

# Independent

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## COAS pays tribute to Army veterans for dedication, instrumental role in shaping nation's history

RAWALPINDI (APP): He emphasized the paramount importance of unity and resilience in the face of challenges, urging veterans to continue playing a vital role in Pakistan's progress and development.

The COAS also cautioned against the insidious threat of fake news and propaganda being perpetrated by inimical elements to weaken the bond between the people of Pakistan and the Armed Forces.

He reassured that the unwavering support of the nation, including the veterans would foil all such futile efforts.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir interacts with retired officers of Pakistan Army during a graceful reception in honor of Pakistan Army veterans on the eve of 77th Independence Day of Pakistan held in Rawalpindi.

## CM Sindh honours Olympian Arshad Nadeem

Sindh CM hands over Rs50mln cheque, Ajrak to Olympian Arshad Nadeem

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah hosted Javelin thrower and Olympic Champion Arshad Nadeem at the CM House, honouring his historic achievements and stressing the importance of securing more gold medals to motivate the nation.

Arshad Nadeem is our national pride, said the CM. "You have made history and act as a role model for the youth of our country," he said to the gold medalist and added, "his victory on

the international stage shows that determination overcomes all shortcomings and obstacles."

When Arshad Nadeem arrived at the CM House, the provincial cabinet session was in progress and the CM temporarily stopped to personally welcome the Gold Medalist. Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Murad Ali Shah on Thursday handed over Rs50m cheque, the traditional souvenir of Ajrak and Topi to javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem for winning gold medal at the Paris Olympics. Nadeem won the javelin throw event in Paris with an Olympic Games record of 92.97 metres, pushing India's Neeraj Chopra to second spot.



Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi meeting with British Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Hamish Falconer in London.

## Sindh Education Dept reopens 2889 closed schools: Sardar Shah

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Education Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah, Thursday, announced that 2889 closed schools have been reopened across the province under the ongoing educational reform process. The minister, in a statement issued here, said that as many as 2587 teachers were appointed in the closed schools on recommendations of 'Teachers Placement Committee' amid improved teachers' availability following the merit-based recruitment of over 60,000 teachers in Sindh.

Sardar Shah termed reopening of schools- those were closed mainly due to shortage of teachers- as a major development in education reforms in Sindh and

vowed that no school will remain closed in the province due to the paucity of teaching staff.

Sindh School Education and Literacy Department had formed a Teachers Placement Committee in order to re-open the viable closed schools and rationalization of teaching staff in May 2024. On the recommendations of the committee 2587 teachers have been appointed in viable closed schools and a notification in the regard has also been issued by the department concerned.

The appointments of teachers in the closed schools were made at the Taluka (Tehsil) level to ensure teacher availability.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a Provincial Cabinet meeting, held at CM House in Karachi.

## Sindh cabinet approves Rs 10 bn for Nulla affectees, Rs12bn for Hub Canal

Independent Report

KARACHI: Sindh cabinet has approved Rs10 billion for the resettlement of the affectees of three Nullahs of Karachi, Rs 12.72 billion for the construction of Hub Canal, Rs 200 million for Jamila Pumping station overhauling, the establishment of the Electric Power Regulatory Authority and allotted land for a lying railway line from Thar Coal Filed to Chhor town.

The decisions were taken in a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah at CM House on Thursday.

According to CM House statement, cabinet also allotted land for Solar Parks, initiated people's Information Technology program for youth.

The local Govt Minister Saeed Ghani told the cabinet that there were 6932 affectees of Gujjar Nullah, Mahmoodabad Nullah and Orangi Nulla who needed to be resettled. The Pakistan Engineering

Council (PEC) has submitted its proposals.

The PEC evaluated the per-house cost at Rs. 1,450,000. In addition to this, the PEC also advised providing funds for construction to the affectees as per the schedule:

Rs. 500,000 on commencement of work; Rs. 500,000 on completion of masonry work up to the roof level. Rs. 450,000 on completion of the grey structure for finishing work.

The cabinet, keeping in view the recommendation of the local Govt department, approved Rs. 10,065 billion as a grant-in-aid for the construction of houses (80 sq yard). The cost per house evaluated by PEC is Rs. 1,450,000.

The cabinet also accorded approval of the tentative amount for remaining affectees for Rs. 1,450,000 per house of 80 sq yard. However, the final list will be provided by the focal person through a veri-

fication process as directed by the Supreme Court.

The cabinet directed the local govt dept to forward the Revised PC-I of Rs. 4,621.494 million for internal development (i.e. essential infrastructure, roads, water supply, sewerage, storm water drainage, power supply and mosque etc) prepared by the Director-General, MDA, to P&D Department for consideration and approval from the competent forum.

The Sindh government has allotted a 258-acre plot at Taiser Town Scheme 45, Malir Development Authority for the development of a Housing scheme for the 6932 affectees of three Nullahs, Gujjar, Mahmoodabad, and Orangi.

The cabinet approved Rs. 10,065 billion for construction costs and directed Commissioner Karachi, the focal person to disburse the amount as per the schedule devised by PEC.

The cabinet was told

that the Karachi water board to undertake rehabilitation of the existing Hub Canal and construction of a New Canal of 100 MGD parallel to the existing one for Rs. 9.80 billion and Rs. 2.92 billion respectively through a government-to-government arrangement (KWSB and a federal govt construction company).

The CM said that the project was most important to provide water to the city, the project required immediate

implementation without any bottlenecks and hindrances. The Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab and Minister of Local Govt Saeed Ghani said that the fastest mode of execution could be undertaken by obtaining a "Grant in Aid" from the Sindh government.

The Chief Minister said that he would provide a grant-in-aid of Rs. 12.72 billion to KWSC if the project was completed within a year - which means by September 2025.

## Governor Tessori, Arshad Nadeem visit Mazar e Quaid to pay homage to father of nation

Olympic gold medalist Arshad Nadeem toured "Bell of Hope" at Sindh Governor's House

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori along with Olympian Arshad Nadeem visited the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on Thursday where they paid their respects and offered Fatcha.

Governor Tessori and Good Medalist Arshad Nadeem also laid wreaths at the mausoleum and penned their comments in the visitor's book.

Later on, Governor and the Olympian Arshad Nadeem also talked to media and said they visited Mazar-e-Quaid to pay homage to the father of the nation. Arshad Nadeem who won Gold Medal for Pakistan in Paris Olympics is on a visit to Karachi and he also participated Independence Day celebrations

organized at Sindh Governor House on the night of August 14.

He also called on Governor Sindh Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

Governor Tessori also presented a cheque of Rs. 2 million as reward he had announced for the Olympian over his unprecedented win in a Javelin Throw completion at Paris Olympics.

Accompanied by Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, Olympic gold medalist Arshad Nadeem toured the "Umeed Ki Ghanti" (Bell of Hope) initiative, at the Sindh Governor's House here Thursday. Arshad Nadeem expressed pleasant surprise after ringing the "Umeed Ki Ghanti," appreciating the symbolic gesture.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Kamran Khan Tessori along with Javelin Thrower Olympian, Arshad Nadeem addresses to media persons after paying homage to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah during ceremony held at Jinnah Mausoleum in Karachi.

