

Independent

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 06. No. 174 Safar 03, 1445 AH Friday August 09, 2024 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

Stresses unity to overcome national challenges Unprecedented cooperation between govt, institutions to rid country of challenges: PM

Says collaboration between military establishment and government for Pakistan's benefit is a "role model" for future; Efforts are being made to bring relief to masses; hopes upcoming IMF programme to be country's last; Asks Ulema to play role in countering fake news

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that the coalition government and the national institutions were in an unprecedented harmony and cooperation to serve the better national interests and steer the country out of prevailing challenges. The prime minister, addressing the Ulama-Mashaikh Conference here, said that the country never needed unity and national harmony more, and he had never seen such a level of cooperation between a political government and the institutions throughout his political career.

Appreciating the support extended by Chief of Army Staff General Syed

Asim Munir, also attending the moot, he said that such exemplary collaboration was a role model for the future.

He said that the challenges pervading the country necessitated learning lessons from past weaknesses and mistakes and making sincere efforts to develop Pakistan as a country as was dreamt by the forefathers and sacrificed hundreds of thousands of lives during the Pakistan Movement.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said the nation, which was about to celebrate its 77th Independence Day on August 14, was yet to find its destination, but the goal was

achievable provided the dedicated efforts were made and the teachings of Quran and Sunnah were followed.

He called for the efforts to wipe out Fitna al Khawarij - a term referring to Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan - which he said was involved in anti-Pakistan activities despite claiming to be a Pakistani. He also criticized the use of social media to spread lies and propaganda - particularly after 2018 - instead of appreciating the government's efforts for public services.

He said even the army soldiers, who sacrificed their lives to protect millions of other children from being orphaned, were being humiliated on social media.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir NI (M) addressing the National Ulama & Mashaikh Conference.

No power in the world could harm Pakistan COAS resolves to block attempts of creating chaos in Pakistan

No one has the courage to desecrate the glory of the Holy Prophet (SAW). If someone tries to create anarchy in Pakistan, by God, we will stand against him.; Ulema, Mashaikh may play pivotal role for promotion of tolerance & unity in society: Army Chief

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Thursday urged the Ulema and Mashaikh (religious scholars) to work for promotion of tolerance and unity in the society in order to banish the tendency of extremism.

Addressing the National Ulama Convention the COAS said the Pakistan Army was working hard to end strife from the motherland as per the commandments of the Allah Almighty as it was the greatest crime to Allah on the land.

He said, "We do not consider those as Pakistanis, who do not follow Shariat and Constitution." The religious scholars

should bring back moderation in the society and reject dissension, he added.

The western civilization and way of life was not the nation's ideal, it should be proud of its own civilization, he said and mentioned the verses of Allama Dr Muhammad Iqbal's poetry that stated Muslim ummah has no comparison to the western nations as the followers of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) are a special nation.

The COAS noted that the Pakhtun brothers and the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had rendered great sacrifices in the war against terrorism and the Armed Forces along with the nation stand with them appreciating their ef-

orts. For more than 40 years, he said Pakistan has hosted millions of Afghan refugees, adding, "We are explaining to them not to oppose their neighbour, brotherly Islamic country and long time friend for the sake of subversive Kharijite (referring to TTP)."

He said the Kharijite were a great strife or fitnah in the society as Allama Iqbal said: "Education may be a fitna if it deviates you from Allah Almighty."

Property, children, estates may also be temptation or strife if it diverse you from justice; and the sword for injustice will be a strife including the slogan of Takbeer."



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah chairs a meeting of the Sindh Education Foundation Board, at CM House in Karachi.

Murad targets SEF to bring 300,000 out-of-school children to schools

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has targeted the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) to establish 300 MicroSchools, bring 300,000 out-of-school to schools, and hire over 600 women learning facilitators and for the purpose approved Rs 800 million.

He gave these directives to the SEF while presiding over its board meeting here at CM House on Thursday. The meeting was attended by Minister Education Syed Sardar Shah, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, PSCM Agha Wasif, Chairman P&D Najam Shah, Secretary School Education Zahid Abbasi, Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatoti, MD Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) Kazi Kabir, board members - Qaisar Bangali, Dr Qazi Masood, Dr Mohammad Memon and others.

The chief minister approved the expansion of the Accelerated Digital Learning (ADL) program with Teach the World Foundation. The ADL phase II would be for three years.

Shah targeted the SEF MD Kazi Kabir to bring 300,000 out-of-school children back to school in 2025 by establishing 300 Digital Micro Schools. He also directed the MD SEF to engage over 600 Women Learning Facilitators to facilitate the teaching process.

MD SEF told the CM that the cost of a student would come to Rs 2,200 in the next ADL Phase-II, therefore the CM approved Rs 800 million for SEF.

MD SEF Kazi Kabir told the CM that there was a one million enrolment in 2734 schools, 35 Peoples Schools, 223 Centers and 125 Macroschools. 4452

students were being given scholarships. 804 scholarship holders had passed out.

The CM directed the SEF to enhance outreach and access to every district. At present, the SEF has officers in six regions and 23 districts.

He also said that by 2025-26 the SEF has to launch 1000 Digital classrooms and kick off Learn to Earn - Skill development so that passed-out children could earn their livelihood. Minister of Education Sardar Shah informed the Chief Minister that six public schools, which were previously without proper shelter and non-functional, are now being made operational through SEF.

To a question, the Minister of Education told the CM that the SEF spent Rs 16,000 per student per month.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik addressing a press conference in Federal Capital.

Election Act Amendment Bill 2024 gets presidential assent amid legal wrangling

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari signed the 'controversial' Election Act Amendment Bill 2024 which becomes a law. The gazette notification will be issued today (Thursday) as the bill has been sent to the Senate Secretariat.

The Senate passed the Election Act Amendment Bill by a majority vote despite protest by the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Aug 6.

As the session started with Yousuf Raza Gilani in the chair, Pakistan Muslim

League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Talal Chaudhry presented the Election Act Amendment Bill. The opposition members stood on their seats and started protest.

The amendment provides that "a candidate who does not submit the party certificate before obtaining the election symbol will be considered an independent candidate. If the list of candidates for reserved seats is not submitted within the specified period, no political party will be entitled to those seats."

NEPRA notifies Rs 2.56 per unit increase in FCA for June

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Thursday notified Rs 2.56 per unit increase in power tariff under monthly fuel cost adjustment mechanism for the month of June.

In the petition, the Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA-G) on behalf of XWDISCOs had sought Rs 2.63 per unit increase in power tariff for June.

The CPPA-G maintained in its petition that the actual cost of electricity remained Rs 9.70 per unit against reference fuel charges of Rs 7.14 per unit for the said period.

The increase would be applicable to all the consumer categories except Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS) and lifeline consumers. It would be shown separately in the consumers' bills on the basis of units billed to the consumers in the month of June 2024. XWDISCOs would reflect the fuel charges adjustment in respect of June 2024 in the billing month of August 2024, said a notification issued here.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori addressing GRASP matching grand cheques distribution ceremony at Governor House.

