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Thar coal producing cheapest power in country: Murad Ali Shah

KARACHI (INP): Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday said that the Sindh government had 10 years ago called for investment in the wind and solar energy, now entire country wants investment in it. Talking to Lahore's media persons here, Sindh's Chief Minister said that electricity has become a very serious issue. "The cheapest electricity being generated in the country with Thar coal power plants," he said.

He said Thar coal power plants generating over 3,000 megawatts of the electricity. "This electricity supplied to the national grid and later Faisalabad," he

pointed out. "Thar's electricity not supplied to Sindh," he said.

"Thar coal could generate cheaper electricity for Pakistan," he said. "We can create jobs and increase exports with industries running on Thar coal," CM Shah suggested.

Murad Ali Shah said that cyber knife machine's facility has not been available in any hospital of Pakistan. "Sindh's Jinnah Hospital providing free treatment with cyber knife," chief minister said. "This cyber knife treatment requires US\$ 70,000 to 1,50,000 expenses in the world," he added.



KARACHI: President of Indus Hospital & Health Network Dr. Abdul Bari meeting with Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

35 Pakistani pilgrims killed after bus overturns in Iran

TEHRAN (Online): At least thirty-five Pakistani pilgrims have been killed and fifteen others critically injured in a bus accident in Iranian city of Yazd.

According to initial reports, the accident occurred due to failure of brakes.

Injured have been shifted to near-by hospital. Most of the passengers belong to Larkana, Ghotki and other cities of Sindh.

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have expressed deep grief and sorrow over loss of precious lives in the tragic bus accident of Pakistani Zaireen in Iran. The President and the

Prime Minister commiserated with the bereaved families and prayed for the departed souls.

The President directed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to bring the bodies to Pakistan and provide timely aid to the injured.

President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday expressed his deep grief over the death of Pakistani pilgrims in a bus accident that took place in Iran.

The president prayed to Allah Almighty for peace for the departed souls, early recovery of the injured, and strength for the bereaved families to bear the loss.

Journalists from Lahore praise Sindh gov't's projects in province as state-of-the-art

Independent Report
KARACHI: The journalists from Lahore praised the Sindh government's projects in the province as state-of-the-art. After vis-

iting various areas of Sindh, a delegation of senior journalists from Lahore met with Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon at his office in Karachi. During the meeting, senior journalists from Lahore praised the ongoing projects of the Sindh government in underdeveloped areas like Thar. They expressed their astonishment at seeing clean drinking water available in



the meeting, Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon briefed the delegation of journalists from Lahore on the Sindh government's efforts in the energy, health, and other sectors.

Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that the Thar Coal project was the vision of Shaheed Bibi, which was realized by President Asif Ali Zardari.

Provincial Ministers visit shrine of Shah Abdul Latif Bhattai (RA)

Independent Report
KARACHI: The 281st annual Urs of the revered Sufi saint Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhattai (RA) commenced with great reverence and devotion.

The Minister for Aqaf, Religious Affairs, Zakat, and Ushr, Syed Riaz Hussain Shah Shirazi, along with Provincial Ministers Saeed Ghani and Syed Zulfikar Ali Shah, visited the shrine to pay their respects.

They were accompanied by prominent personalities including Syed

Tanveer Haider Shah Shirazi, MPA Raja Razaq, and Syed Fawad Hussain Shah Shirazi. The dignitaries laid ceremonial chaddars on the shrine and offered prayers. They also paid homage at the shrine of Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhattai's father, Shah Habib.

During the occasion, Syed Riaz Hussain Shah Shirazi emphasized that Sindh is a land of saints, and the poetry of Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhattai provides profound guidance for living a meaningful life.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir distributing laptops among the high achievers during National Youth Convention held in Islamabad.

Army chief reiterates resolve to win war against terrorism

A strong bond between people, govt, and military is guarantee of Pakistan's security and development; People who had built narrative of Pakistan's default are found nowhere today; Youth most expensive asset of Pakistan, no one to be allowed to waste it; State's responsible to protect nation from social media's adverse effects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Wednesday said the youth of the country was the biggest and most valuable capital that would not be allowed to waste under any circumstances.

Addressing the Youth Convention here, the Chief of Army Staff said that knowledge distinguished a person from others, whereas seeing the sparkle in the eyes of young people made one believe that the future of Pakistan was in safe hands.

The Army Chief said it was the responsibility of the state to keep the masses at bay from the malicious implications of social media-induced confusion and sedition.

A strong relationship between the people, the government and the army was the guarantee of Pakistan's security and development, he said, adding, "Those who were creating the narrative of Pakistan's default, where are they today?"

"If you want to know the importance of a free state, ask the people of Libya, Syria, Kashmir, and Gaza. As Muslims we are forbidden from de-

spair," the COAS said.

The Chief of Army Staff told the youth that life was a test, and read the Qur'anic verse, "Do people think that they will be left alone for saying, 'We believe,' and they will not be tested?"

At the end of the speech, the Army Chief recited this poem of Allama Iqbal addressing the youth:

"The destiny of nations is in the hands of individuals Every individual is the star of the destiny of the nation."

During the question period after the speech, the Chief of Army Staff

explained the position of the Pakistan Army on various issues. In response to a question on the riots in Parachinar, the Army Chief said that the tribes should sit together and help end the land and sub-district disputes. "The people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have stood like a leaden wall against terrorism along with the Pakistan Army for 22 years. I believe that Allah Almighty will grant us victory against terrorism," the Army Chief said.

EC accepts intra party election of PML-N, JI

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission (EC) has issued new list of registered political parties and intra party election of JI and PML-N have been accepted.

According to list issued on EC website 66 political parties are registered.

The name of heads of these political parties have been included in the list.

As per list the intra party presidential election of PML-N and intra party election of JI have been accepted.

Youth empowerment, key to Pakistan's bright future: President Zardari

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday said that the youth had significant potential and could greatly elevate country's reputation if given appropriate opportunities.

In a conversation with Asrar Khan Kakar, the newly elected President of the Oxford Union Society, the president extended his congratulations on his election to the coveted position.

Three most wanted Lyari gang war criminals held in joint operation

KARACHI (INP): Three most wanted criminals of Lyari gang war were arrested during a joint operation of Pakistan Rangers Sindh and police here on Wednesday. According to spokesmen of Rangers, on an intelligence tip-off, the Rangers and police launched joint operation against criminals in Lyari area of Karachi. During operation, three members of Lyari gang war belonging to Commander Ayaz Zehni Group and including Muhammad Arslam Shehzad alias Karott, Farhan alias Jhari and Abdul Mohiz alias Katta were arrested.



BHITSHAH: Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani addressing to media persons after laying wreath on the grave of Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhattai on the occasion of his 281st Urs celebration.

Chairman senate calls for unity between provinces, federal government

HYDERABAD (APP): The Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gillani emphasized the importance of Shah Abdul Latif Bhattai's teachings, highlighting his message of peace, love and compassion. He said that Shah Latif advocated for women's rights even in his era.

Talking to the media after visiting the shrine on the occasion of the 281st Urs of Shah Abdul Latif Bhattai on Wednesday, Gillani said that following Shah Latif's message could help resolve many of today's issues. He stressed the need to spread this message far and wide.

Responding to a

question about making Bhit Shah a tehsil or district, the Chairman Senate stated that the decision lies with the provincial assembly. He suggested that the assembly should pass a resolution and discuss the matter with the Chief Minister of Sindh, I am confident that he would do something in this matter.

