

# Independent

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## Pakistan, Turkmenistan agree to deepen political, economic, defense cooperation

PM invites Turkmen companies to benefit from promising investment climate in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday invited the Turkmen companies to benefit from the promising investment climate of Pakistan and highlighted the role of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in facilitating foreign investors to invest in different sectors.

He also underlined the importance of regional co-operation and connectivity and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to early completion of TAPI Pipeline as well as working together on other connectivity projects.

The prime minister expressed these views dur-

ing a meeting with Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov who called on him at the PM House, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister expressed satisfaction at the holding of 3rd Round of Pakistan-Turkmenistan Bilateral Political Consultations, led by the two foreign ministers and stressed the need for regular engagements of all the institutional mechanisms between the two countries.

He also highlighted the need for enhanced trade, economic, investment and cultural relations between

Pakistan and Turkmenistan.

The prime minister fondly recalled his meeting with the Grand Leader of Turkmenistan, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov at Astana earlier this month and said that he was looking forward to welcome him in Pakistan at an early date.

Meanwhile Pakistan and Turkmenistan on Tuesday agreed to intensify their efforts for deepening bilateral cooperation in political, economic and defence domains besides reiterating their commitment to enhancing bilateral trade to make it commensurate to existing potential.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a meeting of the Sindh Public Service Commission, held at CM House in Karachi.

## Sharjeel directs to gear up action against drug peddlers

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Senior Minister for Information and Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon, Tuesday, instructed to take stringent action against drug peddlers, strengthen prosecution and tighten checking at interprovincial borders to root out menace of drug

a nuisance to society and they will not be let loose under any circumstances.

Expressing concerns over increasing supply and use of narcotic substances in both urban and rural areas, the senior minister instructed the officers of Narcotics Control Wing to take strict and effective action



use from society.

Sharjeel Memon, chairing a meeting of Narcotics Control Wing of department of Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control, said that Sindh government has decided to take decisive action against drug use throughout the province, said a statement issued here. Sindh government's policy against drugs is based on zero tolerance and there will be no leniency for any criminal involved in drug trafficking, he said adding that, drug dealers have become

agents in every city and town of the province. He assured that the Sindh police will support the excise teams in the action.

Sharjeel Memon stressed that prosecution of the cases should be strengthened to ensure that drug peddlers face consequences of their illegal actions. "The system of checks at interprovincial border areas should be tightened as the Sindh government seeks better results in its fight against drugs," he directed.

## Khursheed urges political harmony for national development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah on Tuesday called upon all political parties to foster greater unity and harmony to achieve much-needed national development and prosperity.

In a statement, Shah emphasized that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) should abandon its negative politics and engage in positive and constructive activi-

ties that benefit the country.

He believed that the PTI founder had laid the foundation of the politics of hatred and violence in Pakistan.

Shah alleged that the prevailing economic situation in the country was a result of PTI's wrong policies at both national and international levels, terming it a "deliberate attempt."

He urged PTI to change its approach to contribute to the country's progress.

## PPP files review petition against reserved seats judgment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Tuesday filed a review petition to the Supreme Court of Pakistan against the verdict regarding reserved seats.

Advocate Farook H. Naek moved the petition on behalf of PPP and prayed the top court to review its judgment dated July 12.

The petition has named 11 respondents including Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC).

It adopted the stance that Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) has been given reserved seats despite it was neither a respondent or it made such prayer. It said that chairman SIC contested election as independent candidate, adding that no one participated in elections from the platform of SIC.

It said that reserved seats shouldn't be allocated to PTI. The PPP said in its plea that whether the reserved seats should be given to SIC who even didn't submitted list for it.

## Pak Navy takes over command of CTF-150 for 13th time

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Navy has taken over the command of Combined Task Force 150 (CTF-150) for the 13th time.

An impressive change of command ceremony was held at Headquarters US NAVCENT, Bahrain. Commodore Asim Sohail Malik of Pakistan Navy assumed the Command from Capt Mathews of Royal Canadian Navy.

Speaking on the occasion, Commodore Asim Sohail Malik assured that his team is fully geared up to efficiently shoulder this prestigious responsibility to contribute towards Maritime Security and Stability in the region.

He said Pakistan Navy is committed to working with coalition navies for ensuring peace and stability within the Area of Responsibility.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan H.E. Rashid Meredov called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## Sindh CM directs SPSC to ensure holding of Combined Competitive Examination every year

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday directed the Sindh Public Service Commission (SPSC) to ensure the holding of a Combined Competitive Examination every year so that the shortage of officers can be met in time.

This, he said while speaking in a meeting held with a delegation of SPSC members led by its Chairman Mohammad Waseem at the CM House.

The member who attended the meeting included Rizwan Memon, Rizwan Ahmad, Malik Ghori, Qazi Shahid Parvaiz, Arif Hanif, Farhat Kamal, Vikram Singh Sodho, Nusrat Mangan, Kalpna Devi, Rabia Salahuddin, Dr Qazi Masood, Muzaffar Leghari, Dr Saeed Mangnejo and Secretary Nazeer Qureshi.

Briefing the CM, the Chairman SPSC said that the Commission was a constitutional body with the primary task of recruiting competent officers opting

for civil bureaucracy for the Sindh government. He added that the SPSC endeavored to recommend the most suitable candidates through a fair, transparent, and merit-based recruitment process.

The CM was informed that approximately 28 requisitions were received from various departments of the provincial government for the recruitment process against different posts. SPSC issued eight consolidated advertisements and Combined Competitive Examination - 2023 promptly.

Subsequently, more than 30 interview programs/sessions for different posts under different Committees were scheduled simultaneously, and results were announced promptly to complete the recruitment process.

The CM was informed that after due diligence, 5435 appropriate and qualified individuals, including Medical Officers (male/female) BPS-17, Staff

Nurses BPS-16 Division-wise, Lecturers BPS-17 and Subject Specialists BPS-17, Municipal Officers BPS-17, Town Officer BPS-16, were recommended to the concerned administrative departments.

The CM instructed the Chairman SPSC to establish a computer-based testing laboratory to bring more transparency to the Commission and uphold meritocracy.

The number of Posts Recommended by the Commission for various departments from September 2022 to December 2022, January 2023 to December 2023 and January 2024 to April 2024 is 9836.

The Chairman SPSC informed the CM that the five major departments served by the Commission included the Health Department with 591 Posts, the Livestock Department with 257 Posts, Agriculture Supply and Prices with 127 Posts, Environment, Climate: 93 Posts and College Education with 83 Posts.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori talking to media after hosted reception honor of the Dawoodi Bohra Jamaat's spiritual leader, Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin at the Governor House.

