

# Independent

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## Musakhail, Kalat, Bolan, Noshki, Mastung hit: At least 39 dead in multiple incidents of terrorism in Balochistan

23 passengers gunned down after they were offloaded from the passenger buses and other vehicles in Musakhail; Police, levies personnel among 10 killed in armed attack in Kalat; Six bodies were discovered in Bolan; CM strongly condemns terrorism act; seeks report, orders investigations; Governor grieved over martyrdom of passengers in Musakhail; directs to arrest elements involved

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: As many as 23 passengers and some personnel of levies and police among at least 40 persons were killed mostly gunned down and some got injured by the unknown armed assailants in multiple incidents of terrorism occurred in different parts of Balochistan province including Musakhail, Kalat, Bolan, Noshki.

The official reports suggested that most of the terrorism incidents were occurred between the night of August 25-26.

Only in one horrific incident, some 23 passengers were gunned down after they were offloaded from the passenger buses and other vehicles in Rada Sham area of Musakhail, the official reports suggested.

The Senior Superintendent of Police, Musakhail Ayub Achakzai told that at least 23 passengers were killed after being offloaded from passenger buses and trucks in the Radasham area of Musakhail.

Meanwhile, speaking to the media, the spokesman of provincial government, Shahid Rind said that the militants had attacked on two to three fonts where they faced retaliation and resistance from the security forces and law enforcement agencies (LEAs).



RAWALPINDI: Commander of the Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) Ground Forces, General Li Qiaoming paid respects at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada by laying a floral wreath during his visit to General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi.

## 21 terrorists killed, 14 security officials martyred in Balochistan anti-terrorism operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): As many as 14 valiant sons of the soil including soldiers and personnel from the Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) embraced martyrdom while eliminating 21 terrorists in different counter-terrorism activities, initiated promptly after the terrorists attempted to conduct numerous heinous activities in different areas of Balochistan on the night of August 25th and 26th.

“On behest of inimical and hostile forces, these cowardly acts of terrorism were aimed at disrupting the peaceful environment and development of Balochistan by targeting mainly the innocent civilians, especially in Musa Khel, Kalat and Lasbela Districts. Resultantly, numerous innocent civilians embraced shahadat,” the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a news release said.

The ISPR informed that the terrorists had stopped a bus in general area Rara Sham, in Musa Khel District and maliciously targeted innocent citizens, working in Balochistan to earn their livelihood.



MULTAN: Federal Minister of Power Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari talking to media persons at MEPCO Headquarters.

## Appointment rules of higher judiciary comes into force as per Constitution: Azam Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Eighteenth Constitutional Amendment, the senior-most judge becomes the Chief Justice in the Supreme Court,” the Law Minister said. Earlier, Opposition Leader, Omar Ayub Khan demanded the appointment of the apex court chief on seniority basis.

Menawhile, the Opposition Leader extended his gratitude to the Speaker National Assembly for issuing the production orders of the detained Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) Member National Assembly, Chaudhry Imtiaz, who was attending the current session.

## Finance Minister meets with representative of FinnFund

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday met with Antti Partanen, a representative from FinnFund, a Finnish development financier and focused on exploring potential investment opportunities in Pakistan.

The minister underscored the significant improvements in Pakistan’s macroeconomic indicators and highlighted the government’s structural reform agenda, including the digitalization of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), energy sector reforms, State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) reforms, and privatization measures.

He stressed the government’s focus on transforming Pakistan into an export-led economy and attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to enhance the country’s export base, said a press release.

“However, under the

including ten Security Forces soldiers and four personnel of Law Enforcement Agencies, having fought gallantly, rendered the ultimate sacrifice and embraced shahadat (martyrdom).

The ISPR said: “Sanitization operations are being conducted and the instigators, perpetrators, facilitators and abettors of these heinous and cowardly acts, targeting innocent civilians, will be brought to justice.”

“Security forces and Law Enforcement Agencies of Pakistan in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.”

## COAS reaffirms commitment to fraternal ties with China

RAWALPINDI (Online): The visiting dignitary expressed admiration for Pakistan’s concerted efforts in combating terrorism and extremism, acknowledging the unwavering professionalism and dedication of the Pakistan Army. The COAS General Syed Asim Munir expressed his gratitude to the dignitary, reiterating that Pakistan deeply cherishes its fraternal ties with China.

Earlier, upon arrival at the General Headquarters, General Li Qiaoming paid respects at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada by laying a floral wreath, and was presented with a guard of honor by a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Army, in a ceremonial display of respect and hospitality.

The meeting afforded an opportunity for in-depth discussions on matters of mutual interest, regional security, military training, and measures to further augment bilateral defence cooperation.

The COAS General Syed Asim Munir underscored the robust relations between the Pakistan Army and the People’s Liberation Army, highlighting the ongoing bilateral military cooperation as a testament to the enduring brotherhood between



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with Antti Partanen, FinnFund Representative.

## IHC seeks detailed report on slow internet

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday summoned Ministry of Information Technology (IT) technical person in a case against slow internet speed and alleged installation of firewall.

The court also sought the detailed report from respondents till next date September 3.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, hearing the cases, remarked that the work associated with the IT field was connected with the Internet.

He said that a similar case was also pending with Lahore High Court, adding that no one was taking responsibility here too.

Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA)’s lawyer con-

tended that firstly the authority came to know that two cables are damaged. “Now we have received messages that the third cable is also cut down,” he said.

The court asked that who was responsible for this cutting of cables, the business community has been complaining about the internet speed for the last ten days. Deputy Attorney General adopted the stance that there was no impact of any installation on the Internet speed.

Imaan Mazari Advocate pleaded that Internet was working normally but only the function of WhatsApp was affected.

PTA lawyer said that the authority was upgrading the web operating system.



ISLAMABAD: Commander of the Ground Forces of the People’s Liberation Army of China, General Li Qiaoming calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

## PM terms Pak-China strategic ties vital for regional peace

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif says defense and strategic ties between Pakistan and China are vital for peace and stability in the region.

He was talking to Commander of the Ground Forces of the People’s Liberation Army of China, General Li Qiaoming, who call on the prime minister in Islamabad on Monday.

He said the deep-rooted ties between the two nations enjoy broad public, political, and institutional support in Pakistan, making them indispensable for the progress and development of both countries.

The prime minister warmly welcomed General Li to Pakistan and underscored that Pakistan and China are all-weather strategic cooperative partners and trusted friends.

