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Cabinet approves Rs. 5m aid package for each family of missing persons

Law Ministers says special committee to examine genuine cases of missing persons; Aid package approved after cabinet reviewed reports; Assistance an attempt to share grief of missing persons; Cabinet also approves signing of MoU to enhance trade cooperation with China

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Friday said that the federal cabinet had approved a support package for the families of the missing persons under which they would be given financial and legal assistance.

He said that each family of the missing persons would be given a grant of Rs5 million to address their financial troubles.

Addressing a press conference, the minister said that the federal cabinet has approved the recommendations of two committees set up on the issue of missing persons. It has also been decided to take measures including giving relief and legislation to stop the incidents of disappearances in future, he said.

the law minister said that the cabinet has decided to constitute a committee to prepare a mechanism for financial assistance to the affected families. Furthermore, the National Database Regulatory Authority (NADRA) and revenue authorities would be given instructions to address the problems of these families related to heirship and property.

He said that due to the terrorism, the country had been facing various internal challenges, adding that

there were several complex reasons behind the incidents of disappearances.

Azam Nazeer said that the state institutions have also extended positive cooperation and they wanted to address this issue under legal framework.

He said that the government has taken strict actions to resolve the issue of missing persons. A number of cases were addressed through the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances (CoIED), he said.

The law minister asserted that the state is committed to address this issue and would use its all resources for this.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah meets with the outgoing Consul General of America, Mr. Conrad Tribble at CM House. Also present in the photo are Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Principal Secretary to CM Agha Wasif, American Deputy Consul General Amy Hood and Chief Political Unit Mr. Jerrod Hansen.

Excise, taxation system under One Link to save people's time: Sharjeel

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Senior Minister Information, Transport, Excise, and Taxation Sharjeel Inam Memon on Friday said that the new digital service of the excise and taxation department under one line facility would facilitate the people and save them time.

He said that the newly designed digital system would reduce hassles, and bring convenience to people at their fingertips.

The senior minister said that the digitalization would help promote transparency and people would be able to pay their vehicle taxes from their homes.

He said that the Sindh Department of Excise and Taxation had taken a revolutionary step by connecting the Tax System with One Link.

Sharjeel said that the public would be able to pay taxes in minutes safely and reliably at any time. Speaking on checkpoints, he said that the checkpoints would be established at entry and exit points of major cities, where vehicles would be checked for taxation compliance and action would be taken against tax-defaulting vehicles.

In the first phase, a checkpoint would be set up at the Karachi Toll Station, where the tax records of vehicles would be checked.



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon addresses during ceremony on the occasion of 75th foundation day of Pakistan Federation Union of Journalists (PFUJ) held at Karachi press club.

Shafqat Abbas appointed as Director General PID Lahore Regional Office

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: In a significant move, the Government of Pakistan has appointed seasoned information officer Shafqat Abbas, a Grade 20 official in the Information Group, as the Director General of the Press Information Department (PID) Regional Office in Lahore. This appointment, effective from July 15, 2024, underscores the government's commitment to strengthening its information dissemination machinery. A distinguished officer, Shafqat Abbas brings a wealth of experience to his new role, having served in various high-profile positions within the Ministry of Information and its affiliated departments and organizations.



His illustrious career includes stints as Director Home Publicity in PID Islamabad, Deputy Director General Information Service Academy, and Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing National Assembly Session on situation in Palestine.

Pakistan observes mourning day in solidarity with Palestine Public fury to boil over if Zionist state not held accountable for bloodshed in Palestine: PM warns

NA passes resolution unanimously to condemn Israeli oppression; express complete solidarity with Palestinians; Parliamentarians condemn assassination of Ismail Hania

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday strongly condemning the unabated bloodshed of Palestinian people by the Israeli occupation forces and the killing of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, warned that the lava of public anger would get out of control if the Zionist state was not held accountable.

"The Zionist state has crossed all the limits of crimes... The lava of public anger is boiling... If justice does not prevail and the Zionist state killing innocent people is not held to account, the lava of public fury will be in no one's control. It will risk the annihilation of world's peace and development," the prime minister said addressing the National Assembly after

the House unanimously passed a resolution calling Haniyeh's killing a 'deliberate conspiracy to sabotage' Gaza ceasefire efforts and condemning the ongoing Israeli "state oppression and brutality" in Gaza.

The prime minister, who earlier also highlighted the issue in the cabinet meeting chaired by him a while ago and coalition parties meeting on Thursday, said the whole Muslim world including the Pakistani nation was grieved over Ismail Haniyeh's killing. Thanking the members from both sides of the aisle for evolving a consensus on the resolution, he said the parliament's voice would resound the world over to shock the enemies of Pakistan and strengthen its friends.

He highlighted that the

Palestinian people were suffering the worst bloodshed by the Zionist state for the last nine months which killed around 40,000 people including thousands of women and children.

"The cities have turned into cemeteries. The cries have taken over the joys and smiles of the playing children. Palestine is giving a deserted look," the prime minister said and questioned the inaction and helplessness of the world to end the Israeli oppression. He said not only the Muslims rather every peace-loving human being, regardless of faith or creed, was questioning the non-implementation of the international laws and human rights charters for which the world bodies including the United Nations were created.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori addressing a ceremony of digital technology awards organized by the Institutes of Chartered Accounts of Pakistan (ICAP).

Governor distributes digital technology awards among financial institutions

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has distributed digital technology awards for excellence among financial institutions here on Thursday.

Addressing the ceremony organized by the Institutes of Chartered Accounts of Pakistan (ICAP), the Governor said the encouragement of financial institutions was commendable act.

He said without modern innovation, fastest development was not possible. It is imperative to adapt the financial system to the digital age, Governor said.

He commended the initiatives of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan in line with the contemporary requirements. He said that digital technology can join the race of modern development.

The governor further added that the government believes in making full use of digital technology. The youth are being imparted training in modern age IT courses at the Governor House, Kamran Tessori said.

He said that steps are being taken to solve online problems, according to the digital technology.

He said that in this age of modernization, our neighboring countries have surpassed us in the race of technology. We have to create new opportunities for our future generations.

He claimed that SIFC will take the country into a new race of development.

Additional IGP inaugurates new cameras at Azizabad control room

KARACHI (APP): Additional IGP Karachi, Javed Akhtar Odho, inaugurated new ANPR cameras at the command and control room established by Community Policing Karachi (CPK) at the Azizabad police station on Friday.

