them, Pakistanis own \$11 billion worth of properties in Dubai, making them the second-largest group of non-residents purchasing properties in the city.

According to the "Property Leaks", 17,000 Pakistanis have bought 23,000 properties in Dubai. Indian citizens lead among non-residents purchasing properties in Dubai, with 29,700 Indians owning 35,000 properties in the city.

Additionally, there are 19,500 British citizens who own 22,000 properties in Dubai. The total value of properties purchased by British citizens in Dubai amounts to \$10 billion.



BEIJING: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar holds a luncheon meeting with Chairman of China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) Luo Zhaoxue.

Jam meets with government officials and citizens, reiterates commitment to public service

Independent Report KARACHI: Minister of Irrigation and Food Jam Khan Shoro held a meeting with Minister of Universities and Boards Muhammad Ali Malkani, Senator Nadeem Bhutto, and Member of Sindh Assembly Abdul Rauf Ahmed Khoso at his office in the Archives Complex.



During the meeting, the officials discussed various matters of mutual interest and exchanged views on different issues. Minister Shoro also met with citizens from various districts, including Jamshoro, and listened to their problems, assuring them of solutions. "I am committed to serving the public and will make every possible effort to do so," said Minister Shoro. "We will provide all possible relief to the people, fulfill their expectations, and deliver better services to the citizens of the province."

Minister Shoro also announced that the wheat procurement process in Sindh is underway in a transparent manner. "We are utilizing all available resources to provide maximum facilities to the people. The doors of my office are always open to the public, and we are available to serve you at any time," he added.



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

President lauds Green Pakistan Initiative

RAWALPINDI (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday visited the Green Pakistan Initiative Headquarters where he was given a detailed briefing about the Initiative, Land Information and Management System operations.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti and Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari were also present on the occasion, the President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The president was also apprised of the concepts of model agri-farms and agricultural smart farms operations to facilitate the farmers' community for progress of the agriculture sector.

President Zardari appreciated the working of Green Pakistan Initiative and Land Information and Management System under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

While lauding the team of Green Pakistan Initiative, he stressed upon working with equal zeal for the national and economic development of the country.

For the bright future of Pakistan, the president also assured complete co-operation of all the provinces for achieving the objectives of Green Pakistan Initiative.



KARACHI: A delegation led by UAE Consul General Bekhait Atiq Al Romeithi meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori.

PM's timely decision on AJK situation averted a tragedy: Attaullah Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister of Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Tuesday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's decision to resolve the ongoing crisis in Azad Jammu and Kashmir had averted a tragedy.

Addressing a press conference along with Federal Minister of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam at the Parliament House, he said that the conspiracy of the inimical forces was foiled who faced humiliation due to the Prime Minister's timely actions.

Termed "Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf" as "Tehreek-e-Intishar", he said its dreams of creation of chaos and anarchy had also been shattered.

"Along with the enemy, the 'Tehreek-e-Intishar' also thought that in some way or the other, chaos would spread and there would be anarchy" as its leadership wanted to benefit from the sad situation.

Tarar said that the Prime Minister took all the coalition parties and stake holders on board and heard their views.

"Yesterday's meeting was attended by all the political leadership including the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir", he remarked.

The minister said the political leadership and federal ministers resolved the issues through mutual understanding.

The minister said that the prime minister resolved the issue with excellent decision making as the crisis can be eliminated only by timely decisions.

"There is a world of difference between the incompetent government of the past and present elected regime", he added.



Lt Gen Luciano PORTOLANO, Italian Secretary General of Defence/National Armaments Director called on Lt Gen (Retd) Muhammad Chiragh Haider, Secretary Ministry of Defence Production at Rawalpindi.

Pakistan advises Indian politicians to cease dragging it into domestic politics

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Tuesday urged the Indian politicians to cease dragging it into their domestic politics for electoral gains and to handle sensitive strategic matters with the utmost caution.

"We call upon the international community to take note of Indian leadership's belligerent rhetoric, which poses a grave threat to regional peace and stability," Spokesperson Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in a press statement, in response to media queries regarding a series of Pakistan-related remarks made recently by the Indian Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister and other cabinet members.

The spokesperson said that these irresponsible statements, which cover a wide array of topics including the Jammu and Kashmir efforts, counter-terrorism efforts, state of bilateral relations, and nuclear capabilities, "was added."

Regrettably, the spokesperson said the statements reflected an unhealthy and entrenched obsession with Pakistan and revealed a deliberate intent to exploit hyper-nationalism for electoral gains.

These also signified a desperate attempt to deflect attention from mounting domestic and international criticism, she added.

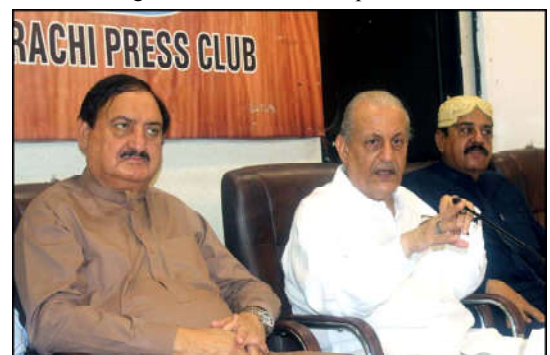


President Asif Ali Zardari in a group photo with the officials of the Green Pakistan Initiative, during his visit to its headquarters, in Rawalpindi.

Pakistan, China reiterate resolve to accelerate all CPEC projects

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan and China on Tuesday expressed joint determination to accelerate progress on all projects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) including ML-1 upgrade, Gwadar Port, and realignment of Karakoram Highway.

The bilateral ties and cooperation were discussed in a meeting between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC), Liu Jianchao here. The deputy prime minister is on a four-day visit to China mainly to co-chair the Fifth Pakistan-China Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.



KARACHI: Former Chairman Senate and Senator Mian Raza Rabbani addresses to media persons during press conference held at Karachi press club.

Infrastructure has been improved in the industrial zones of Sindh: Dharejo

Independent Report KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Jam Ikrumullah Dharejo has visited Federal B Industrial Area. On this occasion, office bearers of the association Syed Raza Hussain, Muhammad Ali, Imran, Babar Khan and others welcomed the provincial minister. Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Jam Ikrumullah Dharejo held a meeting with the office bearers of the association. Secretary Industries and Commerce Muhammad Yasin Shar Baloch was also present on this occasion.