Expressing satisfaction over the deepening military-to-military exchanges between the two countries,

for Defence and Defence Production. Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Monday, during a call on by People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Ground Forces Commander of China, General Li Qiaoming, said that friendship with China was a corner-stone of Pakistan’s Foreign Policy based on convergence of views on regional and global issues.



ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday strongly condemned a terrorist attack targeting a passenger bus in the Musakhail area of Balochistan.

## President Zardari reiterates nation’s resolve to keep up fighting terrorism

No form of terrorism is acceptable in the country. Our fight against terrorism will continue till the complete elimination of the scourge: PM

exemplary punishment. No form of terrorism is acceptable in the country. Our fight against terrorism will continue till the complete elimination of the scourge,” the prime minister resolved.

They expressed their deep grief over the loss of precious lives in the attack and called for taking the perpetrators to task.

Both the president and prime minister prayed to Allah Almighty for peace for the departed souls and strength for the bereaved families to bear the loss.

Prime Minister Shehbaz directed the law enforcement agencies to carry out an immediate probe into the incident. He also instructed the authorities to cooperate with victim families and extend urgent medical care to the injured. “The perpetrators of this attack will be given an

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on also condemned a terrorist attack in Kalat killing police and levies personnel and reiterated the country’s undeterred resolve to wipe out terrorism.

The prime minister expressed grief over the martyrdom of the security personnel and prayed for the martyred as well as the recovery of the injured, according to a PM Office statement.

He also prayed for strength to the bereaved families to bear the loss and directed the authorities concerned to extend the best possible medical treatment to the injured.

## 4 killed, 18 injured in Razmak blast: Police

MIRANSHAH (APP): At least four people were killed and 18 others injured when a powerful explosion ripped through a crowded Razmak tehsil bazar in North Waziristan tribal district on Monday.

The police and district administration while confirming the blast said that it occurred when explosives placed in a motorcycle ex-

ploded in Razmak bazaar, killing four on the spot and injuring eighteen others. The injured have been shifted to nearby hospitals where emergency imposed. Commissioner Bannu Abid Pervez has confirmed the blast as well as casualties and directed the hospital administration of Razmak to provide best medical facilities to the injured.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq chairing the meeting of Business Advisory Committee at Parliament House.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Delayed funds

A friend in need is a friend indeed. China, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE have lived up to the adage, rescuing Pakistan multiple times in recent years by propping up its international reserves through large cash deposits and loans, as well as rolling over their debt, to help it access IMF funds in order to avert a sovereign default.

Of late, though, they appear a bit hesitant to lend a helping hand as promptly. Little wonder these nations have not yet intimated the IMF of their decision to roll over their combined existing debt of \$12bn for another year. This is said to be one of the reasons the Fund removed Pakistan from the agenda of its Aug 30 Executive Board meeting where it was expected to sign off on the recently concluded staff-level agreement for a new bailout package of \$7bn over the next 37 months.

Earlier, these countries had turned down a request from Islamabad to extend the maturity of these loans for a period of three to five years to allow 'predictability' through the IMF programme tenure. The other factor delaying the loan's approval pertains to Islamabad's failure to arrange funds well in time to plug an external financing gap of \$2bn, which both the finance minister and State Bank governor had earlier described as an easy task. Strapped for cash, Pakistan has now reached out to Riyadh for an additional debt of \$1.5bn on top of the existing \$5bn deposits, as well as Middle Eastern banks for the rest of the money to bridge the external financing gap. Unless the government is able to secure these funds, the IMF Executive Board might not close the deal even in September.

Pakistan will eventually secure the required debt rollovers from the friendly states, as well as fresh Saudi funds — and possibly commercial loans — that will give it access to IMF dollars and unlock other multilateral financing. Still, the experience of dealing with the IMF and bilateral lenders during the last few years underlines the country's decreasing geopolitical influence that was once considered sure insurance for significant financing from a range of Western and Arab lenders and donors whenever required.

Today, we find ourselves in a situation similar to where Sri Lanka was a year ago after it declared bankruptcy. It took months and firm commitments from bilaterals like China before the IMF concluded a loan deal with Colombo. For the last three years, our foreign policy has mostly revolved around just one point: how to borrow and from where to borrow. The situation has become untenable. It is time we tried to change and stand on our feet rather than look outside for charity. This can be very tiring for our friends.

## Teacher licensing

Ali Nawab

The recent initiative of teacher licensing demonstrates the Sindh government's commitment to ensuring quality teachers in public sector schools where the low academic achievement of students has generally been associated with the low capacity of teachers. The first phase of the licensure test has been conducted although the pass percentage was quite disappointing (17 per cent). This result generates further concerns related to the quality of teachers and teacher education institutes in the province. Relying solely on a licensure test is unlikely to fulfil the goal of having quality teachers.

Although a common practice in many countries, the licensure test is one of several measures to determine the competency of potential teachers for the profession of teaching. It is because the written test lacks the space and possibility to assess the important characteristics of potential teachers. Teaching is a complex and tempo-relational process that requires different responses to different situations. Someone might be very good at theory and in written aspects but not necessarily in teaching or in the response to problematic situations. On the contrary, someone else could prove to be exemplary in teaching, but not be good in theory or writing. If we agree that being an effective teacher requires practical skills, then setting a high passing score and relying solely on a written test may eliminate effective teachers.

Consequently, in many countries, including the US, there is a growing focus on performance assessment or

the ability of prospective teachers to plan lessons, deliver instructions, engage students in meaningful activities, respond to problematic situations, assess student learning and reflect on their practice for further improvement. These are the acknowledged prerequisites to be an effective teacher, which a licensure test can barely assess.

A high passing score and sole reliance on the written test may lead to the exclusion of aspiring teachers, who come from marginalised and disadvantaged communities. Individuals, for example, from remote and backward areas as well as minority groups may not have access to quality education. Resultantly, it is less likely for the disadvantaged students to achieve the target score in the licensure test. Where other countries are working on diversifying teaching — for instance, Ireland — we may be limiting diversity in our schools and in the teaching profession. To ensure inclusion in learning, we must first ensure inclusion in the profession of teaching.

Since the quality of teacher education institutes will be associated with the performance of their students in the licensure tests, simply relying on the written test would make them focus only on those curricular components that are assessed in the tests. In this sense, the practice aspect of teaching will receive reduced attention in teacher education institutes. If so, the consequences would be predictable.

Teacher licensing in itself is not a guarantee of quality teachers. Many countries across the globe, such as Finland, Singapore, the Netherlands, Japan and Korea, do not require

any licensure test. It is to be noted here that these countries are well placed in international comparisons for student achievement. It suggests that quality teacher education, rather than the licensure test, determines the competency of a prospective teacher.