## Sindh CM, Energy Minister discuss solar systems to households

KARACHI (INP): Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and energy minister Nasir Shah discussed solar systems project in a meeting. Sindh's CM

Murad Ali Shah said that five billion rupees have been allocated in Sindh's budget this year for solar energy.

"The energy depart-



ment should forward the solar panels distribution soon for approval," he asked the energy minister.

The CM Sindh also directed that ongoing 1812 schemes should be completed this year.

Energy minister

said that the inspection report of the schemes in progress will be shared with the chief minister.



ISLAMABAD: Members National Assembly of Opposition parties sits outside Parliament House during hunger strike protest in favor of demands in the Federal Capital.

## Signs Christian Marriage (Amend) Act into law President desires enhancement in jobs quota for minorities

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday reiterated that the minority communities living in Pakistan, enjoyed equal rights and stressed upon increasing jobs quota for them in different government departments.

Addressing a ceremony after signing Christian Marriage (Amendment) Act 2024 at the Aiwan-i-Sadr, the president said that he would write to the federal government to enhance the jobs quota in different departments including police, FIA etc, for the minorities.

"I will definitely write to the government and ask them for this," he said, adding there should be a quota for the minorities in every department. The president said that all the citizens of the country had equal rights and urged the minorities to continue playing their role for the progress and prosperity of the country as this soil and land belonged to them

as much as to him.

He also advised them not to be disheartened at certain issues pertaining to politics as in every society, there might be some problems. President Zardari mentioned that PPP had given sacrifices for the country as their leaders and workers laid down lives for the people. The ceremony was attended by Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain, secretary of the religious ministry, officials and representatives of the Christian community.

Speaking on the occasion, Bishop Abraham Daniel said that raising the age of marriage for men and women had been a long-standing demand of the Christian community. He expressed his gratitude to the President for signing the Act into law during a special ceremony and also thanked him for his role in his previous tenure in reserving a 5% quota for minorities in government jobs.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari is signing the Christian Marriage (Amendment) Act 2024 into law in a special ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Minister for ensuring basic facilities at Panah Shelter Homes

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister for Women Development, Shaheena Sher Ali, Tuesday, emphasized on ensuring provision of basic facilities to women in the shelter homes along with offering skill development courses for their economic empowerment.

The minister, during a visit to Panah Shelter Home, said that the shelter home is a safe shelter for the homeless and destitute women facing difficult circumstances and it is our responsibility to provide them with basic facilities.

Shaheena Sher Ali inspected various sections of the shelter home and also

received detailed briefing from the In Charge Panah Shelter Home. She expressed satisfaction over the vocational training and facilities being provided to the women living in the shelter home.

She said, "We will not only ensure the provision of basic needs to the women in the shelter homes but also provide them with skill development courses in various disciplines for their economic empowerment."

Panah Shelter Home Trustees Uzma Noorani and Nida Panjwani and member Board of Directors Mithan Soomro were also present on the occasion.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar holds talks with Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov at Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## Commissioner Karachi chairs meeting to review price control campaign

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi, Syed Hassan Naqvi on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the price control campaign, at his office here.

All Deputy Commissioners, Additional Commissioner Karachi Abdul Hannan Bhatti, Assistant Commissioner Headquarters Commissioner Karachi Office Rabia Syed, and others attended the meeting.

The Deputy Commissioners briefed the meeting on the efforts made by Assistant Commissioners to check prices and enforce official rates in their respective sub divisions.

The meeting took notice of the increase in prices of tomatoes, onions, and other few vegetables.

The Commissioner directed Deputy Commissioner East, Shehzad Fazal Abbasi, to make the market committee transparent, hold a meeting with the market committee, and take steps to ensure transparency in the auction system at Sabzi Mandi. The meeting also reviewed efforts to check prices of all essential food items, including fruits, vegetables, chicken, eggs, and grocery items. The Commissioner instructed the Deputy Commissioners to strictly enforce official prices, monitor the price control campaign themselves, ensure that Assistant Commissioners check prices daily, and submit a report of daily action to the Commissioner office.

## Muzaffar Ali Shaikh takes over as acting IGP Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Muzaffar Ali Shaikh has been appointed as the acting Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh during the leave of current IGP Ghulam Nabi Memon.

A notification from the Government of Sindh, issued on Tuesday, stated that Muzaffar Ali Shaikh, a BS-21 officer of the Police Service of Pakistan and the Additional Inspector General of Police for Finance, Logistics & Welfare in Karachi, will assume the acting role. Ghulam Nabi Memon, also a BS-21 officer, has been granted a nine-day leave from July 23 to 31 to visit London for personal reasons.

## Sindh govt extends summer vacations for all schools till Aug 14

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh government extended the summer vacations for all schools in the province till August 14 due to the prevailing weather conditions.

The Sindh Education Department issued a notification according to which the new academic year in the province will now start on August 15.

According to the notification, all private and government schools will remain closed till August 14.

## Tourist duo die under glacier in Naran

RAJANPUR (APP): Two tourists were killed on Lake Saif-ul-Malook road when a glacier collapsed on them in Naran, a popular tourist destination. According to police report, the victims were taking pictures on the Lake Saif-ul-Malook road while touring the Kaghan Valley when the glacier suddenly broke on and killed them instantly. The deceased included Muhammad Mehran, 22, and Parsa, 13, hailed from Jampur. The overwhelming grief and panic spread across the area as soon as the bodies arrived at the hometown.



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Frankfurt vandalism**

The state needs to seek serious answers from the German authorities regarding the July 20 mob attack targeting Pakistan's consulate in Frankfurt. A crowd of around 400 protesters — some holding aloft tricolour Afghan flags used before the Taliban takeover — had descended on the consulate in the German city. Later, protesters stormed the premises, "endangering the lives of ... consular staff", as per the Foreign Office. There were also reports of protesters trying to remove the Pakistani flag and pelting the mission with stones. German state media has said the demonstrators were highlighting "complaints" against Pakistan's defence institutions. As the government has pointed out, under the relevant Vienna Conventions, it is the responsibility of the host government to protect foreign missions on their soil. If, for example, a foreign mission had been stormed in Pakistan, all hell would have broken loose, and Pakistan would have been derided for its 'poor' security protocols. Therefore, the German authorities need to explain how a mob of hundreds was able to descend on a foreign mission and storm it relatively unhindered. They must also ensure that such ugly attacks, which endanger lives, are not repeated.