In response to a question about the differences between the provinces and the federal government, he said that considering the political situation, we should work together, this is not the time to have differences. He acknowledged that differences of opinion were part of de-

mocracy but democracy should not be run in such a way that national progress, peace and economic conditions deteriorate.

On a question about the statement of Makhdoom Jamil uz Zaman regarding the Sindh government, Gillani suggested that such questions should be asked to the individual who made the statement.

About the imprisonment of a spiritual leader, he said I too had remained in jail for 9 years because I had provided jobs to the poor but never mentioned the name of any judge or institution and had not revealed any state secrets.

United efforts, youth empowerment, imperative for country's progress: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that youth empowerment and the united efforts by the politicians and the national institutions, were inevitable to put the country on the course to progress.

"If we resolve to change Pakistan, it will not be too far when the country will emerge as a great nation. Today's Pakistan and its prevailing circumstances necessitate politicians and national institutions to serve the country unitedly while observing their constitutional limits. If we do so, history will remember us

forever otherwise the future generations will never forgive us," he said addressing the National Youth Convention. The Convention was attended by federal ministers, Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, Chairman of the Higher Education Commission, teachers, vice-chancellors and students from across the country. He said it was the government's responsibility to equip the youth with modern education, technology and skills to enable them to change the country's fate and bring about a 'revolution' of progress and prosperity.



ISLAMABAD: President Elect of Oxford Union, Israr Khan Kakar, calls on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Bilawal seeks reports about damage to canal embankments in Sindh, Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhattu Zardari has requested reports from the Irrigation Ministers of Sindh and Balochistan regarding the damage to canal embankments due to the recent rains in the provinces. Presiding over a meeting through video-link, he inquired about the floods and damages caused in Sindh and Balochistan following the recent rains. The ministers gave briefing over the damages caused by the floods in their respective provinces, said a statement issued by the Media Cell Bilawal

House on Wednesday. Sadiq Umrani and Jam Khan Shoro, the Irrigation Ministers for Balochistan and Sindh respectively, briefed the party chief on the performance of their respective departments. During the meeting, both Sindh and Balochistan Ministers agreed to adopt a unified stance on the formula for water distribution in the country at the platform of the Indus River System Authority (IRSA). In a response, both the ministers informed about the extent of the damage and the steps being taken to address and repair the affected embankments.

Sindh Minister for education Sardar Ali Shah chairs meeting of education works department

HYDERABAD (APP): Sindh Minister for Education and mineral development Syed Sardar Ali Shah presided over a meeting of education works department.

Secretary School education Zahid Ali Abbasi, Executive Engineers and other officers also attended the meeting. On the occasion, Provincial Minister was briefed about on-going different projects of education works.

Minister directed to complete projects of Schools and other buildings at earliest. Minister stressed the need for preparing effective strategy for rehabilitation of flood affected Schools and submits progress report on daily basis and share pictures of projects expedited through digitalized media. Minister directed to complete for preparing effective strategy for rehabilitation of flood.



HYDERABAD: Sindh Education Minister Syed Sardar Shah a press conference.

APNS urges swift action on long-pending govt ad rate hike

ISLAMABAD (PR): The Federal Secretary Information, Ambreen Jan assured the APNS Executive Committee that the long pending Govt advertisement rates will be increased as soon.

Ms Ambreen Jan Secretary Information and PIO, Mr. Mobasher Hasan attended the meeting of Executive Committee of the APNS held at Islamabad presided over by its President Ms. Nazafreen Saigol Lakhani. APNS Secretary General Sarmad Ali apprised the Secretary Information about the problems being faced by the newspa-

per industry due to non implementation of the decision of the Prime Minister, Mian Shahbaz Sharif announced at the end of his first tenure to increase govt advertisement rates. He highlighted the issues faced by the print media related to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting including constant decline in the quantum of government advertisements, non payment of current and old outstanding dues, streamlining of ABC, renewal of newspapers' registration and functioning of the Press Registrar office. The APNS suggested that to resolve the

issue of non payment of current dues, a revolving fund be established at the Information Ministry for payment to newspapers on behalf of sponsoring departments. The members of the executive committee apprised the Secretary Information about the problems faced by them including non implementation of regional quota, problems in transfer of declarations after demise of the publisher and establishment of PID regional office at Bahawalpur.

The Secretary Information assured the Execu-

tional accreditation to M/s Vibrant Communication, Islamabad and M/s Resonance Digital (Pvt.) Lt, Karachi.

Later the Executive Committee hosted a dinner to welcome Ms. Ambreen Jan as new secretary information and to bid farewell to Ms Shahera Shahid, outgoing Secretary information.

The dinner was attended by dignitaries including former PIO Rao Tehseen Ali Khan, former Information Secretaries, Mr. Ashfaq Gondal and Mr. Shafiq Jilani and members of the Executive Committee.

Following attended the meeting: Nazafreen Saigol Lakhani (President), Sarmad Ali (Secretary General), S.M. Munir Jillani (Joint Secretary), Shahab Zubeir (Finance Secretary), Mohsin Seyal (Daily Aftab), Mohsin Bilal (Daily Ausaf) Waseem

Mumtaz Ali Phulpoto (Daily Awami Parchar), Rao Noman Ahmed (Daily Ebadat), Zahore Dhareja (Daily Jhok), and Tariq Javed (Daily Karnama).



Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Troubled tribunals

It is unlikely that the public will get timely closure on the many controversies raging over the Feb 8 general election. The tribunals appointed under the Elections Act of 2017 to settle election-related disputes will not be able to meet their 180-day deadline, it has emerged in a report released by the Free and Fair Election Network.

Fafen has highlighted that, so far, only 7pc of the 377 petitions have been resolved, with Balochistan's tribunals alone in achieving a double-digit disposal rate of 17pc. Sindh, KP and Punjab lag far behind with disposal rates of 7pc, 4pc and 0.5pc, respectively, while the tribunal appointed for Islamabad's seats has yet to dispose of a single case. Punjab, where the most challenges have been filed, still has only two tribunals functioning out of the eight sanctioned, mainly because of the Election Commission of Pakistan's refusal to honour the Lahore High Court's decisions about who should head them.

The nation saw the post-polls fiascos play out on their television screens and has awaited answers about what exactly went wrong. It may be recalled that, in a replay of the ECP's results transmission system's failure in 2018, this time, too, a new and improved results consolidation system had failed to function, and the announcement of the results was put off without any explanation from the Commission.

While these delays were happening, many candidates and their supporters saw their victories magically turn into defeats and vice versa. Complaints flooded in from across the country of results being finalised behind closed doors after kicking out those who had contested the elections. Many new controversies emerged post-Feb 9 that threw both the credibility of these elections and the ECP's impartiality into further doubt.

From supposedly 'final' results being retracted, revised, and then reissued, to recounts being done without candidates being informed, to glaring discrepancies in the results issued to candidates and the results endorsed by the authorities — so much was so obviously wrong that it defied understanding how these gross irregularities would be upheld.

This is where the election tribunals, acting as third-party arbiters between the disputing candidates, were supposed to provide closure. They should have done so within the mandated six-month period, which would have helped the system self-correct as soon as possible. Alas, it seems that these disputes will continue to linger for the foreseeable future, weakening an already struggling democracy.

The delay will only mean that the legitimacy of the coalition government will continue to remain in doubt, which will undermine its authority and allow political instability to continue to fester.

