

# Independent

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 06. No. 189 Safar 21, 1445 AH Tuesday August 27, 2024 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

## Musakhail, Kalat, Bolan, Noshki, Mastung hit: At least 39 dead in multiple incidents of terrorism in Balochistan

**23 passengers gunned down after they were offloaded from the passenger buses and other vehicles in Musakhail; Police, levies personnel among 10 killed in armed attack in Kalat; Six bodies were discovered in Bolan; CM strongly condemns terrorism act; seeks report, orders investigations; Governor grieved over martyrdom of passengers in Musakhail; directs to arrest elements involved**

### Independent Report

QUETTA: As many as 23 passengers and some personnel of levies and police among at least 40 persons were killed mostly gunned down and some got injured by the unknown armed assailants in multiple incidents of terrorism occurred in different parts of Balochistan province including Musakhail, Kalat, Bolan, Noshki.

The official reports suggested that most of the terrorism incidents were occurred between the night of August 25-26.

Only in one horrific incident, some 23 passengers were gunned down af-

ter they were offloaded from the passenger buses and other vehicles in Rada Sham area of Musakhail, the official reports suggested.

The Senior Superintendent of Police, Musakhail Ayub Achakzai told that at least 23 passengers were killed after being offloaded from passenger buses and trucks in the Radasham area of Musakhail.

He told that the armed men blocked the inter-provincial highway and offloaded passengers from the vehicles after identification and then shot them dead.

Police and Levies reached the site of the incident and bodies were shifted to the nearby hospital, he added.

Meanwhile, speaking to the media, the spokesman of provincial government, Shahid Rind said that the militants had attacked on two to three fronts where they faced retaliation and resistance from the security forces and law enforcement agencies (LEAs). However, he added, that the terrorists exploited the dark to carry out the Musakhail attack where they offloaded the passengers from the buses and shot them after identification.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a rain-emergency meeting at CM House.

## CM alerts local bodies, administration in view of heavy rainfalls

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah chairing a meeting to discuss emergency measures in response to heavy rainfall alerted all local bodies, district administration, and the Irrigation department to be prepared for timely action in case of any emergency.

The meeting was attended by provincial ministers including Sharjeel Memon, Saeed Ghani, Jam Khan Shoro, Makhdoom Mahboob, Advisor Najmi Alam, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Mayor Sukkur Arslan Shaikh, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, SMBR Baqaullah Unar, Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi, Secretaries - Livestock Kazim Jatoti, Secretary Rehabilitation Waseem Shamsad, Raheem Shaikh, Local Govt Khalid Hyder Shah, Health Rehan Baloch, Irrigation Sarfraz Ahamd, representatives of Corps Headquarters, COMKAR, DG PDMA Salman Shah, and other concerned officers. Mayors, Commissioners and deputy commissioners of other divisions attended the meeting via video link.

The PDMA DG told that the Pakistan Meteorological Department has reported that a well-marked low-pressure area over central India has intensified into a depression over Madhya Pradesh and is expected to move west-southward, possibly reaching eastern Sindh on the night of August 26.

This weather system is likely to bring strong monsoon currents into Sindh, resulting in the conditions as follows: Tharparkar, Badin, Thatta, Sujawal, Hyderabad, Tando Muhammad Khan, Tando Allahyar, Mattiari, Umerkot, Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, Jamshoro, Dadu, Kambar Shahdaddock, Jacobabad, Shikarpur, and Larkana districts may experience rain, wind-thunderstorms with scattered heavy-very heavy to isolated hefty falls from tonight until August 31, with occasional gaps.

Ghotki, Sukkur, Khairpur, Kashmore, Naushahro Feroze, and Shaheed Benazirabad districts are likely to experience rain, and thunderstorms with few heavy to isolated hefty falls from August 26<sup>th</sup> to August 30<sup>th</sup>, with occasional gaps.

Karachi Division may experience wind-thunderstorm/rain with scattered heavy to isolated very heavy falls during August 27 - 31, with occasional gaps. Moreover, the Flood Forecasting Division of the Pakistan Meteorological Department has issued a warning that severe flash flooding is expected in areas along the Kirthar range, Jacobabad, Kambar-Shahdaddock, Dadu, and Jamshoro districts from August 27 to August 31.

## 21 terrorists killed, 14 security officials martyred in Balochistan anti-terrorism operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): As many as 14 valiant sons of the soil including soldiers and personnel from the Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) embraced martyrdom while eliminating 21 terrorists in different counter-terrorism activities, initiated promptly after the terrorists attempted to conduct numerous heinous activities in different areas of Balochistan on the night of August 25th and 26th.

"On behest of inimical and hostile forces, these cowardly acts of terrorism were aimed at disrupting the peaceful environment and development of Balochistan by targeting mainly the innocent civilians, especially in Musa Khel, Kalat and Lasbela Districts. Resultantly, numerous innocent civilians embraced shahadat," the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a news release said.

The ISPR informed that the terrorists had stopped a bus in general area Rara Sham, in Musa Khel District and maliciously targeted innocent citizens, working in Balochistan to earn their livelihood.

"Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies immediately responded and successfully thwarted the evil design of terrorists to sent twenty-one terrorists to hell in ensuing clearance operations, ensuring security and protection of local populace," it said.

However, during the conduct of operations, fourteen brave sons of soil including ten Security Forces soldiers and four personnel of Law Enforcement Agencies, having fought gallantly, rendered the ultimate sacrifice and embraced shahadat (martyrdom).



ISLAMABAD: Commander of the Ground Forces of the People's Liberation Army of China, General Li Qiaoming calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## Governor Tessori reviews arrangements for Chehlum procession at Nishtar Park

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori visited Nishtar Park here on Monday morning and reviewed the arrangements for the main procession of Chehlum of Imam Hussain (R A) and his companions who embraced martyrdom at Karbala.

Governor Kamran Tessori was briefed about the foolproof security measures adopted by the concerned administration on the occasion.

The Governor expressed satisfaction with the administrative measures taken by the city administration.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Tessori said the Government had made the best possible arrangement for the security of the procession of Chehlum of Imam Hussain (R.A).

The elements involved in the incident that happened yesterday would soon be identified, the Governor said and added that all the Ulama belonging to different schools of thought are agree on the point that this incident is a conspiracy to deteriorate the peaceful environment of the city.

Kamran Tessori said the security forces personnel had sacrificed their lives in the restoration of law and order in the city of Karachi and we will not let these sacrifices go in vain.

He said there is constant coordination between IG Sindh, Additional IG Karachi, and officers of other security agencies to maintain order, while a control room has already been established at the Governor's House to monitor the situation.



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) Leader, Syed Mustafa Kamal talking to media persons, outside Accountability Court in Karachi.

## Chehlum processions continue across country under tight security measures

KARACHI (INP): On the occasion of the Chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), heightened security measures are in place throughout the country, with restrictions like a ban on pillion riding in Sindh and mobile service suspensions in multiple cities. The processions include various symbols of mourning, such as Alams, Taziyas, and Shabeh Zulfanah.

In Karachi, the central Chehlum procession started from Nishtar Park and will follow its traditional route, concluding at Imambargah Hussainia Iranian, Kharadar.

The routes are heavily guarded, with roads blocked by containers, and mobile phone services have been suspended in several areas of Karachi to ensure the safety of the participants in the processions.

Air surveillance of the processions is also continuing in the city.

In Lahore, the central procession of Shabeh Tazia began at Haveli Alif Shah in Androon Delhi Darwaza and will conclude at Karbala Gamay Shah by night.

