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dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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Combination of physical, bio-chemical, methods to reduce BOD, COD in wastewater: Murad

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that reducing Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) in wastewater treatment was crucial for environmental protection, regulatory compliance, and public health.

He said employing the combination of physical, biological, chemical, and advanced treatment methods could achieve significant reductions, leading to cleaner water, healthier ecosystems, and cost-effective operations.

This he said while talking to a high-level 14-member Polish Business delegation led by the Polish Ministry of Climate Change and Environment along with Polish Ambassador Mr Maciej Pisarski.

In the meeting investment opportunities in the province, particularly in the renewable energy, water, air, green building, and

smart cities projects were discussed, a communique said.

The meeting was held at CM House and was attended by provincial ministers, Nasir Shah, Saeed Ghani, Dost Mohammad Rahmo, acting chief secretary Musadiq Khan, chairman P&D Najam Shah and others.

Murad Shah and the visiting delegation discussed investment opportunities in the province, particularly in the renewable energy, water, air, green building and smart cities projects.

Wastewater Treatment Efforts: The CM said that the Environmental Protection Agency has installed over 200 wastewater treatment plants in various industrial estates across Sindh. Additionally, 87 tanneries were now required to treat their effluent through a combined effluent treatment plant specifically designed for tanneries.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah in meeting with a Polish Business delegation led by the Polish Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and Polish Ambassador Maciej Pisarski, at CM House in Karachi.

Cabinet expresses dissatisfaction over probe Commission's report on Faizabad sit-in

Directs to form a special committee that will present its recommendations on the matter; Cabinet members back SC observation on inquiry report; Adopts condolatory resolution; vows to carry forward Raisi's vision of stronger bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): The federal cabinet, with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in the chair, on Tuesday expressed its dissatisfaction over a report of an Inquiry Commission into Faizabad sit-in (dharma) by observing that the commission had not adhered to its Terms of Reference (ToR).

The meeting directed to constitute a special committee of the cabinet that would submit its recommendations in this regard.

The Attorney General for Pakistan submitted an inquiry report over the

matter and gave a detailed briefing to the cabinet, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The cabinet also adopted a resolution expressing condolences on the shahadat of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and their companions in a helicopter crash.

The meeting also granted its approval to the recommendation of Ministry of Interior for duty and tax exemption on the equipment donated to Balochistan police by Guangdong Public Security

Department, China. However, under Federal Excise Tax 2005, the federal excise duty would be imposed on these items.

The cabinet directed that in future, such like donations and grants would be exempted from taxes.

It also approved signing of memorandum of understanding between Pakistan and the United Kingdom with regard to handing over of three accused of Pakistani nationality on the recommendation of the ministry of interior.

During the meeting, the National Livestock

Breeding Policy, 2022 was presented by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research and the cabinet directed it to resubmit it after holding consultations with the private sector.

While on the recommendation of ministry of national food security and research, the cabinet approved in principle the legislation work related to National Animal Health, Welfare and Veterinary Public Health Act 2024. A Cabinet Committee on Legislative would comprehensively look into the matter.

Peace in South Asia linked with just settlement of Kashmir dispute: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday emphasized that a durable peace in South Asia was contingent upon a just settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in accordance with relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of Kashmiri people.

The prime minister, talking to a delegation of Kashmiri diaspora activists, led by Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Secretary General World Kashmir Awareness Forum which called on him here, reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering moral, diplomatic and political support for

Kashmiri people's struggle for realization of their inalienable right to self-determination.

He lauded the Kashmiri activists' efforts to increase global awareness about the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and the plight of people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The prime minister recalled that he had never missed any opportunity to raise the voice in support of Kashmiri brothers and sisters, as evident from his address at the 2022 UN General Assembly, as well as at other forums including SCO and with other world leaders.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Kashmiri Diaspora activists calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar says: It makes no difference if some one holds press conference on behalf of some one else

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani of Islamabad High Court (IHC) has remarked if some one holds press conference on behalf of some one he is at liberty to do it as it makes no difference.

The case for recovery of missing Baloch students came up for hearing in IHC Tuesday.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani took up the

case for hearing. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani inquired from Attorney General (AG) It is allegation that so many people are allegedly in the custody of agencies.

They eat food. The expense is incurred by state. Is annual audit of fund of agencies conducted. The courts will continue to work as long as the cases of missing persons take place.

Sindh Govt to purchase modern weapons to combat robbers: Sharjeel Memon

KARACHI (INP): Senior Sindh Minister Sharjeel Memon has announced that the provincial government is set to purchase modern weapons to counter the

heavily armed robbers operating in the region. Speaking to the media, Memon revealed that the robbers in the Kacha area are equipped with advanced weaponry, prompting the Sindh government to seek federal assistance for acquiring similar arms for the police force. The delivery of these modern weapons is expected soon.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori alongwith Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan ringing Bell of Hope at Governor House.

Malir Expressway to be opened from Qayyumabad to Airport by the end of 2024: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Tuesday said that Malir Expressway will be opened from Qayyumabad to the Airport by the end of this year, while the development work from the Airport to Kathore will be completed by next August.

He expressed these views while talking to the delegation of Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) led by MNA Syed Aminul Haque.

He said that after opening of the Lyari Expressway and Malir Expressway, the traffic in Karachi will be managed in a better way.

The Mayor Karachi said that heavy traffic should be transferred to the Lyari Expressway, as the structure of the Lyari Expressway is suitable for this heavy traffic.

The Mayor of Karachi also asked the MQM-P members to join in getting the Karachi package so that the development projects of Karachi can be completed on time.

Mayor Karachi said that the K-IV project should be completed soon to overcome the water shortage in Karachi.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that the Fire Brigade Department is under Karachi



ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani offering condolences to the Ambassador of Iran, Reza Amiri Moghadam over the sad demise of the President of Iran Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi at the Embassy of Iran.

Gilani visits Iranian embassy for condolence; says Islamic Ummah lost great leader

ISLAMABAD (APP): Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Tuesday paid a condolatory visit to the Iranian embassy here wherein he said that with the death of Iranian President Dr Ebrahim Raisi, the Islamic Ummah had lost a great leader.

The acting president expressed deep grief on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan on the sad demise of

Dr Raisi, the Iranian foreign minister and others in the helicopter accident, saying that the whole nation shared the grief of the Iranian brothers and sisters.

Talking to the Iranian Ambassador Reza Amiri

Moghadam, Acting President Gilani said that Pakistan and Iran enjoyed excellent relations based on historical, cultural, and literary linkages.

He remarked that both countries needed to promote people-to-people contacts and parliamentary exchanges to bring the two brotherly countries further closer. He highlighted that President Raisi was a noble soul, a scholar and a great friend of Pakistan.

The Iranian ambassador said that Pakistan and Iran enjoyed excellent relations and promotion of ties with Pakistan was a cornerstone of Iran's foreign policy.

Nasir Shah for protection of miners during heat stroke

KARACHI (APP): Provincial Minister for Energy, Planning and Development Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has issued instructions for the protection of miners during expected heat stroke.

According to statement, the minister said protective measures should be ensured for all miners to prevent heat stroke.

