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Imran Khan ready to hold talks with military

Army should nominate representative for negotiations: ex-PM; Says he would never hold talks with interior minister

Monitoring Desk RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) imprisoned founder Imran Khan said Tuesday that his party was ready to hold talks with the military.

The PTI founder, who appeared in a court established in Adiala jail for a hearing, said: "We are ready to hold talks with the military. The army should nominate their representative [for negotiations]."

Khan, who has been imprisoned for nearly a year, said that his party had never levelled allegations against the army, but had only criticised the armed

He further said that if any PTI worker was found guilty in the May 9, 2023, riots then the authorities should penalise the individual. Khan reiterated that the incumbent government wanted to destroy his party by creating a wedge between PTI party and the armed forces. When asked why was he seeking talks Farooq"

when he was criticising the army and why wasn't he seeking talks with political parties, he said: "What is the SIFC? Who is Mohsin Naqvi? There is an undeclared martial law."

Khan said that Interior Minister Naqvi was "their" representative and that he had reached "this place due

He then alleged that he would never hold talks with Naqvi as he along with the Punjab Inspector General (IG) "oppressed" his party.

In his statement, the PTI founder also termed

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz "fascist" while pointing towards back-to-back arrests of the party leadership across the

The deposed prime minister, referring to his ar-rest last year, alleged that he was "abducted from judicial complex" and "it was declared legal by the Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Aamer



Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori addressing Mehfil-e-Milad at Darbar Alia Eidgah Sharif

Pakistan can bring \$12b monthly if 1m youth get IT education: Sindh Governor

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Governor Muhammad Kamran Tessori has said Pakistan can earn \$12 billion monthly as foreign exchange if one million youth be equipped with Information Technology education.

He said that Governor House is providing opportunities for IT Advanced Courses to 50,000 youths while 450000 male, as well as female students, are being given online training. Governor Kamran

Khan Tessori in an interview said that as many as 80000 youths appeared for IT course tests in Hyderabad and around 50000 youngsters would be selected for IT advanced courses.

He said that the youth are undergoing Advanced IT courses in the Governor House, are earning \$ 600 to \$ 800 per month. "If we purpose.

provide IT education to at least one million youth of the country, we would be able to bring billions dollars in Pakistan, as a result of which the country's economy could be stabilized", he underlined.

Elaborating his vision.

Governor Tessori said as soon as he assumed office the governor, he was determined to do something for the country and the province and for this purpose he chose the IT sector to be worked for. He said the Governor House was selected as the place from where youth have to be trained so that they could achieve their skill to be used for the country's economic stability. Kamran Tessori said he would extend such training facilities to other cities and Hyderabad has already been selected for the



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Government cooperates seafood companies, exporters for business projects: Qaiser Sheikh

KARACHI (APP): A meet- ernment will support exing was chaired by the Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs with fish exporters to explore the opportunities and avenues for the establishment business venture between Pakistani and Chinese Seafood companies held at PNSC building on Tuesday.

The Board of Investment presented the report on the fisheries and aquaculture sector as a food com-

modity in the country. On the occasion minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh applauded the efforts of BOI for presenting the report and thanked the exporters for their attendance and

He assured that Gov- tuna lining

porters for the establishment of business ventures between Pakistani and Chinese Seafood Companies said in the report analysis encompasses all the broader aspects which is leading to the avenues for the investment opportunities in the

sector.

The highlights of the report are evidently indicating that opportunities and avenues of investments in the sector of fisheries and aquaculture between Chinese and Pakistani seafood

The key opportunity for the development of the sector are Aquaculture and Shrimp Farming. Products focus on shrimp, crab and



Rana Tanveer presiding over a Special Economic Zone at the additional land of Pakistan Steel Mills, at CM

Sindh, fed govts agree to establish Special Economic zone on remaining steel mills land

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah and Fed-eral Minister for Industries

& Production Rana Tanveer, in their meeting at CM House, discussed the revival of the Pakistan Steel Mill plan and the establishment of a Special Economic Zone on the remaining land.

The meeting was attended by Provincial Min-ister Industries Jam Ikarm Dharejo, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, PSCM Agha Wasif, Secretary Industries Yasin Shar, and the Federal Minister was assisted by Federal Secretary for Industries Saif Anjum and his team, according to a CM House communique on

The CM said that the proposed Special Economic Zone project was

Khalid Maqbool

vows to ensure

universal access

to education

KARACHI (INP): Minis-

ter for Federal Éducation

and Professional Training,

Dr. Khalid Maqbool

Siddiqui has expressed

commitment to ensure ac-

cess to educational oppor-

tunities for every citizen,

fulfilling their constitutional

cheque distribution cer-

emony held under Pakistan

Education Endowment

Fund (PEEF) in Karachi.

Congratulating the scholar-

ship recipients, Dr. Khalid

Maqbool Siddiqui lauded

the vital role of Pakistan

Education Endowment

Fund in removing financial

barriers to education and

Masoud

Pezeshkian

sworn in as

Iran's ninth

president

ΓΕΗ̈RAN (INP): Iranian

Masoud Pezeshkian was

sworn before parliament on

Tuesday as the Islamic

republic's ninth president

at a ceremony attended by

runoff race against ultra-

conservative Saeed Jalili

on July 5 to replace presi-

dent Ebrahim Raisi who

died in a helicopter crash

came two days after Iran's

supreme leader Ayatollah

Ali Khamenei officially

endorsed Pezeshkian and

gave the 69-year-old heart

surgeon presidential pow-

ister and Foreign Minister

Mohammad Ishaq Dar

visited Tehran on Tuesday

to attend the investiture

ceremony of the Presi-

dent-elect of Iran, Dr.

people and Government of

Pakistan, the DPM con-

veyed a message of felicita-

tions and best wishes for

President Pezeshkian on

He congratulated the

his assumption of office.

Iranian nation on the suc-

cessful and smooth

transitioning of power to

the new political adminis-

On behalf of the

Masoud Pezeshkian.

Deputy Prime Min-

Tuesday's ceremony

Pezeshkian won a

foreign dignitaries.

President

empowering students.

He was addressing the

discussed in the cabinet on May 30, 2024. He added that his cabinet proposed the federal government establish the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) on the extra land of Pakistan Steel

CM Murad Shah said that his cabinet was of the view that the 700 acres of land earmarked for the Pakistan Steel Mills plant should be kept intact for the revitalisation of the Steel Mills Plant or setting up a new Steel Mill, any additional requirement of land for the purpose should be worked out mutually.

At this, Federal Minister Rana Tanveer proposed that the Federal Government was ready to allow the Provincial Government to revive the old steel mill

on its 700 acres. The CM said that the 4,840 acres of land may be utilized to set up SEZ for the federal and provincial government. Rana Tanveer said that the federal government from its resources

would start developing the SEZ to be given to Chinese investors Murad Shah said that the SEZ was located close to the sea, and its infrastructure was in place along with necessary water and gas facilities. He added that these facilities would be enough to make the SEZ one of the best zones in the country.

The provincial and federal governments agreed to complete the paperwork at the earliest so that the zone could be established



enue Muhammad Aurangzeb addressing Pakistan **Banks Associations Executive Committee at Is**lamic Chamber of Commerce.

Aurangzeb stresses on corporate farming for enhanced economic growth

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday stressed on the corporate farming in collaboration with the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) so that economic growth could be accelerated.

Addressing the Executive Committee of the Pakistan Banks Association (PBA) here at Islamic Chamber of Commerce building, the finance minister also highlighted key initiatives and discussed the macroeconomic situation in the country.

Muhammad Aurangzeb said it was encouraging to see the private sector taking proactive steps in advancing financial and technological infrastructure. The minister stated that extensive talk has been conducted on the Macro aspect, but moving on the external financing front, the government is comfortable with the current situation." We are moving forward with the IMF draft resolu-

tion", he added. The minister also emphasized the importance of public-private partnerships, particularly with HBL and NBP, stating, we need to create capacity and move forward".

