

# Independent

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## Sindh CM reviews progress on 7 mega projects

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Sunday paid visit to seven different under-construction projects, reviewed its progress and removed bottlenecks causing delays in the completion of Malir Expressway and Karimabad Underpass.

The CM expressed his displeasure over the shifting of K-Electric and Sui Gas Company's installations, which have caused a delay in the completion of the Malir Expressway.

He suspended SHO Korangi for his failure to stop dumping debris and garbage along Korangi Causeway and directed SSP Korangi to personally monitor the area where different projects Malir Expressway, New Jam Sadiq Bridge and Korangi Causeway Bridge were being constructed.

The CM was accompanied by provincial ministers Sharjeel Inam Memon, Syed Nasir Shah, Saeed Ghani and Mayor

Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Chairman of P&D Najam Shah, Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi, Secretary Local Govt Khalid Hyder Shah, Secretary Transport Asad Zamin, Project Director Malir Expressway Niaz Soomro, PD Mega Projects Tariq Mughal and Engineer Khalid Masroor briefed the chief minister during his visit to different projects.

The CM was told that the Malir Expressway project was 38,661 km starting from Jam Sadiq Bridge to Kathore at M9 was started on May 12, 2022 and its completion period was 26 months. It is a three-plus three (six-lane) project and would have six interchanges. To a question, Niaz Soomro told the CM that the progress of Malir expressway segment-I from Korangi to Quidabad has 70 per cent physical progress while segment-II from Quidabad to Kathore has 30 per cent.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori balloting for giving laptop to 25 lucky students at IT Marquee.

## Tarar says Bishkek situation normal; political party misrepresenting incident

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture Attaullah Tarar has said that a political party is misrepresenting the Kyrgyzstan incident. He said that the situation in Bishkek has returned to normal, and those spreading fake images of casualties should fear Allah.

Addressing a joint press conference along with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Federal Minister for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Ameer Muqam here on Sunday, he said that no Pakistani student had died in Bishkek; the incident was misreported, and any condemnation was insufficient. The Federal Minister of Information stated that when a clash had occurred between two student

groups in Bishkek, Pakistani students got caught up in the conflict, although they were not the target. He mentioned that when the incident had occurred, the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Office immediately took action, and the government promptly activated an emergency response cell at the Foreign Ministry. The Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister have been continuously monitoring the situation moment by moment for the past two days. Currently, six Pakistani students are receiving treatment in three different hospitals, he added.

The Federal Minister said that propaganda was launched by a political party, where a photo of a Bangladeshi student was used to depict a Pakistani student.



MAKKAHAL-MUKARRAMA: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain meeting with CEO Rehlat Manafea Company Ahmed Abdullatif Tammar during his visit.

## No compromise on provision of best quality facilities to Pakistani pilgrims: Salik

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain Sunday assured that no compromise will be made on provision of best possible facilities of food, accommodation, cleanliness, transport and healthcare to Pakistani pilgrims during this year's hajj. "This year's Hajj would be exemplary for Pakistani pilgrims, offering facilities that were not available in the past", he said in an interview with PTV news channel.

He mentioned that accommodations, meals, and transportation, along with all basic necessities, had been standardized.

Minister said that the strict monitoring system would also be adopted and effective round the clock.

"Apart from the food flavor, food cleanliness and safety are also essential to keep in mind while serving the hajjis. Hence, our monitoring will encompass food preparation until the distribution processes," he remarked. An online app has been launched to train pilgrims from Pakistan to Hajj e Baitullah and provide them guidance for every step, he said. The Minister said a complaint management system is also part of the app to resolve the complaints of the pilgrims immediately.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah being briefed about the progress of under construction Bakhtiari Sports Complex at District Central during his inspection visit, in Karachi.

## Iran presidential helicopter in 'accident', search underway: state media

Official says lives of Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian "at risk; Harsh weather conditions and heavy fog have made it difficult for rescue teams to reach accident site, says state TV"



TEHRAN (AFP/APP): A helicopter carrying Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi was involved in "an accident" in poor weather conditions on Sunday, state media reported, with a

search underway and no news yet on his condition.

"An accident happened to the helicopter carrying the president" in the Jofa region of the western province of East Azerbaijan, state television said.

Search and rescue team were headed to the remote mountain area, state media in the Islamic republic reported, adding that Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian was also aboard the aircraft.

"The harsh weather conditions and heavy fog have made it difficult for the rescue teams to reach the accident site," state TV said in an on-screen news alert.

State TV broadcast footage of an Iranian Red Crescent team walking up a slope in thick fog, as well as live footage of crowds of worshippers reciting prayers in the holy Shrine of Imam Reza in the city Mashhad, Raisi's hometown.

Sunday's accident happened in the mountain-

ous protected forest area of Dizmar near the town of Varzaghan, said the official IRNA news agency.

Raisi, 63, was visiting the province Sunday where he inaugurated a dam project together with his Azeri counterpart, Ilham Aliyev, on the border between the two countries.

His convoy included three helicopters, and the other two had "reached their destination safely," according to Tasnim news agency.

## Turkish FM Hakan Fidan arrives on official visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister of Türkiye Hakan Fidan arrived here Sunday on a two-day official visit to Pakistan.

He was received by Additional Foreign Secretary (Afghanistan & West Asia) Ambassador Ahmed Naseem Warraich.

Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan will call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and hold extensive discussions with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, a Foreign Office statement said.

## Home Minister orders detailed inquiry into Paariya Kumari murder

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hasan Lanjar has directed DIGP South Karachi for a detailed inquiry into the murder of Paariya Kumari here on Sunday.

The dead body of the girl was recovered from a bungalow of DHA Karachi.

The Sindh Home Minister expressed his grief over the incident. He also sought details of the incident, which had been collected so far.

## China invested in Pakistan in difficult times: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal has said that China invested in Pakistan under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project when the country was passing through difficult times, which helped to turnaround the local economy and put it on the sustainable growth and development trajectory.

"When China decided to invest \$25 billion in Pakistan, this is [in] 2013, when we had 18 hours of power shortages and frequent suicide bombings at that time they decided to come to Pakistan and support Pakistan," he stated in an interview with VOA. This shows they have trust and confidence in Pakistan, he said adding that recent bullish performance of the country's stock exchange showed that the local investors had full confidence in the direction the government was following.

## Social media spreading misinformation about Kyrgyzstan situation: Dar

Deputy PM assures support for victims of Bishkek incident

LAHORE (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar expressed his regret over the unfortunate incident in Bishkek, emphasizing that the government stands firmly with the victims during this challenging time.

At a press conference

held on Sunday, alongside Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar and Federal Minister for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs Ameer Muqam, Dar reassured that medical treatment for injured Pakistani students is a top priority.

He confirmed that all students are safe and stated that the incident stemmed from a misunderstanding, with false information being circulated on social media for political purposes.

