

# Independent

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## CM to provide small growers with agri equipment, tube wells, smart systems to boost sector

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister (CM), Syed Murad Ali Shah presiding over a joint meeting of agriculture and irrigation departments has decided to facilitate small and medium-level farmers and landholders by providing through the Agriculture Department agricultural equipment, machinery, tubewells, solar systems, and smart irrigation systems at subsidised rates.

The meeting was held at the CM House and was attended by Minister P&D Nasir Shah, Minister Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro, Minister Agriculture Sardar Mohammad Bux Mahar, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, PSCM Agha Wasif, SMBR Baqaullah Unar, Secretary Agriculture Rafiq Buriro, Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatoi, and other concerned officers. The CM said that he wanted to facilitate small and medium-

level farmers and landholders by providing agricultural equipment, machinery, tubewells, solar systems, and smart irrigation systems at subsidised rates. "Farmers will pay only a small share of the total cost of the facilities so that they could own them, utilise them for their benefit and ultimately contribute to strengthening agro-economy," he said.

Minister Agriculture Mohammad Bux Mahar briefed the CM about the measures taken to boost the agriculture sector. He said that the provision of agriculture equipment and solar systems for tube wells to the growers would support agricultural productivity. The CM directed the Secretary Agriculture Rafiq Buriro to submit to him a detailed proposal of the growers that may be targeted under the provision of equipment.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a joint Agriculture and Irrigation department meeting, held at CM House in Karachi.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari being briefed about the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) by Chairperson BISP, Mrs. Rubina Khalid at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## PM welcomes Fitch upgrades Pakistan rating to CCC+ following IMF agreement

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday hailed the upgrading of Pakistan's long-term foreign currency issuer default rating (IDR) from CCC to CCC+ by the Credit Rating Agency Fitch.

Appreciating the efforts of Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and his team, the prime minister said the country and the nation had started receiving the fruits of the government's

## PM deeply grieved over demise of Saudi Prince Abdullah bin Khalid bin Turki

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed grief over the death of Prince Abdullah bin Khalid bin Turki bin Abdulaziz bin Turki Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia. The prime minister, in a social media post on X, conveyed his condolences to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. "My heart goes out to the royal family and the people of Saudi Arabia in this moment of grief. May the departed soul rest in eternal peace," he prayed.

## Lightning strike claims 8 lives and over 60 cattle

HYDERABAD (APP): As many as 8 people died as a result of lightning strike during rain in Tharparkar on Monday, while more than 60 cattle were killed in different areas. According to details, six individuals lost their lives when lightning struck the village of Akrraro in Nagarparkar during the rain. The deceased include 20 year old Ramesh Bheel, 17 year old Ranjit Bheel, 40 year old Bhamro Bheel, 14 year old girl Sagna Bheel, 16 year old Vikram Bheel and 17 year old girl Anita Bheel. Another person, named Tabo was injured and shifted to the civil hospital Mithi for treatment. In another incident, 35 year old Shafi Manganhar from Chelhar died due to a lightning strike in the village of Bantari, Nagarparkar.

## President for enhanced BISP outreach, number of beneficiaries

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari has underscored the need for enhancing the outreach of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) as well as the number of beneficiaries for the uplift of underprivileged sections of society.

He asked the Chairperson of BISP to establish an office at Gwadar so that the deserving people of the area could benefit from the Programme.

The President expressed these views during a briefing given by the Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Mrs Rubina Khalid, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Taking note of the 0.45% service charges by the banks from BISP cardholders, the President said that the service charges needed to be waived off, and in this regard, the State

Bank of Pakistan should be approached to ask banks for opening accounts for BISP beneficiaries.

He said that the new payment system would also protect BISP beneficiaries from exploitation. He also called for engaging donors and the private sector to support BISP in its endeavours to provide scholarships to the maximum number of deserving students.

During the briefing, the President was informed about the core initiatives taken by BISP, including the Benazir Kafalat Program, Benazir Taleemi Wazaif Program, BISP Scholarships for Undergraduates Program and Benazir Nashounuma Program. Chairperson BISP informed that Rs 598.718 billion had been allocated for BISP during the ongoing fiscal year.

## We have to move forward with latest tech, artificial intelligence: Khalid

KARACHI (APP): The Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, on Monday said we have to move forward by equipping ourselves with modern technology and artificial intelligence.

He said that our all-time tested friend China invested at right time in right place and took it's poor people out of poverty level.

While addressing a cheque distribution ceremony of Nursing and Arts and Culture Students by Pakistan Education Endowment Fund (PEEF) at National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA), he said that our region was developing in

spite of the more population in our neighboring countries.

He said that they did not make the population a liability, but made it their asset and China was the best example of it. The Education Minister said that the youth of the country were our assets.

Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said that NAPA was an institution for the promotion of intellectual freedom and art. He said that the students were important to us.

He further said that most of the countries had high population level, but there was innovation in these countries and those countries needed our manpower. Later, he distributed cheques.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Chinese Counsel General Zhao Shiren.

## Soldier killed, 16 injured as violent mob assaults security forces' personnel in Gwadar

An officer also among injured as mob in garb of "Baloch Raji Muchi" attacked security forces, says ISPR

RAWALPINDI (APP): A violent mob in the garb of so called Baloch Raji Muchi assaulted Security Forces' personnel employed for security duties in Gwadar district that resulted in the martyrdom of a soldier and left an officer and 16 others injured during unprovoked assaults.

The martyred soldier was identified as Sepoy Shabbir Baloch (Age: 30 years; resident of District Sibi), who embraced shahadat, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

While on the other hand, fake and malicious propaganda is being spread on social media using doctored pictures and videos by the propagandists to gain sympathy and support

for the unlawful violent march, it said.

"Security forces have displayed extreme restraint to avoid unwarranted civilian casualties despite provocations.

The violent actions of the mob are unacceptable and those responsible will be brought to justice," the ISPR said.

All citizens were urged not to fall prey to the propaganda, remain calm and peaceful, and to cooperate with law enforcement agencies in maintaining public safety and order, it added.

"Security Forces of Pakistan, in step with the Nation, remain determined to thwart attempts of sabotaging peace and stability of Balochistan," the ISPR said.

Moreover, the ISPR said fake and malicious propaganda is being spread on social media using doctored pictures and videos by the propagandists to gain sympathy and support for the unlawful violent march.

"Security forces have displayed extreme restraint to avoid unwarranted civilian casualties despite provocations," it said adding that the violent actions of the mob are unacceptable and those responsible will be brought to justice.

The military's media wing also urged all citizens not to fall prey to the propaganda, remain calm and peaceful, and to cooperate with law enforcement agencies in maintaining public safety and order.

## Sindh governor appeals interior minister to help devotees stuck at Pak-Iran border

KARACHI (INP): Taking notice of the plight of devotees, who go to pay their respects at holy sites in Iran and Iraq, now stranded on the Pakistan-Iran border, Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori on Monday appealed to Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi to ensure

their return to their homes.

In his appeal, the governor said that the condition of hundreds of devotees was bad owing to extremely hot weather in the area. "Media reports suggest that little kids, women and aged people have nothing to eat," he said.