The office bearers of the association informed the provincial minister of Industries and Commerce about the problems faced by the industrialists. Addressing the meeting, Provincial Minister Jam Ikrumullah Dharejo assured to solve the problems faced by Federal B Industrial Area on priority basis. He said that the Government of Sindh has improved infrastructure in industrial zones and the Sindh Government will talk to the federal government about load shedding of gas and electricity.

Jam Ikrumullah Dharejo said that Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has special interest in solving the problems of industrialists. On his vision and direction, new industrial zones have been established in the province and the one-stop solution plan for solving the problems of the industrialists in the SITE office will be made active soon. He said that the government of Sindh stands with the industrialists in every way and his doors are always open for the industrialists.

A delegation from the United Arab Emirates, headed by Consul General, meets with Chief Secretary Sindh Karachi, 14 May: In a meeting between the Consul General of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bakheet Ateeq AL Remeithi, and Chief Secretary Sindh, Syed Asif Hyder Shah, discussions centered around ongoing and future collaborative projects aimed at supporting the people of Sindh, particularly those affected by natural disasters.

NAB amendments case: SC orders appearance of PTI founder through video link

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Tuesday ordered the federal and provincial governments to ensure the attendance of Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) founder in the next hearing in intra court appeals against termination of amendments in National Accountability Bureau law.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa said that if the founder of PTI wants to give arguments, he can give through video link. He said that we accept the request of PTI founder in this regard and instructed the government to make arrangements.

A five member larger bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Amin ud Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi heard the appeals of federation.

In its order regarding today's hearing, the SC said that NAB was asked whether it is supporting or opposing the appeals to which the bureau stated that it would opt the stance of federal government.

Industrialists in the SITE office will be made active soon. He said that the government of Sindh stands with the industrialists in every way and his doors are always open for the industrialists.

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Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Privatisation divide

With Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar having clawed his way back to the centre of economic policymaking, a tussle between two competing viewpoints — one represented by him, the other by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb — was inevitable.

Mr Aurangzeb believes that Pakistan's economy can no longer bear the burden of state-owned enterprises, which need to be privatised as early as possible. On the other hand, Mr Dar, who is foreign minister and a confidant of Nawaz Sharif, fears that all-out privatisation could deplete his party's already dwindling political capital. Hobbled by high inflation, recent blunders in wheat procurement and rising energy costs, the party can ill-afford any agitation against privatisation. Hence, no matter what the finance minister says, the two are not on the same page as evident in his outright rejection of Mr Dar's concept of "strategic and essential SOEs". "There is no such thing as strategic SOEs," Mr Aurangzeb told a pre-budget conference. All SOEs, regardless of their categorisation, he asserted, would be handed over to the private sector. His stance on the "strategic" SOEs is the opposite of what Mr Dar, who was previously finance minister and heads the important Cabinet Committee on Privatisation, had stated recently. Removing seven profitable public companies at the disposal of the Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund from the privatisation list, Mr Dar reportedly said that the government would restrict its concerns to "strategic and essential SOEs", whose number — 40 — would be decreased after scrutiny.

The final decision on which the entities are to be categorised as strategic or essential is to be made by the Cabinet Committee on SOEs headed by Mr Aurangzeb. It might not be easy for him to have his way on their privatisation, despite support from the powerful circles that signed him up for implementing taxation, energy, and SOE reforms along with privatisation under the IMF's tutelage. Mr Dar's economic ideas are acceptable neither to the IMF nor to these circles. Under these circumstances, his transfer to the foreign ministry and later his elevation as deputy prime minister were perceived as major concessions from PM Shehbaz Sharif, although under pressure from Nawaz Sharif. Put simply, the differences between Mr Aurangzeb and Mr Dar reflect the tensions within the ruling party as well as the compulsions of an economy that cannot pick up momentum until it has undergone drastic and politically unpopular changes. The disagreement between the current and former finance minister on privatisation has emerged at a time when the government is all set to start talks for another IMF bailout facility in order to revive the economy. How this disagreement within the government will sit with the lender, which is already wary of the risks attached to the execution of the economic stabilisation policies, is anybody's guess.

Climate justice

Jamil Ahmad

In the face of rising risks from climate change, calls for climate action and climate justice have grown stronger. The creation of the Loss and Damage Fund under the UN climate convention is considered an important step towards action. A request is pending before the ICJ for an opinion on states' obligations towards people on climate change.

Civil society has sought judicial assistance to compel national authorities to take swift climate action. Governments and companies have been taken to courts for inaction or failure to implement environmental agreements.

The number of cases on climate and the environment has grown over the years as the dangers associated with climate change became more ominous, with efforts to control global warming falling short of expected targets. Vulnerable communities took the lead in seeking redressal through the courts.

Two landmark cases in Asia are illustrative. In Pakistan, Asghar Leghari, a farmer, took the government to court in 2015 for not acting to combat climate change, arguing that the inaction of the authorities was against the constitutional right to life, because climate change posed a serious threat to water, food, and energy security. In the Philippines, a group of schoolchildren went to court in the 1990s pleading that deforestation harmed their fundamental rights. In both cases, the courts ruled in favour of the litigants.

The rise in climate litigation is propelled also by developments in international environmental governance and breakthroughs in the global environmental

policy domain such as the Paris climate accord and other agreements. Once ratified, their legal injunctions and policy directions are incorporated into national legal frameworks. Failure of the parties to multilateral environmental agreements to abide by their pledges and implement measures to address climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution give justified grounds for lawsuits against the authorities, industry, and the corporate sector. A report Global Trends in Climate Change Litigation, 2023 by the London School of Economics, citing figures from databases, notes that around two-thirds of climate-centred lawsuits have been filed since 2015, when the Paris Agreement was signed.