The event was attended by DIGP West, SSP Central, CPK Executive Director Murad Soni, businessmen, other dignitaries, and police officers.

Murad Soni and DIGP West provided a detailed briefing to the Karachi Police Chief about the project. The newly installed equipment includes one pan-tilt-zoom camera and six modern Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) high-resolution cameras.

PTI's claims of forming govt are hollow, unwarranted: Asif

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Friday ruled out any possibility for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to hold the reins of government anytime soon.

Taking a jibe at PTI founder Imran Khan's sister, Aleema Khan, the minister said that Khan's sister's tone and tenor in her recent press talk was directed at requests to the establishments for talks, adding that no one would talk to them until they were taken to justice for orchestrating May 9 violence.

CM Sindh says: Sindh produces 70pc gas but forced to pay RLNG charges

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that the electricity generated by the Nooriabad power plant costs Rs15 per unit, however, industrial units are being charged Rs48 per unit.

Additionally, despite Sindh contributing to over 70 per cent of the country's gas production, industries in our province were facing gas shortages and were forced to pay RLNG charges.

This he said while speaking at the inauguration ceremony of "My Karachi - Oasis of Harmony Exhibition 2024 at Expo Center on Friday morning. The program was attended by provincial ministers - Sharjeel Memon, Jam Khan Shoro, Jam Ikram Dharejo and Zulfiqa Ali Shah, said a CM house communique.

The CM said that he

was cognizant that the electricity tariff had gone way too high, and the industries were rapidly losing their viability, therefore there were reports that the closure of industries had started taking place. "We are pursuing this matter as well and, in this regard, I would like to inform the audience that we are going to have an electricity generation and distribution company in Sindh very soon and we are in the process of doing that," he disclosed.

Murad Shah mentioned that the electricity being produced by the Nooriabad power plant costs Rs15 per unit, but it is being provided to the industrial units at Rs48 per unit, which has badly affected the industrial establishments, leading them to consider closing down.



ISLAMABAD: President, Asif Ali Zardari exchanging views with Syedaal Khan, Acting Chairman Senate during meeting held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad.

President Zardari grieves rain-related losses, urges swift action to aid affected

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives and damage to properties caused by rain-related incidents across various regions of the country.

In a statement issued by the President House, he conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives. The president underscored

the urgency of accelerating relief efforts to aid those affected. President Zardari also called for the implementation of precautionary measures to safeguard lives and prevent further rain-related tragedies. He emphasized the importance of timely actions by the administration to ensure the effective drainage of rainwater and mitigate the risks of future incidents.

Bilawal grieves over loss of lives in monsoon rains

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the loss of lives and property caused by the ongoing monsoon rains in various parts of the country.

The PPP Chairman highlighted that the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) has suffered the most significant loss of life, with ten fatalities reported in Kohat district alone. He noted that due to severe weather and lack of communication facilities, many incidents in remote areas of KP remain unreported.

He expressed regret that rain victims in KP are left helpless, with no visible government assistance.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Parliamentarians offering funeral prayer of Shaheed Ismail Haniyeh.

Karachi Administration decides to start removal of illegal and unsafe billboards

KARACHI (APP): Karachi Administration has decided to immediately start the process of removing illegal and unsafe billboards from the city.

The unsafe and illegal billboards installed in the city have been identified and their list has been provided to the Deputy Commissioners for action. The Commissioner said that the decision has been made to prevent accidents caused by unsafe billboards and to stop violations of government policy.

Assistant Commissioner Headquarters Commissioner Karachi Rabia Syed presented a report on the survey of unsafe and illegal billboards installed in the city.

ISLAMABAD: Asifa Bhutto Zardari talking to MNAs during national assembly session at parliament house.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Proscription regime

For over two decades, Pakistan has been proscribing militant groups. But while this list of 'banned' groups has kept expanding, there has been little noticeable reduction in militant activity, apart from temporary periods of calm.

Two fresh entries have been made to Nacta's list of banned groups: the Hafiz Gul Bahadur Group, closely linked to the TTP, and the Baloch separatist Majeed Brigade. Moreover, the state has labelled the proscribed TTP as 'Fitna al Khawarij', a reference to the rebel group dating back to the early Islamic period. But beyond issuing notifications and using historical and religious terms to delegitimise terrorist groups, a deeper probe is needed to ascertain why the state's proscription regime has failed to produce the desired results.

Religiously inspired armed groups are a product of the Zia-era Afghan 'jihad', while nationalist militants with a separatist bent, particularly in Balochistan, have been around for longer. While the sectarian terrorist group Lashkar-i-Jhangvi was banned in 2001 by the Musharraf regime, the general outlawed five militant groups en masse in January 2002. In the febrile post-9/11 geopolitical atmosphere, it was widely believed that the late strongman had acted to keep Pakistan on the right side of the Americans, who had issued the 'with us or against us' ultimatum to foreign states. Regardless of the motivation, some action was taken against jihadi and sectarian groups. Yet 22 years after the event, the list of proscribed outfits has ballooned from five or six to the current 81. The list is an eclectic mix of armed religious outfits, separatists, and NGOs. But again, the key questions are: why does the list keep on growing, and why does militancy continue?

It appears that the state has pursued a flawed approach towards banning groups. After the first round of proscription in 2002, many of the groups took on new names and continued with business as usual. In some cases, their funds were not frozen, and their key leaders remained free men. Even today, some sectarian groups continue to operate with freedom under different names. To truly neutralise the militant threat, only representatives of the state — the military and civil armed forces — should be allowed to bear arms. Moreover, the masterminds and ideologues of terrorist groups need to be prosecuted legally, and all their sources of funding frozen. A complementary effort to neutralise groups promoting extremist ideologies is also required.

Furthermore, the root causes that attract many ordinary citizens to the terrorist cause — injustice, poverty, lack of opportunity — need to be addressed. After the 2002 proscription, this paper had written that the ban "should have a salutary effect on the law and order situation... and lead to... socioeconomic normality". Twenty-two years later, we still await this elusive normality.

The class war

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

Working people in Pakistan are literally struggling to breathe. If they seek some relief from the heat by turning on a couple of fans and using a refrigerator (assuming they own one), they will be hit with an electricity bill well in excess of their entire household earnings. To rub salt in their wounds, they are forced to pay through their teeth despite long hours of loadshedding.