## May 9 riots part of a 'larger conspiracy' to create unrest and instability in Pakistan: Sharjeel

Independent Report

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister for Transport Sharjeel Memon said that the May 9 riots were part of a 'larger conspiracy' to create unrest and instability in Pakistan.

Addressing a press conference in Karachi he alleged that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan is a mastermind behind the May 9 incidents, adding that one of the facilitators of the conspiracy was holding a key constitutional position.

"The May 9 riots were aimed at turning the people against their own institutions," the provincial

minister added. Reacting to court martial proceedings against former DG ISI Faiz Hameed, Sharjeel Memon said that the arrest may be made in connection with the 9th May incident.

He was of the view that the recent arrests showed that the PTI leadership was 'behind' all the conspiracies. "Besides the PTI leadership, there are some facilitators as well and perhaps a troika wanted to create instability," he added. Welcoming the recent arrests, Sharjeel Memon said, "It is welcoming that everyone is being exposed, and some more will be."



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit, Excise Taxation and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon addresses to media persons during press conference, in Karachi.

## Tender to be issued for road construction in all seven districts of Karachi: Mayor

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that a tender will be issued for road construction in all seven districts of Karachi to resolve delays in developmental work due to the tendering process.

He mentioned this while addressing the inauguration ceremony of modern Funland at Karachi Zoo after flag hoisting ceremony with school students at the Mughal Garden.

He said that work will be visible on M.A Jinnah Road, Hub River Road, Malir, Korangi, and Ibrahim Hyderi, among other areas. Resources are improving, benefiting the citizens, and people are satisfied that things are

getting better, he said. He said that no tax will be applied on electricity bills up to 200 units. KMC has received an additional revenue of 4 billion rupees. At the end of this month, we will inform how much revenue has been received and how it will be spent on the development of Karachi, he said.

On this occasion, Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, Mayor Karachi's spokesperson for political affairs Karam Allah Waqasi, Deputy Parliamentary Leader in the City Council Dil Muhammad, Jaman Darwan, Senior Director Recreation Iqbal Nawaz, and other officials were also present.

## President Zardari approves Hilal-e-Imtiaz for Ali Haider Gilani

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday approved Hilal-e-Imtiaz award for Ali Haider Gilani, said a statement issued by the President House.

The award to Gilani was approved on the advice of the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## Three more retired Army officers taken into military custody: ISPR

RAWALPINDI (APP): In connection with the Field General Court Martial (FGCM) proceedings of Lt General @ Faiz Hameed, three retired officers were also in military custody for their actions prejudicial to military discipline.

Further investigations of certain retired officers and their accomplices for fomenting instability at the behest of and in collusion with vested political interests, are continuing, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said on Thursday.

## Govt unveils five-year economic plan to ensure stability

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government has prepared a five year economic plan to provide relief to people and ensure economic growth. This was stated by Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar while talking to media in Lahore today. He said Prime Minister will present his five-year economic plan to the nation during his address.

Information Minister said government is striving to achieve economic and political stability in the country. He said government will provide relief to the people in electricity bills. Attaullah Tarar welcomed the process of self-accountability by institutions, stating that it should be adopted by every institution.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presents a Fifty Million Rupees Cheque to Javelin Thrower Olympian, Arshad Nadeem during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

## Health Minister formally inaugurates f-IPV campaign across Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Health Minister Dr. Azra Pechuho officially inaugurated the fractional Inactivated Polio Vaccine (f-IPV) campaign in 85 Union Councils (UCs) of Karachi on Thursday, urging parents to vaccinate their children without hesitation. "Vaccines save lives and prevent children from permanent disability. It's crucial to get your children vaccinated with both the Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) drops and f-IPV during this special drive starting today," Dr. Azra emphasized during the launch event at a dispensary in the Sultanabad area of the city.

Accompanied by Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Coordinator Irshad Sodhar, Rotary International Trustee Aziz Memon, and other officials from the EOC Sindh and the health department, Dr. Azra called on community leaders to support vaccinators in reaching as many children under five years old as possible. Running from August 15 to 25, 2024, the f-IPV campaign targets high-risk areas across Karachi, aiming to vaccinate approximately 1,037,000 children aged four months to five years with f-IPV injections using innovative, painless jet injector technology. Additionally, OPV drops will be administered to 1.1 million children under the age of five.

"This campaign is pivotal in our fight against polio, a disease that continues to pose a significant threat, particularly in densely populated urban areas," Dr. Azra stated, highlighting the importance of combining f-IPV and OPV to enhance immunity and ensure comprehensive protection against the poliovirus.



RAWALPINDI: A large quantity of weapons, ammunition and explosives were recovered after security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in Kurram District on reported presence of Khwarij.

## Seven terrorists killed, five injured in Kurram IBO

President, PM commends security forces for successful Kurram operation against Khawarij

RAWALPINDI (APP): Seven terrorists were eliminated while five got injured during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted by the security forces in Kurram district on Thursday on the reported presence of Khawarij (TTP terrorists).

During conduct of the operation, the Army troops effectively engaged the Khwarij's location, as a result of which, seven Khawarij of Fitna Al Khwarij were sent to hell, while five of them got injured, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The Khwarij's hideout was also busted and a large quantity of weapons, ammunition and explosives was recovered.

The killed Khwarij remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces as well as the innocent civilians.

## Pak, UK agree to continue counter-terrorism cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi met with British Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Middle East, Afghanistan and Pakistan) Hamish Falconer in London and discussed matters of mutual interest, including the promotion of Pakistan-UK bilateral relations.

The British Under-Secretary of State extended felicitations to Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and the people of Pakistan on the occasion of Independence Day, said a press release. During the meeting regional peace & stability and combating the scourge of terrorism were also discussed. Both ministers emphasized the need to increase mutual cooperation for peace and stability.



## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Throttling connectivity

The five stages of internet governance in Pakistan seem to be as follows: curb, deny, double down, reluctantly admit, and repeat. By now, nearly every smartphone user in Pakistan has experienced interruptions to WhatsApp, the Meta-owned messaging app that has become indispensable to billions of people the world over.

According to Downdetector, a website that tracks internet disruptions, thousands of Pakistani users have reported outages and interruptions in connectivity over the past week. Most reports have been about trouble with calls and messages, including voice notes, multimedia content and downloading problems over mobile data. This means that everything, from important legal documents to the customary 'Jashn-i-Azadi Mubarak' messages, is getting lost in the ether as cellular providers, undoubtedly at the behest of the authorities, continue to throttle connectivity.

We know why this is happening — because of the need to clamp down on so-called digital terrorism; the state has already made its intentions quite clear with its treatment of the social media platform X. The latter served as a virtual town hall where people could debate, argue, protest and mobilise in support of various worthy causes.

This made it liable to be deemed a threat to national security. And yet, ministers and government departments continue to use X for official communications through virtual private networks. Now the authorities seem to have decided that WhatsApp has replaced X as the new staging ground for dissent and are tightening the noose, with little to no regard for the social and economic disruptions this will cause.

The authorities may have genuine concerns with the platform, including its use to share misinformation and disseminate propaganda against the state and its institutions. It is also true that some smear campaigns against important personages, including recent claims regarding two judges of the Islamabad High Court, have been fuelled by their circulation via the messaging app. However, curbs are never a solution. As with X, those who wish to use it can always connect via a VPN. Experts say there is no real way to completely block access to a particular piece of content without disrupting the whole pipeline. One need only think about how people currently use WhatsApp: businesses share quotations, shipping invoices and pay orders with their clients; doctors are sent medical records and queries over WhatsApp, lawyers need to be kept abreast of court dates and legal documentation. These are just some examples of how irreplaceable the app has become for people from all walks of life.