Deputy PM Dar vows to enhance partnership with ASEAN

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Pakistan has reaffirmed its desire to enhancing its partnership with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in its quest for a peaceful, stable, and prosperous region.

In his message on the occasion of ASEAN Day, being observed today, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar extended warmest congratulations and best wishes to the governments and people of the ASEAN member states.

He said this day symbolises the enduring spirit of unity and cooperation among the Southeast Asian nations. It is a privilege to celebrate this milestone alongside our ASEAN friends.

Ishaq Dar termed ASEAN as a model of regional integration and collec-

tive progress, demonstrating remarkable achievements in economic development, social cohesion, and diplomatic engagement.

He said that Pakistan holds in high regard the significant role ASEAN plays in promoting peace, stability, and prosperity within the Asia-Pacific region. The foreign minister said that Pakistan's relations with ASEAN are underpinned by a shared commitment to principles of mutual respect, non-interference, and constructive engagement.

He said Pakistan has been an active partner in ASEAN's dialogue mechanisms and have sought to deepen our cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, education, culture, and people-to-people exchanges.



KARACHI: Funeral prayer of martyred police constable Shabir Ahmed, who was martyred by unknown accused in Joharabad police station limits, is being offering at Garden Police Headquarter in Karachi.

President for unity among Muslim countries to address challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has underlined the need for greater unity and cooperation among Muslim countries to overcome the challenges being faced by the Muslim Ummah.

He expressed these views while talking to the Imam of Masjid Al-Nabvi, Dr Salah bin Mohammad M AlBdeer, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Thursday.

Reiterating Pakistan's support to KSA, the President said that KSA was a close friend and Pakistan would always stand with Saudi Arabia.

The Imam of Masjid Al-Nabvi said that the leadership and people of KSA highly valued their relations with Pakistan. He stated that Pakistan and KSA enjoyed strong partnership and both countries should work together to address the challenges faced by the Islamic World.

He urged the need for promoting cultural and people-to-people relations to bring the two brotherly countries further closer.

Reiterating Pakistan's support to KSA, the President said that KSA was a close friend and Pakistan would always stand with Saudi Arabia.

The Imam of Masjid Al-Nabvi said that the leadership and people of KSA highly valued their relations with Pakistan. He stated that Pakistan and KSA enjoyed strong partnership and both countries should work together to address the challenges faced by the Islamic World.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari welcoming the Imam of Masjid Al-Nabvi, Dr Salah Bin Mohammad M AlBdeer, upon his arrival, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Ambassador of Tajikistan calls on Governor Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Ambassador of Tajikistan to Pakistan Sharifzoda Yusuf Toir on Thursday called on Governor Kamran Khan Tessori and discussed bilateral relations, investment opportunities, exchange of delegation and other issues of mutual interest.

Talking to Tajik Ambassador, the Governor said that Tajik investors can

take advantage of investment opportunities in Sindh and, SIFC project is providing all possible support and assistance to the investors.

The Tajik Ambassador said that Tajik investors are interested in various sectors in Sindh province. He also lauded Governor Sindh's public welfare initiatives.

Chief PPP visits Dhoki's residence

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari visited the residence of his Chief Media Coordinator, late Nazir Hussain Dhoki to condole with the family.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari offered Fatiha for his Chief Media Coordinator and prayed for strength and fortitude for the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss with equanimity, said a news release.

Chairman PPP said that the Bhutto family has

strong links with the Dhoki family for three generations. Nazir Dhoki also worked with Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and his demise is a great tragedy for the party.

The services of Nazir Hussain Dhoki for the Bhutto family will never be forgotten. He said that a great vacuum has been created in the party by his death which will be very difficult to fill. Senator Farhatullah Babar and Jameel Soomro also accompanied Chairman PPP.



ISLAMABAD: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari offering Fatiha during the condolence meeting over the sad demise of Nazir Dhoki, PPP Media Coordinator, at Sector I/10 in Islamabad.

Govt to scrap 1990s IPP contracts in major relief move

ISLAMABAD (INP): The government has decided to terminate the power purchase agreements (PPAs) with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) made in the 1990s, aiming to provide significant relief to consumers suffering from high electricity costs.

According to media reports, the federal government, under the leadership of Energy Minister Owais Leghari, has finalized a framework for this major policy shift. An official announcement is expected soon.

In addition to terminating old IPP contracts, the

government is reviewing agreements with other IPP companies. A new framework is being developed for consumers using more than 201 units, with changes to the policy that currently maintains them in the same slab for six months. Special slabs are being considered for these high-usage consumers, with a potential rate of Rs. 26 per unit for those exceeding 201 units.

Minister Owais Leghari emphasized the importance of the energy sector for the economy and assured that reforms are underway.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Temporary relief

The government must have heaved a sigh of relief on securing commitments from allies China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE to roll over Pakistan's bilateral debt of \$12bn for yet another year. This rekindles hopes of approval of the new \$7bn IMF bailout, crucial to shore up Pakistan's official international reserves and meet its foreign financing needs...

Heart drops

F.S.Aijazuddin

Readers and Leonardo da Vinci are owed an apology. The tableau at the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics that caused such offence was not a pastiche of Leonardo's iconic mural Last Supper. The organisers have clarified that the tableau depicted a bacchanalian scene showing an assembly of Greek gods, led by Dionysus, the god of wine...

pic organisers had no problem with gay divers like Greg Louganis (gold medalist, Los Angeles, 1984, Seoul, 1988) or Tom Daley (gold, Tokyo 2020), even when Daley spent his off-platform time knitting for his partner. Two boxers — Imane Khelif of Algeria and Lin Yu-ting of Taiwan — were slammed by critics for competing as women, even though they had failed gender eligibility tests sometime in the past...

downs. Unfortunately, you can't pick the days they come on. If one has to admit partiality in favour of any single contestant, it would have to be for the Serbian tennis ace Novak Djokovic. Djokovic has won an all-time record of 24 Grand Slam titles. He achieved a triple Grand Slam by winning each of the four majors at least three times. Djokovic is also the only man in tennis history to be the reigning champion of all four majors at once across three different surfaces...

