

# Independent

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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## Will announce a five-year economic plan very soon as parameters finalised: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that he would unveil a five-year economic revival plan in the coming weeks as broad parameters had already been finalised through months-long deliberations with the stakeholders.

The prime minister, addressing the launching ceremony of the Bura-Raast connectivity project, said the "Home-Grown Economic Program" would envisage measures to boost the country's economy by uplifting agriculture, information technology, and other untapped sectors.

"Our program is under discussion and I will announce it very soon. Great work has gone into it. It involves discussions and deliberations with all stakeholders over the last many months. Recently we have finalised its broad parameters. By next week or so, we will finalise it. I will go

to the people to announce the program for the next five years," the prime minister remarked.

Highlighting the challenges of reforms in the Federal Board of Revenue and power sector, he told the gathering that he was personally monitoring the digitisation of FBR and that the government was hopeful of positive outcomes of power sector reforms.

"There is no magic band. It is all about hard work, sacrifice, blood and sweat. Our nation is robust and strong. Our people are full of hope and energy. Let us put our work together. Let us not waste time on debates as we had done in the past. Let us now use this time for actual implementation on the ground. Insha Allah, you will see we will have dividends and will find our place in the comity of nations through hard work, hard work and hard work," he said.



**BHITSHAH:** CM Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah addressing on Latif Award ceremony at Latif Auditorium during Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai on occasion of the 281st Urs celebration.

## Jam Kamal highlights State Life Insurance's vital role in supporting families

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, emphasized the significant impact of State Life Insurance policies on families across the country during his address at the State Life Insurance Corporation (SLIC) Summit 2024.

The event, held at a local hotel, celebrated SLIC's achievements and highlighted the contributions of its leadership and team.

Jam Kamal acknowledged the longstanding support that State Life Insurance has provided, helping numerous families sustain themselves over the years. "State Life Insurance policies have been a lifeline for many, enabling families to survive and thrive," he stated.

The minister commended the SLIC team, especially the executives, chairman, and board members, for their dedication to the corporation's success.

He also addressed criticisms regarding the healthcare program managed by State Life, noting concerns over financial management and resource allocation. "There has been criticism about the costs and management, but overall, the services provided to the private sector and citizens are substantial. The program's scale and reach are something we often underestimate," he remarked.

Reflecting on his tenure as Chief Minister of Balochistan, Jam Kamal actively pursued the federal-level healthcare initiative, integrating it into the provincial budget despite reservations regarding costs and auditing challenges.



**KARACHI:** Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan addresses the State Life Insurance Corporation Summit 2024, at a local hotel.

## High-level meeting reviews security measures for Chehlum

KARACHI (APP): A high-level meeting was convened at the Pakistan Rangers Sindh Headquarters under the chairmanship of Director General Pakistan Rangers Sindh Major General Azhar Waqas.

According to a news release on Thursday, the meeting focused on the law and order situation in Karachi, with a particular emphasis on security arrangements for the upcoming Chehlum Imam Hussain (R.A) processions.

The meeting was attended by senior officials, including the Additional IGP-Karachi, Joint DG Intelligence Bureau, DIGs from CTD, Special Branch, East, West, South, CIA, and Traffic Police, along with Rangers and intelligence agencies. DIGs from Sukkur and Hyderabad also participated via video link.

During the session, detailed discussions were held to assess the security measures for ensuring the safe passage of Chehlum processions across the province. It was decided that joint flag marches and snap-checking by Rangers and police would be further intensified. Additionally, the security of entry and exit points for gatherings, processions, and religious events of various sects will be strictly ensured.

The meeting underscored the need for strict adherence to existing laws and the code of conduct issued by the provincial government. Any violations will be dealt with firmly.



**ISLAMABAD:** Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari meeting with Prime Minister Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif.

## On government's plea Supreme Court removes controversial paragraphs in Mubarak Sani case

**CJP Isa-led bench says expunged paras can't be cited as precedent; JUI-F to observe "thanksgiving day"**

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Thursday ordered the removal of the controversial paragraphs in the ruling of Mubarak Sani case.

The Supreme Court heard an urgent application from the Punjab government, requesting the removal of certain portions from its July 24 verdict in the Mubarak Ahmad Sani case. A three-member bench, headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, took up the matter. The other members were Justice Irfan Saadat Khan and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan. The bench accepted the Punjab government's application and ordered the removal of paragraphs No 7, 42 and

49-C. On Feb 6, a two-judge bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, annulled the conviction of Mubarak Sani who had been charged in 2019 under the Punjab Holy Quran (Printing and Recording) (Amendment) Act.

The court observed in its ruling that the offence for which the defendant was convicted was not actually criminalised until 2021. As a result, the Supreme Court ordered the petitioner's immediate release.

This decision sparked what was described by the government and legal circles as a "malicious and defamatory campaign" against the chief justice, leading the Supreme Court to issue a public clarification.

On July 24, the Supreme Court, after considering the appeals from the Punjab government and other parties, reportedly affirmed that "the constitutional right to religious freedom is indeed subject to legal, moral, and public order constraints."

On Thursday (Aug 22), Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa stated, "I am not above making mistakes. Our country is an Islamic state, which is why we refer to the Quran and Hadith in judicial decisions. After every prayer, I only pray that no wrong decision is made.

Please point out any errors or objections in the court's decision."

Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Awan requested that they should now focus on moving forward. He suggested that, since the matter is religious, the scholars should be consulted. After court's decision in the review of the Mubarak Sani case, parliament and religious scholars contacted the federal government, advising them to approach the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court decided to seek assistance from Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Mufti Sher Muhammad, and other scholars present in the court.

## Govt working with coalition parties for country's prosperity: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif says we are working with coalition parties for development and prosperity of the country. He said this while talking to Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari who called on him in Islamabad tonight. They discussed overall political situation of the country.

## 11 cops martyred as bandits attack with rockets in RYK

RAHIM YAR KHAN (INP): At least 11 policemen were martyred and seven others injured in an attack on police mobile vehicles by dacoits of Kacha near Machka police camp II in Rahim Yar Khan.

A group of dacoits launched the attack when one of the vehicles in the convoy broke down. Some of the policemen were also missing after the incident.



**RAWALPINDI:** Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Asim Munir in a group photo along with a delegation of 44 students from Harvard Business School (HBS), at General Headquarters (GHO) in Rawalpindi.

## COAS stresses education's role in addressing security challenges

RAWALPINDI: A delegation of 44 students from Harvard Business School representing 9 different countries, met Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir in Rawalpindi on Thursday.

The interactive session provided a platform to share perspectives on Pakistan's pivotal role in promoting regional peace and stability, its unwavering efforts against terrorism, and commitment to uphold democratic values.

Interacting with the students, the Army Chief emphasized the significance of education, critical thinking, and innovation in addressing contemporary security challenges.

He highlighted Pakistan's vast potential and encouraged the attendees to form their own opinions based on personal experiences.

General Syed Asim Munir cautioned the students against the perils of misinformation and fake news in the digital age, urging them to navigate this landscape with discernment.

The students expressed their gratitude to the Army Chief for facilitating a constructive and enlightening interaction.

## ADB Country Director calls on President Zardari

ISLAMABAD (APP): Country Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB) Yong Ye Thursday called on President Asif Ali Zardari.

In the meeting, the ADB country director briefed the president about the role of the Bank in the socio-economic development of Pakistan.

The president appreciated the assistance provided by the Asian Development Bank to Pakistan during the floods.

He also highlighted Pakistan's measures to deal with climate change, saying that Pakistan had planted mangrove forests on millions of acres of land.

