

Independent

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Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 06. No. 143 Zilhajj 26, 1445 AH Wednesday July 03, 2024 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

PM wants expansion of bilateral trade between Pakistan, Tajikistan through enhanced connectivity

PM, President Emomali vow to further strengthen Pakistan-Tajikistan ties

DUSHANBE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday stressed upon expansion of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Tajikistan as the current volume did not reflect the current level of brotherly relationship between the two countries. Addressing a presser along with President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, the prime minister said that today, they had signed a number of MoUs which would be very helpful in furthering their bilateral ties.

The prime minister especially mentioned the agreement over strategic partnership. "These agreements will go a long way in furthering our brotherly ties and of course, expanding our scope of cooperation in the coming days," he added.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also assured Tajik president that he would work closely with

him to further cement the brotherly ties not only in fields of agriculture, education, health and promotion of investment but also in expansion of bilateral trade. He underlined that the both countries required to work closely and fix targets as how to increase their bilateral trade and investment, citing transportation of goods from port of Karachi to Tajikistan via Afghanistan and then from Dushanbe to Karachi port via Afghanistan through a rail-road connectivity project. The prime minister termed this existing opportunity as 'an area of huge economic importance for both countries'.

The prime minister apprised that he had very fruitful and productive one-on-one meeting with the Tajik president, besides holding delegation level meetings in which they discussed to explore trade and investment opportunities.

He said Pakistan would be keen to be a part of China, Tajikistan and Afghanistan trade corridor project, adding 'it would be another opportunity to broaden the multilateral trade' in the region.

He also expressed the confidence that the CASA 1000, would be completed soon, bringing prosperity in this region.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also referred to another MoU pertaining to relaxation of visas requirements and said that it would be very helpful for both countries in further achieving their goals. The prime minister said the two brotherly countries had been the victims of terrorism; Pakistan faced this menace for years and paid a huge price in terms of human lives and of course, suffered from colossal economic losses to the tune of billions of dollars.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses the media in a press conference in Qasr-e-Millat, Dushanbe.

CM, Russian Sberbank discuss investment in education, health, steel mill restoration

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in his meeting with a delegation of Russian Sberbank led by its international head Timur Kozintsev discussed investment opportunities in education, health and technology.

The CM nominated Secretary Investment Raja Khurram as a focal person to discuss investment opportunities and collaborate with Sberbank with the educational, and health institutions of the provincial government.

The meeting was held at CM House and was attended by Sberbank Deputy Trade Representative Mr Nevzorov Denis, Russian Consul General in Karachi Mr Fedorov Andrey, and others.

Senior Minister for Information Sharjeel Memon, Secretary School Education Zahid Abbasi, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Secretary Local Govt Khalid Hyder Shah,

Secretary Investment Raja Khurram, and Secretary Transport Asad Zamin also attended the meeting. Sberbank International Head Timur Kozintsev told the CM that their bank invested in the business, healthcare, education, science, public administration, agriculture, planet, legacy and future. He added that they were working in various countries including China, Southeast Asia countries, Iran and various other countries.

The chief minister said that there were investment opportunities in school education for Sberbank. He added that the Banks could invest in Education technology (EdTech) startups that develop innovative solutions for education delivery in Sindh. Murad Shah said that this could involve financing platforms for online learning, digital textbooks, or educational management systems in collaboration

with the Reform Support Unit (RSU).

The CM also suggested the bank's partnerships with educational institutions. Sberbank could partner with private schools or universities in Sindh to offer student loans or other financial products tailored to the education sector for students' study in Russia.

Murad Ali Shah also discussed Sberbank's investment in Infrastructure development in Sindh. "The Bank could extend grants in projects that improve the infrastructure of educational institutions in Sindh, such as building new schools or renovating existing ones in flood-affected areas under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

The CM and Timur of Sberbank also discussed investment in the health sector known as Doctor's smart assistant under which support is extended for making decisions based on artificial intelligence.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in meeting with the delegation from Russian SBER Bank, led by its international head, Timur Kozintsev, held at CM House in Karachi.

CM lauds role of Sports Journos on 'World Sports Journalist Day'

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday lauded the role of Sports Journalists for disseminating information about the sports activities among the people, on the occasion World Sports Journalist Day being observed today, July 2.

He said that the awareness of sports activities were best described by

the sports journalists. The Chief Minister said that the news of sports journalists created fond of extracurricular activities among the youth.

He said that the Sports journalists provided opportunities of entertainment to the youth through their reporting.

He further said that creating awareness of sports for healthy activities was a commendable act.



DUSHANBE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets Prime Minister of Tajikistan H.E. Qahir Rasulzoda at the airport in Tajikistan.

Excise dept to reinforce checking for preventing drug trafficking

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Excise department on Tuesday, decided to reinforce checking mechanism on highways and inter-provincial borders and enhance manpower in narcotics control wing to prevent drug trafficking and make drug control operations more effective and efficient.

The decisions were taken in a high-level meeting held in Karachi with Sindh Senior Minister for Information, Transport, Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control Sharjeel Inam Memon in chair and Secretary Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control Saleem Rajput, DG Narcotics Control Usman Ghani Siddiqui and other officers in attendance, said a statement issued here.

It was decided in the meeting that the checkpoints of the Excise Department on the highways will be made fully activate and new checkpoints will be constructed on the inter-provincial border routes to

keep vigilance on movement of drug peddlers.

Sharjeel Inam Memon directed to start construction and repair works of checkpoints at the earliest and said that Excise officials will be posted at the checkpoints for ensuring effective checking round the clock.

He said that it was also decided to transfer more than 100 constables from the motor vehicle wing to the narcotics control wing to strengthen the human resource of Narcotics Control Wing.

Drug testing in educational institutions will start soon and preparations in the regard were in final stages, the minister said adding that drugs were seriously affecting the society and actions should be taken on daily basis to eliminate the menace of drugs from the country. He also instructed to start an effective system of snap checking to prevent transportation and sell of drugs.

President summons Senate to meet on July 4

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday summoned the Senate to meet on July 4. The Senate will meet at the Parliament House on Thursday at 1700 hours, according to a President House press release. The president summoned the session in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Article 54 (1) of the Constitution.