The voiceless

Syed Saadat

Whenever one reads news items, attributed to a 'source', about the IMF's recommendations to further tax salaried individuals, one always wonders why the Fund never singles out the tax exemptions given to military organisations like the FWO and NLC, or property tax exemptions given to residents of DHAs. One asks why the IMF is hell-bent on taxing salaried individuals, to the extent of pushing them into a state of chronic depression...

exemption of tax on 500 square-yard houses in DHA, it would take only one day to make the pension expenses of military personnel a part of the defence budget. But the problem is that a lot would be done overnight if the finance minister adopted this course. Though I agree with the finance minister that salaried individuals are the easiest route to raising taxes, can he elaborate on any incentive, including amnesty schemes enjoyed by others, given to salaried individuals over the last couple of decades? Is there a scheme by the Government of Pakistan that gives individuals who cross a certain threshold in the amount of income tax deducted from their salary, privileges like getting preferential treatment at CMHs (they are the only reasonable hospitals in the public sector) or admission fee discounts for their children in public sector universities? The finance minister wants salaried individuals to make this sacrifice for the sake of the IMF deal but is not ready to introduce even a single small incentive for these individuals...

the final say in your earnings. It is better to be robbed by highway robbers, because at least you can complain about it and it is considered a crime by any court of law. Without getting into too many numbers, let's try to answer a very simple question: has the standard of living of a person earning Rs5 million per annum improved in the last five years, or has it deteriorated drastically? The answer is a no-brainer; the said individual is finding it tougher and tougher to make ends meet because he has to afford a certain lifestyle. Also, it is pertinent to point out that the riches of an individual working in the private corporate sector or finance sector — like our finance minister, who was president and CEO at a bank until a few months ago — is not the result of government incentives or favours by powerful quarters but his own hard work and many sacrifices by his family in terms of time. The government unabashedly robs a sizable chunk of his earnings and does not provide any incentive whatsoever — not even access to a social media platform like X. Maybe, even unblocking X.com cannot be done overnight? Lastly, a few weeks ago, the Salaried Class Alliance of Pakistan requested the Supreme Court's intervention in this unfair taxation through a suo motu notice. Truth be told, if your last resort is the Supreme Court in this country, then it is already a lost cause. Salaried individuals in Pakistan are indeed an apt representation of the following line of Victor Hugo's Les Misérables: "It is nothing to die. It is frightful not to live." — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Pakistan-Turkey agree to boost business activities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Turkey and Pakistan have agreed to boost up business activities and investment in various fields by enhancing mutual trade and promote economic activities. It was decided in a Round Table Business Conference co chaired by Trade Minister of Turkey Professor Dr. Omer Bolat and Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan. Deputy Trade Minister of Turkey Mustafa Tuzcu, He added that Ambassador in Pakistan Mehmet Pacaci, Presidents of Chambers of Turkey were also accompanied while prominent business community figures from Pakistan joined this session. Abdul Aleem Khan while addressing the Pakistan-Turkey Business Round Table Conference said that the brotherhood, mutual cooperation and friendly relations of Turkey and Pakistan span decades and these two countries have already entered into economic and joint business agreements. He added that Pakistan wants to promote bilateral investment and business ties in various fields with Turkey because it is prime time to increase the economic activities between Turkey and Pakistan. Aleem Khan welcomed the interest of the business community from Turkey and said that it would benefit both countries and all possible support will be provided. Turkish Minister of Commerce said that the economic and business relations and bilateral partnership between Pakistan and Turkey are going to be in a new beginning as Turkey will also ensure all possible cooperation for Pakistan in all circumstances. Turkish business leaders purposed that in various sectors including infrastructure bilateral investment can be increased. Representatives of Pakistan's main commercial institutions welcomed Turkey's proposals and said that Turkey can develop better with its modern machinery and Pakistan with its raw materials.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Thursday said that tourism and cuisine played a vital role in the relations and connectivity between the countries. The minister said this while addressing a Cuisines exhibition organized by Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) in Karachi. He said that foods were the main factor to closely connect the peoples in different regions of the world and Asian, South African and Arabian cuisines were known all over the world. Jam Kamal said that Malaysian foods were very famous in the world as their admirers were all over the world. He said that food and tourism brought different nations closer together. The Minister said that to invigorate the economy, tourism should be promoted in the country.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with a delegation of Meezan Bank, led by the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. Riyadh S.A.A Edees.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with a delegation of Meezan Bank, led by the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. Riyadh S.A.A Edees.



QUETTA: A delegation led by PIA General Manager Passenger Sales Islamabad Muhammad Shafiq meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Govt committed to transform Pak into cashless economy: Shaza Fatima

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja Thursday said that the present government was committed to transform Pakistan into cashless economy. She said that the government aimed to reduce reliance on physical currency and promote digital transactions through initiative like the SBP's RAASST instant payment system. Speaking at a meeting of a high-level Committee on Promotion of Cashless Economy, Shaza Fatima said that digital payments have critical role in driving economic growth and efficiency, said a news release. She said that steps were needed to accelerating digital financial inclusion and boosting economic growth. The state minister also emphasized the importance of data integration and effective change management.

KP Govt, PESCO sign power acquisition contract

PESHAWAR (APP): The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has entered into an agreement on Thursday to sell the electricity generated from 2.8 megawatts built from its own resources with Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO). In this regard, a ceremony was held in the Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) House Peshawar regarding the sale of electricity generated by 10.2 MW.

Tourism, Cuisines play vital role in connectivity among countries: Commerce Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Thursday said that tourism and cuisine played a vital role in the relations and connectivity between the countries. The minister said this while addressing a Cuisines exhibition organized by Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) in Karachi. He said that foods were the main factor to closely connect the peoples in different regions of the world and Asian, South African and Arabian cuisines were known all over the world. Jam Kamal said that Malaysian foods were very famous in the world as their admirers were all over the world. He said that food and tourism brought different nations closer together. The Minister said that to invigorate the economy, tourism should be promoted in the country.

Chinese investors group meets Ch Shafay Hussain

LAHORE (APP): A big group of Chinese investors called on Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain in the committee room of the Punjab Investment Board. In the meeting, it was agreed to cooperate in technical education, IT sector and electric business. The Chinese investor group expressed interest in setting up a plant of electric bikes in Punjab. Provincial Minister Chaudhry Shafay Hussain while speaking on this occasion said that the government is serious in promoting electric vehicles to control environmental pollution. The government is giving 10,000 electric bikes to students of universities and colleges. Chinese investor will set up a plant of electric bikes and government will provide all possible facilities.

Macroeconomic indicators on upward trajectory: FM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday emphasized that Pakistan's macroeconomic indicators were on an upward trajectory, leading to a growing public trust in the country's economic management. In a meeting with a delegation of Meezan Bank, led by the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Riyadh S.A.A Edees, the finance minister outlined the government's ongoing efforts in reforming the State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), energy sector and privatization initiatives. According to press release issued by finance ministry, the delegation also included President and Chief Executive Officer, Irfan Siddiqui, Deputy CEO Syed Amir Ali. Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and senior officials from the Finance Ministry were also present in the meeting. The Minister reiterated the government's commitment to fostering investment and enhancing the ease of doing business in Pakistan. On the occasion, Riyadh Edees highlighted the bank's status as the largest bank in the Middle East, with over 17,000 employees in 1,000 branches all over Pakistan.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Back feeding process of Suki Kinari Hydropower Station on Thursday successfully completed. Located on the Kunhar River in Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province in northwest Pakistan, SK Hydropower Station is a flagship project within the "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)" under China's Belt and Road Initiative, said a press release. It stands as the largest greenfield hydropower investment project by Chinese enterprises abroad and the most significant hydropower station investment by Energy China. Suki Kinari Hydropower Station, an investment and construction project of China Energy Overseas Investment Co., Ltd. (Energy China, marked the official countdown to grid-connected power generation for the station. HE Xiongfei, the Chairman and General Manager of SK Hydro (Private) Limited, commented on the Back Feeding process.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Back feeding process of Suki Kinari Hydropower Station on Thursday successfully completed. Located on the Kunhar River in Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province in northwest Pakistan, SK Hydropower Station is a flagship project within the "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)" under China's Belt and Road Initiative, said a press release. It stands as the largest greenfield hydropower investment project by Chinese enterprises abroad and the most significant hydropower station investment by Energy China. Suki Kinari Hydropower Station, an investment and construction project of China Energy Overseas Investment Co., Ltd. (Energy China, marked the official countdown to grid-connected power generation for the station. HE Xiongfei, the Chairman and General Manager of SK Hydro (Private) Limited, commented on the Back Feeding process.