It should now be common knowledge that this is all happening because the World Bank and IMF forced the so-called IPPs down our throats in 1994, and we are now stuck with binding agreements to pay these power producers at exorbitant dollar rates. Our own venal ruling class — both khaki supremos and civilian juniors — refuse to pay income tax at all, let alone redistribute wealth, so it is left to the blue- and white-collar working masses to foot the bill.

The IPP scandal is only the tip of a very large iceberg. The government of Pakistan has to meet public debt obligations of \$70 billion over the next three years. This does not include private debt to commercial banks which would make the figures even more unfathomable. Seen thus, the class war against working people will only intensify.

This war includes attacks on livelihoods. Urban sprawl, due in significant part to free-for-all real estate development, is swallowing up more and more agricultural land. Small and landless farmers, as well as non-agricultural castes, are thus increasingly pushed to the wayside, and forced into daily wage work in the metropole, bereft of any social safety net. In villages proper, more and

more of the rural poor are subject to some form of servitude or left to abandon agriculture altogether. Even middle-sized farmers are under attack, as was evidenced by the wheat import scandal which pillaged large parts of the Seraiki belt and parts of otherwise prosperous central Punjab.

The industrial working class, once a relatively powerful entity which could defend itself through trade unions, is on the back foot. This on the odd instance of resistance, workers neither have secure pay, decent working conditions, affordable housing nor other basic amenities.

Beyond 'peaceful', metropolitan Pakistan, another form of the class war is playing out in the long-suffering ethnic peripheries. The border trade in and around towns like Chaman and Taftan which sustains millions of working families is being formally criminalised even while the biggest guns of all continue to make windfall profits from cars to cigarettes and from Iranian petrol to wheat.

Over the past week, the so-called civilian government of Balochistan demonstrated its unerring commitment to colonial statecraft against thousands of peaceful protesters who have sought to gather in Gwadar and other parts of the province. Their crime was only to voice their entirely legitimate demands for economic justice and an end to enforced disappearances.

In Gilgit-Baltistan, Kashmir and KP, mountainous highlands are being devastated in the name of 'tourism' and 'development'.

Land and mineral grabs are routine, the nexus of state and private capital running amok. Here too wheat subsidies are being

Jan-e-Alam Khaki

sectarianism (firqa parasti) is disdained by most right-thinking people. What, however, needs to be differentiated is firqa and firqa parasti. Firqa (branch or school of thought) is a historical development of a community that has a different perspective from the majority community based on the reading and interpreting of sources, upholding the key ethical principles of the faith as shared by all. Sectarism or communalism, on the other hand, is an attitude or an orientation where one sees their community as exclusively right, holding the final truth and all others as absolutely wrong and worth condemning.

Communities of interpretation are those that are based on the acceptance of the principle that humans as individuals or as a group living at the same time or in the past, think differently. Although it is said that great minds think alike, it is also true that fools seldom differ!

Thinking differently is surely a sign of creativity based on the fact that humans see things not as they are but as they (communities or individuals) themselves are. We, as individuals or communities, perceive and interpret the outside world based on our own experiences, our internal likes and dislikes, the external influences of friends, elders, teachers, books, etc.

It is not that people create a school of thought deliberately as a result of some conspiracy. Big questions or issues always lead to many opinions and interpretations. Take the example of predestination and free will. Are humans practically predetermined, or do what they are supposed to, because they are pre-

Communal richness

grammed? Or, are they absolutely free to do what they can without any external pressure? Can there be one answer to these questions?

When groups of people take a position for relatively longer, they, over time, form schools of thought, sects, communities or denominations. But the nature of knowledge is such that within the same group there arise people who differ with the position taken, then form their own group, leading to the formation of subgroups.

So, if we understand humans from this perspective, we do not have to be angry about groups or schools of thought coming into existence with time. If all humans were to think alike, perhaps human societies would not have developed the way they have. We need to perhaps appreciate the hadith attributed to the Prophet (PBUH) that differences among the ummah are a blessing.

Two things make a case for diversity of thought: human constitution (the way we have been made) and the way knowledge is produced. Insofar as humans will be humans, they will continue to differ, unless we all become robots to act alike.

Second, knowledge production is a process of construction and reconstruction. The title of the collection of Allama Iqbal's talks is rightly titled 'Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam'. Imam al-Ghazali wrote 'Tahafat al-Phalasafa' (Rejection of the philosophers), a book refuting philosophers and, lo and behold, refuting his ideas, Ibn Tufail, equally an intellectual giant, wrote 'Tahafat al-Phalasafa' (Rejection of the philosophers). These are examples of deconstruction

and reconstruction of Islamic thought.

This world is to be run by communities of interpretation, sharing their best ideas and developing feasible solutions. Experience tells us that dictators with a messianic image, and the people around them, do terrible long-term damage. Similarly, there may be theological or intellectual dictators who their ideas are 'Urdu ke akhiri kitab'. Gra-ve-yards across the world are filled with those who thought they were super thin-kers. But the world manages to thrive without them.

So, where does this argument take us?

I think that, a) we must take differences as a natural phenomenon, and a historical evolutionary process looking at it as such; b) let us avoid thinking we have the absolute truth and others have only a pack of lies; c) do not compare yourself or your community with others and regard yourself as superior and condemn others as inferior and do not go to the extent of running after their lives just because they have a different way of interpreting things, religious or secular.

Lastly, we need to heed the advice of wiser minds: do not look at who has said something, but look at what has been said. Do not always judge, unless you belong to the judiciary. State your position but be willing to listen to a contrary perspective as well.

Exchange of ideas gives rise to finer thoughts — thesis gives rise to antithesis and both to synthesis. Hence, let us regard the different schools of thought as varieties of intellectual or historical experiences and call them, as Farhad Dafary, an Islamic scholar does, 'communities of interpretation'. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

France, Pakistan affirm commitment to deepen economic, trade ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): France and Pakistan on Friday affirmed their commitment to deepen economic relations, exploring investment opportunities and expanding bilateral trade.

Ambassador of France to Pakistan Mr. Nicolas Galey called on Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik at Finance Division, said press release issued here.

Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik provided an overview of Pakistan's economic progress, highlighting positive trends such as increased foreign exchange reserves, decreased inflation and a

robust stock market, all corroborated by recent ratings from international agencies.

He outlined key reforms underway, including privatization initiatives, energy sector advancements, and restructuring of state-owned enterprises (SOEs).

The discussion also covered the digitization initiative of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), being implemented with support from McKinsey to enhance tax administration and compliance.