President Zardari also appreciated the bank's services to Pakistan in the fields of agriculture, irrigation and education.

Meanwhile, the outgoing Ambassador of Greece to Pakistan Konstantinos Moatsos paid a farewell call on President Asif Ali Zardari.

He emphasized the need to further strengthen bilateral relations with Greece.

The president also expressed his best wishes for the outgoing Ambassador of Greece.

## President directs lifetime pension payment to disabled son of a deceased employee

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday directed the Employees' Old Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) to ensure lifetime payment of pension to Muhammad Shehzad, a person with visual disability as the facility was earlier denied to him following his father's death.

The president said that the person with a disability (PWD) could not be left in a merciless situation by the state, given the fact that his elders were deceased and were receiving pensions before their death.

He regretted that EOBI displayed grave insensitivity by neglecting a PWD and that too at a time when all his predecessors had passed away leaving him without any support.

Muhammad Shehzad (the complainant), who was blind by birth, had filed a complaint with the Wafaqi Mohtasib, stating that his father, Muhammad Alzal Zafar, was an Old Age Pensioner of EOBI and died on December 20, 2016. The complainant's mother had

passed away even before his father. So, he requested EOBI to grant him a "family pension" for life as a "disabled legal heir" of his late father.

The EOBI, however, rejected his application citing Section 22B (3) (i) of the EOBI Act, 1976, which provides that only male minors under 18 years of age are eligible for a family pension, whereas Shehzad was 44 years old. The Mohtasib closed further investigation of his complaint, after which, Muhammad Shehzad filed a representation before the President of Pakistan.

The president accepted the complainant's representation and emphasised that keeping in view the letter and spirit of the Constitution of Pakistan, particularly Articles 9 and 25, a Person with Disability could not be deprived of such a pension, since he deserved to be treated on a much better footing and placed in a more deserving category than any other recipient of pension in the country presently.



**KARACHI:** Consul General of Malaysia Herman Hardynata Bin Ahmed meeting with Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

## Sindh Home Minister chairs a meeting to review the draft of Sindh Control of Narcotics Act 2024

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: A crucial meeting was held under the chairmanship of Sindh Law Minister Zia U Hassan Lanjar to review the draft of the Sindh Control of Narcotics Act 2024, presented by the Cabinet Subcommittee.

The final draft will be



submitted to the Cabinet meeting for approval.

The meeting was attended by prosecutors, Advocate Generals, Secretaries of Law, Excise and Narcotics Control Sindh, and other officials.

Secretary Excise and Narcotics Control Sindh briefed the meeting on the proposals and importance of the Act.

Minister Zia U Hassan Lanjar emphasized that the formulation and enforcement of the Narcotics Control Act are essential, and its approval and enforcement will weaken the morale of the narcotics mafia.

He directed the meeting to finalize the draft of the Sindh Control of Narcotics Act 2024, remove deleted or repealed proposals, and submit additional recommendations and suggestions for review, approval, and ratification.

The Minister stated that as Law Minister, it is his duty to take steps to improve the formulation, approval, and enforcement of necessary laws.

He instructed the officials to expedite the process and submit the final draft for further action.

## Sindh govt to implement conditions for issuing agricultural licenses

HYDERABAD (APP): The Minister of Agriculture, Anti-Corruption, Sports, and Youth Affairs, Sardar Muhammad Bakhsh Mehr has said that Sindh Government has decided to implement conditions for issuing licenses for agricultural medicines, fertilizers, and seeds through agricultural graduation.

Agricultural graduates will also be provided financial assistance for personal business and startups.

He expressed these views while participating in a three-day workshop organized by the Sindh Agriculture Department at the Research Center, where 43 women were trained on the use and maintenance of tractors and other modern agricultural machinery.

Sardar Muhammad Bakhsh Mahar further said that they want to empower female students in the agricultural sector by providing them with agricultural training.

The purpose of this training workshop is to teach women how to operate tractors, repair them, and learn farming techniques. Women will also be able to purchase tractors at subsidized rates under this program. Muhammad Bakhsh Mehr stated that women will also be able to rent out tractors as a source of income. There is a dire need to provide agricultural education along with other agricultural training to the farmers of Sindh. Strict action is being taken against fake companies selling agricultural products.

Minister in response to a journalist's question, said that the amount of work done in Sindh has not been done anywhere else.

## Sindh Government intends to invite journalists from all provinces to see development projects in province: Saeed Ghani

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: Sindh Local Government Minister, Saeed Ghani, has said that the provincial government intends to invite journalists from all the provinces to visit Sindh and see firsthand the uplift works completed so far and under-construction development projects.



The Local Government Minister stated this while speaking at a dinner reception in honour of a 17-member delegation comprising journalists from Lahore, Lahore Press Club President, Arshad Ansari, led the delegation. The Local Government Minister expressed gratitude to the media persons from Lahore to visit Sindh. He said the Sindh government wanted to invite journalists from all the provinces to brief them on the ongoing and completed development projects.

He told the media persons from Lahore that several mega-development projects were being constructed in Sindh, particularly in Sukkur, Nawabshah, Larkana and other towns of the province to serve the public whereas many other similar uplift schemes were being completed in these cities.

To a question, he said that the energy crisis had been prevailing not due to lesser power production but due to pilferage of electricity in the country. He said the federal government instead of offering any subsidy should consult all the provinces to find a permanent solution to the problem of a hike in electricity rates.

The Local Government Minister said that building alternative energy projects had become inevitable to resolve the electricity crisis in the country. The Lahore Press Club President said that the journalists' delegation from Lahore had visited different areas of Tharparkar in the previous two days and were pleased to see development works in the Thar area. He also praised the Peoples Bus Services and women-only Pink bus service launched by the Sindh government in the urban centres of the province. Sindh Additional Chief Secretary Local Government Syed Khalid Hyder Shah, Information Secretary Nadeemur Rehman, Director General Public Relations Muhammad Saleem Kham and other officials also attended the reception.



## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Signs of trouble

The state — both its civilian and military components — needs to take note of the troubling developments on the militancy front, before the country is dragged into a new cycle of terrorist violence.

The signs are not good, as an increasing number of security personnel are being targeted in the field, while militant groups have begun to make inroads in areas thought to have been cleared of the terrorist menace.

At least three soldiers were martyred in a gunfight with militants in Bajaur on Sunday, close to the Afghan border. The latest casualties indicate the grim reality that Pakistan has been losing an unacceptably high number of men in confrontations with terrorists.

Moreover, in KP's Tirah valley, there are disturbing reports that fighters belonging to the banned TTP and Lashkar-i-Islam have begun patrols in certain areas. LI had been active in the region for years; its dreaded leader Mangal Bagh was killed in Afghanistan in 2021. The TTP and LI have combined forces in the past, and the reactivation of the latter outfit is a fresh headache for the state.

Where troop fatalities are concerned, as this paper has highlighted previously, better gear and training are required to save lives. As per media figures quoting ISPR, at least 139 troops have been martyred while confronting terrorists up till July 2024. Militants employ asymmetrical methods, which are difficult to counter for traditional militaries. Even the American and Soviet militaries could do little to defeat foes using asymmetrical methods. Therefore, perhaps crack new units need to be trained in such methods to outsmart the militants in the field, while intelligence-based operations should neutralise terrorists before they can strike. Regarding the patrols of terrorist groups, this development should not be taken lightly by the state. Locals in the Tirah area told this paper that while TTP and LI fighters were moving around with freedom, the police and Levies had 'vanished'. Moreover, residents said militants were demanding food and shelter from them, which the locals could only refuse at their own peril.