The Alif Shah Haveli's procession was preceded by a Majlis, where Allama Shabeh Haider Shirazi spoke about the virtues and sufferings of the martyrs of Karbala.

Rawalpindi saw seven major processions emerge from various Imambargahs, including Imam Bargah Ashiq Hussain, Colonel Maqbool, and others.

These processions will culminate at the Imambargah Qadeemi after Zanjir Zani at Banni Chowk to ensure the safety of the participants in the processions.



RAWALPINDI: Commander of the Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) Ground Forces, General Li Qiaoming paid respects at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada by laying a floral wreath during his visit to General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi.

## President Zardari reiterates nation's resolve to keep up fighting terrorism

**No form of terrorism is acceptable in the country. Our fight against terrorism will continue till the complete elimination of the scourge: PM**

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday strongly condemned a terrorist attack targeting a passenger bus in the Musakhel area of Balochistan.

They expressed their deep grief over the loss of precious lives in the attack and called for taking the perpetrators to task.

Both the president and prime minister prayed to Allah Almighty for peace for the departed souls and

strength for the bereaved families to bear the loss.

"The killing of innocent people is tantamount to killing the entire mankind.

The terrorists are enemies of the country, nation, and humanity," the president said and reiterated the nation's resolve to keep up fighting terrorism. Prime Minister Shehbaz directed the law enforcement agencies to carry out an immediate probe into the incident.

## PM Shehbaz terms Pak-China strategic ties vital for regional peace

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif says defense and strategic ties between Pakistan and China are vital for peace and stability in the region. He was talking to Commander of the Ground Forces of the People's Liberation Army of China, General Li Qiaoming, who call on the prime minister in Islamabad on Monday.

He said the deep-rooted ties between the two nations enjoy broad public, political, and institutional support in Pakistan, making them indispensable for the progress and development of both countries. The prime minister warmly welcomed General Li to Pakistan and underscored that Pakistan and China.

## COAS reaffirms commitment to fraternal ties with China

RAWALPINDI (Online): Commander of the People's Liberation Army Ground Forces General Li Qiaoming called on Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Muneer at the General Headquarters Monday.

The meeting afforded an opportunity for in-depth discussions on matters of mutual interest, regional security, military training, and measures to further augment bilateral defence cooperation.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori is taking the oath of office of Acting Chief Justice of Sindh High Court from Senior Justice Naimatullah Phulpoto during a ceremony at Governor House.

## Sindh Governor contacts Balochistan Governor, CM; condemns Musakhel incident

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori Monday contacted Governor Jafar Khan Mandukhel and Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti on the incident of killing of passengers in Musakhel area of Balochistan. The Governor Sindh strongly condemned the incident and said that

merciless terrorists did not deserve any pardon.

He said that targeting innocent citizens was a clear sign of sickness and brutality.

The Chief Minister of Balochistan said that the matter was being investigated and the terrorists would not be spared under any circumstances.

## Saeed Ghani wants early completion of MDA's housing schemes

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Local Government Minister, Saeed Ghani, has directed the officials of the Malir Development Authority (MDA) to ensure the earliest completion of the MDA's projects initiated to serve the people.

The Local Government Minister stated this while chairing a meeting in his office on Monday and attended by the MDA's officials.

Ghani was briefed in detail about the MDA's development initiatives and was also informed about

problems in carrying out development works for three ongoing projects of the MDA.

He asked the officials to compile reports on the issues hindering the completion of the MDA's development initiatives and submit these details to him so that the Sindh government could remove these bottlenecks.

He said the MDA should ensure the earliest completion of its proposed housing schemes to provide inexpensive accommodation facilities to the people.

## Waqar Mehdi condemns brutal killing of innocent people in Balochistan

KARACHI (APP): General Secretary Pakistan People's Party Sindh and Special Assistant to Chief Minister Waqar Mehdi Monday strongly condemned the brutal killing of innocent civilians by terrorists in Balochistan.

Targeting innocent people by checking identity cards was a very cowardly act, Waqar Mehdi said in a statement. He demanded of stern action against the terrorists.

Mehdi said that as long as the last terrorist and their facilitators were there, the war against terrorism will continue. He prayed for elevation of ranks for the martyrs and expressed sympathy with the bereaved families.

## Bilawal condemns killing of innocent citizens in Musa Khel

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has strongly condemned the killing of innocent citizens by the terrorists and anti-Pakistan forces in Musa Khel, Balochistan.

In a statement, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that it is strongly condemned that innocent people were targeted after identifying them through their identity cards.

He said this act of terror should and must not go without punishment for the perpetrators of this heinous crime. This is an inhuman act and every section of society should come together against these criminals, he added. Chairman PPP asked the Balochistan government to crush such elements and bring them to book. He said that the action against such criminals will continue until the last terrorist is eliminated.



KARACHI: Shiite Muslims chanting slogans against USA, Israel after Zohran prayer during mourning processions in connection of 40th day Chehlum-e-Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), grandson of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), at M.A Jinnah road in Karachi.

**Delayed funds**

A friend in need is a friend indeed. China, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE have lived up to the adage, rescuing Pakistan multiple times in recent years by propping up its international reserves through large cash deposits and loans, as well as rolling over their debt, to help it access IMF funds in order to avert a sovereign default.

Of late, though, they appear a bit hesitant to lend a helping hand as promptly. Little wonder these nations have not yet intimated the IMF of their decision to roll over their combined existing debt of \$12bn for another year. This is said to be one of the reasons the Fund removed Pakistan from the agenda of its Aug 30 Executive Board meeting where it was expected to sign off on the recently concluded staff-level agreement for a new bailout package of \$7bn over the next 37 months.

Earlier, these countries had turned down a request from Islamabad to extend the maturity of these loans for a period of three to five years to allow 'predictability' through the IMF programme tenure. The other factor delaying the loan's approval pertains to Islamabad's failure to arrange funds well in time to plug an external financing gap of \$2bn, which both the finance minister and State Bank governor had earlier described as an easy task. Strapped for cash, Pakistan has now reached out to Riyadh for an additional debt of \$1.5bn on top of the existing \$5bn deposits, as well as Middle Eastern banks for the rest of the money to bridge the external financing gap. Unless the government is able to secure these funds, the IMF Executive Board might not close the deal even in September.

Pakistan will eventually secure the required debt rollovers from the friendly states, as well as fresh Saudi funds — and possibly commercial loans — that will give it access to IMF dollars and unlock other multilateral financing. Still, the experience of dealing with the IMF and bilateral lenders during the last few years underlines the country's decreasing geopolitical influence that was once considered sure insurance for significant financing from a range of Western and Arab lenders and donors whenever required.

Today, we find ourselves in a situation similar to where Sri Lanka was a year ago after it declared bankruptcy. It took months and firm commitments from bilaterals like China before the IMF concluded a loan deal with Colombo. For the last three years, our foreign policy has mostly revolved around just one point: how to borrow and from where to borrow. The situation has become untenable. It is time we tried to change and stand on our feet rather than look outside for charity. This can be very tiring for our friends.

**Teacher licensing**

Ali Nawab

The recent initiative of teacher licensing demonstrates the Sindh government's commitment to ensuring quality teachers in public sector schools where the low academic achievement of students has generally been associated with the low capacity of teachers. The first phase of the licensure test has been conducted although the pass percentage was quite disappointing (17 per cent). This result generates further concerns related to the quality of teachers and teacher education institutes in the province. Relying solely on a licensure test is unlikely to fulfil the goal of having quality teachers.