He asked all companies working in Thar coal should adopt preventive measures to save miners from effects of the scorching heat.

He said that the lives of miners are very important to us as workers are the backbone of mining industry.

Railway fares decreased by over 50%

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Railways on Tuesday has announced a significant reduction in train fares across various classes.

The official notification regarding the fare reduction has been issued and is effective immediately, as reported private news. The fare reduction applies to train journeys ranging from one to 200 kilometers for all classes of trains, benefiting passengers traveling shorter distances. The most notable reductions were seen in the economy and AC classes. Economy class fares on certain routes have been reduced by up to 54%. For instance, the minimum fare for the economy class on the Lahore to Rawalpindi route has decreased from Rs250 to Rs100.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Iranian Consul General Hassan Noorian offer Fateha during condolence meeting over the death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his companions in helicopter crash incident, at the Iranian Embassy in Karachi.

Bilawal, Aseefa visits Iranian Consulate, offer condolence

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, accompanied by MNA Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, visited the Iranian Consulate in Karachi to express their condolences on the tragic passing of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his colleagues due to a helicopter crash.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Aseefa Bhutto Zardari expressed profound sorrow over the deaths of President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Amirabdollahian in a helicopter crash.

They paid tribute to President Raisi and Foreign Minister Amirabdollahian for their dynamic leadership and invaluable contributions.

The PPP Chairman said that he was deeply saddened by the tragic loss of lives in the helicopter crash in Iran.

He noted that his positive meetings with President Raisi and Foreign Minister Amirabdollahian had fostered a cordial relationship with them.

He further emphasized that the people of Pakistan stand in solidarity with their Iranian brothers and sisters during this time of grief.

Pakistan's Multi Mission Satellite PAKSAT MM1 to be launched on May 30

ISLAMABAD (APP): In accordance with the National Space Program 2047, Pakistan Space and upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) has announced the launch of Pakistan's Multi Mission Communication Satellite PAKSAT MM1 on May 30 from XiChang Satellite Launch Center (XSLC), China.

PAKSAT MM1 was conceived keeping in sight the growing needs of the country in the socio-economic uplift of the country. It will prove to be a stepping stone in the transformation of the country into Digital Pakistan.

Based on advances communication technologies, PAKSAT MM1 will play a pivotal role in the socio-economic uplift of the country. It will prove to be a stepping stone in the transformation of the country into Digital Pakistan.

The launch ceremony will be shown live for media from Islamabad and Karachi establishments of SUPARCO.



ASTANA: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar addressed the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) meeting.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Iranian tragedy

The tragic helicopter crash on Sunday, in which Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi, foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and several other officials lost their lives, comes at a critical time for the Islamic Republic. While internally, Iran is faced with significant economic challenges, externally,

Tehran is in the midst of an undeclared war against Israel, with the Zionist state's savagery in Gaza the key trigger of this conflict. However, a power vacuum within Iran is unlikely, as an interim president has been named, and elections are due within 50 days. Raisi and his delegation were returning from Azerbaijan when his copter went down in a mountainous terrain, apparently in bad weather. The deaths of all on board were confirmed early on Monday.

Raisi oversaw a truncated but eventful term. He took the reins in 2021. One of the most formidable internal challenges to his administration came in the form of the 2022 Mahsa Amini protests, after a young woman died in controversial circumstances, reportedly while in the custody of the 'morality police'. Anti-government protests shook Iran, and the state responded by cracking down on demonstrators.

On the foreign front, Raisi had reopened channels with Saudi Arabia, thanks to Chinese mediation last year, a process in which Amir-Abdollahian also played a crucial role. But perhaps the late president's most difficult foreign policy moment came in the aftermath of the Israeli attack on Iran's diplomatic facility in Damascus last month, killing a number of high-ranking Iranian military men. Tehran responded with an unprecedented drone-and-missile strike on Israel some two weeks later.

With regard to Pakistan, under Raisi's watch, efforts were made to improve bilateral ties. While there was an ugly exchange of missiles in January over alleged militant hideouts, the late leader's state visit to Pakistan last month indicated that Tehran wanted to deepen ties with this country. It is hoped the incoming Iranian president continues on this trajectory.

Due to Iran's regional and geopolitical influence, the world will be watching the power transition carefully. While some Western observers dismiss the Iranian system as a totalitarian dictatorship run by the supreme leader, the reality is more complex. While the supreme leader does exercise a key veto over state policies, the president and other centres of power are not without agency.

Iran's new leader will have to confront economic woes and political polarisation internally. On the other hand, the Middle East presently resembles a powder keg, principally due to Israeli atrocities in Gaza. Iran has a major role in regional dynamics, as it is a vocal supporter of Hamas, Hezbollah and other armed groups fighting Israel. Therefore, much will depend on how the incoming Iranian president and the Islamic Republic's establishment choose to respond to continuous Israeli provocations.

Climate resilience

Ajaz Ahmed

While the modern economy depends heavily on the smooth operation of critical infrastructure to deliver basic services, there are new challenges confronting the sustainability and durability of this infrastructure. Climate change is one such challenge. Notwithstanding the lack of data and adequate reporting, estimates show that climate-related natural disasters disrupted basic services such as health, education, and transport in at least 44 reporting countries in 2020 and 2021.

According to the World Bank, the financial toll of infrastructure disruptions in low- and middle-income countries reached up to \$647 billion in 2019. If there is one thing that developing countries like Pakistan need to learn from this, it is to ensure that development gains are preserved. This means that there is an urgent need to develop the resilience of critical infrastructure to enable it to withstand climate shocks, such as floods. However, the current approach to infrastructure development rarely factors in climate risks and the cascading impact of climate-related disasters. Similarly, high upfront costs often discourage the incorporation of the climate resilience aspect in infrastructure development.

Whenever a natural disaster, such as floods, hits Pakistan, it destroys infrastructure, depriving people of access to basic services, including water supply, sanitation, electricity, health, and transport to the nearest market to buy food and other needed supplies. The disruption of basic services during natural dis-

asters amplifies the exposure of the affected population; it aggravates their vulnerability and undermines resilience.

The damage to critical infrastructure also has indirect effects. For example, evidence shows that small businesses that provide livelihood to low-income households suffer losses due to the disruption of transport and electricity supply and not the flood itself. However, infrastructure resilience improves the reliability of service provision and increases the life of assets — including those which are of an income-generating nature — thereby protecting returns, enabling livelihood diversification, and reducing disaster risk.

Since Pakistan has yet to invest in decarbonisation to achieve Nationally Determined Contributions targets etc, investing in climate-resilient infrastructure could be a win-win situation. It would allow the economy to decarbonise and also develop resilience to climate shocks. Making infrastructure resilient to climate shock would mean a marginal increase in the total investment cost. But, not only would these be recouped soon, the extra effort will increase the lifetime of an asset. Nevertheless, investments in climate-resilient and low-carbon infrastructure need a fundamental transformation of critical infrastructure systems, which should be reflected in the projects' planning, design, and delivery. A crucial element is to incorporate this aspect into the public procurement process, while considering different proposals.