Segments within Afghan society have for decades harboured an anti-Pakistan bias, and it is likely the protesters were inspired by them. Pak-Afghan relations have been testy since independence — Afghanistan voted against Pakistan's entry to the UN — while matters have turned more complicated over the years as Afghanistan has suffered from internal unrest, foreign invasions, insurgencies and terrorism. There is little doubt that Pakistan's own record vis-à-vis Afghanistan has hardly been stellar. Past mistakes and flawed policies must be acknowledged and avoided. Moreover, Pakistan should never again allow itself to be sucked into the proxy war of global powers. The legacy of war, following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, left Pakistan with millions of Afghans on its soil. Each new conflict has compounded the issue. Aggressive international diplomacy is now needed by Pakistan to address the problem of refugees as well as to improve ties with Kabul — in the latter case, through a frank discussion about the past and present and the need for both sides to cooperate to contain violence. Unfortunately, a long history of hate and mistrust — which underpins both Pakistan's ties with Kabul and the violence of the (anti-Taliban) protesters in Frankfurt — will be difficult to overcome.

**On the edge, again**

Dr Niaz Murtaza

We are at a familiar spot today — on the edge of a deep precipice where we land every few years during intra-elite conflicts where some elites act unconstitutionally. We are there for the third time in three years due to the same PTI-establishment tussle as no side has won and imposed order.

The last such long tussle was in the 1950s between political parties and the bureaucracy, which ended in 1958 when our alpha institution trumped both to impose its hegemony till today. It now faces a broad middle-class axis led by the PTI. It has not been able to crush the PTI, despite the no-trust vote, crackdown, rigged polls and false cases. The PTI has been reduced to waging mental warfare since May 9 — gung-ho talk from jail, social media abuse and global cribbing — as against its disruptive street war earlier. Yet, even mere mental sledding is giving powerful people sleepless nights.

Court verdicts have hurt too as they have showed spine on PTI cases, buoyed by strong currents flowing in its favour. The Supreme Court rightly undid the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) original sin in misreading its order on just denying the party its electoral symbol to actually barring the PTI totally from polls, treating its candidates as independents and depriving it of regular and reserved seats. Yet, ignoring this, the PML-N alleges that the court rewrote the Constitution to give the PTI unfair benefit that it didn't even seek and when it wasn't even a party to the case. But no law bars the apex court from

giving relief that no one seeks or to a third party. It has done both, as in suo motu cases and the 62(1)(f) case where Nawaz Sharif profited too. Doing so, using the 'complete justice' clause (187), also makes eminent sense when all pleas of parties to a case violate laws and/or do substantive injustice, as in this case.

Giving reserved seats to the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) violates the law that parties must submit their reserved seats lists before polls and overly rewards a small party adopted by the ECP's fault. Giving them to other parties violates the law on awarding them in line with parties' Assembly strengths and creates the injustice of rewarding some parties who many say plotted to keep the PTI out of polls. Even leaving them vacant violates the constitutional clause on the number of such seats for women and minorities and deprives weak groups of full representation.

This conflict offers little to the masses. Whoever wins — the PML-N, PTI or the establishment — will rule as badly as before. The establishment's new hybrid set-up, like the PTI one, is failing as political and economic stability and security remain elusive due to misrule, the TTP and delayed Gulf billions. It is high time it quit politics. Politicians too must act maturely and jointly pursue political legitimacy via fair polls.

While all of them are inept, regular polls may force them to do well or lose to better new parties. Punjab's politics especially has become truly competitive with two major parties that can't afford not to perform. Thus, the public mandate must be allowed to cleanse politics. — Courtesy Dawn

**Animal farm**

Shahzad Sharjeel

What is common between Jackie Kennedy, Melania Trump, and Princess Nefertabet who lived more than 4,000 years ago in Egypt? All three are known to have draped themselves in leopard print dresses. Only the pharaohs were old money and did not mind faux over fur as leopard spots; to be precise, rosettes were commonly printed and woven into fabric in ancient Egypt.

According to an NYT story, Ms Kennedy's jacket was made from pelts of many wild leopards killed for their lustrous coat. Estimates indicate that some 250,000 leopards were killed in the fashion frenzy ignited by Jackie's sartorial choice.

Appalled by the ever-increasing list of endangered animals, conservationists, fashionistas, and animal rights activists have launched a movement calling for royalties for the species appropriated in any commercial product. The royalties, even if levied in pennies, can raise millions that can be directed towards the well-being of the species.

The leopard print is also a favourite in Pakistan; we call it the 'cheetah print', as it is an oft-used misnomer for a whole range of the Panthera family. If the royalties for appropriation trend catches on, owls, billy goats, and jackasses will stand to benefit the most here.

Not sure how many readers remember the anthropomorphic mascot of a US tobacco company, Joe Camel, aka Old Joe. Created for an advertisement campaign in France and later used in the US, the company stopped using it in 1997 after the Journal of the American Medical Association published a study that led to a lawsuit

claiming the mascot made smoking popular among children.

Fast forward to the camel criminal who went about ordering the mutilation of an animal for trampling on his crops recently. This barbaric act has been wrongly described in the media as an amputation that is usually carried out under strict medical supervision, ensuring against pain and a series of measures to deal with PTSD.

Our diminishing faith in humanity was somewhat restored by offers that poured in to provide medical aid, a prosthetic limb for the leg chopped below the knee, and permanent shelter for the poor animal. The accused has so far faced no serious accountability. Some strawmen have been produced as the executors of this atrocity. While it remains to be seen if the real culprit will ever be awarded a punishment in keeping with the heinous nature of the crime, the accused now has the prefix of 'wadera', a much-maligned honorific, courtesy of its caricatures in the media, added to his name. In the good old days, the title referred to a family or community elder; its feminine, 'waderi', though much less used, does exist.

Historically, cruelty to animals has evoked consequences both divine and temporal. According to the scriptures, an entire nation paid the price for the ill treatment of the prophet Saleh's she-camel.

The British colonialists may never have had any qualms about mistreating an entire people living under their yoke, but they did initiate animal rights legislation in the subcontinent. Our subsequent masters have shown similar disdain for the masses; however, the same degree of empathy

for the four-legged creatures has been missing.

This brings to mind an English sahib named Eric Blair. His father was an opium agent in India. Born in Bengal and raised in Bihar, Eric oversaw floggings and hangings as a 19-year-old policeman in Burma. After returning to England, it seems he got in touch with the more humane side of his character and authored that most quoted line, "All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others". Yes, this is the same man the world came to know as George Orwell of Animal Farm fame.

It is hard to talk of 'wadera' and leave out the 'waderay ka beta' (son of the wadera), another archetype of a spoilt brat of privileged ancestry. This tragicomic caricature was made famous by a rap artist who pointed out that not just the lord himself but his dog demands to be treated like a lord.

Not too long after the song was released, a brown sahib lost his dog on a foreign assignment to Pakistan.

Many a serf who never bothered to refill a birdbath trudged to the sahib's mansion to offer condolences on the junior lordship's demise.

For weeks, a pall of gloom hung over the mansion, and all people could talk about was the spiritual experience of attending the junior's last rites, complete with sitting on the ground around incense-burning censers, flower petals, and wreaths covering the soon-to-be cremated remains. The mansion's lawn was turned into a temporary crematorium. Environmental and social safeguards are for the less equal farm animals.