## Sindh Education Minister directs increase in school enrollment and optimization of teacher placements

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: Sindh Education Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah has directed the department to increase school enrollment to 6 million, open 2170 viable schools under the placement plan, and remove biometrics of 1700 teachers from non-viable schools. He issued these instructions while chairing a meeting on Monday in Karachi. The meeting was attended by Secretary School Education Sindh Zahid Ali Abbasi, Special Secretary Education Syed

Junaid Ahmed, Additional Secretary Ghulam Akbar Barhamani, Chief Program Manager RSU Dr. Junaid Ali Samoo, DG Monitoring and Evaluation Zain Ansari, Director HR Kishore Kumar, Data Analyst Ghazi Mahar, and other officials.

The meeting discussed the teacher-to-student ratio, opening of closed schools, and increasing enrollment ratio. The Minister was informed that over 7,500 schools have been opened in Sindh due to recent teachers' recruitments.

## Ishaq Dar says Pakistan committed to Commonwealth agenda of connectivity, climate resilience

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Monday reiterated that Pakistan remained committed to working with the Commonwealth to promote its agenda of connectivity, education, youth and women empowerment, and climate resilience.

## Tessori condoles death of Prince Abdullah bin Khalid

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, visited the Saudi Embassy in Islamabad on Monday and expressed grief over the death of Prince Abdullah bin Khalid.

On arrival at the Embassy, the Governor was received by Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy and the embassy staff.

According to press release, during his visit, Governor Kamran Tessori prayed for the late prince's forgiveness, elevation in rank, and for patience for the bereaved family.

## Electricity prices in the province will significantly be reduced: Nasir Hussain

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: Sindh Energy Minister, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, has said the electricity prices for domestic and industrial consumers in the province will significantly be reduced with the Sindh Electric Power Regulatory Authority (SEBRA) likely becoming functional by the end of next month to take over tariff determination affairs in Sindh.

The Energy Minister stated this on Monday

while speaking as the chief guest at a consultative workshop on "Solar Wind Hybrid Project B2B Arrangements" organized jointly by the Sindh Energy Department and Energy Update.

The Energy Minister hoped that the federal government would fully support SEBRA becoming functional in the province to provide due economic relief to the consumers by reducing power tariffs. He said the solar parks being established under the pub-

lic-private partnership and their renewable electricity supplied through Sindh Transmission and Dispatch Company (STDC) were two key pillars of the plan of the Sindh government being executed to reduce the consumer-end tariff. He said the solar parks were being built in Sindh to deliver on the poll manifesto promise of the Pakistan Peoples Party of providing 300 units of free electricity to the destitute consumers.

He appreciated the secretary-general, who is on a five-day maiden visit here, for serving the organisation with "dedication and grace" across her eight-year term and her role in promoting the Commonwealth's values and mission and modernizing the outlook.

## With Sindh SEBRA likely becoming functional Electricity prices in the province will significantly be reduced: Nasir Hussain

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KARACHI: Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Jameel Ahmed announce Monetary Policy during press conference at State Bank of Pakistan.

error Jameel Ahmad said, "We have noted that the inflation is on a declining trend."

"The inflation rate has come down to 12.60% from 38% while the external account has continued to improve," the SBP governor said adding, "The reduction in the interest rate reflects our confidence in the current economic trajectory."

Last month, the SBP's MPC trimmed its benchmark interest rate by 150 bps to 20.5%, following a record-high 22% that had been maintained for almost a year.

The finance czar further stated that "future projections expect the average inflation rate to stabilise

between 23% and 25%, following last year's 23.4%".

The central bank in a statement said the announcement of monetary easing showed positive indicators for the national economy citing a slight drop in inflation, a build-up in SBP's foreign exchange (FX) reserves despite repayments of debt, and a staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a 37-month extended fund facility (EFF) programme of about \$7.0 billion.

It added that the committee assessed that the external account has continued to improve, as reflected by the build-up

in the central bank's FX reserves despite substantial repayments of debt and other obligations.

The developments - along with significantly positive real interest rates - led to the further reduction in the policy rate in a calibrated manner to support economic activity, while keeping inflationary pressures in check.

Since its last meeting, the committee noted the key developments that the current account deficit narrowed sharply in FY24 and SBP's FX reserves improved significantly from \$4.4 billion at the end of June 2023 to above \$9.0 billion.



## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Constitutional limits

Throughout Pakistan's turbulent history, coup-makers and strongmen have looked to the courts to provide legitimacy to their extra-constitutional forays.

Whenever the courts have obliged, these actions have been justified by the 'doctrine of necessity', that odious principle used to legitimise, for example, Ghulam Mohammad's dissolution of the Constituent Assembly, and later the Iskander Mirza-Ayub Khan military coup.

Today, as extreme political polarisation threatens Pakistan's fragile democracy, and unelected forces tighten their grip, people are wondering whether this doctrine will again be resurrected. In this regard, the remarks made by Supreme Court Justice Athar Minallah at a recent event in the US regarding the judiciary's role in protecting the constitutional order bear repeating.

Justice Minallah urged the courts to remain vigilant where defending the Constitution was concerned. He added that mistakes in this regard had been made by the higher judiciary in the past and that if the SC failed to protect the basic law, then "judges are committing misconduct". These frank admissions and stark warnings should be heeded especially by state institutions. There can be no compromise when it comes to respecting the constitutional order, and their lordships have a duty to protect the document. It seemed that after the epic struggle between Gen Musharraf and justice Iftikhar Chaudhry, the 'doctrine of necessity' had been buried. Yet, as things have developed since, it is clear that this doctrine has multiple lives. What gives one hope is the fact that conversations about protecting the constitutional order are taking place, even in a suffocating atmosphere. Whether it is Justice Minallah's remarks, the Islamabad High Court judges' letter regarding interference by intelligence agencies in judicial affairs, or Justice Mansoor Ali Shah's comment about the need to create a 'firewall' around the judicial system, these hints from within the judiciary point to a will to resist unconstitutional moves.

As some observers have noted, an unambiguous institutional response is required; undemocratic forces cannot be allowed to exploit divisions within the judiciary. From their lordships in the SC to the magistrates and trial judges, the judiciary as an institution must pledge to uphold the constitutional framework, and refuse to entertain 'requests' from any quarter to subvert the democratic system.

As Justice Minallah suggested, those who fail to defend the Constitution must face the consequences of their actions. Pakistan's salvation lies in all institutions staying within their legal bounds, and letting civilian set-ups govern with freedom. Of course, there are still many pieces missing from this puzzle — a transparent electoral process, maturity and tolerance in political parties for each other, etc — but only if the democratic process is allowed to continue unhindered can the system correct itself.

## Noble profession or not?

Gaitee Ara Siddiqi

It is always encouraging to see the huge pool of resourceful and talented young people that we have in our educational establishments. Having been associated with the field of education for over a decade and a half, this writer has gained immensely from the experience of teaching a large number of students from nearly all walks of life. One of the biggest advantages of this profession is that those who practise it remain young in mind and heart, simply because they are constantly in touch with the younger generations.

As mentioned, Pakistan boasts a huge reserve of young and talented people with immense potential; unfortunately, the country lacks the resources to allow them to exploit their potential to the fullest. As a result, young, bright and ambitious individuals who manage to secure employment abroad are leaving the country for greener pastures. A massive brain drain is in progress, with hordes of young people shifting abroad in search of better standards of living and a brighter future for their children.