Tragically, the systems that were meant to act as a check and balance on our institutions and ensure compliance with the constitutional order keep failing us constantly.

Poking the bear

Mahir Ali

Twenty-Four years ago, just months into his first term as Russia's second post-Soviet president, Vladimir Putin was pictured partying at a dacha in Sochi while his nation coped with the loss of a nuclear-powered submarine during naval exercises; all of its 118 personnel perished in the disaster. The vessel was called Kursk.

Back in 2000, the Russian media had few qualms about calling out official incompetence and presidential indifference. Fast forward to 2024, and none of the officially tolerated press or TV outlets can be expected to seriously fault the authorities for this month's swift foray into Russian territory by Ukrainian troops. The barely resisted incursion occurred in the Kursk oblast.

The region's name should also resonate with anyone familiar with the key events of World War II. The most formidable clash of tanks in history entailed a monumental loss of life — upwards of a million, by some accounts — but the Battle of Kursk is mainly remembered as a turning point when, following a hard-won triumph in the Battle of Stalingrad, the Soviet Red Army turned the tide against the Nazi invaders. Less than two years later, it was at the gates of Berlin.

More than 80 years later, both sides in the unnecessary conflict try to tar each other with the Nazi tag; both rely to some extent on far-right forces within their military structures. But whatever the follies and fallacies of Moscow and Kyiv, this is not World War II, and it's crucial to all humanity that it does not turn into World War III. That threat still cannot be discounted, although the flashpoint

might be in a different part of the world, but it is not imminent. However, the consequences of the Ukrainian advance into Russian territory remain unclear, and the messaging from Kyiv about its motivation has been somewhat muddled. It serves as a temporary morale booster for Ukrainians, no doubt, as well as a slap in the face for Putin's pretensions as Mr Security — someone who would keep Russians safe from all foes. He has failed several times in that respect over the years, but it is not clear whether the present embarrassment will suffice as a potential tipping point.

The Ukrainian president has said that the successful attack on Russian soil was intended as a negotiating tactic — presumably to persuade Putin that the border is vulnerable in both directions, so his insistence on retaining large chunks of Ukraine as part of any peace deal is untenable. However, Volodymyr Zelensky and his aides have also talked about creating a buffer zone, and expressed the hope that some of the Russian troops on the front line in eastern Ukraine might be withdrawn to Kursk, which was poorly defended by inexperienced young conscripts, hundreds of whom are now in Ukrainian custody, possibly intended to serve as bargaining chips in future POW exchanges.

Might that work, or will Putin's instinct be to exact revenge, for which Ukrainian civilians may pay the biggest price? Putin's tendency is to prefer revanchism over compromise. Russia's apparent inability thus far to meaningfully resist the Ukrainian military in Kursk — the first time in 80 years that foreign forces have advanced so

far into its territory — should serve as an even bigger reminder than his one-time confidant Yevgeny Prigozhin's revolt last year that Putin's republic does not measure up to its projected illusions. There is good reason, no doubt, to resent the Nato encirclement of Russia, which has been proceeding for decades, but that hardly justifies the decision to invade Ukraine, let alone pretend that the coveted territory ought never to have been separated from the 'motherland'.

Without delving into history, suffice it to say that Putin's ill-considered gambit returned to bite him on the backside, whereas it remains to be seen whether Zelensky's gamble will pay any dividends. The conflict needs to end, but neither Ukraine and its Western allies nor Russia are inclined to contemplate the kind of compromises that would facilitate such an outcome — echoes of Gaza, arguably. US sources suggest that Kyiv's Kursk initiative derailed talks in Qatar towards an agreement on not targeting energy facilities: chiefly power plants in Ukraine and oil refineries in Russia, but including nuclear facilities. That information adds to the absurdity of Zelensky's apparent assumption that the Kursk advance would sufficiently rattle Putin into making concessions. The Russian president, evidently intending to deny all responsibility (as usual) if what comes next does not fit his narrative, flew off to Azerbaijan on a scheduled visit. Echoes of the submarine incident.

What might come next in this sordid conflict remains to be seen. But anyone who expects Putin to come to his senses in the face of territorial blackmail is living in a fool's paradise. -- Courtesy Dawn

'Doing okay'

Arooj Waheed Dar

Persistently high inflation in Pakistan is eroding the purchasing power of the poorest, limiting access to basic facilities. The World Bank estimates that poverty will remain around 40 per cent, with 10 million people at risk of falling below the poverty line due to potential economic shocks. Despite this, social protection programmes receive minimal attention, with Pakistan allocating less than one per cent of GDP to social assistance, thus offering little relief to the poor.

With the government's limited fiscal space and competing priorities, it is clear that investment in social sectors is likely to remain low. Therefore, the government must focus on creating a conducive environment for social delivery organisations (SDOs) to step in and address these gaps.

The Doing Good Index of the Centre for Asian Philanthropy and Society examines the regulatory and societal environment in which private capital is directed towards philanthropy. It ranks countries in four categories based on its findings: 'doing well', 'doing better', 'doing okay', and 'not doing enough' (from best to worst). According to the DGI 2024 report, which surveyed 122 SDOs in Pakistan through the SDPI, the country is classified as 'doing okay', indicating an unfavourable regulatory environment. This classification represents a decline from its 'doing better' status in 2020.

The report highlights a drastic increase in the regulatory burden for SDOs between 2020 and 2024. This period coincides with severe impacts on marginalised communities in Pakistan due to Covid-19, climatic

shocks, and the Russia-Ukraine war. Instead of easing the regulatory burden for SDOs during this critical period, further hurdles were put up with primary focus on heightened scrutiny of political funding and rigorous monitoring of financial flows to NGOs under the pretext of preventing money laundering and terrorism financing.

The report shows that in Pakistan, the process for obtaining clearances and registering an SDO takes an average of 360 days, significantly longer than the Asian average of 123 days. Once registered, additional complex laws hinder the smooth functioning of SDOs, creating disincentives for philanthropic work.

In terms of finances, SDOs are facing growing difficulties in transferring and receiving foreign funds. This issue is compounded by a decline in local funding due to reduced purchasing power, which limits individuals' capacity to donate. Consequently, SDOs are struggling to meet their financial needs and to expand their coverage. The absence of incentives and hurdles in claiming tax incentives for corporate donors exacerbates the situation.

Furthermore, the procedures for accessing government procurements are reported to be highly complex. Non-transparency remains a significant concern.

The proportion of SDOs receiving government contracts has noticeably declined between 2020 and 2024, alongside a sharp decrease in the perceived transparency of the procurement process. During 2020 to 2024, the percentage of SDOs that viewed the procurement process as transparent dropped from 48pc to 10pc. Additionally, the

percentage of SDOs that found it easy to win government contracts fell from 30pc to 6pc, and those finding it easy to access procurement information decreased from 64pc to 11pc.

Unfortunately, it is not the first time in Pakistan that political agendas have taken precedence over social welfare and public well-being. As with many other decisions, the move to increase regulatory burdens on SDOs appears largely driven by the desire to undermine a particular political party. The PTI foreign funding case, coupled with Pak-istan's efforts to comply with FATF requirements, led to tighter controls on foreign funding, not just for political parties but also for NGOs. Along with decreased funding for NGOs, this has created rent-seeking opportunities, as most government contracts are awarded to well-connected SDOs.