The administration cannot leave people in the affected areas at the mercy of terrorists. The writ of the state must be established forthwith as no violent non-state actor can be allowed to set up parallel governance structures. It should be remembered that militants started taking over territory in Waziristan and Malakand in similar fashion. These developments morphed into full-blown insurgencies that required the state to invest much blood and treasure to quell. The same mistake must not be repeated. Perhaps the powers that be should redirect their attention from 'digital terrorists' and hone in on the actual terrorists who have risen up against the state in the past, and appear intent on doing so again.

### A golden buffalo

F.S. Aijazuddin

The Summer Olympics 2024 are over. The victors have returned to savour their spoils, the vanquished to count their losses.

These Olympics had 10,714 athletes competing before a worldwide audience of 30.6 million viewers — truly a global spectator sport.

None but Olympians know the price they have had to pay — for full-time training, co-aching, medical, travel and other costs, apart from being deprived of a regular income.

The International Olympic Committee does not grant any awards beyond the medals themselves. It believes that the spirit of the Olympics is enough: "It is not to win but to take part; it is not the triumph but the struggle."

Before the Paris Olympics began, the World Athletics Federation announced that \$2.4m (\$50,000 each) would be given to each gold medalist in the 48 athletic events.

National Olympic committees supplement this with incentives to their own nationals. Hong Kong topped the list with \$768,000. (It won two golds.) Singapore offered \$745,000, but that was clearly not enough. It won only one bronze. The lowest incentive (\$13,000) came from Australia, whose athletes won 18 golds. But as one Olympian put it: "A gold medal is a wonderful thing, but if you're not enough without it, you'll never be enough with it."

Each country honours its Olympians in different ways — some with victory parades, others with cash rewards, a few with national awards. Far-sighted nations support their athletes on their way up Mount Olympus. The myopic wait until they have succeeded, and then applaud them

on the way down.

Pakistan's Olympian Arshad Nadeem has been smothered with garlands and suffocated with banquets ever since his triumphant return. The cornucopia of gifts emptied upon him have included cash of Rs280m, plus cars and other gifts.

In Punjab, the governor gave him cash of Rs2m and a car. The chief minister Punjab presented a cheque of Rs100m and the key to a Honda Civic car '92.97'. The chief minister also presented Nadeem's coach Salman I. Butt with a cheque of Rs5m.

In Sindh, the chief minister awarded Nadeem Rs50m. The Karachi mayor announced a Rs50m cash award for Nadeem and promised to establish an athletics academy named after the Olympian. The Sindh sports minister gave a cheque, both from his department and personal funds. The local government minister declared that an important road in Karachi would be named after Arshad Nadeem. The planning and development minister gifted a car to Arshad Nadeem's mother.

Army Chief General Asim Munir announced the allotment of a residential plot at DHA Multan (once a huge mango orchard).

Wapda has awarded Rs1m to Nadeem while his employer Lesco has proposed his promotion to the 19th grade. And President Zardari promised to award him the country's highest civilian honour — the Hilal-i-Imtiaz.

It is proposed to grant the Sitara-i-Imtiaz to Salman Butt (Nadeem's coach), and also to Nadeem's mother. While her efforts, like Nadeem's, were a solo achievement, some might cavil whether a SI award should be distributed so freely. They might say it demeans its stature. Apart, that is, from it being regarded as a re-

buke to shared parenthood. Surely, Nadeem's father Muhammad Arshad deserves acknowledgement too. He supported his son from his modest, honest earnings for 36 years as a construction labourer.

Nadeem has asked the government for a modern track and field stadium and a university for women in his hometown — Mian Channu.

In all this maelstrom of flattery, Nadeem has retained his sense of humour. When asked about the buffalo gifted to him by his father-in-law, Nadeem replied: "I was a bit surprised [...] I wondered since my father-in-law is a very rich person and has a lot of land... if only he had given me four to five acres of farmland instead of the buffalo."

The rustic father-in-law may feel miffed. Having given Nadeem first his daughter and now a healthy buffalo, in Mian Channu that is regarded as largesse enough.

Hopefully, all the promises made to Arshad Nadeem will be honoured. He should heed the advice of the late Prince Philip who had experience in such matters.

Prince Philip visited Lahore in the 1990s to raise funds for the World Wildlife Fund (of which he was president). He attended an auction of paintings by local artists. As soon as the auction ended, he took the Pakistani auctioneer aside and advised him to collect the money before the successful bidders left the event. "Be quick. They tend to change their minds once they have had their photographs taken with me."

The ancient Greeks rewarded their victorious Olympians with a crown woven from fresh laurel leaves.

They found it cheaper than cash, and handy the morning after as fodder for the buffalo. — Courtesy Dawn

### Roof of dignity

Dr Noman Ahmed

In a recent move, the Sindh cabinet approved Rs10.065 billion to resettle all those uprooted along Gujjar, Orangi and Mahmoodabad nullahs. The various demolition drives conducted in recent times razed thousands of houses, rendering scores homeless. The matter landed in the Supreme Court; specific directives were issued to the provincial government in the judgement on Oct 25, 2021, as well as other rulings. These verdicts lay down the concept and procedure of developing a resettlement scheme. Based on the submission of its reports, the Sindh government was directed by the apex court to provide land and essential infrastructure to the affected at the earliest.

A robust campaign was launched by the Karachi Bachao Tehreek, which demanded housing for demolition-affected people. Apart from those left to suffer along the three nullahs, many others still need a proper response, such as the victims of the anti-encroachment drive for the Karachi Circular Railway who are still running from pillar to post for some relief. Besides, the listing and verification process of the nullah affectees has been questioned by residents and community leaders in the neighbourhoods; it was argued that only bulldozed houses were counted, not the households that lived in them as many structures were home to two or three families. This may trigger numerous conflicts when the construction work begins.

Additionally, other concerns must be addressed with a focus on lessons learnt from previous resettlement endeavours. For instance, despite transportation and housing ex-

perts highlighting the enormous number of houses and households earmarked for demolition and displacement in the Lyari Expressway Resettlement Project — a joint initiative of the federal and provincial governments — the authorities went ahead thoughtlessly. Over a quarter of a million were displaced.

The now defunct City District Government Karachi announced the allocation of plots measuring 80 square yards with Rs50,000 for every household. Four sites were allotted in Taiser Town, Hawkesbay and Baldia Town and an estimate of 14,811 plots was provided. But the affectees, claiming that their numbers were far greater, approached the court. In the end, the government provided 30,743 plots on 1,234 acres of land. The overall cost of the rehabilitation project rose significantly. It is, therefore, important that utmost care is taken by the authorities during reviews of the actual affectees' records. Political interference and influence have to be thwarted for transparent allocation of land to the affected.

Moreover, construction requires comprehensive urban planning and design input. The authorities would do well to remember that a physical plan includes road layouts, right of way for buried infrastructure, neighbourhood parks and playgrounds, commercial areas, educational and healthcare spaces. An urban design exercise to accommodate mixed-use development is also considered necessary.

At present, Taiser Town is a sparsely populated area with low-density, low-rise development. In 20 years, this locality will be under pressure to lodge more residents, resulting in haphazard densification. This should be tackled in due

course with a larger plan comprising reserved areas for medium- and high-density developments for the locality.

In sum, without a forward-looking and technically sound urban design scheme, an isolated resettlement project cannot deliver appropriate living and working conditions for residents and visitors. Another crucial aspect is the availability of social support; eviction affectees are traumatised and need counselling so that they can connect with the housing scheme and become active participants in the decision-making process.

There should be more organisations such as Saibaan to mobilise communities and Khuda ki Basti in Karachi and other cities must be remembered as model blueprints that can be replicated. The welfare association enabled low-income groups to formulate infrastructural choices and arranged for affordable technical assistance with donations.