Imran moves court against not arranging his talks with his sons

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI founder Imran Khan has filed petition in the court on not arranging his talk with his sons.

The court issued notice to Adiala jail administration on Imran Khan plea. The court sought reply from jail administration till July 03.

Judge Malik Ejaz Asif of Antl Terrorism Court (ATC) Rawalpindi heard the petition.

The petition said jail administration has made no arrangement for talking to his children by Imran Khan. Making contact with my children is my legal and constitutional right. Jail superintendent has provided no facility. It was said in the petition I want to talk to my sons Qasim Khan and Suleman Khan. Whats app facility is also not being provided to talk to my sons.

DSP dismissed by IG Sindh

MIRPURKHAS (APP): IG Sindh has dismissed DSP (Legal) Ahmed Karim Jilani for involvement in transporting gutka in the departmental inquiry report of DIG, Tanveer Alam Odho.

According to a letter received by SSP Mirpurkhas, Ahmed Karim Jilani was arrested by customs officials in Jamshoro district on March 10, with gutka in his car.

In the inquiry report, strict legal action has also been recommended against the arrested private driver Barkat Qureshi.



Afghan Taliban delegation, Pakistani diplomats pose for a group photo on sidelines of Doha-III conference.

Pakistan, Afghan Taliban hold face-to-face talks on TTP

Zabihullah Mujahid terms interaction 'good', hopes relations between two neighbours would improve

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban held crucial talks, first in several months, in the Qatari capital as part of the latest push to iron out their differences on the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

The talks were held at the residence of Pakistan's Ambassador to Qatar, between Pakistan's special envoy on Afghanistan Ambassador Asif Durrani and Chief Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid.

Durrani and Mujahid were leading their countries' respective delegations at the third meeting of the Doha process on Afghanistan.

On the sidelines, Pakistan's Ambassador to

Qatar invited Zabihullah Mujahid over a dinner where they held formal talks with Ambassador Asif Durrani.

Mujahid termed his interaction with Pakistan as "good" and expressed the hope that relations between the two neighbours would improve. Durrani, meanwhile, said he discussed the Doha meeting and regional issues with the Taliban delegation. The meeting took place against the backdrop of simmering tensions between Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban government. Tensions deepened further after Pakistan indicated it might resort to cross border strikes to target the terrorist hideouts of TTP.



UZBEKISTAN: Focal Person to PMYP for Green Youth Movement & International Linkages, Syeda Anna Batool receiving a souvenir from Minister of the Youth Affairs of Uzbekistan, Alisher Sa'dullayev at OIC Youth Forum.

Law and justice have to be relied upon for sake of justice: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has remarked constitution and law have to be relied upon for the sake of justice.

"We have to rely on law and constitution for sake of justice. Supreme Court (SC) decisions are based on justice. In every decision the constitution was followed. Some judges will be wise. I am not so much wise. Let Pakistan tread on the path of constitution once. CJP gave these remarks during the hearing of case related to reserved seats of Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) Tuesday.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah remarked we cannot close the eyes. If we cannot see the entire picture then what we have to do with the powers of full justice. We all know that so many independent candidates succeeded in polls by showing their affiliation with PTI.

Justice Munib Akhtar

remarked parliamentary system is based on political parties. The question is this the independent candidates in such large number came from where. Did the people elect them as independent on their own. Did the Election Commission (EC) not declare these people independent. If it has been done so then should the court not correct this mistake. Should that legal option be not adopted which corrects this mistake. On one side it is being said EC is constitutional institution which can do every thing. EC has official correspondence with assembly secretariat.

EC is accepting members of SIC. How can EC change its stance on the matter of reserved seats.

Justice Athar Minallah remarked Attorney General it is not simple appeal. It is case of rights of people. You want we declare the misinterpretation of EC correct.



ISLAMABAD: Former Federal Minister and senior leader of the Awami National Party, Mr Ghulam Ahmed Bilour, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President Zardari, Bilour discuss national issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Federal Minister Ghulam Ahmed Bilour met with President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday to discuss the country's overall political, security, and law and order situation.

Speaking to senior leader of the Awami National Party (ANP) Ghulam Ahmed Bilour, the president emphasized the importance of collaboration among all political parties to address national issues and achieve political and economic stability. President Zardari said that consultation and consensus among all political parties on major national issues were indispensable. Former Railways Minister Bilour congratulated President Zardari on assuming the office of the President of Pakistan for the second time.

IG Sindh holds a video link meeting at DIG office

MIRPURKHAS (APP): A video link meeting regarding holy month of Muharram was held on Tuesday under the chairmanship of IG Sindh, Ghulam Nabi Memon.

According to press release issued here, DIG Mirpurkhas, Javed Sonharo Jaskani, SSP Mirpurkhas Captain (retd) Muhammad Asad Ali Chaudhry, SP

Umarkot Asif Raza Baloch, SSP Tharparkar Shabbir Ahmed Sithar and a five-member delegation comprising religious scholars, and organizers of processions and congregations from the division participated in the meeting.

The IG directed to arrange a contingency plan to maintain law and order during the holy month.



HYDERABAD: Sindh Minister for Prisons, Ali Hassan Zardari, presented shields to the position holders during the passing out parade ceremony of the 18th basic training course for prison constables and lady prison constables at the Sindh Prisons Staff Training Institute.

Imran Khan alleges intelligence agency's interference in jail matters

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founding chairman Imran Khan has criticised the alleged interference of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in civilian matters. In an informal media talk inside Adiala Jail today, the incarcerated former prime minister said, "We have filed a petition in court questioning the presence of ISI Majors and Colonels in Adiala Jail."

"The ISI has no authority in civil matters or judiciary interference. The prison superintendent is following ISI orders, leading to the transfer of two officers to ensure no leniency is shown to me."

