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Iranian President Raisi, FM killed in helicopter crash

Helicopter completely destroyed in crash; Funeral procession to take place today; Supreme Leader Khamenei confirms Mohammad Mokhber as interim president, declares five days of public mourning; Iran's military chief of staff Mohammad Bagheri ordered a probe into the cause of a helicopter crash that killed President Ebrahim Raisi

TEHRAN (INP): Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and the country's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian have died in a helicopter crash, the country's Mehr news agency said on Monday.

A senior Iranian official, requesting anonymity following the sensitivity of the development, told a foreign news agency:

day while flying through a mountainous terrain amid heavy fog in the Varzaqan region of the country's East Azerbaijan province.

According to Iranian state media, bad weather caused the crash and was complicating rescue efforts in the country's north-western region.

Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Raisi was flying in

after "hours of extensive search in a mountainous region" in Iran's East Azerbaijan province.

President Raisi, FM Amirabdollahian and other high officials were returning to Iran after attending an inauguration ceremony of a dam on Iran's border with the Republic of Azerbaijan when the ill-fated chopper crashed Sunday afternoon.

Following the death of the Iranian President, the Islamic Republic's First Vice-President Mohammad Mokhber is set to assume power after the Supreme Leader's issues an approval, as per Article 131 of Iran's Constitution.

Who was Ebrahim Raisi? From Qom to Tehran

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, who represented conservative forces in the country, has died after a helicopter carrying him and other officials crashed in a mountainous and forested area of the country in poor weather.

World media is remembering him in conflicting manners, with the Western outlets, especially those from the US, presenting him as a ruthless leader. However, others have more realistic approach.

According to Al Jazeera, Raisi, 63, who previously served as a chief justice, appeared on track to run for re-election next year and was touted as a potential successor to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the 85-year-old supreme leader of Iran.

Born in Mashhad in north-eastern Iran, a religious hub for Shia Muslims, he underwent religious education and was trained at the seminary in Qom, studying under prominent scholars, including Khamenei.

Also like the supreme leader, he wore a black turban, which signified that he was a Sayyid – a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad, a status with particular significance among Twelver Shia Muslims.

Raisi racked up experience as a prosecutor in multiple jurisdictions before coming to Tehran in 1985.

It was in the capital city that, according to human rights organisations, he was part of a committee of judges who oversaw executions of political prisoners.

The late president was a long-time member of the Assembly of Experts, the body that is tasked with choosing a replacement for the supreme leader in the event of his death.



“President Raisi, the foreign minister and all the passengers in the helicopter were killed in the crash.”

Iran's Mehr news agency also confirmed that “all passengers of the helicopter” were “martyred”.

The chopper that carried President Raisi and Iran's foreign minister crashed on Sunday

reserved for Israel and the United States, followed by their Western allies.

Raisi made many speeches since the start of the war on Gaza in October to condemn “genocide” and “massacres” committed by Israel against Palestinians, and called on the international community to intervene.

He promised revenge against Israel after it levelled Tehran's consulate building in Syria and killed seven members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), including two

generals.

And he welcomed Iran's response, which was to launch hundreds of drones and missiles at Israel, most of which were shot down by a coalition of Israeli allies – but left Iran claiming an overall success.

Raisi was hawkish on Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, or the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which has been in limbo after former US President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from it in 2018.

After a short hiatus, Raisi was making headlines as the new head of the Iranian judiciary system, having been appointed by Khamenei in 2019. He presented himself as a defender of justice and a fighter against corruption, and made many provincial travels to garner popular support.

Raisi became president in 2021 amid low voter turnout and wide disqualification of reformist and moderate candidates, and appeared to have secured a firm footing for re-election.

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visited the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran Islamabad to offer condolences to Iranian Ambassador H.E Raza Amiri Mughaddam on the martyrdom of Iranian President Dr. Ibrahim Raisi.

Announces a day of mourning PM visits Iranian Embassy to condole deaths of President Raisi & FM in tragic incident

Great loss for Muslim Ummah: President Zardari condoles death of Iran's Ebrahim Raisi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday visited the Embassy of Iran in Islamabad to condole the deaths of President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian in a tragic incident on Sunday.

“I am deeply shocked and saddened by the tragic news of the martyrdom of my brother, President of Iran, Dr. Seyed Ebrahim Raisi, and Minister of

Foreign Affairs Hossein Amir Abdollahian, in a helicopter crash,” the prime minister said during his visit. He expressed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the time of sorrow and grief.

“Our sympathies and prayers are with the family members of the martyrs and the people of Iran.”

The prime minister said Dr. Seyed Ebrahim Raisi was a brilliant scholar

and a visionary leader. “Today, Pakistan has lost a friend like Dr Raisi, a sincere brother with high qualities.”

PM Shehbaz said that his services to his own nation as well as to the strengthening of Pakistan-Iran relations and regional cooperation would always be remembered.

He said President Raisi's visit to Pakistan last month helped further strengthen bilateral relations.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah in meeting with the World Bank delegation led by its Country Director, Najy Benhassine, held at CM House in Karachi.

PA passes resolution paying homage to Iran President, offers condolence to Iranian people

KARACHI (APP): The Provincial Assembly (PA) of Sindh on Monday passed a resolution paying homage to Iranian President Syed Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian and other personalities.

He said that Iran was a strong and steadfast friend of Pakistan. The two nations share a rich history and cultural heritage with deep and strong roots. Iran was the first country, who recognized Pakistan's existence and both the nations had stood each other through thick and thin, he added.

The Home Minister said that this house extended its heartfelt condolences to the Iranian people and the families of the deceased.

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Bilawal grieves over tragic death of Iranian President

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir exchanging views with Hakan Fidan, Turkish Foreign Minister during meeting held in Rawalpindi.

Turkish FM calls on COAS, lauds Pakistan Army's role in regional peace, stability

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed his deepest grief and sorrow over the tragic death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian and their fellow passengers in a helicopter crash.

The PPP Chairman said that every Pakistani is deeply grieved over the saddest incident and stands in solidarity with their Iranian brethren.

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has expressed his deep regret and sorrow over the death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi.

The chief minister said he was extremely saddened by the death of the President of Iran.

He offered his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and Iranian people on the martyrdom of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian and other personalities.

Murad focuses on critical environmental drivers of stunting to control it

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah Monday said that the critical environmental drivers of stunting including water, sanitation, hygiene, and the agri-food system were being focused on through effective interventions. “These interventions have been made through ADP schemes and from the ongoing World Bank projects.”