While Pakistan grapples with its many economic woes, this connectivity crisis threatens to sap whatever economic potential is left in the services industry. Given our earlier failed experiments at banning YouTube and Facebook, it is about time we learned not to throw the baby out with the bathwater.

## The lone ranger

F.S. Aijazuddin

It took our solitary Olympic gold medalist Arshad Nadeem to remind us of the old adage: Success has many fathers but Failure is an orphan.

No matter how many awards, honours, cash prizes and plots may be bestowed upon him, it is clear that Arshad's achievement in Paris was singularly his own. His trusty javelin soared into the skies and landed at 92.97 metres, and then to show that this second throw was not a fluke, on its final flight it landed a metre short — at 91.79m.

Arshad's portly coach Salman Iqbal Butt watched from the stands, recalling when, as a teenager at Aitchison College in 1977, he threw a javelin and set a collegiate record of 50.69m.

The public has opened its hearts to Arshad. Governments (federal and provincial) have opened their coffers to him, but not their private purses. They are personally as ungenerous as Lord Chesterfield once was to Samuel Johnson when he begged his lordship for patronage to support his project — the first English dictionary. It took Johnson seven years to complete his magnum opus. Chesterfield then condescended to offer an endorsement.

In February 1755, Johnson sent a letter to Chesterfield that has served as a warning to tight-fisted patrons: "Is not a patron, my lord, one who looks with unconcern on a man struggling for life in the water, and when he has reached ground, encumbers him with help? The notice which you have been pleased to take of my labours, had it been early, had been kind; but it has been delayed till I

am indifferent and cannot enjoy it; till I am solitary and cannot impart it; till I am known and do not want it."

Hopefully, all the gratuitous patronage being showered on Arshad will shake the government out of its lethargy and schools out of their unconscionable neglect of sports as an integral part of education. Famously, Lord Wellington attributed his success on the battlefield to his school: "The battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton." A grateful nation rewarded Wellington with both an estate in Hampshire and a fortune of £400,000.

Many would contend that the World Cup 1992 was won on the playing fields of Aitchison College. No one could have imagined that the captain (an Aitchisonian), who held that trophy aloft in March 1992 at Melbourne and then in processions across the country, would watch Arshad Nadeem's triumph from a cell in Adiala jail. Sic transit gloria.

For those of us armchair enthusiasts who forfeited sleep to watch the Paris Olympics, it became clear that few of the major countries sported their own nationals. The Chinese and the Japanese did. Others were populated with hyphenated Africans. One commentator even went so far as to compliment one sprinter for being the first African from the African continent to win a gold medal. Hadn't anyone briefed him that all of us homo sapiens originated in Africa? Over the centuries, the mobile migrated. Some were exported as slaves, a few repatriated by the US to populate the new nation of Liberia. Some fought desperately to avoid deportation by Rishi

Sunak's government to Rwanda. Millions remained to fight for liberation from their colonialist masters. The best among them today compete for their adopted countries in the Olympics.

Soon, the IOC will have to drop national groupings in favour of individual participation. With so many blacks in the US, British, French, and German teams, spectators may parrot Lady Susan Hussey's tactless question of a Black Briton: "But where do you really come from, where do your people come from?"

After his winning javelin throw, Arshad Nadeem prostrated himself in a sajdah and then draped himself in our flag. No one needed to ask Arshad where he came from. He was a humble Muslim, and a proud Pakistani son of a justifiably proud Pakistani mother from Mian Channu.

The British novelist E.M. Forster had once observed that "I am sure that if the mothers of various nations could meet, there would be no more wars." The mothers of both Arshad Nadeem and his Indian rival (and friend) Neeraj Chopra made moving statements 'adopting' the success of each other's son. Social media hummed with their messages and with images of Arshad and Neeraj, clothed in their national flags, shaking hands on the podium.

It is unlikely that PMs Modi and Shehbaz Sharif will bring Arshad and Neeraj to the Wagah border where the four can shake hands. The next best thing would be for their two mothers to be brought there to embrace across the white line. It would be better than our two countries aiming nuclear javelins at each other. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Fixing the IPPs

Tasneem Noorani

Visiting Islamabad with my grandchildren, I decided to introduce them to our very impressive Islamabad Sports Complex. Getting there, we found that the Asian Junior Individual Squash Championship was going on. It was a delight to see scores of kids, both boys and girls, from the age of 10 onwards, from 12 different countries competing hard. I felt proud that Pakistan was hosting such a lovely event with international-level infrastructure. But my pride was shattered when I asked a parent of a Malaysian kid what all they had done in Islamabad. Nothing, he said, because we are confined to our guest house and not allowed to move around because of security concerns.

Each time I've travelled to Islamabad of late, I find a new roadblock or security barrier. Twenty years ago, on official visits to Kabul, I would be struck by the number of security barriers there. Back in relaxed Islamabad, one could understand why Afghans wanted to come to Pakistan. We seem to be fast headed in a similar direction, where the flow of migration may be reversed. Why are we in such a fatal dive?

Economy is the more obvious reason; however, that's not the cause but the result of misgovernance, which is a consequence of a fluid governance structure. This, in turn, is due to the establishment's arbitrary and unchecked brute power. Even if we look at just the last 25 years — and not the previous 50, which were no different — we see army chiefs either imposing martial law, or when the cost-benefit of taking over directly turns adverse, manoeuvring and strategising for a tenure extension. Politicians,

parties and the Constitution were used as pawns to achieve the ultimate objective of an extension.

Without delving further into that argument, as it is dangerous territory, one can say that even if the establishment calls the shots we could have still stayed the course had we possessed a sturdy local bodies system. I say this after watching Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speak at a joint session of the US Congress. The way the Congress men and women stood up 53 times during his 50-minute speech to give him a standing ovation was ridiculous. They must have clapped for 30 minutes out of the 50.

The managers of our rent-a-crowd jalsas could learn something from the Congress representatives. It seems that those present were under watch and had to show their loyalty and how grateful they were to Netanyahu for massacring innocent women and children. This joint session was a crass demonstration of how effectively the Zionist establishment controls the most powerful country in the world. But despite this helplessness of the US politicians before the establishment, much like in our case, their country runs smoothly.

This, in my view, is due to the fact that their state governments are powerful, effective and independent of the centre, and most civic services, including law and order and the criminal justice system, work smoothly. So the American public would not be unduly bothered if President Joe Biden naps during meetings because their law and order, criminal justice system, electricity and gas bills, etc, are not affected.

A strong local government system with manageable-sized provinces would do wonders

for this country, despite the unending shenanigans of the centre, for which there is little hope of betterment.

In addition to our dysfunctional local bodies and disproportionate federating units, there is the issue of mega corruption, where the scale of corrupt gains is beyond the comprehension of the common man. Take the case of setting up independent power producers (IPPs), where decision-making politicians have been claiming it as their contribution to national progress.