"The Bishkek incident was due to a misunderstanding, and various nationalities including Pakistani, Indian, Bangladeshi, and Arab students were affected. False reports are being spread on social media, which is disgusting," said Dar. He clarified that misleading information, such as mislabeling a Bangladeshi student's picture as Pakistani, is being propagated. He dismissed claims of assault against a female student as unfounded, citing confirmation from the Kyrgyz government.

He highlighted the immediate response by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stating, "An emergency unit was activated right after the incident."



LAHORE: Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar and Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit-Baltistan Amir Maqam addressing a press conference.

## IK should be released before waiting for someone's phone call, says Mushahid Hussain

Says Political instability won't bring economic stabilization

KARACHI (Online): Muslim League (N) leader Mushahid Hussain Syed has once again demanded the release of political prisoners and said that Imran Khan should be released before waiting for someone's phone.

Those who claim to be a one-man show fail whether they are military or civilians. We keep crying that there is a conspiracy, but in reality we can't do anything, now we have to stop crying and do practical work. The solution of the problem is within Pakistan, the whole world is ready to invest in Pakistan.

Addressing the conference

held under Karachi Council of Foreign Affairs on Pakistan-Africa relations and talking to the media, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed said that all the political prisoners should be released.

He further said that Pakistan has historical relationship with Africa. The relationship should not be limited to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs but should also promote the trade relations. Pakistan has worked in different parts of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. It was predicted that 'the spirit is there in the nation but the leadership is a little weak.'



Foreign Minister of Türkiye Hakan Fidan arrives in Islamabad. He was received by Additional Foreign Secretary (Afghanistan & West Asia) Ambassador Ahmed Naseem Warraich at Nur Khan Airbase.

## COAS, Australian defence chief vow to continuing collaboration on various defence-related initiatives

General Angus J. Campbell expresses his admiration for the high professional standards maintained by the Pakistan Armed Forces

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Defence Forces Australia General Angus J. Campbell called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Pakistan, the

flecting the deepening strategic partnership between Australia and Pakistan, the statement added.

General Campbell expressed his profound admiration for the high professional standards of the Pa-



military's media wing said on Sunday.

In a statement released by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the discussions between the two military leaders focused on the global and regional security environment, as well as avenues for enhanced cooperation.

Both generals stressed their mutual commitment to expanding military-to-military cooperation, re-

kistan Armed Forces. He lauded their remarkable achievements in combating terrorism and acknowledged their ongoing efforts to foster regional peace and stability.

The ISPR added that the meeting concluded with both leaders reaffirming their dedication to continuing collaboration on various defence-related initiatives, aiming to bolster peace and security in the region.

## PM for necessary arrangements to bring back students from Kyrgyz Republic

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday contacted Ambassador of Pakistan in the Kyrgyz Republic Hassan Ali Zaigham and directed him for making necessary arrangements for a special flight being sent to Bishkek this evening to bring back Pakistani students.

The special aeroplane will bring back 130 students to Pakistan on Sunday night, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

At the instructions of the prime minister, the government of Pakistan will bear all the expenses of the special plane.

The prime minister directed for keeping continuous contacts with all the students and their families, emphasizing that the return of injured students should be a priority.

He further asked for bringing back those students back whose families were residing with them in Kyrgyzstan on urgent basis.

The ambassador of Pakistan Zaigham apprised the prime minister of his meeting with the Kyrgyz deputy foreign minister. According to Kyrgyz authorities, the situation was under control and no new incident of violence took place in the last two days. Security measures had been enhanced and the foreign students including Pakistanis were safe.

The prime minister directed that despite return of normalcy in Bishkek, those students should be facilitated who wanted to return to Pakistan.

A number of students have already returned from Kyrgyzstan on Sunday via commercial flights.



Federal Minister & Senator Dr Mudadik Malik received Pakistani students upon their return from Kyrgyzstan in Islamabad.

## MQM-P calls meeting to discuss 'budget proposals'

KARACHI (INP): The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has summoned an emergency meeting to discuss budget proposals ahead of federal budget 2024.

The meeting will focus on development schemes for Karachi and Hyderabad. MQM-P will present its proposals for increased funding for the cities, including for education, health, and law and order, sources added.

The meeting will also discuss the Safe City project and transportation budget, with MQM-P seeking to increase funding for these initiatives.

Former Finance Minister Sardar Ahmed has also been invited to the meeting, where he will share his views on the budget and development schemes.

The Pakistan government will likely present its federal budget for the next fiscal year 2024-25 on June 7, with an estimated total expenditure of Rs 16,700 billion.

The government will present the budget 2024 with one eye on precarious economic conditions and the other on 24<sup>th</sup> 'longer and larger' bailout programme of International Monetary Fund (IMF).

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Border clashes

The Pakistan-Afghanistan frontier has witnessed another series of flare-ups, this time in the Kurram tribal district that borders several Afghan provinces. The hostilities indicate the need for better border management from both sides, so that minor disputes do not descend into armed exchanges. Thankfully a ceasefire was agreed to on Saturday, with the border reopening. Earlier, those living in border villages had moved to safer locales as forces from both states traded fire. Trade activities at the Kharlachi crossing had also been suspended. The trigger for the escalation remains unclear. Though the Taliban remained tight-lipped, Afghan media claimed a number of "civilians" had lost their lives in the clashes, which had been continuing for several days but intensified on Friday.

Pakistan's cross-border issues with Afghanistan are of two kinds. The first involves direct hostilities between security forces of both nations. The second element is that of cross-border terrorism perpetrated in Pakistan by militant groups that have apparently found sanctuary in Afghanistan. Both these outstanding issues need to be resolved in order to ensure mutual security. While some in official circles had felt that security would improve after the Western-backed government in Kabul fell and the Taliban took over, this has not been the case. Ever since the August 2021 fall of Kabul, cross-border security has remained tenuous. The number of incidents over the past several months is numerous. For example, the Torkham crossing has remained closed for days on end due to various disputes. Sometimes these closures have taken a violent turn, with security forces trading fire. Pakistan has also struck reported terrorist sanctuaries in Afghanistan; the last major such incident took place in March after a number of security personnel were martyred in a North Waziristan ambush. Meanwhile, a terrorist incursion in Chitral was thwarted by security forces in September last year.

While Pakistan has communicated its "deepest concerns" to Kabul regarding the latest hostilities, there is a need to work with the de facto Afghan government to ensure the western border remains peaceful. Local-level disputes at the frontier need to be resolved by area commanders and officials before they deteriorate into exchanges of fire. Moreover, the Afghan side must realise that the Durand Line is the border, and change in its status is non-negotiable from the Pakistani point of view. The issue of cross-border terrorism is more complicated. While the Taliban authorities may be in denial about the presence of militants on Afghan soil, securing the border — and ensuring no anti-Pakistan terrorists are able to threaten this country's security from the Afghan side — is the Taliban's responsibility. While it may appear that Islamabad's antiterrorism concerns are not being seriously entertained by Kabul, the state must continue to use diplomatic channels to communicate its views.