Thus, to ensure quality teachers for learners, a straightforward approach is required: improve the quality of teacher education institutes to produce quality teachers. These institutes must be mandated and supported to achieve certain levels of accreditation from the National Accreditation Council for Teacher Education. In addition, practical components such as teaching practice, or practicum or internship should be a compulsory part of the teacher education programme. It is crucial to provide prospective teachers with high-quality teaching practice experience. The evidence of effective teaching practice should be considered for licensure. If those who have initiated the teacher licensing process are serious about the quality of teachers, their focus should be on practice and performance assessment. This could be achieved through improving the quality of teacher education institutes rather than licensure tests. Since other provinces in the country may introduce teacher licensing building on the experience of Sindh, how teacher licensing is implemented would have significant implications for education not only in this province but also across Pakistan. Thus those who are involved in teacher licensing should plan and implement it very consciously and cautiously. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Rise in renewables

Zarrar Khuhro

One of the first major milestones in the development of renewable energy was way back in 1979, when US president Jimmy Carter installed 32 solar panels on the roof of the White House in order to power a water-heating system.

Clunky, inefficient and expensive by today's standards (they weighed 45 kilos each and cost a whopping \$28,000 to install) these panels served to heat water for the White House until they were removed during the Reagan administration, undoubtedly as a signal that the new Republican president preferred good old fossil fuels to these hippie-inspired and possibly commie ideas like sustainability and environmentalism.

The panels went into storage until at least one of them ended up in a museum in China. There's a certain irony to that, as China is currently leading the world when it comes to scaling up renewable energy, with twice as many solar and wind projects under construction as the rest of the world combined.

Right now, China has 180GW of solar power under construction along with 159GW of wind power, which far outshines the comparatively measly 40GW under construction in the US. In the first half of this year, China's clean energy generation has already exceeded the total amount of energy produced by the UK in a year from all sources.

Existing projects are also being expanded, like the Caipeng photovoltaic power station, which holds the record for being the highest solar power plant in the world, and the Xinjiang solar farm, which has the capacity to power all of Papua New Guinea for an entire year.

In fact, according to Reuters, China has installed so many solar panels that they're generating more energy than the

country's storage and transmission infrastructure can handle! And because China just refuses to think small, it is also manufacturing practically all of the world's equipment for producing solar panels and — because synergy is a good thing — is also now making over half of all new electric cars sold worldwide.

The US is, of course, trying to catch up and one landmark there is that for the first time, the US has this year produced more electricity from wind and solar than it does from coal.

It's not just the richer countries that are taking advantage of this energy revolution. In fact, the push for renewables could be a lifesaver for poorer countries saddled with high fuel import bills for power production.

Here Uruguay stands out as a great example; this South American country was highly reliant on imported oil and gas-based power and, much like Pakistan, greatly suffered from financial shocks whenever the prices of these commodities spiked.

Already at full capacity when it came to hydel power and unwilling to set up nuclear power plants that would rely on imported uranium, Ramon Méndez Galain, Uruguay's then director of energy, decided to bet on wind and solar power. He financed this by holding a series of clean power auctions where the private sector was offered long-term contracts at guaranteed rates, resulting in \$6 billion being invested in renewables in just five years.

In short, he went for the IPP route, only with a focus on renewable energy and with undoubtedly more reasonable terms than we got here in Pakistan. Now Uruguay is reaping the dividends of this approach, with energy production costs having been cut in half and new jobs being created by the clean energy sector.

Perhaps as importantly, Ramon's vision has also practically insulated his country from the shocks of foreign wars and resultant supply issues; from July 2023 to April 2024, Uruguay ran entirely on renewable energy!

There are certainly lessons here for Pakistan, which also pays far too high a price for fuel imports and is unable to withstand any financial shocks, resulting from high prices of imported fuel.

Like Uruguay, we too are primed to take advantage of the natural bounties of wind and solar power, and thankfully, we can now see significant movement in that direction. Recently, K-Electric announced its intention of setting up renewable power projects of a combined 640MW and bidding has already begun on one of these projects, a 150MW solar plant in Balochistan for which they received Pakistan's lowest tariff bid of PKR 11.2 per unit, establishing a new precedent in the Pakistani renewable space. The strong interest from international and local investors in the solar projects not only demonstrates Pakistan's investment potential but also promises significant economic benefits. In addition to this the Sindh government is planning a 550MW floating solar energy project at Keenjhar lake and similar projects are underway across the country and when these are online, Pakistan's energy sector may finally have its day in the sun.

Some may wonder why we are adding capacity when we can't seem to be able to pay for the capacity we already have (and in many cases aren't even using) but we have to understand that there are no quick fixes, and that moving towards renewables in a big way will definitely help us save big bucks in the future. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Action plan ready to reform power sector: Awais Leghari

FAISALABAD (APP): Federal Minister of Energy Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari has said an action plan is on the anvil to introduce reliable reforms to the power sector with an objective to minimize line losses, bring down the cost of electricity production and pass its benefits on to consumers.

He expressed these views during a meeting at the Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) office along with Federal Secretary for Energy Dr Muhammad Fakhar Alam Irfan on Monday. He identified

power theft as a major shock to the national economy and said that the government had taken bold steps to contain the menace. He said that on the special directives of the Prime Minister, the electricity crisis had been reined in through revolutionary reforms and hoped that at least 40 percent more power pilferage would be controlled very soon.

He said that apolitical and independent members had been deputed in the Boards of Directors (BODs) of distribution companies (Discos) to check power theft and

provide best possible facilities to the consumers.

He said that Discos had been given a free hand to check electricity theft and in this connection, impartial action would be taken against power pilferers. He expressed satisfaction over the performance of FESCO and said that power theft was not restricted to any province or region as it had plagued the entire country and the government would control it with an iron hand. He said that FESCO officers and staff must work hard to eliminate power pilferage on a permanent and sustained basis.

### Shell Pakistan reports Rs 1.3 billion profits

ISLAMABAD (APP): Shell Pakistan Limited (SPL) has posted a profit after tax of Rs 1.3 billion for half year results for the company, compared to the profit after tax of Rs. 3.5 billion made in the same period last year.

According to a press release, in October 2023, Shell Petroleum Company Limited entered into a Share Purchase Agreement with Wafi Energy LLC for the sale of its entire shareholding in SPL.