The minister empha-

sized aiming to get back into International Capital Markets and ensure we reach the ranking of B- to reach the minimum ranking for any finance sector to enter the International Capital Markets, as we currently acquired a rating of CCC.

He continued discussing the macroeconomic situation. "We are aware of the current challenges, but with the IMF's core approval. we believe the situation is manageable. It is essential to continue focusing on agriculture and support initia-tives like SIFC, the minister stated. He further noted, "We

are urging the private sector to take ownership and lead these transformations.' He said there was a need to create capacity to get the cash flow lending moving and move forward'

The agriculture sector and IT industry, especially freelancers, need proper fund allocation.



KARACHI: Consul General of China, Yang Yundong addresses to media persons during Meet the Press Programme, held at Karachi press club.

Zone would generate employment opportunities and contribute to the country's economy. The CM said he, with the support of the federal government, would make all-out efforts to revive Pakistan Steel Mills on Pakistan's People's Party mode so that this national asset could be utilized for employment

and economic develop-

CM Murad Shah said that his government was working hard to strengthen the agro-economy by introducing cropping patterns strengthening and reviving the industrial sector and providing technical education to the youngsters. This is to generate a technical and

non-technical workforce to accommodate them in the growing industrial sector. Bilawal pays tributes to

> on birth anniversary

Madar-e-Millat

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has paid rich tribute to Madar-e-Millat Fatima Jinnah on her birth anniversary. He praised Madar-e-

Millat for her unwavering commitment to democracy and tireless struggle for Pakistan. He lauded her as a beacon of hope and a role model for all Pakistanis.

"Fatima Jinnah's dedication to the principles of freedom, equality, and justice remains an inspiration to us all. Her contributions to our nation, especially her steadfast support for her brother, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, during the formative years of Pakistan, and battles against dictatorial forces are invaluable," said Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

He further stated, "In honoring her memory, we are reminded of the importance of her dedication to justice and equality

Turkish Navy Ship arrives Karachi for good will visit KARACHI (INP): Turkish

Navy Ship TCG KINALIADA (F-514) on Tuesday arrived Karachi for a good will visit.

Pakistan Navy Ship received the Turkish Ship at sea and later welcomed at Karachi port by senior Pakistan Navy officials along with diplomatic staff of Turkish Consulate.

During stay at the port, the Commanding Officer of Turkish Ship will call on Pakistan Navy Field Commanders and other dignitaries to discuss matter of mutual interest. With an aim to

strengthen mutual cooperation and integration between the two navies, joint interactions including planning of coordinated sea patrol and discussions on other professional topics will also be conducted. In order to pay hom-

age to the Founder of Pakistan, the Turkish Navy delegation will also lay floral wreath at Mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam.

President for stronger cooperation with **Commonwealth**

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has emphasised the need for stronger cooperation with the Commonwealth in areas of climate change, education, parliamentary exchanges and disaster pre-

He called for enhanced interactions among parliamentary bodies, particularly young parliamentarians and students, to further strengthen and promote the bonds of friendship with Commonwealth

The president exssed these views while talking to a delegation led by the Secretary-General of Commonwealth, Patricia Scotland, at Aiwane-Sadr, on Tueday.

Welcoming the delegation, the president said that Pakistan, being the founding member of the Commonwealth, attached great importance to this organi-

zation for promoting coop-

changed views on the consequences of climate change for Pakistan. The president said that Pakistan had suffered a lot due to the impacts of climate change. He informed that over 2 million mangroves had been planted in Sindh to mitigate the impacts of climate change which had also earned \$ 27 million by trading carbon credits in the international market.

He also mentioned that the Sindh government had started constructing 2 million flood-resilient houses in the wake of the floods of 2022. Secretary-General Patricia Scotland said that Pakistan was facing huge challenges relating to Climate Change and was among the countries most vulnerable to its conse-



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari meeting a delegation of Commonwealth, led by the Secretary-General of Commonwealth, Ms Patricia Scot-

Bill prohibiting independent candidates from joining parties tabled in NA

Independents will not be considered political party members at a later stage if they didn't already submit declaration showing affiliation; The proposed amendment aims to alter Sections 66 and 104 of the Elections Act 2017

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The National Assembly has introduced the Second Amendment Bill to the Elections Act 2024, prohibiting independent candidates from joining another political party after a specified period. The session, chaired by Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, saw PML-N member Bilal Kayani present the bill. The proposed amendment aims to alter Sections 66 and 104 of the Elections Act 2017, restricting independent candidates from joining political parties after a constitutionally and legally defined

The bill suggests that independent candidates should not be allowed to join any political party within

also states that parties failing to submit a list of reserved seats within the specified period will not be eligible for those seats. The bill further states that candidates who do not submit an affidavit of party affiliation to the returning officer will be considered independent. Candidates declaring party affiliation post-election will not be recognised as candidates of that party, and the second amendment to the Elections Act 2017 will be enforced retroactively. The law minister recommended the bill be referred to the standing committee, which Speaker Sadiq subsequently did, instructing the committee chairman to convene a meeting the folthe stipulated timeframe. It lowing day.



Senator Musadik Malik addressing a press con-

Chief Secretary Inaugurates Monsoon Tree Plantation campaign

Hyder Shah inaugurated the Commissioner Karachi Monsoon Tree Plantation Campaign by planting a sapling here on Tuesday.

This campaign will run from July 30 to August 31, during which 200,000 trees will be planted in the city. The Chief Secretary Sindh Syed Asif Hyder Shah said that the primary objective of this campaign was to encourage people to plant as many trees as possible.

He mentioned that environmental change is the biggest challenge of this century, with Pakistan being

KARACHI (APP): Chief one of the most affected Secretary Sindh Syed Asif countries by climate

Planting trees will help mitigate its negative impacts. He further emphasized that the goal of the campaign is not only to plant trees but also to ensure their growth and care so they become fully grown

He urged government departments and civil society to actively participate in the tree plantation campaign. He directed the initiation of an awareness campaign about the environmental and economic benefits of tree plantation.

Daily soice of Masse Independent

Summer of protests

Pakistan is seeing some seismic disruptions in its social order. Recent developments in Balochistan. KP and Islamabad depict a society in flux, one which is facing severe, intense internal pressures due to tensions between the state and its people. All three areas have recently witnessed significant turmoil, and, in each case, those making decisions at the top have appeared out of their depth when dealing with the troubles. As a result, the country's challenges, instead of being contained, now seem to be expanding.

Consider the ongoing unrest in Balochistan. When Mahrang Baloch had marched to Islamabad last winter to peacefully demand the whereabouts of missing persons, she was met with scorn and treated in the crudest way possible. The Baloch people, from all walks of life, have now rallied around her, and the state is finding it difficult to cope with the outpouring of sympathy for her cause. Out of desperation, it is responding with even more violence, thereby stoking anger in the province to precarious levels.

Then consider Bannu, which recently saw an uprising due to the federal government's failure to separate national security from politics. The locals and the armed forces, who both want the land rid of militancy, found themselves facing off instead due to the erosion of trust between them. Violence and unnecessary bloodshed followed, which have added to the preexisting tensions between KP and the centre. Much damage had already been done by the time it was clarified that the people of Bannu need not fear any large-scale military operation. One wonders if matters would have unfolded differently if the federal government had heeded multiple calls to take the provincial political leadership into confidence.

Then there is Islamabad, where the state has taken several contradictory positions in recent days. Days before the JI protest, an important artery in the federal capital was recently seized by the TLP, and its sudden decision to protest the war in Palestine was entertained till matters were settled with talks. Apparently not satisfied with the nuisance it had caused, the party then issued a death warrant for the chief justice. Though condemnations have been issued and a case registered, it is evident that the state's 'soft touch' in dealing with the TLP has emboldened it enough that it feels it can cross unthinkable lines.