## Environmental Issues in Quetta and its solution



By Romisa Shah

Air pollution due to dust and particulate matters.

Natural environment and geography of Quetta contribute to dry and dusty atmosphere.

Limited rainfall and wind patterns exacerbate dust particles in the air.

Urban sprawl and population growth encroachment on green land, leading to soil erosion and increased dust.

Construction activities and traffic emissions worsen air quality.

**Solutions:**

**Implement dust-reducing measures:** water sprinkling, tree planting, and soil stabilization

**Promote sustainable urban planning:** green spaces, parks, and gardens

**Encourage eco-friendly transportation:** the public transport, cycling, and electric vehicles

sions regulations and standards for vehicles and industries

Educate citizens about environmental conservation and individual actions to reduce pollution

Develop and implement effective waste management and recycling systems

Support research and development of innovative solutions for Quetta's unique environmental challenges

By addressing these issues and implementing these solutions, Quetta can mitigate the effects of environmental pollution and preserve its natural beauty for future generations.

**Air pollution:** Pakistan is the world's third-most polluted country when it comes to air quality. This is because of industrial activities, vehicle emissions, and the burning of garbage and plastic.

**Water pollution:** Pakistan is classified as a water-stressed nation. The country's rivers are polluted by industrial effluent, untreated

sewage, and the overuse of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

**Climate change:** Pakistan is highly vulnerable to climate change. The country has experienced extreme weather events like droughts, floods, and heatwaves.

**Deforestation:** Pakistan's forests are depleting at an alarming rate due to the lack of self-sufficiency in the wood-based products sector.

**Waste management:** Pakistan lacks effective waste management systems, leading to pollution and health problems.

**Industrial pollution:** Industrial activities in Pakistan release harmful chemicals into the environment, contributing to air and water pollution.

**Transportation pollution:** Vehicle emissions are a significant contributor to air pollution in Pakistan's cities.

**Agricultural pollution:** The use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture has contaminated soil and water resources.

## Good governance

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

Successive governments, both elected and military, have failed to provide good governance to Pakistan. A perfect storm created by chronic political instability, inconsistent economic policies, weak institutions, pervasive corruption, and lack of accountability has hit our country. Add to that the gross mismanagement of scarce resources, the accumulation of unsustainable debt, and pathetic public service delivery, and it is no wonder that Pakistanis are losing trust in their government and state institutions. Inequitable distribution of resources has created horizontal and vertical disparities. Millions of people have fallen below the poverty line. There is no social justice or equal opportunity. Nor are people's basic needs being met or their human rights being respected.

Experts have written on what ails governance in Pakistan. Studies have advised on how to extricate our economy from poor governance. However, if one were to identify the root cause of these ills, it is not the economy but the way parliamentary democracy is practised here.

Take, for instance, the role of a ruling party MNA who has spent a certain amount of money on elections. Ostensibly, his (or her) priorities would include: recovering the amount spent on the poll campaign, securing contracts and government jobs for his constituents; getting an executive position; and ensuring that the local government system does not take root lest development funds move out of his domain and end up with LG representatives. None of these priorities relate to his actual responsibility of negotiating and legislating on

public interest issues.

It is essentially no different if this MNA is in the opposition. He would have to find a way to recoup the funds spent on his election campaign, or team up with like-minded colleagues to bring the government down. Legislation is the least of his priorities.

The prime minister is a hostage to the MNAs. If he does not facilitate the allocation of sufficient development funds for them, he runs the risk of a vote of no-confidence. To remain in power, he looks around to seek help from other state institutions — the bureaucracy, judiciary, army — rather than leading them as chief executive of the country or inspiring their confidence to work within their respective mandates.

Such a fragile political system cannot deliver good governance. One may ask why the parliamentary form of governance works well in countries like Japan, Italy and the Netherlands, where politics is nearly as unpredictable as it is in Pakistan. A major reason is that these countries have not experienced military interventions in recent history, and the governance system has refined itself over electoral cycles. The other reason is that their state institutions, particularly the bureaucracy, judiciary, and the armed forces, are not politicised, and maintain their independence and meritocracy. An efficient and competent civil service coupled with an impartial judiciary is the steel frame that ensures the rule of law. If these two institutions are functioning on the basis of merit, governance remains functional regardless of which political party is in power.

For Pakistan to take the road to good governance, the parliamentary form of government, as

is being practised here, needs to be revisited.

The size of the provinces should be rationalised by increasing their number to facilitate better governance. The resources devolved to them under the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment should be transferred to the local level of governance. We should also set up a national security council for integrated decision-making under the leadership of the elected prime minister. However, these measures require national consensus and constitutional amendments, which would take a long time.

The focus, therefore, should be on doable measures that do not require constitutional amendments. These would include: (i) setting up elected LGs for better public service delivery, and letting MNAs and MPAs devote their time to legislation; (ii) encouraging wealth creation by facilitating industrialisation and ease of doing business, and attracting domestic investors who have parked their capital abroad; (iii) working towards self-reliance: expect no foreign dole-outs, open up the SIFC framework for domestic investors, encourage industries that create employment, expedite economic zones, encourage import substitution, regulate food cartels, and encourage regional trade; (iv) not compromising on establishing the government's writ, otherwise investments won't come in; and (v) empowering the ECP to use electronic voting machines for transparent polls, and ensuring democratic practices within political parties.

A governance system that does not ensure the safety, security, dignity, and prosperity of ordinary citizens must be reformed. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### PSO workmen union Qazi Shaukat Panel takes oath

#### Independent Report

KARACHI: The 25-member cabinet of Pakistan State Oil (PSO) Workmen's Union, Qazi Shaukat Panel took their oath of office at a ceremony held at PSO House. The oath was administered by Election Commissioner Mehmood Ali to the newly elected President Qazi Shaukat Hussain, General Secretary Irfan, Senior Vice President Naseer Sultan, Finance Secretary Imran Taimoori, and other officials.

Company Secretary Rashid Umar Siddiqui, the chief guest at the ceremony, emphasized the importance of harmony and

coordination between the management and the union. He underscored the need to address the legitimate concerns of the workers and ensure their rights are protected.

PSO GM (Legal Affairs & IR) Syed Sajjad lauded the fairness of the union elections and expressed hope that the re-elected Qazi Shaukat panel would continue to advance workers' rights with even greater vigor.

He reaffirmed the management's commitment to resolving workers' issues, highlighting that employees are the backbone of the organization.



LAHORE: Consumers buying vegetables and fruits at Shadman Sunday market in the provincial capital.

### Green startup offers kitchen gardening through hydroponic technology

PESHAWAR (APP): A green startup by a university student offered kitchen gardening idea by installing of hydroponic farming technology at homes where there is no or very less space for growing of essential vegetables.