According to the report, the majority of SDOs believe that the removal of this undue regulatory burden can significantly enhance their performance, allowing them to better cater to the needs of an increasingly deprived population. Moreover, a single oversight department should be established to streamline the process and reduce procedural delays and red tape.

While philanthropy is ubiquitous in Pakistan, much of it is informal and unrecorded. Regulating these activities is crucial to ensure comprehensive coverage and to prevent duplication.

With negligible public spending in social sectors, it is essential for the government to set political agendas aside and create a conducive environment for SDOs to address these deficiencies. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Minister expresses gratitude for € 91.1 million German support for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Cheema on Wednesday, expressed his gratitude for the € 91.1 million German support for Pakistan's post-flood, climate-resilient reconstruction.

Ms. Svenja Schulze, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Government of Federal Republic of Germany called on the Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Cheema along with the delegation comprising

of German Parliamentarians, German Ambassador to Pakistan, and other senior officials.

Ahad Khan Cheema welcomed the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development and members of her delegation on their visit to Pakistan.

He appreciated the Government of Federal Republic of Germany for being a valuable development partner and specifically highlighted its bilateral economic

assistance and support extended to Pakistan for attaining the GSP+ status.

The Minister highlighted revenue generation, export-led growth, increased agriculture modality, information technology, and human resource development as key priority areas for driving the economic agenda of the Government. He further emphasized that the reforms are being undertaken within the framework agreed with the IMF.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment & Communications Abdul Aleem Khan presided 222nd meeting of Privatization Commission Board.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Cheema exchanging views with Svenja Schulze, German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development during meeting held in Islamabad.

SAB recommends 100,000MT of sugar exporting

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Sugar Advisory Board (SAB) which recommended exporting 100,000 metric tons of sugar.

In this regard the final approval for sugar export will be given by the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet, said a news release.

Minister for

Commerce Jam Kamal Khan also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, they reviewed the availability of sugar stocks and prices in the country. The minister highlighted that there is surplus sugar in the country adding that there will be no hike in the ex-mill price of sugar.

Rana Tanveer said that sugar exports will be carried out following the terms and conditions set by the cabinet.

OICCI highlights private sector's role in mitigating climate change

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) has launched an insightful report titled "Pakistan's Climate Crossroads: Private Sector Solutions to Pakistan's Climate Challenges". Commenting on the report, OICCI President Rehan Shaikh stated, "Given the climate vulnerabilities threatening

Pakistan, business growth can no longer come at the cost of the environment. We need to link returns on private sector investments with sustainability and consider the green transition as a pathway to creating new jobs and livelihoods."

The report underscores key elements of Pakistan's climate strategy, including climate action plans.

Jam, German Minister Svenja Schulze forge stronger economic ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Wednesday met with Germany's Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Svenja Schulze, in Islamabad to bolster economic and trade relations between the two nations.

The meeting focused on advancing economic collaboration, with a particular emphasis on sustainable business practices and labor standards, said a press release issued here.

Minister Jam Kamal lauded Germany's leadership in promoting sustainability through initiatives like the German Supply Chain Due Diligence Act.

He highlighted Pakistan's ongoing efforts to improve labor standards and environmental sustainability in its textile industry, and he sought German support for capacity-building and technical assistance to help Pakistani SMEs comply with these new regulations.

Minister Schulze responded by highlighting the long-standing historical relationship between Germany and Pakistan, which has spanned many decades.

She noted that many German companies are operating successfully in Pakistan, particularly in the textile sector, and praised the robust business ties between the two countries.

Minister Schulze also emphasized the importance of women's empowerment across all sectors, a priority she shared with Minister Jam Kamal.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where four ships, MSC Positano, Agios Dimitrios, Horizon 1 and Madison Eagle carrying Container, LPG and Coal, berthed at Container Terminals, Engro Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Tuesday. Meanwhile three more ships, Gaschem Mosel, Epic Burano and New Apex are also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim on today morning.

'UAE investors seek joint ventures with PFC'

LAHORE (APP): The UAE investors have shown keen interest in forming joint ventures with the Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) to tap into the global market by meeting international standards.

According to a message received here Wednesday from the UAE, a delegation led by CEO PFC Mian Kashif Ashfaq was visiting gulf states and holding meetings with their counterparts.

He said the collaboration between the UAE investors and the PFC was seen as a strategic move to capitalize on the growing demand for high-quality furniture worldwide, particularly in export markets. Pakistan's furniture industry, known for its craftsmanship and traditional designs, has significant potential to expand globally if aligned with modern production techniques and international quality standards.

Pakistan to introduce new currency notes

ISLAMABAD (INP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) decided to replace currency notes with denominations ranging from Rs 10 to Rs 5,000. According to details, SBP Governor Jameel Ahmed told the Senate Standing Committee on Finance that the central bank will soon permission from the federal cabinet to introduce the new currency note. He said that new currency note denominations of Rs 10, Rs 20, Rs 50, Rs 100, Rs 500, Rs 1000, and Rs 5000 having all new features will

be issued by December 2024. The Senate Standing Committee on Finance chaired by Senator Farooq H Naik was also briefed by the SBP governor that contrary to rumors, the Rs 5,000 note will not be phased out, but replaced with a new design.

The SBP governor said that besides paper currency note, plastic notes made from polymeric material will also be issued. "Plastic currency will be used in the future if it proves to be more durable than paper currency."

Gold rates up by Rs.300 per tola to Rs.261,000

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.300 and was sold at Rs.261,000 on Wednesday compared to its sale at Rs. 260,700 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.257 to Rs. 223,765 from Rs. 223,508 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.205,118 from Rs.204,882, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

Chairperson BISP discusses Nashonuma program with Sindh Health Minister

Independent Report
KARACHI: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, Wednesday, emphasized the role of the Benazir Nashonuma Programme in addressing health and nutrition challenges among poor and deserving women and children in Pakistan.

The BISP Chairperson, in a meeting with Sindh Minister for Health and Population Welfare, Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho here, had a detailed discussion on the BISP Nashonuma Programme and collaboration of BISP and provincial

health departments to further enhance the outreach of the program.

Senator Rubina Khalid highlighted that the program was aimed at improving the nutritional status of pregnant women and children under two years of age. The initiative was designed to prevent stunting, improve weight gain during pregnancy, reduce anemia and micronutrient deficiencies, and raise awareness about maternal and early child health, she added.

Senator Khalid also discussed the program's pilot targeting adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 in

Qambar Shahdadkot and the integration of immunization facilities through collaboration with the health department.

Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho commended the efforts of BISP, particularly the Nashonuma Programme, and briefed the Chairperson BISP about initiatives of the Sindh government in the health sector.

The Sindh minister expressed her support for future collaborations between BISP and the People's Primary Healthcare Initiative (PPHI) to further enhance the program's reach and effectiveness.



KARACHI: Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) call on Minister of Health Sindh Azra Fazal Pechuho at Sindh Secretariat Karachi.

Governor KP contacts Pak envoy in Iran; expresses grief over tragic bus accident

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday expressed grief and sorrow over the traffic incident at Yazd city in Iran which claimed the lives of 28 Pakistani zaireen and injured 23 persons.

The Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has contacted Pakistani Ambassador Muhammad Mudassar Tipu in Iran regarding the tragic bus accident in Yazd.

The Governor emphasized the need for providing all possible assistance to the victims.