The fact is that their decisions, based on unmitigated greed and political point-scoring, has landed the country with a permanent hole in the bucket, haemorrhaging Rs2 trillion every year, which equals defence spending and is almost 25 per cent of the government's revenue. How could it be anything but greed when four power houses receive Rs10 billion monthly, without producing a unit of electricity? How could it be anything but greed if a power plant based on imported coal were set up 1,000 kilometres away from the port? How could it be anything but greed if more and more power houses were established to take the installed capacity to 44,000 MW when the transmission capacity is only 22,000 MW?

Those who are corrupt have no fear of being prosecuted nor of the recovery of their illegal gains; the government, on the contrary, is in a fix as to how to stop the bleeding in the face of agreements being appealed before the trigger-happy International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes. I wonder if the experience gained by the powers that be in fixing a political party could be used to fix the IPPs? -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Senate body on IT discusses issue of recent internet disruptions

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunications Thursday discussed the issue of recent internet disruptions across the country causing real-time hindrances for individuals running e-commerce businesses.

Senator Palwasha Muhammad Zai Khan chaired the meeting.

Secretary for the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications, Aisha Humera Chaudhry,

explained that there is no issue with broadband connections; however, mobile operators using mobile data are facing disruptions.

The PTA is assessing the issue, and the ministry will be in a better position to provide an overview once the assessment is completed in two weeks.

The committee addressed the complaint of MNA Ali Jaan Mazari regarding poor internet service in Kashmir.

He said that internet services have been crawling

for the last four months, and despite several requests, no action has been taken so far.

PTA officials highlighted that there are around 156 sites of three major service providers in the area and that internet services are mostly down due to unannounced load shedding.

However, the PTA is assessing the issue and will submit its report in the next 15 days.

The committee also directed the PTA to submit its quarterly survey report at the next meeting.

### NA body constitutes sub-committee to revive PSM

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly (NA) Standing Committee on Industries and Production on Thursday constituted a sub-committee to address the financial and administrative challenges faced by Pakistan Steel Mill (PSM), prioritizing the concerns of its employees. The committee was met under the chairmanship of Member National Assembly (MNA) Syed Hafeez ud Din, said a news release.

The Terms of Reference (ToRs) and composition of the Sub-Committee are as follows: "To address the financial and administrative issues,

particularly those related to employees and the operations of Pakistan Steel Mills."

The sub-committee's membership includes Convener Ms. Naz Baloch, along with Abdul Hakeem Baloch, Muhammad Arshad Sahi, and Dr. Mahesh Kumar Malani as its members. Earlier, the Minister for Industries and Production provided an extensive briefing on the status of Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM). He said that PSM has a total landholding of 19,000 acres, of which 4,008 acres remain unutilized, while 305 acres have unfortunately been illegally encroached.

### Gold rates dip by Rs.300 to Rs257,400 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold witnessed a decrease of Rs.300 on Thursday and was traded at Rs 257,400 against its sale at 257,700 on the last trading day in the local market. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat also decreased by Rs256 to Rs.220,680 from Rs.220,936, whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat decreased to Rs202,290 from Rs202,525. All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.2,850 and Rs.2,443.41 respectively. Prices of gold in the international market decreased by \$4 to \$2,454.



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

### PCJCCI wants CPEC turned into a 'green' initiative

LAHORE (APP): President Pakistan-China Joint Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) Moazzam Ghurki said on Thursday that 'Green' is the future of humanity on planet, which has already been affected by severe climate change.

Speaking at a think tank session held at the PCJCCI, he said that China - Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) should be turned into a model Green Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to protect and preserve

the natural environment in the region. "Hopefully, it will preserve the environment as well as accelerate pace of green technologies and production of green energies channels in the ongoing projects of the CPEC in the country," Ghurki said and added "Intensified plantation, development/support of natural forestation, bee's honey hatcheries/production and last but not the least green tourism activities would play a pivotal role in this connection."

### BoR, FBR decide to modernise tax recovery system

LAHORE (APP): In a strategic meeting on tax audit conducted under the chairmanship of Senior Member Board of Revenue (SMBR) Punjab Nabeel Javed, it was decided to integrate and automate the tax recovery systems of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and the Punjab Board of Revenue (BoR).

The meeting was attended by Member Taxes Zaman Wattoo, Regional Commissioner Withholding Tax (RTO) Bilal Hussain, Dr. Imran Javed and other officials from both institutions.

The SMBR stressed the urgent need for a synchronised and automated system to modernise tax recovery procedures between the FBR and the BoR Punjab. He highlighted the importance of digitalizing the audit processes of PLRA (Punjab Land Records Authority) and FBR to reduce the chances of tax evasion.

It was also proposed that a joint committee be formed between the FBR and the BoR to compile comprehensive data of taxpayers.

### STZA establishes four new special technology zones worth Rs 30 bln

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) announced the establishment of four new Special Technology Zones (STZs), focusing on business process outsourcing, information technology, high-tech production, research and development, tech skill development, and knowledge products.

The decision has been taken in line with the vision of the Prime Minister and the Federal Government to enable job creation for the

youth and prioritise the technology sector.

According to news release, these four new zones consists of 1.4 million Sqft high-quality tech infrastructure and 130 acres of land available for exclusive use of the technology companies.

An investment of Rs. 30 billion has already been made in developing the specialised tech infrastructure by the zone developers while more than Rs 150 billion investment is expected in next 2-4

years by local and foreign technology companies.

The 4 new zones will have the capacity to house more than 50,000 professionals with an export potential exceeding US\$ 350 million annually.

The newly designated zones included the NUST Special Technology Zone and Tech7 Special Technology Zone in Islamabad, Mindbridge Special Technology Zone in Lahore, and Capital Smart Technology Zone in Rawalpindi.

### Registration of 1m farmers for Kisan Card to be met by 31st

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Agriculture Secretary Iftikhar Ali Sahoo has said that registration target of one million farmers for Kisan Card will be achieved by August 31st. According to official sources here, the secretary said that till now more than 600,000 farmers had registered themselves for the cards. He said the provision of Kisan Card would start from September 1st and it would be provided from the nearest branches of Bank of Punjab. From October 15, fertilizer, pesticides and seeds could be purchased from Kisan Card, he added. He directed the relevant officers to speed up registration process of dealers for purchasing pesticides.

### ADM Group to invest \$250m in Pakistan's electric vehicle sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): ADM Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Yasir Bhamhani on Thursday said that the ADM Group was keen to invest an amount of \$250 million in Pakistan for the manufacturing of electric vehicles to provide ecological-friendly automobiles to local consumers.

In a meeting with Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, he said the first phase of the project charging network station would be established, followed by the manufacturing of electric vehicles in the second phase. He said the

electric vehicles will have a range of 300 kilometres on a single charge.

The minister said the government is ready to facilitate direct foreign investment in the country, and the Ministry of Industries and Production is committed to collaborating closely with all relevant stakeholders to ensure a smooth process. He emphasized the importance of focusing on green energy, adding that electric vehicles have become a reality.

Rana Tanveer highlighted the benefits of electric vehicles, including their lower cost compared to traditional vehicles and fuel savings.



Senator Palwasha Muhammad Zai Khan, chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Ministry of Information Telecommunication in Islamabad.



## Governor KP emphasizes support for youth affected by terrorism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faizal Karim Kundi, on Thursday stressed the importance of providing benefits to the war on terror affected youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through the Prime Minister's Youth Program.