This he said while speaking with World Bank Country Director, Najy Benhassine who called on him along with his delegation to discuss the Child Stunting Mission.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Health, Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho, acting Chief Secretary Musadqi Ahmad, PSCM Agha Wasif, Chairman P&D Najma Shah, and Secretary Health Agha Wasif. The World Bank delegation members were Economist Ghazaa Mansuri, Senior Health Specialist Ms Hinn Hinn Pyne and Senior Health Expert Ziauddin Hyder.

Murad Shah said that the overall stunting rate in the province as assessed by Unicef in its survey of 2014 was 48 per cent.

The Sindh government launched the World Bank-assisted Multi-Sectoral Accelerated Action Plan (AAP) in 2017 to reduce stunting from 48 per cent to 30 per cent by 2021 and then further reduction up to 15 per cent by 2026,” he said and added that

Establishing Rapid Response Force within the Excise Department for operations against tax evaders and drug dealers: Sharjeel

KARACHI: Senior Minister of Sindh and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control Sharjeel Inam Memon presided over a high-level meeting of the Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control Department in Karachi. In the meeting, it was decided to establish a Rapid Response Force

within the Excise Department for operations against tax evaders and drug dealers. While presiding over the meeting, Senior Minister of Sindh Sharjeel Inam Memon instructed the Excise officials to set up checkpoints to prevent all kinds of drug-smuggling. In the meeting, it was also decided to finalize the SOPs regarding the auction of premium number plates and to commence the issuance of premium number plates immediately after Eid-ul-Azha by the Excise Department. Speaking in the meeting, Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that initially there will be an auction of 7 premium number plates in each category. However, there will be a strict procedure for using these premium number plates, and strict action will be taken against those using fake plates. He said that an event will be held immediately after Eid-ul-Adha regarding the auction of premium number plates, and automobile manufacturing companies will also be invited. He said that other steps would be taken, including installing machinery to facilitate the production of new and duplicate number plates. Senior Minister of Sindh, Sharjeel Inam Memon, instructed the officers of the Excise Department to ensure the achievement of various tax targets. It was also decided to end the weekend leave of the officers until the tax targets are achieved.



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IGP Sindh emphasizes improvement of medical facilities in police hospitals

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon on Monday chaired a meeting regarding the enhancement of medical facilities in police hospitals and dispensaries at the Central Police Office in Karachi.

According to spokesman for Sindh Police, the session was

attended by senior officials, including the Additional IGP-Finance and Welfare, DIGPs of Headquarters, Finance, and Traffic, as well as the Medical Superintendent (MS) of the Police Hospital Garden and the Project Director of IT.

Participation also extended through video link to DIGP Hyderabad and the MS of the Police Hospital in Hyderabad.

CM offers condolence to Iranian people over Raisi's demise

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has expressed his deep regret and sorrow over the death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi.

The chief minister said he was extremely saddened by the death of the President of Iran.

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Condolence

Daily Independent Group of Newspaper expresses its profound grief and sorrow over the tragic demise of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash and extended heartfelt condolences to the government of Iran, the families of the president, the foreign minister, and all others who lost their lives in the incident, as well as to the people of the brotherly nation of Iran over the martyrdom of Iranian leadership in the helicopter crash.

President Raisi was a strong proponent of Pak-Iran partnership for regional development and was a great friend of Pakistan.

It is a great loss not only for Iran but for the entire Muslim Ummah. The Islamic World had lost a remarkable leader who always supported the Muslim cause. Late President Raisi would be dearly missed and fondly remembered in Iran, Pakistan, and the Islamic World for his efforts to enhance relations with regional and Islamic countries.

We pray to Allah Almighty to bless the departed souls with peace and grant patience and strength to their families and the people of Iran in this time of irreparable loss



Chief Editor Independent Group of Newspapers

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Wheat price crash

What the government has done to Punjab's small-holder wheat growers by staying out of the market amid crashing prices is deplorable. The majority of farmers were forced to sell their crop to middlemen at throwaway prices.

When some protested against the government for leaving them in the lurch, they were beaten by the police and detained. Their plight was finally voiced by some lawmakers in the National Assembly recently, with PPP chairperson Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari calling it 'economic murder' of the farmers. Last Thursday, lawmakers from both the treasury and the opposition raised the issue of the arrests of farmers. PPP's Shazia Marri urged the government to accept the demands of protesting growers, while calling for excesses against them to be brought to an end. PTI's Amir Dogar pointed out that it was for the first time in the country's history that the government had refused to purchase wheat from farmers.

The Pakistan Kissan Ittehad, a body representing small- to medium-sized farmers from across Punjab, claims that wheat farmers had lost Rs1.1tr due to a steep drop in grain prices as they were compelled to sell their harvest at around Rs3,000 per 40kg or even less, which is far below Rs3,900 promised by the government. Indeed, the government could not have purchased the entire tradable surplus of 10m tons this year. However, its presence in the market would have kept prices from crashing.

Punjab's farmers are going through difficult times, exacerbated by policy failure and the import of over 3.4m tons of wheat shortly before the bumper harvest on the direction of the caretaker government. The imports had facilitated traders to make quick bucks at the cost of both farmers and urban consumers who paid higher prices for low-quality imported wheat.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was quick to set up a probe committee to pin responsibility for the decision to import at a time when the country had adequate stocks from the last harvest and authorities were expecting a record wheat output on the back of a significant increase in the area under cultivation. Nonetheless, the media reports suggest, the terms of the inquiry were changed later and it was stopped from looking into the questionable role of the caretaker administration in allowing heavy imports for some inexplicable reasons. The committee's mandate is now limited to investigating imports during March.

It remains a mystery why the premier does not want to probe the role of caretakers in wheat imports despite the negative impact of the 'crisis' on the position of the ruling PML-N among farmers. So far, the formation of the probe committee appears to be an attempt to sweep the issue under the carpet, unless it is allowed to hold a thorough inquiry and pin responsibility for reckless imports.

Serving digitally

Abdullah Khalid

Pakistan's digital landscape is undergoing a seismic shift. From vibrant, swarming urban tech hubs to remote villages buzzing with mobile internet connectivity, a digital revolution is reshaping the nation. Yet, its potential to empower local governance remains largely untapped. While federal and provincial governments have embarked on ambitious digital initiatives, true transformation lies in taking these efforts to the grassroots level. This is where the power of pixels — building blocks of the digital world — can be bound to build stronger, more responsive local government structures.

Pakistan's digital landscape is a canvas of opportunities, which boasts a vibrant ecosystem of start-ups, tech giants and a burgeoning freelance community. The mobile teledensity rate exceeds 70 per cent and internet usage is also witnessing a rapid rise in rural areas. As per the Pakistan Economic Survey 22-23, during July to March in FY2023, IT exports reached \$1.94 billion as compared to \$1.95bn in the previous year. The IT export contribution is projected to reach \$3bn in FY24 and \$16bn by FY33. This growth offers a unique chance to enhance citizen-local government connections through e-governance, such as online tax and complaint systems, streamlining services, restricting bureaucracy and boosting efficiency.