Who knows, maybe this sahib too may have found his humane side; it gives an entirely new meaning to Orwellian, no? — Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**PM gives \$60b target for country's annual exports in three years**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the National Export Development Board wherein he tasked the authorities concerned to take the country's annual exports to \$60 billion within three years.

The prime minister asked the ministry to resolve the issues pointed out by the exporters and present a report within two weeks. He said that he would personally chair the National Export Development Board meeting every one-and-half months.

Calling for collective efforts for the country's development, he paid tribute to the business community and investors for their role in increasing

the government's policies also took the IT exports to over \$3.2 billion.

Exports despite tough circumstances. Prime Minister Shehbaz asked the commerce ministry to finalise the policy proposals, in coordination with representatives of the potential export sectors. He also tasked the Ministry of National Food Security to improve extension services, in coordination with provinces, to enhance agricultural exports.

He instructed for exporting of quality seeds and agricultural products after further processing and

taking measures to introduce crop varieties with high yields.

He said that the delivery time of Pakistani goods to Europe and America should be reduced by solving the problems related to the shipping of exports immediately. Similarly, the commerce ministry and Board of Investment should ensure cooperation regarding the transfer of Chinese export industries to Pakistan.

He also called for carrying out research and development, innovation and brand development.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of National Export Development Board (NEDB).



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a virtual meeting with the Representatives from Moody's Ratings.

**Senate body on National Food Security & Research convenes**

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Senate Standing Committee on National Food Security & Research convened today under the chairmanship of Senator Syed Masroor Ahsan. The inaugural session included a comprehensive briefing on the roles, functions, and performance of the Ministry of National Food Security & Research and its affiliated departments.

Present at the committee meeting were Senators Danesh Kumar, Dost Muhammad Khan, and Poonjo Mal Bheel, alongside

the Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research and senior officers from related departments. The committee members engaged in an extensive interactive session discussing the ministry's operations, with each department outlining its responsibilities.

During deliberations, the committee raised concerns about the ministry's human resource strength, noting 40 vacant positions which they highlighted as impacting operational efficiency.

**Social media provides modern information to farmers: Secretary**

PESHAWAR (APP): Secretary Agriculture Muhammad Javed Marwat on Tuesday said that through social media, information related to the agriculture and modern methods of cultivation could be provided to the farmers and landowners.

In this connection landlords can also take benefit from it because this is the age of social media. Through YouTube channel, farmers will have easy access to timely, useful and actionable information related to farming, modern technology and agricultural research, he while speaking as a special guest at the inaugural program of the YouTube channel launched in the name of "Zaraat aur Kisan" in the Bureau of Agriculture Information.

**FM meets virtually with the Representatives from Moody's Ratings**

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb had a zoom meeting with the representatives from Moody's Ratings at Finance Division today. The meeting was also attended by senior officials of the Ministry.

The Federal Minister commenced the session by giving an update on

Pakistan's economic outlook. He highlighted the foreign exchange reserves surpassing USD 9 billion, stable CPI inflation at 12.6%, and a robust 7.7% increase in foreign remittances, reflecting economic resilience. He emphasized a 30% rise in tax collection in FY 2024 and outlined reforms to broaden the tax base, including new agricultural taxes and digital initiatives

at the FBR. He also noted that over 150,000 retailers have registered as first-time taxpayers, marking a significant stride towards broadening the tax base. The Minister mentioned the ambitious targets aimed to increase revenues by 3% of GDP by FY 2027, with plans for a primary surplus of 1% of GDP, demonstrating Pakistan's commitment to fiscal sustainability and growth.

**Indonesian diplomat for collaboration to increase mutual trade**

LAHORE (APP): Charge d' Affaires of Indonesia Rahmat Hindiarta Kusuma has said that this is time of collaboration to bring the trade between the two countries at a par with the potential.

Talking to the business community here at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on Tuesday, LCCI President Kashif Anwar welcomed the diplomat and highlighted the trade and economic ties between the two countries. LCCI Executive Committee

**Gold rates decrease by Rs.500 per tola**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of per tola of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.500 and was sold at Rs. 250,500 on Tuesday against its sale at Rs. 251,000 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs. 429 to Rs. 214,763 from Rs. 215,192 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold came down to Rs.196,866 from Rs. 197,260, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.2,920 and Rs.2,503.42 respectively.

**US, China, and UAE top destinations for Pak exports during FY 2023-24**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the fiscal year 2023-24, followed by China and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Total exports to the US during July-June 2023-24 were recorded at US \$4,329.29 million against the exports of US \$5,932.35 million during July-June 2022-23, showing a decline of 8.41 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US \$2,707.225 million against the exports of US \$2,025.741 million last year, showing an increase of 33.64 percent. UAE was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth US \$2,082.206 million during the year under review against the exports of US \$1,475.832 million, SBP data revealed.



## KhUJ office bearers call on Governor; pledges to enhance journalists' skills, resolve problems

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday reaffirmed his commitment to address the province's challenges as well as the problems of journalists community. He said this during a meeting with the delegation of Khyber Union of Journalist (KhUJ) led by President Nasir Hussain, Senior Vice Presidents Abdul Baseer Qalander, Bukhar Shah Bacha, Muhammad Naem and others. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi emphasized the importance of constructive criticism in fostering societal improvement, stating that prioritizing peace is essential for economic progress. He urged the chief minister to convene cabinet and apex meetings regarding recent incidents of lawlessness, stressing that security is paramount for development. Highlighting the significance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he acknowledged the adverse conditions around the Dera Ismail Khan economic zone, proposing enhanced economic zones near CPEC routes. Governor Faisal Kundi commended KP athletes for their achievements across various fields, citing PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's recent visit to Peshawar as a morale booster for provincial sports. He underscored empowerment for women and youth as crucial for fostering progress. He pledged to enhance journalists' skills and

resolve their problems on priority basis. Governor Faisal Kundi also expressed his intent to collaborate closely with the federal government, to resolve issues facing journalists. In reference to provincial assembly rights, he assured support from Parliamentary leader of PPP, Ahmed Kundi and others, advocating for increased public engagement across different regions. Protecting Peshawar's cultural heritage and promoting interfaith harmony were also highlighted as priorities. Governor Faisal Kundi criticized the provincial government for misstatements in court, noting disparities in university funding compared to Sindh.



**GILGIT: Rescue 1122 crew in action, expertly lifting a car from the ditch after an accident.**

## DC stresses for collective work of departments for development of district

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Newly appointed Deputy Commissioner Sarah Rehman on Tuesday underlined the need of collective work among all the departments and administration for the development and prosperity of the district. While chairing an introductory meeting of line departments held at her office, the deputy commissioner said that achievement of the goals would be her priority. The cooperation of all the departments was of utmost importance for the purpose, she added. She said the departments should perform their duties diligently and make all efforts for the development and prosperity of the area and better provision of facilities to the people. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) General, ADC Relief, assistant commissioners and representatives of different departments including C&W.