Although a common practice in many countries, the licensure test is one of several measures to determine the competency of potential teachers for the profession of teaching. It is because the written test lacks the space and possibility to assess the important characteristics of potential teachers. Teaching is a complex and tempo-relational process that requires different responses to different situations. Someone might be very good at theory and in written aspects but not necessarily in teaching or in the response to problematic situations. On the contrary, someone else could prove to be exemplary in teaching, but not be good in theory or writing. If we agree that being an effective teacher requires practical skills, then setting a high passing score and relying solely on a written test may eliminate effective teachers.

Consequently, in many countries, including the US, there is a growing focus on performance assessment or

the ability of prospective teachers to plan lessons, deliver instructions, engage students in meaningful activities, respond to problematic situations, assess student learning and reflect on their practice for further improvement. These are the acknowledged prerequisites to be an effective teacher, which a licensure test can barely assess.

A high passing score and sole reliance on the written test may lead to the exclusion of aspiring teachers, who come from marginalised and disadvantaged communities. Individuals, for example, from remote and backward areas as well as minority groups may not have access to quality education. Resultantly, it is less likely for the disadvantaged students to achieve the target score in the licensure test. Where other countries are working on diversifying teaching — for instance, Ireland — we may be limiting diversity in our schools and in the teaching profession. To ensure inclusion in learning, we must first ensure inclusion in the profession of teaching.

Since the quality of teacher education institutes will be associated with the performance of their students in the licensure tests, simply relying on the written test would make them focus only on those curricular components that are assessed in the tests. In this sense, the practice aspect of teaching will receive reduced attention in teacher education institutes. If so, the consequences would be predictable.

Teacher licensing in itself is not a guarantee of quality teachers. Many countries across the globe, such as Finland, Singapore, the Netherlands, Japan and Korea, do not require

any licensure test. It is to be noted here that these countries are well placed in international comparisons for student achievement. It suggests that quality teacher education, rather than the licensure test, determines the competency of a prospective teacher.

Thus, to ensure quality teachers for learners, a straightforward approach is required: improve the quality of teacher education institutes to produce quality teachers. These institutes must be mandated and supported to achieve certain levels of accreditation from the National Accreditation Council for Teacher Education. In addition, practical components such as teaching practice, or practicum or internship should be a compulsory part of the teacher education programme. It is crucial to provide prospective teachers with high-quality teaching practice experience. The evidence of effective teaching practice should be considered for licensure.

If those who have initiated the teacher licensing process are serious about the quality of teachers, their focus should be on practice and performance assessment. This could be achieved through improving the quality of teacher education institutes rather than licensure tests. Since other provinces in the country may introduce teacher licensing building on the experience of Sindh, how teacher licensing is implemented would have significant implications for education not only in this province but also across Pakistan. Thus those who are involved in teacher licensing should plan and implement it very consciously and cautiously. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Rise in renewables**

Zarrar Khuhro

One of the first major milestones in the development of renewable energy was way back in 1979, when US president Jimmy Carter installed 32 solar panels on the roof of the White House in order to power a water-heating system.

Clunky, inefficient and expensive by today's standards (they weighed 45 kilos each and cost a whopping \$28,000 to install) these panels served to heat water for the White House until they were removed during the Reagan administration, undoubtedly as a signal that the new Republican president preferred good old fossil fuels to these hippie-inspired and possibly commie ideas like sustainability and environmentalism.

The panels went into storage until at least one of them ended up in a museum in China. There's a certain irony to that, as China is currently leading the world when it comes to scaling up renewable energy, with twice as many solar and wind projects under construction as the rest of the world combined.

Right now, China has 180GW of solar power under construction along with 159GW of wind power, which far outshines the comparatively measly 40GW under construction in the US. In the first half of this year, China's clean energy generation has already exceeded the total amount of energy produced by the UK in a year from all sources.

Existing projects are also being expanded, like the Caipeng photovoltaic power station, which holds the record for being the highest solar power plant in the world, and the Xinjiang solar farm, which has the capacity to power all of Papua New Guinea for an entire year.

In fact, according to Reuters, China has installed so many solar panels that they're generating more energy than the

country's storage and transmission infrastructure can handle! And because China just refuses to think small, it is also manufacturing practically all of the world's equipment for producing solar panels and — because synergy is a good thing — is also now making over half of all new electric cars sold worldwide.

The US is, of course, trying to catch up and one landmark there is that for the first time, the US has this year produced more electricity from wind and solar than it does from coal.

It's not just the richer countries that are taking advantage of this energy revolution. In fact, the push for renewables could be a lifesaver for poorer countries saddled with high fuel import bills for power production.

Here Uruguay stands out as a great example; this South American country was highly reliant on imported oil and gas-based power and, much like Pakistan, greatly suffered from financial shocks whenever the prices of these commodities spiked.

Already at full capacity when it came to hydel power and unwilling to set up nuclear power plants that would rely on imported uranium, Ramon Mendez Galain, Uruguay's then director of energy, decided to bet on wind and solar power. He financed this by holding a series of clean power auctions where the private sector was offered long-term contracts at guaranteed rates, resulting in \$6 billion being invested in renewables in just five years.

In short, he went for the IPP route, only with a focus on renewable energy and with undoubtedly more reasonable terms than we got here in Pakistan. Now Uruguay is reaping the dividends of this approach, with energy production costs having been cut in half and new jobs being created by the clean energy sector.

Perhaps as importantly, Ramon's vision has also practically insulated his country from the shocks of foreign wars and resultant supply issues; from July 2023 to April 2024, Uruguay ran entirely on renewable energy!

There are certainly lessons here for Pakistan, which also pays far too high a price for fuel imports and is unable to withstand any financial shocks, resulting from high prices of imported fuel.

Like Uruguay, we too are primed to take advantage of the natural bounty of wind and solar power, and thankfully, we can now see significant movement in that direction. Recently, K-Electric announced its intention of setting up renewable power projects of a combined 640MW and bidding has already begun on one of these projects, a 150MW solar plant in Balochistan for which they received Pakistan's lowest tariff bid of PKR 11.2 per unit, establishing a new precedent in the Pakistani renewable space. The strong interest from international and local investors in the solar projects not only demonstrates Pakistan's investment potential but also promises significant economic benefits. In addition to this the Sindh government is planning a 550MW floating solar energy project at Keenjhar lake and similar projects are underway across the country and when these are online, Pakistan's energy sector may finally have its day in the sun.

Some may wonder why we are adding capacity when we can't seem to be able to pay for the capacity we already have (and in many cases aren't even using) but we have to understand that there are no quick fixes, and that moving towards renewables in a big way will definitely help us save big bucks in the future. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News****Action plan ready to reform power sector: Awais Leghari**

FAISALABAD (APP): Federal Minister of Energy Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari has said an action plan is on the anvil to introduce reliable reforms to the power sector with an objective to minimize line losses, bring down the cost of electricity production and pass its benefits on to consumers.

He expressed these views during a meeting at the Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) office along with Federal Secretary for Energy Dr Muhammad Fakhar Alam Irfan on Monday. He identified

power theft as a major shock to the national economy and said that the government had taken bold steps to contain the menace. He said that on the special directives of the Prime Minister, the electricity crisis had been reined in through revolutionary reforms and hoped that at least 40 percent more power pilferage would be controlled very soon.