What can educationists do to retain this vast reserve of human resources and help it realise its maximum potential? The first thing is to be honest with the profession, which is becoming increasingly challenging keeping in mind the rapidly changing environment of educational establishments and the increasing commercialisation of academia. However, there are still a large number of educationists that this writer has encountered during her professional journey

who are doing their best to do justice to their profession. That means inculcating a sense of responsibility in their students and nurturing and cultivating them, spotting their potential, and fostering an environment for them in which they can realise their hidden skills and abilities.

While it is widely acknowledged that teachers are overworked, underpaid and have minimal job security, there is still a huge contribution that they can make, even with their authority curtailed by institutions seeking to win over more 'clients'. By and large, it still remains an extremely respectable profession, especially for females, and most women prefer being associated with academia due to its relatively shorter working hours and other perks, such as concessions on school fees.

With a massive increase in population and millions of children out of school, education will remain in demand as the country equips its future generations with the skills and abilities they need to excel and carve out a niche for themselves in the world. With the vast reserves of the young people we have, bright and competent educationists who can use their skills and competencies to groom the generations of tomorrow are direly needed. For that, training needs to be provided and incentives given to encourage more highly educated individuals to join this profession.

Another depressing reality is that individuals from privileged backgrounds do not join this profession. Nearly all of us are here by accident, and very few out of choice. This is especially true for

men associated with this profession, who mostly belong to low-income backgrounds and are teaching because they were unable to pursue a profession in a more promising field. Most of them are making just enough spending their days teaching in schools, and their evenings in tuition centres. With the crippling stagflation, the majority is burning the midnight oil but remains unable to make ends meet. As essentials become more and more dear, the true ethos of education is being compromised, like everything else in this country.

Because teachers shape the future of a nation, the government should make a concerted effort to facilitate them by providing tax exemptions and subsidies on basic expenses. A nation which respects its teachers and aims to make their lives easier prospers, grows and develops. It encourages students to respect and value those who are devoting their lives to enable them to make something of theirs.

Let's continue to keep the flame burning. Those in the profession should keep fighting for their rights. We can do our bit by practising professional honesty to preserve the sanctity and respectability of this occupation, in the hope that it will have a spill-over effect and, in time, the government will start offering incentives to the unsung heroes and heroines of this country who may not be fighting on the borders, but are still waging important battles daily (sometimes at their own expense) to ensure a bright future for our coming generations. - Courtesy Dawn

## Facing homelessness

Arif Hasan

As you drive along Mauripur Road towards Hawkes Bay, a concrete wall appears about two kilometres from the sea and runs along the road on your left-hand side. After it reaches Hawks Bay Drive, it turns left and continues for another kilometre or so. The area enclosed by the wall contains a number of small fishermen's villages. Roads are being laid within the area enclosed by the wall, and the nullah that flows through this area has been blocked; the space where the water fanned out from the nullah to the sea has been blocked as well. Much of the area has extensive mangrove forest.

The villages within this area and around it are Brahvi- or Balochi-speaking. They claim that they had been living here well before the British came. Many of their families own small boats in which they go into shallow waters to fish and then take their fish to the many piers along the bay to sell their catch. Others are boat-hands on larger ships that go out into the deep sea. They are paid on a daily basis, or a percentage of the catch.

The retail and wholesale trade in fish is big business for the villagers, but given the unequal relationship between the fishermen and the aartis, the villagers remain poor financially, and are burdened with a 'culture of poverty'. Most of the villages have no education or health facilities, and those that do, function erratically.

The villagers are terrified. The rumour is that the entire area is part of KDA scheme 42, because of which they will be evicted and their livelihoods will be

taken away from them. As a result, they will not only become homeless but also paupers. Rumours are that the area enclosed by the wall will contain multistoried condominiums, clubs and high-end eating places. They argue that if this is true, new people with different skills will replace them.

Again and again, they mention the fact that the agricultural villages have suffered, in the case of Gadap. The residents of Gadap villages have lost everything, including their community and their culture. Many of them have been killed while resisting eviction from their lands. They have become nomads. They claim that they have no one to turn to since these schemes have government, politicians and big money support.

Apart from the livelihood and community-related concerns of the fishing community, the environment of the area will be devastated. Mangrove marshes will disappear and with them the wildlife that WWF has been trying to protect. The noise and intensive human activity that will be generated will make it impossible for the green turtle to breed, and they too will disappear like the flamingos, pangolins, storks, and ducks at the China Creek and Sandspit backwaters.

The coast now consists of posh villas which are increasingly being used as hotels. Originally, the bye-laws permitted only a single-storey hut with a removable roof. This preserved the physical and social environment of the beach. Reverting to this would mean the demolition of tens of villas, which is not possible.

However, we can still try and salvage the situation and prepare special bye-laws and zoning regulations for KDA scheme 42 that stop it from becoming a concrete jungle and which protects the sanctity of the environment, especially of the flora and fauna, and all that is related to it.

It is important to note that in the Karachi master plan 2020, which was approved by the city council, special interest was taken to protect the sea fronts of the city. It was proposed that the flora and fauna of the area, fishing communities, lower- and lower-middle-income Karachiites who throng to the beaches and the persons who serve them, are the major stakeholders of any beach development. Under the KSDP 2020, no reclamation from the sea, mangrove marshes, or mud flats, which are fish and turtle nurseries, and the land they require for survival is permitted. Also, all beaches should be accessible to the fishing communities and the public. No development between the high water mark and 150 metres beyond it, on the seaward side of the coastal road, is permissible.

While the KSDP was being framed, a citizen's movement for the protection of the beaches was taking place. It has now fizzled out. People are tired for they cannot indefinitely fight the nexus of developers, politicians and bureaucrats. To save the Karachi coastline and its beautiful environment for the citizens of the city, strong institutional arrangements are required that can fight corruption, which has seeped into every aspect of our lives. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Syed Zahid Raza says Pakistan's engagement with Africa has historical roots

Ambassador designate to Mauritius visits  
Islamabad Chamber

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's engagement with Africa has historical roots and is characterized by mutual respect and cooperation.

By harnessing mutual cooperation, Pakistan and Africa can unlock new economic opportunities and foster sustainable development. This has been stated by Pakistan's Ambassador designate to Mauritius Syed Zahid Raza during his meeting with former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry here on Monday.

He said that deeper engagements with Africa remains a strategic imperative for Pakistan,

adding that forging a strong and effective partnership for peace, progress and prosperity is an indispensable goal, which should be advanced through a clear vision, consistent policy, and a long-term strategy.

The Ambassador, while appreciating the role of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry in advancing trade relations with friendly countries all over the world said that he would do his level best to strengthen the business to business and people to people relations with Mauritius alongside the diplomatic ties.

He said to achieve the objective, he will do his best to organize business delegations' visits to Mauritius especially the ICCI members for

nurturing the bilateral business relations.

Zafar Bakhtawari apprised the visiting guest that the Chamber is already Africa focused and has recently celebrated Africa Day in a befitting manner for bringing Pakistan and the African countries closer to each other and that the Ambassador to Mauritius who is known as the best friend of Pakistan was also among the attendees.

