

Independent

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38 killed, several others injured in two separate road mishaps

12 zayreen dead, 33 injured in fatal road accident on Makran coastal highway; 26 dead as passenger bus plunges into ravine on Rawalakot to Rawalpindi route

Independent Report

QUETTA: As many as 12 persons died and some 32 got injured as the passenger coach met a fatal road accident at Buzi top on the Makran coastal highway falls in the jurisdiction of Lasbela district on Sunday morning.

According to the reports reaching here, the passenger coach carrying some 70 passengers way on its way from Gwadar bordering area to Punjab when it met accident after falling into a ditch due to the brake failure.

The accident resulted in multiple injuries and fatalities of the passengers travelling in the bus. The administration and rescue teams rushed towards the spot of accident and shifted the bodies of deceased and injured persons to the

nearby hospitals.

According to the spokesman of provincial government, Shahid Rind, we have reports of 11 casualties and 33 injuries caused in the bus accident. He said that the district administration was engaged in making the rescue activities effective.

The spokesman said that seven seriously injured passengers were shifted to the district headquarter hospital Uthal while 26 injured shifted to Jam Ghulam Qadir hospital Hub. He said that condition of few injured is stated to be critical. However, all the injured are being provided necessary medical treatment. According to the DHO Lasbela, seven critically injured were transferred to specialized trauma centers in Karachi for further treatment.

Meanwhile President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday expressed his grief and sorrow over loss of lives in a bus accident on Makran Coastal Highway, carrying Zaireen.

The president expressed condolences with the bereaved families and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed souls. He also wished quick recovery of the injured passengers, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

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LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding the closing down of the Public Works Department.

CM Sindh approves Rs 502m for replacement of Sukkur Barrage gates

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has approved Rs 502 million for the Irrigation Department to meet the expenditure on account of work done in connection with the repair and replacement of damaged gates of Sukkur Barrage.

He approved the funds while presiding over a meeting at CM House here Sunday. The meeting was attended by Sindh Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Secretary Irrigation Zarif Khoro and other concerned officers.

Secretary Irrigation Zarif Khoro briefing the CM, said that at the Sukkur Barrage damages were detected in Gate Nos. 44 and 47 on June 20, 2024. Preliminary assessment revealed that Gate No. 44 twisted but intact in full section (geometry) but Gate No. 47 was substantially damaged.

To avoid further damages and to facilitate the emergency repair works of

Gates No. 44 and 47, all Sukkur Barrage Gates were fully opened to evacuate the upstream pond. Consequently, the supply to all Canals off-taking from the Left and Right Side of Sukkur Barrage, such as Nara, Rohi, Khaipur East, Khaipur West, Northern Dadu, Rice and NW Canal was reduced until the restoration of Gates No. 44 and 47 of Sukkur Barrage on an emergency basis, he told.

The Secretary told that after the day-night efforts, the Engineers of the Irrigation Department rebuilt and maintained the Sukkur Barrage Pond level on June 26, 2024, two days ahead of schedule. They also restored the supplies of water in Irrigation Canals off-taking from the Sukkur Barrage, he added.

The chief minister appreciated the efforts and hardwork of Minister Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro, Secretary Irrigation Zarif Khoro and their engineering team.

The Sindh Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro

thanked the chief minister for his appreciation and mentioned that Sindh was saved from unimaginable financial loss and the resulting unrest.

The Secretary Irrigation informed the CM that Gate No. 44 had been fabricated and brought to Sukkur, placed in the Mechanical Workshop. Due to the flood season, replacing Gate No. 44 is considered risky and therefore halted.

Deflection is being monitored since 20-06-2024, no increase in deflection of the gate has been observed. Therefore, Mechanical Expert Mr. Jam Smith, CRBC & PIC, has suggested additional strengthening works on the gate to withstand the flood season temporarily, secure the gate, and prevent further structural movements.

Additional C-Channels, H-Beams (Horizontal & Vertical), and Fish Plates have been attached. Corroded and damaged parts of the gates were repaired using advanced welding techniques.

PM sets one-month deadline for govt offices to switch to paperless system

Reviews legal aspects, final stages of PakPWD closure

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday assigned the Ministry for Information Technology and other relevant departments, the task of implementing the e-office system in all government offices. Directing to ensure paperless office work within a month, the prime minister warned that delay in the implementation of e-office in government offices would not be tolerated.

"There should be no file work without e-office in the government offices from next month," the prime minister said adding that implementation of e-office to speed up transparency in the system was the top priority of the government. He further directed that all the officers in the government offices should

ensure file work through e-offices. On the direction of the prime minister, the staff of the PM Office has already completed the e-office training. Last week the prime minister also received the files through e-office system. PM Shehbaz said that the e-office was an important step towards improving governance and promoting digitization in the country.

He also directed to present a report on the progress of launching e-office in next two weeks.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday chaired a meeting to review the legal aspects and final procedures regarding the closing down of the Pak Public Works Department (PakPWD).



HUB: View of passenger bus fell into ditch after traffic accident due to over speeding and break failed, at Makran Coastal Highway at Bazi Lak near Hub.

Governor Sindh expresses grief over two different bus accidents

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori has expressed deep sorrow over the tragic bus accident on the Makran Coastal Highway. He extended his condolences to the families of the deceased and prayed for the departed souls' peace, the elevation of their ranks, and for patience for the bereaved families.

According to the press release issued by the Governor House on Sunday, the Governor also prayed for the swift recovery of the injured and directed the concerned authorities to immediately transfer the injured to Karachi and ensure the provision of all necessary medical facilities. He re-

marked that this was a deeply tragic incident and he stands in solidarity with the affected families during this time of grief.

The Governor also expressed sorrow over the bus accident that occurred on the route from Haveli Kahuta to Rawalpindi. He conveyed his heartfelt condolences for the loss of numerous lives and injuries sustained in the accident, praying for the departed souls' peace, the elevation of their ranks, and for patience for the bereaved families. He also prayed for the quick recovery of the injured, stating that his heart is heavy with sorrow over these two tragic bus accidents that occurred on the same day.



KARACHI: Ranger personnel pushing a burnt rikshwa. At least two people were killed and nine others injured in deadly clashes between two groups in Golimar area.

Two killed, nine injured in armed clashes in Karachi's Golimar

Monitoring Desk
KARACHI: At least two people were killed and nine others wounded in deadly clashes between two groups in Karachi's Golimar area on Sunday, a private tv channel reported citing police personnel.

The casualties resulted when two armed groups opened fire on each other, with some angry members setting various vehicles on fire and blocking both lanes of the main artery leading to Nazimabad from Lasbela.

Confirming the number of fatalities, Chief Police Surgeon Dr Sumaiyya Syed stated that one body was taken to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital and the other to Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital, while the injured were being treated at Jinnah

Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC).

Taking notice of the matter, Sindh Home Minister Zia Lanjar has sought a report on the incident from the Sindh Inspector General of Police (IGP) and Additional Inspector General (AIG), directing law enforcement agencies to bring the situation under control immediately.

Saying that no one would be allowed to take the law into their own hands or disturb the law and order situation, Lanjar also instructed the authorities to arrest the perpetrators as soon as possible. Later, Karachi AIG Javed Alam Odho stated that the situation in the affected area was under control and the Central Superintendent of Police (SSP) was on site.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori addressing launching ceremony of Ahmed Kapadia's book "Executive Doodles" at Governor House.