Talking about the results of the February general elections, the PTI founder expressed confusion stating, "Five months have passed since the elections, and I still do not know who won or lost." He also spoke about the recent resolution by the US Congress on alleged election irregularities in Pakistan highlighting that it had passed with 85% support.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

'Cruel jest'

Another year and another missed opportunity to set things right. But what is it for those who, by all appearances, consider themselves unaccountable to the public and unfussed by their miseries? Precisely three weeks ago, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb had solemnly declared that there were "no sacred cows" in his eyes and that "everyone would have to contribute to the economy". The pronouncement had come a day before the federal budget for the new fiscal year was unveiled, and it had momentarily ignited some hope that Pakistan, at long last, was serious about setting itself on a path of equitable taxation and sustainable spending under a 'technocrat' finance minister. Between then and this weekend, however, the nation has realised that the finance minister's 'assurances' had been little more than a cruel jest. Speaking at a news conference on Sunday, Mr Aurangzeb could only express his condolences to the salaried class on the higher taxes he had imposed on them. It is now widely accepted that the coalition government's 'crisis budget' will achieve little more than strangulating those already paying their dues while allowing sacred cows to fatten themselves even further. Actual economic course correction has once again been put off for another time. The term 'deepening the tax net' is being used widely in a bid to rationalise what was clearly another half-hearted attempt at fixing the state's perennial revenue woes. It is little more than a euphemism, a fig leaf for our decision-makers' continuing unwillingness or inability to meaningfully expand the tax base. To add insult to injury, the government has not felt compelled to cut its own expenditures in any meaningful way: those paying will just be forced to pay even more to fund its profligacy. Meanwhile, the trader class, whose activities remain largely undocumented, have been let off once again, presumably because of political expediencies. Likewise, while a big show has been made of increased taxes on real estate, these will apply mainly to ordinary citizens and not to those who belong to the armed forces or the federal or provincial bureaucracies. Our lawmakers have also managed to have their travel allowances increased from Rs10 per kilometre to Rs25, increased the number of travel vouchers they receive annually from 25 to 30, and also introduced a measure which would see unused air tickets from one year carry over to the next instead of being cancelled. The audacity of such measures should be illustrative enough to show how the ruling classes continue to privilege themselves while throwing the rest of the nation under the bus. That this is happening while the authorities clamour for an umpteenth IMF bailout explains why this country remains unable to break its shackles and find a more prosperous future for its teeming millions.

Economic butchery

Ammar Ather Saeed Pakistan is teetering on the edge of economic collapse due to its persistent struggle to increase the tax-to-GDP ratio, a crucial measure of its fiscal health. Despite numerous efforts, many potential taxpayers remain outside the formal tax net. Recent policies have unfairly targeted existing taxpayers, driving talent and capital away and pushing the nation towards disaster. The recent passage of the Finance Act exemplifies this flawed strategy, threatening long-term economic stability. For the past decade, Pakistan has relied heavily on taxing non-filers and compliant taxpayers to boost its revenues. Originally, the aim of collecting taxes from non-filers was twofold: generate immediate revenue and use the gathered data to bring the non-filers into the tax net. Sadly, the state failed to achieve the latter. Instead of leveraging this data, it has merely increased taxes for non-filers, using it as a short-term revenue tool rather than a long-term strategy for fiscal health. The Finance Act exacerbates this issue, further increasing the rate of tax on non-filers and imposing tax rates as high as about 60 per cent on existing filers' income. This approach is flawed. Unlike Scandinavian countries, where high tax rates are balanced by extensive social services and a robust public infrastructure, taxpayers here see little or no return on their contributions. The disparity creates a significant trust deficit, with taxpayers feeling alienated. High taxes on compliant taxpayers have stifled economic activity, reduced investment, and encouraged tax evasion. When individuals and businesses perceive the tax system as punitive and unbalanced, they are more likely to engage in tax evasion and operate within the informal economy, undermining efforts to formalise the economy and broaden the tax base. This approach of persistently targeting compliant taxpayers has already driven away skilled professionals and entrepreneurs. With the ever-increasing tax burden becoming unbearable, talented individuals have started seeking favourable environments abroad, reducing the domestic talent pool and stifling potential economic growth and innovation. This exodus of human and financial capital severely hampers Pakistan's long-term economic prospects. The state's strategy extends to imposing indirect taxes on essential goods such as milk, baby products, and petrol. This decision is nothing short of economic butchery. By taxing these basic necessities, the state is placing an unbearable burden on the shoulders of ordinary citizens, particularly those from lower-income households. The cost of living will skyrocket, pushing millions deeper into poverty and triggering widespread discontent. Imagine a family struggling to buy milk for their children because it has been taxed to the point of unaffordability. Picture parents grappling with the soaring costs of baby products while trying to provide the best care for their newborns. Envision the devastating impact of rising petrol prices on transportation costs, leading to increased prices for all goods and services. This is not a mere policy error; it is a catastrophe in the making, an unparalleled disaster that threatens to unravel the social fabric. Furthermore, the

Engaging parents

Fahad Zafar Pakistan's education system faces significant challenges on two fronts. Firstly, there is a staggering number of out-of-school children, estimated at 26.2 million. This means that a sizeable portion of the children is not accessing any formal education. Economic factors, cultural barriers, and inadequate infrastructure are the primary reasons. For instance, in some areas, cultural norms may prioritise work or domestic responsibilities over schooling, especially for girls. Additionally, many remote areas lack adequate school facilities, making access to education physically challenging. These children are denied the opportunity to develop essential skills and knowledge, that perpetuates cycles of poverty and limits their prospects. This lack of education not only affects their personal growth and future opportunities but also hinders national development. Leveraging technology to streamline tax compliances and employing data analytics of data collected from non-filers to track economic activities and ensure tax compliance, the tax-to-GDP ratio in Pakistan can grow organically. Moving forward, the focus needs to shift from overburdening existing taxpayers to broadening the tax base. The state should immediately implement comprehensive reforms to make the tax system more inclusive and transparent to bring the informal economy into the tax net through incentives and effectively using non-filer data to identify with the help of technology and data analytics to bring them into the tax net. Without immediate and decisive reforms, Pakistan will remain on a collision course with catastrophe; it faces a doomsday scenario where our inaction today becomes the tragedy of tomorrow. -- Courtesy Dawn

