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Pakistan Army is sole target of digital terrorists Illegal political mafia trying to sabotage Azm-i-Istehkam operation: DG ISPR

Lt Gen Chaudhry says Azm-i-Istehkam to target anti-state mafias for ensuring peaceful environment; It is not military operation, but comprehensive, integrated campaign against terrorism

rector General, Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR), Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif on Monday brushed aside misconceptions over Azm-i-Istehkam Operation and stressed that it was a comprehensive counter-terrorism drive that had been launched after national consensus. He said it was not just a military operation as portrayed by some disgruntled elements, rather a comprehensive drive to flush out anti-state individuals and mafias, hell bent upon to disrupt peaceful environment in the country.

In a press conference at the General Headquarters, the ISPR DG specifically highlighted major aspects of the operation in the wake of of an organized

stitutions, based on fake and baseless news.

Lieutenant General Sharif gave the breakup of massive, illegal political counter-terrorism drive during the current year as some 22,409 intelligence-based operations (IBOs) were conducted that resulted in elimination of 398 terrorists. On average 112 IBOs were done on daily basis by the army, police and law enforcement agencies (LEAs) that helped in elimination of 31 high value targets (most wanted terrorists), he added, During these counter-terrorism activities, 137 officers and soldiers embraced martyrdom in 2024 whereas the armed forces paid tribute to the families

of these martyrs. "Amid growing propaganda and lies, it is im-

ISLAMABAD (APP): Di- campaign against state in- perative to hold regular media briefings to debunk false news," he added. He pointed out that a

mafia was trying to sabotage the state's Azm-i-Istehkam (Resolve for Stability) operation.

Replying to a query regarding the displacement, he said crucial issues were being targeted just for political

gains, adding that Azm-i-Istehkam was one such example. Last month, the federal government approved the operation to counter due to terrorist attacks across the country, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, after the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) ended its ceasefire with the government in November 2022.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on increase in investment and capacity of federal government Ministries.

Palestinian territories Pakistan calls for immediate implementation of ICJ's advisory opinion on Israeli occupation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- on the "Legal Consekistan on Monday welcomed the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Israel's unlawful policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and called for its immediate and full implementation.

It said the ruling clearly established that Israel's unlawful policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory were in breach of Israel's obligation to respect the right of Palestinian people to self-determination.

"Israel is under an obligation to end its unlawful occupation; cease its illegal settlement activities; and to make reparation for the damage caused," it was asserted. The ICJ had ruled

quences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

"It may be recalled that Pakistan had made a written submission to the ICJ on the case in July 2023, and later also shared a rejoinder with the Court. Pakistan also participated in the oral public hearing held by the ICJ on the case in February 2024. In its submissions to the ICJ, Pakistan reiterated its strong and unwavering support for the right to selfdetermination of the Palestinians and highlighted the illegality of the Israeli occupation," Foreign Office Spokesperson, said in a press statement.

Ceremony held to honor martyrs of 2018 attack

KARACHI (APP): A ceremony was held at the Central Police Office here Monday to honor the martyrs of the November 23, 2018, attack on the Chinese Consulate.

The event was attended by Sindh Home Minister Zia ul Hassan Lanjar as the chief guest, along with the families of the martyred police officers, ASI Ashraf Dawood and Constable Ameer. Other attendees included Chinese Consul General Yang Yungdong, IGP Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon, Additional IGP Karachi Javed Akhtar Odho and other senior police officers.

In his address, Home

Minister Zia Ul Hassan Lanjar praised the bravery and valor of the police officers and Jawans who sacrificed their lives to protect the people. He expressed gratitude to the Chinese government for acknowledging these sacrifices and emphasized the essential role of public support in the fight against crime.

IGP Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon highlighted the importance of the sacrifices made by the martyred officers, calling them an asset and a guiding light for the department. He assured continued commitment to the welfare of the families of the martyrs



KARACHI: Police officials barricade protesters when they tried to move towards red zone area during the protest demonstration of All Sindh Test Pass Teachers Action Committee for acceptance of their demands, nearby Governor House in Karachi.

Brazilian **Chief of Staff**

visits NHQ ISLAMABAD (APP): Brazilian Chief of Staff Admiral, Andre Luiz Silva Lima De Santana Mendes visited Naval Headquarters (NHO) and called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf here on Monday.

Upon arrival at Naval Headquarters, the visiting dignitary was received by Chief of the Naval Staff. A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Navy also presented Guard of Honour.

Brazilian Chief of Staff laid wreath at Shuhada Monument and afterwards was introduced to Principal Staff Officers of Naval Headquarters, a news release said.

Later, Admiral Andre Luiz Silva Lima De Santana Mendes called on Chief of the Naval Staff in his office. Both the dignitaries discussed matters of mutual interests, regional maritime security environment and bilateral naval collaboration.

PM condemns Israeli attack on Khan Younis, calls it

inhumane act

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday vehemently condemned the Israeli forces' violent attack on Khan Younis in Gaza, describing it as an inhumane act, particularly following the evacuation of refugees.

The prime minister, in a statement issued by PM Office, described the aggressive attack on the Khan Younis area of Gaza shortly after the instructions to the unarmed Palestinian refugees to evacuate as a mockery of humanity according to. The prime minister stated that it had become clear that the Israeli forces had been pursuing a genocidal agenda against Palestinians, noting that unarmed Palestinians had been denied the opportunity to evacuate. The prime minister emphasized that the Pakistani nation stands in solidarity with its Palestinian brothers and sisters. He called upon the United Nations to fulfill its responsibility in addressing the issue of Palestine.

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari chairing a meeting on saving

Karachi from urban flooding, environmental degradation and promoting sustainable water resource development at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President for comprehensive plan to prevent urban flooding in Karachi

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday directed the Sindh government to prioritize a comprehensive plan to prevent urban flooding in Karachi by adopting a sustainable, long-term strategy based on international best practices for managing sewage and stormwater

The President expressed these views while chairing a meeting on saving Karachi from urban flooding and environmental degradation and promoting sustainable water resource development, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. The President was

given a comprehensive presentation by international water and sewage manage-ment experts and proposed various solutions to address the challenges of urban flooding and sewage in Karachi on the pattern of the tunnel sewer systems of Washington DC, the lighted that underground

Project, and the Deep Tun- techniques would not disnel Sewerage System of

Singapore.
Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah, Adjutant General Lt General Muhammad Asim Malik, Minister for Local Government Department of Sindh, Saeed Ghani, Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Sindh, Syed Asif Hyder Shah, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation, Sved Salahuddin, Country Head Herrenknetch Pakistan, Col ® Danyal Naveed Ahmed, senior government officials, and local and international water management experts attended the

meeting. During the briefing, it was proposed that a network of small and large sewer tunnels under existing roads in high-flood zones of Karachi may be

turb the public, city traffic and land ownership.

The experts informed that Karachi generated al-

most 450 million gallons per day (MGD) of sewage. They added that sewage and stormwater were collected in small and large open drains which fell into the Lyari and Malir rivers and were released untreated into the sea, polluting the marine ecosystem.

It was further in-formed that the existing network of drains had limited capacity and absorbed around 50% of the rainwater under normal circum stances. The meeting was told that excess water was not absorbed by the system, causing urban flooding.

Speaking on the occasion, the President underlined the need for completing the feasibility study to control flooding in Karachi through tunnelling options



Aurangzeb chairing a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned

Jhampir Wind and Solar Hybrid project to be completed in 15 months

Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah in a meeting was told on Monday that 350MW Jhampir Wind and Solar Hybrid project will be completed

in a period of 15 months. The provincial Energy Minister was chairing a meeting of the Energy Department. Tariq Ali Shah (MD TCEB), Îmtiaz Ali Shah (MD SEECA), Saleem Ahmed Sheikh (CEO STDC), Tariq Saeed Sr. GMSTDC and other officers were also present.