Thirteen new campuses to be established in Karachi: Dr. Khalid

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training and MQM-Pakistan Convener Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Sunday said that after the 18th amendment, only campuses could be established in Karachi instead of erecting any new university buildings here.

The minister witnessed the signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the National College of Arts (NCA) and Preston Institute of Management Science and Technology (PIMSAT) for the provision of space to establish the NCA campus.

Talking to media persons after that MoU, he said that thirteen new campuses would be established in the city.

Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said that NCA was

a proud institute of the country and that Karachiites deserved its campus.

Expressing his concerns over the low rate of education, he was of the view that every empty building should be established for education.

Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said that MQM-Pakistan gave two young leaders to the city.

He said that Karachi was not as it was in 2008. He further said that the United Nations (UN) had come to make the city livable. The MoU ceremony was signed in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor of the National College of Arts (NCA) Professor Dr. Murtaza Jafri and Preston Institute of Management Science and Technology (PIMSAT)'s Mohammed Ali.

Dr. Murtaza Jafri and Preston Institute of Management Science and Technology (PIMSAT)'s Mohammed Ali.



Victorious cadets of Pakistan Naval Academy receiving medals and trophy from Sri Lankan Naval Chief in International Inter-Navies Sailing Championship at Trincomalee, Sri Lanka.

Arif Alvi heads PTI committee to resolve internal differences

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a bid to resolve the ongoing internal conflicts within the party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has formed a committee led by former President Arif Alvi.

According to sources, the committee has been tasked with addressing the internal rifts and submitting recommendations within a week.

Arif Alvi will chair the committee, which will hold meetings with party leaders and stakeholders to listen to their

concerns and grievances. The development came a day after Aleema Khan, sister of former PM Imran Khan and PTI leader Raouf Hasan's WhatsApp messages regarding former first lady Bushra Bibi were leaked. According to security sources, the messages revealed Aleema Khan asking Raouf Hasan to stop spreading Bushra Bibi's message which mentions a meeting with Imran Khan in jail, as it will incite the disinformation cell.

Pakistan invites Indian PM to visit for SCO summit in October

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan on Sunday officially extended an invitation to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in October.

According to diplomatic sources, the invitation was sent as part of the preparations for the SCO meeting, where the heads of state from member countries have been invited.

Governor takes notice of girl's murder incident

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori took notice of the recovery of the tortured body of a girl from Sadar area and sought a report from Additional Inspector General (IG) Karachi regarding the incident.

The governor said that the murder of a girl after rape is a matter of great concern. The accused involved in the incident must be arrested and brought to justice, Governor Tessori directed.



LAHORE: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi offering Fatcha at the shrine of Hazrat Ali bin Usman Data Ganj Bakhsh Hijveri (RA).

Home Minister takes notice of killings in Khairpur

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hasan Lanjar Sunday took notice of the killing of two persons and five others, who got injured in a firing incident in Khairpur area of Sindh province.

A rickshaw driver was also killed in the firing. The minister had sought a detailed report from SSP Khairpur of the incident. He said that strict

steps should be taken to establish the writ of law.

Lanjar said that Police patrolling and security measures should be made effective in the area.

The arrest of the culprits involved in the incident should be ensured as soon as possible, he directed. All possible medical facilities should be provided to the injured persons, he added.

Sindh CM takes notice of Golimar firing incident

Independent Report
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has taken notice of the firing incident in Golimar, Karachi, and expressed deep sorrow and condemnation over the loss of life. The CM directed the authorities to immediately arrest those responsible for the firing on the rally.

He warned that no one would be allowed to disrupt peace in the city. CM Shah instructed the citizens to remain peaceful and advised the district administration and police to resolve the matter amicably.

In pursuance of vision of PPP Chairman Govt spending billions of rupees to complete mega uplift works all over Sindh: Ghani

Independent Report
KARACHI: Sindh Local Government Minister, Saeed Ghani, has said that the bridge being constructed on Korangi

development works to reconstruct the Korangi Causeway as one of the mega uplift projects in Karachi. Project Director,

day and night to complete the reconstruction of the Korangi Causeway. He said the reconstruction work would be completed by the

works all over Sindh including Karachi in pursuance of the vision for development of Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto



Causeway in Karachi will be opened for vehicular traffic after completion on January 1, 2025.

The Local Government Minister stated this as he on Sunday inspected the

Tariq Mughal, briefed in detail the Local Government Minister on the Korangi Causeway reconstruction project. The Local Government Minister mentioned that work was in progress

start of next year as a big gift of the Sindh government for the people of Karachi.

Ghani said the Sindh government had been spending billions of rupees to complete mega uplift

Zardari. He mentioned that the construction of the new bridge on Korangi Causeway would improve the commuting facilities for the people of Korangi, Landhi, and Malir.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Utility Stores concern

There can be little argument with the fact that many white elephants in the extensive stable of state-owned enterprises need to be privatised, as they are a huge burden on the taxpayer.

Yet some SOEs, such as the Utility Stores Corporation, although being run inefficiently, provide lifelines to millions of low-income Pakistanis in the form of subsidised groceries. In this context, reports that the state is thinking of winding up USC operations have caused concern. On Friday, addressing lawmakers at a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Industries and Production, the relevant secretary said that the state wanted to "get out of non-essential businesses", and that the administration had decided on the closure of the USC. He added that the stores' employees would be transferred elsewhere. However, the next day, the government appeared to backtrack on the decision, as the industries minister said that the government would be merely 'restructuring' the Utility Stores.

The USC is no model organisation. For years, the stores have been plagued by reports of corruption and mismanagement. Embezzlement to the tune of millions of rupees has been reported, while in 2021 the AGP unearthed financial irregularities in the USC worth billions. Furthermore, consumers have complained of substandard merchandise being sold at the stores, while USC staff have been accused of vending subsidised products in the open market.

However, despite these glaring malpractices, it is also a fact that millions of low-income consumers depend on the stores for groceries at prices below market rates. In a country where price-gouging and black-marketing are common, and state regulation of the market to prevent consumer exploitation by unscrupulous traders is extremely weak, the Utility Stores have provided some relief. Lines of consumers outside the stores in cities across Pakistan are proof of this, especially during periods such as the month of Ramazan, when traders tend to jack up prices of essentials.

The state needs to clarify what restructuring it plans to carry out. The Senate committee was told that "alternative arrangements" would be made, including providing cash transfers to citizens. In these times of raging inflation, low-income citizens need to be protected from the ravages of the market. If the USC is restructured, how will the state ensure that the poor consumers are not fleeced. A workable plan, therefore, is required that details how the interests of consumers will be protected while the state disassociates itself from the USC. The cash-transfer plan might work if funds are remitted to low-income households in a transparent manner. The Benazir Income Support Programme can serve as a database for this purpose.

Moreover, the state needs to improve its price-checking capabilities so that consumers who buy from the open market are not fleeced.