On the other hand, the campaign to suppress the PTI continues apace, even though the party has repeatedly asserted that it only wants to protest peacefully. This endorsement of double standards for 'favoured' and 'disfavoured' social groups is antagonistic and may provoke more people to take extreme positions. From Gwadar to Islamabad, there is a need to urgently rethink the policies that have been chosen. Instead of solving problems, they are catalysing societal breakdown.

Cycle of recidivism

Rida Tahir

The current approach in the country of incarcerating individuals for minor offen-ces leads to a cascade of negative effects. This includes overcrowded prisons and the cycle of recidivism, where individuals bec-o--me trapped in the criminal justice system. In each province, the number of under-trial prisoners exceeds the number of convicted inmates. Prisons across Pakistan have an overcrowding rate of 152.2 per cent, with some jails operating over 200pc of their capacity. As of 2023, Pakistan holds 100,366 prisoners in its 127 jails, according to data released by Justice Project Pakistan.

This highlights the shortcomings Pakistan's probation and parole systems, excesprisonment, and the urgent need to reform laws and policies regarding incarceration.

The solution to reducing crime does not lie in building more prisons to imprison more people, but rather in reforming offenders so that they can reintegrate as productive members of society.

Exposure to the jail environment increases the likelihood of future needs of the offender". criminal behaviour (recidivism). It disproportionately affects first-time offenders, as it leads to loss of income, which disrupts families and communities

At the societal level, it imposes costs on taxpayers for housing and caring for individuals who may not pose a significant threat to public safety. It also contributes towards an overburdened criminal justice rehabilitative mechasystem. This can strain nisms. law-enforcement resources and congest court dockets, which diverts attention from more serious crimes.

role serve the purpose of KP Probation and Parole Dawn

and reintegration of offenders. Therefore, as an alternative to imprisonment, the probation and parole system can play a vital role in community rehabilitation of offenders, ending the cycle of recidivism and reducing the

prison population. The primary distinctions between these two non-custodial sanctions lie in their administration: probation is judicially granted, whereas parole is authorised by the executive. Additionally, probation involves the suspension of a sentence along with community service (such as roadside clean-up), whereas parole is usually granted towards the end of a prisoner's mandatory imprisonment period, based on the good conduct of

The UN Standard sive dependence on im- Minimum Rules for Noncustodial Measures (Tokyo Rules) were formulated to provide a set of basic principles to promote the use of non-custodial measures. Rule 1.5 of the Tokyo Rules encourage states to "develop non-custodial measures ... taking into account the observance of human rights, the requirements of social justice and the rehabilitation

the prisoner.

After Pakistan's independence in 1947, probation and parole are governed by the Probation of Offender Ordinance, 1960, the Good Conduct Prisoners Probational Relea--se Act. 1926, and the Good Conduct Priso-n-ers' Probational Rules, 1927. Unfortunately, these laws are based on colonial-era practice and a retributive model, lacking adequate

Punjab and KP reformed the laws related to through the Punjab Probation and Parole Ser-Probation and pa-vices Act, 2019, and the of recidivism. -- Courtesy

community rehabilitation Act, 2021, respectively. These laws shift towards rehabilitative and restorative justice. In Sindh, the Good Conduct Prisoners Probational Release Act, 1926, is still applicable. How-ever, the Home Department has proposed reforms in the shape of the Sindh Good Conduct Prisoners Probational Rules, 2024. Under Rule 6, a 'Parole Committee' has been proposed which includes the Sindh Human Rights Commission, an independent sub-national human rights ins-titution with the mandate to monitor human rights violations.

> Further, the Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018, provides the legal framework related to probation and parole of children in conflict with the law. However, only KP has formulated the rules under JJSA. The rest of the provinces and Islamabad Capital Territory must formulate the rules to protect the best interests of children in conflict with

This is a step in the right

direction.

The Supreme Court in the Raja Azmat case stated that: "It is a right of every eligible prisoner to be considered for the purposes of enjoying liberty on the basis of probation." The court directed the federal and provincial governments to ensure that laws relating to the release of a prisoner based on probation are implemented and

made functional. Therefore, the state must strengthen the Directorate of Reclamation & Probation by appointing capable probation and parole officers. Further, technology such as electronic monitoring and GPS tracking can be utilised to improve supervision, efficiency and effectiveness. Pakistan probation and parole must adopt an efficient probation and parole system to end the cycle

Misplaced urgency

Mohsin Fareed

The next time you are Our brain is exhausted travelling, sitting in your office, walking in a park, roaming in a shopping mall or just hanging out look around you. You will notice folks anxiously scrolling down ment. their mobile phone screens, to catch up with the latest messages, calls, feeds or status up-Living in an in-

creasingly fast-paced, interconnected world, which demands urgency at every step, the compulsion to constantly accomplish and advance can be overwhelming. From workrelated issues to social media notifications, there is a general perception of urgency in our lives. This urgent way of life obfuscates the line between the actually important and seemingly important tasks.
At work, this in-

volves dealing with lastminute queries, odd deadlines, insane workloads, and the idea that one must be accessible even after office hours. In personal life, this phenomenon translates into overstrained relationships, quently checking social mediately responding to calls and texts. This 'always on'

culture requires multitasking. However, our brain lacks the neurocognitive buildup to perform multiple tasks simultaneously. So, it slows down, reducing productivity by about 40 per cent every time we try to multitask. for distraction that drives most multitasking ers achieving more or can be hard to shut outpacing us, we feel down, thus making it dif- compelled to keep up ficult to focus even if we with them, culminating in are not doing so. Meanwhile, our dopamine haste and stress. The on what is important system is de-sensitised lines between our work rather than on what is

are, the less joy we feel. by the repeated desire to process information and Engaging in an assignthought requires a distraction-free environ-

A false state of urfaster, our heart rate and blood pressure go up, and we lose the ability tions. This erratic re- smartphones is becomsponse might lead to hypertension, hormonal imbalance, sleep depriof urgency can be deleterious to our physical well-being in the long

Digital content cap-

tures not just our gaze, but also our attention. Since its inception, technology has been a guileful friend, wellversed in pilfering our mindfulness. This 'original sin' of technology reflects the evolution of our interaction with the tools we create and use every day. Today, we have an abundance of online friends, and strive to make even ing content, but we are unaware of what is going on among our close family and friends' circles, even if they're living in the same house

or neighbourhood. Social comparison theory explains the ur- that is resulting from exthat describes the urge to constantly feel pressured to accomplish Besides, the attraction tasks quickly. In our false perception of othan endless cycle of continuous and leisure are blurred overstimulation. The by our dependency on Dawn

more overstimulated we social media, making it challenging to disconnect and engage meaningfully with others. Ironically, this constant make quick decisions. connectivity can erode our sense of belonging with friends or family, ment that calls for and contribute to feelings of loneliness and alienation.

> Our transition from press to radio to televigency dupes the body sion has taken another into adopting a 'fight or step and reached the flight' response. Our digital era, where the fobreathing becomes cus of attention is human attention itself. Over time, each iteration of technology, social to regulate our emo- media, tablets or ing more and more efficient at capturing our focus. But it is not just our vation and immune dis- attention which is at orders. Thus, the culture stake anymore. With the advent of artificial intelligence, the concept of attention itself has been bi-furcated. On the one hand, human attention is frail and finite. On the other hand, the attention of AI has become vast and refines itself progressively.

The realm of attention has gone beyond the human spirit into the battlefield of cerebral computing.