With Pakistan

highly vulnerable to climate change and the frequency and intensity of climate-induced natural disasters expected to increase, ensuring infrastructure resilience should be a priority of the government. This requires prioritising investments to develop this resilience and mitigate the impact of natural disasters on vulnerable communities. In addition to such investments, assessing the resilience of existing infrastructure and improving weaknesses is also important to cope with natural disasters. This would require developing quantitative and qualitative techniques and methods to assess the resilience of a system to a potential natural disaster.

In addition to spearheading the resources, generating high-quality data and information, developing required tools, and improving the technical and institutional capacity of relevant departments are crucial to supporting decision-making under uncertain climatic conditions. Integrating this aspect of uncertainty in the planning, development and deployment of tools for decision-making can mitigate infrastructural damage and post-disaster reconstruction costs.

Similarly, leveraging nature-based solutions can significantly reduce climate risks and help develop infrastructure resilience.

Nature-based solutions do much to ensure that infrastructure has a harmonious relationship with the natural environment, so that environmental sustainability is not undermined by weak infrastructure. Such infrastructure assets and corresponding basic services are better protected against climate shocks. -

Courtesy Dawn

Law that rules

Syed Saadat

Not too long ago, it was reported that the Pakistan Customs Group's association had moved a resolution seeking proof of the government's allegations of corruption and inefficiency against certain tax officers. It threatened to take legal action against Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for purging the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) of these officers. A majority of votes for the resolution ensured its passage within 24 hours. This was a swift reaction to the removal of 25 officers — 11 of them belonging to Customs and 14 were from Inland Revenue. Apparently, the PM's actions were rooted in adverse reports from the intelligence agencies regarding these officers.

Sooner or later, a court will issue a stay order on these removals and various delaying tactics will ensure that these officers retire in due course of time. If guilty, they would neither be stripped of their privileges nor penalised for the plunder that they might have indulged in during their career. This is the playbook for all unscrupulous elements in powerful quarters. Issue a swift and aggressive rejoinder, let the matter cool down, emerge from media scrutiny and take the exit. This happens with the connivance of comrades in the service, who are sometimes accomplices to the crime and at others too timid to complain about wrongdoing.

The association, instead of just threatening Mr Sharif with legal action, could have gone a step further and revealed the assets of the 'honest' officers for public scrutiny. I am sure investigative journalists can do the

honours — as they do in their scrutiny of political persons. We all know about political sacra-crowds, but some civil servants do not lag too far behind; and are themselves often considered 'untouchable' in this sense.

The association took 24 hours to come to the defence of the officers who have been removed from their posts. But on how many occasions has the same association issued press releases calling for departmental action against corrupt officers who bring disrepute to their organisation? Does it mean that no officer in Customs or FBR has been involved in any corrupt practices? I leave the answer to this question to the common sense of the readers.

There have been very few whistle-blowers among the ranks of officers and their fate has not been very encouraging. Either they are tagged as problematic and never get a good posting, or are themselves accused of wrongdoing just to erase the credibility of their accusations.

The various trainings during the career of civil servants are meant to promote camaraderie and coordination within the law and the ambit of Pakistan's civil service. However, these often end up creating a mafia of sorts, whose members ensure they protect each other whenever some adverse action is taken against one of them, even if justified. Loyalty to one's batch-mate takes precedence over loyalty to the state.

It is impossible to obtain proof of kickbacks, because the latter are not received directly in bank accounts, but more often in cash. On top of that, those who give these kickbacks are not in a posi-

tion to become whistle-blowers. If they make any such move, they turn into persona non grata for these services. No businessman wants Customs or FBR officials to scrutinise his day-to-day dealings, because the law is complicated and he can be dragged into long legal battles.

Under such circumstances, there is no official law — just the official who is the law. The proverbial 'software update' (a term used for a change in the stance of someone accusing powerful quarters of wrongdoing) is just round the corner if a mere mortal tries to be a whistle-blower. So, for a businessman, it makes perfect sense to make less profit by paying these elements their cut, rather than making no profit at all by being put out of business.

Forgive me for being harsh but, in protecting each other, civil servants often disregard the law. The only time they go against each other is when one gang is pitted against the other. For example, the Pakistan Administrative Service might find fault with the Police Service of Pakistan, or the Secretariat Group officers might accuse PAS officers of being

promoted undeservingly — but nothing more. It is a fact that civil services personnel tend to protect their own no matter how unscrupulous or corrupt these elements may be, rather than serving a public denied its fundamental rights. Many would say, not incorrectly, that there are two ways of getting rich in this country: giving or taking a bribe. Businesses that wish to grow, give bribes; government functionaries receive it. Whether anyone likes it or not, that is the law that rules. --

Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Khawaja Asif for an end to cigarette manufacturers' influence for tax evasion

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Defence and Defence Production, Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Tuesday said that it was absolutely saddening that counterfeit cigarette manufacturers were members of the assemblies and watch guard their business' interests through the legislature.

"Pakistan has a capacity to generate 27,000 billion rupees in terms of taxes and we will not need IMF support if we only collect half of this tax," this

was stated by Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif at the launching session of the research report titled 'Illicit Cigarette Trade in Pakistan - Current Situation and Way Forward', produced by the National University of Science & Technology (NUST), a news release said. "Two major cigarette manufacturers are contributing Rs170b in taxes while the share of all the other cigarette manufacturers is just 2 billion rupees," he added.

Khawaja Asif quoted ex Chairman FBR Shabbir Zaidi that during his tenure when FBR planned to implement tax on the cigarette industry, at that time Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser pressurized Shabbir Zaidi not to implement taxes on the cigarette industry.

The NUST research report on the tobacco sector revealed that Pakistan is losing 310 billion rupees annually due to tax evasion in the tobacco sector.

NAC approves provisional GDP at 2.38% for fiscal year 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Accounts Committee (NAC) on Tuesday approved the provisional growth of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country at 2.38 per cent for the ongoing fiscal year (2023-24).

The committee

approved the quarterly GDP growth rates for first-quarter (revised), second (revised), and third quarter during the fiscal year 2023-24 and annual growth rates for 2021-22 (final), 2022-23 (revised) and 2023-24 (provisional). The committee approved the revised first and second quarters estimates for 2023-24. Overall GDP for the first quarter and second quarter for the fiscal year 2023-24 have witnessed a revised growth of 2.71% and 1.79%.

LESCO detects 82,660 power pilferers in 240 days

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has detected a total of 82,660 connections from where the customers were pilfering electricity in all its circles of five districts (Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara) in 240 days of grand anti-power theft campaign. The LESCO spokesman told media here Tuesday that the company has also submitted FIR applications against electricity thieves, out of which 76,097 FIRs have been registered.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan and Federal Minister for Communication, Abdul Aleem Khan, jointly chairing a cabinet committee dedicated to promoting Pakistani enterprises in global markets.

Jam Kamal for fostering Intl collaborations to maximizing market opportunities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Tuesday emphasized fostering international collaborations and maximizing market opportunities for Pakistani businesses.

Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, and Federal Minister for Communication, Abdul Aleem Khan, jointly chaired a cabinet committee dedicated to promoting Pakistani enterprises in

global markets, said a press release issued here.