The way she wore

Muna Khan

On the day I sat down to write this piece about a PTI leader's objection to a woman's clothing, this paper's front page carried a photograph of doctors at Ganga Ram hospital protesting the administration's attempts to bury the alleged rape of a five-year-old girl. A member of the janitorial staff in Lahore has been arrested. According to the hospital's medical superintendent, the janitor "touched" the girl at 2am and was apprehended after she made a lot of noise. Young doctors, however, tell a different story of the girl's screams during the assault which alerted patients' attendants who helped nab the alleged rapist.

I wonder what the five-year-old girl was wearing as she slept with her mother in the hospital before she was attacked. I wonder what the mother was wearing.

A woman's clothes are responsible for all ills in society — she will be molested or raped or killed whether she is in aam shalwar kameez or covered head to toe or in a shroud in her grave. Her body is up for grabs the moment she steps out of her home, for whatever reason — to study, work, buy groceries etc. A woman's body is the topic of conversation whether she is being stripped of her right to wear the hijab in one country or forced into wearing one in another.

I bring up clothing because of PTI lawmaker Iqbal Afridi's recent comments about the "inappropriate" clothing worn by a woman executive at a power division's committee hearing. After the high-level executive gave her presentation and left the room, Afridi said she should not have attended the meeting in such an outfit and suggested devising a stan-

dard operating procedure for women's clothing.

My first thought was to wonder what she could have possibly worn to this meeting until I stopped myself. It isn't about what she was or wasn't wearing. No man should police a woman's body. When he does so, he dehumanises her and allows others to disrespect her too. Men fault women for their clothing which arms the 'she was asking for it' brigade. This is simply wrong.

Incidentally, the chair of the committee apologised for the incident but to my knowledge so far, Afridi hasn't. Neither has anyone from the party, including its women supporters, distanced themselves from his inappropriate remark.

This partisanship is a real hurdle to progress in society. While elected representatives have come together to pass laws against sexual crimes, it is not enough. As this paper noted some months ago, "over 80 per cent of suspected sex offenders in the country are acquitted because of deficient investigation, weak prosecution, out-of-court settlements and pending cases in the lower courts."

Data about women in this country make for a depressing read. Pakistan was ranked 145th out of 146 countries in the World Economic Forum's 2024 Global Gender Gap Index, a drop from 142 in the previous year. At least 10,201 cases of violence against women were registered last year, according to a report in this paper in March. This was up by 14.5pc from the previous year.

Lawmakers' statements matter more against this backdrop. Men have policed women since forever but when they prioritise it

over intelligence, skills and competence, it becomes problematic. Men cannot decide what is appropriate for women to wear and women must stand up to such bullies.

Perhaps a great example of challenging the police came in April when YouTuber Shaaila Khan shut down her interviewee who said the problem in the country was that women had strayed from Islamic values and then he placed a dupatta on her. She immediately removed it and asked "why does your version of Islam begin and end with a dupatta" before schooling him further on disrespecting her space, touching her without her permission and rejecting him calling her his sister. The best bit was when another woman spoke up in her support, saying Shaaila had the right to dress as she wanted. This was a great example of how even one person's support gives a woman courage and conviction knowing she is not alone.

Oh to see any collective action in parliament, where many women's clothing or appearance have also been the subject of censure or ridicule. Imagine if women parliamentarians ignored party positions and came together to say we will not work until this rapist is held accountable, this harasser is arrested for his crime, this man is held accountable for promoting rape culture and so forth. But women leaders seem to enforce patriarchal values in parliament, perhaps because they don't want to upset leadership and lose their seats. This is most disappointing. The five-year-old girl deserves more than our sympathy.

She must know she has advocates beyond young doctors who want to do right by her. -- Courtesy Dawn

Indo-US ties

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

In the first 50 years of its existence as an independent state, India had uneasy ties with the US. India preferred in those years a close partnership with the Soviet Union. Since the dawn of the 21st century, however, India's relationship with the US has morphed into a strategic partnership, with unprecedented levels of politico-military cooperation. The primary dynamic behind this upswing is the US competition with China, a rising economic and military power. The US would like to see India as a counterweight to China, and has engaged it in its Indo-Pacific strategy, the Quad, and similar initiatives that are seemingly aimed at containing the further rise of China.

The Indo-US strategic partnership covers a broad range of areas of cooperation. Notably, the US is India's largest trading partner in goods and services, whose value has grown 10 times since 2000, and the third largest source of FDI for India. Americans of Indian origin have integrated well into American society, and are occupying important positions in the political, economic and technology domains. The relationship enjoys bipartisan support in the US Congress, where India is viewed as a fellow democracy. The India Caucus in the US Congress has over 150 members.

What has further cemented Indo-US ties is a consistent rise in the economic profile of India, which has come a long way from an inward-looking economy, facing a serious balance-of-payments crisis in 1991 to a broadly liberal economy, the fifth largest in 2024, with aspirations to become the third largest in the near term. India has also surpassed China to

become the world's most populous country and emerged as a lucrative market for the US-led West. Its foreign currency reserves exceed \$650 billion.

With increased wealth at its disposal, India is currently the fourth largest military spender. Its defence cooperation with the US is multifaceted, and includes a growing number of joint military exercises. Defence procurements from the US are also increasing, and major US-origin platforms are now in India's use. The two countries have signed a series of defence agreements to pave the way for access to each other's logistics, encrypted communications, geospatial intelligence, and fast-track technology exchange. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2023 visit to the US, Washington agreed to the co-production of F-414 jet engines, including significant technology transfer for India's indigenous aircraft manufacturing capabilities, and an agreement to supply India with advanced drones to enhance its intel and operational capabilities.

However, the US has serious concerns about the relationship. According to the Stimson Centre, there are hurdles to taking cooperation to the next level. Firstly, India's capacity to absorb foreign technology faces many legal, coordination, and procedural issues. Secondly, the US is 'unsure' of India's political will to deter China in the Western Pacific, because India's priority seems to be the Indian Ocean region.

Thirdly, India has not blocked its trade and investment ties with China. Fourthly, Washington is deeply concerned over New Delhi's close relations with Moscow and its independent stance on

Ukraine and the purchase of Russian oil. Fifthly, India is teaming up with BRICS to explore trade in currencies other than the dollar. Sixthly, the US has concerns over India's policy of persecuting religious minorities and sending operatives to assassinate opponents on foreign soil.

This is not to suggest that the US is having second thoughts about its relationship with India. In fact, it is going out of its way to ignore the Indian leadership's tendency to assert India's 'strategic autonomy'. Although the American ambassador to India was blunt in challenging the use of the term 'strategic autonomy', his government did waive the CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act) for India to let it buy a missile system from Russia.

Last month, Senator Marco Rubio introduced a bill in Congress calling for treating India like Japan, Israel, South Korea and Nato members, in terms of sharing advanced weaponry with it. The bill was blatantly anti-China and also echoed the Indian view of Pakistan.

The US tilt raises deep security concerns for Pakistan as it encourages the Indian leadership to act as a net security provider, ie, hegemon, in South Asia. Washington tends to view Islamabad from the lens of Sino-Pak ties, and thus maintains minimal contact with it.

It is clear that whoever wins the US presidential elections in November will continue efforts to strengthen Indo-US ties, and would be unlikely to change the low-profile trajectory of Pak-US relations, which might oblige Pakistan to explore other options. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Speakers point out Current agreements with IPPs as hindrance to economic progress

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speakers at an in-house session on Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and Capacity Payment Issues in the Power Sector on Sunday pointed out current agreements with IPPs as a hindrance to economic progress of the country.

The Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) recently hosted a Roundtable Conference on "Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and the Capacity Payment Issues in the Power Sector."

The speakers at the event included Ambassador @ Inamul Haque; Former Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce, Industries, and Production, Dr Gohar Ejaz; CEO of CPPA, Rihan Akhter; Former Chairman NDMA, Maj General Asghar Nawaz; Former SAPM CPEC, Khalid

Mansoor; Senior Partner RIAA Barker Gillette, Husnain Naqvi; Partner Orrdignam & Co., Shahid Raza; CEO Attock Oil, Adil Khattak and GM WAPDA Irfan Rizvi, a news release said.

The discussion highlighted the challenges posed by Pakistan's current energy policies, particularly the implications of the existing tariff structure is unsustainable and burdensome for the economy. The need for a comprehensive review of these tariffs was emphasized, noting that the high cost of electricity is stifling economic growth and making Pakistan's exports less competitive on the global stage.

The conversation also addressed Pakistan's continued reliance on coal power plants, a practice

that has been slowly reduced in various countries. Some speakers strongly advocated for the retirement of these plants, arguing that they are economically unviable in the long term. It was highlighted that natural gas should also not be sold in Pakistan, unless absolutely necessary. A significant portion of the discussion focused on the role of IPPs in Pakistan's energy sector.

The panellists critically examined the capacity payments being made to these producers.

These payments, they argued, have placed a considerable strain on the national economy, particularly by inflating energy costs and reducing the competitiveness of Pakistani goods in the international market.

MCCI holds two-day training session to align skills with industrial needs

MULTAN (APP): The Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) hosted a two-day session in collaboration with the Punjab Vocational Training Council (PVT) to address the alignment of skilled training programs with the evolving needs of various industries.

The event, which took place on the MCCI premises, saw participation from industry leaders, including the Chairman of PVT, the President of MCCI, and representatives from various sectors.

In his opening remarks, Mian Rashid Iqbal, President of MCCI, shared the critical need for PVT to design training courses that meet the current demands of

industries and enhance the quality of the workforce. "The industry is willing to collaborate and support PVT in every possible way," he said. "The Multan chamber is ready to provide all necessary information to PVT to ensure that the skilled workers they produce can be readily absorbed by the industry, offering our young professionals ample opportunities."

Chairman PVT, Khalid Masood Chaudhry, highlighted the council's efforts in providing comprehensive training opportunities to the youth. "PVT is committed to equipping our young generation with the skills required to secure a bright future," he said.

1.92m olive saplings distributed among farmers

MULTAN (APP): Punjab Agriculture Secretary Ifikhar Ali Sahu has said that 1.92 million olive saplings were provided to farmers to transform Pothohar region into an "olive valley."

According to official sources, 1.32 million saplings were distributed free of cost by the Punjab Agriculture Department, while an additional 600,000 saplings were supplied under a national project at a 67% subsidy. Secretary Sahu stated that every possible resource was being utilized to ensure agricultural development and the prosperity of farmers in the Pothohar region. A comprehensive transformation plan is being developed to modernize agriculture in the area, making it more aligned with contemporary practices.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Industry and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain in a meeting with with Iranian Consul General Mehran Mowahidfar and Iran's major investor group at the Iranian Consulate.

Two Chinese companies to set up plants in Pakistan

LAHORE (APP): Two leading Chinese companies have announced setting up their plants in Pakistan with one setting up a sole entity while the other in a joint venture with a local company to manufacture raw materials for the textile industry.

Both companies were expected to invest millions of dollars in both the projects with the aim of manufacturing cheap raw materials for the local industries.

Abdul Rahim Chughtai, the convener of

the 9th Colour and Chemicals Expo 2024 and the president of the Punjab Dyes and Chemicals Merchants Association, said here Sunday that Napa Chemicals and Shao Shing Chemicals would make investments in Punjab.

He said Rainbow Industries would go into a joint venture with Shao Shing Chemicals soon, adding with the Chinese investment our local dyes and chemicals industry would get the latest technology transfer and advancement.

Railways collect Rs 79.2 mln from ticketless passengers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways has collected an amount of Rs 79.2 million from ticketless passengers in a crackdown during the last seven months with the help of railway police and train staffs. "Around 61,352 passengers found traveling without tickets in different trains and collected the said amount from them, which is deposited in the official bank account of the department," sources in the Ministry told APP.

They said Pakistan Railways has not the first time conducted an operation against ticketless passengers on a large scale,

adding that these types of crackdowns had taken place daily.

The sources said that ticketless traveling was illegal, and those who were caught without a ticket were charged a ticket price for the whole journey of the train besides the penalty. Those who do not pay are handed over to the railway police. To a question, they said that Pakistan Railways Police claimed to have arrested a total of 43,84 accused due to their involvement in violations of rules and laws and also registered some 3,803 cases against them in eight Railways divisions in one and half years.

Industry minister visits Iranian Consulate, meets Consul General, investors

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Industry and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain met with Iranian Consul General Mehran Mowahidfar and Iran's major investor group at the Iranian Consulate on Sunday.

The delegation was led by the CEO of Taman Petroleum and Petrochemical Investment Company Babak Afghani. During the meeting, there was a discussion on the opportunities to increase bilateral economic cooperation.

Addressing the delegation, Minister of

Industry and Commerce

Chaudhry Shafay Hussain expressed eagerness for Iranian investment in the LPG, tire industry, and other sectors, assuring that the government will provide all possible support. He stated that he would discuss the RD tax with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He emphasized the need to boost bilateral trade, noting that both countries would benefit. He also highlighted the importance of increasing people-to-people contacts to enhance trade cooperation, calling for Pakistan and Iran to

advance economic

collaboration. The minister also recalled visiting Iran with former Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, noting that the memories of that trip are still vivid in his mind.

Talking on this occasion, the Iranian council general said that Iran and Pakistan are brotherly Islamic countries, historical and cultural relations are established between the two, but effective measures are needed to promote trade relations between the two countries.

Nine more gas meters severed over violations

LODHRAN (APP): The Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) UFG Control Task Force raided and cut off nine more connections including two for commercial use across the region.

The teams under the directions of General Manager, continued its inspection of private hospitals and residential consumers.

According to the details, in Muzaffargarh, the task force disconnected a meter that had been relocated from one house to another.

Global importers demand climate reporting compliance by 2026: PFC CEO

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq has said that global importers linked purchases from Pakistani exporters with reporting climate compliance Oct 2023 and now every producer needs to make sure that it adopts the reporting practices by the year 2026.

Talking here on Sunday to a delegation of women entrepreneurs led by Ms. Hafsa Abdullah,

he said this shift is part of a broader trend where multinational companies are prioritizing sustainable practices in their supply chains to meet environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria. The move signals a growing demand for transparency in how goods are produced, especially concerning environmental impacts. The CEO said that Pakistani exporters now need to align with these evolving expectations.

Governor emphasizes importance of vocational education to address unemployment in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday stressed the role of vocational education in combating unemployment and skills development in the province.