In the briefing, it was informed that this project will provide cheap electricity to the industries of Sindh this project.

KARACHI (APP): Sindh and 36 wind turbines will be installed in this project, and each turbine will generate 7MW of electricity.

The minister said that the cost of the Jhampir Wind and Solar Hybrid project has been estimated at Rs.120.865 billion and the cost of electricity generated from this project will be Rs.18.45 billion. Nasir Shah said that steps would be taken to start the project soon. He will meet with the CM Sindh this week and present the details of this project. The minister added that the industry will be able to benefit from the supply of cheap electricity from

Minister for promoting **E-vehicles to reduce** environmental pollution

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister for Industry and Commerce, Jam Ikramullah Dharejo, stressing on promotion of electric vehicles for reducing environmental pollution and saving fuel, on Monday said that manufacturing of electric vehicles in the country will not only save foreign exchange but also create employment op-

portunities at the local level. The minister, while chairing a meeting with a delegation of Yousuf Dewan Group, underscored the significance of electric vehicles in curtailing environmental pollution and said that Pakistan is currently facing the menace of pollution and use of Electric vehicles will help in dealing with issue of environmental pollution.

He also emphasized the need of small size fire trucks as in any emergency situation these trucks could easily go through narrow streets and reach in congested areas to extinguish fire.

For promotion of the electric vehicle, Dharejo said, more charging stations need to be installed along with disseminating mass awareness to encourage the use of E-vehicles by con-

Cabinet meeting with PTI ban on agenda postponed

ISLĀMABĀD (INP): A meeting of the federal cabinet to give approval for ban on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was postponed on Monday, sources said. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was sched-

uled to chair the meeting on Tuesday, July 23, when the cabinet members were likely to nod the ban on the political party.

The cabinet was also

expected to give approval for pursuing cases under Article 6 of the Constitution against former Presi dent Arif Alvi, PTI founder Imran Khan, and Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri.

NAB gets more seven day custody of Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi

ISLAMABAD (APP) An Accountability Court (AC) on Monday granted the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) a further seven-day physical remand of PTI founder Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi in new toshakhana

The two accused were produced before the Accountability Court at Adiala Jail after their eight day remand was ended.

During the hearing, the NAB prayed the court to grant further 14 days physical remand of the accused for more investigation from them in the said case

Global firm hired to invest and improve the efficiency of government institutions ISLAMABAD (Online): Sharif said that increasing The services of a global firm investment in the country

have been acquired to increase investment in Pakistan and improve the efficiency of government insti-

An important meeting was held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif regarding increasing investment and improving the efficiency of government institutions, in which a briefing was given by the Public Private Partnership Authority that increasing the efficiency of federal ministries and improving investment.

Consultancy firm Kearney has been hired to hire experts. In the briefing, it was mentioned that Kearney is an internationally renowned firm with operations all over the world, especially in the Middle East.

Addressing the participants of the meeting,

is the first priority of the government. The government is taking all possible steps to provide a business friendly environment to

traders and investors. He directed to take immediate effective measures for investment and government efficiency improvement projects that are likely to yield results

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of State for Finance Ali Pervez Malik, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Jahanzeb Khan, Prime Minister's Coordinator Rana Ehsan Afzal and relevant senior officials were present in the



ISLAMABAD: Admiral Andre Luiz Silva Lima De Santana Mendes Chief of Staff Brazilian Navy Called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters in the Federal Capital.

Inaugurated 13 new Route of the **People's Bus Service** Sindh government is taking steps to provide relief to the people in all sectors: Sharjeel

Independent Report KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon today inaugurated the new Route 13 of the People's Bus Service in Karachi. The inauguration ceremony, for the route from Hawk's Bay to Tower, was held at Hawk's Bay Zero Point. The event was attended by PPP MPA Liaquat Askani and other leaders. Speaking to the media on the occasion, Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said that the Sindh government is taking steps to provide relief to the people in all sectors. "As part of this effort, a new route is being inaugurated today", he said and added that we aim to provide air-conditioned

buses to people during heat

waves so that they can

He said that along with inflation, the country faces many challenges, including ever increasing electricity prices and load shed-ding "Although the policy maker at federal level is the PML-N, but as Pakistanis, we all share responsibility and we are working for the people", he added. The Senior Minister said that the Sindh government has taken steps to provide relief to the people in various sectors. "In the health sector, state of the art hospitals have been established by the Sindh government which are providing better health facilities to the patients of the whole country", he opined. Sharjeel Inam Memon said that some people are spreading despair among the people, but I assure you there is no need



Inam Memon addressing a press conference on Monday after inaugurated a new route of the Peoples Bus Service from Hawkes Bay to Tower.

Karachi gears up for massive plantation drive: 140,000 saplings to be planted citywide

Hassan Naqvi on Monday chaired a meeting at his office to launch a tree plantation campaign aimed at enhancing the city's green cover. The campaign, set to commence in the next two weeks. targets planting 140,000 trees in collaboration with the forest department, municipal corporations, and private or-

ganizations. Deputy Commissioners (DCs) will make arrangements to plant 10,000 trees in their respective districts with the help of private, municipal, and industrial organizations, said a

press release. Commissioner Naqvi emphasized the importance of collective efforts to en-

KARACHI (APP): Com- sure the campaign's sucmissioner Karachi Syed cess. The initiative aims to bolster Karachi's environment and support government initiatives addressing environmental issues.

The meeting was at-

tended by representatives of various organizations, including the forest department, Karachi municipal corporation, cantonment boards, DHA, LDA, KDA, Port Qasim Authority, Town Administrations, ABAD SITE Limited and Chamber of Commerce and Industries. The Commissioner's office. in coordination with DCs and other stakeholders, has begun identifying suitable locations for tree plantation, focusing on environmentally friendly species and excluding harmful plants.

Daily doice of Masse Independent

Population calamity

Pakistan's population bomb is not ticking anymore; it has already exploded. The detailed results of the 2023 digital census published by the government after a year's delay reveal that the population increased from 207.68m in 2017 to 241.49m in 2023, at one of the world's highest growth rates of 2.55pc. There have been reservations expressed by some political parties as well as the Sindh government on the way the census was conducted. Many suspect that the 2023 census understates the total popula-

If allowed to increase unchecked at the present rate — over thrice as fast as the global average growth rate of 0.8pc — Pakistan's population might double by 2050. Some conservative estimates, such as the one by the UN. forecast that the numbers will surge to 403m. This will have far-reaching implications for the economy and society, putting an enormous strain on food security, socioeconomic infrastructure and public services. Hence, the urgent need for steps to reduce population growth.

There are two contrasting opinions about the country's burgeoning population: one views it as a case of rampant poverty and a growing strain on the state's capacity for public service delivery, while the other touts the increasing numbers as a demographic dividend that can be harnessed to drive faster economic growth, since 67pc of the population is below the age of 30, and 80pc below 40.

The reality is that it is proving to be more of a bane than a boon, as it is a big strain on our already stretched resources, and has made eradication of poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy a lot more difficult than it should have been. This fact is brought home by Pakistan's poor ranking on the UNDP's Human Development Index. With extreme weather events, including destructive floods and droughts, which turn large areas of land uncultivable and uninhabitable and force communities to migrate, disregarding population control is no longer an

Pakistan's exponential population growth may be attributed to several factors: religio-cultural beliefs, social taboos, poverty, female illiteracy, lack of access to birth control and family planning services, etc. However, many other countries facing similar impediments have successfully overcome their high population growth problem. For example, Bangladesh, which faced a high fertility rate and a rapidly growing population in the 1970s, has brought down its fertility rate to less than two births per woman, and the population growth rate to just above

Likewise, India's growth rate has dropped to 0.8pc. Countries such as Turkiye and Iran have also reduced their fertility rates to 2.1pc and 2.3pc, compared to Pakistan's 3.2pc.