The committee is tasked with developing recommendations for Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, drawing on insights from various industry sectors.

In his remarks, Jam Kamal emphasized Pakistan's skilled workforce and competitive labor costs, highlighting the country's potential across multiple sectors.

The initiative identifies key

opportunities in engineering, construction, services, IT, and other industries, leveraging both domestic and international exhibitions with the support of Trade and Investment Officers.

This initiative aims to enhance Pakistan's global market presence and stimulate economic growth. The Prime Minister established the committee to explore export opportunities and assess the potential of Pakistani companies.

CCP approves product supply agreement between Aramco, GO Petroleum

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has granted a time-bound exemption on the relevant clauses of product supply agreement between Aramco Trading (ATC) Fujairah FZE Ltd and Gas and Oil Pakistan Ltd (GO Petroleum) for importing and selling gasoline and diesel products to Pakistan.

ATC Fujairah, registered in the United Arab Emirates, is one of the world's largest integrated energy and chemicals companies, said a press release here on Tuesday.

Gas and Oil Pakistan Limited, an Oil Marketing Company (OMC) registered in Pakistan that operates a network of retail outlets across the country that sell petrol, diesel, and lubricants. Under the referred agreement, ATC Fujairah intends to meet GO Petroleum's demand for essential petroleum products for its outlets, which primarily includes gasoline and diesel. The parties submitted to the CCP that this arrangement is expected to achieve economies of scale in procurement for GO Petroleum.

Gold rates dip by Rs 1,900 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs 1,900 and was sold at Rs 248,500 on Tuesday compared to its sale at Rs 250,400 on the last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs 1,630 to Rs 213,048 from Rs 214,678 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went down to Rs 195,295 from Rs 196,788, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten-gram silver remained constant at Rs2,850 and Rs2,443.41, respectively.

Govt to bring reforms in key areas to provide relief to masses: Energy minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Energy Sardar Awaiz Ahmad Leghari Tuesday said that the government would bring reforms in key areas to address the issues concerning the masses.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that we will take effective measures to eliminate power theft to reduce the financial burden on the national exchequer.

Talking about Pakistan's solar net

metering policy, he clarified that the government would take all stakeholders into confidence before taking any final decision, adding that the PML-N-led government in 2017 Solarization was encouraged, and there are currently 113,000 connections on the net.

The government is willing to review the solar net metering policy if needed, it supports the continuation of the scheme, "he added.



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Ahmar Ellahi, Accountant General of Pakistan Revenues along with senior officers visiting all sections of the AGPR.

Finance Minister meets with chairman PRBC to discuss retail sector challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday met with the Chairman of the Pakistan Retail Business Council (PRBC) Ziad Bashir and a delegation to discuss the challenges faced by retail sector.

Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervez Malik also attended the meeting, said a news release issued here. The PRBC delegation expressed their appreciation over steps being taken by the government to improve economic conditions in the country. They also extended their support for Federal Board of Revenue's Tajir Dost Scheme. Additionally, they informed the minister about the challenges being

faced by the retail businesses. They highlighted the need for the inclusion of untaxed, undocumented retail sector in the tax net.

Furthermore, they gave proposals to encourage documented business in the country.

The federal minister acknowledged their concerns and mentioned that McKinsey and Company has been engaged to assist the FBR's end-to-end digitalization, which will broaden the tax net. He also informed the delegation that he had assigned the minister of state Ali Pervez Malik to oversee this task on a day-to-day basis to ensure its timely completion. Minister of State appreciated the proposals submitted by PRBC.



KARACHI: Mashreq Pakistan Chief Information Officer, Khurram Abid and Group Chief Business Solutions Officer PTCL and Ufone 4G Zarrar Hasham Khan sign an agreement for provision of primary data center colocation services to Mashreq at PTCL Tier-III Data Center in Karachi. Mohamed Abdel Razeq, Group Head of Technology, Transformation and Information Mashreq, Muhammad Hamayun Sajjad, CEO Mashreq Pakistan and Muhammad Basharat Qureshi, Group VP Enterprise Solutions PTCL Group also attended the signing ceremony.

Minister assures Hangu delegation of resolving village council issue

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Revenue and Estate Nazir Ahmad Abbasi on Tuesday met with a delegation of local elders led by Shah Abu Tarab Bangash, Member of Provincial Assembly from Hangu District.

The delegation informed the Provincial Minister Nazir Ahmad Abbasi about the problems faced by the locals and said that a village council of Hangu district which consists of two villages has been included in Karak district due to which the residents of the area are

facing problems. The Village Council is in every respect near Tehsil Doaba of Hangu District. It is more than 80 KM from Karak district headquarters while 14 KM from Tehsil Doaba headquarters. In the meeting, there was a discussion on the background and solution of the problems.

Member Board of Revenue and other relevant officials were present in the meeting. Nazir Ahmad Abbasi assured the delegation of resolving the problem and said that the Revenue Department has no objection to the inclusion of

said Village Council in Hangu district, but the rejoining Hangu can be done only with the approval of the Provincial Cabinet. He directed for preparing a complete case and submitting all the necessary documents and along with the application.

He further said that public issues will be solved on priority basis. Transparency and merit are being prioritized in the Revenue and Estate Department while accountability will be ensured adding that decisions will be made in the department only on merit.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Deputy Speaker National Assembly, Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

Teacher's training workshop inaugurated at MUET

HYDERABAD (APP): The Mehran University of Engineering and Technology in collaboration with Sindh Higher Education Commission organised a 5-day workshop for training of Mehran University Teachers in the water center.

Addressing the maiden session Vice Chancellor Mehran University Dr. Taha Hussain Ali said that nowadays teachers were not only a source of knowledge as tools of knowledge had been increased and today's students hold faster access to knowledge than a teacher.

He said that this period is the collective age of learning as the teacher was also learning with students.

He said that we need those best teachers in universities who have the spirit and devotion to learn and teach.

Acting Pro-vice chancellor Prof. Dr. Aftab Ahmed Memon said that Chat GPT and other latest means have made sources of learning easy now students do not depend on teachers.

He urged teachers to equip themselves with the requirements of the modern age.

Similarly, Suddar police team arrested two outlaws of a robbers' gang including Muhammad Nawaz, r/o Chak no.162 Sikandar Pur and Amjad Siddique r/o Chak no.228-GB Chinot along with two stolen motorcycles, cash mobile phones and weapons. Meanwhile, Chak Jhumra police arrested two robbers Shahid Jameel and Shah Jahan along with motorcycle, cash and weapons, where as Jaranwala Suddar police nabbed two robbers- Kashif and Mudassar Aslam along with six motorcycles, cash of Rs.100,000.

Four robbery gangs busted

FAISALABAD (APP): The police claimed to bust four gangs by arresting their nine active members along with cash, motorcycles, weapons and other items during past 24 hours.

Police said here on Tuesday that Roshanwala police on a tip-off conducted raid and nabbed three robbers including Faisal, Khaleeq-ur-Rehman and Shahid Iqbal residents of Chak No.249-RB, besides recovering a looted loader truck worth Rs.5 million, 6 freezers, 2 washing machines, one air-conditioner and weapons from their possession.