The governor made these comments during a discussion with Gulmina Bilal Ahmad, Chairperson of the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) at Governor House. During the meeting, NAVTTTC presented an update on its initiatives aimed at promoting vocational education in KP.

The governor expressed his satisfaction with the progress and highlighted the importance of involving as many young people as possible in these

activities. He said that economic difficulties are a major source of unrest among youth and emphasized that empowering youth and women is among his top priorities.

Governor Kundi pointed out that while there is a global demand for skilled labour, the lack of vocational training tailored to international standards often leaves Pakistani youth unable to secure jobs abroad. He welcomed the Prime Minister's decision to increase the budget for vocational education, stressing the need for training programs that meet modern requirements and international needs.

The governor commended NAVTTTC's efforts in launching courses in agriculture, IT and other

fields, and discussed various proposals for further enhancing vocational education. He assured the NAVTTTC Chairperson of full support from the Governor House to ensure a better future for the new generation. Meanwhile, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi praised overseas Pakistanis and discussed social projects in a meeting at the Governor House with prominent social activist Imran Agra, a leader in the overseas Pakistani community-based in the United States. Social figures Malik Kifayat and Zahid Saleem from Islamabad were also present on this occasion.

During the meeting, Governor Kundi commended the overseas Pakistanis.



PESHAWAR: Jamal-e-Islami Peshawar Chief, Bahrullah Khan along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Peshawar press club.

Security plan finalized for Chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA)

MULTAN (APP): Police have finalized a security plan for the Chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) to avoid any untoward incident here on Sunday. As per directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Sadiq Ali Dogar, the police have finalized the plan to ensure foolproof security arrangements for the Chehlum. According to police sources, a total of nine mourning processions would be taken out in the

district out of which three have been declared sensitive in category A while eight Majalis among 29 have been declared sensitive. The police have decided to deploy over 2,000 officials and a special squad has also been formed under the supervision of CPO Sadiq Ali Dogar, which conducted search operations on a daily basis at Majalis points and mourning procession routes.

Bilal Yaseen checks milk quality at Sabeel points

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Food Minister Bilal Yaseen Sunday checked the quality of milk at 'Sabeel' points, set up at Data Darbar and in its surroundings in connection with the ongoing annual urs celebrations of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhs.

According to official sources, the minister directed the dairy safety teams to check quality of milk at entrance points of the provincial capital besides checking the milk quality in old city of Lahore.

Bilal Yaseen said that food safety teams of the Punjab Food Authority would remain deputed in surroundings of the Darbar till the last day of urs.

He said that supervision of food items would also be carried out at food preparing centres in the surroundings of the Data Darbar and added that poor quality of food items would not be tolerated at all.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Health and Chairman Cabinet Committee for Law and Order Khawaja Salman Rafique inspecting the arrangement regarding Chehlum route during his visit to Central Control Room.

Minister promises foolproof security for Chehlum, Data Ganj urs

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister and Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order Khawaja Salman Rafique said on Sunday comprehensive security arrangements had been made for the Chehlum of Karbala martyrs and the urs of Ali Hajveri Data Ganj Bakhs.

During a visit to the central control room of the Home Department here, the minister reviewed the monitoring system in place for the chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his

companions. He was briefed by the relevant officers on the security measures.

Khawaja Salman Rafique stated that the processions and gatherings are being closely monitored across the province, with officers from the Home Department working round-the-clock to ensure safety. He highlighted that extraordinary security measures have been implemented for 514 processions and 917 assemblies throughout Punjab.

DC Mirpurkhas urges parents to join fight against Polio

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rashid Masood Khan has emphasized the importance of addressing concerns and persuading parents who refuse to vaccinate their children against polio.

Chairing a meeting on Sunday to review preparations for the upcoming anti-polio campaign (September 9-13), Dr. Khan stressed the need for collective effort and serious commitment to eradicate the disease.

The campaign will deploy 1070 teams, including fixed, transit and area-in-charges to ensure widespread coverage. Officials were instructed to resolve any issues promptly and review team performance regularly.

The meeting also highlighted the significance of nutrition in combating polio, with calls for integrating nutrition programs into health centers. Attendees included Additional Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali Baloch, Assistant Commissioner, representatives from WHO, UNICEF and related departments.

Police to provide foolproof security for Data Ganj Bakhs urs

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore police have made extensive security arrangements for the 981st urs of Hazrat Ali Hajveri, popularly known as Data Ganj Bakhs (RA). According to a police spokesman on Sunday, over 4,000 police personnel have been deployed for the three-day urs celebrations. The security force includes six superintendents of police (SPs), 22 deputy superintendents of police (DSPs), 79 station house officers (SHOs), and 297 upper subordinates,

ensuring a robust presence throughout the event.

To enhance the safety of female visitors, lady police officials have been assigned for security duties and the checking of women entering the premises. In addition, 81 checkpoints, nine check-posts, and 12 walk-through gates have been established around Data Darbar to maintain strict security protocols.

The CCPO Lahore affirmed that stringent security measures are in place to protect thousands of devotees expected.

Power struggle underway in PTI: Azma Bokhari

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari said on Sunday that after the takeover of the Zaman Park house, a power struggle is underway between Aleema Khan and Bushra Bibi for control of the party.

In a statement, she said the conflict between the sister-in-law and the wife has been ongoing since the marriage. "Barrister Saif is irrelevant; no one in the party knows him. Neither Bushra Begum nor Aleema Khan is familiar with Saif." She expressed these thoughts in response

to Barrister Saif's statement.

She added, "Barrister Saif, you might remember that a trickster who tried to split the Muslim League has already completed a 40-day Chilla. You should inform the people about the performance of your fake 'Maula Jatt' Chief Minister.

You people claimed you came to change the fate of the province. But Ali Amin Gandapur and his associates are looting Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's resources with both hands.

LAHORE: A huge number of devotees of Hazrat Ali Bin Usman Hajveri, popularly known as Data Ganj Bakhs (RA) are gathered to attend 981st Annual Urs celebrations held at his shrine in Lahore.



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CM's Sarkain Bahal Punjab Khushal program going on in full swing

LAHORE (APP): The recently initiated Sarkain Bahal Punjab Khushal Program of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif is going on in full swing in the province, including South Punjab.

Provincial Minister for Communication and Works Punjab Mr Sohaib Ahmed Bherth also inspected Adda Bootipal road (4.5 km) and directed to gear up the pace of work.

He also directed the Highway team to get the technocrat opinion of LBDC Canal bridge. He also inspected old GT road in Sahiwal city and directed to work on the plan of road repair. Furthermore, he visited Okara district where he was briefed about fifteen ongoing projects.

International News

Hamas negotiators in Cairo; 50 killed in Israeli strikes on Gaza

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Hamas said its negotiators arrived in Cairo on Saturday to hear about the latest round of Gaza ceasefire talks from mediators after the UN reported badly worsening humanitarian conditions, with malnutrition soaring and polio discovered.

Israeli military strikes across Gaza killed 50 people on Saturday, Palestinian health authorities said. Victims of bombings over the past 48 hours remain lying on roads where fighting continues or trapped under rubble, the authorities said.

Gaza to 338 since it launched a ground offensive in the Palestinian territory on Oct 27.