Their success shows that Pakistan can also control its growth rate by following the examples of its peers and implementing functional family planning programmes and campaigns.

Restricting women

context of intense political

polarisation, a position on

gender matters becomes

shorthand for a broader

political narrative or value system signalling, which

can help populist candi-

dates win the allegiance of

disparate constituencies

that may disagree on ma-

terial issues but are united

women themselves con-

tinue to be excluded from

the political space, includ-

ing in supposedly evolved

democracies such as the

US, where the poorest

women and those from

marginalised backgrounds

face rampant disenfran-

litical narratives are not

only about gender exclu-

sion, they are also a litmus

test for democratic resil-

ience. Research con-

Chenoweth and Zoe Marks in 2022 identified a

correlation between in-

creasingly authoritarian regimes (Xi in China, Putin

in Russia, Trump in the

US) and an uptick in patri-

Marks argued that as pro-

democratic social move-

ments (often with high fe-

male participation) arose to

push back against authori-

tarian figures, a "patriarchal

backlash" became a key

way to prevent mass

mobilising. Marks ex-

plained that "they seek to

minimise women's equal

rights as citizens and frame

it as niche 'opposition' or

identity politics; and they

centre masculinity and

male breadwinners' sta-

tus as the key indicator

of the nation". In sum, where women's issues

authoritarianism likely

the more you hear

about women, the less

vou hear about other

issues that matter: cost-

More prosaically,

politicised,

movements

are

Chenoweth

by

Erica

from

But anti-women po-

Women's bodies be-

in patriarchy.

chisement.

ducted

Huma Yusuf

Tuesday July 23, 2024

A woman following the news these days can be forgiven for wondering what century she is in. Sexist policies are proliferating globally, and the political discourse in many countries is defined by increasingly regressive messaging about women. This trend should not be dismissed as a niche women's rights issue. Instead, it come politicised because must be understood as a warning sign of democratic

Anti-women narratives are appearing in various garbs: growing calls for state control over reproductive rights; laws with weak or poorly enforced punishments for sexual harassment and violence; policies that stymie women's ability to work or vote; and the promotion of women's traditional roles with--in families, particularly as mothers, refra-med as a strategic response to demographic crises facing some developed countries.

Those following the US election know that even after former US president Donald Trump's failed assassination attempt, the archal oppression. fight over reproductive rights arguably remains

the key electoral issue. On the other side of the world, China's Third Plenum last week highlighted the country's gender inequality challenges, largely through the absence of women in the Community Party's leadership. The failure to mention the role that women's economic participation can play in boosting GDP was notable. China under Xi Jinping has suppressed women's rights, both through crackdowns against feminist movements and softer messaging encouraging women to stay home and procreate.

The return of lurks women's issues to the political centre stage is not surprising. Women's bodies have long been political battlegrounds, their rights an easy frame of-living crisis, public which everyone wins. through which to consider service delivery, eco- Courtesy Dawn

contentious politics. In the nomic growth, social welfare, climate resilience, etc. Politicians talk about women's bodies because they have little to offer on the substantive issues. This creates a credibility gap that itself breeds more distrust in the democratic system.

Toxic anti-women narratives also breed a vicious cycle that will further wea-k-en democracies, possibly irreparably. Here's why: women's participation in the democratic process (thr-ough voting

litical participat-i--on) is known to strengthen democracies This is not only because women's participation is fundamentally inclusive.

It is also because when women vote, they tend to prioritise issues, such as education, healthcare and social welfare. As Hina Shaikh put it in a blog on Pakistan's 2024 elections for the International Growth Centre, 'when more women vote, it can lead to growth in welfare and redistribution expenditures by the government. Women's participation ... is fundamental to the functioning and legitimacy of democracy". Sadly, anti-women political narratives will ultimately suppress women's political participation, and so undermine democratic functioning as a whole. It's therefore time to move away from emotive political discourse about women's issues, particularly without their participation in the debate. The emphasis, instead, should remain on women's emancipation, whether through grassroots activism or political participation. That's the only way to end up with democratic, inclusive societies in

Education crisis

Nazir A. Jogezai

Finally, the Balochistan government has taken a much-needed decision: it has increased the budget for higher education institutions (HEIs). This is likely to resolve many long-standing issues which had hindered the progress of these facilities, such as providing relief to employees who have endured months of delayed salaries. In addition, the announcement about granting full scholarships under the Benazir Bhutto Scholarship Programme for PhD students from

Balochistan to study in 200 leading universities worldwide, will also go a the teaching faculty, long way in supporting which is unable to tend long way in supporting the youth to find fulfill-Sadly, for decades,

the governance and management of HEIs in Balochistan has faced a crisis, with the recent financial collapse revealing the ineptitude of the relevant authorities. Besides, the HEIs were always far too reliant on aid and grants. While much was spent on new construction and salaries, not a penny went towards profit-making endeavours, human development, research and advancement. The latter HEIs safe from such a making them self-reliant and able to contribute to ing, resulting in researchbased and informed de- and historians. cision-making.

and structural disintegration of the HEIs was eclipsed by the protests and uproar against employees' financial predicaments. The responsibility for this collapse rests with all stakeholders—from lawmakers and policy engineers to administrations and university associations.

Moreover, shortsighted, unimaginative mindset of our schemes in far-flung ar- -- Courtesy Dawn

legislators is in complete eas. All academic assoconflict with internation- ciations must become ally established criteria in higher education. They prefer quantity and cosmetic changes new buildings and recruits — over quality, leading to grave liabili-

bursement of salaries to The increasing inclination for hiring contractual staff, reducing remunerations, raising student fees, and limiting scholarships and internships, alongside compromised university economic landscape functions, spell disaster for higher education in

the province. Every arbi-

ties, including non-dis-

trary move demoralises to its daily needs and professional obligations. After the Covid-19 pandemic, HEIs worldwide merged departments to foment efficiency and lower costs. Pakistan, on the other hand, continues to follow an outdated policy — expand departments into divisions and inaugurate more universities and must ponder over the questions of whether we need all those enrolled in HEIs, especially when graduates, as well as would have kept the whether every district has a university. Higher dismal monetary state, education has become more of a symbol than a forum for the contribupreneurs, philosophers,

> The crisis is deep; it to set a direction, empower others and create synergy. It is also time that HEIs' leadership took responsibility and devised a strategy to repair the damage. More-

more proactive in promoting quality educa-

tion in their manifestos. Salvation also lies in multiple interventions — integrating departments, closing satellite campuses, collaboration with postgraduate colleges, and capacity buil-ding. A shift towards inclusive

disciplina--ry methods subjects which enable communal engagement and are relevant to Balochistan's socioand an eq--u-i---table tuition fee str-ucture, whereby the wealthy pay a higher fee-and the poor get a subsidy, are a necessity.

The Higher Education Commission has played a disappointing role, especially in the context of the 18th Amendment. It still takes key decisions from determining the norms for recruitment, programmes of study, to other administrative affairs.

Financial support satellite campuses. One and academic freedom in HEIs should be a provincial obligation. While it must be acknowledged that the there are no jobs for HEC has guided higher education insitutes in Balochistan, the dynamics have changed. It ought to give up its powers so that the institutions assume rebroader social well-be- tions of scientists, entre- sponsibility for managerial excellence as well as debacles.

The establishment The rapid academic needs astute leadership of a functional provincial HEC should be a priority, with the province operating its HEIs within its budget and in line with the needs of the people. More importantly, utilising over, rational resource Balochistan's human utilisation and aca- capital, as opposed to demic management recruiting expensive have to become a prior- foreign scholars, will ity, with a focus on make the provincial profit generation and HEC more sustainable, curtailed expansion relevant, and effective.