Similarly, Suddar police team arrested two outlaws of a robbers' gang including Muhammad Nawaz, r/o Chak no.162 Sikandar Pur and Amjad Siddique r/o Chak no.228-GB Chinot along with two stolen motorcycles, cash mobile phones and weapons. Meanwhile, Chak Jhumra police arrested two robbers Shahid Jameel and Shah Jahan along with motorcycle, cash and weapons, where as Jaranwala Suddar police nabbed two robbers- Kashif and Mudassar Aslam along with six motorcycles, cash of Rs.100,000.



KARACHI: Consul General of France Alexis Chahtahtinsky meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori.

KP's govt commitment for polio eradication laud by global organization

PESHAWAR (APP): Polio Oversight Board (POB), a subsidiary of Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) on Tuesday has appreciated the strong commitment and dedication of government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for eradication of polio.

The appreciation is communicated by POB in wake of visit of its members to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, says a press release of Health Department.

In the report filed by

POB after visit of KP, the GPEI's subsidiary appreciated Chief Minister KP, Ali Amin Gandapur over engaging locally elected leaders and officials, particularly in South KP and his strong resolve to make KP polio free.

The Health Minister, Syed Qasim Ali Shah, was also commended by POB for establishing the Outbreak Coordination Committee to fully engage the assets of the provincial health department.

Uzma Khan sisters of Imran Khan, Umar Ayub and others appeared in the court. Prosecution did not present the record of the accused persons in the court. The court expressed displeasure over it.

Judge Arshid Javed of ATC ordered prosecution should evolve some method to include accused in investigation. The procedure for including them in investigation be told to the accused till evening today.

May 9 related cases ATC extends interim bail of sisters of PTI founder; others till June 29

LAHORE (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) has expressed annoyance for not providing record by the prosecution in May 9 cases against sisters of PTI founder and others.

Judge Arshid Javed of ATC Lahore took up for hearing interim bail pleas of Aleema Khan, Uzma Khan, Umar Ayub, Fawad Chaudhry and others in May 9 cases Tuesday.

During the hearing of the case, Aleema Khan,

Uzma Khan sisters of Imran Khan, Umar Ayub and others appeared in the court. Prosecution did not present the record of the accused persons in the court. The court expressed displeasure over it.

Judge Arshid Javed of ATC ordered prosecution should evolve some method to include accused in investigation. The procedure for including them in investigation be told to the accused till evening today.

Police nominate Pervaiz Elahi in 20 new cases of May 9

LAHORE (Online): Police have nominated former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi in 20 new cases related to May 9 incident. IG Punjab has filed report in Lahore High Court (LHC).

It has been said in the report Pervaiz Elahi has been nominated in 3 cases of Lahore and 4 cases of Faisalabad. While he has been nominated in 11 cases of Rawalpindi.

It was told in the report filed in LHC that Pervaiz Elahi is nominated in one case each in Attock and Gujranwala.

According to a police spokesman, City Police Officer (CPO) Kamran Adil paid a surprise visit to Thikriwala police station and found its record incomplete while its Muharrar, Muhammad Tayyab was absent from duty without informing the department properly. Therefore.

Muharrars of two police stations suspended

FAISALABAD (APP): Muharrars in two police stations were suspended over negligence and dereliction from duty.

According to a police spokesman, City Police Officer (CPO) Kamran Adil paid a surprise visit to Thikriwala police station and found its record incomplete while its Muharrar, Muhammad Tayyab was absent from duty without informing the department properly. Therefore.

Youth going abroad can approach FO, says Malik

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Regional Head, Federal Ombudsman Office in Bahawalpur, Dr. Muhammad Zahid Malik on Tuesday said that the youth going abroad could lodge their complaints with the Federal Ombudsman Office against the federal departments.

He expressed these views while addressing an awareness seminar at College of Tourism and Hotel Management (COTHM) Bahawalpur, he said that around 187 federal departments, institutes and corporations came under jurisdiction of the Federal Ombudsman Office.

"Federal Ombudsman Office as

semi judiciary has powers to listen complaints against 187 departments of the federal government besides issuing directives to resolve them," he said.

Zahid Malik said that youth and other people who wanted to go abroad to earn livelihood or for tourism visit could file their applications with the Federal Ombudsman Office if they had legitimate complaints against the federal departments including FIA, Passport Office, NADRA, airports and others.

He added that the Federal Ombudsman Office could also listen to complaints regarding bank transactions.

He expressed these views while addressing an awareness seminar at College of Tourism and Hotel Management (COTHM) Bahawalpur, he said that around 187 federal departments, institutes and corporations came under jurisdiction of the Federal Ombudsman Office.

"Federal Ombudsman Office as



Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi condoles with firs consul over martyrdom of President of Iran Ebrahim Raisi during his visit to Iran's consulate General Peshawar.

Faisalabad police dealing with crime by exploiting IT and AI: CPO

FAISALABAD (APP): The city police have established a number of dedicated units to deal with specialized crimes by exploiting the innovative tools of Information Technology (IT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI), said City Police Officer (CPO) Kamran Adil.

Addressing the business community in the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), he said, "We are deficient in police force but we could get best possible results through

multitasking as per prevailing private sector practices. We are passing through a revolutionary age which has particularly complicated urban crimes. We could overcome these challenges by efficiently using IT and AI." He said that he had introduced some fundamental reforms in city police during the last fifteen days with a focused approach to get best possible results by transforming the institution into a unified team.

International News

Iranians pay last respects to late president Raisi killed in helicopter crash

Monitoring Desk TEHRAN: Tens of thousands of Iranians gathered on Tuesday to mourn president Ebrahim Raisi and seven members of his entourage who were killed in a helicopter crash on a fog-shrouded mountainside.

Waving Iranian flags and portraits of the late president, mourners set off from a central square in the northwestern city of Tabriz, where Raisi was headed when his helicopter crashed on Sunday.

They walked behind a lorry carrying the coffins of Raisi and those who died with him, who also included foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian. "We, the members of the government, who had the honour to serve this beloved president, the hardworking president, pledge to our dear

people and leader to follow the path of these martyrs," Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi said in a speech.

"Everyone has come to bid farewell to the martyred president and his companions regardless of their faction, ethnicity or language," said Tabriz lawmaker Masoud Pezeshkian.

However, although state TV said a large crowd appeared in Tabriz, some insiders see a stark contrast in public grief compared with past commemorations for the deaths of other senior figures in the Islamic Republic's 45-year history.

While Iran proclaimed five days of mourning for Raisi, there was little of the emotional rhetoric that accompanied the death of Qasem Soleimani, a senior commander of the elite Revolutionary Guards

killed by a US missile in 2020 in Iraq, whose funeral drew huge crowds of mourners, weeping with sorrow and rage.

The helicopter lost communications while it was on its way back to Tabriz after Raisi attended the inauguration of a joint dam project on the Aras River, which forms part of the border with Azerbaijan, in a ceremony with his counterpart Ilham Aliyev. A massive search and rescue operation was launched on Sunday when two other helicopters flying alongside Raisi's lost contact with his aircraft in bad weather. State television announced his death in a report early on Monday, saying "the servant of the Iranian nation, Ayatollah Ebrahim Raisi, has achieved the highest level of martyrdom".