SBP, banks to remain closed on Wednesday

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and all the banks and financial institutions will remain closed on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 on the occasion of Independence Day of Pakistan. The central bank, in a statement issued here on Thursday, announced, "The State Bank of Pakistan will remain closed on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 being public holiday on the occasion of 'Independence Day' as declared by the Government of Pakistan." Subsequently, all the banks, Development Finance Institutions (FDI),

Back feeding process of Suki Kinari hydropower station completed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Back feeding process of Suki Kinari Hydropower Station on Thursday successfully completed. Located on the Kunhar River in Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province in northwest Pakistan, SK Hydropower Station is a flagship project within the "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)" under China's Belt and Road Initiative, said a press release. It stands as the largest greenfield hydropower investment project by Chinese enterprises abroad and the most significant hydropower station investment by Energy China. Suki Kinari Hydropower Station, an investment and construction project of China Energy Overseas Investment Co., Ltd. (Energy China, marked the official countdown to grid-connected power generation for the station. HE Xiongfei, the Chairman and General Manager of SK Hydro (Private) Limited, commented on the Back Feeding process.

Craftmanship of KP women important for province identity: Kundi

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday emphasized the importance of introducing the craftsmanship of women of this province on an international level to ensure their economic empowerment. Speaking at a meeting with a delegation from the Handicraft Association, including Chairperson Maryam Iqbal and Mahira Imdad, the Governor highlighted the necessity of global exposure for these crafts.

The Governor noted that promoting the soft image of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa globally was crucial for the province's development and prosperity. He praised the delegation's efforts and accepted an invitation to attend an awards ceremony hosted by the Association.

The delegation, in turn, commended the Governor for his initiatives and commitment to women's empowerment. He also stressed the need for providing digital skills and market exposure to women involved in handicrafts to ensure their efforts are rewarded.



RAWALPINDI: On the call of Ameer Jamaat-Islami Hafiz Naeemur Rahman, the rally against rising electricity bills and inflation is passing through Murree Road.

KP assembly approves salary increase for police personnel

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly has unanimously passed a resolution to increase the salaries of police personnel in the province. Moved by JUI member Makdoom Zada, the resolution highlighted the risks faced by police officers in combating terrorism and pointed out the disparity in salaries compared to those in Punjab and Islamabad.

The resolution recommends aligning police salaries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with those in the neighboring regions. In addition to the police salary increase, MPA Ijaz Khan presented another resolution addressing public transportation concerns.

Minor girl drowns in canal

FAISALABAD (APP): A minor girl drowned in canal water in the area of Jarawal Sadar police station. Rescue 1122 spokesman said here on Thursday that 3-year-old Eshal Fatima resident of Chak 635/8 was playing outside her house when she accidentally slipped and fell in a nearby canal in Chak 8 Bair Mor on Nankana Road. Receiving information, divers of Rescue 1122 rushed to the spot and fished out the girl.



LAHORE: A delegation of International Lawyers Association UK Lahore Chapter led by President International Lawyers Association Ashiq Ali Rana in a group photo with Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

Overseas Pakistanis rendering great services to the country: Governor

Independent Report LAHORE: The delegation of International Lawyers Association UK Lahore Chapter led by President International Lawyers Association Ashiq Ali Rana called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the overseas Pakistanis are rendering great services to the country in terms of sending valuable foreign exchange. He added that their services are truly recognized. He said that the proposal to set up Overseas Desk in the Governor House is being seriously considered to solve the problems of Overseas Pakistanis.

International Lawyers Association Lahore Chapter for Overseas Pakistanis. Governor Punjab further said that it is commendable that Overseas Pakistanis have always helped their fellow countrymen in difficult times. President International Lawyers Association, Ashiq Ali Rana, while briefing the Governor of Punjab, said that resolving the property disputes and taxation issues of Overseas Pakistanis are the priorities of their association.

Mujtaba Shjua visits Municipal Corporation General Hospital

LAHORE (APP): On the directives of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Punjab Finance Minister Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman visited the Municipal Corporation General Hospital, Kot Khwaja Saeed, on Thursday.

During the visit, he assessed the available medical facilities and reviewed the recent upgrade facilities at the hospital. The Minister inspected various departments, engaging with patients to inquire about the quality of care, the presence of doctors, availability of medicines, and the behavior of the hospital staff. Addressing the hospital staff and the media, the Provincial Minister emphasized that the health sector remains a top priority for the Punjab government, with significant budget allocations directed toward health and education. He highlighted that the upgrade of hospitals across Punjab is currently underway and that within a year, the enhancement work at all hospitals.

ANF recovers 188 kg drugs in six operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations across the country managed to recover 188 kg drugs and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday. He informed that 800 grams ice was recovered from a Jeddah-bound passenger at Multan Airport. 52.8 kg opium and 61.2 kg hashish were recovered from a vehicle intercepted near North Bypass Peshawar and two accused were arrested during the operation. In third operation, 48 kg hashish was recovered from a parcel sent to Karachi from a courier office in Ring Road.

Minister for effective campaign to create zero-waste environment

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq on Thursday directed the waste management companies to conduct special campaigns to increase public awareness regarding zero-waste environment.

During a video link meeting of the CEOs of waste management companies across the province held at the Civil Secretariat, the minister reviewed the plan for an efficient and sustainable sanitation system in the province. Secretary Local Government Shakeel Ahmad Mian, Additional Secretary Maria Tariq also attended the meeting. The CEOs of the companies informed about progress made so far in their respective areas.

Minister Zeeshan Rafiq said that it was the vision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif to implement a uniform sanitation system throughout Punjab. "A large proportion of the population resides in rural areas, so it is not possible to achieve sanitation targets by neglecting villages", he added. Zeeshan Rafiq said that sanitation challenges could be tackled through outsourcing system.