Government initiatives, such as Digital Pakistan, Digital Punjab and digitalisation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, aim to streamline public services and foster digital inclusivity across public sectors. These programmes are laying the groundwork for a

digitally connected ecosystem where information flows seamlessly, empowering citizens to participate actively in local decision-making.

The true impact of digital transformation in Pakistan hinges on its implementation at the grassroots level by local governments. While digitalising local governance can revolutionise service delivery, citizen engagement and governance through improved transparency and accountability, local bodies often lack the resources and technology to serve effectively. Digitalisation, supported by necessary legislative and financial empowerment, can modernise services, facilitate citizen feedback and promote accountability, ensuring that every citizen benefits equally from digital advancements through superior access and digital literacy.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming governance globally and that is why achieving a pixel-perfect future should feature prominently on our wish list. Let's imagine Pakistan leveraging AI to analyse large datasets. Undoubtedly, AI can help local governments identify trends, predict resource requirements and optimise service delivery.

Personalised citizen experiences via AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants can make personalised information and support available to citizens. More importantly, AI-driven fraud detection systems can help local governments identify and prevent misuse of public funds and combat corruption, along with AI-powered surveillance systems, which enhance public safety by monitoring sensitive areas.

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To maximise digital transformation in local governance, Pakistan must formulate comprehensive policies and regulatory frameworks, which facilitate interoperability and consistency in digital initiatives. It is crucial to foster collaboration across government levels, secure data privacy and engage with the private sector and civil society for innovative solutions. Moreover, an inclusive digital infrastructure across all areas provides equal access to digital services and opportunities.

Pakistan can learn from global leaders in digital governance to accelerate its transformational journey. Estonia has a highly digitised government with almost all services accessible online and Singapore, with its "Smart Nation" initiative, leverages AI and data analytics for efficient urban management.

Our country's digital revolution centres on a collaborative, inclusive, and localised approach — local governments, empowered with resources, and knowledge necessary to navigate the digital landscape, pave the way for sustainable and equitable development. As the nation charts the course for a modern digital future, prioritising local governance has to be seen as a strategic imperative because it promises a resilient, connected and empowered nation.

This is not just about pixels and servers. It is about building a future where every citizen feels heard, empowered and actively involved in shaping communities. Let us embrace this path and create a future where local governance is able to serve every citizen.

Land of opportunity

Zarrar Khuhro

First: it's not necessary that every investigative story like Dubai Unlocked can or will, in and of itself, cause the government to fall or the prevailing order to be unsettled. Sometimes, such journalistic works only confirm what we already know to be true which, in this case, is that Pakistan is a poor country with some very rich people.

And that, more often than not, those people are the very ones who tend to control the levers of power, often using them like the lever of a slot machine in Las Vegas, except with a near-guarantee of a massive payout.

All told, as per the data on record Pakistanis own about \$12.5 billion worth of properties in Dubai, although former FBR chairman Shabbar Zaidi thinks the actual value is closer to, or possibly in excess of \$20bn. Now, this may not be a huge sum by global standards but given the perpetual penury of Pakistan, it's pretty darn staggering.

Also bear in mind that there are a lot of prominent and not-so-prominent Pakistanis who happen to be clearly resident or partially resident in Dubai but do not show up on this list, leading one to believe that the properties they 'own' are not in their names or the names of their relatives.

That said, some important disclaimers are necessary: owning property in Dubai or anywhere else in the world is not an illegal act — in and of itself — evidence of any kind of financial fraud or wrongdoing as has been repeatedly stated by all the publications who have reported on

the uncovered data.

Certainly, many of these properties have been declared with Pakistani tax authorities and are above board, but at the very least we must expect the FBR to inquire as to whether that is so for all the names listed in the leaks. Thus far, we have been promised that this will indeed happen with the FBR chairman promising that if he has access to the data as well as information on residence status, and if the political will is present, he will certainly go after tax evaders.

While that's a lot of ifs and buts it would certainly be a more worthwhile use of the FBR's time than trying to block the SIMs of non-filers. If nothing else, such data can prove to be the starting point for a deeper investigation in Pakistan, provided anyone has the will to do so.

And therein lies the rub: accountability, when it comes, usually tends to target politicians and that too, those politicians it happened to be convenient to target. In the not-so-distant past we have seen that an Iqama or an unpaid salary is enough to have a prime minister knocked out by using Black's Law Dictionary as a cudgel.

We have seen a watch prove sufficient to imprison another former PM when the need arose, and at the same time we have seen much larger crimes go ignored and unpunished (or even rewarded) when it is expedient to do so.

An investigation, if one were to take place, must then also include those former military personnel who have such properties as well because while our civilian rulers do

now and then find themselves at the receiving end of the authorities' ire — selective as that may be — this part of our ruling elite is usually beyond any sort of reproach or accountability.

But despite all the hoopla and hand-wringing, Dubai is and will remain a safe haven not just for one's wealth but also for one's self; after all where better to flee to if the heat gets turned on here at home as it so often does?

Another thing that the leaks prove is that — contrary to popular opinion — Pakistan is truly a land of opportunity where one can rise from the humblest of backgrounds to be able to acquire pricey foreign properties, and all by dint of hard work.

There's no better example of this than former SSP Rao Anwar himself who, despite having a salary of some Rs95,000, has managed to provide his wife with some five properties (unless of course she has the resources to acquire them herself) with two of those properties jointly owned by their son. One must, of course, appreciate a family man, as Mr Anwar so clearly is.

Then of course there's Dr Mukhtar Hamid Shah, a highly successful doctor specialising in illegal kidney transplants, who is also listed as the owner of nine Dubai properties. Then there's Hamid Samoo, whose profession is listed as a driver but who apparently drives so darn well that he can afford a property in Dubai.

Now, some may accuse these worthies of having gained their wealth illegally but I feel that's just jealousy.

Commerce News

Rana Tanveer says: Economic revival top priority of PML-N govt

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister of Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain said on Monday that economic revival was the mission and top priority of the Muslim League (Nawaz) government. Addressing the inaugural ceremony of a special economic zone (SEZ) at Rachana Industrial Park, Sheikhupura, he added that Pakistan had now been on the path to development due to the best economic policies, asserting that private sector also had to play its role for development of the economy. Chaos and politics of alteration had always harmed the country.

The PML-N government does not believe in the politics of anarchy and hatred but in the practical measures and not in mere hollow slogans. "We have strengthened the country economically. We have founded the CPEC that is a game changer project to improve the economic condition of the country," he maintained.