The Governor said this during a ceremony at the Prime Minister's Secretariat, where squash player Norina Shams from Dir was awarded a sponsorship by the Zakori Group.

The event was attended by Prime Minister's Advisor on Youth Affairs Rana Mashood, NEVTEC Chairperson Gulmina Bilal Ahmad, Zakori Group Chairman Ayub Zakori, Bilour Group Director Sherbaz Bilour, Deputy

Secretary of Sports Qasim Khattak, and other officials.

Governor Kundi expressed appreciation for the support extended to Norina Shams and urged similar backing for other talented youth from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He criticized the provincial government for neglecting sports and highlighted that many young people are making significant achievements in sports through their own efforts.

He emphasized that the Governor's House is dedicated to encouraging talented youth and is working to promote educational and recreational activities as a means to protect the province from terrorism and extremism.

For the first time in

the history of the Governor's House, conferences on Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal and Pashto famous poet Khushal Khan Khattak, as well as interfaith harmony, have been organized.

Governor Kundi called on the federal government to ensure that 50 percent of social welfare funds are allocated to sports and youth welfare.

He also urged institutions and affluent individuals across the country to support and encourage talented youth from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Rana Mashood, Advisor to the Prime Minister, affirmed the government's commitment to making Khyber Pakhtunkhwa a priority under Governor Kundi's leadership.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Industry and Commerce, Chaudry Shafay Hussain called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

## Punjab Governor says: Boosting trade & business activities indispensable for the country's stability

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Industry and Commerce, Chaudry Shafay Hussain called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, investment and promotion of technical education in Punjab were discussed. The Provincial Minister informed the Governor of Punjab about the steps taken for the promotion of investment and technical education in the province. Speaking on this occasion, Punjab

## CM condoles martyrdom of four security personnel in SW

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur has expressed deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences over the martyrdom of four security personnel in South Waziristan.

In his message, the Chief Minister conveyed his sympathies to the families of the martyrs and prayed for the highest ranks of the martyrs in Jannah, as well as strength and patience for the bereaved families.

## KP CM inaugurates model design, online application for solarization scheme

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur inaugurated the Model Design and Online Application System for the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Solarization Scheme on Thursday.

In addition to the initial plans, the Chief Minister announced an expansion of the scheme to 130,000 households, with 30,000 exclusively from the Merged Districts. This ambitious project will provide complete 2kV solar systems to underprivileged households across the province, significantly enhancing energy access for those most in need.

The solarization scheme is part of the provincial government's broader efforts to address energy needs in communities where access to electricity remains a challenge, particularly in backward and remote areas.

By prioritizing the most vulnerable populations, the scheme aims to reduce the energy burden on families, enhance living standards, and promote the use of clean energy solutions.



LAHORE: School teachers welcome the students on the opening day after Summer Vacation as Students arrive to attend their first day of school.

## Senior minister reviews CM's vision 'Pollution-Free Punjab'

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE (APP): Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb Thursday presided over a progress review meeting on four important sectors in which a high-level delegation from the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office participated.

A briefing was given on the progress of matters pertaining to air quality, school education, population and health issues. The meeting was held to identify smoke-emitting bikes through Safe City cameras. Smog level increases in the month of May due to burning crop residue.

The target is to bring the Air Quality Index from 100 PM to 70 PM by 2028. 1800 new bikes are registered in Lahore every day and motorcycles are the biggest cause of air pollution. Motorcycles generate more than 75 percent of transport pollution. Effective legislation and enforcement on the environment will make it possible to achieve the smog reduction target.

Marriyum Aurangzeb ordered to carry out implementation of the plan for establishing at least 100 VICS stations in Lahore at the earliest.



FAISALABAD: Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora holding a press conference along with CPO Kamran Adil in Operations Complex at Police Lines.

## WASA signs MoU with KOICA to cope with urban flooding

MULTAN (APP): WASA district to resolve underlying matter of urban flooding.

MoU of Record of Discussion was signed in Lahore amid presence of Special Secretary Housing Punjab, DG MDA and Country Director of KOICA.

Under the agreement, a master plan would be chalked out to save the district and adjacent places from urban flooding, said the DG.

## 1 Gutka material supplier arrested

**Independent Report**  
THATTA: On the instructions of SSP Thatta, Dr. Muhammad Imran Khan, Thatta Police's crackdown on narcotics, crime elements, habitual criminals, gutka, and mainpuri is on-going.

On the instructions of SSP Thatta, Incharge CIA Thatta, Inspector Mumtaz Ali Brohi, along with his staff, successfully raided near Solangi Stop Thatta during a patrol and foiled an attempt to supply gutka material in a vehicle, number AAN-582, and arrested 1 gutka material supplier, Khuda Bux son of Suleman Dal.

Police seized the vehicle and recovered 104 kg of gutka material, 200 packets of gutka mawa, and registered a case against the accused at Thatta Police Station.

## Punjab minister stresses awareness on rains, flood risks at local level

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister and Chairman Cabinet Committee for Disaster Management Khawaja Salman Rafique emphasised the need to raise awareness among citizens regarding the risks of rains and floods at the local level.

Presiding over a Cabinet Committee meeting at the PDMA Head Office here on Thursday, he urged the district

## FIA arrests 3 suspects in Hundi case

LAHORE (APP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) arrested three suspects involved in a Hundi case from the provincial capital on Thursday. According to an FIA spokesman, Corporate Crime Circle Lahore Zone arrested two suspects, Muhammad Usman and Muhammad Aftab, while conducting operations in Bara Market, Rs 3,090,000 in cash, check books and other documents were seized from the accused. The spokesman said that another accused was arrested in Shah Alam market here, Rs 3 million in cash.

# International News

## Turkiye will continue to increase pressure on Israel, Erdogan tells Palestinian leader Abbas

**Monitoring Desk**  
ANKARA: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan told visiting Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Wednesday that Türkiye will continue to support the Palestinian cause and push the international community to increase pressure on Israel, his office said.

The two leaders discussed recent developments and the steps to be taken for a lasting ceasefire and peace in Gaza, Erdogan's office said in a post on X.

Erdogan condemned Israel's war in Gaza, the statement said, accusing some Western countries of remaining silent and continuing to support Israel.

Erdogan also told Abbas that all countries, especially in the Muslim world, should step up efforts to ensure an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the uninterrupted delivery of humanitarian aid to Palestinians.

Abbas is set to address an extraordinary session of Türkiye's parliament on Thursday. Israel's assault on Gaza started after the Palestinian Islamist militant group Hamas attacked Israel on Oct 7.

Türkiye has denounced the war and has halted all trade with Israel. It submitted a request to join South Africa's case at the International Court of Justice accusing Israel of genocide.

Türkiye's invitation to Abbas came after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the US Congress on Jul 25, which Ankara has condemned.

"We will show that Mr Abbas has the right to speak in our parliament just as Netanyahu has the right to speak in the US Congress," Erdogan told members of his ruling AK Party on Wednesday before meeting Abbas.

Erdogan, who has been a staunch supporter of Hamas, said Turkey had also planned to invite the political leader of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, who was assassinated in Tehran.



A charity kitchen worker hands out food to Palestinians, amid a hunger crisis in the northern Gaza Strip.

## Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman fears for his life

**Monitoring Desk**  
RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman also expressed concerns about the possibility of being assassinated.

According to Politico magazine, Prince Mohammed bin Salman told US Congress members that there was a risk of an attempt on his life.

He indicated that his efforts to restore Saudi-Israeli relations and cooperation with the US have put his life in danger.

At one point, he referenced the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, who was killed following the Camp David Accords with Israel.

Prince Mohammed bin Salman has expressed concern that any potential agreement with Israel should include a genuine path to establishing a Palestinian state, especially amidst rising Arab anger against Israel.

It may be noted that in February, Saudi Arabia informed the US that it would not establish diplomatic relations with Israel until a Palestinian state was established within the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

## Lebanon says two killed in Israeli strikes

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: Lebanon's health ministry said Israeli strikes killed two people in the country's south on Wednesday, with Hezbollah announcing the deaths of two of its fighters, the latest cross-border violence amid fears of a full-blown regional war.

Hezbollah has traded near daily fire with the Israeli army since the Palestinian militant group Hamas's unprecedented October 7 attack on Israel triggered the Gaza war.

## US approves \$20 billion weapons package for Israel

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden's administration approved more than \$20 billion in new weapons sales to Israel, brushing aside pressure from rights activists to stop arms deliveries over the death toll in Gaza.

The sale comes as Biden has pressed Israel and Hamas to reach a ceasefire after 10 months of bloodshed, although the weapons would take years to reach Israel.

In a notification to Congress, the State Department said it had approved a sale of 50 F-15 fighter jets to Israel for \$18.82 billion.

Israel will also buy nearly 33,000 tank cartridges, up to 50,000 explosive mortar cartridges and new military cargo vehicles. The F-15 aircraft, which will begin to be delivered in 2029, will upgrade Israel's current fleet and include radar and secure communications equipment.

"The United States is committed to the security of Israel, and it is vital to US national interests to assist Israel to develop and maintain a strong and ready self-defense capability," the State Department said in its notice on the F-15s, which are made by Boeing.

On the tank cartridges, the United States said the sale "will improve Israel's capability to meet current and future enemy threats, strengthen its homeland defense and serve as a deterrent to regional threats."

The US Congress can block weapons sales, but such a process is difficult.

## Bangladesh mob beats suspected supporters of ex-PM Hasina after rally call

**Monitoring Desk**  
DHAKA: A mob wielding bamboo rods and plastic pipes beat several suspected supporters of Sheikh Hasina on Thursday, vowing to quash a rumoured rally for the ousted Bangladesh premier outside her childhood home.

Hasina, 76, fled by helicopter last week to neighbouring India, where she remains, as student-led protests flooded Dhaka's streets in a dramatic end to her iron-fisted 15-year rule.

Thursday is the anniversary of the 1975 assassination of her father, independence hero Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, during a military coup — a date her government had declared a national holiday.

Previous years saw huge rallies around Bangladesh to mark the occasion, but the students who toppled Hasina were

## Meth found in sweets given by New Zealand charity

**Monitoring Desk**  
WELLINGTON: Pine-apple sweets dished out by a New Zealand charity have tested positive for potentially lethal amounts of methamphetamine, police said on Wednesday, sparking an urgent race to remove them from the streets.

A child, a teenager and a charity worker have already been taken to hospital after they tasted the candies. Although none are seriously ill, police have launched a criminal investigation and are now trying to track down up to 400 other people who may have received the sweets. "We need to round these up as quickly as we can," said Detective Inspector Glenn Baldwin, adding that 16 of the sweets had been found so far. Police suggested the drugs might have been packaged inside the distinctive yellow "Rinda" wrapping by traffickers or dealers to evade detection.

## Qatar to host high-stakes Gaza truce talks

**Monitoring Desk**  
DOHA: Qatar will host Gaza ceasefire talks on Thursday, sources close to the negotiations said, seeking a so-far elusive agreement that the United States hopes would stop Iranian retaliation against Israel and avert a wider conflict.

US, Qatari and Egyptian mediators have invited Israel and Hamas for negotiations aimed at ending fighting that the health ministry in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip says has claimed nearly 40,000 lives in the Palestinian territory.

Hamas said it would not take part in a new round of Gaza ceasefire talks, but an official briefed on the talks said mediators expected to consult with the Palestinian group afterwards.

The office of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the heads of Israel's Mossad spy agency and Shin Bet secret service would go to Doha.

## Ukrainian President Zelenskyy says Kyiv troops have full control of the Russian town of Sudzha

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Thursday that the country's troops have full control of the Russian town of Sudzha in the Kursk region in their incursion into Russian territory.

The town, the largest that Ukraine has reportedly seized so far, had a prewar population of around 5,000 people. It holds a measuring station for Russian natural gas that flows through Ukrainian pipelines to Europe.

Natural gas flows from West Siberian gas fields through pipes that pass through Sudzha and cross the Ukrainian border into Ukraine's system.

Zelenskyy said a Ukrainian military commander's office is being set up in Sudzha. He didn't elaborate on the details or the functions of the office.

The claim couldn't be independently verified. Russia did not immediately respond to Zelenskyy's statement, but its defense ministry said earlier Thursday that Russian forces had blocked attempts to take several other communities.

There was no indication of any disruption of the gas flow through Sudzha, which accounts for about 3% of Europe's imports.

Satellite images analyzed by The Associated Press on Thursday show that a Ukrainian drone attack on Russian air bases damaged at least two hangars and other areas.

Images taken Wednesday by Planet Labs PBC show that two hangars at Borisoglebsk Air Base had been struck, with a field of debris around both.

It was not immediately clear what purpose the hangars served. There also appeared to be potential damage to two fighter aircraft at the base.



## FO tightens visa rules amid rise in political asylum claims by parliament staff

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Foreign Office has introduced stricter guidelines on the issuance of visa notes and note verbales for the Senate and National Assembly Secretariats after the growing trend of Parliament employees and officers seeking political asylum abroad.

Following the approval of Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, the Foreign Office immediately implemented these new guidelines. Foreign Secretary Cyrus Sajjad Qazi communicated the changes through an official letter addressed to the Secretaries of the Senate and National Assembly, outlining the revised procedures. The letter specifies

that the facility of issuing note verbales for private visits to holders of diplomatic and official passports has been discontinued. Additionally, the issuance of letters of introduction for visa purposes to the families of officers from the National Assembly and Senate Secretariats has been banned.

For private passport holders accompanying members of Parliament on official and private visits, a new requirement mandates an affidavit to ensure that the visa-seeking individual will not seek asylum in the destination country. Furthermore, an undertaking must be provided, confirming that the Foreign Office's introduction letter will not

be misused.

The guidelines also state that letters of introduction will no longer be issued to family members of officers from the National Assembly and Senate Secretariats. Diplomatic and official passport holders will now only receive note verbales for official visits after a formal request from the Senate or National Assembly Secretariat. Private visit requests will be processed following the updated policy guidelines.

These changes reflect the Foreign Office's commitment to preventing the misuse of diplomatic privileges and ensuring that visa processes are not exploited for political asylum purposes.



ISLAMABAD: People of Jammu and Kashmir observed Black day on the occasion of Indian Independence day in the Federal Capital.