Commerce News

Pak, Kuwait agree for further promoting bilateral trade

Monday agreed for further promoting friendly and press release. bilateral trade relations between the two countries discussed by moving forward in a more integrated manner, besides enhancing business business

government cooperation. regard was evolved in a meeting between Minister and "Government to economy and projects of for Board of Investment. Privatization Communications, Abdul Khan

meeting sector. various Government"

Abdul Aleem Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Kuwait to from Kuwait to Pakistan Pakistan and Kuwait on Pakistan Abdul Rehman for which substantial Jay. Al-Mutiari, said a results could be obtained, especially from the private

Ambassador proposals regarding the Kuwait to Pakistan, Abdul promotion of trade activities from Kuwait and assured the minister that and expressed his willingness his government would to cooperate for various provide all possible The consensus to this rd was evolved in a "Business to Business" strengthening of Pakistan's

> mutual cooperation. He further said that said that he wanted the Kuwait was keen to

Pakistan and the contracts signed in the recent past by Kuwaiti institutions would be finalized within the

given time frame. The Ambassador of Kuwait, while appreciating Abdul Aleem Khan's recent visit to Kuwait, said that his presence in Kuwait the helped more development of bilateral relations between Kuwait and Pakistan and promotion of mutual trade which would continue in the coming and progress for investment further strengthen the days as well.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a virtua meeting with the Representatives from Fitch Ratings.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kuwait to Pakistan, Abdul Rehman Jay. Al-Mutiari called on Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan.

PSX transitions to the efficient & convenient one-share marketable lot

Independent Report Stock Exchange (PSX) has successfully transitioned to a One-Share Lot system for investor transactions on the regular market, aligning with international best practices for stock market investments. Previously, the minimum marketable lot sizes for listed companies varied from 20, 50, 100, and 500 shares based on their prices. To enhance investor convenience and streamline stock market transactions. this change has been

experience and facilitate increased investors and stakeholders. participation, The transition to the Onein multiple phases on a weekly basis, to ensure a transition. The conversion conducted by the Exchange.

facilitating seamless, systematic, and efficient regulator is committed to market. Key advantages of accessibility.

add value to its customer the One-Share Lot include smaller standard lot size Share Lot began on April makes high-priced stocks 19, 2024, and was executed more affordable for retail investors, resulting in higher liquidity and smooth and efficient improved trading volumes.

Additionally, this was based on a change allows investors comprehensive evaluation to build more balanced portfolios, as those with limited capital can now The new lot size is afford a wider range of expected to offer numerous stocks. The new lot size benefits to investors, also eliminates the need for investors to trade in odd lot markets at a enacted. PSX as a frontline transactions in the capital discount, promoting

made public: Atif Ikram **Independent Report** while talking to a ISLAMABAD: President delegation of the business community.

Contracts with IPPs,

should be revise and

Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Atif Ikram Sheikh has said that it is necessary to review the agreements with IPPs. The government should bring the agreements with IPPs to the public. Expensive contracts are the cause of electricity crisis today, people and business circles have suffered severe problems due to expensive

Federation President Atif Ikram said that the reason for the high electricity bills is the agreements made with the

The power plants of the PPPs are running at less than 10% capacity and the government is paying the full amount. On one hand, the circulating debt is increasing, on other electricity bills, he hand, the public is being expressed these views burdened.

Govt to encourage private seed companies: Minister

Pakhtunkhwa and private seed company Akora Seed Company here on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to

ensure supply of quality seeds.
Chief Executive
Officer of Akora Seed Company Muhammad Siddiq and Javed Marwat, Secretary Agriculture, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations. Provincial Minister Major

PESHAWAR (APP): The Retired Sajjad Barkwal Government of Khyber participated in the participated in the ceremony as the chief guest. On this occasion, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Industries Abdul Karim Tordhir and senior officials of the Agriculture Department were also present. Talking to the representatives, the provincial minister assured them that the government would provide all the facilities to the seed companies in the supply of quality seeds.

NA Committee on Privatization expresses concerns over delay in PIACL privatization process ISLAMABAD (APP): 10 years.

National Assembly Standing Committee on Privatization on Monday chairmanship of Farooq expressed concern over the Sattar noted that the delay delay in the process of in the privatization privatization of Pakistan process of PIACL resulted International Airlines Company Limited (PIACL) and directed to provide a detailed working paper on the entities recommended

committee, which met here under the in an increase in its losses, and liabilities from Rs 200 billion in 2015 to Rs800 billion in 2024 and privatized during the last transparently expediting

The committee also urged to protect the rights of the employees during the process which was assured by the Minister for Privatization, said a press release. The Secretary Ministry of Privatization gave a briefing on the overall working and performance of the

Internship program revolutionize agriculture sector: DG

FAISALABAD (APP) Director General (DG) Agriculture (Extension), Chaudhary Abdul Hameed has said that the one-year internship program announced by the CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif will revolutionize the agriculture sector in Punjab province. According to a spokesperson, DG agriculture said that the last date to receive the applications is August 5,2024 (Monday). Under agriculture the

be provided internships.

During the meeting, transformation plan,1000 agriculture graduates would

preparatory meeting for FoodAg Expo ISLAMABAD (APP): promotion of the event to

Commerce minister holds

Ministry.

Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Monday conducted a zoom meeting to review preparations for the second International Food and Agriculture Exhibition (FoodAg 2024) to be held in Karachi from August 9 to 11th.

The and foolproof security for the international delegates press release issued here.

towards the branding and missions from 74 countries.

ensure its success

The exhibition will feature several key components including a Trade and Investment Conference, an Exhibition Display, a Cuisine Show and an Inauguration Dinner at Mohatta Palace.

Additionally, various sideline activities such as emphasized the importance of top-notch arrangements talks, and city tours organized by the Provincial Tourism Department and expected to attend, said a PTDC are planned to engage participants. Over 1,000 buyers have been Jam Kamal directed that recommended to attend, significant efforts be made with 484 confirmed by

Governor KP stresses on upholding law, ethics for national progress

ABBOTTABAD (APP): of eroding confidence in the cautioning that nations Khyber Governor Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi here on Monday emphasized the critical role of law and ethics in national advancement and asserted that it was the collective responsibility to bolster faith in the justice system.

convocation ceremony as the chief guest at a private embrace heightened college, the Governor responsibilities, stressing highlighted the escalating that safeguarding the challenges posed by the disregard for legal and ethical standards, attributing them to attributing them to prosperity. He emphasized increasing immorality. He that democracy hinges on

supremacy of law and constitution is paramount for national progress and lamented the consequences the enforcement of law,

ul-Haq remarked that we

have to see from the official

applications were filed,

Justice Tariq Saleem Sheikh

said that it is not proved

from the record that

application was filed on

applications. Later, the

Lahore High Court

dismissed the petitions on

the basis of withdrawal. It

should be remembered that

Imran Khan had challenged

the Anti-Terrorism Court's

decision to reject the bails

in the Jinnah House,

Askari Tower attack cases.