quently lack basic resources such as textbooks, teaching materials, and adequate facilities, further compromising the learning environment. Despite school attendance, children are not acquiring the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in an increasingly competitive global economy. Shockingly, only 23pc of students at age 10 can read and understand age-appropriate text. This indicates a significant gap in foundational literacy, which is crucial for future learning and academic success. Despite the significant educational challenges facing Pakistan, parents overwhelmingly express satisfaction with the schooling system. Data from the Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement surveys of 2014-15 and 2019-20 reveal that over 94pc of parents reported satisfaction with schooling in the country. Similarly, in the 2019 Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study assessment, 76pc of parents expressed satisfaction, and in the more recent National Achievement Test in 2023, 75pc of parents indicated complete satisfaction with schooling. This apparent paradox between parental satisfaction and the reality of poor educational outcomes suggests a disconnect between parents' perceptions and the actual quality of education their children receive. Bridging this gap between parental perception and educational reality is crucial for improving learning outcomes. Parental engagement plays a vital role in a child's learning journey. Research shows that when parents are actively involved in their children's education, children are more likely to perform better academically, have higher attendance rates, and demonstrate improved behaviour. Active engagement includes activities like helping with homework, attending parent-teacher meetings, and encouraging a positive attitude towards learning. The 2022 Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel report recommended several low-cost parental involvement approaches that included direct communication from schools to parents, engaging children in educational activities, reading books to a child (if the parent is literate), and sharing simple exercises with parents via text or phone call. Direct communication from schools, such as regular updates and progress reports, helps keep parents informed and engaged in their children's education. Encouraging parents to read to their children and engage in educational activities at home promotes early literacy and cognitive development. Sharing simple exercises and learning activities via text or phone can provide parents with practical tools to support their children's learning at home. Supporting the role of parents should be a component of public policy in the medium term, as it can have a lasting impact on children's educational outcomes. At the same time, it is critical to generate a broader understanding of Pakistan's foundational learning challenges. While some challenges persist throughout the country, Pakistan's education landscape is heterogeneous, and delivery is devolved to the provinces. Each province has its unique set of challenges and priorities, which must be addressed through tailored solutions. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Pakistan, Azerbaijan Commit to enhance bilateral trade, economic cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan, Azerbaijan on Tuesday agreed for enhancing bilateral economic and trade relations to increase the trade and investment cooperation between two countries. Both sides determined on the necessity of a long-term and practical mechanism to enhance monitor bilateral trade and cooperation to suggest ways forward to achieve the desired aim. Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, Mr. Samir Sharifov, called on Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan at his office, said a press release issued here. The high-profile meeting was attended by Mr. Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan, Federal Secretary for

Commerce Ahsan Ali Mangi, and other senior officials. Minister Jam Kamal Khan highlighted the Pakistani government's dedication to forging robust economic relations with other nations. He emphasized that, over the past three months, the government has made significant strides in enhancing diplomatic and economic ties, achieving notable developments. "Pakistan attaches great importance to its relationship with Azerbaijan. We must continue to advance our cooperation in various sectors including tourism, transport, energy security, and defense, though this requires additional efforts," said Minister Jam. He also urged the need for an early conclusion of



Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in a group photo following visiting booths of different tech companies on the occasion of Global Digital Economy Conference 2024 in Beijing.

Pakistan, Belarus agree to enhance cooperation in diverse fields

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Belarus on Tuesday while expressing satisfaction at the trajectory of bilateral relations agreed to enhance cooperation in all issues of mutual interest. The sixth round of Bilateral Political Consultations between Pakistan and Belarus was held here. Additional Foreign Secretary (Europe), Ambassador Shafiqat Ali Khan led the

Pakistani side while the Belarusian side was headed by the First Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Lukashchik. Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release. The two sides reviewed the entire range of bilateral relations covering political relations, high-level engagement and dialogue, trade and investment, military and security cooperation, education, and people-to-

people contacts. The two sides also agreed to continue cooperation at multilateral forums, including at the United Nations, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Ambassador Sergei Lukashchik also called on Foreign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi. Bilateral areas of cooperation and important regional and global developments were discussed.

Russian Ambassadors meets Aleem Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Communications, Board of Investment and Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan Tuesday met with Russian Ambassador Albert P. Khorev and discussed matters of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation in multiple fields. In this meeting, detailed discussions were held on road connectivity between Russia and Pakistan which could greatly increase trade and cargo activities between both countries, said a press release. Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that Pakistan was keen to connect Russia through Central Asian countries and back to Karachi Port



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Pakistan, Albert P. Khorev called on Federal Minister for Communications, Board of Investment and Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan.

Property tax problem would be taken up at relevant forum: MD

PESHAWAR (APP): Managing Director (MD) Small Industries Development Board (SIDB) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Habibullah Arif has said that the problem of the property tax of industrialists would be taken up at the concerned forum. He was talking to a delegation of industrialists which called on him in his office on Tuesday. President, Small Industries Estate, Peshawar Waheed Arif was leading the delegation, Deputy Managing Director (DMD) SIDB, Nauman Fayyaz was also present on the occasion. The delegation congratulated him on his appointment as Managing Director SIDB and expressed good wishes for them. Speaking on the occasion, the Managing Director SIDB said that his doors are opened for the industrialists as they are doing commendable job of providing employment to hundreds of the people to earn livelihood for their families. He said that first commercial plaza has been constructed for the industrialists and invited them to come and display their products in it. He said that beside closure of all illegal shops, cleanliness system at the estate would also be improved.

Fatima Fertilizer and JazzCash sign MOU to pioneer digitalization of Agri-Sector Payment Ecosystem

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Fatima Fertilizer, a leading name in Pakistan's agriculture sector, and JazzCash, Pakistan's largest digital wallet, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to revolutionize the agri-sector

TMAS directed to reduce expenditure on fuel

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Minister for Local Government (LG), Arshad Ayub Khan on Tuesday directed Town Municipal Administrations (TMAs) to reduce their fuel expenses and said that timely measures were needed to avoid financial constraints. During his visit to Local Council Board Hayatabad, he inspected various sections of the board. Chairing a meeting of Mardan and Peshawar Division Town Municipal Officers, he directed to reduce fuel expenses and said that the expense of smaller municipal administrations was one million rupees. He directed to reduce the patrol bill and said that "we cannot avoid financial crunch if corrective measure were not taken."



payment ecosystem. This collaboration aims to drive financial inclusion and economic empowerment for farmers, who are predominantly unbanked, enabling them to actively participate in the formal economy. Furthermore, by leveraging Fatima Fertilizer's extensive dealer network, this initiative will provide farmers with a seamless and accessible platform to manage their finances, receive payments.