"Through installation of hydroponic technology and with little guidance people can do kitchen gardening and can get higher yields than traditional soil based growing systems," explains Marfaa Naseem, leader of team that proposed green startup of hydroponic farming at homes for

kitchen gardening. The startup was granted to university students under the Green Urban Development Program (GUD), a two-year initiative by Institute of Urbanism (IoU) & School of Leadership Foundation (SoLF), with the support of the US Embassy.

The Green Urban Development Programme has been launched for fostering a collaborative environment aimed at reshaping the urban landscape for a greener and more sustainable future.



KARACHI: PSO Workmen Union, Qazi Shaukat Panel President Qazi Shaukat Hussain, Vice president Naseer Sultan, General Secretary Irfan, Finance Secretary Imran Timuri and other officials are taking oath of office at PSO House.

## Finance Minister updated on banking sector's strategic initiatives in priority sectors

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Banks' Association (PBA) held a meeting with the Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Muhammad Aurangzeb.

The meeting focused on enhancing support by the banks for the three key sectors of Agriculture, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and Digital & Technology in Pakistan. The discussion underlined the banking

sector's commitment to fostering financial inclusion in the Country.

Federal Minister mentioned at the outset that the idea of this exercise shall be to encourage the entire sector to contribute towards these priority sectors as per their size and unique offerings & strengths. While there will be no "directed lending"; however, there shall be voluntary targets to be set between the banks and the

regulator to share the responsibility to contribute towards these critical sectors. He expects the banks to step up and continue to work with the Government in the revival and the growth of the economy. During the session, PBA Chairman Zafar Masud, along with the Steering Committee members on these initiatives, including Vice Chairman PBA, Ahmed Bozai, CEO & SG PBA,

Muneer Kamal, Executive Director (Financial Inclusion Group) State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Syed Irfan Ali, and President & CEO Meezan Bank, Irfan Siddiqui, presented a comprehensive set of recommendations aimed at promoting growth and sustainability in these vital sectors. The proposals were developed in close consultation with SBP to ensure they effectively address

### FTO to chair central advisory committee today

LAHORE (APP): Minister of State and Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Dr Asif Mahmood Jah will chair a high-level meeting of the central advisory committee to review the overall performance and take stock of the problems being faced by tax payers here tomorrow (Monday). FTO Adviser Dr Waqarullah Chaudhry told media here Sunday that the 50-member advisory committee consisting of presidents of chambers of commerce, women chambers, APTMA, seed associations, prominent trade associations.

### Exploring IT potential for economic growth

LAHORE (APP): As Pakistan navigates challenges of a rapidly evolving global landscape, a robust IT industry becomes a catalyst for driving innovation, fostering research and technological development and grabbing slot on the list of developed nations. Fully employing this sector would matter much for Pakistan also in attracting foreign investment and partnerships on way to a progressive economy and steering country out of financial crunch.

A thriving IT sector can act as a buffer, reducing

dependency on traditional industries with a youthful population contributing visibly as a strategic asset for nation building and making the country flourish in different arena of life. "Information Technology (IT) sector has exhibited consistent year-on-year growth and emerged as one of top five net exporters in the country," stated Pakistan Software Houses Association Chairman Zohaib Khan. "As a primary contributor to net exports in services industry, IT sector plays a pivotal role in shaping Pakistan's

economic landscape," Zohaib said. "With the potential to become country's primary foreign exchange earner and achieve ambitious annual national target of over US\$ 15 billion, it is crucial to embrace a comprehensive approach to propel this sector forward." According to Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Pakistan's Telecom sector had generated Rs 850 billion in revenues in 2022-23, marking 17 percent growth from previous year and demonstrating sector's resilience amidst challenges of inflation.

### Inter-provincial, inter district transportation of wheat permitted: Food dept

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Food Department has not imposed any restrictions on the transportation of wheat and according to the policy of the Punjab government, inter-provincial and inter-district transportation of wheat is fully permitted.

In a policy statement on the transportation of wheat, the spokesperson for Food Department said that according to the Wheat Procurement Policy 2024, the transportation of wheat is fully permitted and the Food Department of Punjab has not issued any notification regarding the ban on wheat transportation within or outside the province. There is no need for any kind of

permit for the transportation of wheat.

The spokesperson also clarified that some elements are linking a letter written by the federal government to prevent smuggling of various items with the transportation of wheat, which is based on a complete misunderstanding. He said that in the light of the instructions of the federal government and the Punjab home department, letters were written for the appointment of vigilant and honest staff at all check posts to stop smuggling of various items. However, delivery, purchase and sale of wheat and inter-provincial and inter-district transport are fully permitted.



LAHORE: Consumers buying household items at Shadman Sunday market in the provincial capital.

### Dr Iqar says: Scientists should come up with solutions to increase agriculture productivity

FAISALABAD (APP): Agriculture Department Punjab. Prof Dr Mahmood A Randhawa, Director Professional Training Dr Neelam Chaudry and others also spoke. Prof Dr Iqar Ahmad Khan urged agriculture scientists to disseminate modern agricultural trends in the farming community that would boost productivity. He said that the development of the country depended upon the agriculture sector but the sector was facing challenges including low productivity.

Agriculture Department Punjab. Prof Dr Mahmood A Randhawa, Director Professional Training Dr Neelam Chaudry and others also spoke. Prof Dr Iqar Ahmad Khan urged agriculture scientists to disseminate modern agricultural trends in the farming community that would boost productivity. He said that the development of the country depended upon the agriculture sector but the sector was facing challenges including low productivity.



**PESHAWAR:** Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi addressing public gathering at Dargai during his visit to Malakand.

### CM KP expresses satisfaction over timely measures for Pak student

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister (CM) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Ali Amin Gandapur has sent a message to the Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan in Pakistan and expressed satisfaction over the timely measures taken by the Kyrgyz government to protect Pakistani students.

The timely and effective measures taken by the Kyrgyz government to protect the students are commendable, Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur said.

The timely actions of the Kyrgyz government proved helpful in saving the

students from further harm and comforting their parents, said CM KP.

"In this difficult time, the leadership role of the Kyrgyz government has been very helpful in normalizing the situation and giving the students a sense of security," Ali Amin Gandapur said.

"We are grateful to the Kyrgyz government for ensuring the safety of our students," the CM said.

"However, these incidents caused mental stress and suffering for the students and their families," Ali Amin Gandapur said.

### Advisor Tourism visits Galyat, directs to remove encroachments

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Advisor to Chief Minister KP on Tourism, Culture and Archeology Zahid Chanzab on Sunday expressed his displeasure over the illegal encroachments in Galyat and issued instructions to the concerned quarters to remove them immediately and submit the report of all the leased properties to him within ten days. He also paid a detailed visit to the parks, public washrooms and parking areas in Nathiagali and Dongagali.