## ANF seizes 330 kg drugs in 9 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 9 operations across the country managed to recover 330 kg drugs and arrested 8 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that 826 grams ice was recovered from a passenger going to Qatar at Islamabad Airport.

## LDA seals another 15 properties

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Development Authority (LDA) teams, during an on going operation against commercialization fee defaulters, sealed another 15 properties in the Sabzazar Scheme here on Tuesday. On the directions of Director General LDA Tahir Farooq, the teams sealed properties including Plot No. 120 Block A, Plot No. 41 Block G, Plot No. 59 Block G, Plot No. 51 Block C, Plot No. 54 Block C, Plot No. 22 Block C.



**KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Peoples Party (PPP) MPA Nazir Bughio during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.**

## IGP inaugurates model police station Timergara

DIR LOWER (APP): Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan visited Lower Dir and inaugurated the newly constructed Model Police Station Timergara. On this occasion, Regional Police Officer Malakand Range Muhammad Ali and District Police Officer Lower Dir Rai Mazhar Iqbal welcomed the IGP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. During the inaugural ceremony, the young daughter of martyr Israr Ahmed presented a bouquet of flowers to the IGP, and a smartly turned-out contingent of Lower Dir saluted him. The IGP inspected the building of the Model Police Station, equipped with modern facilities, and received a detailed briefing from the DPO Lower Dir. On this occasion, IGP Akhtar Hayat Khan stated that the establishment of the Model Police Station would prove to be a milestone in providing facilities to the local people.

## FIA arrests two human smugglers

LAHORE (APP): Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Tuesday apprehended two members of a group involved in human smuggling and visa fraud here from Laxmi Chowk. According to a spokesman for the agency, the suspects, identified as Malik Naveed and Khalid Munir Bhatti, were arrested during a raid. The authorities recovered three Pakistani passports, fake passports of Iran and Italy, and counterfeit immigration arrival stamps of various countries, including a fake immigration arrival stamp of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

## 3-days training workshop by ICIMOD on cryosphere monitoring in Pak kicks off

PESHAWAR (APP): A three days training workshop by International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), in collaboration with the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC), and the National Centre of Excellence in Geology (NCEG) on cryosphere monitoring has been kicked off on Tuesday. According to a press release issued here, the workshop aims to enhance the capabilities of participants from various institutions and universities across Pakistan, enabling them to conduct independent research and monitoring of glaciers, snow, and permafrost. Participants are introduced to methods and tools for collecting and analyzing data on glaciers, snow, and permafrost, utilizing both fieldwork and advanced satellite remote sensing technology. The cryosphere, including glaciers, snow, and permafrost in High Mountain Asia, supplies water to approximately one-fifth of the world's population. Monitoring these components is crucial for assessing meltwater, especially during dry seasons.

## Tree plantation drive inaugurated in Dir Lower

DIR LOWER (APP): The district's youth office in collaboration with the district administration and the forest department has launched a plantation campaign titled "Green Growth Strategy - Billion Tree Plus Plantation Drive," to make the area clean and green. Additional Deputy Commissioner Plantation (General) and Focal Person of the initiative Bashir Khan inaugurated the drive by formally planting a sapling.

## Now entire nation knows about digital terrorists: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Information and Culture Azma Bokhari has said that the entire nation now knows who digital terrorists are and who is behind them. In a press statement issued here on Tuesday, she said the younger generation is being incited against the country's security institutions through systematic planning. "The children of the person conspiring against the country are living a luxurious life in London. Pakistan's youth should stay away from the agenda of this disruptive party," she added. She mentioned that parents should learn a lesson after the events of May 9.

"A specific group and their facilitators are causing unrest, disorder, and divisive politics in Pakistan under their agenda. A progressing and developing Pakistan is not acceptable to this group. They continuously create new obstacles against the country's security and development. The PTI started different movements against the country including resignations from assemblies, jail bhro movement, and hunger strikes. The failed movements of the 'Nakaam' Khan have become a source of disgrace and embarrassment for him. All the narratives of this group have failed just like their politics."



**RAWALPINDI: A view of rain water accumulated in the street at Imambara Mohallah after rain that experienced the Twin Cities.**

## SDMA warns people to refrain from visiting streams, rivers

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP): Seasonal nullahs, besides rivers and streams, flowing in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), including in Mirpur division, were flooded after the upper reaches - besides various ground parts of the state lashed with first heaviest rainfall since the wee hours on Tuesday. The AJK State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) has warned people living near the seasonal nullahs and streams to refrain from visiting the flooded ponds, rivers and streams as the main spell of the torrential rains reported in various parts of the State today. The Mirpur district and outskirts lashed with much awaited heavy rains that opened the advent of the monsoon rains which also hit various other parts of the liberated state. Various parts of the AJK state lashed with first heaviest rainfall that affected various areas including Mirpur district causing partial loss to the material - especially in the New City and various adjoining slums areas of this district.

# International News

## Gazans flee after Israel orders safe zone evacuation over rockets

### Monitoring Desk

KHAN YUNIS: Hundreds of panicked Gazans fled after the Israeli military on Monday ordered the evacuation of part of a humanitarian zone, warning it was preparing to launch an operation in the area. The military had declared Al-Mawasi, along the Gaza coast between the cities of Khan Yunis and Rafah, a humanitarian zone in May, and told Palestinians to go there for their own safety. But it has now ordered people to leave part of the zone in eastern Khan Yunis that it says militants have been using to launch attacks on Israeli targets. The military said the evacuation was due to "significant terrorist activity and rocket fire toward the state of Israel from the eastern part of the humanitarian area", making it too "dangerous" to remain. In a statement, it urged people to relocate from eastern Khan Yunis to the west of the "adjusted humanitarian area of Al-Mawasi" that runs along the Gaza coast. Many Gazans are hesitant to join the swelling tent camps in Al-Mawasi, however, after a recent attack on the zone killed at least 92 people and wounded more than 300, according to figures from the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory. "No place is safe," said Yussef Abu Taimah, from the town of Al-Qarara in Khan Yunis, as he prepared to relocate his family for the fourth time since the Gaza war broke out in October. "We left in the middle of ongoing air and tank shelling, and drones firing shots," said the 27-year-old, who witnessed dead and wounded people being transported to Nasser Hospital by tuk-tuks and donkey carts. Abu Taimah said his family was heading to Al-Mawasi, but expected to find no space in the crowded, makeshift encampment. "We will stay on the street," he said. "Even the sidewalks are full of people and tents. We are tired and fed up. Enough of this displacement."