OGDCL collaborates with NCSW for women empowerment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) has partnered with the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) to empower women and foster their growth within the company. Ahmed Hayat Lak, MD/CEO of OGDCL, and Nilofar Bakhtiar, Chairperson of NCSW, on Tuesday, signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) to formalize this collaboration. The signing ceremony was held here at the OGDCL Head Office. This strategic partnership underscores OGDCL's commitment to

recognizing and honouring the invaluable contributions of women within its operations. Earlier this year, OGDCL unveiled its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Policy to foster a more inclusive workplace culture. The collaboration between OGDCL and NCSW is poised to set a new standard for gender inclusivity and empowerment in Pakistan's corporate landscape. OGDCL is committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion, ensuring a workplace where every individual,

7th Final Year Engineering Design Expo begins

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to KP CM on Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Abdul Karim Tordher on Tuesday inaugurated the 7th Final Year Engineering Design Projects Expo 2024 of Engineering Universities. The exhibition has been organized in collaboration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) here at Hayatabad. Models of various engineering projects prepared by the students of engineering universities across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have been showcased in the event.

CM GB chairs meeting on security arrangements for Muharram

GILGIT (APP): Chief Minister of Gilgit Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan chaired a high level meeting regarding security arrangements during Muharram Ul Haram. The meeting discussed measures to ensure peace and security during the month of Muharram. The Chief Minister emphasized the importance of maintaining law and order, promoting

brotherhood, and preventing hate speech and violence. He directed officials to ensure strict implementation of the law, hold daily meetings with district commissioners and police officials, enhance security arrangements in sensitive areas, monitor social media and take action against hate speech, install CCTV cameras and use drones for surveillance,

provide necessary facilities for processions and majalis, establish a special committee to ensure peace and security. The meeting was attended by high-ranking officials, including the Home Secretary, Secretary of Health, and Inspector General of Police Gilgit-Baltistan. District commissioners and other officials joined the meeting via video link.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan presiding over the meeting regarding the security arrangements in the coming month of Muharram ul Haram.

Federal Ombudsman's intervention ensures payment of dues to retired employee

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi's intervention on Tuesday has facilitated the payment of outstanding dues to a retired Army employee. According to the details, Ali Khan, a resident of Mansehra and a former employee of the F.F., had lodged a complaint at the Federal Ombudsman Secretariat's regional office in Abbottabad against CMA Lahore, citing long-pending arrears amounting to Rs. 133,235. Upon receiving the complaint, Regional In-Charge Abdul Ghafoor Baig issued notices to CMA Lahore. Following a thorough investigation, CMA Lahore issued a cheque for Rs. 133,235 to Ali Khan. Expressing his gratitude, Ali Khan thanked Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi and Regional In-Charge Abdul Ghafoor Baig for resolving his longstanding issue. Abdul Ghafoor Baig highlighted that the Federal Ombudsman's institution serves as a public court, providing prompt and inexpensive justice. He reiterated that the Federal Ombudsman is regarded as the court of the poor, ensuring equal, immediate, and affordable justice as a guardian of human rights. He further elaborated



LAHORE: Controller General of Accounts Maqbool Ahmed Gondal inaugurated the newly renovated building of DGPR.

Minister reviews monsoon preparations

LAHORE (APP): On the directives of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Minister for Local Government Zeshan Rafiq chaired a meeting at the Civil Secretariat on Tuesday to review the monsoon preparations in detail. The meeting was attended by Secretary Local Government Shakeel Ahmad Mian, Special Secretary Asiya Gull, and Secretary LG Board Rizwan Nazir. Deputy Commissioners and Municipal Chief Officers from across Punjab participated via video link. The minister stated that CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif has ordered effective measures across the province during the monsoon season, emphasizing the need to maintain the same enthusiasm for cleanliness

exhibited during Eid-ul-Adha. The minister praised the cleanliness efforts during Eid-ul-Adha, calling them commendable. He mentioned that the CM is personally visiting districts at the onset of the rainy season and that he will also be conducting visits to review the arrangements. He directed that lessons learned from initial rains should be used to make improvements. Zeshan Rafiq emphasized the importance of continuous coordination between chief officers and line departments in districts. He directed that all available resources be utilized for drainage. If any drains have not been de-silted, immediate cleaning should be ensured, he added and warned that action would be taken if government directives are not promptly followed.

19 children injured, three critically in Matta school collapse

PESHAWAR (APP): At least 19 school children were injured, three of them critically, when roof of a private school caved in Matta tehsil of Swat district on Tuesday. According to Rescue 1122 the incident occurred in Tangar area of Matta where the roof of a dilapidated private school caved in, injuring 19 children, three of them critically. All the children were recovered from the debris and after first-aid shifted to Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Matta.

Training on Presentation of hospital acquired infection held

MULTAN (APP): A training session on "Prevention of Hospital-Acquired Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance" was held at Children's Hospital here on Tuesday. The purpose of the training was to raise awareness about the prevention of hospital-acquired infections and antimicrobial resistance. It is aimed to inform doctors about modern methods and precautions to ensure patient safety.

BISP to introduce skill training initiative to make beneficiaries out of poverty

LAHORE (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid Tuesday said that a new skill training initiative is being launched to help members of deserving families start their own businesses and rise out of poverty. She was speaking during a visit to the BISP Campsite at Government High School Iqbal Town in Lahore. The visit aimed to review the basic facilities

provided to deserving women who come to receive the Kafalaat quarterly stipend. During her visit, Senator Rubina Khalid engaged with the women beneficiaries, listened to their concerns, and assured them of BISP's commitment to addressing their issues. She instructed the BISP staff to conduct surveys at tehsil offices to prevent overcrowding at payment centers. The BISP staff briefed the Chairperson on

the current payment system. She emphasized the importance of disbursing payments to all deserving women in a fair and transparent manner. Earlier, Senator Rubina Khalid also addressed media representatives at BISP Central Zonal Office in Lahore, highlighting the impact of the programme. She shared that 9.5 million deserving families benefit from BISP and the program's scope is being further expanded.