Meanwhile, the codification of the concept of a rights-based approach to the environment has taken place in parallel. Historically, environmentalists have advocated a rights-based approach. They challenged governments in the courts and in most cases, obtained favourable decisions. Last year, Brazil's supreme court declared that the Paris Agreement was a human rights treaty, which enjoyed 'supranational' status. Lately, a group of Swiss women obtained a verdict from the European Court of Human Rights that inadequate efforts by their government to control climate change was violating human rights — a ruling that can prompt similar lawsuits elsewhere. The recognition by the UN General Assembly in July 2022 of a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as a human right further strengthened a bottom-up, rights-based approach to the environment and climate change. It catalysed legal actions against governments for their failure to implement

climate policies and actions which exacerbated the negative impact of climate change.

According to the UNEP's Global Climate Litigation Report: 2023 Status Review, "the total number of climate change court cases has more than doubled since 2017" and is growing worldwide. The report found that the "cases mostly fell under one or more of six categories; cases relying on human rights enshrined in international law and national constitutions; challenges to domestic non-enforcement of climate-related laws and policies; litigants seeking to keep fossil fuels in the ground; advocates for greater climate disclosures and an end to greenwashing; claims addressing corporate liability and responsibility for climate harms; and claims addressing failures to adapt to the impacts of climate change".

Increased climate litigation will help climate action and ultimately climate justice. However, the extent of following up on court judgements remains limited in developing countries like Pakistan, where adjudicating on environmental issues is complex and confronts structural obstacles in the way of implementing court orders. Prompt enforcement of statutes, regulations and judicial pronouncements on climate and environment, will be enabled by incorporating the environmental dimension in all aspects of legal actions. All segments of the legal community must be equipped with the appropriate tools and information about environmental matters. A re-vamping of the legal architecture is a 'sine qua non' for coping with surging litigation on the environment and climate. -- Courtesy Dawn

For a better deal

Dr Niaz Murtaza

As the IMF's most habitual client globally, we often get a dose of the Fund's harsh medicine. Each time, business, civil society and other groups rightly object to an IMF deal's harsh terms, but mostly after it has been struck. As an IMF team will arrive soon for a new deal, they must coordinate to influence deal talks.

Some blame our leaders but others the IMF for harsh deals. The problem starts with our governments — from Musharraf to the PTI. In their zeal to get high GDP growth, they take the faulty path of high fiscal and external deficits and money supply growth, instead of high investment, productivity and exports that require politically costly reforms. That path soon leads to high inflation and falling dollar reserves, and finally to the Fund's door. But just as doctors often mistreat serious diseases caused by bad patient habits, so does the IMF often misdiagnose and mistreat economic ills caused by state policies.

The immediate patient symptoms before the IMF are usually high inflation and falling reserves due to high twin deficits and money supply growth. To stabilise the patient, the IMF usually prescribes higher interest rates, rupee depreciation, higher taxes and cuts in state expenses. All these put a brake on GDP growth, albeit fake, and cause a huge loss of jobs and state services that hurt poor and small businesses more.

In our recent deals from 2000 to 2019, the IMF has also included issues that affect the twin deficits and money supply growth indirectly — State Bank autonomy; state units, circular debt and power

sector reform; exchange rate and tax policy; etc. Even though we were at the peak of economic crises each time and needed major stabilisation, many IMF demands were rightly criticised for their sequence, extent and precise focus.

But things now differ. Economic policy targets macroeconomic stability, growth, equity and sustainability. We already have some stabilisation from the last stand-by IMF deal. Inflation and fiscal deficit are falling; reserves are up and the rupee has been climbing for months. Thus, we need an unorthodox IMF programme. We must not raise interest rates but cut them.

The IMF wants high interest rates to treat both inflation and falling currency and reserves. True, a stable rupee has been achieved via stringent controls on dollar demand for imports, profit repatriation, etc. which are slowing GDP growth. Once these controls are ended to raise GDP growth, reserves and the rupee may fall. But this pressure must be fixed via front-loading about half of IMF flows (and back-loading the rest to ensure compliance) and dollar flows expected from multilateral and bilateral donors rather than high interest rates. This will reduce fiscal deficit and create room for GDP and job growth.

Instead of indirect taxes and development and social spending cuts, the Fund must demand non-essential defence and civilian outlays cuts and increased direct taxes on non-tax sectors and elites. If it signs a deal without this, it would be equally culpable in burdening the poor.

Such steps will help achieve both stability and growth. But durable growth will require more

creative strategies to raise savings, investments, exports and outputs. Our savings must rise, being among the lowest regionally. This means that even for investment for domestic outputs, we often use foreign investment which creates profit repatriation liabilities without export earnings, thus raising our external deficit.

We must ideally use foreign investment for sectors that give export revenues and/or help obtain high-end technical capacities. Increased exports require state-capital col-laboration to enter the high-end export sectors. But growth policies are beyond the IMF's remit, the wrong neoliberal take being that stabilisation will automatically give growth. This raises questions. The IMF must not overdo stabilisation now, to let us follow growth policies. It must ensure equity by requiring big outlays for the poor suffering from years of stagnation.

Beyond specific IMF terms, austerity-linked Fund deals imposed since 1980s don't make sense, unlike earlier condition-free ones. Policy conditions encourage reform-averse states to adopt good policies, but they can't afford them during economic crises when IMF aid must allow counter-cyclical growth policies.

Donors must proactively apply policy conditions linked to bigger aid from bilateral and multilateral donors in normal times when the roots of crises are being laid via faulty state policies. Rich states must also change their unfair global policies that choke growth in poor states. Only then can recipient states achieve stability and equitable growth. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

SATRC on policy, regulation, services starts



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on the matters related to Ministry of Privatisation and Privatisation Commission.

ISLAMABAD (APP): First meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC) on Policy Regulation and Services commenced on Tuesday.

Organized by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and hosted by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), this three-day international meeting convenes regulatory experts and policymakers from Afghanistan, Bangladesh,

Bhutan, Iran, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The meeting started with an inaugural event widely attended by industry and government stakeholders. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) in his welcome address urged the delegates to actively engage in insightful discussions and commend PTA for organizing the workshop. Dr. Khawar Siddique Khokar Member

Compliance & Enforcement PTA who is also the chair of the SATRC Working Group on Policy, Regulation, and Services (PRS) in his address, outlined the meeting's primary objective: fostering the exchange of insights, experiences, and best practices to address challenges, explore opportunities, and finalize initial steps on work items.