During a video link meeting of the CEOs of waste management companies across the province held at the Civil Secretariat, the minister reviewed the plan for an efficient and sustainable sanitation system in the province. Secretary Local Government Shakeel Ahmad Mian, Additional Secretary Maria Tariq also attended the meeting.



LAHORE: Members of All Pakistan Clerk Association are protesting for their demands in front of the press club of the provincial capital.

Compensation for landmine victims referred to standing committee

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly discussed the issue of compensation and aid to victims of landmine blasts during its session presided over by Speaker Babar Saleem Swati here on Thursday.

MPA Asif Khan presented a call attention notice, highlighting that despite the passage of 15 years, victims in Upper South Waziristan have not received compensation. He further stated that people whose houses were destroyed during military operations have also not been provided any assistance, leaving many in severe distress. In response, Law Minister Aftab Alam mentioned that the Relief Department handles this matter and that financial aid is provided to the victims through a committee under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner. He emphasized the importance of this issue and the need for immediate resolution. Housing Minister Dr. Amjad termed the matter a humanitarian issue, noting that such incidents are occurring continuously across the country and need urgent attention.

International News

Haniyeh's killing risks 'wider' Middle East conflict, OIC warns

Monitoring Desk JEDDAH: The heinous killing of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh risks tipping the Middle East into "wider conflict", the chair of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) told a meeting on Wednesday. The comments from Gambian Foreign Minister Mamadou Tangara came as a senior Iranian official said during the meeting that the Islamic republic would need to defend itself from Israel, which it blames for Haniyeh's death last week in Tehran. Iranian and Palestinian officials called for Wednesday's gathering of the 57-member OIC in the Saudi coastal city of Jeddah, saying the body needed to respond to the killing of the Hamas leader. "This heinous act serves only to escalate the existing tensions potentially leading to a wider conflict that could involve the entire region," said Tangara, whose country currently chairs the OIC. Haniyeh's killing "will not quell the Palestinian cause but rather it amplifies it, underscoring the urgency for justice and human rights for the Palestinian people", he said. "The sovereignty and territorial integrity of nation states are fundamental principles underpinning the international order. "Respecting these principles has profound implications and their violation equally carries significant consequences." Israel has not commented on Haniyeh's death, which Iran has vowed to avenge. "Currently, in the absence of any appropriate action by the (UN) Security Council against the aggressions and violations of the Israeli regime, the Islamic Republic of Iran has no choice but to use its inherent right to legitimate defence against the aggressions of this regime," Ali Bagheri, Iran's acting foreign minister, told the OIC. Hamas's Lebanese ally Hezbollah has also pledged to retaliate for Haniyeh's killing and that of its military commander Fuad Shukr in an Israeli strike in Beirut hours earlier. Wednesday's meeting was far from the first time the bloc has weighed in on the conflict, which began with Hamas's October 7 raids in southern Israel. That operation led to bombardment of Gaza by Israel and the deaths of almost 40,000 people, mostly civilians. In addition to issuing regular statements condemning civilian deaths in Gaza, OIC leaders gathered with their counterparts from the Arab League in November for a summit that condemned Israeli forces' barbaric actions in Gaza.

defence against the aggressions of this regime," Ali Bagheri, Iran's acting foreign minister, told the OIC. Hamas's Lebanese ally Hezbollah has also pledged to retaliate for Haniyeh's killing and that of its military commander Fuad Shukr in an Israeli strike in Beirut hours earlier. Wednesday's meeting was far from the first time the bloc has weighed in on the conflict, which began with Hamas's October 7 raids in southern Israel. That operation led to bombardment of Gaza by Israel and the deaths of almost 40,000 people, mostly civilians. In addition to issuing regular statements condemning civilian deaths in Gaza, OIC leaders gathered with their counterparts from the Arab League in November for a summit that condemned Israeli forces' barbaric actions in Gaza.

That operation led to bombardment of Gaza by Israel and the deaths of almost 40,000 people, mostly civilians. In addition to issuing regular statements condemning civilian deaths in Gaza, OIC leaders gathered with their counterparts from the Arab League in November for a summit that condemned Israeli forces' barbaric actions in Gaza.



Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus is pictured during a press briefing, as he arrives at the Hazarat Shahjalal International Airport, in Dhaka.

Bangladesh Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus takes charge of caretaker govt

Monitoring Desk DHAKA: Bangladesh's Nobel Peace Prize-winning economist Muhammad Yunus was sworn in as the head of the country's caretaker government on Thursday, three days after former prime minister Sheikh Hasina was forced to quit and flee the country following violent protests. "I will uphold, support and protect the constitution," Yunus said during the swearing-in ceremony, adding that he would perform his duties "sincerely". Yunus, 84, was recommended for the role by student protesters and returned to Dhaka earlier today from Paris, where he was undergoing medical treatment. "The country has the possibility of becoming a very beautiful nation," an emotional Yunus told reporters at the Dhaka airport, where he was greeted by top military officers and student leaders.

Saudi king allows cabinet to meet without him or crown prince

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's King Salman issued a royal decree that allows the cabinet to convene in the absence of both himself and the prime minister, his son Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, state media reported on Thursday. The 88-year-old king of the world's biggest oil exporter, and a major US ally in the Middle East, received medical care for lung inflammation in May that prompted Prince Mohammed to later postpone an official visit to Japan due to the king's health.

Pilot, four Chinese nationals killed in Nepal chopper crash

Monitoring Desk KATHMANDU: A helicopter crashed in central Nepal on Wednesday, killing all five people aboard including the pilot and four Chinese tourists. Nepal has a woeful track record on aviation safety and the Himalayan republic has seen a spate of deadly light plane and helicopter crashes over the decades.

US leaders call for calm in the Middle East, even as more American forces head to the region

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Calling for calm in the Middle East, top U.S. national security leaders said Tuesday that they and allies are directly pressing Israel, Iran and others to avoid escalating the conflict, even as the U.S. moved more troops to the region and threatened retaliation if American forces are attacked. "It's urgent that everyone in the region take stock of the situation, understand the risk of miscalculation, and make decisions that will calm tensions, not exacerbate them," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said at the close of a meeting with Australian leaders. At the same time, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin noted the attack Monday on U.S. forces in Iraq by an Iranian-backed militia group, which injured seven personnel, and made it clear that the U.S. won't hesitate to respond. "Make no mistake, the United States will not tolerate attacks on our personnel in the region," Austin told reporters at a press conference after the meeting. "And we remain ready to deploy on short notice to meet the evolving threats to our security, our partners or our interests."

At the same time, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin noted the attack Monday on U.S. forces in Iraq by an Iranian-backed militia group, which injured seven personnel, and made it clear that the U.S. won't hesitate to respond. "Make no mistake, the United States will not tolerate attacks on our personnel in the region," Austin told reporters at a press conference after the meeting. "And we remain ready to deploy on short notice to meet the evolving threats to our security, our partners or our interests."