On this occasion, he expressed his indignation over the deteriorating condition of the washrooms and issued instructions to

immediately allocate 20 washrooms separately for men and women and keep them clean.

While at the same time orders were also issued to remove the illicit encroachments and keep it as resting places for tourists only. He also directed to prepare a map of the land in Dongagali and make a modern parking area for tourists so that the issue of parking in the area could be solved in the true sense.

He also visited the Himala House and issued instructions to complete the necessary renovation work going on there as soon as possible and to provide Wi-Fi and other facilities for the tourists as well.

### Cop injured by firing of unknown motorcyclists

RAWALPINDI (APP): Unknown motorcyclists opened indiscriminate firing on police party and fled away from the scene in the jurisdiction of naseerabad police station.

According to the police spokesman, the incident occurred when the police tried to stop the motorcyclists, but they responded with gunfire resultantly.

Due to the fire a constable was injured and he was shifted to the nearby hospital. SDPO Naseerabad visited the hospital to inquire the injured cop.

Additionally a search operation was being conducted to apprehend the unknown attackers.

### PDF, TiKA pledge to boost humanitarian activities in KP

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Development Foundation (PDF) and Turkiye's aid organization TiKA held talks for enhancing humanitarian activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The PDF was represented by its Chairman Muhammad Bilal Sethi, Patron-in-Chief Dr Qibla Ayaz and Executive Member Khurshid Khan, while the TiKA team comprised Turkiye Ambassador Dr Mehmet Pekachi and its Country Director Muhsin BALCI. The meeting focused on kick-starting projects to uplift the socio-economic status of the KP people.

Highlighting the economic challenges faced by the Pakistani youth, the PDF chairman underscored the need of creating job opportunities and empowering young individuals. He pleaded for the TiKA's support in organizing skill-based training programmes, ranging from culinary arts to digital marketing, with the aim to foster entrepreneurship among the youth.

Muhsin BALCI provided a comprehensive overview of the TiKA's ongoing projects, emphasizing their commitment to empowering the local communities.

### Free medical camp organized by Pak Army in Gilgit-Baltistan

GHANCHE (Online): A one-day free medical camp was organized by Pakistan Army in Kharko village of Ghanche district of Gilgit-Baltistan. Twenty-six doctors and paramedical staff of Army Medical Corps participated in the medical camp. During the one-day free medical camp, more than 1500 patients including 425 men, 627 women and 363 children were treated. The medical camp provided patients with routine medical and dental check-up, ECG lab investigations, portable dental x-ray, minor OT procedures, patient care.

### FIA operations against illegal currency business continue in Swabi, Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): The FIA crackdown operations continued against Hawala, Hundi and illegal currency exchange in Swabi and Peshawar here on Sunday.

Major Operations of Commercial Banking Circle Peshawar in its operations have arrested 5 suspects in raid operations, FIA spokesman said. The alleged accused was arrested from Din Trade Center and Sader area of Peshawar and Lower Dir, FIA spokesman informed.

The alleged accused were found to be involved in Hawala hundi and illegal currency exchange and the accused were doing currency exchange business without license, FIA spokesman said. Among the arrested accused are Khalid Khan, Shayaz Khan, Shoaib, Asghar and Amjad Ali, the FIA spokesman said. A huge amount of domestic and foreign currency was recovered from the possession of the accused and a total of more than 48,56,000 Pakistani rupees was recovered from the possession of the accused. The money also included 355 UAE Dirhams, 115 Saudi Riyals, 20 US Dollars and 550 Ringgits were also recovered.

## Ready to play bridge role between KP and federation: Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday said that he is ready to play the role of bridge between the federation and the provincial government.

Governor Kundi stressed the importance of addressing issues with reason rather than resorting to indecorous behavior.

He said this while addressing a public gathering in Malakand.

"I extend an invitation once again to the Chief Minister KP to visit the Governor House, and I am willing to visit the Chief Minister's House if there is any problem in visiting the Governor House," said Governor Kundi, highlighting his commitment to collaboration for the province's welfare.

Expressing readiness to meet the Chief Minister at any time for the province's rights, Governor Kundi expressed his intent to pursue the province's case at the appropriate forum.

"I invite the provincial government and all political parties to join hands with me in struggle for the province's cause," Governor Kundi urged, underlining the Governor House's role as the home for all political factions.

Governor Kundi assured that political rivalries should be settled through elections, emphasizing the need for effective governance.

"We will not impose Governor's Rule; Peoples Party believes in democracy," Governor

Kundi asserted, outlining his party's stance.

Regarding the electricity issue, Governor Kundi advised the federal government to transfer all three power companies to the province, holding the provincial government responsible for its management and outcomes.

"The issue of tax exemption was a gift from Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. I will raise the matter of tax enforcement with the federal government," Governor Kundi added, acknowledging the concerns of the Malakand division's residents and emphasizing the need for permanent solutions rather than repeated protests.

"I am a people's Governor, ready to go to every street. I don't want to cause anyone distress."

### 15 dead, 1152 injured in 1085 road accidents in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least fifteen persons were killed and 1152 injured in 1085 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of these, 542 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 610 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of Hospitals.

Furthermore, the analysis showed those 603 drivers, 33 underage drivers, 174 pedestrians, and 390 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 256 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 281 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by Gujranwala 74 in with 74 victims and at third Faisalabad with 72 RTCs and 84 victims.



**LAHORE:** Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council Moulana Tahir Ashrafi is addressing a press conference at Jamia Masjid Manzoor Islamia.

### Ashrafi urges pilgrims to avoid political activities during Hajj

LAHORE (APP): Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, has emphasized that Pakistani pilgrims should refrain from participating in any political activity during their pilgrimage. Addressing a press conference at Jamia Manzoor-ul-Islamia Cantonment on Sunday, Ashrafi condemned the spread of fake news on social media for political gains, particularly regarding the recent Kyrgyzstan incident. He highlighted that thousands of Pakistanis have left for Hajj, with over 80,000 joining private groups and around 70,000 in official groups. He praised the Makkah program, which assists pilgrims with necessary supplies, and expressed gratitude to Saudi Arabia for facilitating this program.

## International News

### Saudi crown prince, US national security adviser meet for talks

DHAHRAN (INP): Prince Mohammed bin Salman and US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan met in Saudi Arabia's eastern city of Dhahran to discuss a "semi-final" version of strategic agreements between the two countries, official Saudi media reported on Sunday.

The agreements are considered a major part of Washington's efforts to bring Riyadh around to recognising the state of Israel for the first time — efforts complicated by Israel's military offensive in Gaza.

Prince Mohammed, the kingdom's de facto ruler, and Sullivan discussed "the semi-final version of the draft strategic agreements between the kingdom and the United States of America, the work on which is close to being completed", according to Saudi state media.