## PTI founder says Gen (Retd) Bajwa removed Gen (Retd) Faiz to seek extension in his service

**Arrest of Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed internal matter of army: Imran**

RAWALPINDI (Online): PTI founder Imran Khan has said Gen (Retd) Faiz is our asset who was wasted. Gen (Retd) Bajwa removed Gen (Retd) Faiz for extension in his service despite being forbidden by me. If Gen (Retd) Faiz is behind May 9 then it should be investigated. He said this while talking to media men on the occasion of hearing of Al-Qadir Trust reference in Adiala jail Thursday.

He held it is good army is conducting internal accountability. If it is carrying out accountability then

it should be done in respect of all.

He held "Khawaja Asif has said Gen (Retd) Faiz is directly linked to May 9 incidents. In fact all the matter started from my arrest. Why it is not being investigated. If Gen (Retd) Faiz is behind May 9 then investigations should be made in this regard.

He added May 9 in fact was part of London plan. Wherever fire has erupted the CCTV footages of these areas are missing. Our CCTV footages be brought before us and we be proved faulty.

## Federal cabinet approves 5yrs privatization program

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal cabinet has accorded approval to 5 years privatization program. Under 2024-2029 program 24 institutions will be privatized.

According to sources more entities will be included in the privatization program after review.

The privatization will be made in three phases under the program.

The privatization process of PIA and House Building Finance Corporation will soon be completed. Power distribution companies and production companies will also be privatized. In the first phase electric power companies of Faisalabad, Islamabad and Gujranwala will be privatized.

## 'Ring leader' must now face the music for his misadventures: Tarar

LAHORE (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage on Thursday said swift and rigorous accountability of the 'ring leader of anarchist group' was long-overdue, for his misadventures to sabotage the national interests.

Addressing a news conference, he said that "Irrefutable and glaring" evidence came forth after an investigation of the former spy chief Faiz Hameed that showed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder was the real mastermind of the conspiracy against the country.

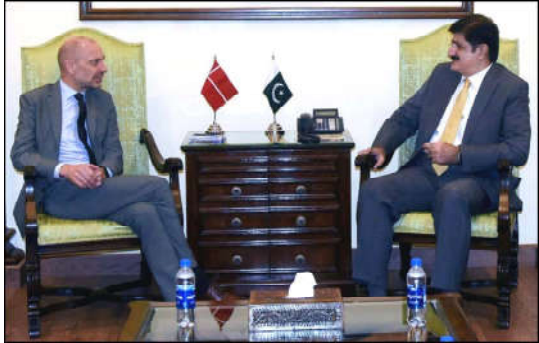
The May 9 arson attacks on the sensitive installations and writing of a letter to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) by the PTI leadership for sabotaging the agreement, were the clear indications of the

conspiracy, he added. The minister said the whole nation witnessed the misadventures of the 'group of anarchists', hell bent upon creating chaos and instability.

He welcomed and lauded the decision of the institution to hold its former ISI chief accountable under its self-accountability initiative which ought to be followed by all institutions.

He referred to the press release issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations that indicated that three retired officers had also been taken to the custody after the investigation of former spy chief Faiz Hameed.

The political instability and chaos was apparently created on the behest of the PTI founder, he added.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Ambassador of Denmark, Jakob Linulf during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

## Important buildings beautified on Independence Day: Mayor

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab stated that on the occasion of Independence Day, illuminations were carried out on Karachi's historic buildings to convey the message to citizens that their city is a bright and shining place, and its vibrancy is heightened on significant national days.

In a statement on Thursday, the Mayor said that the historic buildings that were illuminated for Independence Day included the KMC Building, Frere Hall, Khalidqeen Hall, Kothari Parade, and Merewether clock Tower, among others. These buildings were given a beautiful and charming look to highlight their historical significance.

He mentioned that the citizens of Karachi highly appreciated this initiative by the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation and demonstrated through their enthusiasm that civic institutions are playing their part effectively to make Independence Day a memorable occasion.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab emphasized that Karachi's historic buildings are a valuable heritage of the city, and it is essential to protect them while also keeping the new generation informed about their importance. Nations that progress are those that remain connected to their history and never forget their benefactors.

## MNA Jilani emphasizes for engaging youth through sports

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Member of National Assembly (MNA) Pir Aftab Hussain Shah Jilani on Thursday emphasized the importance of sports activities in captivating the youth's attention towards sports, while distributing prizes to winners at the Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Sports Stadium (Gama) Stadium.

During the ceremony, Jilani stressed that organizing diverse sports competitions is crucial to drawing today's young generation to sports. He also commended the provincial and federal governments for taking concrete steps to promote sports activities, citing the Jashan Azadi Sports Gala as a prime example.

On this occasion, MPA Hari Ram Kishori Lal highlighted the provincial government's efforts to nurture sports skills among the youth through the sports department.

## Pervez Sehar posted as Secretary Social Welfare Dept Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Pervez Ahmed Sehar, an officer of Ex-PCS (BS-20) has been posted as Secretary Social Welfare Department vice Sajid Jamal Abro transferred.

According to notification, Sajid Jamal Abro, an officer of Ex-PCS (BS-20) presently posted as Secretary Social Welfare Department has been transferred and posted as Principal Secretary to Governor Sindh with immediate effect and until further orders.

## Coast Guards mark Independence Day with series of events across coastal regions

KARACHI (APP): In celebration of Independence Day, the Pakistan Coast Guards (PCG) organized a series of events, including flag hoisting ceremonies, sports competitions, art contests, and cultural festivals across multiple locations, including Korangi, Uthral, Gwadar, Pasni, Ormara, and Gharo.

According to a PCG spokesperson on Thursday, a significant number of local dignitaries attended these events.

The central event took place at the PCG headquarters, with Director General PCG Brigadier Ghulam Abbas serving as the chief guest.

## Mirpurkhas launches tree planting campaign

MIRPURKHAS (APP): The Women Leadership Forum, under the Civil Society Support Program on Thursday kicked off a tree planting campaign in Darlaman, Mirpurkhas, to commemorate Independence Day. The event drew a crowd of prominent figures, including Divisional Commissioner Faisal Ahmed Uqeli, Deputy Commissioner Dr Rashid Masood, and religious leaders. Neem, pelican, and other plant species were planted in the newly constructed Dar-ul-Aman building premises. Commissioner Uqeli and Deputy Commissioner Khan also visited the site, acknowledging the challenges faced by the Darlaman building, including staff, furniture, and solar system issues.

## Dar expresses commitment to achieve economic stability

ISLAMABAD (Online): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar has said that the government is striving to achieve economic stability, making Pakistani economy among the strongest economies of the world.

He was addressing a ceremony in connection with Urs of Hazrat Syed Abdul Latif Kazmi popularly known as Bari Imam in Islamabad.

Ishaq Dar said prudent economic measure are being taken to transform

Pakistan into a robust economic power and expressed the optimism that the country would be soon included in G20 club as a rapid economic change is on the horizons.

Ishaq Dar prayed for the progress and prosperity of Pakistan and said they want a country as envisioned by its founding fathers. He announced that the second extension project on Darbar Bari Imam would be expedited. He also participated in the 'Chadar poshi' ceremony at the Mazar.



LARKANA: Political Secretary to PPP Chairman, MPA Jameel Ahmed Soomro is listening the problems of citizens during open court program held at his residence located on Noor Colony in Larkana.