Israel kills 40 Palestinians in Gaza airstrikes amid fears of wider war

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: Israeli forces stepped up airstrikes across the Gaza Strip on Thursday, killing at least 40 people, Palestinian medics said, in further battle with Hamas-led militants as Israel braced for potential wider war in the region. Israeli airstrikes hit a cluster of houses in central Gaza's Al-Bureij camp, killing at least 15 people, and the nearby Al-Nuseirat camp, killed four, medics said. Nuseirat and Bureij are among the densely populated enclaves' eight historic camps and seen by Israel as strongholds of armed militants. Israeli aircraft also bombed a house in the heart of Gaza City in the north, killing five Palestinians, while another airstrike in the southern city of Khan Younis killed one person and wounded others, according to medics. Later on Thursday, 15 Palestinians were killed and 30 injured in Israeli bombings of two schools east of Gaza City, the territory's Civil Emergency Service said in a statement. The Israeli military said it struck Hamas command and control centres embedded in the Abdel-Fattah Hamouda and Al-Zahra schools in the Tuffah neighbourhood of Gaza City, where Hamas militants were operating. It accused Hamas of exploiting civilians and civilian properties for military purposes, an allegation Hamas denies. Footage circulated on social media, which Reuters could not immediately verify, showed casualties being brought to a hospital on donkey carts. The armed wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad said they were firing anti-tank rockets and mortar bombs at Israeli forces operating across Gaza.

Footage circulated on social media, which Reuters could not immediately verify, showed casualties being brought to a hospital on donkey carts. The armed wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad said they were firing anti-tank rockets and mortar bombs at Israeli forces operating across Gaza.

Russia says fighting continues in Ukrainian region

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Russian troops are fighting Ukrainian forces in the Kursk region in the third day of one of the largest cross-border incursions of the war, the Russian Defense Ministry said Thursday. A ministry statement said the Russian military and border guards have blocked Ukrainian forces from advancing deeper into Kursk region in southwest Russia and that the army is attacking Ukrainian combatants who are trying to advance on the area from Ukraine's Sumy region. "Attempts by individual units to break through deep into the territory in the Kursk direction are being suppressed," the ministry said. The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, said that as of Wednesday, Ukrainian troops had advanced as much as 10 kilometers (6 miles) into Russian territory, but that information wasn't confirmed. Ukrainian officials haven't commented on the scope of the operation around the town of Sudzha. "The enemy has not advanced a single meter, on the contrary, it is retreating. The enemy's equipment and combat forces are being actively destroyed. We hope that in the near future... the enemy will be stopped," the Kursk region's acting deputy governor Andrei Belostotsky said Thursday, according to state news agency RIA-Novosti. Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday described the incursion as a "large-scale provocation." Putin met with his top defense and security officials to discuss what he called the "indiscriminate shelling of civilian buildings, residential houses, ambulances with different types of weapons."

Ukrainian troops had advanced as much as 10 kilometers (6 miles) into Russian territory, but that information wasn't confirmed. Ukrainian officials haven't commented on the scope of the operation around the town of Sudzha. "The enemy has not advanced a single meter, on the contrary, it is retreating. The enemy's equipment and combat forces are being actively destroyed. We hope that in the near future... the enemy will be stopped," the Kursk region's acting deputy governor Andrei Belostotsky said Thursday, according to state news agency RIA-Novosti. Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday described the incursion as a "large-scale provocation." Putin met with his top defense and security officials to discuss what he called the "indiscriminate shelling of civilian buildings, residential houses, ambulances with different types of weapons."

Turkey formally asks to join the genocide case against Israel at the UN court

Monitoring Desk ANKARA: Turkey on Wednesday filed a request with a U.N. court to join South Africa's lawsuit accusing Israel of genocide in Gaza, the foreign minister said. Turkey's ambassador to the Netherlands, accompanied by a group of Turkish legislators, submitted a declaration of intervention to the International Court of Justice in The Hague. With the development, Turkey, one of the fiercest critics of Israel's actions in Gaza, becomes the latest nation seeking to participate in the case. Spain, Mexico, Colombia, Nicaragua and Libya have also asked to join the case, as have Palestinian officials. The court's decision on their requests is still pending. "We have just submitted our application to the International Court of Justice to intervene in the genocide case filed against Israel," Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan wrote on the social media platform X. "Emboldened by the impunity for its crimes, Israel is killing more and more innocent Palestinians every day." "The international community must do its part to stop the genocide; it must put the necessary pressure on Israel and its supporters," he said. "Turkey will make every effort to do so." Turkey approves law to remove stray dogs from streets. Opposition vows to fight the 'massacre law'. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has accused Israel of genocide, called for it to be punished in international courts and criticized Western nations for backing Israel.

Large 7.1 earthquake recorded off Japan: USGS

Monitoring Desk TOKYO: A 7.1 magnitude tremor struck off southern Japan on Thursday, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) said, with the local meteorological agency warning of tsunamis striking coastal areas. Initially, the USGS erroneously recorded two separate earthquakes, registering two tremors at 6.9 and 7.1 magnitude, respectively. The USGS acknowledged the error on its website, stating, "This event originally showed as two events in our event list. This error has been fixed. There was one event." Tsunamis of up to one metre were expected to arrive or have arrived in some coastal areas in Kyushu and Shikoku islands, broadcaster NHK reported.

Govt vows to restore peace in KP after deadly clashes

ISLAMABAD (APP): In the wake of tragic incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi met with Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi to discuss the deteriorating law and order situation, agreeing on a joint strategy to tackle future conflicts and prevent external interference.

A high-level meeting between Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi and Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday focused on address-

ing the worsening public order situation in the province, particularly in the wake of deadly clashes in Kuram.

Both leaders expressed deep concern over the loss of precious lives due to a land dispute and condemned elements that fueled tensions by giving the conflict a wrong color.

Naqvi assured full cooperation to restore peace in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, terming it the government's top priority.

He praised the efforts of local dignitaries, led by

MNA Hameed Hussain, and security forces in bringing the situation under control. Naqvi acknowledged that external hands sabotaging peace efforts cannot be ignored.

Governor Kundi thanked Minister Naqvi for his support in establishing peace, as the government intensifies efforts to improve public order in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The meeting marked a significant step towards forging a joint strategy to tackle future conflicts and ensure lasting peace in the region.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb exchanging views with Prof. Dr. Omer Bolat, Trade Minister of Turkey during meeting held in Islamabad.

New Toshakhana reference: IHC sends case file to CJ for deciding to fix it for hearing in available bench

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) while ordering to club miscellaneous petitions seeking court's order to declare arrest of PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi illegal in new Toshakhana reference has sent case file to Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamir Farooq. A two members bench of IHC sent the case file to CJ IHC on Thursday.

The court remarked the petitions be clubbed by CJ IHC and fixed for hearing before available bench.

The petition seeking court's orders for declaring

the arrest of Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi against the law in new Toshakhana reference came up for hearing in IHC.

A two members bench of IHC comprising Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir heard the case Thursday.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb remarked according to NAB reply Imran Khan said come what may he will not join investigation. It is not acceptable that accused says he will not cooperate in investigation.