This transaction is currently in progress. In April 2024, an

Addendum to the agreement was posted on the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), reflecting a change in the capital ownership structure of the Acquirer, where Wafi Energy Holding Limited replaced Wafi Energy LLC as the 'Acquirer'.

On July 27, 2024, a Public Announcement of Offer was made by Arif Habib Limited on behalf of Wafi Energy Holding Limited to further acquire up to 24,162,179 ordinary shares, representing 11.29% of SPL.

### Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships, Beek-6, Fairchem Mako, Chemroute Pegasus and Asklipios scheduled to load/offload Rice, Palm oil, Chemicals and LNG, berthed at Grain Terminal, Liquid Terminal, Engro Terminal and Port Gas Terminal respectively on Sunday. Meanwhile seven more ships, MSC Positano, APL Antwerp, MSC Silvia, Lydia, Tivolo Park, Amorgos and Marangas Asclepius carrying Container, Mogas, Chemicals, Coal and LNG are arrived at outer anchorage port during last 24 hours.



FAISALABAD: Federal Minister for Energy, Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, chairing a meeting at FESCO Headquarters.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the Steering Committee Meeting on the Pakistan Raises Revenue Program (PRRP) at the Finance Division.

### Commerce minister pledges tax relief for sports goods exporters

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Government is steadfast in its commitment to reducing the tax burden on exporters, the Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Monday assured industry representatives during a key meeting with the Sectoral Council for Sports Goods.

The virtual meeting, held at the Ministry of Commerce, focused on addressing the challenges faced by the sports goods industry, with particular

attention to taxation and energy production policies, said a press release issued here. During the discussion, the Minister pledged to reconsider the current policy that imposes a cap of 100KW on solar energy production for export-oriented industries.

This move is expected to alleviate operational constraints and enhance the competitiveness of the sports goods sector, which heavily relies on sustainable and cost-effective energy solutions.

### Belarusian ambassador calls on Aleem Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Belarus to Pakistan Andrei Metelitsa called on Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan and discussed issues of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation in various fields. In the meeting, the ambassador highlighted the "Transport Week" to be held in Belarus in September and its representation from Pakistan, said a press release on Monday.

He invited Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan to participate in this inter country event

in Belarus. Ambassador Metelitsa discussed with the minister regarding Pakistan's participation in the "Joint Memorandum" of transport with Russia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

Abdul Aleem Khan and the ambassador discussed joint projects in the fields of communication and transport and reviewed the possibilities of increasing the existing bilateral relations.

During the meeting, the minister said that mutual relations between Pakistan and Belarus, especially in trade matters can be increased further.

### Necessary step to be taken to ensure implementation of PRRP: Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday said that the government will continue to engage with stakeholders and take necessary steps to ensure the successful implementation of Pakistan Raises Revenue Programme (PRRP).

The minister chaired the Steering Committee Meeting on the Pakistan Raises Revenue Programme (PRRP), which

was attended by the Minister of State for Finance & Revenue Ali Parvez Malik, Chairman Federal Board of Revenue, Secretary Economic Affairs Division and Secretary Planning Development and Special Initiatives, said a press release.

Secretary Maritime Affairs, Ms. Tania Airdus CEO Waseela, Salman Nasir CEO Ayesha Spinning Mills Limited Kamran Khalid Chief Product Officer Netsol Technologies, senior officers from concerned ministries and FBR and key stakeholders from the private sector and relevant agencies also attended the meeting.

The meeting focused on the strategies to enhance Pakistan's revenue generation capacity. During the proceedings participants discussed multiple initiatives and reforms aimed at broadening the tax-base, improving tax compliance, and reducing revenue leakages.

### IESCO domestic consumers to get Rs 14 per unit relief

ISLAMABAD (APP): The domestic consumers of Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) who used 201 to 500 units in August will get Rs 14 per unit relief in their electricity bills as per the orders of the Punjab Government.

According to the press release issued by IESCO, for consumers under domestic tariff batches 1 to 5 who have already paid their electricity bills, the excess amount will be adjusted in the September bills. For consumers in batches 1 to 5 who have not yet paid their August bills,

### APTMA, German delegation for enhancing bilateral trade

LAHORE (APP): The All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) and a visiting delegation of German importers have agreed to enhance sustainability reporting to boost bilateral trade expansion.

The German delegation, led by Dr. Michael Arretz, Managing Director VFI e. V. German Importers and included Ms. Bettina Müller (Project Director, SEQUA), Mr. Christian von Mitzlaff (Supply Chain Due Diligence Consultant), and Mr. Sarim Mahmood (CEO FOS), visited the APTMA office here on Monday.

APTMA North Zone Chairman Kamran Arshad, along with Senior Vice Chairman Asad Shafi, Vice Chairman Ahmed Shafi, Mohammad Ali, Ismail Faeed Sh, Haroon Elahi and Secretary General Mohammad Raza Baqir welcomed the delegation.

The German delegation's visit aimed to explore opportunities for cooperation and synergies in the textile sector.

Kamran Arshad emphasized the importance of the €45 million Technical Cooperation Agreement between Pakistan and Germany to enhance trade and investment.

## Kundi criticizes PTI for seeking NRO, pleading for release from jail

BUNER (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has criticized the leadership of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for allegedly seeking an NRO (National Reconciliation Ordinance) and pleading for release from jail.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said this while addressing the public meeting in Buner on Monday.

Governor Kundi praised the people of Buner for their sacrifices in maintaining peace, emphasizing that their contributions are well-recognized.

He welcomed the public enthusiasm and the joining of other parties into the PPP, describing it as a positive development.

Governor Kundi referred to the events of May 9 as unforgettable and criticized the previous government's performance.

He highlighted that the late Benazir Bhutto endured imprisonment and martyrdom for the country's sake, while former President Asif Ali Zardari spent eleven years in unjust detention without speaking against the country.

He criticized the leadership of PTI for allegedly seeking an NRO and pleading for release from prison.

Kundi expressed confidence that the public support indicates that the upcoming government will be led by the PPP.

Governor Kundi reiterated that providing

economic stability to women was a dream of Benazir Bhutto. He said that the Benazir Income Support Programme is a step toward fulfilling that vision.

Reflecting on 2008, Kundi recalled that when the PPP came into power, the province was engulfed in violence, but by 2012, they had managed to restore peace. However, he criticized the subsequent administration for failing to maintain stability.

He condemned the current state of unrest in the province, highlighting the prevalence of armed groups and the kidnapping of judges. Additionally, he criticized the rise in corruption and the inefficiency of justice institutions.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health and Secretary Health Azmat Mehmood chaired meeting to review revamping in Government Hospital at Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department.