Months of on-off talks have so far failed to produce a breakthrough to end Israel's devastating bombardment of Gaza.

In Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has locked horns with ceasefire negotiators over his insistence that Israel will not pull out of the so-called Philadelphia Corridor in the south of the Gaza Strip, a person with knowledge of the talks said.

The Philadelphia Corridor, along the border with Egypt, and the Netzarim Corridor cutting across the middle of the Gaza Strip, have been two of the main sticking points in talks backed by Egypt, Qatar and the United States.

Israeli negotiators were in Cairo on Thursday to meet mediators from the United States, which has presented a "bridging proposal" aimed at resolving continued disputes, focused on Israel's presence in strategic areas of Gaza.

But there was no sign of any breakthrough on key sticking points, including Israel's insistence that it must retain control of the Philadelphia Corridor, on the border between Gaza and Egypt.

He has also accused Israel of going back on issues it had previously agreed to in the talks. The group says the United States is not mediating in good faith.

Netanyahu has repeatedly insisted that Israel will not give up control of the Philadelphia Corridor, accusing Hamas of smuggling weapons and fighters across the border with Egypt.

He has also said Israel must maintain checkpoints in the Netzarim Corridor to stop the "movement of Hamas fighters from southern Gaza into the north".

Meanwhile, the Israeli military said on Saturday that three reserve were killed in Gaza Strip the previous day.

The officers, two major generals and a lieutenant colonel, were killed in central Gaza, the military said.

The latest deaths bring the military's losses in

to launch a heavy barrage of rockets and missiles toward Israel. Soon after, Hezbollah announced it had launched an attack on Israeli military positions as an initial response to the killing of Foad Shukur, one of its founders, in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut last month. The attacks came as Egypt hosts a new round of talks aimed at ending the Israel-Hamas war. Hezbollah said it will halt the fighting if there is a cease-fire in Gaza. Iran supports both groups as well as fighters in Syria, Iraq and Yemen who might join any larger conflict.

Air raid sirens were reported throughout northern Israel, and Israel's Ben-Gurion international airport diverted incoming flights and delayed take-offs for a time.

Israel stages heavy airstrikes on Lebanon after Hezbollah attack over slain top commander

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Israel launched a wave of airstrikes across southern Lebanon early Sunday in what it said was a pre-emptive strike on Hezbollah, as the group said it had launched hundreds of rockets and drones to avenge the killing of one of its top commanders last month.

The heavy exchange of fire threatened to trigger an all-out war that could draw in the United States, Iran and other groups across the region. It could also torpedo efforts to forge a cease-fire in Gaza, where Israel has been at war with the Palestinian group Hamas, an ally of Hezbollah, for over 10 months.

The Israeli military said Hezbollah was planning

to launch a heavy barrage of rockets and missiles toward Israel. Soon after, Hezbollah announced it had launched an attack on Israeli military positions as an initial response to the killing of Foad Shukur, one of its founders, in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut last month. The attacks came as Egypt hosts a new round of talks aimed at ending the Israel-Hamas war. Hezbollah said it will halt the fighting if there is a cease-fire in Gaza. Iran supports both groups as well as fighters in Syria, Iraq and Yemen who might join any larger conflict.

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Telegram messaging app CEO Durov arrested in France

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: Pavel Durov, the Russian-French billionaire founder and CEO of the Telegram messaging app, was arrested at Bourget airport outside Paris on Saturday evening, TF1 TV and BFM TV said, citing unidentified sources.

Durov was travelling aboard his private jet, TF1 said on its website, adding he had been targeted by an arrest warrant in France as part of a preliminary police investigation.

TF1 and BFM both said the investigation was focused on a lack of moderators on Telegram, and that police considered that this situation allowed criminal activity to go on undeterred on the messaging app.



Syria's President Bashar al-Assad speaks to the Syrian parliament in Damascus, Syria.

Ukraine marks 33rd Independence Day anniversary as war against Russia reaches 30-month milestone

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: A somber atmosphere pervaded Ukraine's 33rd Independence Day on Saturday, as the nation's fight to repel Russia's full-scale invasion reached a 30-month milestone. No fireworks, parades or concerts were planned and instead Ukrainians marked the day with commemorations for civilians and soldiers killed in the war. Ukrainians flooded social media with messages of gratitude and support, greeting each other

and thanking the soldiers on the front lines. In the outpouring of unity, there's a shared acknowledgment that the two-and-a-half years have been tough, with fatigue increasingly setting in.

"Independence is the silence we experience when we lose our people," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said to the nation. "Independence descends into the shelter during an air raid, only to endure and rise again and again to tell the enemy.

Egypt warns visiting US general on Lebanon risk

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi warned America's top general during a meeting on Sunday of the dangers of a major conflict in Lebanon.

US Air Force General C.Q. Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, arrived in Egypt hours after a significant missile exchange between Israel and Lebanese Hezbollah. Hezbollah launched hundreds of rockets and drones at Israel and Israel said it struck Lebanon with about 100 jets to thwart a bigger attack, in one of the largest clashes in more than 10 months of border warfare.

Indian fence sparks border tension with Bangladesh

Monitoring Desk
KOLKATA: Security forces from India and Bangladesh had a tense confrontation this week over the construction of a fence supposedly meant to keep cattle from straying over their shared border, officials said on Saturday.

Relations between both countries are fragile after the August 5 overthrow of autocratic Bangladeshi ex-premier Sheikh Hasina, who is now in exile in India after a student-led uprising toppled her.

New Delhi was

Hasina's biggest patron and benefactor and many Bangladeshis have since been openly critical of their bigger and more powerful neighbour for backing her 15-year rule.

The latest dispute arose on Thursday, when India's Border Security Force (BSF) claimed they were stopped from erecting the fence by their Bangladeshi counterparts.

"Tension flared up after Bangladesh border guards sought to block the building of a cattle fence," BSF deputy inspector general A. K. Arya said.

Floods kill 13 in Indonesia's North Maluku, two injured

Monitoring Desk
JAKARTA: Thirteen people were killed and two injured in Indonesia's North Maluku province on Sunday after floods in the east of the sprawling archipelago, authorities said.

The country's disaster management agency BNPB said the floods, caused by heavy rain since Saturday, also badly damaged 10 houses in Ternate city.

China, Philippines clash in South China Sea despite efforts to rebuild trust

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: The Philippines and China clashed in disputed waters of the South China Sea on Sunday over what Manila said was a resupply mission for fishermen, the latest in a series of sea and air confrontations in the strategic waterway.

The incident overshadowed efforts by both nations to rebuild trust and better manage disputes after months of confrontations, including a violent clash in June, in which a Filipino sailor lost a finger.

dangerously approached Chinese ships. In the incident near the Sabina Shoal, the Philippine South China Sea task force said Chinese vessels rammed and used water cannons against a Philippine Bureau of Fisheries ship transporting food, fuel, and medical supplies for Filipino fishermen.

For its part, the Chinese coast guard said the Philippine ship "ignored repeated serious warnings and deliberately approached and rammed" China's law enforcement boat, resulting in a collision. It added that responsibility for the collision lies entirely on the Philippine side. China asserts sovereignty over nearly all of the South China Sea, including areas claimed by the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam and Brunei.