Ahmed al-Bayuk, 53, said each of his three displacements has been harder than the last. "We barely settle for a few days before the army comes, bombs, displaces us and destroys more," he said. "Where should we go? Every place is at risk of bombing."

In recent months the Israeli army has launched intense military operations in several areas of Gaza that were previously declared free of Hamas militants. Earlier this year it carried out a sweeping operation in Khan Yunis for months that reduced swathes of the city to rubble and displaced tens of thousands of people.

Abu Taimah said his family was heading to Al-Mawasi, but expected to find no space in the crowded, makeshift encampment.



**Palestinians flee the eastern part of Khan Yunis as they travel in an animal-drawn cart after they were ordered by Israeli army to evacuate their neighborhoods, amid Israel-Hamas conflict, in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip.**

## Death toll from Ethiopian landslides jumps to 229: official

### Monitoring Desk

GOFA ZONE: The death toll from two landslides in southern Ethiopia has jumped to 229 and could rise further as the search for survivors and casualties continued into a second day, a government official said on Tuesday. A landslide buried people in the Gofa zone in Southern Ethiopia regional state on Sunday night, and then a second one engulfed others who had gathered to help on Monday morning. "I don't know when it will stop. We are still recovering bodies," Markos Melese, head of the National Disaster Response agency in Gofa Zone, told Reuters by phone. "We are still digging," Melese said. On Monday, an official said at least 50 people had died and children and police officers were among the dead. Footage shared by the local administration showed people digging up bodies with shovels and bare hands. "The death toll surged after the people who came to rescue also got trapped," said Gofa district administrator Misikir Mitiku.

Melese, head of the National Disaster Response agency in Gofa Zone, told Reuters by phone. "We are still digging," Melese said. On Monday, an official said at least 50 people had died and children and police officers were among the dead. Footage shared by the local administration showed people digging up bodies with shovels and bare hands. "The death toll surged after the people who came to rescue also got trapped," said Gofa district administrator Misikir Mitiku.

## Russia says intercepted US bomber planes 'approaching' its border in Arctic

### Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Russia on Sunday said two US bomber planes had approached its border in the Arctic and that it had scrambled fighter jets to make them turn away. Moscow has previously accused the United States of making reconnaissance drone flights over neutral waters in the Black Sea to help Ukraine, and has said it could lead to "direct confrontation" between Russia and NATO. Russia said Sunday that it scrambled fighter jets to prevent two US strategic bomber planes from crossing its border over the Barents Sea in the Arctic. The US military routinely carries out flights over international waters, operations that it says are conducted in neutral airspace and in accordance with international law. But Moscow has responded more aggressively to the exercises in recent months.

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## Modi says focus on employment and middle class in first post-poll budget

### Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first post-election budget will focus on employment and the middle class, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday as she began presenting the final financial statement for 2024-25. The government will allocate 2 trillion rupees (\$24 billion) for job creation over the next five years, Sitharaman said.

## Six Croatians die in nursing home shooting

### Monitoring Desk

DARUVAR: Croatia was in a state of shock on Monday after a gunman opened fire in a nursing home, killing at least six people in a rare instance of gun violence in the Balkan country. Five residents and one employee were dead after the gunman entered the private nursing home in the eastern town of Daruvar and went on a killing spree, according to the police. The gunman then fled the scene and was later arrested at a cafe, where he was carrying unregistered firearms.

## US Secret Service director Kimberly Cheatle resigns after Trump assassination bid

### Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: US Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle resigned on Tuesday, a day after acknowledging that the agency failed in its mission to prevent an assassination attempt against Donald Trump. Cheatle was facing bipartisan calls to step down after a 20-year-old gunman wounded the former Republican president and current White House candidate at a July 13 campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania. "It is overdue, she should have done this at least a week ago," Mike Johnson, the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, told reporters. "I'm happy to see that she has heeded the call of both Republicans and Democrats."

Secret Service and said she had "selflessly dedicated and risked her life to protect our nation throughout her career."

"We all know what happened that day can never happen again," Biden said in a statement. "As we move forward, I wish Kim all the best, and I will plan to appoint a new director soon." Cheatle appeared before a congressional committee on Monday and said the attack on Trump, who was slightly wounded in his right ear, represented a failure by the Secret Service. She called it "the most significant operational failure of the Secret Service in decades." Both Republicans and Democrats called on Cheatle to resign. She drew the ire of lawmakers from both parties by refusing to provide specific details about the attack, citing the existence of multiple active investigations.

President Joe Biden thanked Cheatle for her nearly three decades in the Secret Service and said she had "selflessly dedicated and risked her life to protect our nation throughout her career."

## Kamala Harris closes in on US presidential nomination with delegates secured

### Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Vice President Kamala Harris will campaign in the critical battleground state of Wisconsin on Tuesday for the first time as a US presidential election candidate after enough Democratic delegates pledged to endorse her, clearing her path to the nomination. Harris has become the party's presumed nominee after President Joe Biden withdrew from his re-election campaign on Sunday, following weeks of party acrimony and internal polls showed his support collapsing in a battle against Republican rival Donald Trump. Less than 36 hours after Biden endorsed Harris, she secured the nomination on Monday night by winning the pledged support of a majority of the party's delegates who will determine the nomination, the campaign said.

"Tonight, I am proud to have secured the broad support needed to become our party's nominee," Harris said in a statement late Monday night. "I look forward to formally accepting the nomination soon."

An unofficial survey of delegates by the Associated Press showed Harris with more than 2,500 delegates, well over the 1,976 needed to win a vote in the coming weeks. Delegates could still, technically, change their minds but nobody else received any votes in the AP survey; 54 delegates said they were undecided. The Wisconsin trip offers another opportunity for the 59-year-old former California prosecutor to reset the Democrats' campaign and make the case that she is best positioned to beat Trump.

## UK unveils training effort to reduce reliance on migrants

### Monitoring Desk

FARNBOROUGH: UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer vowed on Monday to reduce the UK's "long-term reliance on overseas workers" as he unveiled a new skills training organisation aimed at boosting productivity and economic growth. Starmer said his government hopes the new body - named Skills England - will transform "not just how we train our young people and adults, but also the relationship between business and education system."

leader added that many young people had been "let down" by a lack of skills training, creating an overreliance on migration within the economy. "I do not criticise businesses who hire overseas workers and I certainly don't diminish the contribution that migration makes to our economy, to our public services and of course to our communities," he told the audience. "Yet if you stand back, as a system it cannot be right that some people don't get to feel the pride of making a contribution, the dignity of work, just because we can't find a way of creating a coherent skill system."