## Rapid population growth major national problem: SACM

PESHAWAR (APP): Welfare Gohar Zaman and others also addressed the seminar. During the seminar, the authorities of 'Rahnuma' a civil society organization gave a detailed briefing on the control of the growing population and its prevention in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

They informed the special assistant regarding Family Planning Vision 2030 and its targets. Various suggestions for controlling population growth, preventive plans, seeking of clerics support and cooperation in the acceleration of public awareness campaign, legislation, inclusion of subject in the curriculum and supply of medicines to the far-flung areas came under discussion.

## ANF seizes 373 kg drugs in 10 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 10 operations across the country managed to recover 373 kg drugs worth Rs 340 million and arrested 10 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that 783 grams ice was recovered from a Jeddah-bound passenger arrested at Lahore Airport.

1.140 kg ice and 50 grams heroin were recovered from a parcel booked for Australia at a courier office in Karachi.

In another operation, 190 kg heroin was recovered from Chaman area, 100 kg hashish and 22 kg opium were recovered from Pasni and Gwadar areas.

## CM orders strict price controls on bread, flour

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, chairing a meeting on price control immediately after her return to Lahore from Murree on Monday, reviewed food prices, especially the prices of bread and flour, separately in each district.

The CM directed the authorities to never allow bread to be sold above the fixed price in any city, saying that flour should be supplied to people across the province at controlled rate.

The chief minister was briefed by Secretary Industry Ehsan Bhatta about the prices of essential commodities in the province. She was also briefed in detail about price control efforts of the



LAHORE: Members of a charity distributing Langar, free food to devotees at the 981st annual Urs of Hazrat Data Ali Hajveri.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Labour and Human Resource Faisal Ayub Khokhar during his visit to Social Security Hospital Multan Road.

## Minister takes urgent action on BSTH deteriorating condition

ABBOTTABAD (APP): KP Minister for Revenue Nazir Ahmed Abbasi, along with Tehsil Mayor Sardar Shujaat Nabi Monday paid a surprise visit to the Benazir Shaheed Teaching Hospital (BSTH) Abbottabad. During the inspection, they checked various departments including the Emergency, CCU, Medical Ward, and others, and addressed the concerns of patients and their families. The

## One killed, 3 injured in road mishap

ATTOCK (APP): A six-year-old girl on Monday was killed and three others injured, two among them were women when a car overturned on Bassal-Pindigheb road.

The police sources said that a family belonging to the nearby village Kharappa was going in a car which overturned as the driver lost control over the vehicle due to overspeeding.

## SA session re-scheduled for Sept 2

KARACHI (APP): The sitting of the Provincial Assembly (PA) of Sindh has been re-scheduled for September 2, Monday. The Speaker Sindh Assembly Syed Awais Qadir Shah in exercise of powers conferred upon him has adjourned the setting, which was scheduled to be held on August 27 and now it would be held on September 2.

## Traffic pressure horns: A negative social practice irritates locals

PESHAWAR (APP): Once known as a City of Flowers, Peshawar is currently confronted with a monster problem of traffic pressure horns, which started unnerving the people.

Exposed to massive traffic jams almost every day, especially during peak hours in the morning and evening, Peshawarites are subjected to various health, mental, and psychological health hazards due to unnecessary pressure horns of buses, trucks, rickshaws and other vehicles that continued to people's headache.

Despite many complaints were made and rules framed; however, the implementation against pressure horns' laws has been declared unsatisfactory in KP.

"No doubt, pressure horns are a social course. On Sunday last, I visited Peshawar where a truck's loud pressure horns affected my hearing structure and faced pains" said Kamal Khan, a resident of Nowshera while talking to APP.

The irritating and doubled hearing pains forced me to visit an ENT specialist for treatment, said Kamal, and questioned that who was responsible for his suffering without naming the PTI Government.

ENT specialist and former professor of Khyber Medical College Peshawar, Dr Fazal Sattar said that using a pressure horn for an extended period can lead to hearing loss, as the loud noise can damage the delicate structures of the ear. Additionally, he said that such horns can be jarring and may cause physical discomfort to its victims due to sudden loud noise. Causing an extreme stress and anxiety in people exposed to it for extended periods of time especially traffic police, vendors shopkeepers, and drivers, he said that in some cases, air horns can even be dangerous and

cause accidents while driving or operating machinery.

Dr Sattar said many medical investigations conducted by experts at local and international levels have proved that noise pollution can cause physiological stress reactions such as high blood pressure besides increasing heart rate, speech, and sleep disturbance.

Besides hearing loss, he said that noise pollution could also cause cardiovascular problems associated with accelerated heartbeat, gastric intestinal, decrease in alertness and ability to memorize, and long-lasting effects such as insomnia, nervousness, bulimia, chronically high blood pressure, anxiety, and depression.

In recent years, the noise pressure levels in all major cities including Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, and Rawalpindi have risen exponentially as unplanned and unmanaged urbanization continued to swell the urban sprawl.

Except for some posh townships, it is difficult to differentiate between a residential and commercial locality, offices, shopping plazas, and auto-repair workshops surround even schools, universities, and hospitals which should always be protected from noise pollution.

# International News

## Russia fires huge missile, drone salvo at Ukraine's power grid

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Russia launched about 200 missiles and drones at Ukraine on Monday, killing five people and striking energy facilities nationwide, Kyiv said, while neighbouring Nato member Poland reported a drone had probably entered its airspace.

Power cuts and water supply outages were reported in many areas, including parts of Kyiv, as officials said the attack — 2.5 years into Russia's full-scale invasion — targeted power or other critical infrastructure in at least 10 regions.

Russia dramatically stepped up its strikes on the Ukrainian power grid in March in what Kyiv has said looked like a concerted

effort to degrade the system ahead of next winter when people need electricity and heating most.

Monday's missile and drone salvo was Russia's most intense in weeks, coming as Ukraine is claiming new ground in a major cross-border incursion into Russia's southern Kursk region while Russian forces steadily inch forward in Ukraine's east, closing in on the transport hub of Pokrovsk.

"It was one of the biggest combined strikes. More than a hundred missiles of various types and about a hundred Shahed drones. And like most previous Russian strikes, this one is just as sneaky, targeting critical civilian infrastructure," President

Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Telegram.

Poland said an "object" had entered its airspace, that it may have landed on Polish territory and that searches were underway.

"Most likely it was a drone and we assume so, because the trajectory of the flight and the speed indicate that it was definitely not a missile," Jacek Gorzyszewski, spokesperson for the Polish army's operational command, told Reuters.