While road infrastructure and water supply are vital, settlers will be dependent on water tankers and informal paratransit mobility in the initial years. The average person now uses rickshaws and employed youth, as riders, service providers and small-scale entrepreneurs, have motorcycles. All the government needs to do is develop roads to link settlements to the city as connectivity alleviates the need for off-grid electricity and LPG gas depots. A technically viable, socially compatible and administratively accommodating approach towards vital development initiatives carves out comprehensive templates, which can be implemented across the country for many years to come. — Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Digitization of E-commerce sector, government's top priority: PM Shehbaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Arab Monetary Fund Dr. Fahad M Alturki Thursday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and discussed matters relating to mutual concerns.

The prime minister highlighted that Pakistan and Arab countries enjoy long standing brotherly relations that were further strengthening with the passage of time.

He said the Government of Pakistan was taking steps to legally bring the foreign remittances to the country. "The digitization of E-commerce sector and the

economy is top priority of the government," he said adding that a large number of Pakistanis were residing in the Gulf countries who send a large amount of foreign remittances to Pakistan.

The prime minister said that setting up a digital connection between Pakistan and the Middle East with the cooperation of Raast and Buna was a welcoming sign.

Buna-Raast connectivity project will make the digital transactions in the country more effective, PM Shehbaz said adding that "this important step would help regularizing the flow

of foreign exchange reserves in the country and improve the digital governance system".

Transfer of the foreign remittances from abroad to Pakistan would become easier with the help of Buna-Raast project, he said adding that "Buna-Raast project reflects our joint vision".

Chairperson Arab Monetary Fund Dr. Fahad M Alturki said that Pakistan was the first country outside Arab World that had connected with the Arab Monetary Fund project Buna. He said with the help of Buna-Raast, the economy of both sides would further develop.

### Export of sports goods increases 12.51% in July 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The export of sports goods from the country witnessed an increase of 12.51 percent during the first month of the current fiscal year (2024-25) as compared to the exports of the corresponding last year.

The country exported sports goods worth US\$ 29.358 million during July 2024 as opposed to the export of US\$ 26.093 million during July 2023, showing growth of 12.51

percent, according to the data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

Among the sports products, the exports of footballs rose by 14.20 percent, surging from US\$ 15.565 million to US\$ 17.775 million during the month under review.

The gloves exports also increased 24.24 percent by going up from US\$ 3.707 million last year to US\$ 4.606 million, the PBS data revealed.

### SCCI delegation meets minister for industries

SIALKOT (APP): A detailed meeting between a delegation of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industries (SCCI) and Minister for Industries, Commerce, Investment and Skills Development Punjab Chaudhry Shafay Hussain was held on Thursday, which discussed issues of restoration of cancelled plots of SEPZ, waiver of late construction and maintenance charges, execution of Sialkot Industrial Zone and allocation of funds for sustainable operations of Business Facilitation.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Arab Monetary Fund Dr. Fahad M Alturki calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

### Pakistan achieved 'Macroeconomic stability,' economic indicators showing positive trends: Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday said that the countries achieved micro-economic stability and all the economic indicators showing positive trends.

He said that currently, the country is going through a phase of economic stability and the government will be led on the path of sustainable economic growth with a good economic foundation.

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said this while addressing the Inaugural

Ceremony of Buna-Raast Connectivity Project Implementation Phase here.

He said that all economic indicators, including foreign reserves, workers remittances, policy rates, exchange rate, revenue collection and twins deficits including Current Account are going positive, leading towards growth and adding that foreign investors are showing confidence on the Pakistan economy.

Aurangzeb said that "We have two months import cover and the exchange rate is also stable."

He said that during

the last two months, foreign companies and potential investors are showing their interest to make investment in the different sectors of the economy.

The minister said that the government is working on the digital economy and through the digitization of the economy, "We prioritize documenting the local economy."

He said that because of prudent economic policies of the government and through reforms and administrative measures the country received the \$3 billion workers' remittances in the last month of July 2024.

### Enhanced efforts propel Pakistani agricultural exports to China

ISLAMABAD (APP): Many Pakistani seed companies have cooperated with Chinese counterparts to carry out hybrid rice breeding on a large scale, and have cultivated a variety of hybrid rice that adapts to the planting conditions in different regions, and their export competitiveness continues to increase. In addition to rice, vegetables such as onions, peppers, tomatoes, and fruits such as mangoes and cherries that come from the south Asian country, are also quite

competitive in the international market.

"The government is closely following the trends in the international agricultural product market as well as actively coordinating relevant measures with exporters. With the active promotion of various departments, Pakistan's agricultural product exports will further grow," noted Waheed Ahmed, chairman of All Pakistan Fruit & Vegetable Exporters Importers and Merchants Association.

### Rains good for paddy and sugarcane crops

LAHORE (APP): Recent rains have left positive impact on paddy and sugarcane crops while cotton and vegetables growers must follow the Agriculture Department's guidelines to protect their crops from negative effects of rains. A spokesman for the Agriculture Department said here on Thursday that paddy crop had been cultivated on more than 6 million acres of land in Punjab. He said recent rains had left positive impact on rice crop. In Punjab sugarcane had been cultivated on more than 2 million acres of land.

### EU's GSP-Plus status to Pak significant for increasing trade in both sides: Kionka

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Ambassador said. Talking to APP, the Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to Pakistan, Dr. Riina Kionka on Thursday said the European Union's Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus status (GSP+) to Pakistan is an exemplary step for increasing economic and trade cooperation between the two sides. "Pakistan and the European Union are major trading partners and Pakistan's annual exports with the EU are 30 percent of its total exports, which is far below its potential and needs to be increased", the

she said that the private sector, including the Chambers of Commerce, should play its due role in this regard, and there is a need to increase both economic and commercial activities on both sides.

### FPCCI & GIZ signed MoU setup to RBH at FPCCI

Jam & German Minister for Economic Cooperation witness ceremony

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Acting President FPCCI and Ms. Maria Jose Poddey, Country Director, GIZ Pakistan, have signed the MoU between FPCCI & GIZ to establish Responsible Business Helpdesk (RBH) at FPCCI in the esteemed presence of Mr. Jam Kamal

support of German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) for its substantial contribution to Pakistan's economic development. The RBH platform, supported by BMZ, is instrumental in helping textile sector of Pakistan to adapt to the new EU regulations, ensuring that Pakistani exporters meet



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a virtual meeting with Dr. Adnan Chihwan, Group CEO of Dubai Islamic Bank to discuss Pakistan economic trajectory and explore potential avenues for increased investment in the country.



Khan, Honorable Federal Minister for Commerce, Pakistan and Ms. Svenja Schulze, Honorable Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation & Development (BMZ), Germany. Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Acting President FPCCI, apprised that the business community of Pakistan deeply appreciates the unwavering

international standards of human and environmental responsibility. Mr. Jam Kamal Khan, Honorable Federal Minister for Commerce, Pakistan, elaborated that the government of Pakistan is committed to promote international best practices and human rights standards in Pakistan to enable swift growth in Pakistani exports.