He said that in the changed circumstances, Pakistan's envoys have to work with missionary zeal and devotion for the economic betterment of the country and bringing the countries closer to each other and strengthening business relations especially in the promotion of Pakistan exports and tourism potential.

### SECP initiates consultation to revamp Mutual & Pension Fund regimes

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) on Monday published a consultation paper, suggesting various alterations to the total expense regime (TER) and distribution paradigm for mutual funds and pension funds.

These suggestions aim to reduce the burden on retail investors, optimize their returns, inculcate better saving habits, and increase retail penetration, said a news release.

The consultation paper is made available on SECP's website to solicit public feedback and comments from stakeholders.

The paper reviews the current regime in three parts including the TER

framework for mutual funds, the TER of pension funds, and a review of distribution models.

While evaluating the current TER frameworks for mutual and pension funds, the paper suggests alterations to reduce the financial burden on investors, enhance their long-term returns, and guarantee equity and transparency in the expenses of fund managers.

The problems that have impeded the growth of the distribution network and affected retail penetration are discussed in the third part of the paper. Further, it recommends a transformative framework to revamp the distribution model and improve its usability and accessibility for average investors.

### Zong launches 'Doorstep Delivery'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong 4G, the leading telecommunication service provider in Pakistan, on Monday announced the launch of its new "Online Booking Portal and Home Delivery Service".

Zong is committed to making digital services accessible to all Pakistanis by offering affordable and convenient solutions.

The company's focus on affordability ensures that everyone can benefit from the power of technology, while its commitment to convenience brings services directly to the doorstep, said a news release.

According to the official spokesperson for Zong 4G, "Keeping the evolving demands of our customers, Zong's new Online Booking Portal and Home Delivery Service innovates the customers experience.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with the Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan.

### Shares rise as Pakistan Stock Exchange awaits monetary policy decision

KARACHI (INP): The share prices at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) rose by over 700 points on Monday as the buyers kept their eyes on the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) monetary policy announcement due later today.

As the business was set into motion in the first session, the stocks soared by 768.61 points or 0.98 percent, taking the benchmark KSE-100 index to 78,798.11 points as

compared to previous close of 78,029.50.

Experts were of the view that the market was reacting positively to a string of factors including monetary policy decision and support by China.

On the last trading day on Friday, the stock market had failed to protect the psychological level of 80,000 points, closing the week in the red at slightly above 78,000 with a sharp drop of nearly 2,100 points.

The bourse began the last week on a highly bearish note as it nosedived over 1,600 points owing to high political uncertainty following the government's potential move to ban a major opposition party.

Bulls returned to the stock exchange on Tuesday as the KSE-100 climbed over 400 points. On Wednesday, the market extended gains, driven by a rally during the earnings season and hopes of policy rate reduction.

### Minister, WB team discuss green tourism

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora held a significant meeting on Monday with a World Bank team at his camp office.

The meeting was attended by Kiran Fazal Butt, representing the World Bank, along with the team from the Tourism for Economic Growth Project while Secretary of Human Rights Ali Bahadur, deputy secretary minorities, PS Syed Sajjad

Imran Haider, and other relevant persons were also present.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the topics of minority religious tourism and green tourism. Furthermore, a five-year strategic plan was also discussed.

Provincial Minister Ramesh Singh Arora said that Pakistan's cultural and religious heritage holds a unique position worldwide and that it should be thoroughly promoted.

### RCCI welcomes interest rate cut

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) welcomed the reduction in interest rate by the State Bank of Pakistan.

In a statement issued here today, the Acting President of RCCI Muhammad Hamza Sarosh has lauded State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) for its decision to reduce the interest rate from 20.5% to 19.5%.

He said that the reduction in interest rates will increase business activities.

### Finance Minister lauds PM's Youth Programme

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Monday appreciated Prime Minister's Youth Programme, recognizing it as a valuable scheme for supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

During a meeting with the Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, the minister expressed support for the initiative, highlighting its role in stimulating entrepreneurial activity and contributing to economic growth.

Earlier Rana Mashhood provided an overview of the

Prime Minister's Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme. The scheme promotes entrepreneurship among youth by providing business loans on simple terms and with less markup through Commercial, Islamic and SME banks.

The discussion covered the current structure of the scheme, including its three operational tiers, and explored the potential benefits and logistics of introducing additional tiers. They underscored the government's commitment to enhancing opportunities for the youth and promoting sustainable business development across the country.



KARACHI: Brokers are busy in trading at Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in Karachi.

### FPCCI seeks industry status for packaging sector

LAHORE (APP): Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Regional Chairman and Vice President Zaki Aijaz on Monday demanded of the government to grant industry status to the packaging sector and revise the contracts of Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

He said revisiting and renegotiating these capacity payment agreements with the IPPs could solve the problem of high power tariffs, which was a major impediment to economic growth. He expressed these views while addressing the members of All Pakistan Corrugated Cartons

Manufacturers Association (APCCMA) here at FPCCI Regional Office.

Zaki Aijaz emphasized that the packaging sector is the backbone of all industries, and the government should grant it industry status to reap maximum benefits.

Zaki Ijaz stressed that packaging is a significant sector where products inevitably reach local and international consumers. This industry is the backbone of our business, but regrettably, this sector has not yet been given industry status.

The packaging industry is the world economy's third-largest and fifth-largest industry in Asia.



## KP assembly passes Provincial Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill 2024

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Assembly on Monday passed the Provincial Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill 2024 while Khyber KP Zakat and Ushr (Amendment) Bill 2024, the Provincial Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2024, and the KP Police (Amendment) Bill 2024 were introduced in the house.

Assembly Secretariat Employees Terms and Conditions of Service Bill 2024 was also presented. The passage of the Provincial Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill aims to enhance accountability in the province. The bill, introduced by Law Minister Aftab Alam, passed with a majority vote. It stipulates that the Ombudsman will serve a three-year term, with a maximum age limit of 60 years, and will have the authority to address

corruption complaints from citizens.

The KP Zakat and Ushr (Amendment) Bill 2024 facilitates the collection of Ushr from landowners, lessees, or occupants. The Assembly Secretariat Employees Terms and Conditions of Service Bill 2024 was referred to the Select Committee, chaired by Law Minister Aftab Alam, with the Deputy Speaker and Advocate General as members.

The government proposed amendments to the Police Act 2017, including changes in the recruitment process for Assistant Sub-Inspectors and increasing the quota for police martyrs' families from 5% to 12.5%.

The Assembly also adopted several resolutions. PPP Parliamentary Leader Ahmad Kundli highlighted the deteriorating law and order situation.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundli presides over the 4th senate meeting of the University of Agriculture D.I.Khan at Governor House.

## Chairs 18th Senate meeting of Gomal University Governor stresses for improvement in quality of education, finance

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundli on Monday chaired the 18th Senate meeting of Gomal University Dera Ismail Khan here at Governor House and stressed the administration of the varsity to bring improvement in quality of education and in finance.

Education Commission (HEC) and the remaining amount to be covered by the university's own resources, briefed the Governor.

"A total of 480 million rupees is required for the complete solarization of the university," the Governor emphasized the need to make every effort to secure the necessary funds and mentioned discussions with State Life Insurance to develop a scheme for universities.