According to Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal, 15 Ukrainian regions sustained damage from the missile and drone barrage. Zelenskiy said the energy sector had suffered "a lot of damage".



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un oversees a performance test of drones during a visit to the Drone Institute of North Korea's Academy of Defence Sciences at an undisclosed location in North Korea.

## North Korea's Kim Jong Un oversees tests of 'suicide drones'

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un watched as new "suicide drones" took off and destroyed test targets including a mock tank, and urged researchers to develop artificial intelligence for the unmanned vehicles, state media reported on Monday.

Kim visited the Drone Institute of North Korea's Academy of Defence Sciences on Saturday and

## Russia skips UN meeting pledging respect for humanitarian law

**Monitoring Desk**  
GENEVA: Switzerland hosted United Nations Security Council members at a meeting in Geneva on Monday to recommit to international humanitarian law, describing an "alarming" global context characterised by over 120 armed conflicts, with Russia the only member absent.

Switzerland, which is one of the 15 members, organised the informal meeting to commemorate the Geneva Conventions, signed 75 years ago after World War Two in the Swiss city to limit the barbarity of war.

## UN 'concerned' by newly ratified Afghan morality law

**Monitoring Desk**  
KABUL: The UN mission in Afghanistan said on Sunday it was "concerned" about a morality law recently ratified by the Taliban authorities, criticising in particular restrictions on women.

The Taliban authorities on Aug 21 announced the codification of a law with 35 articles detailing wide-ranging behaviour and lifestyle restrictions based on their strict interpretation of Islamic law.

The law sets out graduated punishments for non-compliance —

## Japan scrambles jets against China plane that breached airspace

**Monitoring Desk**  
TOKYO: Japan's defence ministry said it had scrambled jets against a Chinese reconnaissance aircraft that had briefly breached its airspace on Monday morning.

The aircraft was identified as a Y-9 reconnaissance plane that flew over the Danjo Islands to the west of the southern island of Kyushu between around 11:29 a.m. and 11:31 a.m.

## China, Philippines clash in South China Sea

**Monitoring Desk**  
MANILA: The Philippines and China clashed in disputed waters of the South China Sea on Sunday over what Manila said was a resupply mission for fishermen, the latest in a series of sea and air confrontations in the strategic waterway.

The incident overshadows efforts by both nations to rebuild trust and better manage disputes after months of confrontations, including a violent clash in June, in which a Filipino sailor lost a finger.

The Philippines on Sunday accused China of "aggressive and dangerous manoeuvres" to block the resupply mission. China's coast guard, meanwhile, said it had taken "control measures" against a vessel that had "illegally" entered the waters and repeatedly approached Chinese ships in a dangerous manner.

In the incident near the Sabina Shoal, the Philippine South China Sea task force said Chinese vessels rammed and used water cannons against a Philippine Bureau of Fisheries ship transporting food, fuel and medical supplies for Filipino fishermen.

For its part, the Chinese coast guard said the Philippine ship "ignored repeated serious warnings and deliberately approached and rammed" China's law enforcement boat, resulting in a collision. It added that responsibility for the collision lies entirely on the Philippine side.

China asserts sovereignty over nearly all of the South China Sea, including areas claimed by the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam and Brunei. Beijing has developed an armada of vessels to protect its claims.

## Rohingya refugees mark the anniversary of their exodus and demand a safe return to Myanmar

**Monitoring Desk**  
COX'S BAZAR: Tens of thousands of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar who live in sprawling camps in Bangladesh on Sunday marked the seventh anniversary of their mass exodus, demanding safe return to Myanmar's Rakhine state.

The refugees gathered in an open field at Kutupalong camp in Cox's Bazar district carrying banners and festoons reading "Hope is Home" and "We Rohingya are the citizens of Myanmar," defying the rain on a day that is marked as "Rohingya Genocide Day."

On Aug. 25, 2017, hundreds of thousands of refugees started crossing the border to Bangladesh on foot and by boats amid indiscriminate killings and other violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

Myanmar had launched a brutal crackdown following attacks by an insurgent group on guard posts. The scale, organization and ferocity of the operation led to accusations

from the international community, including the U.N., of ethnic cleansing and genocide. Then-Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ordered border guards to open the border, eventually allowing more than 700,000 refugees to take shelter in the Muslim-majority nation. The influx was in addition to the more than 300,000 refugees who had already been living in Bangladesh for decades in the wake of waves of previous violence perpetrated by Myanmar's military. Since 2017, Bangladesh has attempted at least twice to send the refugees back and has urged the international community to build pressure on Myanmar for a peaceful environment inside Myanmar that could help start the repatriation. Hasina also sought help from China to mediate. But in the recent past, the situation in Rakhine state has become more volatile after a group called Arakan Army started fighting against Myanmar's security forces.

## Australia gives millions of workers 'right to disconnect'

**Monitoring Desk**  
SYDNEY: Australia gave millions of workers the legal right to "disconnect" on Monday, allowing them to ignore unreasonable out-of-hours calls, emails and texts from their bosses.

People can now refuse to monitor, read, or respond to their employers' attempts to contact them outside work hours — unless that refusal is deemed "unreasonable".

Unions welcomed the legislation, saying it gave workers a way to reclaim some work-life balance.

"Today is a historic day for working people," said Michele O'Neil, president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

"Australian unions have reclaimed the right to knock off after work," she said. In the streets of Sydney, people appeared to welcome the change.

"I have a very hard time disconnecting and even

though I may not necessarily be logged on, my brain is constantly working overtime," not-for-profit worker Karolina Joeski told AFP.

"So getting that after-hour call from my boss doesn't necessarily help." But the reform got a cool welcome from Australia's top industry body.

"The 'right to disconnect' laws are rushed, poorly thought out and deeply confusing," the Australian Industry Group said in a statement.

"At the very least, employers and employees will now be uncertain about whether they can take or make a call out of hours to offer an extra shift," it said.

The law is similar to those of some European and Latin American countries.

Research indicates that the right to disconnect benefits employees, said University of Sydney associate professor Chris Wright.

## Brazil deploys military planes to fight wildfires in southeast

**Monitoring Desk**  
RIBEIRO PRETO: The Brazilian government is deploying military planes to combat wildfires ravaging Sao Paulo state in the southeast, as more than 40 cities have been placed on high alert, the regional development minister announced on Sunday.

Minister Waldez Góes said that four planes will be mobilised initially "to fight the flames and monitor affected zones." They include a KC-390 Embraer, a troop transport craft converted to be able to drop loads of up to 12,000 litres of water on fire zones.