## Kundi highlights importance of funds transparency for good governance

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday highlighted the importance of ensuring transparent use of funds for good governance in the province. The Governor said this in a meeting with Nasiruddin Sarwar, the Accountant General of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa here at Governor House. During the meeting, Sarwar briefed the Governor on the performance of his office. The discussions focused on financial matters, emphasizing the correct and transparent use of public funds. The audit systems for public sector universities and provincial institutions

were also discussed. Governor Kundi on this occasion said that transparent use of funds for good governance in the province is need of the hour for the uplift of all sectors. He acknowledged the significant role of the Accountant General's Office in maintaining transparency in the province's economic affairs. Meanwhile, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi in a meeting with a four-member delegation from the Naghman Ultralight Club and Sports Flying Club, led by pilot Qazi Tufail, included Qazi Sajjad, Azad Khan, and Babar Khan. During the meeting, Governor Kundi praised the club for its positive activities and expressed

that the club's promotion could attract global attention to the province. He acknowledged the club's efforts to continue its activities despite challenging conditions, noting that such initiatives could present Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in a new and positive light to the international community. The Governor assured that every effort would be made to address and resolve the club's challenges. The delegation briefed the Governor on the club's history, explaining that it was established in 2009 and operated from the Peshawar University Botanical Garden in Azra Khel until 2012.



PESHAWAR: Accountant General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Naseeruddin Sarwar meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at Governor House.

## No religion permits violence: Ramesh Singh

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora said on Thursday that no religion permitted violence. In his special message on the International Day Commemorating Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief, he said there was no religion that encouraged violence against people of different beliefs. The minister condemned violence on the basis of

religion and belief. He emphasised that people around the world, including Muslims, are being targeted due to their religion, with the rise in Islamophobia being a prime example. For decades, Muslims in Kashmir and Palestine have been subjected to violence based on their beliefs. Ramesh Arora highlighted that Pakistan gives equal respect to followers of all religions and beliefs.

## Constable martyred, dacoit killed in police encounter

FAISALABAD (APP): A police constable was martyred while a dacoit was killed and his accomplice managed to escape after an encounter in the area of Thikriwala police station. Police spokesman Talish Abbas Jutt said here on Thursday that eagle squad of Thikriwala police station witnessed a suspect motorcycle carrying two persons after noon and signalled them to stop near Godawara Chowk Jhang Road but the motorcyclists opened fire which caused serious injuries to the constable Abid Ali.

## 11 dead, 1319 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least 11 people were killed and 1,319 injured in 1,242 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many as 560 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 759 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams. The data analysis showed 756 drivers, 42 underage drivers, 154 pedestrians.

## Governor Punjab calls on Karbala Governor in Iraq

LAHORE (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan on Thursday called on his counterpart in Karbala Engr. Naseef Al-Khattabi during his visit to Iraq. According to the information shared by the Punjab Governor's media cell here, both the dignitaries discussed matters of mutual interest, provision of facilities to Pakistani pilgrims and promotion of bilateral relations in the fields of trade, culture and education during the meeting. Governor Punjab Sardar Salim Haider Khan said that Pakistan and Iraq have deep brotherly relations due to common religion and culture. He said that Pakistan and Iraq are determined to increase relations in every

field, especially trade. He said that there are many opportunities to increase bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Iraq in the fields of trade, tourism, culture and education. Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan also invited Karbala Governor Engr. Naseef Al-Khattabi to visit Pakistan. Karbala Governor Engr. Naseef Al-Khattabi said that both countries enjoy fraternal relations. He reiterated his determination to take the trade, tourism and cultural relations between Pakistan and Iraq to new heights. The Governor Karbala presented a commemorative shield to the Governor Punjab Sardar Salim Haider.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan on Thursday called on his counterpart in Karbala Engr. Naseef Al-Khattabi during his visit to Iraq.

## SACM directs to expedite work on Jehangira-Swabi highway

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Industries, Commerce, and Technical Education, Abdul Karim Tordher has directed the acceleration of the pace of construction work on the expansion project of Swabi-Jehangira highway here on Thursday. The project is being executed by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Highway Authority (PKHA) to ensure smooth traffic flow and minimize the risk of accidents. He issued these directives while chairing a meeting to review the progress of construction work on the expansion project of the Jehangira-Swabi highway here on Thursday. The project is being executed by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Highway Authority (PKHA).



KARACHI: Paramedical staff prepare an isolation ward set up as a preventative measure at a hospital, following Pakistan's health ministry has confirmed a case of m.pox in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, in the Provincial Capital.

## KP govt, Save the Children International inaugurate new girls model school in Swat

PESHAWAR (APP): The Minister for Elementary and Secondary Education Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Khan Tarakai and Muhammad Khuram Gondal, Country Director, Save the Children International officially inaugurated the newly constructed Government Girls Model School in Karira Jambal, Swat on Thursday. The school was developed through a collaborative effort between Save the Children International (SCI) and the Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP), in partnership with the Elementary and Secondary Education Department KP and the District Education Office (Female), Swat.

## AIOU extends admission date for BS program

FAISALABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University has extended the date for admission to BS programme till September 5. Regional Director Dr Bashir Ahmad Samim said here on Thursday that the university had taken a decision to facilitate students seeking admission to BS programme (face to face) in autumn semester. Earlier, the last date for admissions was set at August 20. The admissions to BS program (face to face) are being granted in the following subjects: Botany, Chemistry (evening), Environmental Sciences, Bio-Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Health and Physical Education, Instructional Design and Technology, Human Nutrition and Diets, Physics (Data Science Mines), Computer Science, Information Technology, Microbiology and Statistics.

## LDA, TEPA & MCL seal 70 properties in operation

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Development Authority (LDA), Traffic Enforcement II sealed over 70 properties. The TEPA Enforcement Wing conducted operations on Faisal Town Main Boulevard, Abu Al Sufhani Road, PIA Road, Shadiwal to Khokhar Chowk, and in Johar Town. The sealed properties included well-known brands, tire shops, showrooms, private offices, private schools, shops, and food outlets. Additionally, private banks, restaurants, clinics, bakeries, coffee shops, and other properties were also sealed during the operation.

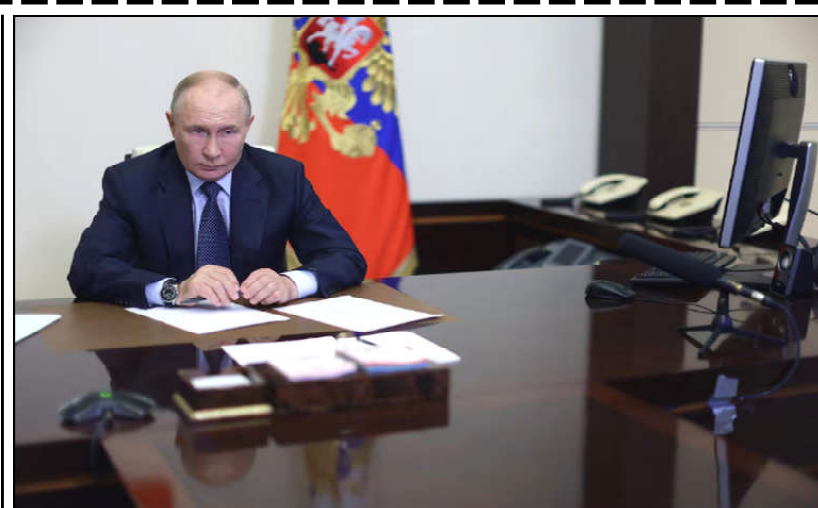
# International News

## Putin accuses Ukraine of trying to strike Russia's Kursk nuclear power plant

**Kursk nuclear plant is one of Russia's top atomic power stations**

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin on Thursday accused Ukraine of trying to strike Russia's Kursk nuclear power plant in an overnight attack and said Moscow had informed the U.N. nuclear safety watchdog about the situation. Putin, who did not provide further details about the incident or provide documentary evidence to back up his assertion, made the comments at a meeting of senior officials. There was no immediate comment from Ukraine whose lightning incursion into Kursk, the biggest into Russia by a foreign power since World War Two, saw thousands of Ukrainian troops punch through Russia's western border on Aug. 6, apparently catching Moscow by surprise. The Kursk plant is one of Russia's top nuclear power stations. It supplies about half of the electricity used in the Black Earth region of southern Russia. It is located on the Seym River near the town of Kurchatov, named after Soviet nuclear physicist Igor Kurchatov, in Russia's western region of Kursk. Ukrainian forces launched a cross-border incursion in the Kursk region on Aug. 6. The plant has four Soviet graphite-moderated RBMK-1000 reactors - the same design as those at the Chernobyl nuclear plant which in 1986, when part of the Soviet Union,