Chairman PTA, Major General @ Hafeez Ur Rehman in his inaugural note, underscored the

importance of regional collaboration in addressing common ICT challenges through dialogue and knowledge sharing. He highlighted the importance of learning from each other's experiences to effectively introduce new technologies and services while safeguarding consumer rights and nurturing industry growth.

Shaza Fatima, Minister of State for IT & Telecom who was the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony.

NAVTTTC, KCCI ink Mou for skill development of youth

KARACHI (APP): National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) and Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), Tuesday, joined hands for skill development of youth and making the curriculum consistent to market demand.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was inked, in this regard, here at Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Chairperson NAVTTTC, Gulmina Bilal Ahmed and President KCCI Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh signed the MoU. The MoU is aimed at imparting skill development training to the employees of KCCI affili-

ated industrial units while it also included acquiring of domestic and foreign labour markets. Stressing on the need of creating awareness about the NAVTTTC she informed that currently the commission was regulating more than 5000 training centers across the country with special focus on quality assurance.

Highlighting the measures for ensuring transparency and quality training in the institutes funded by the government, she said that steps were also being taken to install bio-metric system and cameras for monitoring of the institutes.

She urged the vocational and technical training institutes to get international certification and said that internationally certified institutes will be given priority in the NAVTTTC programs aimed at training and skill development of the youth.

KCCI President, speaking on this occasion, underscored the importance of technical training and hoped that signing the MoU with NAVTTTC would benefit the country as well as the business community.



KARACHI: President Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh presents Shield to Chairperson National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) Gulmina Bilal Ahmed after Signing MoU Ceremony between (NAVTTTC) and (KCCI) at KCCI.

Commerce minister orders review of EDF projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Tuesday directed a thorough assessment and analysis of projects funded by the Export Development Fund (EDF) in recent years.

The directive aims to evaluate the initiatives that have bolstered export development and to identify areas for improvement, said a press

release issued here. The ministry of commerce has communicated this directive through a series of letters to various stakeholders involved in EDF-funded projects.

These letters, including one addressed to the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP), underscore the need for detailed progress reports and updates on specific projects.

KP Minister launches online wheat procurement App for farmers, suppliers

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Food, Zahir Shah Toru, announced on Tuesday the launch of an online app for wheat procurement aimed at facilitating farmers and suppliers.

The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has introduced this online app to streamline services for local and provincial farmers and suppliers.

In a video statement, Minister Zahir Shah Toru highlighted that farmers and suppliers can now input information about their available wheat through the app, ultimately aiding the Food Department in its

operations. The online app encompasses all necessary features for wheat procurement, and priority will be given to farmers and suppliers meeting the standards set by the Food Department. Minister Toru emphasized that starting from May 18, wheat procurement will be conducted from those who adhere to SOPs and provide standard wheat.

He mentioned that wheat procurement from local farmers within the province will take place from May 7 to 17. He assured that transparency and merit will be upheld throughout the wheat procurement process.



BEIJING: Executive Vice President of China Three Gorges Corporation (CTG) and Chairman of China Three Gorges International Limited (CTGI) Wu Shengliang called on the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

Barkwa advocates cultivating barren lands to boost agri production

PESHAWAR (APP): Minister for Agriculture, Major (Retd) Sajjad Barkwa, chaired a meeting of the Agriculture Department on Tuesday to discuss the schemes of ADP, AIP, and PSDP for the financial year 2024-25.

The minister received a detailed briefing on both new and ongoing schemes.

He directed the authorities concerned to cultivate barren lands to boost the province's agricultural production.

Shahid Rasheed says: PM restored confidence of lenders, int'l institutions

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the Finance Minister's resolve to sell state-owned firms was commendable, as it would help save trillions of wasted rupees to keep these companies artificially alive.

The country was saved from bankruptcy due to the Prime Minister's efforts, and now the confidence of the international institutions has been restored, he added.

Governor resolves to forge collaboration with KP govt for masses' welfare

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Faisal Karim Kundi Tuesday reaffirmed his commitment to safeguarding the rights of the masses through collaborative efforts with the KP government.

Responding to an issue of law and order in KP, Governor Kundi highlighted the resource constraints faced by the KP police, pointing out disparities in salaries compared to their counterparts in other provinces. He expressed determination to secure maximum support from the federal govt to address problems.

In response to queries regarding political difference with CM KP, the governor emphasized his primary focus on forging coordination and collaboration with the provincial government for the welfare of the masses.

He extended a goodwill gesture to the Chief Minister of KP, inviting him to the Governor's office to prioritize the uplift of the province, and setting aside political differences.

Acknowledging his political mentors, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and Asif Ali Zardari.

that their rights are protected," adding that his intention to prevent the masses from enduring hardships stemming from political discord with the KP government.

He extended an open invitation to all political parties, stating that the doors of the Governor House KP were accessible to workers from across the political spectrum.

In "Meet the Press" program at Multan, the governor said "I assure the people of KP that I will spare no effort to ensure



MULTAN: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi addresses to media persons during Meet the Press program held at Multan press club.

GB Govt takes steps for the well-being of Journalists: CM GB

GILGIT (APP): Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan Tuesday assured the Gilgit-Baltistan Union of Journalists that the government is taking concrete measures to address the problems faced by working journalists in the region.

While talking to a delegation of GB Union of Journalist who called on him, GB Chief Minister said a high-level committee has been formed to ensure the safety and well-being of journalists, which will submit its recommendations within the next 10 days. The committee's work has been expedited, and alternative members have been included to replace those who were unavailable, he added.

Chairman of the Board of Investment and Member of the GB Assembly, Fatahullah Khan, and Special Assistant to the Chief Minister, Hussain Shah, have also been included in the committee to ensure that recommendations are finalized within the given time frame.

ANF seizes 384 kg drugs in 10 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 10 operations across the country managed to recover 384 kg drugs and arrested 10 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday.

He informed that in two different operations at Karachi Airport, 280 grams Ice and 466 grams hashish were recovered from two passengers going to Doha and Bahrain.

Kristin Hawkins inaugurates four restored cultural heritage sites Wazir Khan Mosque

LAHORE (APP): US Consul general to Lahore Kristin Hawkins on Tuesday inaugurated four US-funded restored cultural heritage sites at the Southern-side of the Wazir Khan Mosque including the 17th century tomb of Imam Gammu, six hujras, a central pavilion and the Southeast minaret.