This handout picture provided by the Iranian president's office shows honour guards carrying the coffin of late president Ebrahim Raisi during a funeral procession in Tabriz, the capital of Iran's East Azerbaijan province.

US, Saudis close to strategic agreement

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: The United States and Saudi Arabia are close to a deal on a bilateral agreement after the US national security adviser made significant progress in talks with Saudis over the weekend, the White House said on Monday.

White House national security spokesperson John Kirby said the two sides are "closer than we've ever been" on an agreement that is now "near final".

US and Saudi negotiators are seeking to complete

work on a bilateral accord that would likely call for formal US guarantees to defend the kingdom as well as Saudi access to more advanced US weaponry, in return for halting Chinese arms purchases and restricting Beijing's investment in the country.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan held talks with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and other Saudi officials over the weekend where progress was made, Kirby said.

Taliban poets sing praise of new Afghan order

Monitoring Desk CHARIKAR: Taliban poets, long fuelled by fervour for jihad against foreign forces, have focused their efforts on flattering the men who now rule Afghanistan.

Overlooking the deserted Bagram airfield, the US military's former centre of operations in Afghanistan, a government-organised poetry reading attracts Taliban bards who eulogise their power.

"It is a pure system, this is our victory," proclaimed Samiullah Hamas in front of an avid crowd in Parwan province.

Yemen's Houthis say they downed US drone over al-Bayda province

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Yemen's Houthis downed a US MQ9 drone over al-Bayda province in southern Yemen, the Iran-aligned group's military spokesperson said in a televised statement on Tuesday. Yahya Saree said the drone was targeted with a locally made surface-to-air missile and that videos to support the claim would be released. The Houthis said last Friday they downed another US MQ9 drone over the southeastern province of Maareb.

Israeli strikes kill six pro-Iran fighters in Syria

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: A war monitoring body has said that at least six pro-Iran fighters were killed on Monday. Israel conducted strikes in Syria (near the Lebanese border), in an area where Lebanon's powerful Hezbollah group, holds sway.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said "Israeli strikes targeted two positions of pro-Iran groups in the Homs region" including "a Hezbollah site in the Qusayr area" (near the border), where "six Iran-backed fighters were killed". The Observatory did not specify their nationalities.

A source from Hezbollah told journalists that "at least one fighter" from the group was killed in the Israeli strikes, within the Qusayr area.

Israel rarely comments on individual strikes conducted in Syria but has "repeatedly" said it will "not allow" its arch-enemy Iran, to expand its presence in the region.

On Saturday, the Observatory said an Israeli drone strike near the Lebanese border targeted a vehicle carrying "a Hezbollah commander and his companion" (without reporting casualties).

Hezbollah did not announce any deaths among its ranks, on Saturday.

On the 9 of May, Israeli strikes on Syria targeted facilities belonging to Iraq's 'Al-Nujaba' armed movement, the Observatory and the pro-Iran group said.

In addition to this, Damascus said an unidentified building was attacked.

Kremlin says it is very curious that US appears ready to sanction the ICC

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: The Kremlin said on Tuesday it was very curious that the United States appeared ready to use sanctions against the International Criminal Court whose prosecutor requested arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, his defence chief and three Hamas leaders over alleged war crimes.

ICC prosecutor Karim Khan said in a statement issued after more than seven months of war in Gaza that he had reasonable grounds to believe the five men "bear criminal responsibility" for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity.

US President Joe Biden called the legal step "outrageous", while Secretary of State Antony Blinken said it could jeopardize negotiations on a hostage deal

and ceasefire.

Some US lawmakers called for the United States to impose sanctions on the court. In 2020, the United States imposed sanctions on an ICC prosecutor.

"In general, the situation is more than curious in terms of the US attitude and willingness to use sanctions methods even against the ICC," Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

In March last year, the ICC issued warrants for the arrest of President Vladimir Putin on war crimes charges.

Russia says the warrant against Putin is a meaningless attempt by the West to soil Russia's reputation and denies war crimes in Ukraine.

Ukraine says Russia committed war crimes. Russia says the West has ignored Ukraine's crimes, a charge denied by Kyiv.



A man stands as Israeli military machineries operate in Jenin, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Cohen acknowledges stealing from Trump at hush money trial

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: Donald Trump's former fixer Michael Cohen testified on Monday that he stole money from Trump's company, an admission that could chip away at his credibility as a star witness at the former US president's hush money trial.

Questioned by Trump's lawyer Todd Blanche, Cohen acknowledged stealing from the Trump Organisation by in-

cluding a reimbursement to a technology company in his bonus package and pocketing most of the money. "So you stole from the Trump Organisation, right?" Blanche asked.

"Yes sir," Cohen, 57, testified. Cohen said he paid roughly \$20,000 of the \$50,000 that Trump's company owed to the tech company in cash, handing it off in a brown paper bag at his office.

Syrian first lady Asma al-Assad has leukemia, presidency says

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Syria's first lady, Asma al-Assad, has been diagnosed with leukemia, the Syrian presidency said on Tuesday, almost five years after she announced she had fully recovered from breast cancer.

The statement said Asma, 48, would undergo a special treatment protocol that would require her to isolate, and that she would step away from public engagements as a result.

In August 2019, Asma said she had fully recovered from breast cancer that she said had been discovered early.

Since Syria plunged into war in 2011, the British-born former investment banker has taken on the public role of leading charity efforts and meeting families of killed soldiers, but has also become hated by the opposition.

Singapore Airlines flight hits severe turbulence, one passenger dead, seven critically injured

Monitoring Desk BANGKOK: One passenger was killed and 30 injured after a Singapore Airlines (SIAL) flight, opens new tab flight from London hit severe turbulence en route on Tuesday, forcing it to make an emergency landing in Bangkok, officials and the airline said.

"Singapore Airlines offers its deepest condolences to the family of the deceased. We deeply apologise for the traumatic experience that our passengers and crew members suffered on this flight," the airline said, adding it was working with Thai authorities to

provide all necessary assistance. The flight fell into an air pocket while cabin crew was serving breakfast before it encountered turbulence, prompting the pilots to request an emergency landing, Suvannabhumi airport general manager Kittipong Kittikachorn told a press conference.

A 73-year-old British man died during the incident, likely due to a heart attack, he said. Seven people were critically injured with head injuries.

Eighteen people have been hospitalised and 12 are being treated in hospitals, Singapore Airlines said.

CM decides to upgrade tourist sites, improve breeds at cattle farms under PPP mode

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presiding over a meeting of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) discussed Green Pakistan Initiative projects to be launched on PPP mode to develop tourism sites, promote safari desert, develop agricultural and livestock farms.

The meeting was held at CM House and was attended by provincial ministers -

Nasir Shah, Jam Khan Shoro, Haji Ali Hassan Zardari, Zulfiqar Shah, Dost Ali Rahimoo acting chief Secretary Musadiq Ahmad, PSCM Agha Wasif, Chairman P&D Najam Shah, SMBR Baqaullah Unar, provincial secretaries, Major General Muhammad Hussain of PCIC, Brig Zile Hasnain of 5 Corps and others.