became the scene of the world's worst nuclear disaster. Reactor Number 1, which dates from 1976, was shut down at the Kursk plant in 2021 to operate in non-generation mode. Reactor Number 2, which dates from 1979, was shut down in 2024. Reactor Number 3, from 1983, and Reactor Number 4, from 1985, are both operational. Construction of Kursk-2, essentially new reactors of the VVER-TOI type, was begun in 2018. The two reactors are not operational yet. Alexei Smirnov, acting governor of the Kursk region, told Putin at the same meeting that the situation at the Kursk nuclear power station was stable.



Russian President Vladimir Putin chairs a meeting on situation in Belgorod, Kursk and Bryansk regions following an incursion of Ukrainian troops in the course of Russia-Ukraine conflict, via video link at the Novo-Ogaryovo state residence outside Moscow, Russia.

## Ukraine attacks Moscow in one of largest ever drone strikes on Russian capital

MOSCOW: Ukraine attacked Moscow on Wednesday with at least 11 drones that were shot down by air defences in what Russian officials called one of the biggest drone strikes on the capital since the war in Ukraine began in February 2022. The war, largely a grinding artillery and drone battle across the fields, forests and villages of eastern Ukraine, escalated on Aug. 6 when Ukraine sent thousands of soldiers over the border into Russia's western Kursk region. For months, Ukraine has also fought an increasingly damaging drone war against the refineries and airfields of Russia, the world's second largest oil exporter, though major drone attacks on the Moscow region - with a population of over 21 million - have been rarer. Russia's defence ministry said its air defences destroyed a total of 45 drones over Russian territory, including 11 over the Moscow region, 23 over the border region of Bryansk, six over the Belgorod region, three over the Kaluga region and two over the Kursk region. Some of the drones were shot down over the city of Podolsk. Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyannin said. The city in the Moscow region is some 38 km (24 miles) south of the Kremlin. "This is one of the largest attempts to attack Moscow using drones ever," Sobyannin said on the Telegram messaging app in the early hours of Wednesday.

## Democratic convention ends Thursday with the party's new standard bearer, Kamala Harris

CHICAGO: Vice President Kamala Harris closes out the Democratic National Convention Thursday night when she accepts her party's historic presidential nomination and seizes one of her few remaining opportunities to appeal to an audience of millions. Harris will lay out her vision for the country and prosecute her case against Republican Donald Trump, capping a whirlwind month that began when President Joe Biden ended his reelection bid and endorsed her to replace him atop the Democratic ticket. Harris has three objectives for her speech, according to a campaign official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive speech preparations. She'll share her background rising from a middle-class family to protect others as a prosecutor, contrast her "optimistic" vision with Trump's "dark" agenda and evoke a sense of patriotism, the official said. Harris spoke briefly to the convention on Monday, when she thanked Biden and celebrated his record as president, and again on Tuesday, when the beginning of her rally in Milwaukee was streamed into the convention hall after Democrats reaffirmed their nomination of her with a state-by-state roll call. Harris will be the first Black woman and the first person of South Asian descent to accept a major party's presidential nomination. She'll speak a day after Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, her choice for running mate, thanked the packed Chicago arena for "bringing the joy" to the election. "We're all here tonight for one beautiful, simple, reason: We love this country," Walz said as thousands of delegates hoisted vertical placards reading "Coach Walz" in red, white and blue.

## Iran lawmakers approve new president's cabinet

TEHRAN: Iran's conservative-dominated parliament on Wednesday approved reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian's proposed cabinet, which includes one woman and a foreign minister open to dialogue with the West. Lawmakers voted in favour of all 19 ministers chosen by Pezeshkian—who was inaugurated in July after his predecessor Ebrahim Raisi died in a helicopter crash—during a session broadcast on state television. In a speech in parliament ahead of the vote, Pezeshkian said he initially "had ideal candidates on my mind". "But when I saw that there was no mutual agreement on them, I backed down," said Pezeshkian, who later held his first sessions with the newly approved cabinet. "Because agreement was more important to me than ideal (candidates)," he added, vowing "to move forward with unity". Wednesday's vote was the first time in 23 years that Iran's parliament granted confidence to all ministers proposed by a president since the term of reformist Mohammad Khatami, according to the reformist daily Etemad. Following the vote, Pezeshkian posted a photo of himself on social media platform X alongside Iran's conservative parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and chief justice Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei, with a caption reading "consensus for Iran". "The parliament will be with the government on the way to solving the problems of the country," Ghalibaf wrote on social media platform X after the vote.

## Kenya police offer reward for escaped serial killer suspect

NAIROBI: Kenyan police offered a cash reward on Thursday for information leading to the arrest of a suspected serial killer who escaped from a Nairobi police cell. Police launched a manhunt on Tuesday after Collins Jumaisi, who is accused of murdering and dismembering dozens of women, broke out of a police station in an upmarket area of the Kenyan capital along with 12 Eritreans. Five officers appeared in court on Wednesday suspected of aiding Jumaisi's escape and have been freed on a 200,000 Kenyan shilling (\$1,500) bond, despite prosecutors seeking an order to keep them in custody for 14 days.

## Biden speaks with Netanyahu as US prods Israel and Hamas to come to agreement on cease-fire deal

BUENOS AIRES: President Joe Biden spoke with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday as the United States presses Israel and Hamas to agree to a "bridging proposal" that could lead to a cease-fire in the war in Gaza. Biden "stressed the urgency of bringing the ceasefire and hostage release deal to closure," the White House said in a statement. Hamas and Israel have signaled that challenges remain amid significant differences over the presence of Israeli troops in two strategic corridors in Gaza and other issues, dimming Biden's hopes that a deal can soon be reached. Vice President Kamala Harris, who is in Chicago this week to accept her party's nomination at the Democratic National Convention, also joined the call.

## 15 killed in blast at pharmaceuticals factory in India

HYDERABAD: At least 15 people were killed in an explosion on Wednesday at a pharmaceuticals manufacturing plant in southern India's Andhra Pradesh state, a district government official said. "Death toll as of now is 15 and is likely to go up. Nearly 40 people have been injured. Rescue operations under way," District Superintendent of Police M Deepika said. The fire broke out in the afternoon at privately held Escientia Advanced Sciences' 40-acre manufacturing unit that was operational since 2019 in the state's Anapalli district, according to district collector Vijaya Krishnan. "The injured have been shifted to nearby hospitals...it appears that there could have been a blast at the chemical reactor," Krishnan's office said, adding that the blast occurred during lunch time at the unit. Escientia did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The state government has ordered an inquiry into the incident.

## At least 24 killed as Congolese boat overturns

BENI: At least 24 people died after an overloaded boat capsized on a river in Congo's Mai-Ndombe province, and the death toll is expected to rise as many passengers are missing, a local official said on Wednesday. The boat carrying about 250 to 300 passengers overturned on Sunday night after it hit tree trunks underwater, Kutu territory administrator Jacques Nzenza told Reuters. Overloading was the main cause of the accident, he said.