The minister of state highlighted the budget for 2024-25, focusing on strategies to expand the tax



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Finance & Revenue Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik was called on by the Ambassador of France to Pakistan Mr. Nicolas Galey.

Mobilink bank launches Pak first women-led incubator program

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading digital microfinance bank, Mobilink Bank strengthens its commitment to women's economic empowerment with the launch of Pakistan's first-ever industry-specific incubator program designed exclusively for women entrepreneurs.

This initiative falls under the umbrella of the Bank's ongoing Women Inspirational Network (WIN) program. The WIN Incubator program aims to empower 25 women entrepreneurs by equipping them with knowledge in core business areas including ideation, planning, business management, financial literacy and marketing. The graduating startups will gain access to a professional network and guaranteed Bmt-e-Hawwa loans to fuel their ventures.

The most promising startups will compete for a PKR 4 million investment to bring their startup ideas to life.

Mobilink Bank is part of the VEON group, a

PSX turns bullish, gains 485 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Friday, gaining 485.68 points, a positive change of 0.62 percent, closing at 78,225.98 points against 77,740.31 points on the last working day. A total of 443,483,358 shares were traded during the day as compared to 278,986,985 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 20.497 billion against Rs 13.094 billion on the last trading day.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where six ships, Maersk Cape-Town, MSC Positano, Athenian, Canopus, Ds Ocean and Lusail carrying Container, LNG, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Liquid Terminals, Engro Terminal and Elengy Terminal respectively on Thursday.

Import of 100,000MT urea approved for smooth supply, price stability

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb on Friday chaired a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet which approved the import of 100,000 Metric Tons (MT) urea. The committee decided on a proposal submitted by the Ministry of Industries and Production aimed at ensuring sufficient supplies of urea in the market.

"This will also ensure stability of prices of fertilizer during the cropping season," a Finance Division news release said. Among others, the meeting was attended by Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, Minister for Petroleum Musadik Masood Malik, Minister for Power Sardar Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari, Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Governor SBP, Chairman SECP, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, MD PASSCO, Chairman TCP.

Short-term inflation falls by 0.12 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed a decrease of 0.12 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on August 1st, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 321.56 points as compared to 321.95 points during the past week.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 18.41 per cent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

The SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732, decreased by 0.90 per cent and went down to 309.40 points from last week's 312.22 points.

SBP injects Rs 9.567 trillion into market

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) injected Rs 9,567.25 billion into the market on Friday through reverse repo purchase and Shariah Compliant Mudarabah-based Open Market Operation (OMO).

According to OMO results issued here, the SBP conducted an Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) on August 02, 2024, for 7-day and 28-day tenors and accepted 44 bids cumulatively amounting to Rs9,482.25 billion.

Rupee on steady recovery

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Friday continued its recovery and appreciated by 16 paisa against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.50 against the previous day's closing of Rs278.66.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 279.2 and Rs 280.4 respectively.

Envoy-designate sees US as 'most attractive' destination for Pakistani products

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's ambassador-designate to the United States Rizwan Saeed Sheikh on Friday said America was the 'most attractive' market for Pakistan and "we have to focus on it to explore more and more economic opportunities."

He expressed these views while talking to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari during his visit to the chamber, a news release said.

He said that, as a professional diplomat, the foremost responsibility would be to bring both countries further closer.

The ambassador-designate viewed the United States as a consumer society which was why it enjoyed the vital potential of trade and economic connectivity and "I will focus on more and more liaison to facilitate the holding of exhibitions to showcase Pakistani products."

Sheikh said he was convinced that Pakistan would successfully overcome its existing economic difficulties and would also approach the Pakistani-Americans irrespective of their political affiliations to persuade them to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan.



FAISALABAD: A labourer working in a local industry in the city.

Pakistani, Chinese experts discuss enhanced economic growth, connectivity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Experts from Pakistani think-tanks and China on Friday participated in a seminar to discuss potential ways to enhance collaboration between the two countries in multiple fields, particularly economic growth and connectivity.

The event, titled "Pakistan Economy & Growth: Learning from Chinese Experience," was organized by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), marking a significant step towards strengthening

economic ties between China and Pakistan.

The seminar was aimed at facilitating an exchange of knowledge and optimum practices between the two nations, according to a news release. In her opening remarks, PIDE's Pro VC Dr Durra Nayab emphasized the importance of such interactions in fostering growth and development.

She highlighted the need to adopt strategies that have contributed to China's economic success, tailored to Pakistan's unique context.

Health ministers order FIRs against govt offices found with dengue larvae

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Ministers Khawaja Salman Rafique and Khawaja Imran Nazir have issued orders for registration of cases against the government offices where dengue larvae have been detected.

The directive came during the 6th meeting on dengue, infectious diseases and disaster management at the Department of Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education.

Khawaja Salman, Minister for Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education, emphasised the urgency of heightened vigilance following recent rains to prevent a dengue outbreak. He urged the administration of sensitive districts to intensify their efforts.

With commissioners and deputy commissioners personally overseeing anti-dengue operations. He stressed the need for increased anti-

dengue surveillance in Lahore, Rawalpindi, and Faisalabad and called for strict adherence to the meeting's resolutions. He assured that the health department has a robust plan to curb dengue and other diseases, highlighting that government hospitals have adequate dengue medication supplies.

Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Khawaja Imran Nazir expressed his concerns, noting the heightened risk of dengue due to the monsoon rains. He announced the launch of a pilot volunteer service project in Shalimar Town, Lahore, aimed at bolstering anti-dengue efforts at the grassroots level. He mentioned the use of red warning stickers on homes with detected dengue larvae and underscored the importance of reporting suspected dengue cases from private hospitals and



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Salim Haider and a large congregation offer absentia funeral prayers for Ismail Haniyeh at Masjid Shahada.

KP govt adopts zero tolerance policy against corruption: Barrister Saif

PESHAWAR (APP): Adviser to the Chief Minister for Information, Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif here Friday said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Government has adopted a zero-tolerance policy against corruption and strict action would be taken against corrupt and commission mafia.

Addressing a press conference along with Communication and Works Department's Minister Shakeel Khan here at the press club, Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif said that the concerned

Ministers and departments would be held responsible in case of any report about financial irregularity or corruption.

He urged people and journalists to identify corruption and financial irregularity so that strict action would be taken against the responsible officials.

Provincial Minister for Communication and Works Department Shakeel Khan said that corruption was unacceptable and Secretary C&W was removed as he was not satisfied with him.