Adviser reviews moonsoon rains arrangements, ensure rainwater drained immediately

LARKANA (APP): On the Instructions of Chief Minister Sindh, Inter-Provincial Coordination and Co-operation Department of Sindh Provincial Advisor Ehsanur Rehman Mazari visited District Jacobabad to monitor the situation of moonsoon rains, Thursday.

Deputy Commissioner Jacobabad Zahoor Ali Mari, SSP Jacobabad, all Assistant Commissioners of the district, Education, Health, Agricultural, Irrigation, Municipal, Public Health Engineering, Roads, Education Works Department and related institutions officials were present on the occasion.

The adviser said that the purpose of the meeting is to review the rains emergency arrangements in Jacobabad district to ensure better measures.

Hafiz Naem says: If no positive reaction comes from govt we will change soon nature, contours of dharna

RAWALPINDI (Online): JI Amir Hafiz Naem ur Rehman has said government wants to avert them through verbal talks but "We will not return by believing on any future promise."

"We have come here to seek due rights of the people and not have come here for begging. If government gives this right on its own then situation will not reach the point of snatching these rights. If no sincere and positive reaction comes from government then we will very soon change the nature and configuration of Dharna. IPPs are plundering the hard earned money of people. How long will we continue to fill their belly, he said this while addressing press con-

ference on 14th day of Dharna in Liaquat Bagh Rawalpindi.

"Today two weeks of dharna have been completed but the participants of dharna are determined. Because our demands are demands of every citizen of Pakistan. Our demands are just and implementable. It is our desire relief is provided to people of Pakistan because paying electricity bill has become next to impossible for the people. The industries are closing down. Laborers are becoming jobless. IPPs will have to be bridled, he added.

Every government set up IPPs since 1994 which is causing loss to Pakistan. why should we pay thousands of rupees to them.



HYDERABAD: All Pakistan Clerk Association Provincial General Secretary, Miral Bhagri addresses during oath taking ceremony held in Hyderabad press club.

HWA urges Sindh Govt to withdraw its appeal in SC against pro-peasant judgment

HYDERABAD (APP): Millions of rural women living in rural Sindh are without basic amenities including health, education and wages, most of them are directly engaged in agriculture, livestock and fisheries but had not received their rightful entitlements.

These views were expressed by Akram Ali Khaskheli, President Hari Welfare Association (HWA) in a press conference at Hyderabad Press Club on Thursday.

He said that HWA had compiled a report on violence, abuse and exploitation of women and girls in Sindh from January to June 2024, which reveals 837 cases 174 suicides (suspected murder), 140 abduc-

tions, 125 rapes, 118 murders, 68 domestic violence incidents, 63 honour killings, 13 forced marriages, 6 child marriages, and 3 acid attacks. Also, 127 cases of harassment in the agricultural sector.

He added that the highest number of cases were reported in Sukkur and Larkana divisions, mostly due to lack of enforcement of women's protection laws. Akram lamented that women's issues were not taken seriously, and reporting cases is difficult in rural areas.

Husna Chand, President of Latif Hariyani Mazdoor Trade Union, Matari, said that the economic conditions of women peasants and workers in agriculture, farming and livestock sectors were worsening day by day due to no or low wages.

Court seeks reply from K-Electric to damage claim on death of citizen due to load shedding

KARACHI (Online): Senior civil judge East has sought reply from K-Electric to damage claim filed on the death of citizen because of unannounced prolonged load-shedding.

The damage claim related to death of a citizen due to unannounced prolonged load shedding came up for hearing before senior civil judge East City court Karachi Thursday.

The petitioner Adnan said his father suffered a fatal heart attack due to prolonged undeclared loadshedding in severe hot weather on June 29. Heart attack claimed his life.

Usman Farooq counsel for the petitioner took the plea this incident took place due to negligence of K-Electric.

The petitioner has filed damage claim of Rs 2 crore 2 lac against K-Electric.



KARACHI: Women supporters of Pakistan Markazi Muslim League protest against inflation during rally in Karachi.

US Ambassador calls on Muqam to discuss Afghan refugees' issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): United States Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Armin Blome on Thursday called on Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Engr. Amir Muqam and discussed the matters related to the welfare of Afghan refugees, rehabilitation, and bilateral cooperation.

During the meeting here, the minister expressed his gratitude for the long-standing cooperation of US with Pakistan. He said that Pakistan was combating successful war against terrorism and also rendered countless sacrifices in terms of human lives and economic losses.

He said that more than 70,000 lives had been lost due to terrorism in Pakistan

since 2001 and more than \$150 billion in economic losses.

Amir Muqam urged the international community to recognize Pakistan's efforts in the war against terrorism.

He emphasized the need for the assistance of the United States and other international partners in the return of Afghan refugees. He emphasized on increasing US aid to host communities and efforts to create favorable conditions in Afghanistan for the return of refugees.

On the occasion, US Ambassador Donald Blome reiterated US commitment to support Pakistan's economic development, especially in improving exports in textiles sector.

PTI founder claims govt has only two months, denies apologizing

RAWALPINDI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has asserted that the government has just two months left, dismissing claims that he has apologized.

In an informal conversation with journalists at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail during the hearing of the £190 million case, Khan predicted that the government's time is running out. He reiterated that the suggestion he has apologized is false, stating his focus is solely on Pakistan.

The PTI founder challenged the government to present evidence of PTI members' involvement in the May 9 incident if it exists. He vowed to seek an apology and impose penalties if proven true.

He also mentioned plans to present witnesses in the Al-Qadir Trust case but declined to disclose their identities for fear of repercussions.

The way Bangladeshi PM expelled from politics, country is wrong: Fawad

RAWALPINDI (Online): Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry has termed as wrong the way Prime Minister (PM) Bangladesh has been expelled from power and country.

"It happened too much wrong the way PM Bangladesh was expelled from power and country. But when people are pushed to wall then the situation deteriorates. Peace in politics is inevitable to solidify economy in Pakistan. It can become possible only if founder of PTI Imran

Khan is set free, he said this in his brief talk with media men after his appearance in anti corruption court Rawalpindi Thursday.

Government and establishment should give positive response to what PTI founder Imran Khan is talking about and making efforts persistently to lower temperature in politics, he added.

Because what change has come in the attitude of Imran Khan and PTI, it is necessary to take it positive. Otherwise Bangladesh situation is before all of us.



HYDERABAD: Birth anniversary of late spiritual leader of Sarwari Jamat and former central leader PPP late Makhdoom Amin Faheem was observed in a local hotel.

Indus river health Assessment: WWF Pakistan seeks stakeholder input

SUKKUR (APP): World Wide Fund (WWF) Pakistan organized a consultative meeting titled "Preparation of Report Card for Indus River Health Assessment" here on Thursday.