## Australia greenlights world's 'largest' solar hub

SYDNEY: Australia approved on Wednesday plans for a massive solar and battery farm that would export energy to Singapore, a project billed as the "largest solar precinct in the world". Authorities announced environmental approvals for SunCable's US \$24 billion project in Australia's remote north that is slated to power three million homes.



# ECC accords conditional approval to 0.1m sugar exports

**Approves Rs. 1951.995 million on account of payment of security charges – Reko Diq Project to Frontier Corps Balochistan (South) and Rs. 20 billion as a special allocation for Operation Azm-e-Istehkam during CFY 2024-25.**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet on Thursday gave conditional approval to the export of an additional 0.100 million metric tons of sugar, the summary for which was submitted by the Ministry of Industries and Production.

According to press release issued by finance ministry, the ECC put condition that in view of procedural delays encountered during export of sugar, the period allowed for export of sugar from the date of allocation of quota by respective Cane Commissioner should be extended from forty-five (45) days to sixty (60) days.

In addition, it said, export proceeds should be received in advance in case of Afghanistan only through banking channel however, export proceeds in case of LC may be allowed within a period of 60 days of opening of LC for export of sugar to other destinations.

It said, the benchmark for retail price of sugar may be delinked from the permission to export sugar as retail price is not directly under the control of sugar mills.

The condition of revoking of export quota in case of non-payment of dues of the growers from proceeds of export of sugar should be applicable only to the non-compliant mills rather than PMSA as a whole, it added.

Moreover, the ECC decided to monitor the market situation on a monthly basis and review its decision as per emerging needs, and instructed the Sugar Advisory Board to develop a comprehensive sugar policy within two months to address the sector's challenges and ensure sustainable growth.

Meanwhile, the ECC also considered and approved the following Technical Supplementary Grants including Rs. 276.250 million in favor of the Ministry of Interior to

HQ Frontier Corps KP (N) TSG for Project Implementation Letters (PLS).

It also approved Rs. 1951.995 million on account of payment of security charges – Reko Diq Project to Frontier Corps Balochistan (South) and Rs. 20 billion as a special allocation for Operation Azm-e-Istehkam during CFY 2024-25.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Minister for Industries & Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain; Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan; Minister for Privatization, Abdul Aleem Khan; Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhry; Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahmad Khan Cheema; Minister for Petroleum, Mussadiq Masood Malik; Minister for Power, Sardar Awaiz Khan Leghari; Dy Chairman Planning Commission, Federal Secretaries, and other senior officials of the relevant ministries.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met the German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Ms. Svenja Schulze, at the Prime Minister's House, in the Federal Capital.

# Pakistan desires to revive partnership with Germany back to its glorious past: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday met with German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Svenja Schulze here where he expressed Pakistan's strong desire to revive its partnership with Germany back to its glorious past.

In the meeting, the prime minister appreciated Germany's long-standing support for Pakistan's socioeconomic development, according to a PM Office press release.

He said that Pakistan and Germany had a history of mutually beneficial commercial and economic ties and lauded Germany's role in Pakistan's industrial development. Prime Minister Shehbaz highlighted Pakistan's commitment to sustainable development,

climate change mitigation, and economic growth while sharing his government's priorities including structural reforms for the country's economic revival. Minister Schulze conveyed the greetings of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz to the prime minister and reaffirmed Germany's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations with Pakistan, particularly in trade, investment, and development cooperation.

She also shared that Germany was keen to increase its support for Pakistan's renewable energy sector and climate resilience initiatives. The two sides discussed ways to further enhance bilateral economic cooperation, including increased trade, investment, IT and technology transfer as well as export of skilled labor.



Commander Pakistan Fleet Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi exchanging views with Real Admiral Saleh Bin Abdullah Alami of Royal Saudi Navy Force during his visit to Karachi.

# Royal Saudi Naval Forces delegation visits Karachi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to the United States, Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, assumed responsibilities of his new assignment Wednesday, saying that cementing the US-Pak relationship, strengthening economic ties and enhancing people-to-people contacts would be his top priorities.

Speaking to the mission officers, he also underscored the importance of the Pakistani community in the U.S., describing them as the country's valuable asset.

The delegation discussed matters of mutual interest including bilateral cooperation during their call on with Commander Coast Vice Admiral Raja Rab Nawaz and Commander Pakistan Fleet Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi. The delegation also called on Commander 18th Destroyer Squadron, visited PN Ship SHAMSHEER and Pakistan Navy Tactical School. PN and RSNF officers also participated in table top discussions on professional matters and avenues for joint operations.

# Mirpurkhas prepares for peaceful Chehlum observance

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rashid Masood Khan has directed authorities to ensure foolproof security, cleanliness, and essential arrangements for the upcoming Chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS), guaranteeing a peaceful and dignified observance. Chaired a meeting to review preparations on Thursday, he emphasized utilizing all resources to maintain a tranquil environment, as has been the tradition every year.

During the meeting, the district peace committee proposed various measures, including clearing procession routes, uninterrupted electricity supply, medical facilities, and mosquito control measures, which the Deputy Commissioner assured would be addressed. Additional Deputy Commissioner One Muhammad Ali Baloch, Stunt Commissioner Mirpurkhas Gulam Hussain Kanjhan, Stunt Commissioner Taluka Hussain Bakhsh Murree Zainab Hafeez, Municipal Commissioner Rafiq Sehar, Exxin Hesco Mirpurkhas Ali Raza Bhatti, Peace Committee members Syed Hamza Naqvi, Syed Umeir Naqvi, Syed Zia Haider Naqvi, Wahid Hussain Pahlwani, Syed Sagheer Naqvi, Syed Muhammad Ali Naqvi, Dr. Syed Saqib Kazmi, Sajjad Rand, Custodians of various Imambargahs Shah Bakhsh Lond, Babar Khaskheli, Shehzad Ali and officers of the relevant departments participated.



LARKANA: Children crossing flooded streets where rainwater has accumulated in front of houses at Qutb Colony.

# 3-day Pharma Asia Exhibition concludes

KARACHI (APP): The three-day 21st Pharma Asia Exhibition, the premier pharmaceutical exhibition in the region, successfully concluded on Thursday at the Expo Centre in Karachi.

The event, organized by E-Commerce Gateway, featured Deputy Mayor Karachi, Salman Abdullah Murad, as the chief guest, marking a significant milestone in the evolution of Pakistan's pharmaceutical industry. Running from August 20 - 22, Pharma Asia 2024 showcased the latest advancements and innovations, transforming the pharmaceutical landscape of the country. The event attracted over 200 companies and more than 750 booths, offering a platform for manufacturers, suppliers, traders, distributors, policymakers, and investors to converge and explore opportunities for collaboration and business development.

With participation from 15 countries, including a prominent pavilion from China, the exhibition was a bustling hub of activity and networking. The event provided unparalleled opportunities for international collaboration, making it a key highlight in the global pharmaceutical calendar. Speaking on the success of the event, Deputy Mayor Karachi, Salman Abdullah Murad, expressed his appreciation for the enthusiastic participation of both local and international stakeholders.

# At UN Pakistan urges 'new thinking' to effectively prevent conflicts, build peace

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has called for "new thinking" to shape effective approaches to prevent conflicts, resolving disputes—such as Kashmir & Palestine—and building peace in conflict-hit countries.

"What is required is a comprehensive and integrated strategy which offers regional and international support to national efforts for conflict prevention and dispute resolution", Ambassador Munir Akram told the UN Security Council which held a high-level debate centred on preventing conflict and building and sustaining peace. Such a strategy, the

# President Zardari strongly condemns firing at Attock school van

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday strongly condemned the incident of firing on a school van in Attock.