Ambassador Tipu assured that every effort would be made to support the affected individuals, despite the accident site being 700 kilometers away from the consulate, said Governor Kundi.

He said that the Pakistani Ambassador is personally overseeing the relief operations.

Governor Kundi expressed deep sorrow over the deaths of Pakistani pilgrims in Yazd.

Two killed, 7 injured in roof collapse in Bannu

BANNU (APP): Two women were killed and seven others sustained injuries while buried under the debris due to roof collapse in Khorgai Musakhel, area of Domel, Bannu. According to a private news channel, the incident took place when a roof of the house collapsed due to a lightning strike.

The rescue team reached the spot immediately after the incident was reported.

The injured were shifted to Khalifa Gul Nawaz Hospital, Bannu.

SHC summons all accused in Murtaza Bhutto murder case on Oct 01

KARACHI (Online): Sindh High Court (SHC) has summoned on October 01 all the accused in Mir Murtaza Bhutto murder case.

According to report the appeal filed by Noor Muhammad domestic servant of Mir Murtaza Bhutto and government challenging the acquittal of the accused persons came up for hearing before the court.

It was said in the petition that former police officer Wajid Durrani is indisposed and he cannot appear in the court.

Counsel for Shoaib Saddal requested for exemption from attendance.

The court granted exemption for one day each to Shoaib Saddal and Wajid Durrani.

Ibrahim Saif ud Din advocate counsel for the petitioner while opposing applications said this case is pending hearing since long which may be completed soon.

The court has ordered all the accused to appear before it on October 1.

It may be mentioned Murtaza Bhutto was killed in alleged police encounter on September 20, 1996. Two cases were registered with reference to this incident. Trial court acquitted the accused.



KARACHI: Jamal-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Munam Zafar addresses to media persons during press conference, at Idara Noor-ul-Haq in Karachi.

PWPA seminar highlights CM's vision to empower women

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Women Protection Authority (PWPA) organised a seminar at Punjab University (PU) on Wednesday to spread awareness regarding Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's vision to empower women.

Prominent participants included PWPA Chairperson Hina Parvez Butt and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) 'I Am The Code', Lady Marieme were present at the event.

During the event, 'I Am The Code' Pakistan chapter was officially launched at the university's Social Work Department, marking the formal beginning of the initiative in Pakistan.

The PWPA chairperson, speaking at the event, said it was a significant step towards promoting digital literacy and gender equality in Pakistan.

"The initiative aims to empower women and girls by providing them with digital literacy and coding skills," she added.



PESHAWAR: Renowned Social Activist Ashraf Khan meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi.

Kp govt committed to revitalize Higher Education Sector: Secretary HED

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is fully committed to address the challenges faced by the higher education sector, particularly within the province's universities.

This was said by Capt @ Kamran Afridi, Secretary of the Higher Education Department, Govt. of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during a special meeting held here at Khyber Medical University (KMU).

Secretary HED, Kamran Afridi highlighted that the government is actively working on short, mid and long-term strategies to uplift the sector.

He praised the efforts of the Higher Education Task Force, led by Prof. Dr. Zia Ul Haq vice chancellor KMU, which is operating on an emergency basis to address these challenges.

"The progress made by the Task Force so far is commendable," said Secretary HED Kamran Afridi.

"It is expected that the Task Force will finalize its recommendations by the end of this month, which will be presented to the Chief Minister KP in the first week of September."

Minister inspects development work at Kohat

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Aftab Alam Afridi Advocate on Wednesday inspected the ongoing scheme after completing the asphalt work on Shekhan Road in Kohat.

The Minister directed the timely completion of work of shoulders of the said road without compromising on the quality and quantity of work.

He also asked the party leadership and the general people to keep a vigil eye on the quality of the ongoing development works in their respective areas and report immediately where any defect or corruption is seen, so that action is taken against such elements and stop the waste of money.

Aftab Alam declared that the national exchequer is the sacred trust of the people and it will be spent purely on the betterment of masses.

Minister reviews registration process for Himat Card

RAWALPINDI (APP): Provincial Minister for Social Welfare and Baitul-Mal, Sohail Shaikat Butt visited various parts of Rawalpindi Division to review registration of CM Punjab Himat Card package persons with disabilities (PWDs).

According to the details, the minister accompanied by MPAs Malik Ifthikhar Ahmed, Imran Ilyas, Mansoor Afsar and Zaib-un-Nisa Awan visited registration points established in Sir Syed Chowk (Rawalpindi), Taxila and Murree.

During his visit to Sir Syed Chowk, the minister directed the concerned teams to encourage the PWDs for maximizing registration for the Himat Card.

He reviewed thoroughly the process of registration and verification. He said that the beneficiaries of the facility must be registered and verified by the Social Welfare's mobile application.

Talking to the media on the occasion, he highlighted that CM Maryam Nawaz was actively working for the welfare of PWDs.

Free medical camps setup in Kacha

HYDERABAD (APP): On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad, Shahriyar Gul Memon, the Health Department and Livestock Department have set up free medical camps in various villages of Kacha.

Health Department has set up medical camps in villages Hamza Jatoi, Pir Syed Nizam Shah, and other villages to provide free medical treatment to the people, while the Livestock Department has set up camps for the vaccination of animals.

On Deputy Commissioner's visit, to villages, the villagers had requested medical camps, which has now been setup.

International News

12 killed in fresh Israeli strike on school shelter

Monitoring Desk
GAZASTRIP: Gaza's civil defence agency said an Israeli strike on a school-turned-shelter killed at least 12 people on Tuesday, while the Israeli military said it struck a Hamas command centre.

"Our crews retrieved 12 martyrs from the Mustafa Hafiz school, which was bombed by the Israeli occupation west of Gaza City," agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP.

Thousands of displaced Palestinians had sought refuge in the school, he said, amid the ongoing war in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli military said the school was targeted because it housed a command-and-control centre.

Bassal had earlier given a toll of seven dead and 15 wounded in the strike, which he said had hit the second floor of the school building. The school was reduced to rubble, with scores of Palestinian men and women, many holding

children, fleeing the site after the strike.

In recent weeks, the Israeli military has struck several schools across Gaza, primarily in Gaza City, accusing them of housing Hamas command centres, which the Palestinian group denies.

Earlier this month, the military had struck the Al-Tabieen School in Gaza City, which according to the civil defence agency killed 93 Palestinians, while the military said 31 fighters died.

Tens of thousands of displaced people have taken refuge in schools since the war broke out on October 7 after Hamas attacked southern Israel.

Israel's retaliatory military offensive has killed at least 40,173 people in Gaza, according to the territory's health ministry. Most of the dead in Gaza are women and children, according to the UN human rights office.

The Israeli military said on Tuesday it retrieved



Palestinians carry their children as they flee after an Israeli strike on a school housing displaced people, in the Rimal neighbourhood of central Gaza City.

Blinken ends latest Mideast visit without a cease-fire, warning 'time is of the essence'

Monitoring Desk
DOHA: U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken ended his ninth visit to the Middle East since the war in Gaza began without securing any major breakthrough for a cease-fire deal, warning on Tuesday that "time is of the essence" even as Hamas and Israel signaled that challenges remain.