The meeting was attended by WWF Pakistan's Director Fresh Water Program Sohail Ali Naqvi, Senior Manager Wildlife Humaira Aisha, Coordinator Indus River Dolphin Imran Malik, and stakeholders from various sectors. Alexandra, a water expert from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, USA, participated online and shed light on the health of the Indus River, seeking suggestions from participants.

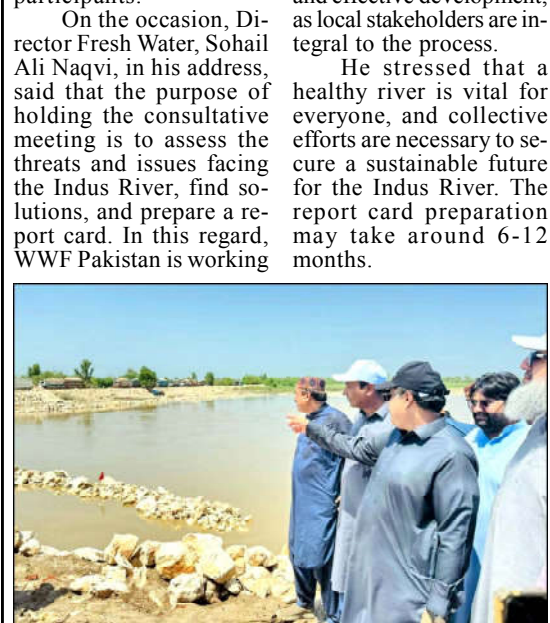
On the occasion, Director Fresh Water, Sohail Ali Naqvi, in his address, said that the purpose of holding the consultative meeting is to assess the threats and issues facing the Indus River, find solutions, and prepare a report card. In this regard, WWF Pakistan is working

in collaboration with the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, USA, to assess the health of the Indus River's water by engaging with all stakeholders.

He emphasized that the Indus River's pollution, caused by urban and industrial wastewater, endangers the rare Indus dolphin and leads to various diseases in humans, animals, and birds.

To address this, we have convened this consultative meeting, inviting stakeholders to share their recommendations, facilitating the preparation of a comprehensive report card. This collaborative approach ensures sustainable and effective development, as local stakeholders are integral to the process.

He stressed that a healthy river is vital for everyone, and collective efforts are necessary to secure a sustainable future for the Indus River. The report card preparation may take around 6-12 months.



LARKANA: District Council Larkana Chairman, Aijaz Ahmed Leghari being briefed by officials during his visit to Moria Loop Bund in Larkana.

Pakistan welcomes international chefs at FoodAg 2024 to explore, expand culinary horizons

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Thursday said that Pakistan offers a variety of continental food, the expertise brought by the international chefs participating in FoodAg 2024 is something new.

Addressing the soft launch of second FoodAg 2024, at a local hotel, he said the Pakistan is quickly embracing new continental recipes.

He invited the visiting chefs to explore Pakistan's street food, highlighting its unique taste.

He mentioned that the trend of eateries and cafes is growing globally, and Pakistan is no exception, with a strong love for food and an expanding food culture.

He emphasized that food serves as a bridge for people to learn about each other and their cultures.

Jam Kamal expressed hope that food could help strengthen and further expand bilateral relations.

He assured that the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) team and others would do their utmost to provide excellent hospitality to the visiting chefs.

Speaking at the event, South African chef Shaun highlighted that FoodAg 2024 will enable chefs to learn about ingredients from different cultures and countries.

He emphasized that food has always influenced the world and continues to do so. Shaun noted that the food Pakistanis eat today is vastly different from what was consumed in the 1500s.

He also pointed out some variations in ingredients used across different countries and regions.



KARACHI: Ambassador of Tajikistan Sharif Zoda Yousuf Toir meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori.

CTD finds 'no criminal record' of Asif Merchant in Pakistan

KARACHI (INP): Days after United States authorities charged a Pakistani man named Asif Merchant for allegedly having ties with Iran in connection to a foiled plot to assassinate US politicians, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) sources have said that they've found no criminal of the suspect in his home country.

As local authorities begin their investigation, it has been revealed that Asif, a resident of Karachi, has not been involved in any criminal activities anywhere in the country and is also listed as an active filer with the Federal Bureau of Revenue (FBR).

The 46-year-old was

arrested in the US on July 12 this year for allegedly trying to recruit a hitman in New York, who was in fact an undercover Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agent, to kill a politician or government official on US soil, reported daily English newspaper on Thursday.

As per a criminal complaint, Asif, son of Habib Merchant, was planning the alleged assassination(s) in retaliation for the US killing of Iran's Revolutionary Guards' top commander Qasem Soleimani in 2020.

Sources said that the suspect, who is married and a father of two, travelled to Iran several times from November 2, 2017, to April 8, 2024, on three passports.

DC chairs meeting to review Independence Day celebration arrangements

HYDERABAD (APP): A meeting to review the arrangements for celebrating Independence Day with enthusiasm was held on Thursday under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Tharparkar Abdul Haleem Jagirani at Darbar Hall, Mithi.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner-II Tharparkar Muhammad Usman Khaskheli, Chairman Municipal Committee Mithi Manoj Kumar Malani, Deputy Director Livestock Hakum Ali Jalbani, all Assistant Commissioners of the district and officers from various departments.

Addressing the meeting, the deputy commis-

sioner said that we were very fortunate to be living in a free country which has been blessed by the efforts, practical struggles and great sacrifices of the heroes of freedom.

Jagirani maintained that the sacrifices of these heroes were source of pride for the nation, and Independence Day should be celebrated with the same fervor like Eid. He mentioned that the day will begin with special prayers in mosques for the progress, prosperity and integrity of the country, followed by a main event at Sadiq Faqir Chowk in Mithi. At 8:58 am, sirens will be sounded, and the national flag will be hoisted, accompanied by the national anthem.



KARACHI: Social Activist and Renowned Classical Dancer, Sheema Kirmani addresses to media persons during press conference regarding Minority Rights March, at Karachi press club.

Best medical treatment being provided to Rohri Canal breach's victims: MS Dr. Syed

HYDERABAD (APP): The Medical Superintendent (MS) Taluka Hospital Tando Adam, Dr. Syed Fazal Hussain Shah on Thursday said that best medical treatment was being provided to Rohri Canal breach affectees at the medical camps established for them.

Talking to APP, he said that the victims were being provided free medical tests and medications and we were trying our best to provide maximum facilities to them. Dr. Shah mentioned that medical services were continuously provided at public school camp and temporary camps were being set up in

other affected areas as needed. To a question, he said that there was no shortage of anything, and the medicines used were in abundance, there were 6 male and 14 female doctors in our hospital, all the doctors were doing their duty with dedication and honesty. To a question, he reiterated that every effort was being made to provide the best possible service. It is pertinent to mention here that a 100-foot wide breach that developed in Rohri Canal near village Alam Dero, Tando Adam on Sunday inundated more than 50 villages and destroyed hundreds of acres of irrigated lands in Sanghar district.