AI is a doubleedged sword, both emancipator and conspirator. It can liberate us from overburden, but media updates, and im- more by liking or shar- can also embroil us further. AI has created a delicate rhythm between the creator and the created. It is important to establish clear boundaries including digital ones to avoid the sense of false urgency phenomenon cessive assumptions and multitasking. We can become more pragmatic about what is possible to achieve over a day, a week, a year or even a lifespan by acknowledging the limits of our time, strength and attention. The key component is spending time urgent.

Commerce News

Digital push in Pakistan's agriculture sector takes off

United Nations Food and Agriculture (FAO), here on Tuesday marked the official launch of the Digital Agriculture Consortium (DAC), a pivotal step in transforming Pakistan's agriculture through digital

The event, part of the PDAC project "Technical Support for the Establishment of Pakistan Digital Agriculture Consortium," was backed by the Food and Agriculture Organization and the Ministry of

Research (MNFSR).

It brought together a wide range of participants, including digital agriculture advancements, companies, mechanization service providers, digital service providers, financial representatives, policymakers, and development partners.

Management System also attended.

The event showcased

products and services, giving attendees a hands-on look at the latest precision agriculture tools

technologies. The event covered key areas like digital track and traceability systems Government bodies and land information such as the Ministry of management, Information Technology & demonstrating how these Telecommunication and technologies can improve Land Information & agricultural productivity and efficiency.

Panel discussions featured industry experts

National Food Security and various digital agriculture and thought leaders discussing topics like bridging gaps in ag-tech solutions and post-harvest

> The DAC also began enrolling stakeholders into the consortium, aiming to integrate key players from government, private sector, academic institutions, and agri-tech companies into a unified platform. This coalition is committed to advancing digital agriculture across Pakistan. The primary goal of the DAC launch was to highlight the consortium.



Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

LARKANA: Farmers pour dates into a large pot for boiling after harvesting, right in their field on outskirts area in the city.

SMBR reviews audit report, BoR reforms

LAHORE (APP): Senior PPSC would conduct exams Member Board of Revenue (SMBR) Nabil Javed on Tuesday chaired an important meeting in the committee room in which establishment of revenue academy, audit report, powers of DCs and ADCRs, vacancies of revenue officers, KPIs, Board of Revenue (BoR) reforms were reviewed.

Secretary BoR Shafqatullah Mushtaq, Director Operations PLRA Anjum Zahra, PLRA officials participated commissioner Sahiwal and DG PLRA were also present. Secretary BoR Shafqatullah Mushtaq briefed the SMBR about new recruitments of revenue per modern requirements officers. He briefed that

soon for vacant posts. In the meeting, promotion of Naib Tehsildar Godawars and Patwaris was also reviewed while details were also sought from all divisions to complete the promotion cases as soon as possible. The SMBR reviewed the establishment of BoR Academy and training of revenue officers in detail. He issued instructions for the immediate appointment of new principal of Revenue Academy. Nabil Javed said that the performance of the academy would be improved for the training of the revenue officials and to harmonise requirements, restructuring of academy as

would be ensured

PSX turns bearish, loses 198 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Tuesday, losing 198.94 points, a negative change of 0.25 percent, closing at 78,628.81 points against 78,827.74 points on the last working day.

A total of 313,085,457 shares were traded during the day as compared to 371,087,020 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 17.615 billion against Rs 19.156 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 447

companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 152 of them recorded gains and 239 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 56 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were The Organic Meat with 24,830,333 shares at Rs 40.47 per share, The Searle Company with 24,067,099 shares at Rs 60.31 per share and Fauji Cement with 15,819,905 shares at Rs 21.63 per

share. Rafhan Products Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 77.44 per share price, closing at Rs 7,590.00.

Ambassador Hashmi visits Shanghai, eyeing Chinese investments in key sectors

Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi on Tuesday said the Yangtze River Delta, a thriving economic engine and manufacturing powerhouse in China, is emerging as a hub for potential collaboration between Pakistan and China in areas such as electric vehicles, new energy materials, and semiconductors.

The ambassador's itinerary underscored region

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan Pakistan's efforts to foster deeper economic ties and explore avenues for investment

cooperation During his ongoing visit to Shanghai, China, Ambassador Hashmi engaged in a series of meetings with political leaders, business elites, academics and the media, highlighting the city's pivotal role as a gateway to the Yangtze River Delta

Agriculture minister chairs Rupee sheds meeting to review progress of ongoing development schemes

LAHORE (APP): Minister the province with the for Agriculture & Livestock, Punjab Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani Tuesday chaired a high level meeting at Agriculture House, Lahore in which the progress of ongoing schemes related to agricultural development was reviewed.

timelines of the Transforming Punjab Agriculture Programme' were also reviewed. The minister said that

a new era of agricultural

development would begin in

implementation of initiatives of the chief minister, Punjab. It was told during the briefing that so far 3 lakh 56 thousand farmers had submitted applications for CM Kissan Card, after scrutiny of which more than 1 lakh 50 In the meeting, the thousand applications had been sent to Bank of Punjab for approval. Apart from this, modern machinery (Pak Seeder) to be provided to the farmers under the CM Smog Control Programme was under preparation.

NEPRAAsaan approach mobile application to be launched today

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) is going to launch a mobile application called 'NEPRA Asaan Approach' designed for electricity consumers in Pakistan, on Wednesday. This app will enable users to register complaints related to electricity issues such as power outages & fluctuations, electrical fires, line faults, and billing discrepancies etc in the minimum possible time, said a press release issued here Tuesday.

15 paisa against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Tuesday depreciated by 15 paisa against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.65 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.50. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 278.5 and Rs 280.06 respectively. The price of Euro came down by 35 paisa to close at Rs 301.57 against the last day's closing of Rs 301.92, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Rana Tanveer calls for technology adoption to boost agri productivity

ISLAMABAD (APP): technologies like ICT, IoT Minister for Industries, Production and National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain on Tuesday emphasized the need for modernization and technology adoption in the agriculture sector to boost productivity, reduce costs, and increase exports.

Speaking at a seminar titled 'Change of Agriculture of Pakistan', the minister said that the traditional farming practices were unsustainable inefficient. He said that rate by 2.38 percent.

mobile applications, GPS/ GIS, and UAVs are playing a significant role in transforming traditional farming practices. "Traditional farming

practices are unsustainable and inefficient, which increase costs and reduce profits", Rana Tanveer said. The minister said that the agricultural sector grew by 6.25 per cent last year, surpassing other sectors and boosting the and overall economic growth

Textile Asia Intl Exhibition and Conferences 2024 to start from Aug 3

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry collaborated with E-commerce Gateway Pakistan (Pvt.) Limited as a strategic partner for organizing a three-day joint exhibition "Textile Asia International Exhibition" here at the Lahore Expo Centre from August 3 to 5,

Addressing a review meeting held at PCJCCI on Tuesday, Dr. Khursheed

President, M. Uzair Nizam, E-Commerce Gateway Pakistan, said that the exhibition will bring together industry leaders, innovators, and enthusiasts from over 11 countries, with over 550 companies with both local and foreign participations. It would also lead the way in delivering the most exquisite opportunities for all participants in different

Punjab Governor says: Christian community is playing a positive role in development of country

LAHORE (Online): A party workers. The delegation led by Bishop of Lahore Nadeem Kamran Governor Punjab about the called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan here today at Governor House Lahore. Talking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider said that the Christian community is playing a positive role in the development of the country. He said that religious harmony and tolerance is very important for peace in society. Punjab Governor

said that People's Party has always given respect to the minorities. He said that the doors of the Governor's House are open to the people including minorities, students and

various problems faced by them. Governor Puniab assured the delegation to play a role in solving the problems. The delegation comprised: Amanat Barkat, Cyrus Bhatti, Reverend Qaiser, Reverend Zaman Sultan and others Meanwhile. Students who secured excellent marks Matriculation Lahore Board of Government Girls High School and Government Boys High School Governor House called on Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan. Governor Punjab gave a prize of Rs.1 lakh each to the students to appreciate



LAHORE: Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in a group photo with delegation led by Bishop of Lahore Nadeem Kamran at Governor House.