## Sindh govt raises vice-chancellors' salaries to over Rs820,000

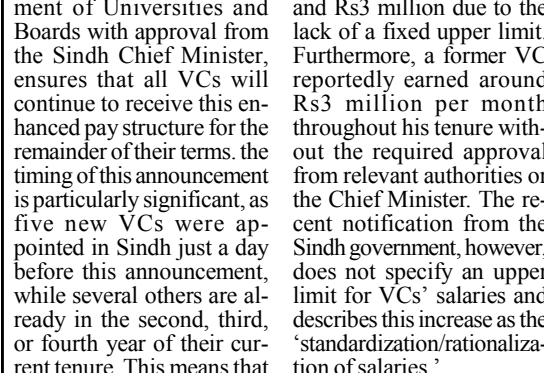
KARACHI (INP): The Government of Sindh has announced a significant increase in the salaries of vice-chancellors (VCs) at public universities in the province.

According to the official notification, the minimum salary for VCs will now be Rs684,450 per year, marking an increase of around Rs20,000 annually.

Additionally, the 'vice-chancellor allowance', set at 20% of the basic salary, will now exceed Rs136,000, bringing the total monthly wage of VCs to over Rs820,000. The notification, issued by the Department of Universities and Boards with approval from the Sindh Chief Minister, ensures that all VCs will continue to receive this enhanced pay structure for the remainder of their terms. The timing of this announcement is particularly significant, as five new VCs were appointed in Sindh just a day before this announcement, while several others are already in the second, third, or fourth year of their current tenure. This means that

a substantial number of VCs will significantly benefit from this salary adjustment, which is aimed at aligning their remuneration with the highest TTS (Tenure Track System) scale.

Previously, on June 20, The Express group published an investigative report highlighting the disparities and low salaries among vice-chancellors (VCs) in the province of Sindh. The report pointed out that some VCs were earning salaries comparable to or only slightly above those of professors, while others received between Rs1 million and Rs3 million due to the lack of a fixed upper limit. Furthermore, a former VC reportedly earned around Rs3 million per month throughout his tenure without the required approval from relevant authorities or the Chief Minister. The recent notification from the Sindh government, however, does not specify an upper limit for VCs' salaries and describes this increase as the 'standardization/rationalization of salaries.'



LARKANA: Moria Loop Bund is being strengthening by the bank of River Indus, in perception of arrival of flood water in the Indus River, in Larkana.

## Hammad Azhar resigns as Punjab PTI president

KARACHI (INP): The former National Assembly (NA) member Hammad Azhar resigned as president of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Punjab chapter on Thursday.

In his recent social media post on X [formerly Twitter], Hammad Azhar announced his resignation and expressed frustration over his limited access to the party's founder and the lack of input in organizational decisions within the Punjab province.

He revealed that many of these decisions were influenced by lobbying rather than merit, leading to his growing discontent. Despite these challenges, Azhar emphasized that he had not held a press conference or made any deals regarding his resignation.

He also mentioned the difficulties he faces in movement, stating that his movement is restricted and he is not 'allowed' to meet PTI founder in Adiala jail.

## Three children die in trailer-truck collision in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Three children died and 18 members of a family were injured in a collision between a trailer and a mini-truck near Northern Bypass Toll Plaza in Karachi on Thursday morning.

According to police, the victim family was going to Karachi from interior Sindh when they met accident. The police said that the overspeeding trailer hit the truck from the rear side near Toll Plaza.

However, the police took the trailer into custody and arrested its driver.

Rescue teams shifted the dead bodies and the injured to a nearby hospital.

Ghulam Hussain and Muhammad Qasim are among the dead children while the third child was succumbed to injuries during treatment at the hospital.

## Karachi reports 4th case of Congo virus in August

KARACHI (INP): Karachi has reported yet another case of Congo virus this year, with a 32-year-old patient being admitted to Jinnah Hospital under critical conditions.

The patient, who was brought in on Wednesday, was initially experiencing symptoms, including fever and diarrhoea. Upon examination, the patient's Congo virus test returned positive.

Due to the severity of the illness, the patient has been transferred to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the hospital for advanced medical care. Medical professionals have indicated that the Congo virus is highly dangerous, with only a 10% chance of recovery.



HYDERABAD: Abdul Jabbar Khan Advisor to CM Sindh, Ayaz Husain Tunio president high court bar association Hyderabad inauguration to Zeeshan Law College Latifabad.

## If some one goes missing on one's own even then responsibility lies with state to trace: SHC

KARACHI (Online): Sindh High Court (SHC) has remarked during the hearing of missing persons case that if some one has gone missing on one's own even then it is responsibility of state to search him. Petitions on recovery of over 10 missing persons including retired officer of FIA came up for hearing before justice Naimatullah Phulpoto of SHC Thursday.

Counsel for petitioner, state counsel and police authorities appeared in the court. The court while expressing resentment over traditional proceedings of police regarding recovery of missing persons remarked stereotype reports are filed

in the court through copy paste. When steps have not been taken for recovery of missing persons then what is need of writing.

Justice Naimatullah Phulpoto inquired was compensation paid to family members of the missing citizen Arsalan.

The state counsel said the enforced disappearance of Arsalan has not been determined so far.

The court remarked when compensation is not to be paid then why it is written in the report.

In another missing person case police officer replied Haider went missing on his own from Boot Baisan. No institution has taken him to custody.

## Sindh secretary Auqaf pays surprise visit to Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhattai shrine

HYDERABAD (APP): The Provincial Secretary Auqaf Farrukh Shehzad Qureshi made a surprise visit to the Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhattai Shrine on Thursday to review arrangements for the upcoming 281st Urs Mubarak. During the visit, he inspected the shrine's renovation work and issued directives to expedite all preparations.

Speaking to the media, Qureshi expressed his dissatisfaction with the current state of the shrine and directed the concerned departments to complete all work as soon as possible.

He emphasized the need to provide essential facilities to devotees of Shah Latif. Considering the possibility of heat and rain during Urs Mubarak, the provincial secretary ordered the immediate installation of cold marble to ensure a comfortable experience for visitors.

He acknowledged Shah Latif as a spiritual leader and emphasized the importance of serving his followers.



KARACHI: Parents and children arrive at school on the first day for the start of the 2024-2025 school year, after the summer vacation in Karachi.

## Sanghar district registers 18,636 women under Mamta program

HYDERABAD (APP): The In-charge of the Sindh Social Protection Authority district Sanghar Kalsoom Jyo on Thursday informed that about 18,636 women have been registered at 77 PPHI centers in the district under Mamta Program, while initial funds for various tests were provided to pregnant women, and some had already undergone follow-up check-ups.

She shared this update during a briefing at a coordination committee meeting for the Mamta Program, chaired by the Deputy Commissioner of Sanghar Dr. Imran ul Hassan Khawaja.

Jyo stated that the district aims to provide services to over 133,559

women. She added that under this program, obtaining a birth certificate from NADRA for newborns has been made mandatory, therefore an Assistant Director from NADRA has been appointed as a member of the committee.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner Dr. Khawaja maintained that the Sindh government, with the support of the World Bank, had launched the Mamta Program in 15 districts to improve maternal and child health and to encourage 40% of women in the province to use hospital delivery services. This initiative also aims to enhance the mental and physical development of newborns.