The two sides also discussed "what is being worked on between the two sides on the Palestinian issue to find a credible path towards a two-state solution".

The talks also touched on "the situation in Gaza and the necessity of stopping the war there, and facilitating the entry of humanitarian aid".

Sullivan is scheduled to visit Israel later on Sunday for talks about the conflict, according to the White House.

The Biden administration has been seeking for some time to reach an agree-

ment under which Saudi Arabia would recognise Israel in exchange for a stronger security relationship with Washington, which is already its most important security partner.

The Saudis are also bargaining hard for help developing a civilian nuclear programme.

Last September, before Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel that sparked the conflict in Gaza, Prince Mohammed said in an interview with the US network Fox News that "every day we get closer" to a deal to normalise ties.

But those efforts have been severely damaged by the more than seven months of fighting in Gaza and the rising civilian toll there.



**Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado and opposition presidential candidate Edmundo Gonzalez wave during a rally in La Victoria, Aragua State, Venezuela.**

### Russia seizes assets of three European banks

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: A Russian court has ruled that Deutsche Bank and UniCredit's assets in the country are to be seized, documents showed. European banks have largely exited Russia after Moscow launched its offensive on Ukraine in 2022.

Russia has a list of Western assets that would be seized if Group of Seven (G7) leaders decided to confiscate \$300 billion in frozen Russian central-bank assets, the Kremlin had warned on Dec 29 last year.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said any such move by the West would violate international law and undermine the global financial system and the world economy. A court in Saint Petersburg ruled in favour of seizing 239 million euros (\$260 million) from Deutsche Bank, documents dated May 16 showed.

The same day, it ordered the seizure of around 463 million euros of assets belonging to Italy's UniCredit.

### Saudi king has 'high temperature', will undergo tests: statement

**Monitoring Desk**  
RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's King Salman is suffering from "high temperature" and joint pain and will undergo his second round of medical tests in less than a month, state media reported Sunday.

The tests will take place at a clinic at the Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah, the Royal Court said in a statement published by the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

King Salman "suffers from a high temperature and pain in the joints," the statement said.

### Slovak PM Fico out of danger but condition serious, deputy says

**Monitoring Desk**  
BANSKA BYSTRICA: Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico is no longer in immediate danger but still in a serious condition, his deputy said on Sunday, four days after an assassination attempt that sent shockwaves through Europe.

"The worst that we feared had passed, at least for the time being," Deputy Prime Minister Robert Kalinak told a news conference outside the hospital where Fico is being treated in the central Slovak city of Banska Bystrica.

The prime minister was shot on Wednesday in an attack that raised alarms over the polarised state of politics in the central European country of 5.4 million people.

Kalinak told journalists that Fico's condition was still too serious to consider transferring him to hospital in the capital.

"We are all a little calmer. When we were saying that we want to get closer to a positive prognosis, then I believe that we are a step closer to that," he added. "But his condition remains very serious and therefore he will remain in the care of doctors at the Banska Bystrica hospital."

The shooting was the first major assassination attempt on a European political leader for more than 20 years. The Slovak Specialised Criminal Court ruled on Saturday that the suspect, identified by prosecutors as Juraj C., would remain in custody after being charged with attempted murder.



**MADRID:** A woman holds a placard as people attend a protest in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.

### Israeli minister threatens to quit unless 'Gaza plan' approved by June 8

**Monitoring Desk**  
JERUSALEM: An Israeli minister said on Saturday he would resign from the "war cabinet" unless Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu approved a long-term plan for the Gaza Strip.

"The war cabinet must formulate and approve by June 8 an action plan that will lead to the realisation of six strategic goals of national importance, (or) we will be forced to resign from the government," Benny Gantz said, referring to his party, in a televised address directed at

Netanyahu. Gantz said the six goals included toppling Hamas, ensuring Israeli security control over the Palestinian territory and returning Israeli prisoners.

"Along with maintaining Israeli security control, establish an American, European, Arab and Palestinian administration that will manage civilian affairs in the Gaza Strip and lay the foundation for a future alternative that is not Hamas or (Mahmud) Abbas," he said, referring to the president of the Palestinian Authority.

### Turkiye pardons 7 generals jailed for role in coup

**Monitoring Desk**  
ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has pardoned seven generals imprisoned for their role in the military coup that overthrew an Islamist government in 1997, according to decrees published in the official gazette.

The decision cited the age and medical conditions of the generals, who were sentenced in 2018 after a trial full of twists and turns.

The decrees were signed as a court in Ankara sentenced charismatic Kurdish leader Selahattin Demirtas to 42 years in prison for offences including undermining state unity.

The main opposition CHP party, which made strong gains in municipal elections in late March, has long asked for the generals to be freed. Party leader Ozgur Ozel said on X, formerly Twitter, the decision was "late but just".

### Austria to resume aid to UN agency for Palestinians

**Monitoring Desk**  
VIENNA: Austria said on Saturday it will restore its funding to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees after suspending it over allegations that staff were involved in the October 7 Hamas raids.

Israel alleged in January that some United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) employees may have participated in the Hamas raids on October 7. In the weeks that followed, numerous donor states, including Austria, suspended or paused some \$450 million in funding.

Many, including Germany, Sweden, Canada and Japan, had since resumed funding, while others have continued to hold out. "After analysing the action plan in detail" submitted by UNRWA "to improve the functioning of the organisation", Austria has decided to "release the funds," its foreign ministry said in a statement. A total of 3.4 million euros (\$3.7 billion) in funds have been budgeted for 2024, and the first payment is expected to be made in the summer, the statement said.

### Fico 'stable', but still in 'danger'; suspect in detention

**Monitoring Desk**  
BRATISLAVA: Slovakia's health minister said on Saturday the prognosis for Prime Minister Robert Fico was "positive" after an assassination attempt as a court put the suspected gunman in pre-trial detention.

Fico has been in hospital since Wednesday when a lone gunman shot him four times, including in the abdomen.

### Venezuela opposition candidate vows political freedom

**Monitoring Desk**  
LA VICTORIA: Venezuelan opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez said he will ensure all political parties are free to operate if he unseats President Nicolas Maduro in a July vote, and he urged the military to uphold the country's institutions as intended by the constitution.

Gonzalez, a former ambassador to Algeria and Argentina, was named by the Unitary Platform opposition coalition in April as its candidate after a ban against landslide primary winner Maria Corina Machado's holding office was upheld by the Supreme Court.

The opposition has said Machado's ban is illegal and an attempt by Maduro's government, which has overseen a deep economic crisis in the country, to tamp down support for the opposition in the July 28 presidential election.

Standing on a large truck bed, Gonzalez and Machado spoke to a chanting crowd of about 3,000 in La Victoria, Gonzalez's hometown in central Aragua state.

Gonzalez said he will ensure political movements can exercise their rights under the constitution, urging voters to imagine a country "where the president does not insult or see his adversaries as enemies."