Among the cities most threatened is Ribeirão Preto, with a population of more than 700,000, 300km from Sao Paulo.

Videos posted on social media showed Ribeirão Preto plunged into near-darkness by a dense layer of smoke. "It's apocalyptic. Lots of wind, lots of smoke — you can't even see the city."

## NA told Operationalization of Gwadar Airport likely by December

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Aviation Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Monday informed the National Assembly that the New Gwadar International Airport project has substantially completed, and its operationalization is expected by December after formal handovers and trials.

Responding to various questions during Question Hour, he said the New General Aviation Aerodrome near Muridke was substantially completed and would be operational by next month. It was anticipated that general aviation organizations and flying schools would be relocated to the new aerodrome within three to four months, he said.

Replying to another question, Khawaja Muhammad Asif said before the operationalization of Islamabad International Airport (IIAP), Cabinet Secretariat Aviation Di-

vision vide letter No 6-12/84-P&D dated 3rd February, 2017 has forwarded a copy of Prime Minister's Office Islamabad letter No. 378/M/SPM/2017 dated 1st February, 2017 where in it has been directed PCAA to carry out a consultative exercise and initiate a summary for the Cabinet proposing possible names that can be given to the New IIAP Islamabad.

Accordingly, the PCAA has forwarded the summary to Aviation Division vide letter of even number dated 9th February, 2017 wherein the name of Liaquat Ali Khan International Airport was among the names which were proposed to be named for the airport, Liaquat Ali Khan International Airport, Fatima Jinnah International Airport, Abdul Sattar Edhi International Airport, Dr. A.Q Khan International Airport, Dr Abdus Salam International Airport, Sardar

Abd ur Rab Nishtar International Airport, Baba Bulleh Shah International Airport, Data Ganj Bakhsh International Airport, Muhammad Ali Jauhar International Airport and Ch. Rehmat Ali International Airport.

The name of Islamabad International Airport was formally declared by Cabinet Division Memorandum dated 7th March, 2018, he added.

He said in 2017 a matter regarding naming newly constructed airport of Islamabad was discussed with the then Prime Minister, wherein, it was directed to submit proposals after making necessary consultations.

Accordingly, few names were submitted to the Prime Minister vide Summary dated 06.06.2017. The then Prime Minister shortlisted two names i.e. IIAP and Gandhara International Airport for placing before the Federal Cabinet.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Defence & Defence Production, Khawaja Muhammad Asif presenting a souvenir to General Li Qiaoming, PLA Ground Forces Commander of China.

## UN Rep lauds Pakistan Govt for hosting Afghan refugees for over 4 decades

ISLAMABAD (APP): United Nations high level delegation led by Indrika Ratwate, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, called upon Federal Minister for States & Frontier Regions Division Engr Amir Muqam here on Monday.

The delegation comprised of Mohamad Yahya, Resident Coordinator, Ms. Philippa Candler, Country Representative UNHCR in Pakistan, Farman Khilji, Government Liaison Officer UNHCR, Fady El

Meouchy, Special Assistant to the DSRSG, Malik Ceesay, UNAMA Head of Office, said a press release.

Engr Amir Muqam welcomed the delegation and elaborated Pakistan's role in hosting the Afghan Refugees for four decades. He also outlined the public sentiment after the recent events and Government of Pakistan's stance on safe and voluntary return of Afghan Refugees.

Indrika Ratwate, DSRSG, lauded the Gov-

ernment of Pakistan for hosting the Afghan refugees for well over 40 years and acknowledged the fact that Pakistan has stretched its resources to share this burden.

He also informed that during his recent visit to Kabul, he has engaged with the Interim Afghan Government, and convinced them to create a conducive environment for the returning Afghan refugees so that they may reintegrate in their provinces of origin.

## Salik meets Grand Imam in Cairo, proposes enhanced Pak-Al-Azhar cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Grand Imam, Dr. Ahmed Al-Tayyeb, Sheikh of Al-Azhar Al-Sharif, on Monday received Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, at his office on the sidelines of the 35th International Conference of the Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs being held in Cairo.

The meeting was also attended by Pakistan's Ambassador to Egypt, Sajid Bilal, and senior officials from Al-Azhar Al-Sharif.

During the meeting, Salik briefed the Grand Imam on the efforts of the Government of Pakistan towards promoting interfaith harmony, fostering peace, brotherhood, and unity within the country. He expressed Pakistan's deep respect and admiration for His Eminence, recalling the cherished memories of the Grand Imam's one-year stay in Pakistan.

The discussions also covered potential avenues for further cooperation between Pakistan and Al-Azhar Al-Sharif in promoting a peaceful, progressive, and welfare-oriented interpretation of Islam. The situation in Gaza and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and their implications for regional and global peace, were also addressed. The Grand Imam appreciated Pakistan's participation in the conference and welcomed the proposal for enhanced cooperation between Pakistan and Al-Azhar in spreading peaceful and progressive Islamic teachings.

Both sides agreed to accelerate existing collaborations, ensuring continued interaction in the months ahead. Salik also extended an invitation to the Grand Imam to visit Pakistan at his earliest convenience.



ISLAMABAD: Former Deputy Speaker National Assembly Murtaza Javed Abbasi called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## IG commends officials for foolproof security during chehnum procession

ISLAMABAD (APP): Independent Report according to the details, the main Chehnum procession in Islamabad sector G-6 concluded safely. On this occasion, IG Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi commended all officers for their security duties.

During the processions, the Islamabad Police, ensured foolproof security arrangements, deployed 3,000 officers for the procession. IG Islamabad visited the procession and personally inspected the security arrangements, while monitoring was also conducted from the Safe City Control Room.

On this occasion, DIG Islamabad Syed Ali Raza, SSP Operations, the Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad,

and other senior police officers were also present. Additionally, the Islamabad Police completely cordoned off the procession route, ensured proper lighting arrangements, and deployed police officers along the route. Security duty personnel stationed on rooftops were kept on high alert.

IG Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said that no police officer would leave their duty point until the procession concluded. He emphasized that providing foolproof security for the Chehnum procession of Hazrat Imam Hussain (A.S.) is a significant responsibility, and they were fully prepared to fulfill this duty.

## Alima Khan enters active politics, meets disgruntled PTI workers in Peshawar

PESHAWAR: Alima Khan, sister of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder, has officially entered active politics. Without informing the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, she visited Peshawar and Mardan, meeting disgruntled party workers who have been jailed or are unhappy with the party leadership.