The federal minister said, "I am happy to inaugurate the Special Economic Zone in Rachana Industrial Park." He hoped that Rachana Industrial Park and other special economic zones would prove to be important milestones for economic development. The SEZs have

transformed economies around the world and led nations to prosperity. "Our success lies in the positive impact on economic growth and sustainability, and the society," he remarked. Rana Tanveer Hussain said that all possible resources were being utilized to increase exports of agriculture and industrial sectors. Increased industrial production leads to more foreign exchange income of a country. The development of a country is hinged on industrial development, he said and vowed to develop this vital sector by taking measures to attract foreign investments and increase export capacity.



Italian Ambassador Marilina Armellini was called on by Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan H.E. Ms. Marilina Armellini in Islamabad.

Italian Ambassador meets Finance Minister, discusses bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan Marilina Armellini Monday called on Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, to discuss the cooperation and longstanding relations between the two countries.

The minister welcomed the ambassador and highlighted the significant improvements in Pakistan's economic landscape, said a news release here.

Muhammad Aurangzeb discussed the government's achievements, in decreasing current account deficit, globalization of currency, the stock market reaching an all-time high and the successful completion of the nine-month Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He further mentioned that the ministry was currently in engagement with the IMF

mission for a new program on longer term basis. The minister also outlined the government's strategic initiatives aimed at broadening the tax base by targeting previously untaxed and under-taxed segments. Additionally, he reiterated the government's commitment to privatize various State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), starting with Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) also followed by major airports.

Shaza invites Swedish tech companies to invest in Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Monday said that environment for foreign investment in Pakistan was conducive and urged the Swedish tech companies to invest in the country.

She was talking to Ambassador of Sweden Henrik Persson, who called on her. Director General International Coordination Syed Jawwad Ali Sherazi also attended the meeting.

They discussed matters of mutual interest and boosting cooperation in the IT and telecommunication filed. Shaza Fatima said that the present government

was fully focused upon the IT and telecommunication sector. She noted that the IT exports of Pakistan were increasing, saying it wanted to increase its IT exports to Sweden, and business-to-business relations.

"We also want branding of Pakistan in the Swedish ICT market," she maintained.

She said both Swedish and Pakistan's tech companies could jointly organise roadshows.

Shaza further said that the collaboration in BPO (Business Process Outsourcing) sector would strengthen bilateral relations of the two countries.



PESHAWAR: Director General Audit Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Siraj ul Haq calls on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi at Governor's House.

Jazz sees over 19% USD Revenue Growth in 1Q24

ISLAMABAD (APP): Jazz has reported a notable 19.2% revenue increase in USD for the first quarter of 2024, marking a significant reversal from eight consecutive quarters of negative USD growth despite consistent growth in Pakistan rupees terms.

With nearly 72 million cellular subscribers including 46 million 4G users and 67 million digital monthly active users (MAUs), Jazz holds a massive nationwide

footprint said a news release. Since its inception, the telco has invested USD 10.6 billion in Pakistan, with the most recent investment of over Rs 5.3 billion in 1Q24 showing its focus on strengthening its digital presence and transitioning into a tech-focused company. Describing the development as the first sign of Pakistan's recovering economic climate in a recent post on X, Jazz CEO Aamir Ibrahim emphasized that to sustain this growth.

Businessmen & industrialists of Pakistan & USA making efforts to increase the volume of trade

INDEPENDENT REPORT
KARACHI: The first meeting of the Pakistan USA Business Council 2024-25 was held at the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI). In which top business personalities of

Planning Commissioner and Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce Director Imran Niazi was the guest of the event.

While on this occasion, Senior Vice President FPCCI Saqib Fayaz Magon also



graced the meeting with his valued suggestions and on behalf of FPCCI he expressed his full support for the Council and voiced his commitment to ensure close liaison between the FPCCI Chamber and the Trade Missions of Pakistan abroad.

A total of ten ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Tucapel and Pan Ivy left the port on today morning, while four more ships, Maersk Durban, Rigel, Hafnia Excel and OM are expected to sail on today.

Cargo volume of 144,554 tonnes, comprising 126,123 tonnes imports cargo and 18,431 tonnes export cargo carried in 4,099 Containers (3,202 TEUs Imports and 897 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships, Tucapel, Maersk Durban and OM carrying Container and LPG, berthed at Container Terminal and Engro Terminal respectively on Sunday.

Meanwhile another containership 'MSC Mumbai-VIII' also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim on today morning.

There are 10 ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim.

POL import bill decreases by 1.53%

ISLAMABAD (APP): The imports of the overall petroleum group decreased by 1.53 percent during the first ten months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the corresponding period of the last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

The total imports of the petroleum group during July-April (2023-24) stood at \$13,761.071 million, as against the imports of \$13,974.609 million during the same period of last year, according to PBS

data. Among petroleum commodities, the import of petroleum products declined by 14.09 percent, from \$6,149.116 million last year to \$5,283.001 million during the time period under review.

However, the imports of petroleum crude increased by 10.40 percent, from \$4,137.725 million to \$4,567.954; natural gas liquefied by 4.56 percent, from \$3,110.837 to \$3,252.812, whereas the imports of petroleum gas liquefied went up by 13.96 percent.

Gold rates up by Rs 2,300 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 2,300 and was sold at Rs 250,400 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs 248,100 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 1,972 to Rs 214,678 from Rs 212,706 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs 196,788 from Rs 194,980, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.



Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi addresses to Peshawar Division representatives delegation at Governor's House, Peshawar.

Punjab on way to progress: Minister

SIALKOT (APP): Minister for Local Government Punjab Zeeshan Rafique has said under the leadership of Punjab chief minister, the province has been put on the path to development and progress. He stated this while addressing a public gathering on the inauguration of Road in Old Daska, here on Monday.

He said the local government department was going to implement the largest and most comprehensive solid waste and sanitation system to provide a clean environment to people of

the province. He said garbage dumps would not be seen any where, while energy and reusable materials would be recycled from garbage which will clean the environment as well. "We will not deviate from the promises made in the election and we will reconstruct Daska", he added. The minister said the PC-1 for construction of five new roads in Daska were ready and work on these projects will be started in a few weeks while the construction of sewerage Naullah will resolve problem of drainage.

Seminar held to increase employment provision for women

SIALKOT (APP): Women Development Punjab Secretary Sumaira Samad has said the dream of social and economic development can not be materialized without making women economically independent. "Our women are courageous and high spirited who are making full use of their talents in every field of life. There is a need to provide equal opportunities for women in the society and it is the joint responsibility of the state and the society to remove

obstacles in this regard, she added. She was addressing a seminar organized in collaboration with South Asia Partnership Pakistan, GIZ and Siddhar Society in connection with the ongoing declaration to increase employment provision for women and disabled persons in the textile sector. Director General Social Welfare and Baitul-Mal Punjab Amina Muneer said that there was an ample scope for dignified employment for women and disabled persons in the textile industry in Punjab.