Police chiefs assure safety of traders

RAWALPINDI (APP): Regional Police Officer (RPO) Babar Sarfaraz, City Police Officer (CPO) Khalid Hamdani and Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Taimur Khan paid a visit to the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) here on Tuesday. President RCCI Saqib Rafiq and Group Leader RCCI Sohail Altaf and office bearers welcomed the RPO and his team. President Saqib Rafiq said that this is the first time that the three chiefs of Rawalpindi Police have visited the Chamber of

Police starts search, strike operation in DIKhan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The district police of DIKhan on Tuesday started search and strike operations in the district against anti-state and criminal elements to ensure security in the district. According to the police spokesman, on the direction of District Police Officer Dera Nasir Mahmood, Parowa Circle and City Circle Police conducting search and strike operation and snap checking within their respective circles for which they urged masses to extend cooperation.



LAHORE: Opposition Leader in Punjab Assembly, Malik Ahmed Khan Bhachar along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Lahore press club.

Senior minister announces commencement of second phase of anti-smog campaign

LAHORE (APP): Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday announced the commencement of second phase of the anti-smog campaign. In a statement issued here, she stated that Chief Minister of Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif, has mandated the strict enforcement of laws and regulations under the Smog-Free Punjab vision. She noted that the first phase, which spanned three months, focused on providing facilities, technical assistance, equipment, and technology across all sectors. Over the next three months, environmental protection laws and regulations will be rigorously enforced in industries, agriculture, traffic, and other sectors, she said, and warned that violations of environmental laws will result in fines, penalties, and arrests. Furthermore, the senior minister affirmed the commitment to achieving a complete ban on plastic, with Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif personally overseeing its implementation. Strict actions will be taken against the burning of crop residues.

International News

Israel orders Palestinians to flee Khan Younis, signaling likely new assault on southern Gaza city

Monitoring Desk
KHAN YOUNIS: The Israeli army ordered a mass evacuation of Palestinians from much of Khan Younis on Monday, a sign that troops are likely to launch a new ground assault in the Gaza Strip's second largest city. The order suggested Khan Younis will be the target in the latest of Israel's repeated raids into parts of Gaza it had previously invaded during the past nearly nine months, pursuing Hamas militants as they regroup. Much of Khan Younis was already destroyed in a long assault earlier this year, but large numbers of Palestinians have since moved back in to escape another Israeli offensive in Gaza's southern-most city, Rafah.

The order came as Israel released the director of Gaza's main hospital after holding him for seven months without charge or trial over allegations the facility had been used as a Hamas command center. He said he and other detainees were held under harsh conditions and tortured. AP correspondent Charles de Ledesma reports dozens of detained Palestinians have been set free by Israel. The decision to release Mohammed Abu Selmia raised questions over Israel's claims surrounding Shifa Hospital, which Israeli forces have raided twice since the start of the nearly nine-month war with Hamas. Abu Selmia and other Palestinian health officials have denied the accusations. His release triggered an uproar across Israel's political spectrum. Government ministers and op-

position leaders expressed outrage and insisted Abu Salmia played a role in Hamas' alleged use of the hospital — though Israeli security services rarely unilaterally free prisoners if they have a suspicion of militant links. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office called the release "a grave mistake." Monday's evacuation call covered the entire eastern half of Khan Younis and a large swath of the Gaza Strip's southeast corner. Earlier in the day, the army said a barrage of rockets out of Gaza was fired from Khan Younis. The order suggested a new assault into the city was imminent. Israeli forces fought for weeks in Khan Younis earlier this year and withdrew, claiming to have destroyed Hamas battalions in the city.



Dutch King Willem-Alexander and Prime Minister Dick Schoof pose with the new members of the Dutch Government at Palace Huis ten Bosch in The Hague, Netherlands.

Trump says he can end the Russia-Ukraine war in one day

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: Donald Trump has said repeatedly he could settle the war between Russia and Ukraine in one day if he's elected president again. Russia's United Nations ambassador says he can't. When asked to respond to the claim from the presumptive Republican nominee, Vassily Nebenzia told reporters Monday that "the Ukrainian crisis cannot be solved in one day." At a CNN town hall in May 2023, Trump said: "They're dying, Russians

and Ukrainians. I want them to stop dying. And I'll have that done — I'll have that done in 24 hours." He said that would happen after he met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladimir Putin. And he keeps repeating the claim on the campaign trail. During last week's debate with President Joe Biden, Trump claimed, "If we had a real president, a president that knew — that was respected by Putin ... he would have never invaded Ukraine."

British PM Sunak hunts for votes among the robots at dawn

Monitoring Desk
LUTON: Badly lagging in the race to win Britain's election, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak went hunting for votes among robots and staff in a retail distribution centre on Tuesday, kicking off his first campaign stop of the day before 5 a.m. (0400 GMT). Sunak, who has often looked exhausted as he crossed the country during a six-week campaign, started the penultimate day of campaigning before Thursday's vote in a vast Ocado warehouse in Luton.

Ukraine releases thousands of prisoners so they can join fight against Russia

Monitoring Desk
DNIPROPETROVSK REGION: At a rural penal colony in southeast Ukraine, several convicts stand assembled under barbed wire to hear an army recruiter offer them a shot at parole. In return, they must join the grueling fight against Russia. "You can put an end to this and start a new life," said the recruiter, a member of a volunteer assault battalion. "The main thing is your will, because you are going to defend the motherland. You won't succeed at 50%, you have to give 100% of

yourself, even 150%." Ukraine is expanding the draft to cope with acute battlefield shortages more than two years into fighting against Russia's full-scale invasion. And its recruiting efforts have turned, for the first time, to the country's prison population. Although Ukraine does not announce any details of troop deployment numbers or casualties, frontline commanders openly acknowledge that they are facing serious manpower problems as Russian continues to build up forces in eastern Ukraine.