He said that apolitical and independent members had been deputed in the Boards of Directors (BODs) of distribution companies (Discos) to check power theft and

provide best possible facilities to the consumers. He said that Discos had been given a free hand to check electricity theft and in this connection, impartial action would be taken against power pilferers. He expressed satisfaction over the performance of FESCO and said that power theft was not restricted to any province or region as it had plagued the entire country and the government would control it with an iron hand. He said that FESCO officers and staff must work hard to eliminate power pilferage on a permanent and sustained basis.

**Shell Pakistan reports Rs 1.3 billion profits**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Shell Pakistan Limited (SPL) has posted a profit after tax of Rs 1.3 billion for half year results for the company, compared to the profit after tax of Rs. 3.5 billion made in the same period last year.

According to a press release, in October 2023, Shell Petroleum Company Limited entered into a Share Purchase Agreement with Wafi Energy LLC for the sale of its entire shareholding in SPL.

This transaction is currently in progress. In April 2024, an

Addendum to the agreement was posted on the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), reflecting a change in the capital ownership structure of the Acquirer, where Wafi Energy Holding Limited replaced Wafi Energy LLC as the 'Acquirer'.

On July 27, 2024, a Public Announcement of Offer was made by Arif Habib Limited on behalf of Wafi Energy Holding Limited to further acquire up to 24,162,179 ordinary shares, representing 11.29% of SPL.

**Shipping activity at Port Qasim**

KARACHI (APP): Four ships, Beek-6, Fairchem Mako, Chemroute Pegasus and Asklipios scheduled to load/offload Rice, Palm oil, Chemicals and LNG, berthed at Grain Terminal, Liquid Terminal, Engro Terminal and Port Gas Terminal respectively on Sunday. Meanwhile seven more ships, MSC Positano, APL Antwerp, MSC Silvia, Lydia, Tivolo Park, Amorgos and Marangas Asclepius carrying Container, Mogas, Chemicals, Coal and LNG are arrived at outer anchorage port during last 24 hours.



FAISALABAD: Federal Minister for Energy, Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, chairing a meeting at FESCO Headquarters.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the Steering Committee Meeting on the Pakistan Raises Revenue Program (PRRP) at the Finance Division.

**Commerce minister pledges tax relief for sports goods exporters**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Government is steadfast in its commitment to reducing the tax burden on exporters, the Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Monday assured industry representatives during a key meeting with the Sectoral Council for Sports Goods.

The virtual meeting, held at the Ministry of Commerce, focused on addressing the challenges faced by the sports goods industry, with particular

attention to taxation and energy production policies, said a press release issued here. During the discussion, the Minister pledged to reconsider the current policy that imposes a cap of 100KW on solar energy production for export-oriented industries.

This move is expected to alleviate operational constraints and enhance the competitiveness of the sports goods sector, which heavily relies on sustainable and cost-effective energy solutions.

**Belarusian ambassador calls on Aleem Khan**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Belarus to Pakistan Andrei Meteltsa called on Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan and discussed issues of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation in various fields. In the meeting, the ambassador highlighted the "Transport Week" to be held in Belarus in September and its representation from Pakistan, said a press release on Monday.

He invited Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan to participate in this inter country event

in Belarus. Ambassador Meteltsa discussed with the minister regarding Pakistan's participation in the "Joint Memorandum" of transport with Russia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

Abdul Aleem Khan and the ambassador discussed joint projects in the fields of communication and transport and reviewed the possibilities of increasing the existing bilateral relations.

During the meeting, the minister said that mutual relations between Pakistan and Belarus, especially in trade matters can be increased further.

**Necessary step to be taken to ensure implementation of PRRP: Aurangzeb**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday said that the government will continue to engage with stakeholders and take necessary steps to ensure the successful implementation of Pakistan Raises Revenue Programme (PRRP).

The minister chaired the Steering Committee Meeting on the Pakistan Raises Revenue Programme (PRRP), which

was attended by the Minister of State for Finance & Revenue Ali Parvez Malik, Chairman Federal Board of Revenue, Secretary Economic Affairs Division and Secretary Planning Development and Special Initiatives, said a press release.

Secretary Maritime Affairs, Ms. Tania Airdus CEO Waseela, Salman Nasir CEO Ayesha Spinning Mills Limited Kamran Khalid Chief Product Officer Netsol

Technologies, senior officers from concerned ministries and FBR and key stakeholders from the private sector and relevant agencies also attended the meeting.

The meeting focused on the strategies to enhance Pakistan's revenue generation capacity. During the proceedings participants discussed multiple initiatives and reforms aimed at broadening the tax-base, improving tax compliance, and reducing revenue leakages.

**IESCO domestic consumers to get Rs 14 per unit relief**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The domestic consumers of Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) who used 201 to 500 units in August will get Rs 14 per unit relief in their electricity bills as per the orders of the Punjab Government.

According to the press release issued by IESCO, for consumers under domestic tariff batches 1 to 5 who have already paid their electricity bills, the excess amount will be adjusted in the September bills. For consumers in batches 1 to 5 who have not yet paid their August bills,

**APTMA, German delegation for enhancing bilateral trade**

LAHORE (APP): The All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) and a visiting delegation of German importers have agreed to enhance sustainability reporting to boost bilateral trade expansion.

The German delegation, led by Dr. Michael Arretz, Managing Director VFI e.V. German Importers and included Ms. Bettina Müller (Project Director, SEQUA), Mr. Christian von Mitzlaff (Supply Chain Due Diligence Consultant), and Mr. Sarim Mahmood (CEO FOS), visited the APTMA office here on Monday.

APTMA North Zone Chairman Kamran Arshad, along with Senior Vice Chairman Asad Shafi, Vice Chairman Ahmed Shafi, Mohammad Ali, Ismail Faeed Sh, Haroon Elahi and Secretary General Mohammad Raza Baqir welcomed the delegation.

The German delegation's visit aimed to explore opportunities for cooperation and synergies in the textile sector. Kamran Arshad emphasized the importance of the €45 million Technical Cooperation Agreement between Pakistan and Germany to enhance trade and investment.

## Kundi criticizes PTI for seeking NRO, pleading for release from jail

BUNER (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has criticized the leadership of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for allegedly seeking an NRO (National Reconciliation Ordinance) and pleading for release from jail.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said this while addressing the public meeting in Buner on Monday.

Governor Kundi praised the people of Buner for their sacrifices in maintaining peace, emphasizing that their contributions are well-recognized.

He welcomed the public enthusiasm and the joining of other parties into the PPP, describing it as a positive development.

Governor Kundi referred to the events of May 9 as unforgettable and criticized the previous government's performance.

He highlighted that the late Benazir Bhutto endured imprisonment and martyrdom for the country's sake, while former President Asif Ali Zardari spent eleven years in unjust detention without speaking against the country.

He criticized the leadership of PTI for allegedly seeking an NRO and pleading for release from prison.

Kundi expressed confidence that the public support indicates that the upcoming government will be led by the PPP.

Governor Kundi reiterated that providing

economic stability to women was a dream of Benazir Bhutto. He said that the Benazir Income Support Programme is a step toward fulfilling that vision.

Reflecting on 2008, Kundi recalled that when the PPP came into power, the province was engulfed in violence, but by 2012, they had managed to restore peace. However, he criticized the subsequent administration for failing to maintain stability.

He condemned the current state of unrest in the province, highlighting the prevalence of armed groups and the kidnapping of judges. Additionally, he criticized the rise in corruption and the inefficiency of justice institutions.



**LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health and Secretary Health Azmat Mehmood chaired meeting to review revamping in Government Hospital at Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department.**

## CM orders strict price controls on bread, flour

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, chairing a meeting on price control immediately after her return to Lahore from Murree on Monday, reviewed food prices, especially the prices of bread and flour, separately in each district.

The CM directed the authorities to never allow bread to be sold above the fixed price in any city, saying that flour should be supplied to people across the province at controlled rate.

The chief minister was briefed by Secretary Industry Ehsan Bhatta about the prices of essential commodities in the province. She was also briefed in detail about price control efforts of the

administration in different districts. She was apprised that as per a report of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Punjab has the lowest food rates compared to all other provinces.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif expressed satisfaction over price control mechanism in the province, and appreciated the efforts of administrative authorities in this regard.

Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Chairperson Price Control Task Force Salma Butt and MPA Sania Ashiq attended the meeting. Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Principal Secretary to CM Sajid Zafar Dal, Secretary Industry, Secretary Agriculture and other relevant officers were also present.

## Rapid population growth major national problem: SACM

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to KP CM on Population Welfare, Malik Liaquat Ali Khan Monday said rapid growth of population was one of the major national problems and matter of concern.

Addressing a seminar regarding family planning here under the auspices of 'Rahnuma' a civil society organization in collaboration with UNFPA, he stressed need for taking solid steps to prevent population growth and resolution of this serious problem.

Member KP Assembly Askar Pervez, former MPA Meher Sultana, Secretary Population Welfare Ammad Ali Lohani, Regional Director Population

Welfare Gohar Zaman and others also addressed the seminar. During the seminar, the authorities of 'Rahnuma' a civil society organization gave a detailed briefing on the control of the growing population and its prevention in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

They informed the special assistant regarding Family Planning Vision 2030 and its targets. Various suggestions for controlling of population growth, preventive plans, seeking of clerics support and cooperation in the acceleration of public awareness campaign, legislation, inclusion of subject in the curriculum and supply of medicines to the far-flung areas came under discussion.

## ANF seizes 373 kg drugs in 10 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 10 operations across the country managed to recover 373 kg drugs worth Rs 340 million and arrested 10 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that 783 grams ice was recovered from a Jeddah-bound passenger arrested at Lahore Airport.

1.140 kg ice and 50 grams heroin were recovered from a parcel booked for Australia at a courier office in Karachi.

In another operation, 190 kg heroin was recovered from Chaman area, 100 kg hashish and 22 kg opium were recovered from Pasni and Gwadar areas.



**LAHORE: Members of a charity distributing Langar, free food to devotees at the 981st annual Urs of Hazrat Data Ali Hajveri.**



**LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Labour and Human Resource Faisal Ayub Khokhar during his visit to Social Security Hospital Multan Road.**

## Minister takes urgent action on BSTH deteriorating condition

ABBOTTABAD (APP): KP Minister for Revenue Nazir Ahmed Abbasi, along with Tehsil Mayor Sardar Shujaat Nabi Monday paid a surprise visit to the Benazir Shaheed Teaching Hospital (BSTH) Abbottabad. During the inspection, they checked various departments including the Emergency, CCU, Medical Ward, and others, and addressed the concerns of patients and their families. The

Minister expressed grave concerns about the hospital's condition, particularly criticizing the poor state of cleanliness and sanitation. He announced plans to convene a high-level meeting in Peshawar to tackle the hospital's issues and instructed the hospital administration to prepare a comprehensive action plan for the meeting. This meeting will involve the Secretary of Health, the Minister of Health.

## One killed, 3 injured in road mishap

ATTOCK (APP): A six-year-old girl on Monday was killed and three others injured, two among them were women when a car overturned on Bassal-Pindigheb road.

The police sources said that a family belonging to the nearby village Kharappa was going in a car which overturned as the driver lost control over the vehicle due to overspeeding.

## SA session re-scheduled for Sept 2

KARACHI (APP): The sitting of the Provincial Assembly (PA) of Sindh has been re-scheduled for September 2, Monday. The Speaker Sindh Assembly Syed Awais Qadir Shah in exercise of powers conferred upon him has adjourned the setting, which was scheduled to be held on August 27 and now it would be held on September 2.

## Traffic pressure horns: A negative social practice irritates locals

PESHAWAR (APP): Once known as a City of Flowers, Peshawar is currently confronted with a monster problem of traffic pressure horns, which started unnerving the people.

Exposed to massive traffic jams almost every day, especially during peak hours in the morning and evening, Peshawarites are subjected to various health, mental, and psychological hazards due to unnecessary pressure horns of buses, trucks, rickshaws and other vehicles that continued to people's headache.

Despite many

complaints were made and rules framed; however, the implementation against pressure horns' laws has been declared unsatisfactory in KP.

"No doubt, pressure horns are a social curse. On Sunday last, I visited Peshawar where a truck's loud pressure horns affected my hearing structure and faced pains," said Kamal Khan, a resident of Nowshera while talking to APP.

The irritating and doubled hearing pains forced me to visit an ENT specialist for treatment, said Kamal, and questioned that who was responsible for his suffering without naming the PTI

Government.

ENT specialist and former professor of Khyber Medical College Peshawar, Dr Fazal Sattar said that using a pressure horn for an extended period can lead to hearing loss, as the loud noise can damage the delicate structures of the ear. Additionally, he said that such horns can be jarring and may cause physical discomfort to its victims due to sudden loud noise. Causing an extreme stress and anxiety in people exposed to it for extended periods of time especially traffic police, vendors shopkeepers, and drivers, he said that in some cases, air horns can even be dangerous and

cause accidents while driving or operating machinery.

Dr Sattar said many medical investigations conducted by experts at local and international levels have proved that noise pollution can cause physiological stress reactions such as high blood pressure besides increasing heart rate, speech, and sleep disturbance.

Besides hearing loss, he said that noise pollution could also caused cardiovascular problems associated with accelerated heartbeat, gastric intestinal, decrease in alertness and ability to memorize, and long-lasting effects such as

insomnia, nervousness, bulimia, chronically high blood pressure, anxiety, and depression.

In recent years, the noise pressure levels in all major cities including Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, and Rawalpindi have risen exponentially as unplanned and unmanaged urbanization continued to swell the urban sprawl.

Except for some posh townships, it is difficult to differentiate between a residential and commercial locality, offices, shopping plazas, and auto-repair workshops surround even schools, universities, and hospitals which should always be protected from noise pollution.

## International News

## Russia fires huge missile, drone salvo at Ukraine's power grid

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Russia launched about 200 missiles and drones at Ukraine on Monday, killing five people and striking energy facilities nationwide, Kyiv said, while neighbouring Nato member Poland reported a drone had probably entered its airspace.

Power cuts and water supply outages were reported in many areas, including parts of Kyiv, as officials said the attack — 2.5 years into Russia's full-scale invasion — targeted power or other critical infrastructure in at least 10 regions.

Russia dramatically stepped up its strikes on the Ukrainian power grid in March in what Kyiv has said looked like a concerted

effort to degrade the system ahead of next winter when people need electricity and heating most.

Monday's missile and drone salvo was Russia's most intense in weeks, coming as Ukraine is claiming new ground in a major cross-border incursion into Russia's southern Kursk region while Russian forces steadily inch forward in Ukraine's east, closing in on the transport hub of Pokrovsk.

"It was one of the biggest combined strikes. More than a hundred missiles of various types and about a hundred Shahed drones. And like most previous Russian strikes, this one is just as sneaky, targeting critical civilian infrastructure," President

Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Telegram.