"Dating back to the 17th century, these structures stood as important pieces of Lahore's Mughal Heritage, but over time, neglect and development of the local neighborhood caused significant damage to the buildings," says the plaque dedicated to the citizens of Lahore and inhabitants of the Walled City from the people of the United States. These U.S. Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP-branded) cultural heritage preservation projects have been completed by the Aga Khan Foundation Cultural Services Pakistan (AKFSP) and Walled City of Lahore Authority (WCLA) with a funding of 200,000 dollars.

Kristin Hawkins said it is hoped that the work which has been done to restore the Wazir Khan Mosque will emerge as a strong symbol of Pakistan - United States partnership as well as the respect the US has for the rich and diverse cultural and religious heritage of Pakistan and the respect for the people of Pakistan.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan in a meeting with Chairman Gilgit-Baltistan Service Tribunal Mumtaz Ahmad.

Azad demands concerned quarters to nab culprits behind labourers killing in Gwadar

KHANEWAL (APP): Muhammad Abdul Khair Azad, Chairman of the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee on Tuesday demanded the concerned quarters to nab culprits behind labourers killing in Gwadar.

A handful of terrorists are trying to disrupt law and order situation in the country, he said while talking to journalists after attending funeral prayer of mother of Jameel Khan Pathan, a known political and social figure, in Darul Uloom Eid Gah Kabir walla.

Expressing views on Gwadar tragedy, he said that the killing of innocent labourers in Gwadar is a conspiracy to spread fear and chaos in the country, which will not be allowed at any cost.

Regretting over brutal killing of seven people in Gwadar, he said that he is with the bereaved family in this hour of sorrow. He demanded the concerned quarters to arrest those who are responsible for the murder of innocent labourers.



LAHORE: United States (US) Consul General in Lahore Kristin K. Hawkins visit the Historical place Masjid wazir khan and the Shrine of Imam Gammu after unveiling of plaque of Conservation and Rehabilitation of Southern Side of Wazir Khan Mosque Funded by U.S Department of State and Government of the Punjab.

CECVE, PHILDAT, IRI joins hands to counter violent extremism

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Centre of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism (CECVE), Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (PILDAT) and Islamic Research Institute (IRI), International Islamic University on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to develop joint projects to strengthen local communities in preventing and countering violent extremism.

The MoU was signed by Chief Coordination Officer KP CECVE Dr Ayaz Khan, President PILDAT, Ahmad Bilal Mehboob, and Professor Zia Ul Haq of Islamic Research Institute (IRI) during a ceremony held at Islamabad, said a press release issued here Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Ayaz Khan highlighted the role and efforts of CECVE for the promotion of peace and tolerance in society.

One woman killed, several injured by dacoits in Shikarpur

SHIKARPUR: An other incident of lawlessness occurred in Shikarpur in the jurisdiction of Rustam police station on last late night in which dacoits opened fires on Car which resulted one woman was killed and three others including woman and child got bullet injuries.

According to reports reached here that some group of armed men opened fires upon a car for road robbery when driver did not stopped the vehicle.

As a result of firing, one woman identified as Musamat Shabnam wife of Muhammad Mirza Mangi succumbed to his injuries. While three others including Car driver Abdul Rahman Mahar and one woman and a minor girl caught bullet injured.

The injured were sent to Sukkur hospital for their medical treatment in precarious condition.

The large number of relatives and angry villagers had protested at Police station Rustam and raised slogans for transfer of sitting SHO Khalil Rind and provide them justice.

KP Tourism advisor bans free accommodation for VIPs in Govt rest houses

ABBOTTABAD: The Advisor for Tourism to the Chief Minister KP Zahid Khan Zeb in response to public complaints has announced an immediate ban on the free accommodation of VIP personalities and their families in government rest houses across the province.

The Advisor aims to address concerns raised by the tourists who often struggle to find accommodation in govt rest houses, cottages, and camping pods under the Tourism and Culture Department. Meanwhile, VIPs and their families have been availing these facilities for free, sometimes for extended periods.

Zahid Khan Zeb has also issued notifications to ensure compliance with the ban, directing all relevant authorities including the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority.

Jinnah House attack: ATC grants bail to 7, denies to 3

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday granted post-arrest bail to 7 accused and denied bail to three others in the Jinnah House attack case of the May 9 riots.

ATC Judge Arshad Javed heard the post-arrest bail petitions of the accused and announced the verdict upon completion of arguments by the parties.

The court allowed post-arrest bail petitions of Muhammad Tazeem, Muhammad Qaisar Kamal, Adnan Asghar Butt, Muhammad Imran, Abdul Waqar, Naem Riaz, and Tayyab Gulzar and ordered them to furnish surety bonds of Rs 100,000 each.

International News

Israel pushes into north, south Gaza as toll surpasses 35,000

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: The death toll from Israel's military offensive on Gaza since Oct7 has crossed 35,000, according to the health ministry, as Israel's forces pushed further into north and south corners of the besieged enclave for fresh assault.

In a statement on Monday, the Gaza health ministry put the death toll at 35,091, with 57 killed in the past 24 hours.

Israeli forces pushed deep into the ruins of Gaza's northern edge on Monday to recapture an area where they claimed to have dismantled Hamas months ago, while in the south, tanks and troops pushed across a highway into Rafah.

Israeli operations in Rafah, which borders Egypt, have closed a main crossing point for aid, which humanitarian groups say is worsening an already dire situation.

Gaza's health authority on Monday appealed for international pressure to reopen access via the southern border to allow in aid and medical supplies. "The wounded and sick suffer a slow death because there is no treatment and supplies and they cannot travel," it said.

In northern Gaza's Abajia camp, residents fled along rubble-strewn streets carrying bags of belongings. Tank shells landed in the centre of the camp and airstrikes destroyed clusters of houses, they said. Health officials said they had recovered 20 bodies of

Palestinians killed in overnight airstrikes.