After meetings in fellow mediating countries Egypt and Qatar, Blinken said that because Israel has

Kyiv says its forces under heavy Russian attack in east Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine's military said its forces had come under multiple Russian attacks over the course of Tuesday on the Toretsk and Pokrovsk fronts in eastern Ukraine. In a statement, the military said Russian forces attacked Ukrainian positions around Toretsk, including the settlement of Niu-York, but did not say what the outcome of that fight was. Earlier, Russia said its forces had taken control of Niu-York, but Reuters was unable to independently verify that.

Moscow sees one of Ukraine's largest drone attacks as fighting rages in Kursk and eastern Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Moscow came under one of the largest attacks yet by Ukrainian drones since the start of fighting in 2022, Russian authorities reported Wednesday, saying they destroyed all of those headed toward the capital. The drone attacks come as Ukrainian forces are continuing to push into Russia's western Kursk region.

Russia downed 45 Ukrainian drones overnight, including 11 over the Moscow region. Some Russian social media channels shared videos of drones apparently being destroyed by air defense systems, which then set off car alarms. Alexander Bogomaz, the governor of the Bryansk region, which borders Ukraine, reported a "mass" attack on his region but said that all 23 drones were destroyed.

Death 'the only certainty' for Gazans, says UN official

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: In war-ravaged Gaza, death appears to be the "only certainty" for 2.4 million Palestinians with no way to escape Israel's relentless bombardment, a UN official said Tuesday, recounting the growing desperation across the territory.

"It does feel like people are waiting for death. Death seems to be the only certainty in this situation," Louise Wateridge, a spokeswoman for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, also known as UNRWA, told AFP from Gaza.

For the past two weeks, Wateridge has been in the Gaza Strip, witnessing the humanitarian crisis, fear of death and spread of disease as the war rages on.

"Nowhere in the Gaza Strip is safe, absolutely nowhere is safe. It's absolutely devastating," Wateridge said from the Nuseirat area of central Gaza—a regular target of Israel's aerial assaults.

Since fighting broke out in October, Israeli forces have pounded the besieged territory from the air, land and sea, reducing much of it to rubble.

Now in its eleventh month, the war has created an acute humanitarian crisis, with hundreds of thousands of people, most of whom have been displaced several times, running out of basic food and clean drinking water.

"We are facing unprecedented challenges when it comes to the spread of disease, when it comes to hygiene. Part of this is because of the Israeli imposed siege on the Gaza Strip," Wateridge said.

Pro-Palestine protesters breach Democratic convention fence in Chicago

Monitoring Desk
CHICAGO: Thousands of mostly peaceful pro-Palestinian protesters marched in Chicago on the opening day of the Democratic National Convention on Monday, in a show of anger against the Biden administration's support for Israel in the Gaza conflict.

After hours of peaceful demonstrations, several protesters broke through part of the perimeter security fence, drawing riot police to the site, a witness said.

Police in blue helmets with shields and carrying black batons prevented them from getting to the inner cordon.

Biden did not directly address the security lapse in his hour-long speech, but he said "those protesters out in the street, they have a point. A lot of innocent people are being killed, on both sides" of the Israel-Hamas conflict.

Witnesses saw four people detained and placed in handcuffs. Chicago police confirmed at a press conference that arrests were made but did not say how many.

Chanting intensified ahead of the fence breach, as protesters reached a neighborhood park on Chicago's West Side and pushed to amplify their calls for a ceasefire.

Amid the noise, the crowd turned its frustration toward Vice President Kamala Harris, referring to the Democratic candidate as "Killer Kamala".

Still, the umbrella group "March on the DNC" drew fewer supporters than expected to a park outside the convention arena, hours before President Joe Biden was to address the gathering.

They started a one-mile march near where Democratic delegates will nominate Harris as their candidate to face Republican Donald Trump in November's presidential election.

Lebanon says five killed in fresh Israel strikes

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Lebanon's health ministry said early Wednesday that Israeli strikes in the country's east killed one person and wounded 20 others, hours after it said four people were killed in the south. The strikes came more than 24 hours after Israel carried out similar raids deep inside east Lebanon and as tensions mounted in the wake of the Israeli killing of a top Hezbollah commander.

"Israeli enemy strikes on the Bekaa" valley killed one person "and wounded 20 others", the health ministry said in an updated toll.

The statement said one person was in critical condition while "eight children and a pregnant woman were moderately wounded". A Hezbollah source, requesting anonymity, said several strikes hit east Lebanon near the city of Baalbek, including the village of Nabi Sheet, without specifying what was targeted.

A source from a local hospital told AFP that five children no older than 10, all from the same family, were among the wounded.

The strikes around midnight came after similar raids in the Bekaa region on Monday evening that Israel said targeted "Hezbollah weapons storage facilities".

They also came as Hezbollah said four of its fighters had been killed, after the health ministry said Tuesday that four people died in Israeli strikes in the southern border village of Dhayra.

The Iran-backed Hezbollah, an ally of Palestinian armed group Hamas, has traded nearly-daily cross-border fire with Israeli forces since the Gaza war began in October.

Afghan Taliban dismiss 280 men without beards from security forces

Monitoring Desk
KABUL: The Taliban's morality ministry has dismissed more than 280 members of the security force for failure to grow a beard and have detained more than 13,000 people in Afghanistan for "immoral acts" in the past year, officials said on Tuesday.

The Ministry for the Prevention of Vice and Propagation of Virtue said in its annual operations update that around half of those detained had been let go after 24 hours. It did not break down the type of the alleged offences or gender of the detainees.

Mohibullah Mokhlis, Director of Planning and Legislation at the ministry, told a press conference officials had destroyed 21,328 musical instruments in the past year.

Those involved in smuggling will not be allowed to cause harm to national economy: PM

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif while directing to make more effective and speed up the steps against smuggling has said those involved in smuggling will not be allowed to all to cause harm to national economy.

"use of modern technology to stem smuggling be ensured. The vehicles of transporters used in smuggling be confiscated and legal proceedings initiated against them beside facilitators and elements involved therein, he said this while chairing review meeting for prevention of smuggling in the country Wednesday.

It is good omen that smuggling has gone down due to effective actions by the respective institutions. FBR, interior ministry and other institutions should forge more better cooperation among them. . . A comprehensive strategy be worked out and presented for better opportunities of jobs to the people living in border areas, he stressed.

All the institutions should accelerate their ef-

orts for complete elimination of smuggling, he added.

The meeting was briefed that a comprehensive campaign is underway under the Ministry of Interior to check smuggling of petroleum products, cigarettes, mobile phones, gold, tea, clothes, commodities, vehicle tires and spare parts.

It was informed that a web portal has been launched for prevention of Sugar and Urea, while preparation of a mechanism for identification of non-custom paid vehicles and their mapping is also in final stages.

The meeting was apprised that fifty-four joint check posts have been established under the directives of the Prime Minister to curb smuggling.

Similarly, 212 vehicles of Afghan Transit Trade fleet, which were feared to be used in smuggling, have been identified and banned. Bank guarantee has been made compulsory instead of only insurance guarantee for the Afghan Transit Trade.

The meeting was apprised that besides an over-

all significant decline in the smuggling of essential goods, smuggling of petroleum products has been curtailed to fifty percent while Sugar 80 percent.

It was said in the briefing the cost of the smuggled goods confiscated during the financial year 2023-24 stands at Rs 106 billion.

The trend of hoarding has also declined due to anti smuggling campaign in the country.

The participants were also informed about the action taken against the officers found involved in conniving in smuggling. The process of identification of elements involved in smuggling, transporters and their facilitators is underway speedily.