Azma Bokhari likens PTI founder to Hitler

Information Minister Punjab Azma Bokhari said that Imran Khan is Hitler-2 and he should be ashamed of accusing Maryam Nawaz of being a fascist.

said, "Imran had Maryam Nawaz arrested in front of her father. The fascist leader who demanded Article 6 cases against political opponents and installed cameras in jails to inflict torture was Fitna Khan." Azma Bokhari said that Maryam Nawaz did Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf not have Bushra Bibi or (PTI) held press any of his four sisters arrested. "You were the spending just one night one who fled in fear from a in jail.

wheelchair. Maryam Nawaz did not make you stand. You were the fascist and personally vindictive ruler who, as Prime Minister, had more than a hundred League leaders In a statement, she arrested in political cases. Despite daily arrests, not a single leader abandoned Mian Nawaz Sharif and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz," she added.

The provincial information minister said that "revolutionaries" of the

PESHAWAR: A representative minority delegation led by Kishor Kumar calls on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi at Governor House.

Faisal Kundi highlights role of minorities in Pak independence

Corrected with Divisional Suprentendent instead of Deputy Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday emphasized the significant role of minority communities in Pakistan's independence and pledged to work diligently for their

PESHAWAR (APP): Note:

He made these remarks during a meeting with a delegation from the minority community, led by Kishwar Kumar, a

Toxic milk trade: A deadly menace in Punjab **Independent Report**

KASHMORE: Punjab's dairy industry has been rocked by a sinister secret: thousands of liters of chemically produced milk are being churned out daily, posing a significant threat to human health. This toxic milk, laced with harmful chemicals, is linked to an increased risk of cancer, heart diseases, and digestive issues.

The administration in Kashmore and Kandhkot districts is accused of colluding with these illegal milk producers, accepting bribes to turn a blind eve to their activities. This not only endangers public health but also raises ethical concerns.

Secretary of the Minority Wing KP.

During the meeting, discussions also focused on August 11, Minority Day. The governor said that the day is celebrated with great enthusiasm across Pakistan to convey the message to the world that minorities face no

happily in the country. Governor Faisal Kundi assured that no effort would be spared in Ahmed Jan, Divisional

Independent Report

provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

with the assistance of TVET Sector Support

Programme would equip

2000 women with digital

technological skills in the

fourth-phase of a phase-

wise training programme.

consultative workshop of

all stakeholders was held at

Institute

Management Sciences (IM-

Sciences) with Special Assistant to KP CM on

In this connection, a

PESHAWAR:

issues and are living

former MPA, and General addressing the issues faced Superintendent by minority women also. Pakistan Peoples Party's

> providing services to people at their doorsteps. Governor Faisal Kundi mentioned that he is visiting churches and other places of worship in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to understand and address the issues faced by minority communities

Meanwhile, Maqsood

Karim Tordher as chief

guest here on Tuesday.

Besides, Director IM-

Sciences, Usman Ghani and

teaching staff of the institute, Director General

(DG) NAVTCC, the

universities, GIZ, British

Council, Academia, experts

from private sector and

public sector authorities

were also included in the

participants. Addressing

the participants of the

workshop, the experts

stressed on the elimination

of unemployment in the

modern era and equipping

representatives

Railways for the Peshawar He reiterated the Division also met with Governor Faisal Karim long-standing stance of Kundi at the Governor House. The discussion centered on improving the railway system and the overall state of the departments.

Divisional Superintendent Jan said that the railway affairs are progressing towards betterment and that positive changes are expected in the near future.

Screening stressed to ward off cervical cancer

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) Tuesday organized an awareness session focusing on the importance of cervical screening for women's health at its premises. The event, which was organized under the leadership of LCCI President Kashif Anwar, was attended by Professor Dr. Zuna Saeed, Dr. Roohi Saeed, Professor Dr. Muhammad Saeed, LCCI EC member Fareeha Younas the healthcare professionals, industry leaders and community members.

KP govt, ICRC join hands to promote application of humanitarian law

Independent Report

Directorate General of Law and Human Rights, in collaboration with the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), conducted a two-day training workshop for District Attorneys and human professionals.

The workshop was inaugurated by Law Minister Aftab Alam Afridi, which emphasized the importance of human rights education for a just

The workshop was aimed at enhance the understanding application

legal professionals and to foster collaboration between governmental and non-governmental organizations. The minister emphasized the importance of human rights education in developing a just and equitable society.

The representative highlighted the need for continued education and training in humanitarian law.

Ghulam Ali, Director General Law & Human Rights, highlighted the role of humanitarian law in protecting human dignity, while ICRC representative Edithe Joseph stressed the need for continued education in humanitarian humanitarian law among principles.



MULTAN: Deputy Chief of Mission U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Mr. Andrew James Schofer, talking to media persons during his visit to the Shrine of Hazrat Musa Pak Shaheed. U.S. Consul General in Lahore Ms. Kristin K. Hawkins also with her.

Ignite signs agreement with LMKR led consortium to operate NIC Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): Ignite National Technology Fund, a company incorporated under the Ministry of IT & Telecom here Tuesday signed an agreement with a consortium led by LMKR to operate the National Incubation Center (NIC) in Peshawar. This consortium prominent includes partners like Orbit Startups, an international investment accelerator and the most active VC in Pakistan. According to a edge technologies and

partners include LMKT, Accelerate Prosperity, Sybrid (a Lakson Group Company) and Institute of Management Sciences, Peshawar. The new chapter of NIC Peshawar is strategically supported by over 80 ecosystem partners, significantly enhancing opportunities opportunities and resources available to NIC Peshawar startups. NIC

Peshawar aims to expand

horizons, embrace cutting-

International News

Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Abdul modern era and equip the young generation.

KP to equip 2000

women with digital

technological skills

93 killed after landslides strike India tea estates

Monitoring Desk WAYANAD: Landslides in India triggered by pounding monsoon rains struck tea plantations and killed at least 93 people on Tuesday, with at least 250 others rescued from mud and debris, officials said.

The southern coastal state of Kerala has been battered by torrential downpours, with blocked roads into the disaster area in Wayanad district complicating relief efforts.

"93 dead bodies have

been found so far," Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Viiavan told reporters. "This is one of the worst natural calamities that our state has seen.'

Another 128 people had been hospitalised for treatment after their rescue,

"My thoughts are with all those who have lost their loved ones and prayers with those in-jured," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a post on social media plat- ported. form X. Wayanad is famed

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Russia's navy

began planned exercises in-

volving most of its fleet in

the Arctic and Pacific oceans

as well and the Baltic and

Caspian seas, the defence

ministry said on Tuesday.

Russia is considered by

most military analysts to

have the world's third most

powerful navy after those

of the United States and

China, and Russia has a sig-

nificant ballistic-missile

which include 20,000 per-

sonnel and 300 ships, will

pabilities of the navy at all

over 300 combat exercises

including practicing the use

of anti-aircraft missiles, ar-

weapons and "passive in-

test the readiness and ca-

levels, the ministry said.

The Russian drills,

The drills will include

nuclear submarine fleet.

for the tea estates that crisscross its hilly countryside and which rely on a large pool of casual labourers for planting and harvest.

Several estates in the district were hit by two successive landslides before dawn when most of their inhabitants were asleep.

Images published by the National Disaster Response Force showed rescue crews trudging through mud to search for survivors and carry bodies on stretchers out of the area.

Homes were caked with brown sludge as the force of the landslide scattered cars, corrugated iron and other debris around the disaster site.

India's army said it had deployed more than 200 soldiers to the area to assist state security forces and fire crews in search-and-rescue efforts. Kerala state excise minister MB Rajesh said more than 250 people had been rescued so far, The Hindu newspaper re-

Modi's office said

terference, it added.