CM grieved over loss of lives in rains

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has expressed a deep sense of sorrow and grief over the loss of precious human lives due to electrocution, collapse of roofs during torrential rains.

The CM expressed her heartfelt sympathies and condolence with the bereaved families over the tragic incidents.

She directed to provide the best medical treatment facilities to the injured persons due to collapse of roofs.

Governor flays attack on judges in Tank

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday strongly condemned the firing incident on judges' vehicles in Tank District.

In a statement, the governor expressed profound sorrow over the loss of two policemen who were providing security to the judges. He conveyed his heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the families of the slain officers.

Governor Kundi also offered prayers for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks and patience for their bereaved families. He extended his best wishes for the early recovery of those injured in the attack.

CM vows to complete 600 development projects by December

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Amin Gandapur on Friday met with parliamentarians and party leaders from all four regions of the province. The meetings focused on resolving public issues, public welfare projects and rehabilitation of infrastructure affected by monsoon rains.

The chief minister announced that over 600 development projects nearing completion across the province, would be finished by December this year. He emphasized the importance of prioritizing

ongoing development projects and devolving development project authorities to the local level. He directed the elected representatives to propose projects based on local needs and priorities, ensuring wise use of public taxes. He also announced that these development projects would only be inaugurated when they were fully completed and providing public services.

The chief minister said that he was working to strengthen local government institutions to resolve public issues locally.



LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari addressing a ceremony titled "Problems faced by women journalists: progress and solutions", organised by the National Women Journalists Forum (NWJF).

Female journalists have proven their mettle despite hardships: Azma Bukhari

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari has said that the female journalists in Pakistan have proven their mettle despite unfavourable conditions.

She expressed these views while addressing a ceremony titled "Problems faced by women journalists: progress and solutions", organised by the National Women Journalists Forum (NWJF) here on Friday. The event was attended by NWJF President Farzana Chaudhry, Bushra Khaliq, NWJF Senior Vice Presidents Kanwal Naseem,

Sidra Asim, Darakhshanda Alamdar and senior female journalists Fakhria Tehreem.

In her address, Azma Bukhari said that the Punjab government would always stand with them to help solve their issues. "I am happy that female journalists have formed their first national organisation and it is a positive step toward women empowerment." Referring to her fake video, she said that many people advised her to keep silent, but she raised voice on the issue keeping in mind other women's social rights.

Governor KP directs Edwards College admin to address financial, medical, audit objections in 15 days

PESHAWAR (APP): A meeting of the Board of Governors of Edwards College was held at the Governor House on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi.

The meeting gave 15 days to address objections related to the college's financial accounts, new discipline, medical fund, interest-free loans and audit issues of the College. The Board conditionally approved Edwards College's annual surplus budget for fiscal year 2024-25.

During the meeting, detailed briefings were provided on the College's annual budget, revised estimates and

PU sets up summer camp in China

LAHORE (APP): Punjab University Confucius Institute set up summer camp in China in which a group of 19 students from various Pakistani universities embarked on a captivating two-week adventure, exploring China's vibrant culture and rich history.

Under the expert guidance of Chinese Director at Jiangxi University of Science and Technology (JXUST) Professor Cai JinBao the students experienced a grand reception in Guangzhou, high-speed train ride, Chinese calligraphy, Kung Fu classes, the essence of traditional arts, historic exploration, visits to the fishu canal, Wei's Family House and local museums to get deep insights into China's storied past.

City highlights included tours of Guangzhou tower, shenzhen bay park and a full-day exploration of Zhuhai.

MPAs laud CM's public welfare initiatives

LAHORE (APP): Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb Friday held separate meetings with the Members of Provincial Assembly (MPAs) Punjab in which matters pertaining to party activities, ongoing development projects in the respective constituencies and political situation were discussed.

Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb apprised them about the steps being undertaken by CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif for progress and uplift of the people and the province.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said that the implementation of the record development budget is being carried out in a proactive manner and funds have been allocated in the budget for the development schemes. CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif is personally overseeing development works. No compromise will be made on the quality, speed and timely completion of the development projects, she added.

The Assembly Members appreciated the steps being taken by CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif for launching development projects along with reducing price-hikes and provision of relief to the people of the province.

International News

26 detainees freed in biggest post-Cold War prisoner swap

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Jailed US Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich and ex-US Marine Paul Whelan were among two dozen detainees from the United States, Russia and a number of their allies freed on Thursday in the biggest prisoner exchange since the Cold War.

The White House said the US had negotiated the complex trade with Russia and other countries. It said eight prisoners held in the West were being sent back to Russia.

Germany confirmed that they included Vadim Krasnikov, convicted of murdering an exiled dissident in Berlin.

Turkiye, which coordinated the exchange, said 10 prisoners, including two minors, had been moved to Russia, 13 to Germany and three to the United States. Also involved in the swap were Poland, Slovenia, Norway and Belarus.



Mourners shout slogans in the grounds close to the Imam Muhammad bin Abdul Wahhab Mosque during the final prayers for Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh during his funeral in the Qatari capital Doha.

Slain Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh's funeral held in Qatar; Israel warned of revenge

Monitoring Desk
DOHA: The funeral of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh took place in Qatar on Friday following his assassination two days ago in Iran's capital Tehran — one in a series of killings of senior figures in the Palestinian group as the fighting between Israel and Hamas in Gaza rages.

Mourners at the ceremony in Imam Muhammad bin Abdul Wahhab Mosque, the Gulf emirate's largest, just north of the capital Doha included Khaled Meshal, who is tipped to be the new Hamas leader. Other senior Hamas officials and Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani also attended. Mourners lined up for funeral prayers inside the mosque while others prayed on mats outside in temperatures that reached 44 degree Celsius.

Haniyeh's coffin, draped in the Palestinian flag, was carried across the mosque past hundreds of people along with the coffin of his bodyguard, who was killed in the same attack in Tehran.

Turkiye blocks Nato-Israel cooperation over Gaza

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Türkiye has blocked cooperation between Nato and Israel since October because of the crisis in Gaza and said the alliance should not engage with Israel as a partner until there is an end to the conflict, sources familiar with the process said.

Israel carries the status of Nato partner and has fostered close relations with the military alliance and some of its members.