In a speech at the Farnborough International Airshow, the UK

## US journalist jailed in Russia for six years

### Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: A Russian court has sentenced US-Russian journalist Alsu Kurmasheva to more than six years in prison for violating strict military censorship laws, a ruling her employer slammed as a "mockery of justice". Kurmasheva, 47, was convicted on Friday in a secret trial that was not announced in advance - the same day a separate Russian court sentenced US journalist Evan Gershkovich for 16 years on espionage charges. Both journalists have rejected the charges against them as baseless. Kurmasheva, an editor with the US-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) outlet in Prague, was arrested last year while travelling to Russia to see her sick mother.

leader added that many young people had been "let down" by a lack of skills training, creating an overreliance on migration within the economy. "I do not criticise businesses who hire overseas workers and I certainly don't diminish the contribution that migration makes to our economy, to our public services and of course to our communities," he told the audience. "Yet if you stand back, as a system it cannot be right that some people don't get to feel the pride of making a contribution, the dignity of work, just because we can't find a way of creating a coherent skill system."



# President for expanding ties with Turkmenistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has called for expanding bilateral ties with Turkmenistan across all areas of mutual interest and reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to its relationship with Turkmenistan.

The President expressed these views while talking to the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, Rashid Meredov, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President said that Pakistan-Turkmenistan relations were based on a common vision for peace and prosperity in the region. The exchange of high-level visits between the two countries signified the mutual desire to further strengthen bilateral understanding and cooperation.

Welcoming the Minister, the President urged the need to enhance connectivity and communication between Pakistan and Turkmenistan, saying that Gwadar port offered great opportunities for promoting regional trade and Turkmenistan should benefit from the port.

The President stressed the need for continued exchanges and dialogue at all levels and enhanced trade, economic, investment and cultural relations for the prosperity of the two countries. He offered that Turkmen students could seek education from the medical institutions of Pakistan. The President noted the importance of the Third Round of Bilateral Political Consultations held today by the



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan, Mr. Rashid Meredov, called on the President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Deputy Prime Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, was also present on the occasion.

## Brazilian Naval Chief calls on Defence Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Naval Staff of Brazilian Armed Forces, Admiral Andre Luiz Silva Lima De Santana Mendes called on Federal Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Tuesday.

During the meeting, matters related to regional situation and bilateral cooperation, came under discussion, a news release said.

The Defence Minister said that Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with Brazil and intended to expand cooperation in all fields.

Highlighting Pakistan's role in the region

## Ahsan chairs meeting on transfer of PSDP projects executed by Pak-PWD

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday chaired a meeting to address the matters related to the transfer of Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) projects being executed by Pak-Public Works Department (PWD) to provinces and various federal government entities.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Housing & Works, members of working groups and senior officials from the Ministry of Planning, who deliberated on the optimal redistribution of these projects, a news release said.

Out of the 162 PSDP projects managed by Pak-PWD, as many as 138 projects are attributed to provinces and 24 to federal entities.

## Welcomes Chinese investment in Pakistan PM directs GPA to provide all facilities to Chinese companies

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday, welcoming the Chinese investment in Pakistan, said that during his recent visit to China, a number of significant bilateral business-to-business agreements between companies of two countries, was a good sign in this regard.

The prime minister was talking to a delegation of Hengeng Trading Company led by Chairman Zhang Bin. The meeting was attended by Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanvir Hussain, Minister of State for Finance Ali Pervaiz Malik and other relevant senior officials, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister said that Pakistan wanted to seek benefits from the Chinese experience in agriculture sector and directed Gwadar Port Authority for provision of all possible facilities to the Chinese companies.

He also asked for ensuring uninterrupted supply of utilities at Gwadar Free Zone.

The prime minister was also constructing a slaughter house with all the latest facilities at Gwadar, at a cost of \$50 million. Its completion could generate \$30 million annual exports from Pakistan's livestock sector while it would provide 1,000 new jobs opportunities to local populace.

The company was also exporting pharmaceutical products to China after processing them at Gwadar Free Zone, it was further added.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Hangeng Trade Company calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## Commissioner urges people to participate in tree plantation campaign

SUKKUR (APP): The Divisional Commissioner Sukkur Fayyaz Hussain Abbasi on Tuesday urged people to proactively participate in the current Tree Plantation Campaign to make the city green and clean and plant a tree individually. While performing a tree plantation campaign at his office, he said that the campaign by the district administration of Sukkur was a good initiative in which civil society and all stakeholders of the city are participating vigorously to create environmental awareness throughout the region to face the challenge of climate change, it would be extended across the Division's all parks, grounds foot paths etc would also be covered to promote tree plantation among citizens.

He said that not only Pakistan even Asia and the west were also taking war footing steps to face climate change issues.

Amazon was contributing 20 percent of oxygen all over the world to counter the environmental pollution, he added.

## DC, MS visit emergency unit of CMH Larkana

LARKANA (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Larkana Dr. Sharjeel Noor Chana along with Medical Superintendent (MS) of Chandka Medical Hospital (CMH) Dr. Niaz Hussain Dahar here on Tuesday visited the Emergency Unit of the hospital.

They reviewed the available medical facilities for indoor patients and their families. The hospital staff directed to improve medical services for incoming patients and ensure thorough cleanliness to facilitate their recovery and discharge.

Speaking to the media on the occasion, Dr. Niaz mentioned incidents of disturbance caused by troublemakers within the hospital, impacting the environment negatively. He emphasized the hospital's commitment to providing effective treatment despite challenges faced by doctors and staff.



KARACHI: Members of Salaried Class Alliance are holding protest demonstration against inflation taxes and unemployment, at Karachi press club.

## SEPCO recovered Rs 50.5 millions from defaulters, removed 5 thousand illegal connection: SE Saeed Rahman

LARKANA (APP): Superintendent Engineer Sukkur Electric Power Company (SEPCO) Larkana Circle Shah Muhammad Bajkani on Tuesday said that on the instructions of the Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the SEPCO Circle Larkana conducted crackdown against the electricity thefts in June and July during the ongoing campaign against electricity thieves and defaulters.

Talking to APP, he said that 1895 letters issued for FIRs had been sent to the concerned police stations to file against the electricity thieves and disconnected connection of electricity more than 5,000 thousand illegal connections and registered FIRs against 127 consumers who did not pay their dues of electricity and 11 electricity thieves are in police custody.

The SE further said that 7 large poles of one lakh 32 thousand KV of (Joc) high transmission line from Madaji were cut off, due to thunder storm hit the transmission a days ago which caused a power crisis.

Electricity will be fully restored by late night or early morning Wednesday. He said that due to the construction of the high transmission line, we had to schedule electricity, so we took electricity from Dadu and after completing the repair work, the electricity crisis will end by today (Wednesday).



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah receives annual report 2023 from Chairman Sindh Public Service Commission, Mohammad Waseem during meeting held in Karachi.