He urged Gomal University administration to provide the required information promptly to facilitate the process and set an example for other institutions.

He said that technical issues were noted in the budget preparation, and the committee will review the transparency of the statistics. Governor Faisal Kundli stressed that the university should contribute regularly to its pension fund, noting a current need of 1.7 billion rupees solely for pension payments. He expressed the desire for universities to become self-reliant and increase their resources.

He said that climate change is a global issue, stressing despite having minimum contribution in carbon emissions climate, Pakistan has suffered a lot due to climate change. He said that climate change is

## Investigation into Janikhel incident referred to KP Standing Committee

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly has referred the investigation into the Jani Khel incident, in which four people were killed, to the Standing Committee.

The Assembly session, presided over by Speaker Babar Saleem Swati, began with a delay of two and a half hours.

During the session, MPA Adnan Khan of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) party questioned the Home Department about the 2021 incident in Jani Khel, Bannu, where four bodies were found.

He inquired about the actions taken since the agreement made with the then-Chief Minister but received an unsatisfactory response from the department.

Adnan Khan demanded that the matter

be referred to the Standing Committee, citing the government's lack of concrete steps to address the issue. Law Minister Aftab Alam clarified that the agreement was made with the district administration, not the Chief Minister, and a package was announced for the affected families.

Provincial Minister for Public Health mentioned that talks with the affected families were planned and a package would be announced soon. Adnan Khan persisted in his request for the matter to be referred to the Standing Committee.

Speaker Babar Saleem Swati emphasized the importance of addressing the security concerns of lawmakers and suggested forming a committee to tackle these issues.

## IGP releases Rs2m for medical treatment

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr Usman Anwar on Monday released over Rs2 million for providing medical facilities to police employees in Lahore as well as other districts.

According to the details provided by the IGP office, Constable Shifa Ullah Khan from DG Khan was granted Rs500,000 for knee and leg surgery; Office Superintendent Muhammad Shafiq Anwar Rs500,000.

## Court adjourns hearing of Punjab Assembly illegal recruitment case

LAHORE (APP): An anti-corruption court on Monday adjourned the hearing of the Punjab Assembly illegal recruitment case until September 4 and gave a final opportunity to former chief minister Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi to submit an exemption application, stating that his client had not recovered from a fracture yet and that doctors had advised him to rest. He pleaded with the court to exempt Parvez Elahi from personal appearance for one day.

after being brought from jail.

The other accused who were on bail also appeared and marked their attendance. A counsel on behalf of Chaudhry Parvez Elahi submitted an exemption application, stating that his client had not recovered from a fracture yet and that doctors had advised him to rest. He pleaded with the court to exempt Parvez Elahi from personal appearance for one day.

## Intense rains, RCB personnel put on high alert

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Cantonment Board has put its filed personnel on high alert after the city has witnessed intense rain with gusty winds on Monday. Since the MET Office has predicted more rain during the current monsoon spell in Punjab province, the RCB's filed teams have been tasked to be vigilantly prepared to respond with full magnitude.

Rawalpindi Cantonment Board's CEO Syed Ali Irfan Rizvi had issued instructions to all the officers to stay in the field in this regard.

## British High Commissioner, Governor discuss climate change, bilateral issues

LAHORE: The British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott called on Governor of Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan and discussed ways to strengthening bilateral relations and tackling challenges of climate change during a meeting at the Governor's House here on Monday.

also having adverse effect on the agricultural sector of the country.

Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said federal and provincial governments are working on various projects to deal with the issue of climate change. He said Pakistan has plenty of renewable energy resources. He said that there is a need to bring people towards solar energy to deal with the energy crisis. The Governor informed the British High Commissioner about the efforts to solarize the Governor House Lahore and universities of Punjab.

Governor Sardar Saleem Haider said Pakistan attaches great importance to relations with Britain, adding that the British government's cooperation in education, health, social and other sector is commendable.

He said climate change is a global issue, stressing despite having minimum contribution in carbon emissions climate, Pakistan has suffered a lot due to climate change. He said that climate change is

also having adverse effect on the agricultural sector of the country.

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He hailed the British government for the water management program started in different districts of Punjab.

British High Commissioner Jane Marriott, speaking on the occasion.



PESHAWAR: Activists of Human Rights Association hold protest outside PPC.

## US Deputy Chief Mission appreciates formation of Youth Assembly

MULTAN (APP): US Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Schofer appreciated the formation of Youth Assembly at Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture Multan and stated that youth were future of Pakistan and it could play role in promotion of civic, social justice and gender equality.

He said this while addressing ceremony of Youth Assembly, held

under auspices of "HumAhang" at local hotel on Monday. The US deputy chief of mission also lauded the active role of the varsity.

He hoped that youth assembly would surely play its role for professional success by shaping minds of the students. He also pledged that US would continue to support such initiatives.

Andrew Schofer stated that he was first time visiting Multan.

# International News

## Western powers, UN warn Tel Aviv against escalation

MAJDAL SHAMS: While Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant on Sunday vowed to "hit the enemy hard", raising fears that the Gaza conflict will spread after a rocket attack on Golan Heights, the European Union as well as Lebanon called for an independent probe into what happened.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the Western powers, including the US, Britain France and Germany condemned the attack and appealed for calm, as Iran warned Israel any new military "adventures" in Lebanon could lead to "unforeseen consequences".

Israel's army called it "the deadliest attack on Israeli civilians" since October 2023 and blamed Lebanon's Hezbollah movement for firing the rocket but the Iran-backed group that has targeted Israeli military positions in the past in response to illeg

gal occupation of territory and unabated strikes on Palestinians said it had "no connection" to the latest incident.

The rocket hit Majdal Shams, whose population are Arabic-speaking Druze. Many residents of the Druze town have not accepted Israeli nationality since Israel seized the Golan Heights from Syria in 1967.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who returned early from the US and went immediately into a security cabinet meeting, said: "Hezbollah will pay a heavy price" for the attack, "a price it has not paid before". Earlier, Netanyahu had told the US Congress that Israel would do "whatever it must" to secure its northern border.

Blaming Hezbollah for "crossing all red lines", Israel said it hit Hezbollah targets "both deep inside Lebanese territory and in southern Lebanon".

Syria denounced

Israel's "false accusations" against Hezbollah and said Israel was looking for "pretexts to enlarge its aggression". Also, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani warned Israel "any ignorant action of the Zionist regime can lead to the broadening of the scope of instability, insecurity and war in the region" and Israel would be then responsible for "the unforeseen consequences and reactions to such stupid behaviour".

In a statement on X, Lebanon's Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib on Sunday called for an "international investigation or a meeting of the tripartite committee held through UNIFIL to know the truth" about who was responsible for the attack and "called for the complete and comprehensive application" of UN Security Council Resolution 1701 that ended a 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah.



TOKYO: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa address a press conference.

## Hungary's Orban says Russia stands to gain as 'irrational' West loses power

BUDAPEST: Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said on Saturday Russia's leadership was "hyper rational" and that Ukraine would never be able to fulfil its hopes of becoming a member of the European Union or NATO.

Orban, a nationalist in power since 2010, made the comments during a speech in which he forecast a shift in global power away from the "irrational" West towards Asia and Russia.