Bangladesh releases student leaders

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Bangladesh police freed six student leaders on Thursday whose campaign against civil service job quotas sparked deadly nationwide unrest, as the government looked to calm tensions and forestall fresh demonstrations. Students Against Discrimination staged nationwide rallies last month that ended in a police crackdown and the deaths of at least 206 people, according to an AFP count of police and hospital data. The group's leadership were among thousands picked up in the police dragnet that followed some of the worst unrest of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's 15-year tenure.

Excessive force leading to unlawful killings in India: UN panel

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations Human Rights Committee has expressed concern over the use of excessive force in "disturbed territories in India, leading to unlawful killings.

The UN committee, in a report released this week, noted that certain provisions of India's Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) and counter-terrorism laws do not comply with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

The committee expressed alarm over the prolonged application of these laws in "disturbed areas" such as districts in Manipur, the occupied Jammu and Kashmir and Assam.

It noted with concern that this extended enforcement has led to "widespread and severe human rights violations, including excessive use of force resulting in unlawful killings.

UN Security Council members condemn Israel's assassination of Hamas leader

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: UN Security Council members condemned the assassination of Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh in the Iranian capital Tehran, while permanent representatives of the US and UK blamed Iran for destabilizing the region. The Council convened for an emergency session on the killing of Haniyeh at the request of Iran, which was supported by Russia, Algeria and China. Speaking at the session, Chinese Ambassador Fu Cong said China strongly condemns the assassination of Haniyeh.

Calling the incident "a blatant attempt to sabotage peace efforts," Cong stressed that "China is deeply worried about an exacerbation of the upheaval in the region that this incident may trigger."

Similarly, Algeria's envoy to the UN, Amar Bendjama, said: "We are on the precipice of catastrophe," adding that Israel's attack was "an act of terror" that violated international law and the sovereignty of Iran. "This is not merely an attack on one man. It is a vicious assault on the very foundations of diplomatic relations, the sanctity of state sovereignty and the principles that underpin our global order," he said.

Bendjama strongly condemned the "terrorist act perpetrated by the Israeli occupying power."

Saying that Israel's "blotchy, scorched-earth policy" is leading to a "tide of violence flooding Gaza, the West Bank, Yemen, Lebanon, Syria and now the Islamic Republic of Iran," he asked: "Where will this madness end?"

He also called on the international community not to remain silent "as innocent blood is spilled and international law is shredded to pieces."

US says strikes on Tehran, Beirut 'don't help' tensions

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: An Israeli strike that killed a Hezbollah commander in Beirut and the killing of the political leader of Hamas in Tehran "don't help" regional tensions but there are no signs of an imminent wider conflict, the White House said Wednesday.

"These reports over the last 24, 48 hours certainly don't help with the temperature going down," National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters when asked about the attacks.

"We're obviously concerned about escalation," Kirby downplayed the risk of an immediate descent into the all-out war that the region has feared since Hamas' October 7 attacks on Israel and the ensuing war in Gaza.

"We don't really think that an escalation is inevitable and there's no signs that an escalation is imminent," he said. But he said Washington was carefully monitoring developments. "It's not like we're brushing off concerns at all. We're watching this very, very closely and it's been a chief concern of the president," said Kirby.

The strikes on two of Israel's arch foes came less than a week after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited the White House for talks with President Joe Biden aimed at pushing a ceasefire in Gaza. Hamas blamed an Israeli strike for the killing of its political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

Israel declined to comment on the attack but Netanyahu on Wednesday said his country had delivered "crushing blows" to its enemies, and explicitly mentioned the killing of Hezbollah leader Fuad Shukur in south Beirut.

Antony Blinken hails closer ties with Mongolia in rare visit

Monitoring Desk
ULAANBAATAR: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was in Mongolia at the end of a 10-day tour of Asia, hailing growing ties with the landlocked democracy sandwiched between authoritarian powers China and Russia. His long tour, which also took him to Southeast Asia and Japan, has been aimed at hammering home US support for allies and countering China's influence in the region — even if Washington insists it is not pursuing a policy of containment against Beijing.

During a meeting in the Laos capital Vientiane at the end of last week, Blinken raised the issue with Chinese counterpart Wang Yi during "frank and productive" exchanges, ac-

Ex-BBC presenter pleads guilty to indecent child pictures charges

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Former BBC TV news presenter Huw Edwards, a household name in Britain, pleaded guilty on Wednesday to three counts of making indecent pictures of children. Edwards, 62, who was the BBC's highest-paid journalist and top news anchor until he quit in April, arrived at London's Westminster Magistrates' Court wearing sunglasses through a throng of photographers and camera crews. After confirming his identity, he was asked if he wished to indicate a plea to the three charges, which relate to three different categories of indecent images. Edwards said: "Guilty". Judge Paul Goldspring said Edwards would be sentenced on Sept 16.

Warns against politicising issue of electricity bill

Reducing electricity prices a top priority for PML-N, allies: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif stated on Friday that the government was focused on providing relief to electricity consumers, as reducing electricity prices was a key agenda for PML-N.

President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, the government, and its allies.

In his initial remarks at the Cabinet meeting, Sharif emphasized that the government needed to lower electricity prices to boost the country's exports. He pointed out that without this reduction, neither the agricultural sector nor the industrial sector could expand effectively. Competitiveness in the industry was directly linked to lower electricity prices, he remarked.

Sharif criticized the use of electricity issues for political gain, calling it disrespectful to the public. He highlighted that the nation sought a resolution to this problem. Addressing inefficiencies and corruption

within the Federal Bureau of Revenue (FBR) and the Energy Sector, and making these institutions efficient, would set the country on the right path.

He assured that the government was aware of the people's problems and doing its utmost to address them.

Shehbaz noted that the PML-N government had resolved the 20-hour daily load-shedding issue. At that time, few were willing to invest significantly in electricity production, with China being the only country showing interest in investing in power generation. In 2015, the prime minister mentioned that some of the fastest power-producing plants in history were installed. The government set up four LNG plants, each with a capacity of 500 MW and a turbine efficiency of 64 percent. Credit for these cost-effective plants went to Nawaz Sharif. At that time, NEPRA's tariff was \$8.5, and the plants were

built for just \$450,000. These agreements should not be criticized, as they represented a sincere effort to address Pakistan's most pressing challenge.

He instructed ministers and government officials to inform the public about the steps taken by successive PML-N governments to eliminate load-shedding in the country.

The government had extended the last date for paying electricity bills by 10 days, said the prime minister. Likewise, the electricity tariff for the country's industry had been reduced by Rs 8.5 per unit. A Rs 170 billion subsidy was being provided to the industry in this regard.