107 killed in stampede at religious event in India's Uttar Pradesh

Monitoring Desk
UTTAR PRADESH: Nearly 107 people were crushed to death at a Hindu religious gathering in northern India on Tuesday, with many others injured, a senior government official said. A large crowd had gathered near the city of Hathras for a sermon by a popular preacher but a fierce dust storm sparked panic as people were leaving. Many were crushed or trampled, falling on top of each other, with some collapsing into a roadside drain in the chaos. "The attendees were exiting the venue when a dust storm blinded their vision, leading to a melee and the subsequent tragic incident," Chaitra V, divisional commissioner of Aligarh city in Uttar Pradesh state, told AFP. "We ... are focusing on providing relief and medical aid for the victims," she added. Hours after the trag-

edy, she told reporters the toll had surged past a hundred. "Initial information ... is that 107 people have died," she told reporters. Most of the dead were women, according to state chief medical officer Umesh Kumar Tripathi, who told reporters "many injured" have been hospitalised. Lines of ambulances carried the injured to hospitals. Waiting women and crying men gathered outside one mortuary in the town of Etah, where many of the dead were taken, seeking news of their relatives. Deadly incidents are common at places of worship during major religious festivals in India, the biggest of which prompt millions of devotees to make pilgrimages to holy sites. "When the sermon finished, everyone started running out," Shakuntala, a woman who gave only one name, told the Press Trust of India news agency.

North Korea brags of new missile with 'super-large warhead.'

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea said Tuesday it had test-fired a new tactical ballistic missile capable of carrying "a super-large warhead," a claim quickly disputed by South Korean officials and experts who speculate the North likely fabricated a successful test to conceal a botched launch. It's the second time that South Korea has questioned North Korea's claim on the development of new weapons in recent days, as the rivals are locked in heightened animosities over the North's testing activities. The North's official Korean Central News Agency said that Monday's test involved the Hwasongpho-11 Da-4.5 missile, which can carry a 4.5-ton-class warhead. It said the test was meant to verify the weapon's flight

stability and hit accuracy at the maximum range of 500 kilometers (310 miles) and the minimum range of 90 kilometers (55 miles). The test apparently refers to the two ballistic missile launches that South Korea said North Korea performed Monday. Joint Chiefs of Staff spokesperson Lee Sung Joon said at a briefing later Tuesday that the second North Korean missile was found to have fallen on an uninhabited area near Pyongyang, the North's capital. He said he could find few previous test-launches by North Korea that have aimed at ground target sites. The South Korean military has said the second North Korean missile possibly traveled abnormally during the initial stage of its flight.

99.99 percent reporting is correct: CJ IHC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice (CJ) Islamabad High Court (IHC) Aamir Farooq has remarked reporters reporting court proceedings are absolutely correct and those who announce decision while sitting in evening programs is problem.

The reporters reporting court's proceedings are reporting correctly. Those who announce decision by sitting in programs in the evening is problem. First criminal trial was telecast in US on TV in 1975. I am protector of rights of people. I cannot deprive entire world of this right, CJ IHC remarked during the hearing of the petition seeking nullification of PEMRA notification regarding ban on court reporting here Tuesday.

Chief Justice of Pakistan inquired was anything reported wrongly. Upon it PEMRA issued notification. I don't think that such thing was done by high court or registrar sent any report. The court remarked that if I have not said anything and it is reported then

PEMRA can penalize this media house on complaint. CJ IHC remarked let the people know what is happening. How many actions were taken by PEMRA on wrong reporting during the last one year.

He remarked I say 99.99 percent reporting is correct. Point one percent can be human error. I believe this may have been done in SC too. If someone does anything wrong then PEMRA should take action against it. When court issues signed decision then it becomes public property. Decision of judge should be criticized not judge. We should encourage debates on court's decisions. Court's decisions should be highlighted that law was like this. But in decision there is this mistake. PEMRA has imposed complete ban on court's reporting.

CJ IHC remarked there was time when 20 to 25 people sitting in the court could hear the court's proceedings. Now this is age of media. Man sitting in US can hear observation given by me here.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah in meeting with the Deputy Speaker of the New York State Assembly, Phil Ramos and his delegation, which included parliamentarians and APPAC office bearers, held at CM House in Karachi.

Deputy Speaker New York State Assembly calls on CM Sindh

KARACHI (APP): A delegation led by Deputy Speaker of the New York State Assembly, Phil Ramos, on Tuesday called on Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah.

The delegation comprised of parliamentarians and APPAC office bearers which agreed to pass a resolution from the assembly to declare Karachi as the sister city of New York.

The meeting was held at CM House and was attended by Health Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho, Minister Education Sardar Shah, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Sec-

retary Health Irfan Baloch, Secretary U&B Abbas Baloch and others. The 32-member delegation includes NY Assembly Member Alec Brook, American Pakistani committee's Dr Aijaz, Imitiaz Raj, Imitiaz Pirzada, Amir Memon, Dr Tariq Ibrahim, Rukhsana Mahmood and others.

Tarar for further strengthening economic ties with Canada

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaulah Tarar, emphasized the importance of strengthening economic ties with Canada during a meeting with the Canadian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Leslie Scanlon, on Tuesday.

In their discussion, Minister Tarar highlighted the mutual benefits of enhanced economic relations between the two countries. They also addressed various key issues, including bilateral relations and the government's economic initiatives.

Training completed for New Gwadar International Airport in Hainan, China

BEIJING (APP): The training course for the New Gwadar International Airport being constructed in Gwadar, Balochistan province, has been completed in Hainan, China.

Justice Aalia Neelum nominated as LHC chief justice

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) has unanimously nominated Justice Aalia Neelum as the first-ever woman Chief Justice of Lahore High Court (LHC).

DSJ visits central jail

MIRPURKHAS (APP): District and Sessions Judge (DSJ), Inayatullah Bhutto here on Tuesday visited central jail.

Monitoring of NGOs in Tharparkar underway to ensure effective service delivery: ADC-I

HYDERABAD (APP): The Additional Deputy Commissioner-I Tharparkar Asif Ali Khaskheli has announced that the district administration was actively monitoring the work of various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operating within the district.