"In the next long decades, maybe centuries, Asia will be the dominant centre of the world," Orban said, mentioning China, India, Pakistan and Indonesia as the world's future big powers.

"And we Westerners pushed the Russians into

this bloc as well," he said in the televised speech before ethnic Hungarians at a festival in the town of Baile Tusnad in neighbouring Romania.

Orban, whose country currently holds the rotating EU presidency, has sharply differed from the rest of the bloc by seeking warmer ties with Beijing and Moscow, and he angered some EU leaders when he went on surprise visits to Kyiv, Moscow and Beijing this month for talks on the war in Ukraine.

He said that in contrast to the "weakness" of the West, Russia's position in world affairs was rational and predictable, saying the country had shown economic flexibility in adapting to Western sanctions since it invaded Crimea in 2014.

no one has full picture of airport assault, says Manchester mayor

Monitoring Desk

LONDON: New footage has surfaced showing the alleged assault of three police officers at Manchester airport, followed by an officer kicking a man in the head. The chaotic scenes, captured in the video obtained by the Manchester Evening News, depict an officer kicking and stamping on the head of a man lying face down on the floor. A Greater Manchester Police (GMP) officer was suspended after the video was widely shared on social media, sparking protests in Rochdale and Manchester city centre. The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) announced that the officer is now under criminal investigation for assault. The next steps involve determining whether to refer the case to the Crown Prosecution Service and deciding if the officer should face disciplinary proceedings.

## Five killed in Israeli strike on Gaza camp

Monitoring Desk

GAZA STRIP: The civil defence agency in Hamas-run Gaza said an Israeli strike Sunday hit tents at a declared safe zone in the Palestinian territory's south, killing at least five people.

A witness said a newborn was among the dead in Al-Mawasi near Khan Yunis city, where tens of thousands of displaced Palestinians have sought refuge from the war, now nearing its 11th month. Since Monday, Israeli forces have operated in and around Khan Yunis including in parts of the coastal area of Al-Mawasi.

Miriam al-Astal who lives in Al-Mawasi said a newborn baby was killed. "We were sitting in the tents... when suddenly we heard an explosion," she said. "I swear" there was no militant activity in the area, she said.

Israel had warned on Monday its forces would "forcefully operate" in the Khan Yunis area — from which troops withdrew in April — and on Saturday the civil defence agency said that 170 people have been killed by the renewed fighting and military operations. The military said its latest operations there were to prevent rocket fire.

## Iran's Khamenei grants Pezeshkian presidential powers

Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei gave on Sunday his official endorsement of Dr Masoud Pezeshkian as the country's ninth president, following snap elections won by the reformist camp's candidate.

In a message read by the director of Khamenei's office, the supreme leader said: "I endorse the vote (for) the wise, honest, popular and scholarly Mr Pezeshkian, and I am appointing him as the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

## US upgrades military command structure in Japan

Monitoring Desk

TOKYO: The United States on Sunday announced plans for a major revamp of its military command in Japan to deepen coordination with its ally's forces, as the two countries labelled China the "greatest strategic challenge" facing the region.

The announcement followed security talks in Tokyo between US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin and their respective Japanese counterparts, Yoko Kamikawa and Minoru Kihara.

"The United States will upgrade the US Forces Japan to a joint force headquarters with expanded missions and operational responsibilities," Austin told reporters after the so-called "2+2" talks.

"This will be the most significant change to US

Forces Japan since its creation and one of the strongest improvements in our military ties with Japan in 70 years." The ministers said in a joint statement that the new command structure would be implemented in parallel with Tokyo's own plans to establish a joint command for its forces by March 2025.

The overhaul is among several measures taken to address what the countries said was an "evolving security environment", noting various threats from superpower China. The statement criticised what it called Beijing's "provocative" behaviour in the South and East China Seas, joint military exercises with Russia and the rapid expansion of its nuclear weapons arsenal. Beijing's "foreign policy seeks to reshape the international order for its own benefit at the expense of others."

## China's foreign minister warns Philippines over US missile deployment

Monitoring Desk

BEIJING: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has warned the Philippines over the U.S. intermediate-range missile deployment, saying such a move could fuel regional tensions and spark an arms race.

The United States deployed its Typhon missile system to the Philippines as part of joint military drills earlier this year. It was not fired during the exercises, a Philippine military official later said, without giving details on how long it would stay in the country. China-Philippines relations are now at a crossroads and dialogue and consultation are the right way, Wang told the Philippine Foreign Secretary Enrique Manalo on Friday during a meeting in Vientiane, the capital of Laos where top diplomats of world powers have gathered ahead of two summits. Wang said rela

tions between the countries are facing challenges because the Philippines has "repeatedly violated the consensus of both sides and its own commitments", according to a Chinese foreign ministry statement.

"If the Philippines introduces the U.S. intermediate-range missile system, it will create tension and confrontation in the region and trigger an arms race, which is completely not in line with the interests and wishes of the Filipino people," Wang said. The Philippines' military and its foreign ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment on Wang's remarks. China and the Philippines are locked in a confrontation in the South China Sea and their encounters have grown more tense as Beijing presses its claims to disputed shoals in waters within Manila's its exclusive economic zone.

## French minister says foreign involvement not ruled out in rail sabotage

Monitoring Desk

PARIS: France's interior minister said on Saturday he could not rule out foreign involvement in an attack that sabotaged signal stations and cables on the country's high-speed rail network, causing travel chaos on the opening day of the Olympic Games.

Friday's pre-dawn attacks damaged infrastructure along the lines connecting Paris with cities such as Lille in the

north, Bordeaux in the west and Strasbourg in the east. Another attack on the Paris-Marseille line was foiled, SNCF has said.

There has been no immediate claim of responsibility.

"Who is responsible? Either it's from within, or it's been ordered from abroad, it's too early to say," Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin told France 2 television.

## Yemenia Airways to resume flights to Cairo and India from Yemen's Sanaa

Monitoring Desk

CAIRO: Yemenia Airways announced on Sunday that commercial flights from Yemen's Sanaa to Egypt and India will resume starting Sunday evening, Yemen's state news agency SABA said.

Return flights to Cairo will operate once daily, while flights to India will run twice weekly.



## Asif Zardari for enhanced representation of women, minorities in govt jobs

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday called for greater representation of women and minorities in government jobs to enhance their inclusion in the mainstream of society.

The president, talking to a delegation of the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC), led by the senior member Akbar Hussain Durrani, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, said that the commission should find ways and means to further improve the civil service recruitment process to select the right person for the right job.

He said that FPSC had an important responsibility of recruiting civil servants to improve service delivery and promote good governance in the country. He urged the need to make the recruitment process more efficient and transparent by adopting modern technology and new methods, particularly computerized testing, that would help in the selection of qualified and efficient civil servants.

The president said

that candidates securing high marks during the written examination should be fairly evaluated.

Akbar Hussain Durrani briefed the president about the role and function of the FPSC in recruiting government servants. He also highlighted certain issues being faced by the commission.