Three cases of May 9

dismissed related to PTI

founder's interim bail

During the hearing, July 13. On this PTI Justice Tariq Saleem Sheikh Lawyer said that we want

inquired that while we are to withdraw these

Lahore High Court on July Shadman Police Station and

record

(Online):

Lahore High Court (LHĆ)

dismissed all three

applications related to

interim bails in 3 cases of

former Prime Minister

Imran Khan on the basis of

hearing this case, Is Imran

Khan in custody? The PTI

lawyer told yes, he is

currently in custody. The

lawyer further said that on

July 9 our bails were

rejected by the Anti-

Terrorism Court, we filed

an application in the

13. On this, Justice Anwar-

withdrawal.

judiciary, asserting that it is the collective risk losing their identity. He responsibility to bolster called upon Pakistanis to The Governor underscored the Governor the cause of legal supremacy, urging a spirit significance of the day for welfare. Acknowledging students and the the post-pandemic surge in institution alike. Faisal online activities, he online activities, he Addressing the Kareem Kundi urged the highlighted the growing importance of the digital sector. The convocation was attended by Vice-Chancellor Hazara University Professor Dr. Mohsin Nawaz and Vice-Chancellor Abbottabad University of Science and Technology Professor Dr. Majid.

Tuesday July 23, 2024

Police seize

Rajanpur Police claimed to



have successfully foiled an attempt to smuggle fuel and seized 3,000 liters of oil here Monday. Following the instructions from District Police Officer (DPO) Dost Muhammad, a crackdown against smuggling is in progress across the district. SHO Sadar Police Station Asad Abbas, along with his team, conducted the operation which resulted in the seizure of a tanker filled with smuggled diesel. One suspect involved in the smuggling was arrested along with the vehicle. DPO Captain (Retd.) Dost Muhammad has issued directives to all SHOs in the district



ABBOTABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi addressing media persons during his visit to Abbotabad Press Club.

Punjab govt facilitating religious minorities: Arora

Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs, Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, visited Multan and attended a reception held at the local Poyam Church in Razaabad.

The provincial minister highlighted practical steps taken by the Punjab government to realize Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's vision of "Minority-Friendly the first time, the Punjab government has increased

minority funds by 200% in

the recent budget, which

(APP): for the welfare of minorities. He mentioned that the

government had allocated a 5% job quota and a 2% quota in universities for minorities to provide employment educational opportunities the minority community.

Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora said that a significant amount has been allocated in the development fund for minorities in South Punjab, and the Punjab government is issuing special grants on occasions like Christmas, Easter will provide more resources Holi, and Diwali.

Minister reviews progress in 27 schemes for Murree

in 27 schemes under the Murree Development Plan was reviewed in a meeting held at the Civil Secretariat, which was presided over by Punjab Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq on Monday. Secretary Local Government Shakeel Ahmed Mian, Special Secretary Asia Gul, Additional Secretary Maria Tariq and others participated. The Deputy Commissioner

AHORE (APP): Progress through video link. The minister said that on the direction of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, it has been decided to start projects including upgrading of the water network in Murree. "Drainage and streetlight services will also be upgraded in the main tourist hub of Punjab", he said. He elaborated that the water schemes for Murree would be completed in three phases and short-Murree briefed the meeting term scheme would be on the development plan started first.

CM meets PA Speaker, discusses

assembly affairs

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif met Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan to discuss affairs of Punjab Assembly and overall political situation in the country.

She also had a detailed discussion on various development projects of the government in the province. The CM said the Punjab government was focused on providing maximum relief to the poor people. She added, "We want to bottle up inflation and bury it forever. Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan appreciated the steps government to rid people of artificial inflation.

Heatwave hits Jacobabad, dozens hospitalized

JACOBĀBAD (APP) Dozens of people were admitted to the hospital after fainting and humidity due to extreme heat and humidity in Jacobabad on Monday. According to rescue sources, many people unconscious and had to be admitted to the hospital due to the severe heat and

All stakeholders should work together to promote inter-faith harmony in the country

(Online): Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly, Naveed and Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Zaheer Iqbal called on Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore

Pastor Daniyal Saleem also accompanied Deputy Speaker Sindh Naveed. Both the Deputy Speakers congratulated Sardar Saleem Haider Khan

on assuming the office of Governor of Punjab and expressed best wishes to him. In the meeting, ways to promote inter-provincial relations was discussed.

Speaking on the occasion, Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that all stakeholders should work together to promote interfaith harmony in the country. He said that everyone has to play a positive role in the development of country.



LAHORE: Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly, Anthony Naveed called on Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

Tarakai directs EMA to focus on facilities provision in schools

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for

Elementary and Secondary Education, Faisal Khan Tarakai has directed the authorities of the Education Monitoring Authority (EMA) to focus on the provision of facilities, including the attendance of teachers, students and ongoing academic activities in schools. He issued these

directives while presiding over a review meeting on the Education Monitoring Authority here on Monday. Besides, Special Secretary Elementary and Secondary Education Asfandyar Khattak, Additional Secretary Jahangir Azam and officials of the Education Monitoring Authority also attended the meeting.

He said that according to the data of the authority, policy level decisions are made for schools and students and the achievement of all important goals has been ensured due to the excellent performance of the monitoring authority.

The minister said that the monitoring of double shift schools programmes and complete details of the girls' community schools and monthly visits to schools have also been entrusted to the authority.

He said that all the employees of the authority have worked very diligently in provision of furniture free textbooks to schools, details of enrolment campaign and vacancies, which is

International News

Israel sends tanks back into Khan Younis area, 49 killed after new evacuation order

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Local Government Zeeshan Rafique chairs

meeting to review projects under Marri Development Plan.

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: Israel sent tanks back into the greater Khan Younis area and at least 49 Palestinians were killed by Israeli fire, Gaza medics said on Monday, after ordering evacuations of some districts it said had been used for renewed attacks by militants. The Palestinians were killed by tank salvoes in the town of Bani Suhaila and other towns fringing the eastern side of Khan Younis, with the area also bombarded by air, they

Residents of the densely built-up area of southern Gaza said the tanks advanced for more than two kilometres into Bani Suhaila, forcing resi-

dents to flee under fire. "It is like doomsday." one resident, who only identified himself as Abu Khaled, told Reuters via chat app. "People are flee-

ing under fire, many are the new Israeli offensive. dead and wounded on the

The Gaza health ministry said the dead included several women and children and that at least 186 other people had been injured by Israeli fire. The Gaza ministry does not distinguish between militants and civilians in its death tallies.

Around 400,000 people are living in the targeted areas and dozens of families have begun to leave their houses, Palestinian officials said, adding they were not given time to get out of harm's way before the Israeli strikes began.

donkey carts, others on foot, carrying mattresses and other belongings. The Palestinian Red Crescent Society said two of its clinics located in eastern Khan Younis had been knocked out of operation because of

At Khan Younis Nasser Hospital, some people stood outside the

morgue to bid farewell to dead relatives.

"We are tired, we are tired in Gaza, every day our children are martyred, every day, every moment, said Ahmed Sammour, who lost several relatives in bombings of eastern Khan Younis. "No one told us to evacuate They brought four floors crashing down on civilians... and the bodies they could reach, they

brought to the refrigerator

(morgue)," Sammour added. There was no imme-Some families fled on diate Israeli comment on the strikes on the eastern side of Khan Younis, whose population initially fled their homes when Israeli tanks stormed in several months ago, before returning after they withdrew to rebuild their lives.

A Palestinian woman sits on a wheelchair as she and others flee the eastern part of Khan Younis after they were ordered by Israeli army to evacuate their neighborhoods, amid Israel-Hamas conflict, in Khan Younis in the southern

Russian troops mount pressure on Ukrainian logistics hub of Pokrovsk

Monitoring Desk mander said on Monday that Russian forces were staging relentless assaults to try to advance towards the town of Pokrovsk, a logistics hub in the east and that there was active fighting taking place along the entire front line.

Nearly 29 months after the full-scale invasion, Ukraine has stepped up its mobilisation effort to address its manpower shortages and been reinforced by supplies of Western artillery shells, but Russian inch forward.

'The enemy pays no attention to their fairly high level of losses and continues to push through towards Pokrovsk," Colonel General Oleksandr Syrskyi said in a statement from the eastern front Pokrovsk is less than

25 km (15 miles) from Russian-occupied land, according to open-source intelligence battlefield maps, and lies at an intersection of roads and a railway that makes it an important logistics point for the military and for civil-

troops have continued to ians in the east.