## Commissioner directs to form committees to monitor LBOD system

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Commissioner Faisal Ahmed Uqeli on Tuesday ordered to constitute committees at tehsil level to monitor the work of Left Bank Outfall Drainage (LBOD) system.

According to a handout issued here, the committees would resolve the problems of urban flooding in Mirpurkhas, Amarkot and Tharparkar districts.

The chairman of committee in respective tehsil would be acting commissioner while the members would include sub-divisional police officer, chairman town committee and union council, representatives of irrigation department, Nara canal and LBOD department.

The committees will ensure coordination in case of rain emergency and flood-like situation after every 15 days, it added.

WhatsApp group will be formed for mutual coordination of the official concerned.

The members of the committees would visit the weck embankments to monitor the flood like situation, the handout said.

The assistant commissioners will report about the flood-like situations to the concerned deputy commissioners.

## PTI kicks off hunger strike to demand Imran Khan, other leaders' release

ISLAMABAD: The embattled Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Tuesday established a hunger strike camp outside the Parliament House in Islamabad to demand release of the party founder Imran Khan and other leaders.

The former ruling party has faced back-to-back setbacks in a few days as its central secretariat in the federal capital was sealed by the authorities earlier today a day after the party's Information Secretary Raouf Hasan was nabbed along with the other party workers.

A day earlier, Islamabad police took Hasan into custody from the party's Central Secretariat for heading a digital media cell and its alleged involvement in running anti-Pakistan propaganda.

Speaking to journalists outside parliament, the party chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said that the hunger strike will be observed daily till 8pm as a token protest against "injustice" and for the PTI founder's release and the supremacy of the parliament.

He added that he conveyed his party's reservations to National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq over "illegal and unconstitutional actions".

The lawyer-cum-politician said that his party raised voice for the PTI lawmakers and their families who were being picked up.

"[The] PTI founder and his wife have been imprisoned for no reason. This camp will continue till the release of the PTI founder."

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The embattled Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Tuesday established a hunger strike camp outside the Parliament House in Islamabad to demand release of the party founder Imran Khan and other leaders.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Peoples Party (PPP) MPA Syed Saleh Shah Jilani during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

## IPPs widely responsible for economic destruction: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): The chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, as well as former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has termed the IPPs widely responsible for economic destruction of the country.

Talking to business community, he suggested to stop the establishment of new IPPs and giving state-owned IPPs standard rates for supply or electricity.

Mian Zahid Hussain was of the view that we should start with the power plants of our friendly country, China, in order to balance the agreements with IPPs.

We should stop building new IPPs of all kinds because only those in power need them, he added.

The business leader warned that the country will go bankrupt if the private sector does not stop building new power plants.

Mian Zahid Hussain stated that different IPPs have received payments ranging from Rs 750 to Rs 350 per unit, which was unacceptable.

He said that setting up IPPs was not a business; it was profiteering and robbery. We need to explain to the public why we are purchasing electricity worth billions from various IPPs and paying trillions of rupees to some IPPs without generating a single unit, he maintained.

He stated that the IPPs receive payment in the form of capacity charges without producing any electricity. Why the agreements with IPPs were kept secret if they were transparent and beneficial to the country and nation, he questioned.

The business leader demanded that we expose all IPP owners and recover looted wealth from white-collar robbers.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that due to heavy payments to IPPs, the government has nothing left to invest in health, education, the environment, and other important sectors, which means that these factories established in the private sector are causing poverty, ignorance, diseases, environmental pollution, and unevenness in the country.

## ANF seizes 330 kg drugs, arrests 8 in nationwide operations

KARACHI (INP): The Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) seized 330 kilogram drugs and arrested eight drug peddlers during nine nationwide operations.

A spokesman of ANF said on Tuesday that the operations against drug pushers were conducted in Islamabad, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Ketch, Peshawar and Charsadda.

He said that during these operations 330 kg drugs including 317 kg hashish, 7.2 kg opium, 2.9 kg heroin, 2.8 kg Ice and 12 gram weed were recovered.

Separate cases were registered against the detainees under Drug Act and further investigations were underway.

## Another monsoon spell to hit Karachi next week

KARACHI (INP): Karachi's sweltering heatwave has finally subsided, bringing relief to the city's residents as a low-pressure system shifted from Indian Gujarat to Oman. Chief Meteorologist Sardar Sarfraz said that the real July weather has returned to Karachi as light rain and drizzle expected in the city tonight. He further said that weather will remain cloudy in the coming days in the metropolis.

"The weather is expected to remain cloudy, with a possibility of light rain and drizzle in the evening and night," said Met department. The sea breeze, which was suspended due to the low air pressure in Gujarat, has been fully restored in the port city.

## Agriculture experts call for urgent research on new cotton varieties

HYDERABAD (APP): Agriculture experts and researchers have emphasized the urgent need for research on new and hybrid cotton varieties, with Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) poised to play a pivotal role in this initiative.

According to a spokesperson of SAU, during the inaugural session of a two-day National Workshop titled "Development of Cotton Varieties through Hybridization Techniques," hosted by SP&DC in the senate hall of SAU on Tuesday, Dean of the Faculty of Crop Production Dr. Inayatullah Rajper underscored the contribution of the cotton industry to national development.

He highlighted that cotton provides essential raw materials for various sectors, including edible oil and the textile industry, while noting that there was still significant potential for improving seed quality.

Dr. Rajper further explained that due to the current economic situation and the pressing need to supply the industry with a skilled workforce, it was essential for students at Sindh Agriculture University to be registered in specialized groups from their first year.



KARACHI: IBA cleared teachers are protesting in favor of their demands outside press club in the Provincial Capital.

## Matiari district sets target of planting 100,000 trees to combat climate change

HYDERABAD (APP): The district administration Matiari set a target of planting 100,000 trees to address climate change. A meeting chaired by the Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Yousuf Shaikh decided to launch a large-scale tree plantation campaign to mitigate the effects of climate change, especially during the summer season. The initiative will involve government and non-government organizations as well as civil society groups.

According to a handout issued on Tuesday, the meeting was attended by DHO Pir Ghulam Hussain, Additional Deputy Commissioner Noor Ahmed Khahro, Additional Director Social Welfare Rafique Jamali, Deputy Director Livestock Dr. Riaz Laghari and officers from various departments such as revenue, forest, health, education, environment and climate change, local government, police and irrigation, as well as representatives from NGOs and civil society organizations.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Forest Department to plant 25,000 saplings along the banks of the Indus River, canals, branches and all irrigation sites.

## Two more polio environmental samples tested positive in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD (APP): The Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health, Islamabad, has confirmed the presence of polio virus in 2 environmental samples taken earlier this month from as many pumping stations in the city.

According to the report, so far a total of 14 positive samples have surfaced in Hyderabad since January, 2024.



LARKANA: Students of Chandka Medical College are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, held in Larkana.