The meeting discussed and decided on some proposals as follows: The

meeting discussed the development of Keenjhar Lake, Haleji Lake, Hawks Bay and Gorakh Hill Resorts as world-class tourist sites in Public-public-private partnership.

The agreement between Keenjhar Lake Sindh Tourism Development Corporation (STDC) and the irrigation dept for running the Lake as a tourist spot was pending since 2006 and needed to be re-

newed so that further action could be initiated.

The CM issued directives to the Irrigation & Culture dept to execute their agreement. The meeting discussed a proposal to develop new Tourism Sites at Parchi Javeri and Nagarparkar. The chief minister directed Minister Culture & Tourism Zulfiqar Shah to study the proposal and file his recommendations.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a meeting of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), held at CM House in Karachi.

Ahsan Iqbal chaired review meeting on CPEC Phase-2

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday chaired a review meeting on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Phase 2 and the 13th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) on Tuesday at the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives.

Attendees included the Additional Secretary of the Ministry, senior officials from various ministries, and representatives from federal and provincial ministries.

The officials received a comprehensive briefing on the preparations for the upcoming online JCC meeting scheduled for this week.

Discussions covered projects related to communications, infrastructure, energy, economic development, agriculture, and the security of Chinese officials working in Pakistan.

Addressing the security concerns for Chinese personnel, Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal asserted that ensuring the protection and safety of Chinese personnel, projects, and programs is a top priority for the Government of Pakistan.

He highlighted that a comprehensive security strategy has been formulated, and Pakistan will implement effective measures to safeguard Chinese citizens.

Minister Ahsan Iqbal

Sharjeel condemns attack on journalists

KARACHI (APP): Senior Minister of Sindh Sharjeel Inam Memon has condemned the attacks on journalists Iqbal Hasan and Nasrullah Gadani.

In a statement, Sharjeel Memon said that such brutal act against journalists were an attack on freedom of press and democracy.

Memon said that protection of journalists was top priority of the government and the violence against them will not be tolerated at any cost.

Sindh government is determined to ensure the safety of journalists, he said and added that the culprits will be brought to justice soon.

Larkana range Police recover 10 hostages: DIG Larkana

LARKANA (APP): Larkana Range Police on Tuesday safely rescued 10 hostages who were kidnapped at different times during 24 hours.

In this regard, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Larkana Nasir Aftab said that an efficient and targeted operation against dacoits is going on in the slum areas of Larkana Range, Kashmir-Khandakot and Jacobabad police have rescued 10 hostages safely, Sardar Kundrani was among the rescued. Altaf Hussain, Mukhtiar Pathan, Faiq Malik, Muhammad Abbas Kharal Rashid Rahmani, Dildar Pahor, Khadim Sarki.

Police arrest two persons in murder case

HYDERABAD (INP): Hyderabad police claimed to have arrested two persons involved in murder of a woman case. According to SHO Tando Jam police, Farhanuddin Memon, Deedar Ali Dhamaj and his driver Zulfiqar Sheedi had been charged with the murder of Dhamaj's wife.

Sami Narejo. He told that Dhamaj and Sheedi were rounded up by Makli police in Thatta district on Sunday. He further told that both the accused were taking the body of the slain woman to Thatta after allegedly killing her with a sharp object at Dhamaj's home in Tandojam.

Working to provide facilities to private sector; economy on right track: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday while expressing satisfaction over the economic situation of the country, said that from day first, they had been working to provide facilities to the private sector for the economic development, provision of job opportunities and expansion of businesses and investment.

He observed that due to the government's policies, the inflation rate in the country was on the nose and through governance they had been taking steps to pass on the effects of the reduction in the price hike to the common man.

The prime minister

expressed these views while chairing the first meeting of the Economic Advisory Council, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The meeting was attended by council members including Jahangir Khan Tareen, Saqib Sherazi, Shahzad Saleem, Musadiq Zulqarnain, Dr Ejaz Nabi, Asif Pir, Zaid Bashir, Salman Ahmed and Sheharyar Chishti. Federal Ministers Ahmad Khan Cheema, Ahsan Iqbal, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Ali Pervaiz Malik, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Dr Jehanzeb Khan, PM Coordinator Rana Ahsan Afzal, governor SBP and relevant senior officials were also present.

Governor of Punjab visits Bhutto family graveyard of Ghari Khudabhash

LARKANA (APP): The Governor of Punjab, Salim Haider Khan, along with Sindh Provincial Minister Mir Tariq Hussain Talpur, on Tuesday reached Ghari Khudabkhash Bhutto, laid floral wreaths on the graves of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto, Shaheed Shah Nawaz Bhutto, Begum Nurat Bhutto and Amir Begum and offered Fateha.

Speaking to the media on this occasion, he said that after taking oath as the Governor of Punjab, I have

come to Garhi Khudabkhash Bhutto for the first time. We have come to Garhi to renew our pledge that we will keep the party flag high in Punjab and we will work harder and struggle.

The love that the people of Punjab had for Shaheed Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Bibi is for Bilawal and it is in the hearts of the people of Punjab and it needs to be brought out. We will once again make Punjab a stronghold of PPP, a joint operation is needed on Sindh and Punjab to eliminate dacoits.



GARHI KHUDA BUX: Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan showering rose petals and offering Fateha for the peace of departed soul at the graves of PPP Founder, Martyred Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Martyred Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto during his visit at Bhutto Mausoleum in Garhi Khuda Bux.

DG Rangers visits riverine areas to oversee ongoing operations

KARACHI (APP): Major General Azhar Waqas, the Director General of Pakistan Rangers Sindh, visited the riverine areas of Sindh to review the ongoing security operations against criminal gangs in the region.

Senior officers from both the police and Rangers accompanied him during this visit, according to the Sindh Rangers spokesman on Tuesday.

During the visit, the area Sector Commander provided Major General Waqas with a comprehensive briefing on the progress of the operations. Since March 2024, a joint effort between the police and Rangers has led to the arrest of 127 criminals from the Arsal Sabzoi, Nandwani, Kokari, and Bello Banglani gangs.

These gangs have been notorious for their involvement in robberies and kidnappings for ransom along the National Highway.

Overall, the Pakistan Rangers Sindh have arrested

329 dacoits and criminals across 122 operations. These operations have resulted in the recovery of significant quantities of arms, ammunition, and drugs. Additionally, the hideouts of the Arsal Sabzoi and Bello Banglani gangs in Kandhkot were demolished, leading to the rescue of 109 hostages.

Major General Azhar Waqas also conducted an aerial survey of the robbers' hideouts to assess the situation firsthand.

Following this, he issued directives to increase patrolling on the Motorway and Indus Highway to ensure the safety of citizens' transport. This includes heightened activity at check posts to prevent any criminal activities.

Emphasizing the importance of a continued crackdown, the DG Rangers instructed the completion of the operation against dacoits in the Katcha areas (riverine areas) of Sindh in collaboration with the police.



KARACHI: Karachi Union of Journalists and Federal Union of Journalists hold a protest against closure of Quetta press club in the Provincial Capital.