Bangladesh student group suspends protests over death toll

Monitoring Desk DHAKA: The Bangladeshi student group leading demonstrations that have spiralled into deadly violence suspended protests on Monday for 48 hours, with its leader saying they had not wanted reform "at the

expense of so much blood". What began as demonstrations against politicised admission quotas for sought-after government jobs snowballed into some of the worst unrest of Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina's tenure. A curfew has been imposed and soldiers are patrolling cities across the South Asian country, while a nationwide internet blackout since Thursday has drastically restricted the flow of information to the outside world. "We are suspending the shutdown protests for 48 hours, Nahid Islam, the top leader of the main protest organiser Students Against Discrimination.

UK's Rwanda asylum scheme has cost 700 million pounds **Monitoring Desk**

LONDON: Britain's now scrapped plan to deport migrants who arrive illegally on British shores to Rwanda has cost taxpayers 700 million pounds (\$904 million), new interior minister Yvette Cooper said on Monday.

"Two and a half years after the previous govern-ment launched (the Rwanda plan), I can report it has already cost the British taxpayer 700 million pounds, she told parliament.

Netanyahu to face US Congress amid Gaza tensions

Monitoring Desk JERUSALEM: Facing intense pressure to quickly cut a ceasefire deal with Hamas in Gaza, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is to deliver a landmark speech to the US Congress on Wednesday. While Netanyahu will become the first foreign leader to address a joint meeting of the two chambers four times, pulling ahead of Britain's Winston Churchill on three, an expected meeting between Netanyahu and US President Joe Biden is still not confirmed.

'unmatched' as she launches her presidential campaign **Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: U.S. Vice President Kamala Har-

Harris calls Biden's record

ris lauded President Joe Biden for his service to the country in her first public appearance on Monday since he abruptly abandoned his reelection bid and endorsed her as his successor. "Joe Biden's legacy over the last three years is unmatched in modern history," Harris said at a White House event to honor college athletes. "Every day, our president, Joe Biden, fights for the American people and we are deeply, deeply grateful for his service to our nation." Harris did not specifically refer to her new status as the leading Democratic candidate for president, after Biden stepped aside on Sunday under growing pressure from fellow Democrats.

Campaign officials and allies have already made hundreds of calls on Harris' be-

month's Democratic Party convention to join in nominating her for president in the Nov. 5 election against Republican Donald Trump. Biden's departure was the latest shock to a White House race that included the near-assassination of former President Trump by a gunman during a campaign stop and the nomination of Trump's fellow hardliner, U.S. Senator J.D. Vance, as his running mate. Harris said in a post on X that she would visit what had been the Biden campaign headquarters in Delaware - now the Harris campaign headquarters - on Monday afternoon. She said Biden, who tested positive for COVID-19 last week, was feeling better. Virtually all of the prominent Democrats who had been seen as potential challengers to Harris have lined up behind her, including Governors Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan.

Hezbollah says fires rockets, drones at Israel **Monitoring Desk**

Hezbollah said it fired Katyusha rockets and drones at Israel on Sunday after strikes which the Israeli army said targeted Hezbollah weapons storage

Hezbollah has traded near-daily cross-border fire with Israeli forces in support of Hamas since the Palestinian militant group's October 7 attack on southern Israel triggered war in the Gaza Strip.

Six people were wounded in the overnight Israeli strike, according to the official Lebanese National News Agency.

In retaliation, Iranbacked Hezbollah, an ally of Hamas, said in separate statements that on Sunday it targeted two Israeli military positions in northern Israel with Katyusha rockets and drones.

An earlier statement the group had said its fighters also struck the Dafna area with Katyusha

rockets "in response to the Israeli enemy's attacks that targeted civilians in the town of Adloun, injuring several of them"

Israel's military had said its air force "struck two Hezbollah weapons storage facilities in southern Lebanon, containing rockets and additional weaponry" overnight Saturday to Sunday. Hezbollah on Sunday

also said that three of its fighters had been killed in southern Lebanon. The Lebanese army

also reported that two of its soldiers were wounded "moderately" on Sunday when Israeli fire hit a watchtower in the south of the country The violence since

October has killed at least 518 people in Lebanon, according to an AFP tally. Most of the dead have been fighters, but they have included at least 104 civilians.

On the Israeli side, 18 soldiers and 13 civilians have been killed, according to Israeli authorities

China and Philippines reach deal to avoid clashes at disputed reef

Monitoring Desk MANILA: China and the Philippines have struck a deal aimed at stopping the two countries from clashing over the fiercely disputed Second Thomas Shoal in the South China Sea, the Philippine government said Sunday. In the past year, the territorial standoff at the reef has flared and came to a head in mid-June when Chinese forces seized and damaged two Philippine navy boats with machetes and improvised spears. Several Filipino navy personnel were injured in the incident. China and the Philippines reached a deal they hope will end confrontations at the most fiercely disputed shoal in the South China Sea, the Philippine government said Sunday.

The Philippines occupies Second Thomas Shoal but China also claims it, and increasingly hostile clashes at sea have sparked fears of

larger conflicts that could involve the United States. The crucial deal was reached on Sunday, after a series of meetings between Philippine and Chinese diplomats in Manila and exchanges of diplomatic notes that aimed to establish a mutually acceptable arrangement at the shoal without conceding either side's territorial claims. Two Philippine officials, who have knowledge of the negotiations, confirmed the deal to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity and the government later issued a brief statement announcing the deal without providing details. "Both sides continue to recognize the need to deescalate the situation in the South China Sea and manage differences through dialogue and consultation and agree that the agreement will not prejudice each other's positions in the

South China Sea.

Australia warns of malicious websites after cyber outage **Monitoring Desk** SYDNEY: Australia's cyber

intelligence agency said on Saturday that "malicious websites and unofficial code" were being released online Friday's global digital outage, which hit media, retailers, banks and airlines. Australia was one of many countries affected by the outage that caused havoc worldwide after a botched software update from CrowdStrike. Or Saturday, the Australian Signals Directorate (ASD) the country's cyber intelligence agency — said: "a number of malicious websites and unofficial code are being released claiming to help entities recover from the widespread outages caused by the CrowdStrike technical incident". On its website, the agency said its cyber security centre "strongly encourages all consumers to source their technical information and updates from official.

Finance Minister chairs meeting of CCoSOEs

The Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSOEs) on Monday after detailed discussion decided that National Insurance Company Limited (NICL), State Life Insurance Company Limited (SLICL) and Pakistan Re-Insurance Company Limited (PRCL) did not meet the criteria of strategic or essential state owned enterprises and would not be categorized as essential for the public sector.

The CCoSOEs met here with Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in the chair considered the summaries presented by different ministries and divisions for the categorization of their relevant SOEs as strategic or essential or otherwise, said a press release. The Ministry of

Commerce was further directed to explore Public Prithe Pak Expo Company, whereas the the committee also considered the summary presented by the Ministry of Science and Technology and approved to rename and restructure STEDEC into Indigenous Research and Development Agency (Pvt) Limited

It was further directed to constitute its board and operationalize the entity by December 2024. The CCoSOEs also approved the proposals of Aviation Division and Ministry of Communications for the appointment of candidates as Independent Directors on the Boards of PIA Holding Company Board, Pakistan Postal Services Management Board (PPSMB) and Postal Life Insurance

Company Limited (PLICL). The committee vate Partnership model for directed Ministry of Communications to present proposals for categorization of these entities at the

> The meeting was attended by Minister for Housing and Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar and Minister for Economic Afairs Ahad Khan Cheema.

> Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Chairman Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan, federal secretaries and other senior officers of the relevant ministries also attended the



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Atta Tarar planting sapling in connection with tree plantation campaign ceremony at trail 5 in the Federal Capital.

Tarar for planting maximum trees to combat future climate challenges

Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture, Attaullah Tarar, on Monday emphasized to address the looming challenge of climate change highlighting the critical need to plant a significant number of trees for the sake of future genera-

During a ceremony held by the Capital Development Authority at ronment. He lamented that Margalla Hills, in his address, Tarar highlighted the only 2% of global carbon commitment of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the the adverse effects of cli-

maintain Islamabad's environment by promoting extensive tree plantation. He praised Islamabad as one of the nation's most beautiful cities, with Margalla National Park serving as a prized asset.

Tarar underscored that Islamabad enjoys superior air quality compared to other cities, asserting that planting more trees would further enhance the enviwhile Pakistan contributes emissions, it bears 90% of

Commissioner Sukkur forms task force to combat climate change

SUKKUR (APP): In a bid to tackle climate change and promote environmental sustainability, the Divisional Commissioner Sukkur, Fayaz Hussain Abbasi on Monday established a 13-members district task force to implement the National Climate Change Policy through afforestation and reforestation initiatives in urban areas, along irrigation channels and industrial areas in Sukkur district.

The task force will be chaired by Deputy Commissioner Sukkur, with Mayor Sukkur, Municipal Corporation, Principal of Muhammad Ghulam Mahar Medical College Sukkur, Chairman District Council Sukkur, Superin-

tendent Engineer Irrigation Department, Superintendent Engineer Buildings Department, Municipal Commissioner, SMC, Director Local Government, Director Agriculture Department, Conservator of Forests Social Forestry Circle, Representative of Sukkur Institute of Business Administration, Aror University, Begum Nusrat Bhutto Women University, and all Assistant Commissioners of Sukkur, as its members.

The task force has been entrusted with the responsibility of developing long, medium and short-term action plans to optimize public lands for tree plantation and vegetation



KARACHI: Members of All Sindh Test Pass Teachers Action Committee are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Karachi

Rain expected across country, heat persistent in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): The Malakand, Met Department has fore-casted warm and humid weather in and around Islamabad, with a possibility of rain in a few places. The forecast indicates that various regions across the country may experience rain and thunderstorms today, impacting the daily activities and emergency preparedness in these areas. Islamabad: Possibility of rain in a few places. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Rain expected in Dir, Chitral, Swat, Kohistan, Mansehra,

Buner.

Abbottabad.

Nowshera, Swabi, Haripur, Khyber, Peshawar, and Kohat.

Punjab: Rawalpindi, Murree, Galiyat, Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum, Sialkot, Narowal Gujrat, Bahauddin. Gujranwala, Hafizabad, Sargodha, Jhang Lahore Faisalabad. Sheikhupura, Sahiwal Bahawalnagar, Kasur, and Okara are likely to experience rain. Balochistan: Lasbela, Awaran, Khuzdar, Zhob, and Barkhan may see

rain with strong winds.

SFA team inspects bakeries, oil depots term harmful to health

Independent Report KARACHI: The teams of Sindh Food Authority (SFA) in central district and Malir of Karachi inspected oil depots and bakeries and declared them harmful to

Food Safety Officer Mehboob Ali Bhatti of Sindh Food Authority, on the instructions of DG SFA Hussain Muzamil Haliputo, with his team carried out an operation on substandard illegal edible oil depots and imposed a fine,

on Monday. Number of domestic flights cancelled from Karachi Airport

KARACHI (INP): A number of flights were cancelled due to technical faults or other operational hiccups at Karachi's Jinnah International Airport on Monday.

PIA flight PK-157 from Karachi to Islamkot was cancelled while another PIA flight PK-503 from Karachi to Gwadar was also called off. Serene Air's flight ER-502 from Karachi to Islamabad was shelved while Serene Air's flight ER-554 from Karachi to Peshawar was also called off. Serene Air's flight ER-522 from Karachi to Lahore was also cancelled.

Police arrest seven suspects involved in various crimes

LARKANA Larkana police arrested seven suspects from different areas on Monday while conducting operations against criminals and recovered weapons, hashish, rickshaw, motorcycle, mobile phone and other items. According to police, Hyder Bakhsh Chandio, was arrested near Miranpur Police Station of District Jacobabad, the Market Police arrested Karim Bakhsh Chandio, the undercover suspect, along with a gun and cartridges without a license.

4.7 magnitude earthquake strikes Swat, no damage reported

ISLAMABAD (APP): An earthquake with a magnitude of 4.7 struck District Swat and surrounding areas on Monday, causing no immediate reports of damage or casualties. According to a private news channel, people came out of houses and shops in fear and panic after the earthquake, reciting Kalma Tayyaba. According to the seismological centre, the magnitude of the earthquake was 4.7 on the Richter scale.

pensioners cases as the legal requirements

> On this occasion, District Accounts Officer Larkana Zafarullah Anand gave a briefing to the Deputy Accountant General. Assistant Accountant General Adeel Ali, Additional District Accounts Officer Abdul Fatah Soomro and the staff of the District Accounts Office participated in the open court.

Talking to the media, the Deputy Accountant General said that they were holding this open conversation on the order of the Accountant General of Sindh (AG) so that the legitimate problems of the employees could be solved on merit immediately and prevent them from incon-



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, chairs high level meeting on the welfare of over

Senate Committee on Climate Change expresses concern over massive Deforestation in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Online): forts to address climate The Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination convened today with a sharp focus on the pressing issue of deforestation, alongside other critical environmental challenges. Chaired by Ms. Munaza Hassan, MNA, in Committee Room No. 2, Parliament House, Islamabad; the meeting featured comprehensive discussions on the urgent need for formulating effective strategies and regionalspecific policies to counter rapid deforestation in Pa-

menced with Chairperson's opening remarks, emphasizing the importance of collective ef- laboration, and the

HYDERABAD (APP):

The National Disaster

Management Authority

(NDMA) and Sindh Uni-

versity Laar Campus (SULC) Badin have signed

a Letter of Cooperation

(LoC) to ensure coopera-

tion in the field of disaster

signed by the Pro-Vice Chancellor Sindh Univer-

sity Laar Campus Profes-

sor Dr. Khalil-Ur-Rehman

Khoumbati and the Direc-

tor General National Insti-

tute of Disaster Manage-

ment M. Tanveer Paracha

on behalf of NDMA.

fice in Larkana.

Independent Report

KARACHI: Sindh Om-

budsman Dr. Muhammad

Sohail Rajput has said that

university students can

provide better awareness to

their fellow students about

the functions of the insti-

tution of Ombudsman in

views while presiding over

the meeting of ten selected

brand ambassadors of

Hamdard University, said a

budsman said that in

today's era, every student

Deputy Accountant Gen-

eral Hina Syed here on

Monday directed the Dis-

trict Accounts Officer to

settle the cases of pension-

ers, arrears of retired gov-

ernment employees and

open ID of newly ap-

pointed employees, so that

the retired employees do

not face any kind of trouble.

riews while speaking in

open Kachari at the District

the complainants said that

their pension issues were

not being resolved for the

last more than a year, which

were evaluated from differ-

ent aspects and were re-

solved on the spot while

some of them were sent to

the departments concerned

Accounts Office.

She expressed these

During the open court,

statement on Monday.

He expressed these

The Provincial Om-

is benefited by the useful- zen for the society.

Deputy Accountant

General for settling

their alma mater.

LARKANA

The agreement was

management.