Help is being taken from data base of NADRA, Excise and other institutions in this regard.

Meeting was attended by federal ministers Jam Kamal Khan, Ahad Khan Cheema, Aurangzeb, Atta Ullah Tarar, Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Rana Tanvir Hussain, Dr Musaddaq Malik and chief secretaries of four provinces and concerned senior officials.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding country wide anti smuggling drive.

Skill development program to help people become financially self-reliant: Rubina

Independent Report
KARACHI: BISP Chairperson Rubina Khalid announced on Wednesday the resumption of the skill development program focused on human resource development under BISP. She stated that this initiative would not only help people become financially self-reliant but also contribute to improving the economy.

She made these remarks while speaking to the media after a meeting at the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Provincial headquarters.

Rubina Khalid urged officers to collaborate with renowned institutions providing training in handicraft design to ensure participants receive certifications.

meeting modern global standards. This, she said, would facilitate employment opportunities abroad and boost foreign exchange earnings.

The Chairperson praised the performance of BISP staff, noting their dedication despite limited resources.

In response to a question, Khalid criticized the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government for neglecting the health sector in the province. She said that government hospitals were ignored while private hospitals benefited from the Sehat Card scheme. She also noted the provincial government's failure to maintain peace in the region, reversing progress achieved through significant sacrifices.

Imran demands open trial of Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed

RAWALPINDI (Online): PTI founder Imran Khan while demanding open trial of Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed has said his and Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed matter is not internal affair of army.

"The facts will come before the world due to open trial, he said this in an informal talks with the journalists in Adialajail Wednesday.

Terming Gen (Retd) Faiz zero from hero after retirement he said Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed issue is no't issue of national security. It is local issue. I demand army chief to conduct open trial of Gen (Retd) Faiz because facts will come before the world due to open trial. But I know they will conduct closed doors trial instead of open trial.

Ahsan for catching up with pace of digital revolution for national development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday stressed the urgent need to keep pace with the global digital revolution to achieve development across all sectors and put the country on a sustainable growth trajectory.

"The world is advancing at the speed of electrons. We cannot afford to lag behind, as in the next 22 years, we will be evaluating our development in the context of our 100 years of independence," he stated while addressing the opening session of the conference titled "Empowering a Digital Pakistan."

Citing historical examples, the minister noted that nations embracing global changes achieved progress and prosperity, while those that ignored these changes faced failure.

He highlighted that the world was now undergoing a digital revolution after the industrial revolution. "In the industrial era, the big used to eat the small; in the digital world, the fast eats the slow, regardless of size," he remarked.

"Today, Pakistan stands at a defining moment. The future of a nation or an individual hinges on the choices made. These choices determine the destiny of that person or nation," he said.

Ahsan Iqbal explained that if the choices were wrong, one could not blame others for their circumstances. Conversely, if the choices are right, the credit for success belongs solely to the individual or nation that made those choices, he added.



KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab addressing during polio campaign ceremony, in the Provincial Capital.

Construction of Korangi Causeway likely to be completed by Jan 31: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that work on the construction of the Korangi Causeway is underway and the bridge connects Korangi and Ibrahim Hyderi with other areas of the city and the project is expected to be completed by January 31, 2025.

He made these remarks while reviewing the construction work of the Korangi Causeway here on Wednesday.

He said that the completion of this project would relieve citizens from the inconvenience of Korangi Road being closed during rainfall. The construction of the causeway will benefit residents of Korangi, Landhi, and the surrounding areas, as well as those working in the industrial zone. In response to criticism, the mayor said they will focus on delivering results through work. The development journey of Karachi will continue, he added.

The Mayor instructed the officials to ensure high quality in construction projects and to adopt a strategy that accelerates progress and provides quick benefits to the citizens, while keeping all aspects of the development plan in mind.

He mentioned that previously, the Korangi Causeway used to get submerged during rains, rendering it unusable for several days.

DC calls for active participation in upcoming anti-polio campaign

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Zain ul Abideen Memon has directed relevant officials to play a proactive role in the upcoming anti-polio campaign to ensure that no child up to the age of 5 years is deprived of anti-polio drops.

He issued this directive while chairing a meeting on Wednesday at Shahbaz Hall, Hyderabad, where he reviewed the arrangements for the 7-day anti-polio campaign scheduled from September 9 to 15.

Memon instructed to enhance the performance of low-performing union councils and emphasized efforts to cover refusal cases. He also directed that legal action be taken against parents who do not cooperate. Additionally, he urged the police to continue providing crucial security support for the polio teams.

Dr. Bismah Memon briefed the meeting, stating that the campaign aims to administer polio drops to about 400,000 children across 163 union councils. The campaign will be supported by 84 EPI centers, 1,565 mobile teams, 160 fixed teams, 70 transit teams, and 8 roaming teams, with oversight provided by 385 area In-charges and 112 UC MOs.



KARACHI: Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JUI-F) Secretary General Sindh, Allama Rashid Mehmood Soomro exchanging views with Dr. Naji Zaeher, Hamas Leader during meeting held in Karachi.

New monsoon system to enter Sindh on Aug. 26

KARACHI (INP): Another monsoon spell will enter Sindh from August 26, a Met official said on Wednesday.

Prevailing westerly and southwesterly winds are expected to continue influencing the Karachi's weather, contributing to the pleasant weather with cloud cover and occasional drizzle. Meteorologist Anjum Nazir Zaighum stated that the next monsoon weather system will enter in Sindh on August 26. "Karachi likely to receive good rainfall on August 27 and 28," the weather official said.

As the monsoon season is ongoing, the intensity of rainfall in Karachi is expected to remain mild, with only light showers predicted. The weather in most districts of the province will remain hot and humid today. However, Jacobabad, Dadu, Jamshoro and Karachi could receive rainfall with thunderstorm and gusty winds in the evening or night. Minimum temperature was recorded 29°C in the metropolis while the maximum temperature is likely to soar to 33°Celsius.

The winds are blowing in the city at a speed of 16 kilometres per hour speed from the southwest direction with 64% humidity.

The city remained overcast throughout Tuesday, with sea breeze persisting and light rain and drizzle reported in scores of areas.



KARACHI: Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) chairing a meeting at the office of BISP Director General Sindh.

In collaboration with ABAD SBCA announces launch of a comprehensive beautification campaign along Shahrah-e-Faisal

Independent Report
KARACHI: In a statement, the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) announced the launch of a comprehensive beautification campaign along Shahrah-e-Faisal, in collaboration with ABAD. The campaign aims to enhance the external appearance of 20 buildings, including residential and commercial properties, as well as surrounding areas from the Airport to the FTC Building. Clean and well-maintained buildings contribute to a positive environment, which reflects the positive mindset of the citizens and leaves a favorable impression on foreign visitors. Recognizing the importance of this, the Provincial Minister for Local Government, Saeed Ghani, took notice of the deteriorating condition of buildings along Shahrah-e-Faisal and directed SBCA to take action. The purpose of this beautification campaign is to create a positive first impression of the city and country for foreign visitors traveling from the air-

DG Health issues public advisory on Monkeypox

HYDERABAD (APP): Director General Health Services Sindh Hyderabad has informed the public that Monkeypox is a viral infection. Its symptoms include fever, headache, back and chest pain, weakness, fatigue, rashes on the skin at different body parts, and blisters and swelling in the throat.

If these symptoms appear, the affected person should immediately contact their nearest health center.