"To the national armed forces - you play a fundamental part in the security of all of us, being guarantors of institutions under article 328 of the constitution," Gonzalez, 74, said.

The previously low-profile Gonzalez told Reuters this month he believes Maduro's government would have banned him from office by now if it intended to.

## PM directs for all out support to assist repatriated students from Bishkek: Musadik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum, Senator Musadik Masood Malik on Sunday said the Prime Minister had directed to ensure all out support to assist the repatriated students from Bishkek for reaching their hometowns safely.

Addressing the students returning from Bishkek and media here at the Islamabad International Airport, the Minister expressed his heartfelt sympathies to the students for facing violence in Kyrgyzstan.

Malik said the government made efforts but due to limited mission in Kyrgyzstan, it was unable to make extraordinary interventions.

He added that due to limited capacity, the Pakistani mission abroad was not to remain all-prepared for such emergencies.

"The Federal Cabinet on behalf of the government extend an apology for the predicament the Pakistani students faced. We are run-

ning special flights to bring back all those who want to return and would not force the senior students who intend to stay as their final examinations were ahead," he said.

The Minister said the government had demarched the Kyrgyzstan government and got the surety from them that no more mob attacks would be allowed on Pakistani students.

"People made personal calls to me, the ambassador and we established a hotline at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy in Kyrgyzstan with four to five people operated the hotline to assist our students," he said.

Musadik Malik vouched that the government of Pakistan would support its children in distress all over the world. "Our Foreign Minister is also in contact with the Kyrgyz counterpart and our embassy is also engaged with them as well.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori addressing a ceremony organized by social media influencers at Governor House.

## As UNSC member Pakistan to push for Mideast peace & self-determination for occupied peoples: Munir Akram

NEW YORK (APP): Pakistan will articulate developing countries' aspirations, work for peace and in the Middle East and Africa as well as promote the right of self-determination for peoples under foreign occupation if elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, Ambassador Munir Akram has said.

Elections for five of the 10 non-permanent seats on the Security Council for the term 2025-26 are set to

take place on Jun 6. Pakistan's candidacy has the endorsement of the 55-member Asian Group.

Pakistan has been elected to the Security Council seven times, with the most recent term in 2013. Other occasions were in 1952-1953, 1968-1969, 1976-1977, 1983-1984, 1993-1994 and 2003-2004.

Ambassador Akram, who is Pakistan's ambassador to the UN, was speaking to members of the US-based Pakistan Students

Association Coalition (PSA Coalition) via video-link, said the election to the 15-member Council would bring a lot of responsibility on Pakistan to play a leadership role in addressing "our issues like Kashmir, Afghanistan and counterterrorism", but also other multiple global challenges.

The Coalition comprises US-based Pakistani student associations of various colleges that are linked by their unwavering com-

mitment to preserving the Pakistani identity, traditions and its rich culture.

The Pakistani envoy said that U.N. Security Council resolutions on Kashmir provided for the realization of the right to self-determination by Kashmiris.

No gimmicks by the Indian government could alter the international status of the dispute, which is on the UN Security Council agenda, he told the students.



LAHORE: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visiting NADRA Center, Garden Town.

## Tanveer Hussain says: PML-N gov't's economic friendly policies will lead country towards development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Industries, Production and Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain Sunday said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz-led government's wide-ranging reforms and economic-friendly policies of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will help to lead the country towards economic development.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that PMLN-led government is committed to reduce inflation and we believe that the

country under the leadership of Prime Minister is heading towards the right direction.

He said that PML-N leadership always committed to serve the poor segments of society, adding, we have been struggling to uplift the economy and take the country to the path of progress.

"We believe that social justice, political stability and supremacy of law is imperative for progress and prosperity of the country", he added.

## Teachers association demands increase of budget for varsities

HYDERABAD (APP): Federation of All Pakistan Universities Academic Staff Associations (FAPUASA) has urged the federal government to enhance the budget of the public sector universities which has been kept stagnant for the last 7 years.

In a statement issued here on Sunday the association's Sindh chapter General Secretary Abdul Rehman Nangraj said the Sindh government had shown a commitment to

increase the budget for the higher education institutions.

However, he requested the provincial government to further enhance the budget for the universities to help them avert the financial crisis.

"We demand that the upcoming federal budget should include a significant increase in funding for higher education, as promised by political parties in their election manifestos," he stated.

## 2-day training on advanced food testing techniques and inauguration of regional food testing lab

### Independent Report

KARACHI: Sindh Food Authority (SFA) and Nutrition International have successfully conducted a two-day training event focused on High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC), Fourier-Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FT-IR), ICheck, and CDR Food Lab techniques for SFA lab staff. The event was held at National Center of Excellence in Analytical Chemistry (NCEAC) at University of Sindh Jamshoro, also featured the inauguration of the new Regional Food Testing Lab.



Dr. Muhammad Siddique Kalhoro Vice Chancellor of University of Sindh Jamshoro and Agha Fakhur Hussain, Director General Sindh Food Authority, officiated the inauguration ceremony. This new facility aims to foster long-term collaboration and development between SFA and NCEAC, enhancing the testing of food products and supporting research studies.

The training focused on advanced methods for detecting and quantifying Vitamins A and D and industrial trans fats in food products using FT-IR, HPLC and CDR Food Lab system. This hands-on training is crucial for ensuring food safety and compliance with regulations on food fortification, addressing health risks associated with trans fats.

In training sessions highlighted the health hazards posed by industrially produced trans fats in ghee, emphasizing the importance of stringent food safety measures.

## PPP appreciates govt efforts for safe return of Pakistani students from Bishkek

LAHORE (APP): Rana Farooq Saeed, Senior Vice President of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Punjab, has appreciated the government of Pakistan efforts for safe return of Pakistani students from Bishkek.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, he acknowledged the widespread concerns across the nation regarding the recent events in Kyrgyzstan. He praised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi for their effective handling of the situation, which helped brought Pakistani students back home.

## Sindh intermediate exams postponed

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh government has postponed the intermediate exams across the province for five days in the wake of ongoing heat wave.

The postponement was approved by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Murad Ali Shah, as recommended by provincial Minister for Universities and Boards Muhammad Ali Malkani.

The intermediate exams, originally slated to start on May 22, will now begin on May 27. A spokesperson said that the Universities and Boards Department changed the date for intermediate exams as per CM Shah's directives.

## SSP Sanghar visits temples to investigate theft incident

HYDERABAD (APP): Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sanghar Ejaz Ahmed Shaikh, along with his team, visited Jholay Laal and Ramaa Pir Temples in Tando Adam to investigate a theft incident and collect necessary information.

SSP issued the necessary directives to the investigation team on the spot. He met with the notables of the city, the incharges of temples, and media representatives.

Talking to the media SSP said that the theft matter was being investigated in every aspect and every traditional and latest method to trace the culprits.