Poland said an "object" had entered its airspace, that it may have landed on Polish territory and that searches were underway.

"Most likely it was a drone and we assume so, because the trajectory of the flight and the speed indicate that it was definitely not a missile," Jacek Gorzyszewski, spokesperson for the Polish army's operational command, told Reuters.

According to Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal, 15 Ukrainian regions sustained damage from the missile and drone barrage. Zelenskyy said the energy sector had suffered "a lot of damage".



**North Korean leader Kim Jong Un oversees a performance test of drones during a visit to the Drone Institute of North Korea's Academy of Defence Sciences at an undisclosed location in North Korea.**

## North Korea's Kim Jong Un oversees tests of 'suicide drones'

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un watched as new "suicide drones" took off and destroyed test targets including a mock tank, and urged researchers to develop artificial intelligence for the unmanned vehicles, state media reported on Monday.

Kim visited the Drone Institute of North Korea's Academy of Defence Sciences on Saturday and

viewed a successful test of drones correctly identifying and destroying designated targets after flying along different preset routes, state news agency KCNA said. Kim called for the production of more suicide drones to be used in tactical infantry and special operation units, such as underwater suicide attack drones, as well as strategic reconnaissance and multi-purpose attack drones, KCNA said.

## Russia skips UN meeting pledging respect for humanitarian law

**Monitoring Desk**  
GENEVA: Switzerland hosted United Nations Security Council members at a meeting in Geneva on Monday to recommit to international humanitarian law, describing an "alarming" global context characterised by over 120 armed conflicts, with Russia the only member absent.

Switzerland, which is one of the 15 members, organised the informal meeting to commemorate the Geneva Conventions, signed 75 years ago after World War Two in the Swiss city to limit the barbarity of war.

## UN 'concerned' by newly ratified Afghan morality law

**Monitoring Desk**  
KABUL: The UN mission in Afghanistan said on Sunday it was "concerned" about a morality law recently ratified by the Taliban authorities, criticising in particular restrictions on women.

The Taliban authorities on Aug 21 announced the codification of a law with 35 articles detailing wide-ranging behaviour and lifestyle restrictions based on their strict interpretation of Islamic law.

The law sets out graduated punishments for non-compliance —

from verbal warnings to threats, fines and detentions of varying lengths — enforced by the morality police under the Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice.

"It is a distressing vision for Afghanistan's future, where moral inspectors have discretionary powers to threaten and detain anyone based on broad and sometimes vague lists of infractions," said Roza Otunbayeva, head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

## China, Philippines clash in South China Sea

**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 overshadows 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.

The Philippines on Sunday accused China of "aggressive and dangerous manoeuvres" 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 approached Chinese ships in a dangerous manner.

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. Beijing has developed an armada of vessels to protect its claims.

## Rohingya refugees mark the anniversary of their exodus and demand a safe return to Myanmar

**Monitoring Desk**  
COX'S BAZAR: Tens of thousands of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar who live in sprawling camps in Bangladesh on Sunday marked the seventh anniversary of their mass exodus, demanding safe return to Myanmar's Rakhine state.

The refugees gathered in an open field at Kutupalong camp in Cox's Bazar district carrying banners and festoons reading "Hope is Home" and "We Rohingya are the citizens of Myanmar," defying the rain on a day that is marked as "Rohingya Genocide Day."

On Aug. 25, 2017, hundreds of thousands of refugees started crossing the border to Bangladesh on foot and by boats amid indiscriminate killings and other violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

Myanmar had launched a brutal crackdown following attacks by an insurgent group on guard posts. The scale, organization and ferocity of the operation led to accusations

from the international community, including the U.N., of ethnic cleansing and genocide. Then-Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ordered border guards to open the border, eventually allowing more than 700,000 refugees to take shelter in the Muslim-majority nation. The influx was in addition to the more than 300,000 refugees who had already been living in Bangladesh for decades in the wake of waves of previous violence perpetrated by Myanmar's military. Since 2017, Bangladesh has attempted at least twice to send the refugees back and has urged the international community to build pressure on Myanmar for a peaceful environment inside Myanmar that could help start the repatriation. Hasina also sought help from China to mediate. But in the recent past, the situation in Rakhine state has become more volatile after a group called Arakan Army started fighting against Myanmar's security forces.

## Australia gives millions of workers 'right to disconnect'

**Monitoring Desk**  
SYDNEY: Australia gave millions of workers the legal right to "disconnect" on Monday, allowing them to ignore unreasonable out-of-hours calls, emails and texts from their bosses.

People can now refuse to monitor, read, or respond to their employers' attempts to contact them outside work hours — unless that refusal is deemed "unreasonable".

Unions welcomed the legislation, saying it gave workers a way to reclaim some work-life balance.

"Today is a historic day for working people," said Michele O'Neil, president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

"Australian unions have reclaimed the right to knock off after work," she said. In the streets of Sydney, people appeared to welcome the change.

"I have a very hard time disconnecting and even

though I may not necessarily be logged on, my brain is constantly working overtime," not-for-profit worker Karolina Joeski told AFP.

"So getting that after-hour call from my boss doesn't necessarily help." But the reform got a cool welcome from Australia's top industry body.

"The 'right to disconnect' laws are rushed, poorly thought out and deeply confusing," the Australian Industry Group said in a statement.

"At the very least, employers and employees will now be uncertain about whether they can take or make a call out of hours to offer an extra shift," it said.

The law is similar to those of some European and Latin American countries.

Research indicates that the right to disconnect benefits employees, said University of Sydney associate professor Chris Wright.

## Brazil deploys military planes to fight wildfires in southeast

**Monitoring Desk**  
RIBEIRO PRETO: The Brazilian government is deploying military planes to combat wildfires ravaging Sao Paulo state in the southeast, as more than 40 cities have been placed on high alert, the regional development minister announced on Sunday.

Minister Waldez Góes said that four planes will be mobilised initially "to fight the flames and monitor affected zones." They include a KC-390 Embraer, a troop transport craft converted to be able to drop loads of up to 12,000 litres of water on fire zones.

Among the cities most threatened is Ribeirão Preto, with a population of more than 700,000, 300km from Sao Paulo.

Videos posted on social media showed Ribeirão Preto plunged into near-darkness by a dense layer of smoke. "It's apocalyptic. Lots of wind, lots of smoke — you can't even see the city."

## NA told Operationalization of Gwadar Airport likely by December

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Aviation Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Monday informed the National Assembly that the New Gwadar International Airport project has substantially completed, and its operationalization is expected by December after formal handovers and trials.

Responding to various questions during Question Hour, he said the New General Aviation Aerodrome near Muridke was substantially completed and would be operational by next month. It was anticipated that general aviation organizations and flying schools would be relocated to the new aerodrome within three to four months, he said.

Replying to another question, Khawaja Muhammad Asif said before the operationalization of Islamabad International Airport (IIAP), Cabinet Secretariat Aviation Division vide letter No 6-12/84-P&D dated 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2017 has forwarded a copy of Prime Minister's Office Islamabad letter No. 378/M/SPM/2017 dated 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2017

where in it has been directed PCAA to carry out a consultative exercise and initiate a summary for the Cabinet proposing possible names that can be given to the New IIAP Islamabad.