SHO sustains bullet injuries in exchange of fire with dacoits

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): A station house officer (SHO) received bullet injuries following an exchange of fire between a police team and unknown dacoits held here in the limits of Yarik police station late Sunday night. According to a police spokesman, the Yarik police station received information about a bike-snatching incident. In a quick response, a police team led by Yarik police station SHO Khubab Wali rushed to the site immediately.

ANF recovers 43 kg drugs in nine operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting nine operations across the country managed to recover 43 kg drugs and arrested 11 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that 121 Ice-filled capsules and 13 heroin-filled capsules were recovered from a Doha-bound passenger arrested Peshawar Airport. In two operations at a courier office in Rawalpindi, 470 intoxicated tablets were recovered from two parcels booked for England. 20 kg Ketamine was recovered from three suspects held in Sohrah Goth Karachi.

MNA Iqbal Channar inaugurates Clinic on Wheels in Islamia Colony

BAHAWALPUR (APP): MNA Malik Muhammad Iqbal Channar on Monday said that under the Punjab Chief Minister's healthcare vision, residents of the city's slums should be provided with healthcare facilities at their doorsteps under the Clinic on Wheels program.

He expressed these views while inaugurating the Punjab CM's Clinic on Wheels program in Islamia Colony. CEO Health Dr. Syed Tanvir Shah, DHO Dr. Zeeshan Rauf, District Coordinator Dr. Khalid Mahmood Arain, relevant officers, and local residents

were present on the occasion.

MNA Malik Iqbal Channar said that the Clinic on Wheels program is a revolutionary initiative by Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif. He added that the program is providing people with healthcare facilities at their doorsteps. He further stated that doctors and paramedical staff are playing a key role in providing healthcare facilities to the people of the area. He urged the residents of the area to benefit from the Punjab government's Clinic on Wheels program.

Admissions for fall 2024 semester open at IUB

BAHAWALPUR (APP): The admission campaign for fall admission 2024 has started in all campuses of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB) including Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, Rahim Yar Khan and Liaquatpur. Dean Faculty of Management Sciences and Commerce, Director Academic and Chairman Admission Committee Prof. Dr. Jawad Iqbal has said in his message that the Islamia University of Bahawalpur is among the

top 10 universities of Pakistan and 1000 best universities in the world.

Under the direction of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Naveed Akhtar, many new educational programs have been started at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur in line with the needs of domestic and foreign markets. Among them, there are many educational programs which are not taught in other universities of South Punjab.

PID Peshawar holds seminar for KP journalists on countering fake news

PESHAWAR (APP): Press Information Department (PID) Peshawar, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Monday organized a two-day workshop for journalists of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on countering of fake news and disinformation in present era of social and digital media.

The seminar titled "truth in the digital era: strategies for countering fake news in Pakistan" held here at a local hotel. The seminar was addressed besides others by President Peshawar Press Club (PPC), Arshad Aziz Malik, senior journalists Asif Nisar Gayasi and Maeraj Farooq. On the first day of the workshop, the

participants were engaged in brainstorming and an extensive interactive session to combat challenges of negative propaganda, fake news and disinformation, which is spreading fast on social and digital media before verified by the journalists.

PPC President, Arshid Aziz Malik said that journalism was a sacred profession and 4th pillar of the state and credible news and accurate information is the right of people of Pakistan.

He said that fake news and misinformation have posed serious threats to society in the present era of digitalization and great responsibility rests on media outlets, journalists

and editors to ensure that the provided information was true before its publication or airing on TV channels.

The speakers highly appreciated the endeavours of PID Peshawar, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for conducting such an important workshop on key topic for journalists of KP. Enlightening the participants on the importance of countering fake news and negative propaganda, senior journalist, Asif Nisar Ghayasi said that journalists are eyes and ears of society and for the sake of honour and prestige of reporters and anchors should ensure that their filed stories.

CMKP condoles death of Iran's President in helicopter crash

PESHAWAR (APP): The Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sardar Ali Amin Khan Monday expressed shock and sorrow over the death of Ebrahim Raisi, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He extended his condolences to the bereaved families of the Iranian president, the foreign minister, and others who died in the helicopter crash.

He prayed that Allah grants the martyrs a high place in Jannat al-Firdous and gives patience to their families and the Iranian nation for this tragedy. The CM said the government and people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa stand with them in this difficult time and share their sorrow.

The CM extended his condolences to the bereaved families and the Iranian people over the precious loss of lives in the crash and prayed for their comfort and patience in this difficult time.



KARACHI: Residents of Jehangir Road, Jamshed Road, Martin Quarter are protesting outside the office of K Electric at Tipu Sultan.

Irshad for provision of healthcare facilities to masses without interruption

MULTAN (APP): Special Secretary Primary and Secondary Health Care, South Punjab, Rashid Irshad Hussain on Monday urged upon all officers and staff to dedicate their full energy to provide comprehensive medical facilities to the people.

There should be no interruption or hindrance in the provision of public health services. He made these remarks while addressing the introductory meeting after his

appointment in South Punjab. During the meeting, he was briefed in length about the department's procedures and other matters. He emphasized that all available resources, workforce, and capabilities should be utilized to ensure the provision of medical facilities at the doorstep of the people. The special secretary stated that effective and continuous monitoring of the service delivery at all hospitals and health centers in South Punjab should be carried out.

International News

Israeli strike on Nuseirat refugee camp kills 31

Monitoring Desk
RAFAH: An Israeli strike killed 31 more Palestinians and wounded 20 others in a home in the central Nuseirat refugee camp in Gaza on Sunday, the Palestinian civil defence agency said, as US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan visited Israel for talks on the conflict.

Witness Yasser Abu Oula said an entire residential complex "was destroyed" and "there are still bodies under the rubble". Israel has bombed northern and central areas of the coastal territory, sparking US warnings that it could become mired in a lengthy counterinsurgency campaign. Also, Israeli troops have moved in on the Gaza Strip's far-southern city of Rafah, where the US says 800,000 civilians have been recently displaced.

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

who has vowed to keep fighting Hamas has faced intense opposition and calls to announce a plan for Gaza's post-war governance — from top ally Washington and from mass street protests, and now also from members of his war cabinet. Centrist politician Benny Gantz threatened him to quit the hard-right coalition unless Netan-yahu approves a post-war "action plan" by June 8.