NDMA, SULC sign letter of

cooperation to enhance disaster

management capabilities

handle disasters.

knowledge on past disasters,

be taken to enhance capabili-

ties of government agencies

and local communities to

handle disasters such as

droughts, tsunamis, heat

waves and cyclones. Accord-

ing to LoC, advanced tech-

nologies and innovative prac-

tices like remote sensing, GIS

ness of social media and it

is the best platform to pro-

vide awareness about the

functions of state institu-

tions, malpractices and its

lected ambassadors of the universities will help in

solving the problems of the

people by establishing liai-

son with all the Regional Directors of the Ombuds-

newly elected ambassadors,

the Provincial Ombudsman

said, 'you will take up the

duty of a responsible citi-

Congratulating the

He said that the se-

remedies.

man office.

earthquakes,

floods,

The aim of this con- mapping and risk-based spa-

sensus was to strengthen tial planning will be em-

coordination and building ployed to bolster emergency

LARKANA: Deputy Accountant General, Hina

Syed listening the problems of citizens during open

court program held at the District Accounts Of-

Ombudsman seeks role of

students to inform others about

functions of Ombudsman office

institutional and technical response systems.

change. The Chair stressed the importance of immediate and concerted action to tackle deforestation, calling for increased collaboration and effective enforcement of environmental policies. The Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change acknowledged the committee's pivotal role in driving climate initiatives, requesting members to contribute their insights and proposals.

The Secretary of the Ministry of Climate Change provided a comprehensive briefing on the Ministry's operations, highlighting the manifold impacts of climate change, the necessity of global colministry's efforts in planning and policy-making The presentation covered various climate challenges, including floods in 2022, climate finance, and ongoing projects such as the Green Pakistan initiative. The Committee mem-

bers engaged in a robust discussion, raising concerns about the implementation of climate policies, deforestation, and the need for regional-specific approaches. The Committee emphasized the importance of local stakeholder engagement and better coordination with provincial au thorities and organization such as National Disaster Management Authority and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities.

Mohammed Nawaz Sohoo posted as Secretary Cooperative Dept capacity to effectively

KARĀCHI The SU spokesperson informed on Monday that Mohammed Nawaz Sohoo an officer of PAS (BS-20) the parties will exchange awaiting posting is posted with immediate effect and early warning systems and until further orders as Secinnovative practices, creating retary (BS-20) Cooperative synergy through shared plat-Department, vice Athar forms, while efforts will also Hussain Mirani.

Athar Mirani, an officer of PSS (BS-20), Secretary of Cooperative Department is transferred and posted with immediate effect and until further orders as Member of the Provincial Election Authority Sindh against an existing vacancy.

Keamari police uncover gutka factory, arrest suspect

KARACHI Keamari District Police discovered a gutka factory in the Keamari area and arrested a suspect at the

According to SSP Keamari on Monday, officers from the Jackson police station raided a factory producing banned hazardous gutka near Pidar Ground in Keamari. The police seized 1,200 packets of gutka and other materials from the factory.

KE responds to petition against power outages in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): The K-Electric (KÈ) has submitted its response to a peti-tion filed in the Sindh High Court against prolonged load shedding during the severe heatwave in Karachi. The petitioner highlighted that three people have already died due to the extreme heat. The petitioner stated that despite timely payment of bills, residents are still facing power outages of up to 12 hours.

K-Electric submitted

their response to the petition, noting that the Supreme Court has previ ously ruled against approaching the court directly on such matters.

SSP Sukkur holds open court SUKKUR (APP): Senior

Superintendent of Police (SŜP) Amjad Shaikh on Monday said that the Sukkur Police are committed to resolve public issues on priority. He said this while listening to the complaints and issues of the public as well as police officials during the open court held at his office. Senior police officers were also present on this occasion. During the open court, he listened to the complaints of the citizens and marked their applications to the concerned officers for timely action on merit. The SSP directed the Station House Officer (SHO) B Section Mansoor Hatar to improve his performance and recover the motor bike.

DPM Dar, Omani FM Badr emphasize upon concerted efforts to combat terrorism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Foreign Minister of the Sultanate of Oman, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Albusaidi on Monday discussed the recent terrorist attack on Imam Bargah Ali bin Abu Talib in Wadi Kabir in Muscat and emphasized upon the importance of concerted action to combat terrorism in all its forms and mani-

The DPM, foreign minister held a telephone conversation with his Omani counterpart. The deputy prime minister extended Pakistan's full support to Oman in its efforts to combat terrorism.

He also appreciated Oman's support in repatriation of dead bodies to Pakistan and taking care of wounded/injured Pakistani nationals in Omani hospitals, Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press re-

The two leaders reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, ranging from political, economic and defense cooperation to people-people changes.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dar welcomed the forthcoming visit of a delegation of Omani investors to Pakistan later this week, geared towards exploring areas of mutually beneficial economic cooperation.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah called on the President Asif Ali Zardari

Govt to reverse policy decision of suspending passport issuance to asylum seekers

ISLAMABAD (APP): verse the policy decision Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Monday chaired a highlevel meeting to discuss the matters related to the welfare of overseas Pakistanis wherein it was decided to reverse the policy decision of suspending the issuance of passports to Pakistani nationals seeking asylum abroad.

'The meeting discussed in detail the recent policy decision that was taken vide circular dated 5 June 2024 for not issuing passport to any individual who had sought asylum or already living on asylum abroad.

with immediate effect and to withdraw the circular of 5 June 2024," according to a press release.

The meeting was attended by the foreign secretary, interior secretary, Director General of Immigration and Passports (IMPASS) and senior officers of the foreign ministry. The meeting also dis-

cussed the issues relating to delays in the issuance of passports to Pakistanis living abroad. The interior secretary

and Director General of IMPASS briefed the deputy prime minister about the ongoing efforts to It was decided to re-

Omar Ayub questions smuggling of POL products into Pakistan

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders questioned that who was lodging FIRs against them, saying that They are not digesting the Supreme Court's verdict,".

"The civilian government should have addressed the press conference instead of the DG ISPR today," said Opposition Leader Omar Ayub while addressing a press conference here on Monday. PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan and other PTI leaders were present there.

While talking about the DG ISPR's term of "digital terrorism", Omar Ayub said that he was giving examples of Syria, Iran and Libya.

"These countries fell

ISLAMABAD (INP): The torship," said the PTI lead-

He also said that the government led by PML-N failed and its failure pushed the DG ISPR to hold the press conference earlier in the day. He regretted that the FIRs were registered against the PTI leaders under terrorism

The opposition leader also said that those who were involved in money laundering case like the case of Shehbaz Sharif should be brought to justice. He also mentioned Mitho, the close relative of former Army Chief, by saying that he must be held accountable.

He also questioned the smuggling in the country, saying that whose failure



protest demonstration against prolong electricity load shedding in their area, at Hyderabad press club.

District Council Tharparkar approves tax-free budget

HYDERABAD (APP): National Assembly Dr.
The Chairman of the
Tharparkar District Counparticipated in the budget cil Dr. Ghulam Haider Samejo presented a tax-free budget of over 886.32 million rupees for the fiscal vear 2024-25. The budget, showing a saving of 305,992 rupees, was unanimously approved by the council members.

According to a hand-out issued on Monday, the budget meeting, chaired by Dr. Samejo, took place at Karoonjhar hall in Mithi, which was attended by the Vice Chairperson Kamla Bai Bheel, Chief Officer Syed Musharraf Hussain Shah, council members and iournalists, while Member

Addressing the meeting, MNA Dr. Mahesh said that it was the manifesto of the Pakistan Peoples Party to serve the people and provide all the basic facilities to their doorsteps. Dr. Samejo stated that

the tax-free budget was designed with Tharparkar's needs in mind and included no new taxes. Explaining the details of the budget, he mentioned that about 165.48 million rupees were allocated for staff salaries, 8.2 million for pensions, financial aid to families of deceased employees