"We don't know where to go. We have been displaced from one place to the next... We are running in the streets. I saw it with my own eyes. I saw the tank and the bulldozer. It is on that street," said one woman, who did not give her name. Attending a Memorial Day ceremony to mark Israel's fallen soldiers in Jerusalem on Monday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the war against Hamas is a struggle to secure Israel's "existence, liberty, security and prosperity." In Rafah, Israel stepped up aerial and ground bombardments on the eastern areas of the city, killing people in an airstrike on a house.



Palestinians carry the dead body of a child recovered from under the rubble of a house hit in an Israeli strike, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, in Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip.

Turkey says to apply to intervene in ICJ genocide case against Israel

Monitoring Desk KHARKIV: Two teachers met them with a smile at the steel door, and down the concrete staircase the mother and daughter clattered, hand in hand, through another blast door and into the bunker for the first day of school.

Hundreds of children began lessons this week in Ukraine's first purpose-built bunker school, 6 metres (20 feet) below the ground to protect them from Russian drone and missile attacks.

Kharkiv's primary school 155 is reached through a door in a small white concrete box on the pavement. At the bottom of the stairs classrooms branch off a corridor. There are no windows, but the rooms are brightly lit and the hallways painted in white and lime green.

Ukraine's second-biggest city, located in the country's northeast near the Russian border, has been under relentless Russian attack since Moscow's invasion was halted at its ramparts 26 months ago.

US ban on Russian-enriched uranium imports begins Aug 11

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: A US ban on imports of enriched uranium from Russia will take effect on Aug. 11, the Department of Energy said on Tuesday. The ban, signed into law by President Joe Biden on Monday, allows waivers in case nuclear power plants have supply issues. The waivers will end on or before Jan 1, 2028.

It was the latest move by Washington aimed at reducing revenues available to Russian President Vladimir Putin to fight the war in Ukraine.

White House does not see Gaza killings as genocide

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: US national security adviser Jake Sullivan said on Monday that President Joe Biden's administration did not view the killings of Palestinians in Gaza by Israel as genocide.

Sullivan, speaking to reporters at the White House, said the United States wants to see Hamas defeated, that Palestinians facing the brunt of Israeli onslaught were in "hell", and that a major military operation by Israel in Rafah would be a mistake.

"We do not believe what is happening in Gaza is a genocide. We have been firmly on record rejecting that proposition," Sullivan said.

Biden, who is running for re-election this year, has faced heavy criticism from his own supporters domestically for his support of Israel; some of those critics have accused Israel of committing genocide.

Reiterating a comment Biden made on Saturday, Sullivan said there could be a ceasefire in Gaza now if Hamas would release prisoners.

The world should be calling on Hamas to return to the negotiating table and accept a deal, Sullivan said.

The United States is working urgently for a ceasefire and prisoner release deal, Sullivan said. He said he could not predict when or if such a deal would be sealed.



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken watches Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky greet US Ambassador to Ukraine Bridget Brink prior to their meeting in Kyiv.

Singapore's incoming PM makes minor cabinet reshuffle, seeks 'continuity and stability'

Monitoring Desk SINGAPORE: Singapore's incoming prime minister Lawrence Wong appointed a new deputy premier in a minor reshuffle of the cabinet on Monday, as he gears up to become the city-state's fourth leader since its independence six decades ago.

Trade Minister Gan Kim Yong was given the additional role of deputy

Clashes break out in Afghanistan over poppy crop clearing

Monitoring Desk FAIZABAD: Clashes broke out on Monday between Taliban forces tasked with clearing poppy crops and farmers in Afghanistan's northeastern Badakhshan province, residents said. Poppy cultivators threw rocks and demanded Taliban security units not destroy their crops, said Jamaluddin, a resident of Barlas Shalmar village in the Argo district of Badakhshan whose name has been changed for security reasons.

In response, Taliban authorities fired their guns to disperse villagers, Jamaluddin, who witnessed the incident, said. An nurse at a medical facility in Argo said the clinic received "two dead and nine wounded people" from the Barlas area — a string of three neighbouring villages. A statement from the Taliban's army unit in Badakhshan said there had been protests to prevent poppy clearing in Argo.

Modi files candidacy for parliamentary seat in India's election in holy city Varanasi

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: Cheering crowds greeted Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday as he submitted his candidacy for a Hindu holy city's parliamentary seat in a general election his party is strongly favoured to win.

Modi remains roundly popular in India, in large part due to his cultivated image as an aggressive champion of the country's majority faith.

Varanasi is the spiritual capital of Hinduism, where devotees from around India come to cremate deceased loved ones by the Ganges river, and the premier has represented the city since sweeping to power a decade ago.

"I swear on God... I will have faith and allegiance to India's constitution," Modi said before handing over the paperwork to an election registrar, flanked by a Hindu mystic dressed in a loin cloth.

Melinda to leave Gates Foundation, receive \$12.5bn

Monitoring Desk LOS ANGELES: Melinda French Gates on Monday announced she was leaving the mega philanthropy foundation which she established with her ex-husband (the co-founder of Microsoft), Bill Gates.

The resignation, which will come into effect on June 7, will leave Bill Gates as the sole chair of one of the world's most influential and powerful non-governmental organisations.

Belousov says Russia must win in Ukraine while minimising casualties

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russia's main task is to achieve victory on the battlefield in Ukraine with the minimal loss of troops, incoming defence minister Andrei Belousov said on Tuesday.

Belousov, an economist whom President Vladimir Putin unexpectedly nominated on Sunday to replace Sergei Shoigu, said the military sector needed more efficiency and innovation in order to achieve its goals. "The key task, of course, remains achieving victory. Ensuring the achievement of the military-political goals of the special military operation, set by the president. At the same time - I want to specifically emphasise this - with minimal human losses," he told a parliamentary hearing.

His comments were striking because Russian officials rarely discuss casualties in the war except to praise the heroism of fallen soldiers.

Neither Russia nor Ukraine publishes details of their dead and wounded. But Western military analysts say Russia, with a population more than three times larger than Ukraine's, has shown itself much more willing to incur heavy casualties for the sake of even incremental gains. Russian officials say such analysis, as it comes from the West, is neither objective nor accurate. Belousov presented himself as a man of integrity, telling parliamentarians: "I have always been, and will be, guided by the reinforced concrete principle 'You can make mistakes (but) you can't lie.'" Belousov, who has no military experience, has been tasked by Putin with maximising efficiencies in Russia's war economy as its troops.