Police arrest gutka seller

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Rangers Sindh and Police in a joint operation, apprehended an individual involved in multiple robberies and street crimes in the Saifal Goth area.

Street criminal arrested after encounter

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Rangers Sindh and Police in a joint operation, apprehended an individual involved in multiple robberies and street crimes in the Saifal Goth area.

All political parties need to join hands for economic, political stability: President

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari has said that all political parties will have to work together for economic, political stability and addressing the problems being faced by the country.

He stated this while talking to former federal minister and senior leader of Awami National Party (ANP) Ghulam Ahmed Bilour who called on him in Islamabad on Tuesday. During the meeting, overall political, security and law and order situation

PM given guard of honor on arrival for a two-day Tajikistan visit

DUSHANBE (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday was given a guard of honor as he arrived here on a two-day visit at the invitation of President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon.

As the prime minister arrived at the Qasr-e-Millat, he was warmly received by President Rahmon.

The national anthems of both the countries were played as the prime minister stood at the salute dias. Later, the smartly turned out contingents of Tajik armed forces presented guard of honor to the prime minister which he reviewed. Later, both Prime Minister Shehbaz and President Emomali Rahmon introduced their respective delegations to each other.

Azadi March case: Former speaker NA Asad Qaisar appeared in the court

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI leader and former speaker National Assembly (NA) Asad Qaisar has appeared in the court in Azadi March case.

Asad Qaisar appeared in the court along with his counsel Ayesha Khalid. The case was heard by Judicial magistrate Malik Muhammad Imran.

In-charge Ombudsman Sukkur holds open court

KARACHI: Pakistan minority rights campaigners protest the sentencing of a Christian man to death for sharing an allegedly blasphemous TikTok post, in Karachi.

SUKKUR (APP): In-charge of the Federal Ombudsman Sukkur Region Syed Mahmood Ali Shah conducted an open court at his Office on Tuesday and listened to the public complaints against various departments.

NDF organise project closing ceremony of construction of shelters

NAWABSHAH (APP): National Disability & Development Forum (NDF) is pleased to announce the successful completion of its project titled "Construction of 10 Shelters at Village Adam Khan Gupchani."

This project demonstrated the power of collaborative and collective action in addressing pressing social challenges. Mr. Abdullah Ghumro said that National Disability & Development Forum (NDF) is dedicated to promoting the rights and improving the quality of life.

Hot, humid weather forecast for Sindh

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Meteorological Department on Tuesday predicted hot and humid weather in most parts of the Sindh province during the next 24 hours.

Special anti-polio drive launched following reported case in Keamari

KARACHI (INP): In response to a reported polio case in Keamari, a special polio eradication campaign has been launched by the Health Department of Sindh.

DC inaugurates polio drive

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Rashid Masood Khan has inaugurated anti-polio campaign in the district which will continue till July 5.



LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz chairing a special meeting to review amendments to the proposed laws and rules for establishment of the Punjab Enforcement Regulatory Authority

UN body demands immediate release of PTI founder

GENEVA (INP): A United Nations (UN) human rights working group demanded the immediate release of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former prime minister Imran Khan, maintaining that he was detained in "violation of international law."

The working group concludes that his (Imran Khan) detention had no legal basis and appears to have been intended to disqualify him from running for political office. Thus, from the outset, that prosecution was not grounded in law and was reportedly instrumentalized for a political purpose. Earlier, Deputy Spokesperson for the US Department of State Vedant Patel termed the cases against Imran Khan as an "internal matter of Pakistan". He said that the US government urged the Pakistani government to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Sri Lankan envoy praises CPEC & Gwadar impact; eyes deeper ties with Pakistan across sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Sri Lanka's High Commissioner Admiral Ravindra Wijegunaratne, on Tuesday highlighting Pakistan's pivotal economic developments linked to CPEC and the operationalization of Gwadar Port, expressed his country's commitment to furthering diplomatic, economic and cultural ties with Pakistan.

Lanka's commitment to strengthening relations with Pakistan across multiple fronts, including trade, tourism, and defence. He pointed out Sri Lanka's pivotal role as an international transshipment hub, particularly for mega-container ships like the Triple E-Class, which cannot dock at all ports due to their size. He anticipated that the full operationalization of Gwadar Port would provide Pakistan with significant revenue opportunities, particularly for transit trade to the Central Asian Republics (CARs).



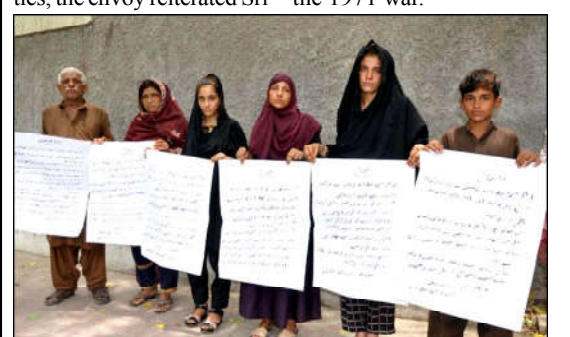
HYDERABAD: Residents of Mehar are holding protest demonstration against robberies in their area, at Hyderabad press club.

SMIU to organize international conference on environment: VC

KARACHI (APP): Noted environmentalist Nasir Ali Panhwar on Tuesday met Vice Chancellor Sindh Madressatul Islam University Dr Mujeeb Sahrai at his office.

DC inaugurates polio drive

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Rashid Masood Khan has inaugurated anti-polio campaign in the district which will continue till July 5.



Matters related to environmental issues facing the world including Pakistan were discussed. Dr Mujeeb Sahrai said Sindh Madressatul Islam University will organize an international conference on environmental issues where national and international environmentalists will be invited. He said due to climate change specially people of Pakistan were passing through severe problems such as scorching heat, floods and heavy rains. He recalled the disaster caused by rains and floods in 2022 when properties, crops and houses specially of those people who were living on the right bank of the Indus River had badly damaged. Nasir Ali Panhwar said there was a need to aware masses about the environmental challenges and emphasized the need that each citizen of the country must plant a tree in a year. Nasir Ali Panhwar also presented a copy of his latest book titled "Earthly Matters" to Dr Mujeeb Sahrai.