Accordingly, the PCAA has forwarded the summary to Aviation Division vide letter of even number dated 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 wherein the name of Liaquat Ali Khan International Airport was among the names which were proposed to be named for the airport, Liaquat Ali Khan International Airport, Fatima Jinnah International Airport, Abdul Sattar Edhi International Airport, Dr. A.Q Khan International Airport, Dr. Abdus Salam International Airport, Sardar Abd ul Rab Nishtar International Airport, Baba Bulleh Shah International Airport, Data Ganj Bakhsh International Airport, Muhammad Ali Jauhar International Airport and Ch. Rehmat Ali International Airport.

The name of Islamabad International Airport was formally declared by Cabinet Division

Memorandum dated 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2018, he added.

He said in 2017 a matter regarding naming newly constructed airport of Islamabad was discussed with the then Prime Minister, wherein, it was directed to submit proposals after making necessary consultations. Accordingly, few names were submitted to the Prime Minister vide Summary dated 06.06.2017. The then Prime Minister shortlisted two names i.e. IIAP and Gandhara International Airport for placing before the Federal Cabinet.

A summary for the Cabinet was initiated in this regard on 29.06.2017. After detailed consultations, Federal Cabinet ultimately approved Islamabad International Airport as new name for the newly constructed airport vide decision dated 28.02.2018, he said.

To a separate question, the Minister said Hyderabad airport has not been closed.

The airport retains an operational status and has all essential manpower and facilities, he added.



HYDERABAD: Security officials standing high alert as a large number of mourners attending Chehlum procession to commemorate the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) the grandson of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

## Sindh Home Minister for heeding 'Contingency Plan for Chehlum Security'

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar on Monday said that the priorities of the contingency plan should be a focus on the security arrangements for the Chehlum processions and congregations. The Home Minister stated, "The security measures from Nishtar Park to Hussainia Iranian Imambargah must be made exceptional in every aspect. Our priority should be to strengthen inter-district coordination to ensure peaceful and secure Chehlum from Karachi to Kashmir."

He further instructed that all schools of thought and religious leaders from various sects should come together on a single platform to play their individual and collective roles in maintaining peace.

The home minister said that the central processions, smaller gatherings, and congregations must receive comprehensive security coverage through joint efforts. Intelligence operations around the main processions routes should be enhanced, and bomb disposal squads must be deployed for sweeping and clearance at key entry points. The Home Minister also emphasized the need for effective patrolling and snap-checking to cover major mosques, Imambargahs, and other important locations. He directed all district SSPs to take personal responsibility for ensuring security and instructed SDPOs and SHOs to be present in their respective areas during the Chehlum observance.

## Governor Sindh seeks report from AIG in murder of teenage girl after rape

KARACHI (INP): Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori taking notice of murder of teenage girl after rape has directed the police to arrest the culprits.

According to details, gunny packed body of 12-year-old Kangna was recovered from garbage dump in Lucky Star, Karachi's Saddar area.

The body was shifted to Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) where medical report confirmed rape of the girl before murder.

Kamran Tessori has said that has sought report from Additional Inspector General (AIG) Police.

## PTI moves SC in reserved seats case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) on Monday approached the Supreme Court for implementation on verdict in reserved seats case.

Aziz Bhandari Advocated, on behalf of PTI, filed the miscellaneous application to the court. It prayed the court to terminate the petition of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for interpretation of the verdict.

The petition said that the basic structure of PTI exists as per the constitutional and the law. It said that the PTI has conducted intra party elections on March 3, and its details was submitted to the ECP.

The petition said that Barrister Gohar and Omar Ayub were elected as chairman and general secretary, respectively and they approved the association of members with PTI.

The petition said that the basic structure of PTI exists as per the constitutional and the law. It said that the PTI has conducted intra party elections on March 3, and its details was submitted to the ECP.

## PIA to be privatised on Oct 1, says official

ISLAMABAD (INP) - The government has decided to privatise the national flag carrier on Oct 1 this year. A special meeting of the Standing Committee on Privatisation was held under the chair of MNA Dr Farooq Sattar. The secretary briefed the committee on the latest update. Privatisation Division Secretary Jawad Paul said in the briefing that it had been decided to privatise the PIA on Oct 1, 2024. The process for the privatisation of the PIA will be completed in September.

During the meeting briefing, it was told that the PIA lost Rs500 billion in the last eight years. The airline had lost Rs80 billion in the last financial year alone. "The PIA has to make payments of Rs825 billion," he said. The Privatisation Division officials told the committee that no international company participated in the privatisation process. Committee member Sahar Kamran said the SIFC should be shut if international companies do not continue to invest.

## Sukkur experiences hot, humid, partly cloudy weather

SUKKUR (APP): Hot, humid and partly cloudy weather was recorded in Sukkur on Monday while the local MET office, predicted similar weather conditions for the next 24 hours.

Weather officials warned that torrential rains may cause flood/ inundation in low-lying areas of the Sukkur division from Monday night of 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> August while gusty winds/windstorm and lightning might damage weak structures like roof/wall of mud houses, electric poles, billboards, vehicles, and solar panels etc.

## 'Sympathizers of terrorists are terrorists'; says Interior Minister

LAHORE (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said that the sympathizers of terrorists at home or aboard and supporters of the acts of terrorism in different parts of the country are terrorists and the government will deal with them with an iron hand.

Addressing a press conference at the Gaddafi Stadium here on Monday, he said the government has undeniable proof that foreign hands are involved in the act of terrorism in Balochistan. He further said that Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is involved in terrorist activities in Pakistan and the terrorist outfit operates from Afghanistan, adding that the government has provided evidence to the Afghanistan government regarding Afghan land being used for subversive activities in Pakistan.

"TTP men released by the previous government are also undertaking terrorist acts in the country," the Interior Minister said.

He hinted at involvement of different foreign hands and some characters in creating instability in Balochistan, adding the government will expose all those elements who wish to destabilize Pakistan. He said those who attacked are terrorists, adding that the government is out to destroy terrorists.

On the acts of terrorism in Balochistan, he said the federal government supports the viewpoint of Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti, adding that the government will eliminate terrorists.

To a question, he said the decision to launch the 'Azam e Istehkam' operation in Balochistan is a tricky matter, adding that the political leadership will reach some decision in a few days. However, the Interior Minister assured that a tit-for-tat response will be given to terrorists besides seeking a political solution.

## DC chairs emergency meeting, Cancels employees' leaves due to flood risk

HYDERABAD (APP): The Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad Zain ul Abideen Memon chaired an urgent meeting at his camp office on Monday following the alert issued by the PDMA regarding potential heavy rainfall and flood situation across the province.

During the meeting, he issued directives that till further orders the leaves of all employees were cancelled and no employee will be allowed to leave the headquarters without district level prior permission.

He also directed all Assistant Commissioners and Mukhtariars in the talukas to issue duty rosters for their respective areas. The Deputy Commissioner directed assistant commissioners to visit pumping stations during the rains and ensure the availability of fuel and operational readiness at all stations.

## Series of holding open courts at taluka level launched: DC Sukkur

SUKKUR (APP): The District Commissioner (DC), Sukkur, Dr MB Raja Dharejo on Monday said that the government's top priority to resolve people's issues at their doorsteps.

Talking to a delegation of the Inter Global Human Development Society (IGHDS) led by its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr Jameel Ahmed Shakeel, the deputy commissioner said that all officers are public servants and accountable to the people.

He said that the Sukkur administration has launched a series of open courts, meetings in all talukas of the district to review the performance of all departments under the dis-

tribut administration. He informed that the series of open courts will focus on grievances related to the people belonging to every aspect of life, aimed at fostering a strong connection between the public and the administration.