President Zardari assured the delegation of his support and guidance in the resolution of problems and improving the recruitment system.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC), led by the senior member Akbar Hussain Durrani called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Gilani expresses govt's desire to expand bilateral relations with UK

LONDON (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Monday said that Pakistan greatly values its bilateral relations with United Kingdom (UK) and desires to further expand the bilateral relations to new levels for mutual benefit.

The Chairman Senate expressed these views in a meeting here with Speaker of the House of Commons Lindsay Hoyle during his visit to the UK.

The Chairman Senate, along with a delegation of Senators, is visiting UK to explore opportunities for further strengthening bilateral, multilateral and institutional cooperation in diverse sectors.

He further observed that these ties were further strengthened by Pakistani diaspora, which was acting as a bridge between Pakistan and UK, thus providing solid foundation for a dynamic and prosperous partnership. He said that our historic legacy, shared values and mutual goodwill were the ingredients for a strong partnership between Pakistan and UK.

The Chairman Senate also acknowledged the significance of broad based parliamentary cooperation and said that Pakistan attached great importance to parliamentary diplomacy.

Chairman Senate was accompanied by Senators Agha Shahzeb Durrani, Faisal Salim Rehman, Ashraf Ali Jatoti and Members of the National Assembly, Syed Abdul Qadir Gilani and Syed Qasim Ali Gilani. In his opening remarks, the Chairman Senate highlighted the historical and cultural ties that both sides have enjoyed since long and said that the historical bond between the two has paved the way for deepening political, diplomatic, economic ties and people to people contacts.

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ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar holds meeting with Secretary General of the Commonwealth Patricia Scotland at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## MOFA Liaison Office organizes reception in honour of US president's Advisor, Thai CG

KARACHI (APP): The Foreign Affairs Liaison Office Karachi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with Pakistan Council on Foreign Relations (PCFR) organised a reception in honour of Shahid Ahmed Khan, Advisor to the US President on Arts and to bid farewell to Dr June Kuncoro Hadimngrat, Consul General of Indonesia in Karachi and Narut Soontarodom, Consul General of Thailand.

The founder and Secretary General of PCFR, Ahsan Mukhtar Zuberi and former Ambassador Syed Hassan Habib welcomed the guests at this event which was attended by a large number of diplomats, businessmen and people from different walks of life.

Shahid Ahmed Khan, Advisor to the US President on Arts, elaborated on the multifaceted nature of US-Pakistan relations, emphasising several key points that underscore the depth and breadth of this strategic partnership.

A significant example is the recent injection of 110 million dollars into various projects. These investments span across educational initiatives and cultural heritage preservation.

Muhammad Irfan Soomro, Director General, Liaison Office Karachi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said the Foreign Affairs Liaison Office Karachi, in collaboration with PCFR, has organised this event to recognise the remarkable contributions of these distinguished diplomats. "Their work has contributed in advancing our shared goals and strengthened the bonds of friendship between our countries", he said.

He said Shahid Ahmed Khan has dedicated himself to strengthen the ties between two great nations - Pakistan and the United States of America - through the universal language of art, acting as a bridge builder between people of both sides.

He believed that the collaboration between the United States and Pakistan in the field of art holds immense potential.

These applications were submitted by local residents of the city. Officers SDO Site Osama Ejaz, Riaz Hussain Mangi and SDO Bashir Ahmad Keeruo issued directives for immediately addressing the complaints regarding extra billing.

They also directed for taking strict action against the delinquent officials.

## Ombudsman regional office hears complaints against SEPCO

SUKKUR (APP): On the directives by Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi, the case of SEPCO Sukkur was heard by Syed Mehmood Shah, the Federal Ombudsman Regional Office on Monday, where 28 out of 30 cases were decided and two of them were given dates.

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They also directed for taking strict action against the delinquent officials.

## Two youth killed in Larkana violent incidents

LARKANA (INP): Two youth were killed and two others injured in separate incidents of violence in different localities of Larkana, police said on Monday.

According to details, armed men over "karokari" charges sprayed bullets at three brothers in Nasirabad area. As a result of firing, 24-year-old Siraj was killed on the spot while two others were critically injured.

Unidentified motorcyclists gunned down a youth identified as Hamza in Lashari area and sped the scene. Reasons behind the murder could not be ascertained.

The bodies and injured were shifted to different hospitals and police after registering separate cases at respective police stations started efforts to arrest the culprits.

## Bodies of two kids found dumped at Karachi clinic

KARACHI (INP): The dead bodies of two children, bearing marks of torture and with their hands and feet tied, have been found in a clinic in Karachi's Machar Colony, police said on Monday.

Police have said that the kids were administered Chloroform before their deaths in order to make them feel unconscious.

Police have claimed that they have arrested a man named Abdul Karim, son of Ataulah, a resident of Korangi, who runs a clinic in the Maripur area of the city on suspicion of murder of children.

## Rain, windstorm forecast for Karachi

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Meteorological Department on Monday predicted rain, windstorm or thunderstorm in most areas of the Sindh province during the next 24 hours. The rain, windstorm or thunderstorm is predicted in Tharparkar, Umakot, Sanghar, Mirpur Khas, Mithi, Thatta, Badin, Sajawal, Karachi, Jamshoro, Tando Muhammad Khan, Hyderabad, Shaheed Benazirabad, Sukkur, Khairpur, Shikarpur, Kashmore, Larkana, Jacobabad and Dadu.

## Rally and seminar held to mark world hepatitis day

HYDERABAD (APP): A rally led by Deputy Commissioner Matiari Muhammad Yousuf Shaikh and DHO Dr. Pir Ghulam Hussain was organized to mark World Hepatitis Day.

Following the rally, an awareness seminar was held at district headquarters hospital Matiari.

The Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Yousuf Shaikh announced that a crackdown against all quack doctors in the district would commence and instructions in this regard were already issued to the health department.

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## Action plan prepared to eliminate encroachments for improved traffic flow in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi Syed Hassan Naqvi chaired a weekly meeting on Monday to review the progress of the improvement of traffic related and other civic issues.

The meeting discussed and planned actions to improve traffic flow, eliminate haphazard parking and illegal parking, restore base parking in commercial buildings, and remove encroachments from footpaths and roads. Important decisions were made to make these actions effective. All Deputy Commissioners attended the meeting. Deputy Commissioner South Altif Sario, Deputy Commissioner Central Fawad Ghaffar Soomro, and Deputy Commissioner Kemari Juned Khan briefed

the Commissioner on various city improvement measures in their respective districts. Other Deputy Commissioners shared their efforts via video link.

Food department officials also attended the meeting and briefed the commissioner on the measures to check the quality of milk and other food items and prevent the sale of adulterated or unhealthy food.

The meeting reviewed and decided that Food department officials would check the food quality with the concerned district administration officials.

In the meeting, it was decided that Deputy Commissioners will take action to solve the problems of encroachments, parking, billboards.



HYDERABAD: Members of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) are holding protest demonstration against arrest of Asad Butt, Chairman HRCP at Hyderabad press club.

## Public lives, economy at stake due to rotten, corrupt power system: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, President of Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that the rotten and corrupt power system has put the public lives and country's economy at stake.

Talking to business community on Monday, he said that some politicians make good money through corrupt IPPs, and these units are destroying the lives of the masses and the nation's economy.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the businessmen who set up IPPs knew that their exploits would erase the industry and trade from the country. Still, they preferred personal interests over collective interests and participated in looting, he added.