Nazeer Tarar says: Uniform policy pursued to combat power pilferage

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government's commitment to resolving issues faced by the people at the Chaman border. He said that the public has elected representatives to advocate for their concerns and formulate solutions within parliament. He said that it is the collective responsibility of all stakeholders to address the public's challenges. The minister expressed the government's determination to tackle issues affecting the Provincially Administered Tribal Areas (PATA) and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). He acknowledged the sacrifices made by these regions and announced that funds have been allocated to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) for the development of areas affected by terrorism.

AGP denies impression of interference in judiciary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP), Mansoor Usman Awan on Tuesday strongly denied the impression of interference in the powers of judiciary by any institution. Addressing a press conference here, he said that a wrong impression was made on a letter written to the chief justice of Islamabad High Court (IHC). He said that it was a wrong impression that if there was a conflict between executive and judiciary. The AGP said that it



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori addressing unveiling ceremony of Pakistan's first hybrid vehicle organized by NUST.

If elected to 15-nation body for 2025-26 term Pakistan to push for implementation of UNSC resolutions

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has told a United Nations-affiliated forum that it's bid for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the term 2025-26 was aimed at promoting adherence to the world body's Charter and seeking faithful implementation of UN Security Council resolutions as well as international law, among other objectives. "Pakistan has consistently manifested its commitment to the Charter's vision of preventing war and promoting peace; fostering global prosperity; and promoting universal respect for human rights," Ambassador Usman Jadoon, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, said during a debate on the forthcoming election to the 15-member Council, organized by the World Federation of UN Associations (WFUNA) at the UN headquarters in New York on Monday.

Founded in 1946 as a Federation of national associations, WFUNA works to promote the values of the UN Charter, defend multilateralism, and raise awareness on the main pillars of work of the United Nations—peace and security, sustainable development, and human rights. "If elected to the Council, Pakistan will continue its efforts in the same vein to promote a peaceful and equitable world order that responds to the needs and priorities of all nations," the Pakistani envoy said in presenting Islamabad's vision and priorities as a Security Council member.

Pakistan has served on the Council seven times in the past, once in every decade starting from the 1950s, with the last term in 2012-2013. "In each of our previous tenures," Ambassador Jadoon said, "Pakistan contributed actively to promote outcomes aligned with the UN Charter, supporting fair and just decisions on conflicts and disputes, and projecting the aspirations and interests of all Member States, in particular, of the developing countries."

The Security Council is currently composed of five permanent members—Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States—and 10 non-permanent members elected to serve for two years. In his remarks, Ambassador Jadoon underscored the importance of addressing violations of the UN Charter principles, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, escalating conflicts, geopolitical tensions, and the repercussions of climate change. He also noted the emergence of new technological domains of conflict.

Announces to visit Muzaffarabad PM expresses deep grief over loss of lives in AJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday expressed his deep grief and sorrow over loss of lives during the protest incidents in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and announced that he would visit Muzaffarabad within few days to hold further consultations over the issue. Addressing the participants of the federal cabinet meeting, the prime minister said that it was a matter of immense pain that few people lost their lives during the protest, besides damage caused to buildings. "It was a very unfortunate incident," he said, adding that a police officer also lost his life, besides a number of personnel of law enforcement agencies were also hurt. The prime minister and the members of the cabinet also offered Fateha for the departed souls.



KARACHI: Ameer-e-Jamaat-e-Islami, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman holding a press conference at Idara Noor-ul-Haq in the Provincial Capital.

JI chief demands CJ to take suo-moto notice against poll rigging

KARACHI (INP): Ameer-e-Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman has demanded of the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) to take suo-moto notice against poll rigging. Addressing a press conference at Idara Noor-e-Haq on Tuesday, he warned that Azad Kashmir like situation can be erupted across Pakistan if the unreturned Form 47 was not addressed. Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman said that everyone knows that the incumbent government has been formed on fraudulent mandate and by tampering Form 47. All the stakeholders of the state should retreat to their constitutional positions as this was the only way forward to put the country on track, he added. The JI chief made it clear that the "advanced engineering" of the general elections was the worst kind of rigging and it was lethal for the democratic process. Talking about the JI's strategy towards the prevailing situation, he said that a peaceful resistance by the public is the only best available option to rectify the state of affairs. The JI, he said, was planning for mass mobilization to address the issues. Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman said that the JI will unite the nation to rise a collective voice for rights and any attempt to suppress the voice will not be tolerated.



KARACHI: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf in a group photo along with Air Vice Marshal Amir Shahzad, President Air War College Institute and faculty members during his visit PAF Base Faisal in Karachi.

Syed Zulfiqar ali shah Internationally renowned Sufi Singer Abida Parveen will lead the Sindh talent hunt program

Independent Report KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Culture, Tourism, Antiquities and Archives Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah met internationally renowned Sufi singer Abida Parveen and discussed Sindh Talent Hunt and other issues for the promotion of culture and tourism. He said that the youth of



Sindh have immense potential, but they need a real platform to express their potential, which the Sindh Culture and Tourism Department will provide to them. The world-renowned legend Abida Parveen is the ambassador of Pakistan's recognition and our ancient culture in the whole world, which is an institution itself, he added. Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah said Abida Parveen's presence in the talent hunt program will be a source of encouragement for the youth, while we also try to help the new talent in Sindh to learn from a legendary artist like Abida Parveen. Her support will be no less than an honor for Sindh. He also invited Abida Parveen to visit Sindh Institute of Music and Performance Art Jamshoro.

D.C Larkana speed up crackdown against illegal Attae doctors

LARKANA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Larkana on Tuesday strongly instructed the health officials to speed up the action against private/quack doctors, illegal laboratories and blood banks in the district. While presiding over a meeting with health department officials, in which District Health Officer Dr. Shoukat Abro Larkana, anti-quackery team and other health department officials attended the meeting. In meeting District Health Officer briefed about crackdown of quack doctors, unregistered/unauthorized laboratories, and illegally Blood banks. He informed about the action has taken against them. The DC told the officials that the clinics of Attai doctors should be closed in the whole district, anything illegal will not be tolerated. He directed the officials to seal the illegal blood banks and laboratories as no one would be spared.