He vowed that the government would make no compromise in addressing basic public issues.

He further said that the administration has ensured the provision of clean drinking water, cleanliness and planting trees to combat heat.

In this connection, officials concerned have been warned and strict action would be taken against any negligence.



ISLAMABAD: National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) signing a landmark Joint Venture Agreement with the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST). The agreement, which aims to provide specialized training in chip design and manufacturing, was formalized at NAVTTC Headquarters. The signing ceremony attended by the Honorable Minister for Federal Education, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui as Chief Guest.

## Commissioner emphasizes tree planting to combat heat & pollution

SUKKUR (APP): Divisional Commissioner Sukkur Fayaz Hussain Abbasi on Monday stressed the importance of tree planting to mitigate the effects of heat and environmental pollution. He highlighted that a single tree contributes to the beauty of nature and creates a pleasant environment.

He expressed these views as the chief guest at the Tree Plantation Drive organized by Sukkur Social Society at Lab-e-Mehran, in collaboration with the Forest Department. The event was attended by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Sukkur Dr MB Raja Dharejo, ADC Sobia Falak Rao, Chairman Sukkur Social Society Agha Samiullah Khan, Coordinator Syed Naseer Hussain Shah, Sukkur Social Society members Shaista Khoso, Deputy Mayor Arshad Mughal and a large number of citizens, including women and children.

Divisional Commissioner Abbasi urged citizens to initiate tree planting from

their homes to make Sukkur a greener city.

He emphasized that a green environment ensures a healthy life, making it everyone's responsibility to plant and care for trees. Abbasi commended the tree plantation campaign, encouraging other social organizations and citizens to participate in the environment-friendly initiative. Earlier, Chairman Sukkur Social Society Agha Samiullah Khan welcomed the guests and explained the campaign's objective of improving the environment. He announced plans to plant 1.2 million trees in two months and offered free trees to citizens.

During the ceremony, Chairman presented souvenirs to Commissioner Sukkur and Deputy Commissioner. The children also performed tableaux on the importance of tree plantation.

Later, Commissioner Abbasi and DC Dharejo and others planted trees at Lab-e-Mehran.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Belarus to Pakistan, H.E. Andrei Metelitsa called on Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan.

## DC Sanghar issues alert for emergency preparedness amid heavy rain forecast from Aug 26-31

HYDERABAD (APP): The Deputy Chairman Sanghar Dr. Imran-ul-Hassan Khawaja has issued a warning to all relevant agencies to be prepared for potential emergencies due to severe weather conditions.

This he directed following the Provincial Disaster Management Authority Sindh and the Meteorological Department forecast about thunderstorms and heavy rains from August 26 to August 31.

In his directive, Dr.

Khowaja emphasized the need for all machinery to be ready, including ensuring that pumps and diesel engines are operational for draining water from low-lying areas.

He also urged the public to stay away from electricity poles and wires during the rains, and to avoid unnecessary travel and parking vehicles near trees and weak walls.

In case of emergencies, he advised contacting the PDMA help-line at 1736 or Rescue 1122.

## DC directs preparedness for rain amid weather forecast

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad, Shahriyar Gul Memon, has issued directives to all relevant departments to remain alert in view of the expected rains.

The Meteorological Department and PDMA have predicted thunderstorms from August 26 to 31, with a forecast of 140 to 260 mm of rainfall in Shaheed Benazirabad district.

DC ordered all municipal, town administrations, and relevant agencies to remain alert for drainage of rainwater.

According to the order, all disposals, pumping stations, and necessary machinery should be activated, and all officers and staff should be present in the field. Negligence will not be tolerated.

Deputy Commissioner has also directed Rescue 1122 to remain alert to deal with any emergency.

DC has advised citizens to take precautionary measures during heavy rainfall and contact Rescue 1122 or the district administration's control room number 0244930334 in case of any emergency during the rains.

## NIC of Moonis blocked in money laundering case

LAHORE (Online): National Identity Card (NIC) of PTI leader Chaudhry Moonis Elahi has been blocked in money laundering case under the orders of court.

Spokesperson of FIA Lahore told the media men NIC of Moonis Elahi has been blocked under Lahore High Court order and his passport has been placed in control list.

Spokesperson said the national identity cards of 6 accused including Moonis Elahi have been blocked in money laundering case.

The other accused whose NIC have been blocked in money laundering case are Aamir Sohail, Umair Fayyaz, Imtiaz Ali Shah, Farasat Ali and Abid Ali Khan. Case No16/23 is registered against the accused in Anti Money Laundering circle.

Director FIA Lahore zone Sarfraz Khan Virk has said the accused in money laundering case donot deserve for any concession.

## Sindh's fishermen advised to avoid venturing into sea till Aug 30

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh Livestock and Fisheries Department has instructed fishermen of the province to avoid venturing into sea till August 30, 2024 owing to potential heavy rains and rough conditions in the Arabian Sea due to low air pressure.

Advisor to Sindh Chief Minister on Livestock and Fisheries Department, Syed Najmi Alam, on the directives of Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday instructed all the fishermen to avoid venturing in to the sea for the next five days, said a statement issued here.

The measures have been taken in the light of the decisions taken in a

## Waqar Mehdi for measures to deal with potential rain emergency situation

KARACHI (APP): Special Assistant to Chief Minister Sindh Syed Waqar Mehdi, on Monday, directed officers concerned to be vigilant and keep the staff and machinery standby for dealing with any emergency situation that may arise due to potential heavy rains.

Syed Waqar Mehdi, who is also appointed by the CM Sindh as Rain Emergency In-Charge for West and Kemari districts of Karachi Division, said that Meteorological Department has forecast a monsoon rain spell with likelihood of heavy downpour from the night of August 26 to August 31, 2024 and all the relevant departments should be well prepared to respond any emergency situation.

Waqar Mehdi, according to a statement issued here, directed the Deputy Commissioners of the respective districts, Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), Town Municipal Corporations, Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) and Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) to be vigilant keeping in view the weather forecast.

KMC and PDMA should keep heavy duty pumps on standby while Water and Sewerage Corporation should keep the drainage system functional, Mehdi called for ensuring the cleaning of all the drains of the city for smooth and swift disposal of water.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with Antti Partanen, Finn Fund Representative.

## Sindh's fishermen advised to avoid venturing into sea till Aug 30

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh Livestock and Fisheries Department has instructed fishermen of the province to avoid venturing into sea till August 30, 2024 owing to potential heavy rains and rough conditions in the Arabian Sea due to low air pressure.

Advisor to Sindh Chief Minister on Livestock and Fisheries Department, Syed Najmi Alam, on the directives of Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday instructed all the fishermen to avoid venturing in to the sea for the next five days, said a statement issued here.

The measures have been taken in the light of the decisions taken in a

meeting regarding rain emergency held at the Chief Minister House.

Syed Najmi Alam informed the fishermen that Pakistan Meteorological Department has warned of heavy rains in various areas of Sindh province, especially the coastal areas, from August 26 to August 30, 2024 due to low air pressure and monsoon season while there was a danger of high tides in the Arabian Sea as well.

The advisor, therefore, advised the fishermen to avoid venturing into deep sea from August 26 to August 30 and move their boats, engines and fishing nets to safe places and adopt precautionary measures to avoid any damage.



DUBAI: Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi speaks on the occasion of 6th Graduation Ceremony 2024 of Bath Spa University, Ras al Khaimah.