The Philippines on Sunday accused China of "aggressive and dangerous maneuvers" to block the resupply mission. China's coast guard, meanwhile, said it had taken "control measures" against a vessel that had "illegally" entered the waters and repeatedly

US expands area in Mexico to apply for border asylum appointments, hoping to slow push north

Monitoring Desk
CIUDAD HIDALGO: As soon as she stepped onto Mexican soil this week, Venezuelan migrant Yuri Carolina Meléndez downloaded the U.S. government's app to apply for asylum appointments.

The CBP One app has been around, but as of Friday migrants in Mexico's southernmost states bordering Guatemala will be able to apply for appointments. Previously, they had to be in central or northern Mexico.

"I have to wait to see if it really works," the woman said while resting under a tree with her 16- and 18-year-old daughters along a border highway leading to the city of Tapachula this week.

Mexico has been asking the U.S. to expand the app's access to the south in an attempt to relieve the pressure migrants feel to continue north to at least Mexico City. In recent years, the Mexican government has tried to contain

migrants in the south farther from the U.S. border, but the lack of work opportunities and housing in southern cities like Tapachula have pushed migrants north.

Mexico hopes that if migrants can wait for their appointments in the south they might not risk getting snagged by authorities without papers or by organized crime groups that prey on migrants travelling north. With an appointment, they could, in theory, move without interference. US ambassador to Mexico calls proposed judicial overhaul a democracy "risk" and economic threat Germin Aleman, a 31-year-old from Honduras travelling with his wife and three children, planned to register as soon as they reached Tapachula. "We're going to apply here, we're going to wait for the appointment," he said as they walked from the border toward Tapachula. Others, however, still felt the pressure to get farther north.

Pak, Azerbaijan discusses future prospect for bilateral economic, trade ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Azerbaijan have discussed the prospect of bilateral economic and trade relations to further look at bilateral and multilateral cooperation in different sectors of the economy.

The Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov met Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan at the residence of Deputy Chairman Senate on Sunday. During the meeting, issues of mutual interest including bilateral relations and the overall situation of the region were discussed in detail.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Chairman Senate said that Pakistan values its fraternal relations with Azerbaijan and there is a need to increase cooperation between the two countries in the fields of economic and trade, investment, energy, defence, agriculture and natural resources.

The Deputy Chairman Senate said that there is an urgent need to promote investment and trade between the two countries

and it is necessary to remove the existing obstacles for the improvement of the economy. He said that Parliamentary and institutional cooperation can help promote relations at the public level.

Emphasizing bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the meeting, the Deputy Chairman Senate said that Pakistan will further promote economic relations with Azerbaijan. Syedaal Khan said that trade and investment opportunities can be found through frequent exchanges of delegations in business sectors.

He said that Pakistan, especially Baluchistan province is rich in mineral wealth and will prove to be important in changing the destiny of this region. Pakistan will prove to be the economic and trade hub of the region and investors and businessmen from all over the world should take advantage of the investment opportunities in Pakistan, he added.

The Deputy Chairman Senate said that the

relationship between Pakistan and Azerbaijan is based on religious and cultural values.

Emphasis was placed on the work of the delegations regarding the promotion of exchanges.

Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan said that the parliaments have a heavy responsibility for peace and development in the region.

He said that many lives and financial sacrifices have been made in Pakistan in the war against terrorism. Every possible measure will be taken for the peace and survival of this region, he said.

The Deputy Chairman briefed that the Indian government has set the worst example of cruelty and violation of human rights in occupied Kashmir. He said that the whole world should take strict measures against the ongoing cruelty and brutality in Palestine and for the freedom of the Palestinians. Islamic countries need to adopt a common plan of action.



CAIRO: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain attending an International Conference on role of women in building awareness.

BISP committed to uplifting downtrodden; a symbol of hope for millions of vulnerable individuals, families: Rubina

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Rubina Khalid Sunday reiterated the BISP programme is committed to uplifting the downtrodden, saying it has become a symbol of hope for millions of vulnerable individuals and families nationwide.

Talking to a private news channel, Chairperson Rubina Khalid attributed the programme's success to the dedication and hard work of BISP's team and the support of the government and stakeholders.

She reiterated the programme's commitment to continuing its vital work and expanding its reach to even more vulnerable populations.

Rubina Khalid announced the launch of a

unique skill development program aimed at empowering deserving women and their family members.

She highlighted the significance of skill development in today's fast-paced economy, adding that empowering women with skills is essential for their socio-economic uplift.

This program will not only enhance their employability but also enable them to start their businesses, breaking the cycle of poverty and dependence, she added. Rubina Khalid highlighted the introduction of a computerized system in BISP, aimed at ensuring transparency and efficiency in the program's operations. This technological advancement has revolutionized the way BISP functions, enabling real-

time monitoring and tracking of beneficiary data, payment disbursements, and program impact, she added.

The computerized system has also minimized the risk of errors and fraud, ensuring that benefits reach the intended recipients, she highlighted.

Replying to a query, she said with the new banking system in place, BISP beneficiaries will have greater control over their finances enabling them to make informed decisions about their economic well-being.

The Chairperson also emphasized that this technology-driven approach is a testament to BISP's commitment to innovation and excellence in serving the most vulnerable populations.

According to the spokesman, Governor Kamran Tessori participated in 'Dua-e-Nikkah' of Saad Edhi and extended best wishes for the couple and congratulated Faisal Edhi on his son's wedding.

Parliament has right to refine constitution: Musadik

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik has said the Parliament has the prerogative and responsibility to bring clarity to unclear constitutional provisions through amendments.

Talking to a private news channel, he said in the current circumstances, amendments are mandatory to keep the country on the right path.

Commenting on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf style of politics, he said PTI has a track record of challenging the state writ and attacking the institutions.

10-year-old girl's body found from garbage dump in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): A body of 10-year-old girl was found in a garbage dump in Karachi on Sunday, rescue officials said.

The body of a girl was found from a garbage dump in Lucky Star area of Saddar, Karachi. The body has been moved to the hospital for legal formalities.

The identity of the girl could not be ascertained as per initial reports.

On July 3, the first case was lodged by the police after the recovery of an unclaimed newborn body in Karachi.

Dengue cases surge in Sindh

KARACHI (INP): Sindh has witnessed a dramatic 135% increase in dengue cases in the first seven months of 2024 compared to last year. According to the Health Department, there were 440 reported dengue cases from January to July 2023, whereas the same period this year has already seen 1,034 cases. In total, Sindh has reported 1,167 dengue cases so far this year, with 1,022 of these cases originating from Karachi. The remaining cases include 83 in Hyderabad, 34 in Mirpur Khas, 12 in Sukkur, and 8 each in Larkana and Shaheed Benazirabad. Karachi's District East has been particularly affected, reporting the highest number of cases, with 329 dengue infections.

Salik Hussain highlights role of women in building awareness

CAIRO (Online): Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain has emphasized the transformative role of women in building awareness across religious, cultural, societal, and familial domains.

The federal minister was addressing the 35th International Conference on the role of women in building awareness in Cairo, Egypt on Saturday.

Chaudhry Salik Hussain highlighted women's significant role in addressing contemporary issues such as religious intolerance and promoting global peace.

"As we continue to advocate for gender equality and empower women, we must recognize their achievements, ensuring their voices and efforts are valued," he added.