"Units and formations

of the Russian Navy have

begun conducting planned

exercises in the operational

zones of the Northern, Pa-

cific and Baltic Fleets, as

well as in the area of respon-

sibility of the Caspian Flo-

ness of the crews of ships.

sian navy to perform tasks."

"The main purpose of

tilla," the ministry said.

most of its fleet

receive a compensation

payment of \$2,400.

More rainfall and strong winds were forecast in Kerala on Tuesday, the state's disaster management agency said.

Indian opposition leader Rahul Gandhi, who until recently represented Wayanad in parliament, told lawmakers that the scope of the devastation was heartbreaking"

"Our country has witnessed an alarming rise in landslides in recent years, he said. "The need of the hour is a comprehensive action plan to address the growing frequency of natural calamities.

Monsoon rains across the region from June to September offer respite from the summer heat and are crucial to replenishing water supplies. They are vital for ag-

riculture and therefore the livelihoods of millions of farmers and food security for South Asia's nearly two billion people.

Russian navy starts in 'disputed' major drills involving

Maduro on top Ven-ezuela polls

CARACAS: Streets were largely empty in towns and cities across Ven-ezuela and opposition supporters we-re subdued on Monday after Pres-ident Nicolas Maduro and opposition rival Edmundo Gonzalez

Few businesses were the exercises is to check the actions of the military authorities of the navy at all levels, as well as the readiunits of naval aviation and coastal troops of the Rustabulation of votes.

About 300 surface ships and boats, submarines and support vessels, some 50 aircraft and more than 200 units of military and special equipment will be involved in the tillery, anti-submarine combat training, the min-

Monitoring Desk

both clai-m-ed victory in a tense weekend elec-

open and public transport was scarce, as governments in Washington and elsewhere cast doubt on official results that kept the incumbent Maduro in power and called for a full

The national electoral authority said just after midnight that Maduro had won a third term with 51 per cent of the vote — a result that would extend a quartercentury of socialist rule.



Jaishankar (left) and Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa.

Netanyahu vows retaliation against Hezbollah after weekend strike as US warns against escalation **Monitoring Desk**

MAJDAL SHAMS: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday vowed heavy retaliation against Hezbollah amid furious diplomatic efforts to prevent a spiral into regional war following a weekend rocket strike that killed

controlled Golan Heights. Israel has blamed Hezbollah for Saturday evening's rocket from Lebanon that slammed into a soccer field where the children were playing in the mainly Druze town of Majdal Shams. In an un- firepower against each other.

12 children in the Israeli-

usual move, Hezbollah denied any role in the strike. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke with

Israeli President Isaac Herzog on Monday, emphasizing the "importance of preventing escalation" and discussing efforts to reach a diplomatic solution to months of conflict. Israel and the Iranian-backed Lebanese Hezbollah have exchanged fire almost daily over the border since the war in Gaza erupted in October. Each side has seemed intent on avoiding an escalation that would bring their full

Lebanon on alert as Israel warns of 'severe' response to strike in Golan Heights

Monitoring Desk MAJDAL SHAMS: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday vowed a "severe" response to a strike that killed youths in the annexed Golan Heights, as

diplomats raced to contain

escalation between Israel

and Hezbollah. On a visit to the site of the rocket strike which killed 12 children in the town of Majdal Shams, Netanyahu said: "The state of Israel will not, and can-

not, let this pass. Our response will come and it will be severe."

He was greeted by protests during his visit, which came after mourners gathered in the Druze Arab town for the burial of the last victim, 11-year-old Guevara Ibrahim.

Israel and the United States have blamed the strike on Hezbollah, which has traded near-daily fire with Israeli forces since the start of the Gaza conflict in early October.

Zelensky visits Ukraine front as Moscow claims fresh gains

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Russia said on Monday its forces had captured the village of Vovche in eastern Ukraine, the latest in a string of frontline advances Moscow has claimed in re-

cent weeks. The announcement came as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky visited special forces in the border region of Kharkiv, where Moscow's forces launched a surprise ground offensive in May but failed to make any breakthrough.

US accuses Venezuela of electoral manipulation, repression **Monitoring Desk**

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden's administration on Monday accused Venezuela of electoral manipulation and repression and said Caracas' announcement that President Nicolas Maduro had won a third term in office had been stripped of "any credibility." Biden administration officials, briefing reporters about the vote on condition of anonymity, did not announce any new punitive measures but left open the door to additional sanctions, saying it would assess its sanctions policy.

US boosts alliance with the Philippines with \$500 million funding and pact amid concern over China

press release, the other key foster a global perspective.

Monitoring Desk MANILA: Washington's top diplomat and defense chief announced \$500 mil-

lion in new military funding Tuesday to boost the Philippines' external defense and progress on a proposed military intelligence-sharing pact as both allies renewed their concerns over China's continuing aggressive actions in the

region.
U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin met with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who has fortified Manila's decades-old treaty alliance with Washington as hostilities between Philippine and Chinese forces flared since last year in the disputed South China Sea.

Marcos hailed "verv open" communication lines between Washington and Manila, adding that the two countries' treaty alliance and Blinken said in a joint news key issues in the South conference.

China Sea and the Indo-Pacific region "are continuously examined and reexamined so we are agile in terms of our responses.'

Marcos has underscored the need for a U.S. military presence for Asian stability and peace.

After meeting their Philippine counterparts later, Blinken and Austin announced the \$500 million military funding to help modernize the Philippine military and coast guard and boost security collaboration amid shared concerns over China's assertive actions. "Both of us share concerns and many other countries in the region share concerns, as well, about some of the actions that the People's Republic of China has taken, escalatory actions in the South China Sea, the East China Sea and elsewhere," including "coercive methods,"

Ukraine says it struck an oil depot in Russia, as Moscow claims new gains in Donetsk region **Monitoring Desk**

said it struck an oil depot in southern Russia that supplies the Kremlin's troops as Russian strikes in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, where Moscow claimed further gains, left five civilians dead and 15 others wounded. Ukraine's General Staff said in a statement Kyiv's security services were responsible for a drone strike in Russia's southern Kursk region that morning on an oil depot used to meet the needs of the Russian military, and contains 11 tanks with a total volume of 7,000 cubic

KYIV: Ukraine on Sunday

meters (about 247,202 cubic feet), adding the attack prompted "powerful explosions and a fire ... probably involving containers with oil products." The defense forces continue to take all measures to undermine the mili-

tary and economic poten-

tial of the Russian occupi-

ers and force the Russian Federation to stop its armed aggression against Ukraine. the statement said.

Earlier Sunday, Russia's Defense Ministry said seven Ukrainian drones were shot down overnight over Russian territory, while a regional official said a drone strike set fire to the oil depot in the Kursk province. Firefighters were battling the blaze on Sunday morning after three fuel tanks went up in flames according to acting regional Gov. Alexey Smirnov. Smirnov said nobody was hurt. The Kursk region lies on the border with Ukraine's Sumy province where Ukraine has in recent months repeatedly targeted various sites, including oil depots and other military infrastructure, inside Russian territory, with drones and other weapons. Ukrainian officials have been pressuring Western allies to be able to use their modern.

Adopting artificial intelligence essential for development, prosperity: Ayaz Sadiq

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that this is an era of Artificial Intelligence and adopting innovations in all walks of life is essential for development and prosper-

ity.
"Extending parliamentary cooperation among 56 member states of the Commonwealth is essential for regional prosperity and development," he expressed these views during his meeting with Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland along with representatives of parliaments of the Commonwealth who are on a 5-day official visit to Pakistan.

He also said that using innovative technologies and Artificial Intelligence is pivotal for ensuring qualitative and public-responsive legislation.

The speaker also high-

proactive parliamentary Friendship groups for enhancing parliament-to-parliament contacts among member states of the Commonwealth.