The spread of Monkeypox can occur from an infected person to another person through direct contact, use of items used by the infected person, coughing and sneezing to prevent the spread of the disease, DG Health advised to avoid physical contact wash hands frequently and properly use masks correctly wash.

Regional ombudsman holds open court

HYDERABAD (APP): On the instructions of federal ombudsman Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi, Regional head Ambassador @ Dr Rizwan Ahmed organised an open Court in Abdullah Shah Hospital Schwan to hear the issues related to federal departments.

Commercial officers of HESCO, SEPCO, Assistant Director of NADRA, and Senior Zonal Manager from Sui Southern Gas Company attended open Court and issued orders to dispose of public complaints.

Complaints of various nature were disposed of on the spot while other complaints were registered and notices were forwarded to agencies for further action.



HYDERABAD: Customs Collector Officer, Mona Baloch addresses during a ceremony in connection of tree plantation drive, in Hyderabad.

KU VC inaugurates drip irrigation system at Pharmacy Chowk

KARACHI (APP): Vice Chancellor of the University of Karachi Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi inaugurated a 1.35 kilometer-long irrigation system on Wednesday.

This system will be used to water plants from Pharmacy Chowk to the KU Maskan Gate. The newly installed drip irrigation system has 16 mini-hydrants which will help in watering the plants on both sides of the roads.

The KU is already using a similar system in the Botanic Garden and at the Silver Jubilee Gate. Through this system, plants present at the remote locations will also get enough water and it will also help in saving fuel costs and omission of carbon from the vehicles which are used to water plants in different locations of the campus. On this occasion, the KU VC Professor Dr Khalid Iraqi shared that water is a precious asset and drip irrigation system is an effective way to save time, money, and water.

He said that the private sector is coming forward to help the KU which is a very good initiative. He hoped that with the public-private partnership system, the KU management could launch new projects and uplift the existing schemes. Along with the Managing Director of the Adamee Dura Built Nadeem Ali Adamee, General Secretary Dua Foundation Dr Faiyaz Alam, Deputy CEO PharmEvo Syed Jamshed Ahmed.

Speeding water tanker collides with Green Line bus track in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): A speeding water tanker collided with the Green Line bus track fencing in front of the Nazimabad AO Clinic, Karachi.

The collision caused damage to the fencing of the Green Line bus track, but there were no reported casualties.

The water tanker was not removed from the accident site, and the presence of the tanker at the scene is disrupting the traffic flow.

Police officials stated that the accident occurred due to the tanker's high speed and brakes' failure.

Attaullah Tarar says PTI founder meddles in military affairs with demand for Faiz Hameed's open trial

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday said PTI founder had meddled in the affairs of Pakistan Army by demanding an open trial for ex-Spy Chief.

The minister, in a news statement, regretted that the PTI founder had made multiple attempts to make the matter related to Faiz Hameed controversial.

Instead of giving statements in defense of Faiz Hameed, the PTI founder should better made his position clear in the 190 million pounds case, Tarar said, adding his controversial statements showed that he was suffering from "serious anxiety and uncertainty".

The minister said the PTI founder was reluctant to accept that the issue of Faiz Hameed was internal matter of the Army, which proved that the ex-spy chief was his "asset". He said it seemed that the PTI chief was in mental disarray as sometime he called Faiz Hameed an "asset or a hero", while on some occasion took completely an otherwise stance. In the Faiz Hameed case, he said it appeared that the PTI founder had no qualms about using people for his own personal interests. The minister said the PTI founder was expert in ditching his own well wishers.



HYDERABAD: Jamiat-e-Islami (JI) Chief, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman addresses to workers during workers session held in Hyderabad.

Woman driver, who had crushed father, daughter to death in Karachi, heads nine firms

KARACHI (INP): Natasha Iqbal, the woman driver who had crushed a man and his daughter to death and had injured five others near Karsaz in Karachi on Monday, has turned out to be the head of nine companies.

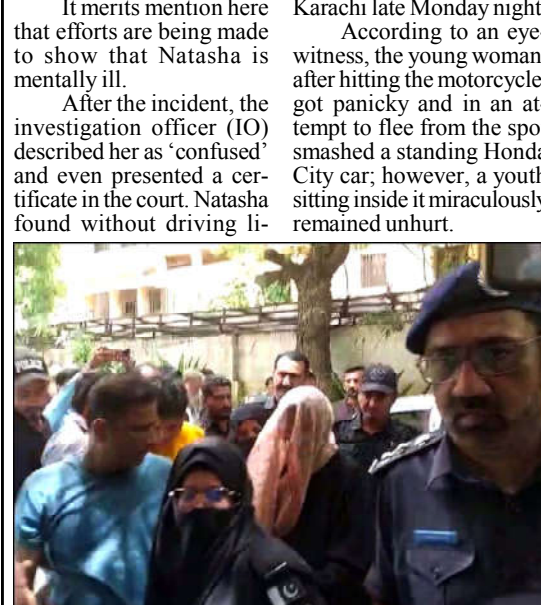
Similarly, it has also been revealed that she is the chief executive of two companies namely Metro Capital Limited and SDN Limited and the director of seven others namely Swift Storage and Services Limited, Gul Ahmad Bio Film Limited, Gul Ahmad CBNC company, Metro Power Company Limited, Iqbal Metro Solar Power Limited, Metro Property Network Limited, and Metro Storage and Services Limited.

It merits mention here that efforts are being made to show that Natasha is mentally ill.

After the incident, the investigation officer (IO) described her as 'confused' and even presented a certificate in the court. Natasha found without driving license.

In a horrific incident, two persons, a man and his daughter, were killed while five others were injured after a speeding land cruiser, driven by a young woman, overran a motorcycle and then went on to smash a parked car near Karsaz in Karachi late Monday night.

According to an eyewitness, the young woman, after hitting the motorcycle, got panicky and in an attempt to flee from the spot smashed a standing Honda City car; however, a youth sitting inside it miraculously remained unhurt.



KARACHI: Natasha Iqbal, wife of Danish Iqbal, the Chairman of Gul Ahmed Energy Limited arrives court for Karsaz road accident, at City Court in Karachi.

Sindh govt decides to grant fishermen status of labourers

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh government on Wednesday decided to grant fishermen the status of labourers.

According to the channel report, this decision will allow fishermen to access benefits under labour laws, including social security schemes.

It is worthy of mention that the coastal belt of Sindh is home to millions of fishermen who rely on fishing for their livelihood.

The Department of Livestock and Fisheries has submitted a summary to the Chief Minister, recommending this change.

Over 100,000 fishermen are already registered with the Fish Harbour Authority and the Fisheries Department.

Gang of bike snatchers busted, three motorcycles, arms recovered

MIRPURKHAS (INP): The Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) personnel busted a three-member gang of motorcycles snatcher and recovered three snatched motorcycles after an encounter here on Wednesday.

SSP Mirpurkhas Captain (Retd) Asad Ali Chowdhury informed that operation against bike snatchers was conducted under supervision of CIA in-charge Inayat Ali Zardari and SHO Mehmoodabad.

An exchange of fire took place between CIA personnel and bike snatchers after which three members of the bike snatcher gang including Larib from Al Para, Atif alias Musa from Shahi Bazar and Abdul Sattar Lashari Baloch from Walkurt, Mirpurkhas were arrested. Three snatched motorcycles, two pistols and five rounds were recovered from possession of the detainees.