Dar reaffirms Pakistan's adherence to SCO charter, warns against bloc-based geopolitics

ASTANA (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday addressed the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) wherein he reiterated Pakistan's firm adherence to the SCO Charter and the "Shanghai Spirit" standing for mutual trust and respect for shared prosperity.

In his statement, the deputy prime minister warned against bloc-based or confrontational geopolitics and advocated for a multipolar world firmly grounded in multilateralism.

He explained Pakistan's priorities as the current Chair of SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) which included promoting connectivity, transport links, youth empowerment, poverty alleviation, and enhanced practical cooperation among SCO

member states.

The deputy prime minister called for upholding international law and the UN Charter, emphasizing the people's right to self-determination and peaceful settlement of longstanding disputes in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

He stressed the need to combat the menace of terrorism through collective and cooperative approaches including by addressing its root causes. He urged the rejection of myopic and self-serving interests to use the mantra of terrorism for political gains.

Ishaq Dar strongly condemned the barbaric Israeli onslaught in Gaza, which had resulted in the killings of over 35,000 innocent civilians, mostly women and children.

He reiterated Pakistan's firm call for an

unconditional and urgent ceasefire and unhindered provision of humanitarian assistance. He also emphasized the need to realize the two-state solution for durable peace and stability.

On the Afghanistan situation, he called on the international community to meaningfully engage with the Interim Afghan Government (IAG) for the genuine economic and development needs of Afghanistan and urged the IAG to ensure that Afghan soil was not used for terrorism against any country.

The deputy prime minister said that Pakistan's geostrategic location offered an ideal trade and transit hub for the SCO region, and underlined the significance of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor for regional connectivity and economic integration.

MQM-P laments urban centers denied due development

HYDERABAD (APP): The Hyderabad chapter leader of Muttahida Qaumi Movement - Pakistan (MQM-P) Zafar Ahmed Siddiqui Tuesday said Sindh's urban centers suffer from a lack of development and adequate employment opportunities for the youth.

Addressing a meeting of the party attended by MNA Abdul Aleem Khanzada and MPA Nasir Qureshi, he reiterated that his party had been struggling to secure rights for the people of the province's cities.

He said the approach of denying due development to the urban centers should be shunned.

2 suspects arrested with bullet wounds in separate encounters

HYDERABAD (APP): The Hyderabad police have arrested 2 suspected outlaws with gunshot injuries sustained in separate encounters with the cops of City and B-Section police stations.

The police spokesman informed here on Tuesday that the City police received a tip-off about some activity of a gang of motorbike lifters after which it raided a neighbourhood along Risala Road behind the White House laundry.

He claimed that after spotting the police the suspects tried to escape by opening fire on the cops.

Larkana police rescue 3 years old girl from kidnapping

LARKANA (APP): Larkana police on Tuesday rescued a 3-year-old girl from kidnapping, the accused escaped, a case was registered on the complaint of the child's father.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Larkana has instructed Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Paras Bakhrani to arrest the accused and widen the scope of investigation.

SSP Larkana Mir Rohal Khan Khoso said that unknown suspects were trying to kidnap a 3-year-old girl Mashal Fatima Jatoi in the area of Ali Goharabad police station. The accused involved in the kidnapping have escaped and the case of such an incident has been registered under the complaint of Kamran Jatoi, the father of the child, under Crime No. 2024/64 Pakistan Penal Code 363, 511 PPC.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori talking with media men at Iranian Consulate.

Opposition to resist defamation bill

LAHORE (INP): Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Omar Ayub Tuesday said that a black law is being implemented.

Speaking to the media outside Lahore's Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC), Omar stated that they will resist the black law in the national and provincial assemblies.

He stated that according to the constitution, no one's speech can be banned.

Omar Ayub added that whoever talked about Ayub Khan's martial law, ask him what Nawaz Sharif did. He further said that Babar Awan has explained the whole law to the court. 'I am grateful to the court who gave justice. I don't have the will to travel all over Pakistan in one day, these are all false cases'.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Babar Awan added that the Chief Minister and Law Minister are insulting the court. The law made to arrest the journalists will not work, they will approach the court against it.

He stated that PTI stands with the journalists. The Dubai Leaks case should be opened immediately, the work of the judiciary is to uphold the rights of the people.

It is pertinent to note that the Punjab Assembly had approved the Defamation Bill 2024 yesterday.

The opposition called the bill a black law and tore up copies of the bill in protest. Journalists also walked out of the press gallery and protested on the stairs of the Assembly against the bill while calling for nationwide protests.

DC inaugurates heatstroke prevention camp, Urges public to adhere guidelines

HYDERABAD (APP): The Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad Zainul Abideen Memon has said that due to the prediction of an unusual increase in temperature by the meteorological department, there was a fear of a heat wave in the coming days.

Keeping this in view, in collaboration with the district administration and social organizations, arrangements have been made to provide drinking water and cold beverages to the people of all four talukas of the district to prevent heatstroke.

He was inaugurating a heat stroke prevention camp set up near Hyder

Chowk on Tuesday. While talking to the media on the occasion, he advised the public to follow the recommendations and guidelines given by the health department to avoid heatstroke.

DC emphasized social organizations to step forward and educate people about the adverse effects of climate change. Responding to a question, he said that he was well aware of the basic issues in Hyderabad and will strive to resolve all issues promptly and provide relief to the public. Social activists Imran Sheharwardi, Janid Dahri, Aslam Deeswani and others were also present on the occasion.

18% teenagers of Pakistan suffer from hypertension due to lifestyle choices: Experts

KARACHI (APP): Around 18 percent of Pakistani teenagers aged 15 years and above are suffering from high blood pressure due to sedentary lifestyles, obesity, high salt intake, tobacco consumption, gaming addiction, and use of social media leading to physical inactivity.

About 46 percent of adults aged 18 and above have raised blood pressure, contributing to the burden of cardiovascular diseases in the country, health experts said this while addressing a news conference at a hotel, they said that this condition is prevalent due to factors such as poor diet, lack of physical activity, and high stress levels.

Renowned health expert and general secretary of the Pakistan Society of

Internal Medicine (PSIM), Dr. Soma Iqtidar said that youngsters and adults are not aware that they have elevated blood pressure, which is silently damaging their blood vessels and vital organs including the heart, lungs, kidneys, and eyes, leading them to death.

The press conference was organized in connection with the launch of the Discovering Hypertension project, a CSR initiative of a pharmaceutical firm in collaboration with five leading medical societies to screen one million people for hypertension by June 30, 2025, across Pakistan at 500 sites in the country.

All those found to be hypertensive during this period across Pakistan would be linked to 100 spe-

cialized clinics for the management and treatment of this lifestyle disease, the Discovering Hypertension project organizers vowed.

The experts observed that physical inactivity, consumption of junk and processed food containing high sodium, and consuming nine grams of salt per day in addition to smoking, and chewing tobacco are some of the leading causes of hypertension among Pakistani youth these days.

Renowned neurologist and President of the Neurology Awareness and Research Foundation (NARF), Prof. Muhammad Wasey, said hypertension or high blood pressure is a leading cause of stroke in Pakistan, which claims over 400,000 lives annually in the country.