The disgruntled workers complained about Ali Amin Gandapur and other party leaders. Alima Khan announced that she would launch a campaign for the release of the PTI founder, along with the workers.

On the other hand, a committee headed by former President Arif Alvi has been formed to resolve internal differences within the PTI. Arif Alvi will listen to the concerns of both sides and present his proposals within a week.



ISLAMABAD: Brother of Mohnsin Jameel Baig, Editor-in-chief of the international news organization "Online News International" and daily Jinnah, Jameel Baig laid to rest.

## DC orders crackdown on dengue as cases climb to 23

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon has called for strict enforcement of anti-dengue measures across the Federal Capital as five new dengue cases have emerged pushing the total count for the year to 23.

In this regard, the Deputy Commissioner has chaired a review meeting to assess the ongoing anti-dengue campaign.

During the meeting, all assistant commissioners provided updates on the situation in their respective areas.

The latest data revealed, that five new dengue cases in the past week raising concerns as the total number of cases in the

city this year reached 23. Breaking down the numbers, Kural reported the highest with eight cases, followed by three in Sohan, and two in Barakaha.

Other areas with reported cases include F-7 with two, and F-6, E-11, G-7, Sihala, Rawat, H-13, Alipur and Tarnol, each reporting one case.

The meeting also included a review of last year's dengue statistics. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for the strict implementation of anti-dengue Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

He urged the authorities to take action against any assistant commissioners who fail to enforce these measures.



ISLAMABAD: National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) signing a landmark Joint Venture Agreement with the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST). The agreement, which aims to provide specialized training in chip design and manufacturing, was formalized at NAVTTTC Headquarters. The signing ceremony attended by the Honorable Minister for Federal Education, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui as Chief Guest.

## Ayaz commends security forces for successful operation against terrorists

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Monday praised the security forces for their successful operation in Balochistan, which resulted in the elimination of 21 terrorists.

In a press release, Sadiq lauded the bravery and dedication of the security personnel involved in the operation. He expressed deep sorrow and regret over the loss of 10 security forces members and 4 law enforcement officials who sacrificed their lives.

He extended heartfelt

condolences to the families of the martyrs, acknowledging their profound loss.

Ayaz Sadiq said that the sacrifices made by the security forces and law enforcement agencies in combating terrorism have been invaluable. He assured that the nation's commitment to eradicating terrorism remains steadfast and that the sacrifices of the security personnel will be remembered always.

The Speaker condemned the cowardly acts of terrorism and reaffirmed that such actions would not weaken the nation's resolve.



ISLAMABAD: A view of long queues of vehicles on Islamabad Expressway during peak hours.

## Islamabad Club generating its revenue without drawing govt's funds, NA told

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Monday apprised the lower house of the Parliament that the Islamabad Club was generating its revenue on its own without drawing the federal government's funds.

The Minister was replying to the query of Member National Assembly Sunni Itehad Council (SIC) and former Speaker, Asad Qaiser who had sought details pertaining to the operations and revenue

details of the Islamabad Club. MNA Asad Qaiser said that the Islamabad Club, Gymkhana and other clubs were providing leisure and entertainment facilities to the VVIP people. "This is a poor country, and there are many big clubs that needed to be converted into universities or other public service institutions," Asad Qaiser said.

The Law Minister while singling out the mover underscored that Asad Qaiser himself was the voluntary member of the Islamabad Club.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a rain-emergency meeting at CM House.

## DIG Islamabad says: Redressal of public grievances top priority

ISLAMABAD (APP): Independent Report according to the details, following the special directives of the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the DIG Islamabad Syed Ali Raza said that the Islamabad Police is committed to resolve public issues on priority.

He said this while listening to the complaints and issues of the public as well as police officials during the Khuli Kachehri held at his office. Senior police officers were also present on this occasion.

During the Khuli Kachehri, he listened to the complaints of the citizens and marked their applications to the concerned of-

ficers for timely action on merit. He also directed them to send reports to his offices in the given time frame. He further said that strict action will be taken against officials involved in bribery or corruption and a zero tolerance policy will be adopted in this regard.

He emphasized that Islamabad Police would not leave any stone unturned to secure the lives and property of the citizens. "Such interaction would be continued in future to provide maximum relief to the citizens," he added. He said that interaction during "Khuli Kachehri" would help to promote friendly policing and will also ensure self-accountability.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary Education Moinuddin Wani, Principal Prof. Asiya Rafique posing for a group photo after MoU signing ceremony with Pak Arab Company at IMCG F8/1.

## Foreign investment shows confidence in country's economy: Mashhood

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan has said that foreign investments showed remarkable confidence in the country's economy and Pakistan was moving towards the right direction due to the tireless work of Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. Talking to the media here on Monday, he said

that as many as 3,000 new companies had been registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission in July while foreign investment has been made in 86 companies which was a testament to the improvement in the economy.

He said that the provision of maximum relief to the masses was the priority of the government and that it was making all-out efforts to achieve it.

## Edu ministry, Pak-Arab fertiliser provide 30 computers to girls college

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has joined hands with Pak Arab fertilizer company to provide 30 computers to the Islamabad Model College for Girls (IMCG) F/8-1 Computer Lab.

The initiative has been taken by the Education Ministry in order to take a significant stride towards modernizing education by initiating various projects in collaboration with private sector. According to the Education Ministry, it is imperative for private public partnership to join hands for enhancing the infrastructure and quality of education in government schools federal capital.

and Transport Union have urged the government to address the protesters' demands and open the highway for traffic. In a press conference, the president of the All Custom Clearing Agents Association, Emal Shinwari, and the president of the Transport Union, Azimullah Shinwari, demanded that the government take immediate action to resolve the issue. They warned that if the blockade continues, it will have severe consequences for the economy and trade in the region.

## Trade, travel disrupted as protesters block highway in Jamrud

From Our Correspondent JAMRUD: The blockade of the highway in Jamrud by protesters from the Kokikhel tribe has resulted in daily losses of millions of rupees for traders. The protesters are demanding the resolution of their grievances, including the relocation of the protest site.

The traders and exporters-importers are facing difficulties due to the blockade, which is also affecting trade between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Custom Clearing Agents Association

and Transport Union have urged the government to address the protesters' demands and open the highway for traffic. In a press conference, the president of the All Custom Clearing Agents Association, Emal Shinwari, and the president of the Transport Union, Azimullah Shinwari, demanded that the government take immediate action to resolve the issue. They warned that if the blockade continues, it will have severe consequences for the economy and trade in the region.