He also stressed the and parliament closer. need to digitalize parliament for effective and public-responsive education. While mentioning the formulation of the Legislative Drafting Council.

He said that Artificial Intelligence is the technological innovation that can help produce synergy among parliaments of commonwealth member states.

While mentioning the Green Parliament Initiative. he said that the Pakistan parliament is the first of its kind which has been solarized completely for its elec-tricity needs. Further, he also said that the Pakistan Parliament established the tating impacts of the 2022 Secretariat of Sustainable

lighted the significance of Development Goals for synergizing among various stakeholders.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that the Pakistan parliament has started a Youth internship program to bring youth

He also said that the parliament of Pakistan has also established the Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) to ensure basic rights for women. He also added. "Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights has also been playing a pivotal role in protecting children."

Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland expressed gratitude to the Speaker National Assembly for the warm welcome.

She also commended the resilience of the Pakistani nation and its people to grapple with the devas-



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal presided 3rd Meeting of Disaster Response Committee at

Govt striving to strengthen national economy on sustainable basis: Finance Minister

federal government is striving to strengthen the national economy on a sustainable basis with focus on promotion and diversification of exports, attracting foreign investment in export-oriented sectors and expanding the tax base.

The views were expressed by Federal Minister of Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Sheikh, Minister of State for Finance, Revenue and Energy Ali Pervaiz and Chairman FBR Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana during a meeting with representative of Trade and Industrial community at Karachi Cham-

stan hopes that whoever is

elected as President of the

United States in the No-

vember election would pay

attention to peace and stability in South Asia, and

help resolve the decades-

old Kashmir dispute be-

tween India and Pakistan,

Ambassador Masood Khan

with whichever administra-

tion is chosen by the people

of the United States,"

Masood Khan, who relin-

quished his post as ambas-

sador to the US on June 30,

was quoted as saying in a

Newsweek article on the

expectation India and Paki-

stan have from the presi-

"We have to work

The government finance team apprised the business community about the government's strategy as well as measures taken for dealing with the economic woes of the country and listened to issues confronted by the business community.

They stressed the business community to contribute in the government's efforts aimed at economic stabilization and also assured of extending every possible assistance to do away with issues faced by trade and industrial sec-

The minister underscored the significance of ber of Commerce and In- expanding and diversifying

sumptive Democratic nomi-

nee Vice President Kamala

Harris and the Republican

candidate, former president

Donald Trump—now campaigning hard for America's

Writing under the headline 'India and Pakistan

Prepare for Battle Between

Harris and Trump'

Newsweek Correspondent

Tom O'Connor pointed out that in 2020, Ms. Harris,

as a US Senator, had

weighed in on the fate of

Kashmir, after India re-

voked its special status in

presidential nomination

Pakistan hopes next US admin

will focus on South Asia peace,

resolve Kashmir issue: Masood

NEW YORK (APP): Paki- dential rivals—the pre-

economic growth and creating fiscal space to facilitate all the sectors of the economy and provide relief to the masses. He assured that available fiscal space would be utilized to provide relief to the

that Macroeconomic initiatives affect the overall national economy and multifaceted measures taken by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for eco nomic stabilization and fiscal consolidation were leading to macro-economic stability of the country and it was also reflected by the upgraded rating of Pakistan by an international rating agency recently.

Governor inquires health of senior journalist Nazir Leghari

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori contacted the wife of senior journalist, intellectual, analyst Nazir Leghari over telephone and enquired about the health of the senior journalist.

The Governor said that he was worried about the health of the senior journalist after hearing his sud den health condition.

Tessori further said that he had personal attachment to the senior journalist Nazir Leghari. The Governor Sindh

directed the authorities concerned to provide all pos-She was then camsigning for Democratic | sible medical facilities to the senior journalist.

Saudi Arabia returned family looted in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): In another incident of street crimes in Karachi, robbers looted valuables from a Saudi Arabia-returned family in the limits of Aziz Bhatti police station in

metropolis.

chasing the family in a white Honda Civic car. The robbers intercepted the Saudi Arabia-returned famlooted cash, important documents and other valuables. The police registered a case against four unknown persons at the complaint of Ahmed, the member of the affected family. Earlier, a cashier of a petrol pump located at Karachi's Abu Al-Hassan Isphani Road was

As per local police, the cashier of the petrol pump was going to a bank to deposit Rs8 million cash, where he was cashed by four robbers, riding two motorbikes.

More flights cancelled from Karachi Airport

KARACHI (INP): Another eight international and domestic flights were cancelled from Karachi's Jinnah International Airport due to technical and operational reasons on Tuesday.

AirBlue flight PA-200 from Karachi to Islamabad was cancelled while AirSial flight PF-143 from Karachi to Lahore was also called off.

Islamabad was shelved 524 from Karachi to Lahore were also called

from Karachi to Lahore was shelved while Fly Baghdad flight IF-334 from Karachi to Najaf was

PM directs NDMA to accelerate relief efforts in rain-hit areas, assess damages

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday telephoned Chairman of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lt. General Inam Haider Malik and directed to take all necessary relief measures as heavy rains lashed across the country.

The prime minister asked the Authority to assess the damages to life and properties caused by the rains and improve coordination with provincial disaster management departments, and the disaster management authorities of AJK and Gilgit Baltistan, according to a PM House press release.

He instructed the NDMA to ensure swift restoration of the highways rains or landslides.

Prime Minister

Shehbaz also called for providing all possible healthcare facilities in the rain-affected areas, besides ensuring the supply of relief items including medicines and other commodi-

He expressed deep grief over the deaths caused by heavy monsoon rains and consequent floods. He prayed to Allah Almighty for peace for the departed souls and sympathised with the bereaved families.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Commander Serken DOGAN, Commanding Officer Turkish Navy Ship TCG KINALIADA, during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

Economic policies show results, inflation drops sharply: Musadik Malik

ISLAMABAD (APP): was gradually falling and Federal Minister for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Malik on Tuesday announced that the government's economic policies were yielding positive results under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He highlighted a significant reduction in food inflation from 48% to 2%, with ongoing efforts to further control

lief to the public. During a press conference, Dr. Malik reported that overall inflation in the

price hikes and provide re-

that economic indicators suggest the country was moving towards stability. Addressing key priorities, the minister noted that the government was focused on alleviating poverty, reducing inflation, and creating job opportunities for the vouth.

Despite facing eco-nomic challenges, the government has allocated Rs 600 billion in the current federal budget to uplift the poor. This budget includes funds for the construction country has decreased from 38% to 12% due to the government's interventions. The inflation, he said,

830 kilometers roads adversily affected by floods, WB review meeting told

Flood Emergency Rehabilitation Project Ghulam Asghar Kanasro on Tuesday said that out of total 143 roads affected by flood in interior Sindh measuring 830 kilometers, 45 roads measuring 226 kilometers have so far been completed while another 30 roads measuring 191 kilometers to be completed in next 15 days/ while the remaining 68 roads will be complete

by the end of current vear. While briefing the World Bank review meeting, Kanasro said the remaining 68 roads will be completed by the end of current vear.

He informed that embankments of the roads so rehabilitated were designed on resilient standards so that future climate shocks

KARACHI (APP): The ther widening of roads can Project Director, Sindh be done with a minimal expenditure. The number of beneficiaries using these roads would be up to the tune of at least five million.

Abhas K Jha, World Bank's Practice Manager for South Asia Infrastructure Resilience Policy and Finance Unit, expressed his satisfaction over the pace and quality of rehabilitation work undertaken by Sindh Flood Emergency Rehabilitation Project.