He asserted to empower women for leadership roles and added: we not only honour their contributions but also enhance the inclusivity and depth of religious discourse, the federal minister added.

He stated that as we gather at this forum, our exploration of conference theme will delve into four critical areas where women have been and continue to be pivotal including religious awareness, cultural awareness, societal services, and the nurturing of family and child development.

He said each of these domains highlights not only the invaluable contributions of women but also the potential for further growth and impact as we continue to champion gender equity.

The minister said the role of women in building awareness, particularly in spreading knowledge, promoting good, and upholding justice, is well-recognized in Islam.

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PALANDRI: Twenty passengers killed when a coaster coming from Hawaii Kahuta to Rawalpindi fell into a ditch near Azad Pattan.

President, PM condemn terrorist attack on Police check post in Kurram

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday strongly condemned the terrorist attack on a police check post in Kurram.

In a message, he paid tribute to the police personnel who embraced martyrdom in the attack.

He offered his heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family members, praying for grant of courage for them to bear the loss

with equanimity.

He also prayed for the swift recovery of those injured in the attack.

President Zardari also prayed to Allah Almighty to grant high ranks to the martyred in Jannah.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday strongly condemned the terrorist attack on a police check post in Kurram district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

PN Academy cadets win int'l inter navies sailing championship in Sri Lanka

ISLAMABAD (APP): The cadets of Pakistan Naval Academy won the Commandant Cup Sailing Regatta held at Naval and Maritime Academy Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, where teams from the Navies of Sri Lanka, Pakistan, China and India took part in the competition.

The competition was held on internationally recognized classes of boats including Laser Radial and Enterprise categories. Pakistan Naval Academy won the competition with Silver medal in Laser Radial and a Gold medal in the Enterprise category, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

Mohsin Naqvi visits Data Darbar

LAHORE (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited Data darbar here on Sunday to attend the second day of Urs.

He placed a Chadar and flowers on the shrine. Mohsin Naqvi prayed for the development of the country and the prosperity of the people. He also prayed for the oppressed Muslims of Occupied Kashmir and Palestine.

Mohsin Naqvi also inspected the renovation project of Data Darbar, while the Secretary Aaqaf Punjab gave a briefing about the project and informed about the progress.

Mohsin Naqvi welcomed the devotees coming from all over the country and the world.

Dead body found in restaurant in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): The body of a man was found at a private restaurant in Defence Phase 5, near Badar Commercial, in Karachi.

Police confirmed that the body, identified as 42-year-old Danish, was discovered on the fourth floor of the restaurant and bore gunshot wounds.

Law enforcement officials, including police, have arrived at the scene.

Police stated that evidence is being collected from the crime scene. The victim, Danish, was a cashier at the restaurant. He was allegedly shot and killed by another cashier, identified as Zulfiqar.

PM working day and night to reform national institutions: Ishaq Dar

LAHORE (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said on Sunday that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif was working day and night to bring reforms in national institutions while the economy would soon be restored under his leadership.

He expressed these views while talking to the media on the occasion of participating in the urs celebrations of Hazrat Data Ganj Baksh. He said when the country's economy was taking off, obstacles were created. "May Almighty Allah not let this happen

this time; let us make Pakistan an economically prestigious country in the world," he prayed.

Provincial Food Minister Bilal Yasin and others were also present.

The deputy PM said he had already served the country as the finance minister, and this time he had been assigned many responsibilities. He said there was no doubt that Pakistan had suffered a lot economically during the past years, adding that "it was being predicted that the country would take 15 years to come out of the severe crises.

HYDERABAD: Sarwari Jamaat Head and Peoples Party (PPP) MPA, Makhdoom Jameel-uz-Zaman addresses to media persons during press conference held at Hyderabad press club.

Heavy to very heavy rains expected in Sindh from August 26: NDMA

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) anticipated more rains in Sindh as a strong system was likely to grip most parts of Sindh in the next 72 hours.

"Rain with heavy to very heavy falls are expected in the next 72 hours in Hyderabad Division, Karachi Division, Larkana Division, Mirpur Khas Division, Shaheed Benazirabad, Sanghar, Ghotki, Sukkur and Khairpur," the NDMA news release said on Sunday.

Heavy rainfall may cause urban flooding in the urban centers including Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur,

Nawabshah and Larkana.

The NDMA urged all relevant authorities and the public to take necessary precautions to mitigate the potential impacts of flash and urban flooding as well. It issued instructions to all relevant departments to alert Emergency Response Teams and mobilized resources to ensure a swift response to any arising situations.

The public is advised to remain vigilant and follow instructions from local authorities, it said and advised the public to stay informed and download 'Pak NDMA Disaster Alert' mobile app for timely alerts and closely monitor weather reports.



LARKANA: Moria Loop Bund is being strengthening by the bank of River Indus, in perception of arrival of flood water in the Indus Rive, pressure of water increased day by day on the embankment, near Larkana.

DC established Control room for Chehlum Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA)

NAWABSHAH (APP): Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Shehryar Gul Memon has established a district control room in Safe City Police Line to review the law and order situation and provide information on the occasion of Chehlum Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA).

Assistant Commissioner Ghulam Murtaza Zardari (Mobile No. 03003283137) and In-charge Safe City Inspector Mahmood Akhtar Arain (Mobile No. 03003214039) have been appointed in charge of the District Control Room.

According to a hand-out issued by the district information office, the telephone numbers of Control rooms are 0244930454.

District Control Room Deputy Commis-

sioner Staff Officer Muhammad Nadeem Rind (Mobile No. 0301344223) and DIB Incharge Naeem Akbar Shato (Mobile No. 03003231456) have been appointed as focal persons for the District Control Room.

Assistant Commissioner Ghulam Murtaza Zardari (Mobile No. 03003283137) and In-charge Safe City Inspector Mahmood Akhtar Arain (Mobile No. 03003214039) have been appointed in charge of the District Control Room.

According to a hand-out issued by the district information office, the telephone numbers of Control rooms are 0244930454.

District Control Room Deputy Commis-

Hindus celebrate Thadri in northern Sindh

SUKKUR (APP): The Hindu minority community across northern Sindh celebrated the Thadri (meaning Thadhro, cold) festival here on Sunday.

The Thadri is a famous traditional festival, celebrated in the Siraman/Saawan month of the monsoon season.

On this day women decorate the doorways of their houses and do mud plaster to their kitchens.

No cooking activities were done on this day.

Sweet roties are exchanged with relatives and friends and if needed women cook fresh food or tea in the temporary fireplace. It has also been learned that in Sindh "Thadri" reflected a tribute to Shilta Mata, who was believed to cure chicken poxes (Achbira).

Talking to APP, Sukkur's Mukhi Aishwer Lal said thousands of years ago, when the land of Moen-Jo-Daro was dug, a statue of Shilta Devi was found and since then this day has been dedicated to the deity.

Police confirmed that the body, identified as 42-year-old Danish, was discovered on the fourth floor of the restaurant and bore gunshot wounds.

Law enforcement officials, including police, have arrived at the scene.

Police stated that evidence is being collected from the crime scene. The victim, Danish, was a cashier at the restaurant. He was allegedly shot and killed by another cashier, identified as Zulfiqar.