## Very hot weather forecast for Sindh

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Meteorological Department on Sunday predicted very hot and dry weather for most parts of the Sindh province during the next 24 hours.

However, dust gusty winds/windstorm is also predicted in most districts of the province during afternoon.

Mainly, very hot and dry weather is likely to prevail in the province.

## "Clinic on Wheels" program providing modern health facilities to people: Asif

SIALKOT (APP): Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that the "Clinic on Wheels" programme is providing modern healthcare facilities to people at their doorsteps.

He said this while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Chief Minister Punjab Initiative "Clinic on Wheels" project in Sialkot here today.

The ceremony was attended by Member Provincial Assemblies (MPAs) Muhammad Manshaullah Butt, Chaudhary Faisal Ikram, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Zulqarnain, Chief Officer (CO) Health Dr. Rehman Azhar, Program In-charge "Clinic on Wheels" Sialkot District Dr. Muhammad

## Edu ministry rebuild school in N. Waziristan destroyed by terrorists

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training while giving a powerful response to extremism in North Waziristan, has rebuilt and reopened a girls' school destroyed by bombing.

The official sources from the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training have confirmed that, from today (Monday), we celebrate the resilience of our daughters and the nation's commitment to education.

The ministry sources while sharing the details said that in the latest tragic incident in North Waziristan, a private girls' school fell victim to unidentified militants who mercilessly targeted it, causing destruction and fear in the community.

Despite the attackers' efforts, no lives were lost, but the psychological and educational impact is significant.



Chairman, Pakistan Prime Minister's Youth Program, Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan arrives in Dhaka, Bangladesh to attend D-8 Youth Ministers and Senior Officials.

## PMA condemns attack on Pakistani students in Bishkek

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) strongly condemned the recent attack on Pakistani citizens, especially medical students, in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan.

We express our grave concern over this incident and stand in solidarity with the victims and their families, said a press release issued by Hon. Secretary PMA Dr Abdul Ghafoor Shoro here Sunday.

"The PMA is deeply saddened to learn about the attack that resulted in injuries to several Pakistani medical students who were present in Bishkek.

This senseless act of violence against innocent Pakistani medical students is unacceptable," the statement said.

The PMA demanded a thorough in-

vestigation into the incident and called upon the Kyrgyz authorities to ensure the safety and well-being of all Pakistani students, including medical students, residing in the country.

The Association urged the Government of Pakistan to take immediate steps to provide assistance and support to the victims and their families. It also called upon the international community to condemn this attack and work towards promoting peace and stability in the region.

The PMA stands with the people of Pakistan, especially the medical community, and reiterates its commitment to the well-being and protection of all Pakistanis, both at home and abroad, the statement added.



KARACHI: Students protest outside the Karachi Press Club against the attacks on Pakistani students in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, in the provincial capital.

## President House directs Pakistani embassy in Bishkek to ensure security of students

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the instructions of President Asif Ali Zardari, the President House Sunday contacted the Pakistani ambassador in Kyrgyzstan expressing concern over the violent situation in the country.

The President House stressed the need to take immediate measures to protect Pakistani students in Bishkek besides providing a conducive environment for Pakistani students to continue their education.

The president's directives came after reports of unrest and violence in

Kyrgyzstan, which has put the safety of Pakistani students at risk.

The Pakistani ambassador in Bishkek told the President House that the security situation of the Pakistani students in Kyrgyzstan was improving.

He said the embassy was in close contact with the Kyrgyz authorities and was taking measures to ensure the security of the students.

He said the Kyrgyz government and universities would arrange online classes for the students who were returning to Pakistan.



SIALKOT: Minister for Defense and Aviation Khawaja Muhammad Asif cutting ribbon to inaugurate Chief Minister Punjab Special Initiative Clinic on Wheel.

## Sindh CM suspends SHO over dumping garbage on Korangi Causeway

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has suspended the SHO of Korangi Industrial Area for allowing the dumping of garbage on the Korangi Causeway.

As per details, the Chief Minister expressed dismay at the sight of garbage dumped on the causeway, strict action would be taken against the SHO.

The Chief Minister has also directed the SSP to set up a camp office on the Korangi Causeway to monitor the situation and take action against those responsible for dumping garbage. The Chief Minister warned that if anyone dumped garbage on the causeway, strict action would be taken against the DC and SSP.

## Barrister Gohar says Students not satisfied with govt's measures for their evacuation from Kyrgyzstan

PESHAWAR (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan has voiced concerns over the safety of Pakistani students in Kyrgyzstan, urging the government to expedite their evacuation amidst a deteriorating public order situation.

In a statement on X, Khan highlighted the plight of over 100 students from institutions such as the International

Medical University, Asian Medical Institute, and Adam University. Students, including Adel, Talha, Komal Gilani, Abdul Hai, Amir Afzal, and Shahzeb, conveyed their distress and the challenges they face during a Zoom meeting with Khan.

Khan emphasized the urgent need for government intervention, stating that the students are dissatisfied with the current protection measures.

## DC reviews arrangements made for Heatwave

HYDERABAD (APP): The newly appointed Deputy Commissioner of Hyderabad Zain-ul-

Aabdeen Memon has assumed the charge of his office on Sunday.

According to a hand-out issued by District Information office, Deputy Commissioner after issuance of heatwave alert by Meteorological department visited Civil Hospital and Taluka Hospital

Qasimabad and reviewed arrangements made for heat wave.

He directed concerned officers to educate people about the intensity of heat wave so that maximum people could be protected from heatstroke.

DC also instructed to establish heatwave wards in the hospitals besides arranging cold water points at prominent places of city.



KARACHI: Vilonters distributing water to the Passengers during a hot day in the city near the Numaish Chowrangi.

## PEC's YEDC organises workshop on "How to Be Professionally Effective at Workplace"

KARACHI (APP): The Young Engineers Development Committee of Pakistan Engineering Council organized workshop on "How to Be Professionally Effective at Workplace" & a Confirmation Letter Distribution Ceremony at Sir Syed University of Engineering & Technology (SSUET). 300 Engineers of Sindh Province were awarded with opportunity of Project Management Professional - PMP (an international) training course worth Rs. 45,000/- per participant.

Chairman of Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), Engr. Mohammad Najeeb Haroon was the Chief Guest at the ceremony.

Event was attended by the Chairman HEC Sindh, Dr. Tariq Rafi, Registrar

which includes contractors, operators and consultants.

In this regards, he mentioned that PEC in collaboration with CIARB has established "Alternate Dispute Resolution Centre (ADRC)" to resolve the disputes/matters of construction industry which will resultantly expedite the construction process. Engr. Mohammad Nasir Khalily (Convener YEDC) stated that Young Engineers are the future of Pakistan and will act as the backbone to provide the requisite impetus for the development of Pakistan. In this regards it is imperative that these young engineers must get equipped with the modern tools and techniques of engineering profession.