Since the escalation in Israeli strikes on Gaza, at least 35,456 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza. Israel has imposed a siege on the long-blockaded Gaza Strip, depriving its 2.4 million people of normal access to food, water, medicines and fuel, the suffering eased only by sporadic air shipments. "We are living through a humanitarian catastrophe in every sense of the word,"

said Rafah resident Rinad Joudeh, 41, decrying "destruction, fear and terror" nearly two weeks into the Israeli incursion into the city. The head of the UN agency helping Palestinians said that "despite all the calls by the international community not to launch an offensive in Rafah, in reality an offensive started on May 6".

Since then, "we have again about half of the population of Gaza being on the road forced to flee" for safety once more, though "we keep saying there is absolutely nowhere to go," UNRWA chief Philippe Lazzarini told reporters in Amman.

Warning of famine in the besieged territory, UN's humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths said on Sunday the stranglehold on aid reaching Gaza threatens an "apocalyptic" outcome.



Volunteers prepare food for displaced Palestinians in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip.

Russia says Ukraine makes 60-drone attack on Russia, oil refinery halted

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Ukraine fired nine US ATACMS at Crimea and attacked Russian regions with at least 60 drones in a major attack that forced one oil refinery in southern Russia to halt operations, Russian officials said on Sunday.

Russian air defences shot down nine ATACMS missiles over Crimea along with 57 drones over Russia's Krasnodar region and three drones over

Belgorod region, the defence ministry said. Local officials said six drones crashed onto the territory of an oil refinery in Slavyansk in Russia's southern Krasnodar region. Interfax news agency said the refinery halted work after the attack. TASS quoted an official at the refinery as saying the charges carried by the Ukrainian-launched drones were bigger than previous attacks and that they included steel balls.

India begins voting in fifth phase as Mumbai, Gandhi family boroughs head to polls

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India began voting in the fifth phase of its mammoth general elections on Monday, with seats in the financial capital Mumbai and the opposition's Gandhi family bastions set to be sealed in the last few legs of the seven-phase vote. The world's largest election began on April 19 and will conclude on June 1, with votes set to be counted on June 4.

Monday's phase features the smallest number of seats being contested, with 89.5 million voters set to choose representatives for 49 seats. Several high-profile candidates are in the fray on Monday — including defence minister Rajnath Singh from Lucknow and trade minister Piyush Goyal from Mumbai — cities which have suffered from a dismal voter turnout in the past.

Russia stresses strong ties with Iran

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin phoned Iran's new interim president on Monday as Moscow made clear its desire to preserve and build on its deepening relationship with Tehran despite the sudden death of President Ebrahim Raisi. The Kremlin said Putin expressed his condolences to interim president Mohammad Mokhber and the whole Iranian people over Raisi's death in a helicopter crash, describing Raisi as a "reliable partner who made an invaluable personal contribution" to bilateral relations.

"Both sides emphasised their mutual desire to further consistently strengthen comprehensive Russian-Iranian interaction for the benefit of the peoples of the two countries," the Kremlin said in its readout of the

Putin-Mokhber call. State news agency RIA quoted Sergei Shoigu, secretary of Russia's Security Council, as saying Moscow could assist Iran in its investigation of the crash.

Since the state of the war in Ukraine, Russia has moved to strengthen its political, trade and military ties with Iran in a deepening relationship that the United States and Israel view with concern. In January, Russia's Foreign Ministry said a new interstate treaty reflecting the "unprecedented upswing" in Russian-Iran ties was in the final stages of being agreed, and Putin and Raisi were expected to sign it soon.

Putin held five hours of talks with Raisi in the Kremlin in December and had spoken to him by phone in March and April, according to the Kremlin website.

Biden reaches out to Gaza protesters in speech at Martin Luther King's college

Monitoring Desk
ATLANTA: President Joe Biden told students on Sunday at the former university of civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr that he heard their voices over the protests against the war in Gaza that have roiled US campuses.

As one student stood with his back to Biden during the graduation ceremony at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, the president added that he was working around the clock for an immediate ceasefire and lasting regional peace. "This is one of the hardest, most complicated problems in the world. There's nothing easy about it," said Biden, who wore a maroon and black gown in the colors of the historically Black university. "I know it angers and frustrates many of you, including my family, but most of all, I know it breaks your heart. It breaks mine as well."

Student protests, which have engulfed a string of US campuses, have caused political troubles for Biden in an election year in which he is set for a rematch with Republican former president Donald Trump. "I support peaceful non-violent protest. Your voices should be heard, and I promise you I hear them," Biden told the ceremony.

Biden said he wanted an "immediate ceasefire to stop the fighting, bring the hostages home". The 81-year-old Democrat added that he was pushing for a "lasting, durable peace" in the wider Middle East that would lead to an independent Palestinian state, which he called the "only solution." Biden had earlier applauded as the college's valedictorian, DeAngelo Jeremiah Fletcher, also called for an immediate ceasefire in his own speech.



People attend a protest outside the High Court on the day of an extradition hearing of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, in London, Britain.

Ukraine says Russian shelling targets civilians in Kharkiv region

Monitoring Desk
KHARKIV: Ukraine said Russian shelling targeted civilians in two cities in the northeastern region of Kharkiv on Saturday while President Volodymyr Zelenskyy reported successes by troops fighting a renews Russian assault there. Ukrainian prosecutors said they were investigating as a potential war crime a Russian air strike on a residential area of the

regional capital Kharkiv in which six civilians were wounded, including a 13-year-old girl, 16-year-old male and an eight-year-old. Moscow denies deliberately targeting civilians but thousands have been killed and injured since its February 2022 invasion of Ukraine. About 70 km (45 miles) to the northeast in Vovchansk, a city just 5 km (three miles) from the Russian border.

Pakistan, Turkiye target \$5b bilateral trade; call for permanent Gaza ceasefire

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Turkiye on Monday, vowing to strengthen bilateral and regional cooperation in multiple spheres, agreed to take the annual bilateral trade from existing \$1 billion to \$5 billion.

In a joint press statement following their "extensive" delegation-level talks, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan told the media that they had reviewed bilateral cooperation including trade, investment, connectivity and defence.

In his remarks, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar said the bilateral cooperation in all areas, was improving and measures were being taken to take the trade volume to \$5 billion.

Terming Pakistan and Turkiye "two countries and one nation," Dar said the strategic and comprehensive bilateral relations were manifested by elaborate in-

stitutional mechanisms and high-level exchanges and visits at the level of political leadership.

He said both sides also discussed the Pakistan-Turkiye High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) scheduled to take place in Islamabad in the near future to carry out a comprehensive review of cooperation including a holistic review of the strategic economic framework.