Kanasro further informed that 114 water supply and 23 drainage schemes affected by flood in 5 districts of Umerkot, Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, Badin and Shaheed Benazir Abad will be completed by January 2025 while the work on 273 water supply schemes and 124 drainage schemes in other six dis-



KARACHI: Assistant Commissioner Aram Bagh, Muntaha Azhar, Faisal Edhi, and others are planting a sapling during Tree Plantation Drive, held at Aram Bagh Public Park Saddar Town area in Karachi.

District, session Judge chair meeting regarding tree plantation

HYDERABAD (APP): District and Session Judge Shaheed Benazirabad Allah Bachao Gabol chaired meeting regarding tree plantation and prevent cutting of trees in district Shaheed

Benazirabad Addressing the meet-

ing he said there had been a lot of damage due to climate change, the temperature of the province is increasing due to weather effects, to prevent which planting is the need of the hour, so we all have to make a joint effort. He further said that along with the government departments as well as the

public, awareness should be raised for planting and protecting them so that the rising temperature can be reduced by planting more District and Sessions

Judge further said that according to Hadith Sharif Giving charity is also ongoing, he added that ecofriendly plants should be planted and maintained on empty plots of government institutions, parks, canal banks and roadsides.

17-member committee was formed under the leadership of Judge Wagar Ahmed Soomro.

KARACHI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

KARACHI: President Karachi Chambers of Commerce and Industries (KCCI) Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh,along with Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh Presting Sheild to the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb during Visit at (KCCI).

Federal Ombudsman held Khuli Kachehri in Tando Muhammad Khan

HYDERABAD (APP): The Regional In-Charge of HESCO, NADRA and the Federal Ombudsman Secretariat Hyderabad, Ambassador ® Dr Rizwan conducted an open court (Khuli Kachehri) at the Deputy Commissioner Office Tando Muhammad Khan, which was attended well as a large number of

release, on this occasion, numerous complaints were

tutions such as SSGC other agencies. A significant number of people raised issues about unjustified detection bills and alleged collusion between HESCO of-

ity theft. Ambassador by the Deputy CommisRIzwan directed HESCO sioner Darmon Bhawani, officials to address public NADRA and Sui Gas, as resolved several issues related to detection bills on the spot. He assured that legiti-According to a press mate issues raised by residents of Tando Muhammad

ficials and staff in electric-

Khan and surrounding areas

lodged against federal insti- would be addressed. **DC** for resolving problems of citizens on priority basis

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad, Shahriyar Gul Memon, met with citizens coming to the office at the DC Office's Darbar Hall and inquired

about their problems. On the occasion, citizens submitted requests to the Deputy Commissioner regarding various issues including Benazir Fund, admissions, sale certificates, faulty account changes, and non-conduct of house survevs. Deputy Commissioner resolved some of the issues on the spot, and the citizens thanked him.

Deputy Commissioner Shahriyar Gul ity basis.

Memon said that the problems of the public are being heard and resolved on daily basis to provide maximum relief to the common citi-

He further said that from Monday to Thursday from 12 pm to 2 pm, the problems of the public will be heard and resolved at the DC Office's Darbar Hall, so citizens should meet him on these days and submits their problems. Deputy Commissioner further said that all officers of the district and revenue officers of all tehsils have also been directed to resolve the problems of citizens on a prior-



HYDERABAD: Residents of Tawer Market hold a protest against murder of Fatima outside HPC.

Monsoon rain spell to persist till tomorrow: **Met Office**

KARACHI (INP): The Karachi will likely range Met Office has forecast

rainfall with thunderstorm in Karachi today under the influence of a monsoon system. A cloudy weather prevails in the city and light to heavy rainfall is expected in various areas of the metropolis, according to the weather report. The ongoing monsoon spell of rainfall will persist

until tomorrow with

breaks. Chief Meteorolo-

gist Sardar Sarfaraz has said

that the rainfall is expected

during the daytime today.

Maximum temperature in

between 32 to 34-degree Celsius with 75 percent humidity. The westerly winds blowing at 10 kilometers per hour speed, according to the weather re-

Chief Meteorologist said that the sea breeze has lower speed owing to the presence of the low pressure in the Arabian Sea. "The sea winds could restore by the evening or night tomorrow," he added. Pakistan Meteorological Department had forecast rainfall in Karachi.

court martialled for incitement to revolt RAWALPINDI (INP): Lt-Col (retd) Akbar Hussain was court martialled on Tuesday for inciting mili-

Former Lt-Col

Akbar Hussain

tary personnel to revolt and handed down 14 years in prison.

According to the ISPR, the public relations department of Pakistan Army, Lt-Col Akbar was sentenced under the Field General Court Martial.

The Inter-Services Public Relations statement added that the former lieutenant colonel was tried by a court of competent jurisdiction. His rank has also been confiscated.

Meeting reviews arrangements to cope with flooding

SUKKUR (APP): Chairman, Nisar Ahmed Siddiqui Twon, Tariq Chauhan on Tuesday reviewed the arrangements finalized by Sukkur Municipal Corporation to cope with flood-

Chairing a meeting held at his Office he said that all elected representatives along with the officers concerned were present in the field and added immediate arrangements should be made for drain-

age of stagnant rain water. Nullah should be specially monitored and all the preparations should be completed immediately,

said Tariq. SMC officials briefed the chairman Twon committee about arrangements inalized for Monsoon. He said that all the of-

Three members of dacoit gang arrested in Surjani Town

ficers had been directed to

emain alert during rain.

KARAČHI (APP): The Surjani Town police station in District West arrested three members of a notorious street criminal gang, including its ring-leader, on Tuesday. The suspects, identified as accused Arif alias Guddu, Abdul Rahman, and Muhammad Farooq alias Umer, were found in possession of three 30-bore pistols, eight mobile phones, and two motorcycles, one of which was stolen, along with cash.

During initial interrogation, the suspects admitted of being involved in about 18 cases of street crimes. The police have registered cases against them and will conduct an identification parade based on FIRs filed at the Surjani police station. Further investigations are ongoing.

the President's Office. **Crackdown on LPG** cylinders in passenger vehicles ordered

SINGAPORE: High Commissioner Rabia Shafiq

calls on President Tharman Shanmugaratnam at

Sukkur, Fayaz Hussain Abbasi on Tuesday strictly directed the District Regional Transport Authorities of the Sukkur division to immediately remove LPG cylinders from passenger vehicles to ensure safe travel facilities to citi-

He emphasized the said that a comprehensive need for strict enforcement of transport laws and vigilant monitoring of vehicle fitness. He gave these directions while chairing a meeting of the Secretaries, District Regional Transport Authority, Sukkur Division, at his office. The Divisional Commissioner directed them to ensure reduction in transportation related accidents, violations and proper Implementation of transport laws, regulations and inspections.

He ordered secretaries to activate District Transport authorities/committees under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioners.

SUKKUR (APP): Divi- need to take serious steps Commissioner to avoid road traffic acci-

> He pointed out that the use of LPG cylinders in passenger vehicles is prohibited and poses a significant risk of fire accidents He emphasized the need for stringent measures to prevent this practice. Commissioner Abbasi

> vised to tackle this issue and stressed the importance of rigorous enforcement of transport regulations. Furthermore, he directed the eradication of unauthorized bus terminals in urban areas, which are ex-

acerbating traffic woes in

various cities.

strategy for Sukkur, Khairpur, and Ghotki de-

He emphasized the need for collaborative efforts between the district administration, police and Regional Transport Authorities to tackle these challenges and directed that a monthly progress report be submitted to the



Party Shahed Bhuto hold a protest in favor of their demands outside HPC.

Looters can be seen ily at their doorstep and

deprived of Rs8 million.

Serene Air flight ER-504 from Karachi to while another Serene Air flight ER- 554 from Karachi to Peshawar was also cancelled. Serene Air flights ER-522 and ER-

PIA flight PK-306 also cancelled.

Another PIA flight PK-368 from Karachi to Islamabad was facing a delav of over one hour