The prime minister said that the government was making collective efforts to address electricity theft. He praised the interim government, the Sindh and Punjab governments, and Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir for their dedicated efforts to tackle the issue.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah cut the ribbon to inaugurate "My Karachi - Oasis of Harmony" Exhibition 2024 at the Expo Center.

Ahsan announces National Task Force on Productivity, Quality and Innovation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday announced to establish a National Task Force dedicated to enhancing Productivity, Quality and Innovation (PQI) across all sectors of the economy for revitalizing Pakistan's economic landscape.

"This initiative, set to be launched in August 2024 — coinciding with the month of Pakistan's independence — signals a significant step toward addressing the nation's critical economic challenges, fostering a culture of innovation, and unlocking new avenues for growth," a news release said.

The Task Force, which initially gained widespread support from global and domestic stakeholders during its conceptual phase in the previous tenure, faced setbacks due to political disruptions in 2018.

However, with renewed determination and a clear vision, Ahsan Iqbal said he was committed to steering this initiative back on track, fostering an environment where innovation and productivity advancements can drive substantial economic growth.

The Task Force's mandate is the promotion of innovation as a driving force behind economic growth.

By encouraging creative solutions, new technologies and cutting-edge practices across industries, the Task Force aims to position Pakistan as a leader in innovation.

PM, Parliamentarians offer Ismail Haniyeh's funeral prayer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, members of the Federal Cabinet and the Parliamentarians on Friday offered the funeral prayer in absentia of Ismail Haniyeh, the Chief of the Political Bureau of Hamas, martyred in Tehran.

The funeral prayer was held across the country as part of the government's decisions, taken on Thursday which also included the observance of a day of mourning.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attallah Tarar, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, and leaders of the ruling coalition as well as the opposition parties also offered the funeral prayer.

Outgoing US CG calls on Governor, CM

KARACHI (APP): The Outgoing Consul General (CG) of the United States of America to Karachi Conrad Tribble called on the Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori and Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in separate call-ons here on Friday.

The Sindh Governor lauded the role of the Consul General in promoting bilateral relations between the two countries.

He said that the Consul General played an important role in Pakistan-US bilateral relations. He further said that the services of the outgoing Consul General are appreciated.

The Consul General Conrad Tribble said that the people of Pakistan were very hospitable and loving. He further said that the United States of America had always given importance to relations with Pakistan. In the call-on with the Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah Consul General Conrad Tribble thanked the CM for his support and cooperation.

The Chief Secretary Syed Asif Haider Shah and Principal Secretary to CM Agha Wasif were also present on the occasion.

The Sindh Chief Minister appreciated the services of the outgoing Consul General.



KARACHI: The Outgoing Consul General (CG) of the United States of America to Karachi Conrad Tribble called on the Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

CCOP approves 24 entities for privatization programme

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Cabinet Committee on Privatization (CCOP) Friday approved 24 entities for the Privatization Programme (2024-29) and decided that the inclusion of other State Owned Entities (SOEs) in the privatization programme will be taken upon completion of the review by the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSSEs) regarding categorization of Strategic/Essential SOEs.

After deliberating on the privatization policy guidelines, the CCOP considered 84 SOEs reflected in the federal footprint SOEs consolidated report FY2020-22 in detail in light of the SOE Act and Policy.

The meeting of the committee was held here with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in the chair.

The meeting was also attended by other members of the committee including the Finance Minister, Minister for Privatization, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Power, Minister for Industries & Production, Minister of State Finance and Revenue besides Federal Secretaries of various Ministries and Divisions.

The CCOP was presented with a phased Privatization Programme (2024-29) by the Ministry of Privatization, based on the recommendations of the PC Board, in terms of Section 5(b) of the Privatisation Commission Ordinance 2000.

The CCOP recommended that priority should be accorded to reducing the federal footprint in commercial space and limiting it to the strategic and essential SOEs only. CCOP emphasized that even SOEs making profits would also be considered for privatization.

Waqar Mehdi rejects JI allegation regarding rain situation in city

KARACHI (APP): General Secretary of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Sindh chapter and Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Sindh Waqar Mehdi has rejected the recent statement by the opposition leader in the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) regarding cleanliness during the ongoing rains in metropolis and termed allegations as baseless and an attempt to gain media attention through criticism.

He stated that since Jamaat-e-Islami's candidate did not become the mayor, they were finding faults even in good initiatives.

In a statement, Waqar Mehdi emphasized that despite significant rainfall, Karachi's roads remain clean and traffic was flowing smoothly.

He urged Jamaat-e-Islami leaders not to play politics on the basis of unfounded allegations. He said all major and minor drains in Karachi are operational.

Mehdi pointed out that during the rains, Jamaat-e-Islami's town chairmen were not in the field. Waqar Mehdi noted that, under the directives of CM Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, Sindh's ministers, advisors and special assistants were fulfilling their responsibilities during the rain emergency.

Provincial Ombudsman Nawabshah resolves citizen's case

HYDERABAD (APP): On the special instructions of Provincial Ombudsman Sohail Rajput (SI), Regional Director Ombudsman Shaheed Benazirabad Khan Muhammad Zardari solved the problem of a citizen here Friday.

On this occasion, the Regional Ombudsman said that Zahoore Ahmed had submitted an application in the Ombudsman Office for his gratuity, LPR and GP fund, stating that his father was a government employee who died in the line of duty.

SSP Sukkur pays tribute to martyrs of Ghotki Police

SUKKUR (APP): Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sukkur, Amjad Ahmed Shaikh on Friday paid rich tribute to three constables who embraced martyrdom during a robbery in Katcha area of Ghotki district.

He said the Sindh Police would never forget the sacrifices of its brave personnel.

Two girls shot dead over domestic dispute in Larkana

LARKANA (APP): In a tragic incident, two girls shot dead over a domestic dispute in the premises of Rehmat Pur police station in Larkana.

As per details, the police spokesperson said that the incident occurred in Larkana when unknown armed assailants went inside a house and opened fire.

The police officials said that the firing resulted in the death of two girls identified as 19-year-old Hafeezan and 17-year-old Farah, whereas one sustained injuries.

Over 300 BISP beneficiaries registered in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD (APP): More than 300 beneficiaries for Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) were registered here on Friday to receive the stipend after further processing.