The deputy prime minister said that Pakistan and Turkiye had a history of defense cooperation and that both countries always supported each other on core issues, also during national calamities and disasters.

Highlighting bilateral cooperation on Islamophobia, he told the media that consequent to their joint efforts, the OIC, in its recent summit, agreed to appoint Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Dr Mehmet Pacaci as secretary-general's special en-

voy on Islamophobia.

Ishaq Dar also thanked Turkiye for its continuous support on the issue of Kashmir and reiterated Pakistan's support for the legitimate struggle of the people of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

Discussing the Gaza situation, both leaders agreed on an immediate need for a permanent ceasefire and the establishment of an independent Palestine state to achieve lasting peace in the Middle East.

Mentioning the tragic helicopter crash in Iran killing President Ebrahim Raisi along with the country's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and others, Ishaq Dar called it a "very sad day" for Muslim Ummah.

He said the delegation-level talks started with condolence and Faateha for the departed souls and prayer for patience for the bereaved families.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Turkiye Hakan Fidan calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

All institutions should work within their constitutional domains: Azam Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Monday said that all the institutions should work within their constitutional domains. Addressing a press conference, the minister said that the government was ready to provide full assistance to the police for the recovery of the missing poet Ahmed Farhad.

The Defence Ministry had told the court through the additional attorney general that Ahmed Farhad was not in the custody of any institution, he added. The minister said that if rights of anyone were violated he could approach the court which could sought a reply from the respondents.

Then the police were responsible to investigate the matter after registering a case, he added. Azam Tarar said that self-accountability was essential for a conducive environment in the country, which was at present at a critical juncture due to economic and security challenges.

No one take a risk to invest in the country with poor law and order situation, he added. He said that the government was addressing the long standing issue of missing persons with the consultation of all stakeholders.

DPM Ishaq Dar in Astana to attend SCO FMs' moot

ASTANA (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Monday arrived here for the regular meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

At the airport, he was received by Director of the Kazakh Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nursalimuly Yergalym, Pakistan's Ambassador in Astana, Nauman Bashir Bhatti and Pakistan's National Coordinator (SCO) Ambassador Marghoob Saleem Butt.

On the sidelines, Deputy Prime Minister Dar will meet Foreign Minister of Kyrgyz Republic Jeenbek Kulubaev today wherein they will discuss the latest situation in Bishkek with a view to ensure the well-being of Pakistani students.

PM urges Turkish firms to expand investment, relocate industries to Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday invited Turkish companies to further expand their investment portfolio in Pakistan, also urging them to consider relocating their industrial units to the country.

The prime minister, talking to Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, who called on him here, said that the current level of bilateral trade was not commensurate with the existing potential.

He emphasized to undertake concerted efforts for achieving the bilateral trade target of US\$ 5 billion in the next three years as already agreed by the leadership of the two brotherly countries.

While underscoring the special bonds of brotherhood between Pakistan and Turkiye, the prime minister expressed satisfaction over the positive momentum in bilateral relationship.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's firm commitment to further expansion of bilateral cooperation, in all areas of mutual interest, including trade, investment, technology and defence.

Regional and global developments, particularly the worsening humanitarian situation in Gaza were also discussed in the meeting.

Prime Minister Shehbaz appreciated President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's staunch advocacy for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and lasting peace in the Middle East.

He stressed the urgency and importance of the realization of the two-state solution as the key to attainment of durable peace in the Middle East.

The prime minister also reiterated his invitation to President Erdogan to undertake an early official visit to Pakistan for co-chairing with him the 7th meeting of High Level Strategic Cooperation Council.

Both sides reaffirmed their support and abiding support to each other on the core issues of national interest.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Hyder during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

Pakistan won't run smoothly without changes in system: Abbasi

KARACHI (INP): Former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Monday said that the hybrid government have no place in constitution.

Talking to media outside the accountability court in Karachi, he said the country will not run smoothly without drastic changes in the system. He urged for handing powers to capable people for solution of the national problems.

He said no steps taken over breach of the constitution. "We have to go back to 1947 if we revisit the past. "The government have no public mandate, this setup has also come from the same route, earlier used by the PTI's founder to form his government," Shahid Khaqan said.

He said political parties used to form before elections to achieve specific targets. "We talk about people's problems, political parties have adopted the route to win power," he said. "The court asked about the offence. The NAB has also told that no financial benefit taken in the case," talking on the case hearing he said.

"Visiting courts for several years, the NAB have no evidence. They even fail to point out which powers were misused," former PM said. "Former chairman of the NAB have to respond for it". He said the NAB has only devastated the national economy.

Talking on his political party, he said the party will come into existence by the next month and people from all parts of Pakistan will join it. The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in a previous hearing gave a clean chit to Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, ex-finance minister Miftah Ismail, Chairman Engro Hussain Dawood and Board member Abdul Samad Dawood, and others in the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) reference.



SUKKUR: Chairman Education Board Sukkur Rafiq Ahmed Pulh addresses to media persons during press conference regarding postponement of Intermediate Examinations, held at his office in Sukkur.

Larkana Range Police held promotion commety, 25 ASI's were promoted as Inspectors

By Allahdad Chandio
LARKANA : On the last day, a simple and dignified ceremony was held at the Larkana Police Department Larkana Range Office to rank the police officers who were promoted from sub-inspector to inspector. Besides, badges of the rank of the scale were also applied, SSP Qamber Shahdaadkot Muhammad Kaleem Malik and ASP (UT) Larkana were included among the officers who ap-



plied the rank of promotion. Among those who got promotion are Khalid Mahmood Durrani, Munir Ahmed Samun, Ali Murad Khoso, Tufail Ahmed Ahmadani, Naem Akhtar Abro, Sajjad Hussain Bhatti, Abdul Razzaq Taggar, Roshan Ali Bhutto, Anees Ahmed Soomro, Shabbir Ahmed Murthio, Anjad Iqbal Mughal, Mir Ahmad Nawaz Tanyu, Shafiqat Hussain Kanasro, Khalid Ahmad Rand and other assistant sub-inspectors were involved. On this occasion, DIGP Larkana Nasir Aftab Patahan congratulated the newly promoted police officers and expressed good wishes.



RAWALPINDI: General Angus J. Campbell, Chief of Defence Forces Australia, who is on official visit to Pakistan for 13th Round of Pakistan - Australia, Defence and Security Talks and 10th Round of 1.5 Track Security Dialogue, called on General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, at Joint Staff Headquarters.

Acting President for further consolidating bilateral ties with Malaysia

ISLAMABAD (APP): Acting President Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on Monday called for further consolidating bilateral ties with Malaysia for the mutual benefit of the two brotherly countries.

Pakistan and Malaysia, he said, enjoyed cordial cooperation at all international fora, which needed to be further strengthened.