"Targeting a school van is very cruel and shameful act. The perpetrators of the attack should be taken to the task," he said, according to a President House press release.

He prayed to Allah Almighty for peace for the departed souls and early recovery of the injured.

# Rizwan Sheikh assumes charge as Pakistan's ambassador to US

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to the United States, Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, assumed responsibilities of his new assignment Wednesday, saying that cementing the US-Pak relationship, strengthening economic ties and enhancing people-to-people contacts would be his top priorities.

Speaking to the mission officers, he also underscored the importance of the Pakistani community in the U.S., describing them as the country's valuable asset.

# CIA Mirpurkhas busted large quantity of drug

MIRPURKHAS (APP): The Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) Mirpurkhas on Thursday recovered a substantial drug haul from a warehouse in Dil Muhammad Colony, within the jurisdiction of the Gharibabad police station.

According to police, the raid conducted on intelligence information, and led by CIA In-Charge Inayat Ali Zardari and SHO Gharibabad Inspector Abdul Majeed Gurgej.

The team seized 1,700 packets (totaling 187,000 sachets) of Suhana Gutka and 220 kg of chalia sawdust. The team also arrested accused, Ameer Bakhsh Zardari. A case has been registered, and further investigation is underway.

# Rapist of minor girl held in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): The police on Thursday arrested an accused involved in rape of a minor girl in the metropolis.

According to details, the Korangi Police conducted operation in Sector 'A' 32 Labour Square area of Karachi.

During raid, an accused Shahiduddin alias Babu found involved in rape of 5-year-old girl was arrested.

A case was registered against the detainee at Korangi police station and investigations were kicked off.

# Police arrest two accused, recover stolen material

HYDERABAD (APP): Police claimed to have arrested two accused and recovered stolen material from their possession.

SHO Husri police station Inspector Maqsood Raza Manghar along with his staff acting on a tip-off conducted raids to arrest suspects.

As a result, police faced resistance from the suspects, however with the best strategy they arrested two accused Abdul Sattar and Hajan Khoso, and recovered stolen wire, eight solar plates, and an inverter worth millions of rupees.

Police also recovered one pistol with ammunition and a Suzuki pickup used for a robbery bid and registered a case against suspects under relevant law.

# Jam Kamal chairs feedback meeting on FoodAg-2024

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan chaired a feedback meeting on the 2nd edition of the FoodAg exhibition, which was held from 9th to 11th August 2024.

Briefing the Commerce Minister, Chief Executive TDAP Zubair Motiwala informed that 320 companies participated in the event and 873 buyers from 73 countries attended the 3 day event.

TDAP also arranged 6500 sector-specific B2B meetings of foreign buyers with local exhibitors leading to an expected business generation of USD 1.2 Billion.



LARKANA: Federal Ombudsman Sukkur Regional Head, Syed Mahmood Ali Shah listening the problems of citizens during open court program held in Larkana.

# Need stressed to enhance awareness about SRH, Family Planning initiatives

KARACHI (INP): The speakers at a high-level seminar on reproductive health and family planning on Thursday urged to champion women's rights amid advocating for enhanced access to contraceptives and family planning services.

A high-level sensitization seminar for Sindh's parliamentarians was organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) here, to increase awareness and support for Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) and Family Planning (FP) initiatives in the province.

The event saw active participation from key members of the Sindh Provincial Assembly, senior government officials, and SRH and FP experts. Assistant Country Representative for UNFPA, Dr. Rubina Ali inaugurated the seminar with a compelling address underscoring the necessity of incorporating rights-based family planning approaches into provincial policies.

"Population management transcends mere control; it is about empowering individuals with the right to plan their families and access essential resources," Dr. Ali stated.

She shared that in Pakistan, less than one-third of women have the autonomy to make decisions about their sexual and reproductive health, with 4.2 million out of 12 million pregnancies being unplanned and 2.2 million ending in abortion annually. Dr. Ali called on parliamentarians to champion women's rights and advocate for enhanced access to contraceptives and family planning services. Executive Director SDPI, Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri said, "Access to Sexual Reproductive Health and Family Planning services is not only a matter of public health but also crucial for promoting sustainable economic growth."



KARACHI: Women firefighters struggle to control a fire which broke out at a garment factory in Orangi Town, in the Provincial Capital.



KARACHI: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh, Ghulam Nabi Memon in a meeting with a 17-member delegation of Lahore Press Club (LPC) under the leadership of LPC President Muhammad Arshad Ansari held at Central Police Office in Karachi.

# SHC summons travel history of missing persons from FIA

KARACHI (Online): Sindh High Court (SHC) has sought travel history of missing citizens from FIA. The petitions seeking recovery of over 15 missing persons came up for hearing before the court Thursday.

Father of a citizen who went missing from Malir area appeared in the court. He told the court he is making rounds of police stations and courts since last 11 years but justice has not been administered to him.

He told the court his son was coming to home from duty in 2011. He was kidnapped on the way to home. My son is still missing. Police have taken no steps so far.

The court after hearing the father of missing citizens remarked tell us what steps have been taken for recovery of citizens.

The investigating officer told the court he is

# Bilawal condemn attack on school van in attack

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has strongly condemned the heinous attack on a school van in the Attock district of Punjab, resulting in the tragic martyrdom of two students.

In a statement issued from the Media Cell Bilawal House, Chairman PPP expressed his profound sorrow and grief, stating that the news of the innocent lives lost has left him heartbroken. "The culprits responsible for shedding the blood of these innocent children are nothing less than monsters. They must be apprehended and brought to justice without delay," he asserted.

Bilawal Bhutto condoned his heartfelt condolences and solidarity to the families of the martyred students, saying, "The entire nation stands with the grieving families during this unimaginably difficult time."

# Fire breaks out in two Karachi factories

KARACHI (INP): A fire broke out in two factories in Orangi Town No. 5 area of Karachi on Thursday. According to rescue officials, the fire broke out in two factories manufacturing yarn and plastic. However, the vehicles of rescue and fire tenders were busy in extinguishing the fire.

# Passenger carrying 29 smuggled iPhones held at Karachi airport

KARACHI (INP): Customs officials held a passenger, attempting to smuggle 29 iPhones and other items worth Rs 750,000 at Jinnah International Airport, Karachi.

As per details, the customs staff suspected the passenger identified as Muhammad Daniyal, who arrived from Dubai on FlyDubai flight FZ 333, and asked him to produce his goods for examination.

When the passenger denied carrying any prohibited items, the officials searched his luggage and found the iPhones, laptops, chocolates, ladies' clothing, and cosmetics, customs officials added. The passenger tried to flee the scene but was apprehended by the customs staff. A case was registered against the arrested suspect under the Customs Act and was remanded to custody for further investigation.

# Regional Director (Ombudsman) holds khuli kachehri at district Accounts office Nawabshah

HYDERABAD (APP): On the special instructions of Provincial Director General of Sindh, Muhammad Suhail Rajput (Sitara-e-Imtiaz), Regional Director of Director General of Anti-Corruption, Shaheed Benazirabad, Khan Muhammad Zardari, held an open court (khuli kachehri) at the District Accounts Office, Shaheed Benazirabad, where retired and serving employees presented their issues related to pension, family pension, LPR, gratuity, GP Fund, and other problems.

Regional Director Khan Muhammad Zardari and District Accounts Officer Habib-ur-Rehman Arain resolved some of the issues on the spot and issued instructions to the officers of the District Accounts Office to resolve the remaining issues immediately.