A two-day camp was set up by BISP at the UC 114 office in Latiqabad, Hyderabad, to register eligible, poor and needy women for the Program.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman UC 114 Muhammad Asif remarked that providing such assistance to the poor and deserving people was a noble act.

Children play key role in building strong society: DC

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Senior Deputy Commissioner Mirpurkhas, Dr. Rashid Masood Khan Friday said that children were an important segment to build a strong society and they needed attention for their grooming.

He expressed these views while presiding over the district coordination committee's meeting with the representatives of the social organizations working for the protection of children in his office.

According to the handout, the DC further said that it was very important to protect the children along with providing basic



HYDERABAD: Activists of Jamit Ulma Islam hold a protest against Israel government.

SRSO launches new programs to support climate change affected communities

MIRPURKHAS (APP): The Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) has launched a three-year program to support vulnerable communities affected by climate change in the Tehsil, Jhuddo of the district.

The SRSO's spokesperson Jameel Ahmed said the program was funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The program aimed to benefit direct and indirect 7,869 households, comprising 43,164 people (22,445 Women and 20719 Men), through climate resilient agriculture and infrastructure initiatives, particularly focusing on the communi-



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb presiding over a meeting of Economic Coordination Committee (ECC).

Commissioner chairs meeting to review arrangements regarding "Kashmir Exploitation Day"

NAWABSHAH (APP): Commissioner, Shaheed Benazirabad, Syed Muhammad Sajjad Haider on Friday chaired a meeting to review arrangements regarding observing "Kashmir Exploitation Day" in the division.

Deputy Commissioner (DC), Shaheed Benazirabad, Sheryar Gul Memon, DC, Sanghar, Imran ul Hassan

Khawaja, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Neshroferoz, Muhammad Mustafaqem, Director, Information, Muhammad Musa Gondal and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

The commissioner directed to make arrangements in befitting manners to observe the day in the division and organized rallies to highlight its importance.

Mayor warns LG representatives against negligence in solid waste disposal

HYDERABAD (APP): The Mayor of Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (HMC) Kashif Ali Shoro has directed all the local government representatives in the city to ensure that cleanliness exercises are carried out in the city on a regular basis.

Chairing a meeting at his office here on Friday the Mayor warned chairmen of Town Municipal Corporations (TMCs), chairmen of Union Committees (UCs) and officials of Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) that he would not tolerate negligence in that regard.

The SSWMB's Deputy Director Syed Zulfiqar Haider Shah briefed the mayor about the ongoing solid waste disposal works in the city being carried out by AtlasPak contractor. The chairmen of different TMCs briefed Shoro about the solid waste disposal issues in their respective jurisdictions.

Two street criminals held with arms, bike after encounter

KARACHI (APP): Two street criminals were arrested with arms, ammunition, cash and a motorcycle after exchange of fire near Haji Murid Goth in the metropolis. The encounter took place on Lyari Expressway in Gulbahaar police station jurisdiction in Karachi. After cross firing, the police apprehended two street criminals Chris s/o Khalid Masih and Christopher s/o Waseem Masih with two 30 bore pistols, loaded magazine, cash and a motorcycle. One accused injured in the fire exchange was shifted to hospital and record of the detainees was being checked.

DC chairs meeting to review arrangements for Independence Day

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Shehryar Gul Memon chairs meeting to review the arrangements for celebrating Pakistan Independence Day with national enthusiasm in district Shaheed Benazirabad at DC office.

Addressing the meeting Deputy Commissioner Sharyar Gul Memon said that like the rest of the country, August 14 Pakistan Independence Day will be celebrated with national enthusiasm in district Shaheed Benazirabad.

It will be held in the auditorium hall in which songs will be presented by the children of different schools and speech competitions will also be held on the topic of climate change in Pakistan in which prizes will be distributed among the children who give the best speeches.

Earlier, the flag will be unfurled in the Deputy Commissioner's office, in which Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Division Syed Muhammad Sajjad Haider Memon will participate as a special person. Plantation drive will be started by saplings plant on all government institutions, schools, colleges, roadsides, apart from this city. While addressing the meeting, Mayor Qazi Muhammad Rashid Bhatti said that on behalf of the Municipal Corporation, on the occasion of Pakistan's independence, lamps will be lit on important intersections and government buildings in the city and cleaning will be done in the city.

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Dc Jamshoro announces rallies for observance of Youm-e-Istehsal Kashmir

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Jamshoro Riaz Hussain Wassen has announced that Youm-e-Istehsal Kashmir will be observed with great fervor.

He made this statement while presiding over a meeting with district officers at Darbar Hall, Jamshoro, to discuss the preparations for the observance of the day.

According to a handout issued on Friday, addressing the meeting, DC Jamshoro announced that on August 05th, Youm-e-Istehsal rally will be taken out from Allah Wala Chowk in Kotri. He directed the officers to ensure maximum participation in the rally to show solidarity with the Kashmiri brothers.

Thunderstormer forecast for Karachi

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Meteorological Department on Friday predicted intermittent rain-windstorms or thunder-showers (scattered heavy with isolated very heavy falls) in most parts of the Sindh province during the next 24 hours.

The intermittent thunderstormer is predicted in Mithi, Sanghar, Umerkot, Tharparker, Mirpurkhas, Khairpur, Matiaryi, Nausheroferoze, Jamshoro, Thatta, Badin, Chor, Padidan, Sujawal, Karachi, Hyderabad, Tando Allahyar, Tando Muhammad Khan, Shaheed Benazirabad, Sukkur, Larkana, Jacobabad and Dadu.

Regional Director DEPD visits NDF rehabilitation center in Larkana

LARKANA (APP): The Regional Director of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPD) Larkana, Abdul Qudoos Memon, paid an official visit to the NDF Rehabilitation Center in Larkana here on Friday.

The visit was aimed at reviewing the services and facilities provided by the center to individuals with disabilities. Upon his arrival, Memon was warmly received by Dr. Aisha Mir Waghan, the Director of the National Disability and Development Forum (NDF).

Dr. Waghan provided a comprehensive briefing on the various services and programs offered by the rehabilitation center. These services include physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and vocational training designed to enhance the quality of life for individuals with disabilities.

Members of Pakistan Darawar Ittehad are holding protest demonstration for recovery of missing girl Priya Kumari as soon as possible, at Hyderabad press club.

HYDERABAD: Members of Pakistan Darawar Ittehad are holding protest demonstration for recovery of missing girl Priya Kumari as soon as possible, at Hyderabad press club.