The Acting President expressed these views while talking to the Chief of the Royal Malaysian Navy, Admiral Tan Sri Abdul Rahman bin Ayob, who along with his delegation called on him at the Aiwani-e-Sadr. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Acting President urged the need to further explore avenues of cooperation in maritime sectors for the mutual benefit of the two brotherly countries.

He expressed the hope that training and exchange programmes between the two navies would further cement naval cooperation between Pakistan and Malaysia.

The Acting President expressed satisfaction over the regular conduct of bilateral naval exercises and training collaboration between Pakistan and Malaysia.

He appreciated the Royal Malaysian Navy for regular participation in AMAN exercises and emphasised the need for continuity of the same in future.

He stated that Pakistan was looking forward to the continued support of Malaysia for Pakistan's bid to become the Full Dialogue Partner of ASEAN.

Earlier, the Acting President conferred the award of Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) upon Admiral Tan Sri Abdul Rahman bin Ayob during a special investiture ceremony.

Admiral Tan Sri Abdul Rahman bin Ayob is a close friend of Pakistan and has played a prominent role in promoting cooperation between the Royal Malaysian Navy and the Pakistan Navy.



HYDERABAD: All Sindh Primary School Teachers Association Central President, Sikandar Ali Jatoi addresses to media persons during press conference, at Hyderabad press club.

PTI founder, others acquitted in Azadi March vandalism case

ISLAMABAD (INP): The sessions court on Monday acquitted Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan, lawmaker Zartaj Gul and others in the Azadi March vandalism case.

Judicial Magistrate Mureed Abbas Khan conducted Monday's hearing and announced the reserved verdict.

In 2022, vandalism cases were registered by the Karachi Company police against PTI founder Imran Khan, lawmaker Zartaj Gul, former PTI leader Asad Umar, Faisal Javed, Ali Nawaz Awan and Saifullah Niazi in connection with Azadi March.

During the proceedings, Naem Panjotra, the counsel for the PTI, argued before the judge that the FIR had been filed by an unauthorised person, adding that if the basis of an FIR was wrong, how the case could proceed.

The lawyer contended that the authority to file the case rested only with the person who imposed Section 144.

He argued that no video evidence could be presented against Imran Khan in the instant case.

The counsel maintained that FIRs were registered against peaceful protesters and 19 cases of the same nature were registered against Khan in different police stations. Panjotra requested the court to acquit the PTI founder since the allegations made against him were baseless. He also informed the court that the cases instituted against Imran Khan were all politically motivated.

Governor Punjab meets Sindh CM

KARACHI (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider met the Chief Minister of Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah at chief minister House here on Monday.

During the meeting, the CM Sindh congratulated Sardar Saleem Haider on assuming the post of Governor of the Punjab.

They also discussed the matters of mutual interest on the occasions.

KCFR extends condolence over tragic death of Iranian President

KARACHI (APP): The Karachi Council on Foreign Relations (KCFR) extended deepest condolences to the People and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the tragic death of the President, the Foreign Minister and several key members of the presidential entourage.

President Ebrahim Raisi was a distinguished leader, recognized both domestically and internationally for his commitment to fostering peace, stability and development within Iran and the region.

His recent visit to Pakistan further strengthened bonds of friendship and brotherhood between our countries and people, Executive Secretary of the Council Gaiyya Khurram said in a statement.

CTD arrests two operatives of illegal arms supplier group

KARACHI (APP): In a significant crackdown on illegal arms trafficking, the Sindh Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Investigation Wing successfully arrested two operatives involved in the supply of illegal weapons during two separate operations on Sunday night.

According to a CTD spokesman on Monday, the Investigation Wing received intelligence regarding the delivery of weapons ordered online from Darra Adam Khel, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) to Karachi. Acting on this information, two teams were deployed to apprehend the suspects and seize the illegal arms. In the first operation, the CTD team targeted the Mubina Town area, leading to the arrest of Syed Bilal, son of Syed Parvez. From Bilal's possession, the authorities recovered four 9mm pistols.

KU cancels admission for submitting bogus marksheet

KARACHI (APP): The University of Karachi on Monday canceled the admissions of a student from the morning program-2024 after the verification from the Board of Intermediate Examination Karachi.

The in-charge KU Directorate of Admissions Dr Saima Akhtar mentioned that the admission was canceled immediately as the marksheet was forged.

According to details, Rejea Ali daughter of Fazal Muhammad Surahio, having form number 671445 and marksheet seat number 619129, was enrolled in BS First Year in the Department of Botany.

Achakzai wants military to work within its constitutional limits

Monitoring Desk
ISLAMABAD: Tehreek Tahafuz Aien-e-Pakistan President Mahmood Khan Achakzai on Monday urged institutions, including the military, to respect constitutional boundaries, similar to global practices, a private tv channel reported.

"When we talk about the Constitution, some institutions think we are against them," Achakzai said during a ceremony in Islamabad. "We only want our military to work within its constitutional limits, like armies worldwide."

Expressing concern over the country's deteriorating condition, he said that if those who are ruining the country are not stopped, Pakistan will not survive.

"This nation was not created to hurl abuses at our own people's mothers and sisters," he said. "Every blessing mentioned in Surah Rahman is present in Pakistan, yet we are starving because we do not adhere to our Constitution."

Achakzai emphasised the need for the military to operate within its constitutional limits. "Some institutions think we are criticising them when we talk about the Constitution. We believe the country cannot function without intelligence agencies, and we want our military to be among the best in the world, but they must stay within their boundaries," he stated.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf during call-on with Chief of Royal Malaysian Navy Admiral Tan Sri Abdul Rahman Bin Ayob at Naval Headquarters.

'Annual Mango Festival' Mangoes of Sindh are loved all over the world due to their unique flavors: Zulfiqar

Independent Report
KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Culture, Tourism, Antiquities and Archives Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah has said that the Annual 'Mango Festival' is an honor for Mirpurkhas. The Culture and Tourism



Department Sindh will arrange the cultural stalls, tourist information centers and the musical events for the guests and visitors during the festival, he added. He expressed these views during a meeting with Commissioner Mirpurkhas Faisal Ahmed Uqaili in his office.

Provincial Minister Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah said that the mangoes of Sindh are loved all over the world due to their unique flavors; the Sindh government is taking steps to benefit the local farmers by improving the export of mangoes. On the occasion, DG Culture Manwar Ali Mahesar, Director Culture Habibullah Memon, Director PITHM Hidayatullah Rajar were also present.



KARACHI: Residents of Karachi are holding protest demonstration against prolong electricity load shedding and over billing, arranged by Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) outside K-Electric Customer Care Centre Tipu Sultan road in Karachi.