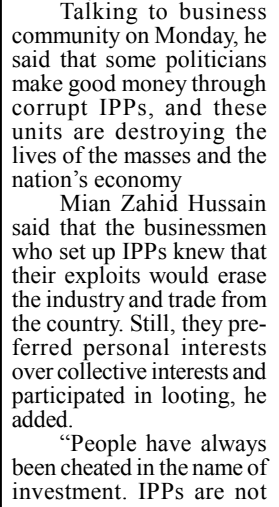
"People have always been cheated in the name of investment. IPPs are not installed to resolve the country's problems, but the motive is selfishness, profiteering, greed and exploitation," he added.

The business leader said that there has been constant looting since the 90s in the name of providing electricity to consumers, in which politicians and industrialists were involved. At the same time, many others have also taken part in the booty, he added.

He said that although the country's transmission and distribution capacity was limited to 22,000 megawatts, IPPs that can produce 45 thousand megawatts were installed.

It was neither a coincidence nor a mistake, but it was a well-thought-out conspiracy, the purpose of which was to cheat the public and to continue to do so, he added.

He said, that was why politicians behind facilitating IPPs were not willing to give any reasonable explanation in this regard.



HYDERABAD: Labourers busy in construction work of bridge on the Pinyari Canal.

## Chinese Consul General meets Karachi Police Chief

KARACHI (APP): A three-member delegation, led by Yang Yundong, the Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Karachi, met with Additional IGP Karachi Javed Akhtar Odho at the Karachi Police Office on Monday.

According to the Karachi Police spokesperson, the meeting with the Karachi Police Chief covered the overall security situation in the city and other related issues.

## SHC not issued any advertisement: Registrar

KARACHI: The Registrar of High Court of Sindh, Karachi has stated in a clarification note that it has come to the attention of the High Court of Sindh, Karachi that an advertisement bearing No. GAZ/V.I.36(A)(2)/Karachi dated 15-07-2024, regarding vacancies/appointment for Civil Judge & Judicial Magistrates, is being circulated on social media. The Sindh High Court Karachi hereby clarifies that this advertisement is fake and has not been issued by the Court. The public is advised to rely solely on information and advertisements available on the official website of the High Court of Sindh, Karachi.

## Most wanted Lyari gangster arrested

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Rangers Sindh and Police in a joint intelligence-based operation, arrested a notorious member of the Lyari gang in Saddar Town, seizing illegal arms and ammunition from him.

The suspect, identified as Amir alias Motta, was apprehended on Monday.

According to a Rangers spokesperson, Amir is implicated in numerous crimes including targeted killings, ethnic violence, police shootouts, drug trafficking, and injuring people during robberies and extortion activities.

Amir joined Sajid Golimar's gang in 2011 and later switched to Jameel Chhanga's gang in 2021. He

## Several domestic, international flights cancelled at Karachi Airport

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

Serene Air flight ER-504 from Karachi to Islamabad was cancelled while Karachi to Lahore Serene Air flight ER-524 was also called off.

Serene Air flight ER-522 from Karachi to Lahore has also been cancelled.

PIA flight PK-306 from Karachi to Lahore was shelved along with PIA flight PK-241 from Karachi to Damam.

## PM commends security forces for successful operation against terrorists

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday commended the officers and personnel of security forces for launching successful operations against terrorists at three separate places in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In a statement, the prime minister said the security forces fought bravely with Khawarij terrorists in Mohmand, Dera Ismail Khan and North Waziristan areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and killed five of them.

He paid tribute to Police Constable Ibrar Hussain who embraced martyrdom during fight against the Fitnah-al-Khawarij terrorists. He prayed to Allah

Almighty to elevate the ranks of the departed soul in Jannah and to grant patience to the family members of the martyr to bear this loss with courage.

The joint operation of the security forces proved that the terrorists cannot escape from the officers and soldiers who are determined to defend their homeland, the prime minister added.

He said the nation stood by its security forces until the menace of terrorism was completely uprooted from the country.

The prime minister said the entire nation, including me, pays tribute to the security forces for their unwavering determination to defend the country, he added.



RAWALPINDI: Leaders and activists of Jamat-e-Islami (JI) are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products and inflation price hiking of electricity and petrol, at Liaquat Bagh in Rawalpindi.

## Commissioner chairs meeting to review performance of departments

HYDERABAD (APP): The Divisional Commissioner Hyderabad Bilal Ahmed Memon presided over a meeting in his office to review development in performance of KIPS.

Addressing the meeting, the Commissioner directed all Deputy Commissioners of the division to work for the uplift of people with the assistance of the elected representatives of their relevant districts and improve their performance. Commissioner said that access to

Commissioner should be make easier as officers of other departments like DHOs and Education department do not take interest in resolving problems of people.

He further directed to submit a report about the officers who do not cooperate so that relevant high ups could be informed. Commissioner directed all Deputy Commissioners to pay attention to the recovery of Agriculture tax and bring reforms in the tax collection system.

## Rs 24.77 bln distributed among 2.3 mln deserving families in Sindh during Apr-June: DG BISP

KARACHI (APP): Director General, Sindh Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Zulfiqar Ali Shaikh on Monday announced that BISP has disbursed Rs. 24,772,482,000 among 23,592,84 deserving beneficiaries in Sindh during the ongoing quarterly tranche of April-June 2024.

Under the Benazir Kafalat initiative, BISP has distributed a quarterly stipend of Rs. 10,500 to each household. There are currently 24,906,29 registered BISP beneficiaries in Sindh, with 131,345 still pending

to withdraw their quarterly financial assistance. Shaikh urged the remaining 131,645 female beneficiaries to collect their payments from BISP offices or payment centers by July 31, 2024, to avoid return of payments.

He also emphasized the importance of recertification surveys for all registered female beneficiaries at BISP's "Dynamic Registration Centers" in each district and Tehsil offices, accompanied by their children's B-forms and CNICs, to ensure continued payment eligibility.



LARKANA: Members of All Building Material Union are holding protest demonstration against the high handedness of Goods Transport, at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana.

## House keys & ownership certificates distributed among 100 flood affectees of Sukkur

SUKKUR (APP): Construction of 3100 houses for flood affectees in district Sukkur has been completed by the Sindh government, as part of a larger project of 83417 houses under Sindh People's Housing Scheme for Flood Affected People. Provincial Minister for Energy, Planning and Development Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Spokesperson for Sindh Government and Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arsalan Islam Shaikh, and Chairman District Council Syed Kumail Haider Shah handed over keys and ownership documents to the beneficiaries.

A ceremony was held in village Peer Muhammad Jagirani near Rohri regarding the distribution of houses among flood affectees, where they distributed house keys and ownership certificates to 100 flood affectees. The

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Sukkur, MB Raja Dharejo was also present on the occasion.

Speaking to the media Provincial Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah informed that under the guidance of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the Sindh Government has launched a massive housing project, aiming to construct 2.1 million houses for flood affectees across the province.

This project will bring relief to around 10 million people in Sindh and is expected to be completed within two years.

He noted that while floods had affected hundreds of thousands of people in other provinces, only the Sindh government, led by the Pakistan People's Party, was actively engaged in rebuilding homes.