KARACHI: Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA) Vice Chairman, Chaudhry Israr Sharif presenting a shield to Prof. Mohammad Raza Shah in recognition of being awarded the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz during reception ceremony hosted by United Medical and Dental College, held in Karachi. Dr. Danish Faiz Muhammad, Syed Farooq Bukhari, Dr. Bilal Faiz Khan are also present.

ADC-II Tharparkar chairs meeting, emphasized importance of iodized salt

HYDERABAD (APP): The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) II Tharparkar Muhammad Usman Khaskheli on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the District Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control committee formed to control the diseases caused by iodine deficiency. According to a hand-out, ADC-II while addressing the meeting said that iodine was an important nutritional component for good health and complete mental development, while the daily use of iodized salt was extremely important for creating a healthy and intelligent nation. He added that iodine was neither naturally produced nor stored in the human body, so its regular use was very crucial to meet the requirement of iodine. The human body requires an average of 50 to 250 micrograms of iodine per day, so there was a need to raise awareness among people in this regard, he added. He directed the officials of the health department to organize an awareness seminar in this regard so that the common people can get awareness about the benefits of using iodized salt.

AC visits vegetable market to review arrangements SUKKUR (APP): Assistant Commissioner (AC) Sukkur, Sobia Rao Fak on Tuesday conducted an extensive tour of the fruit and vegetable market of the city to oversee arrangements. He reviewed the auction process of fruits and vegetables, particularly watermelons and bananas. The Price Magistrate briefed the assistant commissioner about market operations and auction activities.

Malraia awareness ceremony observed in Larkana

LARKANA (APP): On the Directives of Health Minister Sindh Azra Fazul Pechuho, the District Health Officer Larkana on Tuesday organized an awareness ceremony about the prevention of Malaria disease in Begum Nusrat Bhuto Auditorium Hall. The special guests in the ceremony were District Health Officer Dr. Shoukat Abro, Chairman of District Council Larkana Aijaz Ahmed Leghari, Assistant Commissioner Larkana Raja Darya Khan Qureshi, Additional District Health Officer Muhammad Ali Bhutto, Dr. Farhan Ali Jokio, Focal Person.

Every one to play his role to make special children useful members of society

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Shehryar Gul Memon Tuesday paid a surprise visit to Government Special Education and Rehabilitation Complex and Vocational Technical Institute Nawabshah and met the special children and also checked the presence of teachers and staff at the center. Deputy Commissioner Shahryar Gul Memon expressed his satisfaction with the better arrangements on behalf of the center administration and said that every section of the society has to play its role to make special children and persons useful members of the society. While giving instructions to the in-charge of the center, he said that special attention should be paid to the education and training of special children so that they can serve the country and the nation by becoming good citizens. He inspected the various sections and classes and the staff room. Regional Director Ghulam Murtaza Chanar gave detailed information about the provision of other facilities including education.

ABAD delegation pledges full support to DG SBCA in crackdown against illegal construction

Independent Report KARACHI: The Association of Builders and Developers (Abad) recently held an important meeting with Director General Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA), Abdul Rasheed Solangi, to address pertinent issues facing the construction industry. Led by Chairman ABAD Asif Sumsum, Senior Vice chairman Ibrahim Habib, Vice Chairman Zeeshan Siddique, Chairman Southern Region Mustafa Shaikhani and former chairman Muhammad Hassan Bakshi. During the meeting, the Abad delegation highlighted various challenges encountered by the construction industry, emphasizing the importance of col-



laboration between the private sector and regulatory authorities. Chairman Asif Sumsum underscored the significance of streamlined communication and cooperation to ensure the sustainable growth of the construction sector. Director General SBCA, Abdul Rasheed Solangi, commended Abad's proactive approach and reiterated the authority's commitment to combating illegal constructions within the city. Solangi emphasized a zero-tolerance policy towards any form of unauthorized construction activity, stressing the importance of adherence to regulatory guidelines for the safety and integrity of structures.

Nadeem-ur-Rehman Memon says: Concerned development authorities being sensitized to prepare a development plan on the plots allocated to the journalists

Independent Report KARACHI: Secretary Information Department Nadeem-ur-Rehman Memon said that the issues of Journalists and Press Clubs to be resolved on the priority as per given mandate of Sindh Information Department, this he said while presiding 5th follow-up meeting of the members of the committee to resolve the issues of journalists of Karachi



Press Club (KPC), was held in his office on Tuesday. He said that concerned development authorities are being sensitized to prepare a development plan on the plots allocated to the journalists. In meeting, the Secretary Information suggested the Director General (DG) Malir Development Authority (MDA) Najabuddin Sahito, to hold a meeting with the office bearers of KPC to streamline the allotment of the plots and the development of KPC Journalists

Housing Society at Taiser Town, Malir. President KPC Saeed Sarbazi and Secretary KPC Shob Ahmed briefed about the development issues of the allotted land and also the issue of additional allotment of 700 plots to the KPC Journalists Housing Society. On this occasion, Director General (DG) Layar Development Authority (LDA) Syed Shabul Hassan told in meeting that PC-I of development plan of more than 1380 plots of Block 2, 3, 3A, 3A1 and Block 68 of KPC Journalists Housing Society has been submitted to the Local Government for the release of funds. Secretary Information while concluding the meeting said that necessary further correspondence to be made in the light of the meeting by and to all the concerned departments like land utilization department.

Govt to open three day Satryoon Sang Crafts Exhibition in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): The works of over 3,545 female artisans from different districts of Sindh are being displayed at the 15th 'Satryoon Sang Crafts' exhibition at Dolmen Mall Clifton, Karachi. The exhibition will open to the public on Wednesday May 15th and will run till Sunday, 17th 2024. The three-day exhibition is going to organize by the Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO) in collaboration with the Sindh Government to display the work of female artisans from rural Sindh and aims to provide them with market linkages. Mayor Karachi, Barister Murtaza Wahab will inaugurate the exhibition on 5pm (Wednesday). Different stalls have been set up in the mall's main foyer that exhibit garments, Ajrak, furniture, decoration pieces, leather handbags, bed sheets and other traditional items. SRSO arranges such exhibitions from the last fifteen years in which visitors taken keen interest in handmade household goods and other traditional products.

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